Disaster Falls

Stéphane Gerson '88 tells the story of his family's journey through grief

How to Do the Right Thing

Growing the ethical engagement initiative

Changing the Pallet

Adam M. Pener '95 on disrupting the shipping industry

HAVERFORD

The Magazine of Haverford College

WINTER 2017





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Haverford magazine is printed on recycled paper that contains 30% post-consumer waste fiber.

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By Tom Kertscher

Haverford magazine is published three times a year by College Communications, Haverford College, 370 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford, PA 19041, 610-896-1333, hc-editor@haverford.edu ©2017 Haverford College

inbox

EDUCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Re our story in the last issue on disability and the classroom, one of our readers wrote in to say:

In the 1940s, Haverford had a professor of physics, Thomas A. Benham. Mr. Benham was totally blind and had no problem teaching physics, including optics.

—Robert Brummer '44

The editors respond: T.A. Benham did indeed teach physics and engineering at Haverford for more than 30 years. As reported in our story in the fall 2011 issue, "Tracking the Spacemen," in 1962 Benham enlisted students and friends to help build a satellite tracking station in an open area south of the Field House, which he used to track two Soviet cosmonauts who had launched a day apart. When word of his efforts got out, a mob of reporters descended on campus hoping to hear voice transmissions from outer space. They were not disappointed.

HISTORY LESSON

In reference to my classmate Stephen Jones' letter in the fall 2016 issue [about the former post-baccalaureate program], the post-bac from Berea College was Ray Howard. Also, there were still post-bacs during my last year.—David Novak '70

FAN MAIL

I want to thank you and your staff for producing such an invigorating, valuable, and intellectually stimulating magazine. Like a micro-Haverford education, each issue exposes you, the reader, to important ideas, fields, issues, etc.—



a real font of special intellectual stimulation. I say "special" because it relates to a place dear to most of us Haverfordians.

—David Parmacek '67

EVERYONE OUT OF THE POOL

Our story in the Main Lines section about the filling in of the swimming pool (above) that once graced the basement of the Old Gym (now being transformed into a center for visual culture, arts, and media) inspired a number of Fords to write in with their recollections.

I first discovered the pool in 1967 when I tried out for the football team as a freshman. Trainer Dick Morsch filled it and let the players cool off there after practice. It was used for the swim test but being only 30 feet long, it wasn't much of a test. Sometime in the fall, it was covered with planking and mats and used by the wrestling team for practice and was a real hot box. The swim team practiced at Haverford School as the College's pool was clearly too small.

-Paul Herrmann '71

I remember the pool. In 1961-65 I was the instructor in swimming classes for a small number of incoming freshmen who came to campus not knowing anything about how to swim or how to survive in more than two quarts of water. Dave Leonard '63 was the "captain" of the non-varsity swimming club. We had maybe six intercollegiate meets using either the Haverford School or the other teams' pools. David Wilson '67 and I convinced the athletic director that we could be competitive with Swarthmore and so [swimming] should be a letter sport, which included putting the Hood Trophy at risk. I think we lost to Swarthmore. I was the biggest winner. I married Penelope Owens, Swarthmore College Class of 1967!

-Richard Adelmann '65

While I was at Haverford, the pool in the basement of the old gym was used as the daily practice location for the wrestling team. The pool was boarded over (at least for the late fall and winter months), covered with gym mats, and the heat was turned up for conditioning purposes. I do recall swimming in the pool, perhaps in the late spring. In fact, part of a front tooth was left on the bot-

 \Rightarrow

Check out the digital edition of Haverford magazine at haverford.edu/magazine.

tom after a dive—it was not a large or deep pool. —Spencer H. Hipp '69

I spent many a winter afternoon in the pool, but I was not swimming, I was wrestling. ... It was hot, which in those days was good for weight loss. Glad that part is much reduced [for] today's wrestlers.

Thanks for the memories.

—Tim Loose '68

CORRECTION: *In the last issue of the* magazine, we incorrectly reported that Assistant Professor of Biology Kristen Whalen had received funding from the National Institutes of Health to set up a sea urchin facility at the College. The NIH funding is supporting a drug discovery program developed by Whalen, a biochemist whose research isolates marine-organism natural products that can serve as templates for possible chemotherapeutics to treat human disease

TALK TO US

If something you read in this issue inspires a question, a comment, a polite rebuke, or a paean, send it along. What would you like to see more of in the magazine? What would you like to see less of? Let us know. Have you got a great idea for a story? Tell us about it. Do you have a question you want to ask about Haverford history or Haverford now? Ask away.

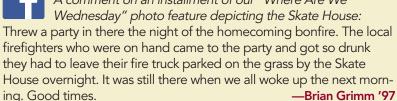
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Or send a letter to:

Haverford magazine College Communications Haverford College 370 Lancaster Ave. Haverford, PA 19041

Seen on Social Media

FROM THE HAVERFORD COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE A comment on an installment of our "Where Are We



A comment on a post featuring photos of the campus in winter: Someone threw a snowball at my tour guide when I was still a prospective student! Love at first visit. —Daniel Studenmund '08

POSTED ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE "YOU KNOW YOU WENT TO HAVERFORD IF ..."



... you download a Free PDF file of a small-press Fantasy Role Playing Game called "Havenshield," because you mistakenly read it as "Havershield" and think that it's Haverford College themed, which makes you speculate about what an

actual Haverford College Fantasy Role Playing Game would look like! Would the Law/Chaos/Good/Evil Alignment System be replaced by the Academic and Social Honor Codes? Would the players need to reach Consensus before Treasure and Experience Points can be distributed? Would all Clerics/Healers be Quakers? Would characters live in fear of being Separated from the Community? The mind —Eric Rochkind '98 boggles!

... your favorite part of listening to NPR's Fresh Air is hearing Terry Gross say "produced by ... Ann Marie Baldonado." ['94]

-Bill Stern '96

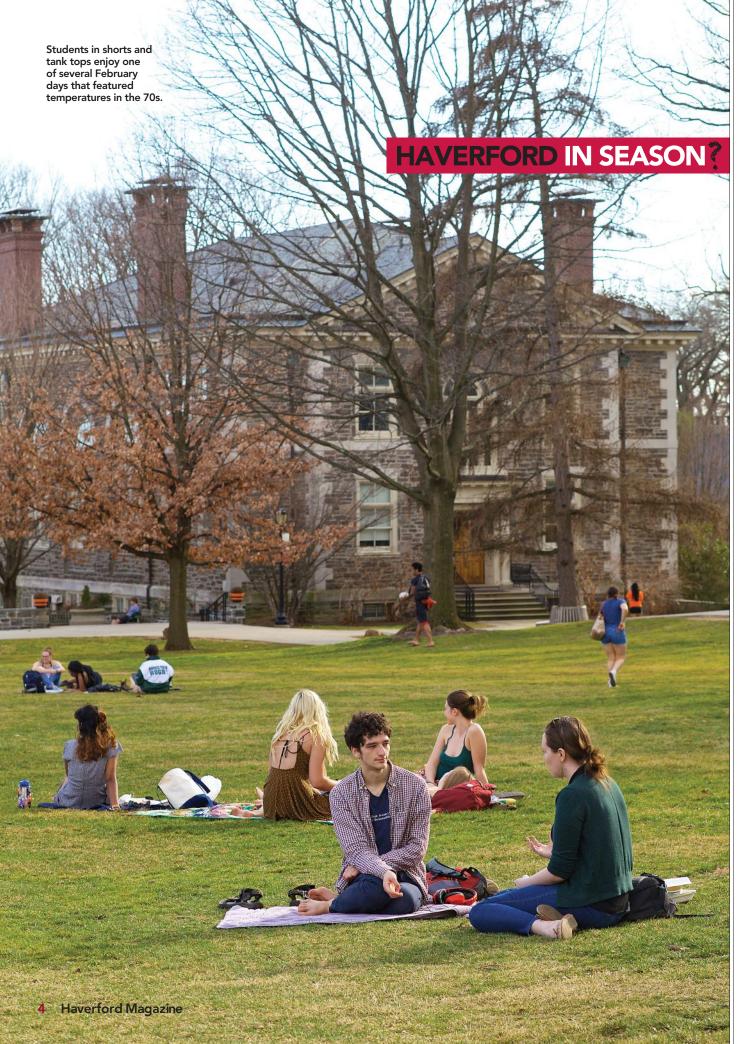
... when you think about "real democracy," you think of Plenary.

-Theo Posselt '94



Join the conversation! Like our Facebook page (facebook.com/haverfordcollege), and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.





view from founders

Learning in a "Post-Truth" World

hat does it mean for colleges like Haverford to pursue their mission in a world where discourse at the highest levels of power has been unmoored from fact and evidence—from the very concept of truth-telling? What are educators and students to do amid the proliferation of "fake news," plagiarism, and blatant falsifications of reality by national leaders and other guardians of public trust?

These are questions that strike at the heart of the liberal-arts project, with its literally "old school" dedication to honesty, verifiability, and conscientiousness in the quest for knowledge. As Bard's President Leon Botstein recently observed, "This is not about political parties; it is about the proper role of the academy in a troubling time."

The lifeblood of our educational process is rigorous inquiry—an exacting, exhilarating journey through stages of carefully conducted observation and increasingly refined hypotheses, arriving at well-reasoned conclusions. When we extol "critical thinking" as the hallmark of liberal learning, we are unequivocally choosing analytical precision over untested assertion—and certainly over the capricious coinage of "alternative facts."

Admittedly, critical thinking is an arduous task. Behind the lively intellectual work of melting down a vexing question into a rational answer lies the strain of holding the mind open to *other* possible answers. Even while testing and confirming our own conclusion, we must ask whether another frame of reference gives rise to another conclusion. If so, *what are its merits?* The point is not that we lazily entertain all views but that we take into account any view we find to be grounded in evidence and expressed through coherent argument. Only by rigorously examining a range of positions—without either presuming or excluding the potential validity of any of them—can we clinch the strengths or correct the shortsightedness of our initial thinking.

This kind of mental elasticity is fostered by a liberal-arts education, whose insistence on the fundamental rectitude of



learning not only cultivates incisive thought but constitutes a valuable mode of character formation. Our students' dedication to justice and mutual respect is entwined with the humility born from genuine adherence to scholarly integrity. Such humility has animated the greatest minds across global culture: Confucius professed that "real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance," while Socrates claimed, "I know one thing only: that I know nothing." Obviously, these sages were not rejecting understanding as such, but rather accepting that knowledge is hard-won, that to earn it means to hold truth's sovereignty above the self's natural pride. The true scholar is someone who reins in narcissism, suppresses rash indulgence, and rejects the instinct for insolent dismissiveness of what-

ever cannot be bent to the private will.

But in a world ruled by glib duplicity and outright disregard for living embodiments of other perspectives, what becomes of this humble allegiance to the pursuit of truth? In such a world, how relevant is the disciplined trustworthiness that undergirds Haverford's core commitments, from a thoughtful curriculum to a principled Honor Code? Actually, our struggle as citizens to achieve common ground in a swamp of bald-faced fraud and flimflam trumpery lends urgency to Haverford's defining purpose. More than ever, we should feel energized by our educational work, with its devotion to the solemn demands of intellectual and ethical propriety. In every classroom, studio, laboratory, and forum, our faculty and students pursue a calling that transcends the meanness of mendacity and achieves a healing scrupulousness. Ours may seem today like a hard path—the path of most resistance—but it remains for us the way forward, and we will continue to travel it with due modesty and staunch determination.

Kim Benston

main lines



Building Musical Bridges

t began with a radio story. When Music Professor Thomas Lloyd happened upon an NPR segment in December of 2015 about the Begegnungschor, a Berlin choir that brings together German and Middle Eastern refugee singers, he was inspired. Since 1996, the director of Haverford's Choral and Vocal Studies Program has taken his 30-person group, the Bi-College Chamber Singers, on international tours—to Turkey, Mexico, Ghana, and Poland, among others—to collaborate with local singing groups and connect their musical training with broader cultural, community, and historical issues.

"Singing together provides a won-

derful way to have genuine interaction with people in an unfamiliar culture, even in a very short period of time," said Lloyd of the power of these cultural exchange trips.

This chance introduction to the Begegnungschor (which translates to the Getting to Know You Choir) gave him the perfect idea for this year's tour. With Nadejda Polcanova, a German Bryn Mawr exchange student, providing initial introductions, Lloyd and Begegnungschor's founder Susanne Kappe arranged for a joint performance in Berlin over winter break. The German choir would learn the African American spiritual "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," and the Bi-Co singers pre-

pared six songs from Begegnungschor's repertoire in both German and Arabic, including two songs by the popular Syrian singer Fairouz.

Thanks to the help of Bryn Mawr College Assistant Professor of German Qinna Shen, who joined the trip as a faculty co-leader, arrangements were made for two other choral collaborations to fill out the tour. And then, after a year of planning, they were off. The Chamber Singers, Lloyd, and Shen left Philadelphia Jan. 5, for an eight-day stay in the German capital that included rehearsals and performances with three different choirs, as well as a packed schedule of sightseeing and cultural immersion.

The group's first musical performance took place in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, next door to the Breitscheidplatz Christmas Market, where a terrorist attack had killed 12 people just two weeks earlier. The singers took a day trip to Potsdam for an informal joint performance and potluck supper with the Internationaler Chor in a local community center. They sang a shared program with award-winning university choir Kammerchor des Collegium Musicum in a packed historic church. And their final performance was the joint concert with Begegnungschor in an old City Hall building that had been repurposed to house refugees. The location, which encouraged many local refugee families to attend the concert, made the collaboration especially poignant for the Bi-Co singers, and made that evening the tour highlight for everyone.

"As we sang an Arabic song in the entrance hall, people drifted toward us and sang along," said Chamber Singers member Emily Drummond BMC '17. "We weren't just performing for them, we were joining them, learning their music, seeing how they lived. I can imagine that refugees spend a lot of time learning how others live and trying to assimilate, so it felt appropriate that we were doing the same for them."

"Meeting refugees—and eating with them, singing with them—made me realize how nuanced the situation is," said Drummond. "Refugees are human beings, with hopes and fears, family members, jobs, degrees, and hobbies. Many of them speak three or four languages. They leave for a variety of reasons. I met one man who was a journalist fleeing potential violence, and I met another who was a pacifist, fleeing to escape the draft. Refugees are

as multifaceted as the countries they seek asylum in, and singing with the Begegnungschor allowed me to see past the media representation of the refugee crisis."

"It sounds clichéd to say that music bridges boundaries, that people who sing together cannot hate each other, but it's true," said Tom Sternberg '17. "[Music] is a voluntary, joyful activity that remains one of the best and most versatile languages in the world. A good drumbeat strikes German, Syrian, and American [ears] as equally exciting, regardless of language, history, experience."

Lloyd, who is retiring at the end of this academic year, returned to campus reinvigorated with the power of what music can do. "By the end of our trip, our motto was 'Singen, nicht hassen,' which means 'Let's sing, not hate.'"

—Rebecca Raber

Haverford Goes to Washington

Three school buses carrying 90 Haverford students, along with 30 members of the faculty, staff, and broader community left campus in the predawn darkness on Jan. 21 and headed for the Women's March on Washington. The historic event (one of 673 women's marches that took place around the world that day) drew at least 500,000 people to the capital and has been described as the largest

U.S. political demonstration since the anti-war protests of the 1960s and 1970s. The Quaker Affairs Office funded the buses carrying the Haverford contingent with monies from the Rufus Jones Fund.

(From left) Sarah Curtis '20, Diana Kim '20, and Anna Saum '18, were among a group of 90 Haverford students who took part in the Women's March on Washington, D.C.







Graffiti in the Gallery

hrough all of his four years at Haverford, **RJ Rushmore**'14 was a steady presence at the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, logging long hours as a student worker assisting visiting curators and the gallery's exhibitions coordinator on the many details of mounting exhibitions.

Rushmore came back to the gallery recently—this time as a curator himself of the exhibition *ALL BIG LETTERS*. The wide-ranging survey, which ran Jan. 20-March 3, marked the 50th

roughly understand how it came be there and why it looks the way it does. Was it made with spray or a marker or something else? Is the style something city-specific ...? Why did the writer choose that spot? How did they get there? How long did it take to paint?"

Rushmore's very first foray as a curator came during a post-high school gap year, when he organized an exhibition at a gallery in London, where his family was then living. Titled *The Thousands*, that 2008 show was a retrospective



RJ Rushmore '14 curated the recent Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery show ALL BIG LETTERS.

anniversary of the emergence of modern graffiti and examined the quest for fame that drives it, as well as the methods "writers," as they are known, use to make their marks. In addition to showcasing the work of writers such as BLADE, CURVE, EKG, Evan Roth, LOIQ, and NTEL, the show presented tools of the trade, such as custom lock-picking kits, homemade markers, and fire extinguishers filled with paint.

His hope for ALL BIG LETTERS, says Rushmore, was to have visitors "walk into the show with next to zero knowledge of graffiti, and leave with the ability to see a tag on the street and

survey of the work of such artists as Faile, Banksy, Shepard Fairey, and Swoon, who were among the pioneers of what came to be called "street art" (unsanctioned visual art created in public spaces); and to accompany it, the teenage Rushmore wrote a book (*The Thousands: Painting Outside, Breaking In*) issued by international contemporary art publisher Drago.

Also in 2008, Rushmore, who picked up his passion for street art from his father, launched Vandalog, a blog that started out focusing on street art and expanded to include graffiti and viral art. Rushmore ran the blog out of

his dorm room at Haverford, turning it into a must-read art site, and himself into "a player in his field courted by artists and institutions alike," according to one media mention. (Rushmore also found time to bring street artists Gaia, Troy Lovegates, and Labrona to campus to paint murals on James House.)

After graduating, Rushmore went to work for the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, and in 2015 was tapped by Amazon to curate a series of limited edition prints by street artists. He now lives in Brooklyn, running Vandalog by night, and working by day as the digital marketing manager for Creative Time, an organization that commissions and presents public art projects.

Putting together ALL BIG LETTERS at the CFG was a two-year process that involved commissioning pieces from some of the artists (including FAUST, who painted directly on the gallery walls) and arranging loans of some of the works (including an iconic image by Lee George Quinones that came from the Museum of the City of New York). "This was another opportunity to work with [Exhibitions Coordinator] Matthew Callinan and [Hurford Center Associate Director] James Weissinger '06," says an appreciative Rushmore. "Matthew and James were always supportive of me while I was a student and it's been the same coming back as a curator. Matthew knows the gallery better than anyone, so I relied on him a lot for feedback. I had plenty of ideas for the show, but Matthew was the one with the experience to say if they would work."

As for how the show was received, according to Callinan, *ALL BIG LETTERS*, (whose accompanying catalog features an essay by Rushmore on the evolution of graffiti) has been getting lots of love on social media. Says Rushmore, "I figured that the exhibition's harshest critics would be graffiti writers themselves, since they're in the position to say, 'No, that's just not right.' Luckily, the graffiti community's response has been overwhelmingly positive." —Eils Lotozo





New Look For the Black Squirrel

averford's Black Squirrel mascot got a major makeover in the fall. Driving the transformation was the fact that—we can't deny it—the old mascot actually looked more like a Disney chipmunk than the arrestingly black variety of squirrel that makes the campus its home. Clearly it was time for a change. So the College turned to Pierre's Costumes in Philadelphia, which makes mascot suits for organizations and sports teams all over the country, to craft a custom black squirrel outfit. As for just who that is inside the suit ... Sorry, that's top-secret information. We can tell you that the Black Squirrel appears at athletic events on special occasions—mostly when there will be photographers present. (He's a bit of a ham.) You'll also see him at Open Campus Day, Move-In Day, and alumni events. In addition, our busy black squirrel has an active social media presence. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @HCblacksquirrel.



Andy Warhol: The Pop Image Subverted features 15 of the artist's works from the College's permanent collection and showcases some of his most famous images (including silkscreen prints from the Marilyn Monroe and Flower series).

This is the first time these iconic prints-some of which are as large as three feet square—are being displayed to the public here. Also part of the exhibit are some related items, including a dress made of fabric printed with images of the Campbell's soup can, some of the limited-edition cans Campbell's released to celebrate Warhol, and the 1953 publicity photograph of Marilyn Monroe taken by Gene Korman for her movie Niagara. There's also work by a Ford on display alongside Warhol's: Photographs and Marilyn Monroe, 1970, prints by Maxfield Parrish (Class of 1892) not



Andy Warhol, screen print on paper

only provide insight into the serialism of Warhol's color combinations, but also provide context for his business model, since Parrish was the first artist to license the reproduction of his work. Curated by Audrey A. and John L. Dusseau Professor of Humanities William Earle Williams, Andy Warhol: The Pop Image Subverted is on display in the Atrium Gallery of Marshall Fine Arts Center through April 23. —R. R.

SOUND BITE

66 Yes, we've seen some weird years. But we've never seen one as weird as 2016. This was the Al Yankovic of years. If years were movies, 2016 would be Plan 9 From Outer Space. If years were relatives, 2016 would be the uncle who shows up at your Thanksgiving dinner wearing his underpants on the outside. 99

-syndicated columnist Dave Barry '69, writing in his annual "Dave Barry Year in Review"



■ For the third year in a row,

Haverford students participated in the campus-wide Do It in the Dark energysaving competition. With appliances unplugged and hallway lights turned off, residents of nine dorms compared decreases in their energy use over two weeks. Gummere Hall's 22.9 percent drop in kilowatt-hours made it the most efficient dorm of the competition, repeating last year's victory. Though this year's contest lasted only two weeks as opposed to last year's three, the number of kilowatt-hours saved far surpassed last year's, rising from 2,401 kWh to a whopping 4,885 kWh.

The event is organized by the Committee for Environmental Responsibility (CER), a student-faculty

group that oversees various sustainability initiatives and encourages environmental responsibility on campus. "We will only mitigate the most damaging of effects of climate change if collectively we make smart choices about the energy we use," said Jesse Lytle, chief of staff to President Kim Benston and the College's chief sustainability officer. "Do It in the Dark challenges students to think about how their individual choices can add up to make a real difference."

Students were able to track their dorms' progress online at the College's page on buildingdashboard.net and in the Dining Center, where the CER maintained an updated



whiteboard listing dorms' progress. At the end of the competition, prizes contributed by the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship Café were awarded to residents of multiple dorms according to the level of energy reduction they achieved.

-Michael Weber '19

■ Two new EnGoPlanet solar pole lights (left) were installed on the plateau between the Tritton and Kim dorms in October. According to Assistant Director of Facilities Management William Anderko, the solar pole lights use clean and free photovoltaic solar power and are nearly maintenance-free. "There is no cost to route electric power to each pole, and they are therefore a

great option for areas of campus where there is not an easy or nearby source for conventional electric power," Anderko said.

The installation of the lights was funded by money earned from the College's participation in the local power grid operator's Demand Response Program. The lights replaced two existing 150-watt metal halide pole lights and together save approximately 1,100 kWh per year, or \$100. "Just these two solar pole lights," said Anderko, "avoid 0.66 tons per year of carbon dioxide and represent a pollution prevention equivalent of one third of an acre of trees planted per year."

Havercat Finds a Home

He sauntered into Magill Library in December of 2015, and for nearly a year Havercat (real name: Valentino) made the campus his home. The sociable feline goodwill ambassador wandered into offices, got cozy with students in their dorm rooms, and even became something of a social media celebrity, with his own Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook hashtags. But after he suffered a leg injury in September, the library staff decided to find Havercat a permanent home. When the parents of a Haverford student stepped forward, off he went to join his new family in November. In keeping with his celebrity status, his departure became the subject of a Philadelphia Inquirer story, which reported: "There was also a going away party, of sorts. Valentino dropped by the library for one last time. He received new food bowls that had been signed by his college friends and plenty of good-bye cuddles before leaving for his new home."





Haverford College Mock Trial Team members at the first-ever Black Squirrel Invitational, which they hosted.

Mock Trial Team Takes Off

ince its founding in 2014 by then-first-year students Nick Barile '18 and Jordan McGuffee '18. the Haverford College Mock Trial Team has been on an impressive growth trajectory. Captained by its founders, along with Eli Cain '18, the group has distinguished itself at a number of regional competitions, and now boasts enough members to field three separate teams at events. And in October, the Mock Trial Team raised the bar even further when it hosted the first-ever Black Squirrel Invitational. Completely student-organized, the event drew ten schools and 20 teams to Haverford from as far north as Ithaca, N.Y., and as far south as Dallas, Texas. (George Washington University took first place in the competition.)

Pre-Law Advisor Jennifer Barr, the group's on-campus advisor and a judge for the Black Squirrel Invitational, describes the HC Mock Trial Team, as "perhaps the most active and visible law-related student organization" on campus.

A number of alumni lawyers helped Haverford College Mock Trial get off the ground, including Rahul Munshi **'06** (co-founder of the Haverford College Lawyer's Network), and Jeff Monhait '09, who continues to serve as an attorney coach for the group. The team competes in the American Mock Trial Association (AMTA), a league of over 600 teams from small liberal arts colleges, large universities, and everything in between. During mock trial competitions, attorneys and witnesses go up against other teams before a panel of judges. Attorneys handle all court procedures, including opening and closing statements, cross-examinations and objections, while witnesses portray specific roles to support their team's case. In addition, many others are involved in building the case and preparing for trial.

"It really is one of the most beneficial activities I've ever done," says McGuffee. "Not only do we gain experience in speaking and critical thinking, but we get to jump into the field of law."

In its inaugural 2014-2015 season, the team competed in an AMTA Regional Tournament at the Philadelphia Criminal Justice Center, picked up its first win against the City College of New York and came within two points of besting the University of Pennsylvania. The following season, Haverford took second place at Monmouth University's Hawk Invitational, and advanced to the AMTA Opening Round National Championship Series.

"Those were crucial moments for our development as a team," said Barile. "We realized that we have the talent to beat universities that dwarf us when it comes to school size and resources. AMTA isn't like the NCAA where you're put in a division of similar-sized schools. We could be playing Florida State in one trial and Yale in the next."

The 2016-2017 season has brought even more success for the group. The A team took second place at the University of Maryland Charm City Classic, in a performance that included a sweep of Princeton and the defeat of top-ranked American University. Meanwhile, the B team took third place at the Quinnipiac University Bobcat Invitational. Team members have also earned more than 10 outstanding witness and attorney awards this season. And it's not over. At press time, the team was in contention for an "Open Bid" (essentially a wild card spot) in the AMTA Opening Round National Championship Series. They'll get the verdict later in March.

For more information (or to volunteer to be a judge in next year's Black Squirrel Invitational), contact haverfordmocktrial@gmail.com.



THE JOHN B. HURFORD '60 CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES has received a \$750,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the Philadelphia Area Creative Collaboratives Program. The initiative will bring together artists, faculty, students, and area nonprofits for collaborations that blend scholarship, social change, and the arts.

PHOTOS: CALEB ECKERT '17 (LOWER LEVEL); PATRICK MONTERO (STAIRS, THEATER); HOLDEN BLANCO '17 (SUNKEN LOUNGE)

DC Lower Level: The Big Reveal





Clockwise, from top left: The renovated DC lower level; new stairs in the DC lobby give students direct access to the space; the Sunken Lounge's new look; the relocated Black Box Theater.





or years, the lower level of the Dining Center was a place with lots of potential—most of it unrealized. Mainly used by Dining Services for offices and storage, the DC basement was characterized by dark, maze-like hallways leading to forgotten meeting rooms and neglected common areas.

But that's all changed. After months of planning and construction, the DC's lower level reopened in February, revealing a completely reimagined space made more accessible with the construction of a new staircase that leads directly downstairs from the DC lobby. (The original lobby staircase that was part of the

DC when it was built nearly 50 years ago had been removed in a previous renovation, requiring students to go outside and down a ramp to access the lower level.)

"The space we have now is unrecognizable for anyone who spent time in the old DC basement area ... and that's a good thing!" said President Kim Benston, who used a very large pair of scissors to cut a ribbon opening the new stairs at the official unveiling ceremony.

The DC lower level now features an expansive and well-lit common area filled with comfortable new furniture and tables and a variety of vending machines, and also includes three refurbished meeting rooms and a new club storage room. The DC's Black Box Theater was moved to a new location in the basement to help make room for the new spaces, and for a brand new screening room that features a flat-screen TV.

Along with that new staircase, the DC lobby also got some additional enhancements in the renovation. The sunken lounge was outfitted with modern furnishings that make it a far more convivial gathering place, and a bar-height counter and stools now curve around the lounge, offering a perfect vantage point for gazing at a roaring fire during the winter months.

-Michael Weber '19 and Eils Lotozo

The Club Life @ HAVERFORD

One in a Haverblog series on the many and varied student clubs on campus. (To read more, go to blogs.haverford.edu.)

Haverford College Curling

WHAT: The College's student-run curling club was founded last fall and is open to all experience levels. With eight members currently, the club is looking to increase membership and send a team to the 2017 College Curling Nationals.

Curling, often referred to as "chess on ice," is a team sport in which players slide polished granite stones (known as "rocks") across ice (the curling sheet) toward the "house," an end area marked with circular targets. Players use brooms to change the shape of the ice in front of the rock as it makes its way toward the house. The sport requires teamwork and strategy, especially when considering the path and placement of the rock.

WHO: The club is run by Ellen Schoder '19, Elizabeth DeJong '18, and Paul Breitenfeld '19. All three played in high school and started the club at Haverford because they wanted to share their passion.

WHEN: The club practices every Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. at the Philadelphia Curling Club, along with teams from Villanova and the University of Pennsylvania.

DID YOU KNOW: The club won first place in its first bonspiel (competition) this season! And together, the co-heads have a combined 30 years of curling experience. —Jenny Ahn '17



Ellen Schoder '19 throwing rock during the curling club's practice.

ON CAMPUS



New York Times national security correspondent Mark Mazzetti came to Haverford in December to give a talk titled "The Shadow Wars: The Secret Conflicts that the Next President Will Inherit." Mazzetti, author of The Way of the Knife: The CIA, A Secret Army, and a War at the Ends of the Earth, shared a Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for reporting on escalating violence in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mazzetti's on-campus talk, before a large audience in Chase, explored the kinds of international conflicts that the new president will face. "[Trump] is going to inherit a nation in a 'semipermanent' state of war," said the reporter, noting that this state has much to do with shadow conflicts and foreign policy, not traditional, congressionally declared military combat. The seven main secret wars the U.S. is currently involved in (in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Libya, and Somalia), said Mazzetti, are funded by a "black budget" which is part of the \$45 billion spent on American intelligence, but whose specific allocations are not revealed publicly. A lengthy Q&A session followed the talk, with the discussion touching on the role of cyber warfare, media portrayals of conflict, Trump's inheritance of major U.S. alliances, and more. —J. A.

HAVERFORD ON IMMIGRATION: In January, President Kim Benston, Provost Fran Blase, and Dean of the College Martha Denney sent a message to Haverford students, faculty, and staff outlining the College's response to the executive order that closed U.S. borders to travelers and immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries. "We will not voluntarily cooperate with any federal effort to identify and extrude members of our community on the basis of their religion or country of origin," declared

that message, which also provided a link to a recent resolution passed by the Haverford Board of Managers. The resolution, titled "Haverford Affirms Protection of Non-U.S. Citizens and Religious Minorities at the College," details the College's position on safeguarding our community members and their private information to the extent allowable by law. In addition, President Benston joined nearly 600 college and university presidents in signing a letter to Donald Trump regarding the travel ban. Benston also lead the effort that saw 65 college and university leaders in Pennsylvania send a letter to the state's two senators urging them to support the BRIDGE Act, which would provide temporary relief from deportation to young undocumented individuals who were brought to the United States as children. To find out more, go to hav.to/25f.



David Hoy at his retirement party. He served as director of Financial Aid for 39 years.

David Hoy Retires

avid Hoy, fondly remembered by countless Fords as the man who helped make their Haverford educations possible, retired in November after 39 years as the College's director of Financial Aid. A big, gentle California native who as a young man studied for the priesthood, Hoy brought to his work a deep commitment to equity and integrity, and what one colleague called "the perfect financial aid voice"—one so soothing it served to reassure anxious parents and students "even when the news he was delivering may not have been the news they wanted to hear."

"David has brought to his job every day a profound understanding of the significance of his work to students and families, for whom Haverford is so much more than an accounting transaction," said President Kim Benston, who recalled Hoy's "truly heroic" efforts during the financial meltdown of 2008-2009, when a number of students were facing the possibility of leaving school because of family financial reversals. "[David] was instrumental in engineering revised aid packages that allowed many such students to continue their educations and achieve on-time graduation," said Benston.

"Haverford owes an incredible debt to David for his unparalleled commitment to making [the financial aid] process work so well for an ever-increasing number of students," said Vice President and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Jess Lord. "But what truly marks the extraordinary nature of David's work lies beyond his expertise, work ethic, and commitment. I have never met a kinder, more compassionate, more generous person than David, and Haverford has been blessed to have him bring these gifts to the work of financial aid and to the people of this community."

Among the contributors to a book of tributes to Hoy, presented during his retirement party, was **Eli Blood** Patterson '11, who said he could not have attended the College without generous financial aid. "Given the importance of my education in my life since, it is clear that this has been the most meaningful gift I have ever received," said Patterson. "As a current member of the Corporation, I am keenly aware of both sides of the ledger—and the fact that the college has prioritized financial aid at the levels we have, for as long as we have, says more than I ever could on the subject."

John Botti '92 recalled a trip to see Hoy with his anxious father, who was piecing together a living after being downsized and couldn't imagine how to pay for four years at Haverford. "David Hoy made it happen for us," said Botti. "I had a combination of grants, scholarships, student loans, and campus jobs. I did not have to worry anymore.

"But if you speak with David, in a very Haverford-ish manner, he will tell you that it [is] not him that deserves the credit," said Botti. "It is the policy of the College and the generosity of donors that deserves the credit. He is just doing his job." Years later, Botti endowed a scholarship so that others might have a little less to worry about. It is in his father's name, but that scholarship also honors Hoy, he said, and the Haverford ideals he demonstrated in his long career.

Jerry Levy '83, who spent his junior high and high school years in foster care, recalled sitting down every year with Hoy to work out how he would pay his tuition, room, and board. "David Hoy made the numbers work for me each year," he said. "I have been trying to pay back that generosity and debt to Haverford College ever since." —E. L.

FYI

THE CENTER FOR PEACE AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP sent Lev Greenstein '20, Amanda Acosta Owens '18, Grace Brosnan '20, and Maelys Gluck '19 to Bogota, Colombia, in February to attend the 16th annual World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates as guests of the American Friends Service Committee. For more: hav.to/26f

academix

Sharpless Hall Renewed

A major renovation project that began in May 2016 is now complete, bringing much-needed infrastructure updates and creating space for collaborative learning and research.

hen students returned to campus from winter break, they were greeted by a new old friend. After roughly eight months of construction, Sharpless Hall-home of two of Haverford's most popular majors, psychology and biology—was reopened. Over the week leading up to the start of the term, faculty members who had been relocated moved into their new offices. And on Jan. 17, students took their first classes in the updated building, which has been outfitted with glass walls around seminar rooms and offices to encourage natural light from the building's original windows to flow through the space.

"We worked closely with the architects to design the labs to meet our research specifications and ethos of collaboration," says Professor of Biology Rob Fairman. The new design, he says, increases the lab footprints through judicious placement of offices, labs, and classrooms. A new classroom on the first floor is close to the introductory biology teaching lab, which allows professors to hold pre-lab lectures right next door.

Fairman says the renovations—the first in Sharpless since the 1960s—have created "improved adjacencies," meaning that functions critical to his work now are closer to his lab, making for a more efficient workflow. He also notes that the pairing of research labs into a cohesive research space allows faculty to better share resources—an important element for the degree of collaboration expected of thesis students across labs.







Clockwise, from top: a biology lab in the renovated Sharpless; a new seminar room with a table made of wood from a giant sequoia that had to be cut down in the campus Pinetum; glass walls now bring light into hallways.

"The building has transformed from a dreary and outdated space to one that is welcoming, functional, and cozy," says Brett Pogostin '18, a chemistry major with a biochemistry concentration who stopped in to check out the upgrades after the building's reopening. "The study spaces of all different sizes sprinkled throughout the building offer opportunities for collaboration, which is a critical part of the natural sciences. I imagine I'll spend many late nights with my 'Quantum Chemistry' classmates in one of the study rooms, huddled around one of the new wooden tables, finishing problem sets."

"We launched the renovation of Sharpless with two distinct purposes in mind: creation of an efficient, state-ofthe-art home for scientific investigation, and revitalization of the building's original architectural dignity," says President Kim Benston. "This beautiful renovation has achieved both aims. Todav's Sharpless proudly anchors its corner of our historic academic quad, even as it completes the high-tech infrastructure of our vibrant natural sciences center. No longer a tired, passive venue, Sharpless has been redesigned to advance the world-class collaborative learning taking place in biology and psychology."

Psychology Department Chair Jennifer Lilgendahl says seeing the newly renovated Sharpless almost moved her to tears. The psychology faculty now have lab spaces tailored to their different research needs, and their students now have a designated on-site lounge, where they can gather and collaborate on projects. (Prior to the renovations, there was no room for such a communal space.) "I am hopeful," says Lilgendahl, "that our beautiful and spacious student lounge area will have a powerful impact on our psychology majors and strengthen their sense of connection to our department."

The Sharpless renovations are part of the College's Lives That Speak campaign, a \$250-million affirmation of Haverford's academic excellence and historical commitment to the value of an ethical life. Major contributors to the project included Darwin J. Prockop '51, Carl Grunfeld '68, and James L. Boyer '58. Boyer, the Ensign Professor of Medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine, supported the Sharpless renovation specifically because he hopes the state-of-theart facility will help to continue the legacy of scientific excellence at Haverford and will entice the best and the brightest aspiring scientists to attend the College.

"The most important experience for

me at Haverford was my independent research project in my major, biology, in my senior year, [which was] done in Sharpless," says Boyer. "That was my first experience with basic research, and I enjoyed it. It also resulted in my name on a publication with my professor, Mel Santer, and his wife [Ursula Santer]. That paper was a powerful stimulus for me to later pursue an academic career in medicine. So when Sharpless was slated for total renovation and was a major part of the campaign, my wife and I agreed that it was important for us to support this effort on behalf of the next generation of science students at the College."

Boyer is also hopeful that the space's

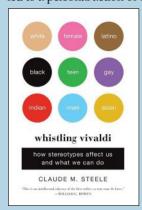
new reliance on glass partitions will help make science more accessible—both literally and figuratively—to the non-scientist visitors to the building

Professor Fairman was likewise excited about all the glass in the remodeled building and how it-along with the new green paint on the walls-connects the College Arboretum outside to Sharpless' interior. He was also enthused about another collaboration with the Arboretum—the creation of some beautiful new seminar tables made from reclaimed wood from a giant sequoia that had to be cut down in the campus Pinetum.

-Rebecca Raber

What to Read

Reading Rainbow, sponsored by the Office of Academic Resources, is a recurring end-of-semester event at which Haverford community members share book recommendations. Even better: at the end, students in attendance get to go home with free copies of the suggested titles. The Reading Rainbow that closed the fall semester featured suggestions from seven staff and faculty members made in response to the prompt: "What book helped you navigate an ethical dilemma and led to a personal action or insight?" Here are a few of their picks:



- Senior Lecturer in Mathematics Jeff Tecosky-Feldman: Whistling Vivaldi by Claude M. Steele, which chronicles the author's research on "the stereotype threat." This subtle, but impactful stressor, says Tecosky-Feldman, "has the potential to affect anyone in a situation where they are in the minority."
- Assistant Professor of English Asali Solomon: The poetry collection Don't Let Me Be Lonely by Claudia Rankine. Solomon calls the book, "a beautiful statement about something ugly: illness, cruelty, racism, the encroaching soul suck of technology, and American nationalism in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11.'
- Librarian of the College Terry Snyder: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande, who "challenges us," she says, "to reconsider the importance of our deaths and the meaning-making of our lives, particularly in the final stages of that life."
- Women's Center Program Coordinator Qui Alexander: When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times by Pema Chödrön, which taught him, he says, "that instead of running away from the things that were hard, scary, or overwhelming, I should move closer to them. It is in that closeness that you learn lessons that were meant for you to grow from."

Investigating Deep-Time Global Climate Change

he last time Earth experienced both ice sheets and carbon dioxide levels within the range predicted for this century was roughly 300 million years ago, and it was a period of major sea level rise, melting ice sheets, and upheaval of tropical forests.

Assistant Professor of Biology Jonathan Wilson is part of an interdisciplinary, multi-institutional, international team of researchers, led by the University of California, Davis, that is looking at the implications of the ancient CO₂ record for future climate change. The researchers, who recently published their findings in *Nature Geoscience*, found that the repeated restructuring of tropical forests at the time played a major role in driving climate cycles between cooler and warmer periods.

"It's well known that plants and climate show feedbacks today—for example, drought causes plant death and reduces the amount of carbon dioxide stored in plant tissues, thereby increasing atmospheric CO₂ concentration and global temperatures," said Wilson. "However, the history of plants' capacity to influence climate is not well understood. In this project, my colleagues and I used a combination of geochemical data and modeling approaches to understand whether and how plants drove climate change more than 300 million years ago."

Using fossilized leaves and soil-formed minerals, the researchers reconstructed the ancient atmospheric carbon dioxide record from 312 to 296 million years ago, when ice last covered Earth's polar regions and large rainforests expanded throughout the tropics, leaving as their signature the world's coal resources. These deep-time reconstructions revealed previously unknown fluctuations of atmospheric carbon dioxide at levels projected for the 21st century, highlighting the potential impact the loss of tropical forests could have on climate.

"We show that climate change not only impacts plants but that plants' responses to climate can, in turn, impact climate change itself, making for amplified and in many cases unpredictable outcomes," said lead author Isabel Montañez, a Chancellor's Leadership Professor with UC Davis Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. "Most of our estimates for future carbon dioxide levels and climate do not fully take into consideration the various feedbacks involving forests, so current projections likely underestimate the magnitude of carbon dioxide flux to the atmosphere."



Jonathan Wilson

While plant biologists have been studying how different trees and crops respond to increasing carbon dioxide levels, this study is one of the first to show that when plants change the way they function as CO_2 rises or falls, it can have major impact, even to the point of extinction.

"For many of these groups of plants, there were threshold climate states that were lethal to some types of plants but not others," said Wilson, "and the relative abundance of different groups of plants with distinct physiological capacities could have had a major influence on regional and global climate."

The current unprecedented rate of rising atmospheric CO_2 raises concerns about melting ice sheets, rising sea level, major climate change, and biodiversity loss—all of which were evident more than 300 million years ago, the only other time in Earth's history when high CO_2 accompanied ice at the polar regions.

The study, which was funded by the National Science Foundation and the European Research Council, was co-authored by collaborators at University College Dublin, the University of Michigan, Baylor University, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, and the University of Connecticut. Additionally, several of Wilson's current and former Haverford senior thesis students (Remmy Chen '16, Charlie Marquardt '16, Deana Rauh '16, Gabe Oppler '17, and Liz Reikowski '17) conducted, and are conducting, research that contributed to aspects of this project.

—Rebecca Raber and Kat Kerlin of University of California, Davis



HAVERFORD HAS BEEN ONCE AGAIN designated a Fulbright "Top Producer." Class of 2016 members Jay Garcia, Kathleen Tsai, Rebecca Suzuki, and Claire Dinh were all selected for Fulbright grants last spring, making the College one of only 35 undergraduate liberal arts institutions with the highest number of student grants and one of only four of those schools with a 40 percent or higher success rate in applications.



Office Hour

Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature David L. Sedley teaches French with a focus on the 16th and 17th centuries. His courses typically range from language and literary analysis to seminars on Michel de Montaigne, inventor of the essay, and on Blaise Pascal, who applied mathematics to faith in his *Pensées*, with an occasional course on *Paradise Lost* author John Milton. Sedley, who is well known on campus for his sartorial style, received his B.A. in philosophy from Yale University and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Princeton University. He is the author of *Sublimity and Skepticism in Montaigne and Milton*, published by the University of Michigan Press in 2005, and he's currently at work on a new book, tentatively titled *Race to Infinity*, which examines the connections between literature and the sciences. "In the research I'm doing, I need to understand numbers, at least in a general way," says Sedley, "and one of the special things about Haverford is that I can go over to Hilles and talk to a mathematician, or go to a laboratory and talk to a scientist. That's something that's harder to do, I think, at a large university, where the divisions between the humanities and the sciences are greater."

Sedley has a small office in Founders, but he works mainly out of a big, sunny, book-lined space in the College Avenue home he shares with his wife, Associate Professor of History Lisa Graham. He also conducts some of his seminars there, gathering students around a big table in the dining room. Says Sedley, "That's another thing I love about Haverford—that I live right across the street from campus and can do something like that."

1 Photo of Sedley's great-grandfather and an iron from his tailor shop:

That's him probably in the late 1930s. He came from Russia; he was a tailor, and he had a men's clothing store in Cleveland. My grandfather and an uncle of mine took it over, and I remember as a kid going down into the basement of the shop, where they had Italian tailors working on the clothes using industrial pressing machines and things like that. That was a formative experience for me, and I think it's related to some of the things I'm interested in now.

Q Citroën poster: In his book *Mythologies*, which is one of the most famous books in 20th-century French literature and philosophy, Roland Barthes has a chapter on this car, which looks like a spaceship compared to the cars that came before it. He compares it to a Gothic cathedral. He's interested in how this machine is a work of art. I've always been attracted to positions like that, because I'm fascinated by mechanisms and machines and the mathematics that make them possible.















I'm interested in the divisions between what used to be called the mechanical arts and the liberal arts, between numbers and letters, and between what are now called the "two cultures" of science and literature. I'm interested in understanding how those distinctions got constructed.

3 Catalog from the recent exhibition on Blaise Pascal at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris: I teach a course on Pascal, and one of the things we look at is how in these earlier periods [the arts and sciences] weren't as separate as they seem to be these days. You have a guy like Pascal in the 17th century who is an important physicist and mathematician. He invents the first calculating machine, which is the ancestor of the computer, and he helps invent probability theory (that's why I have those dice there). But he also writes literary masterpieces.

4 Vintage map of France: This map shows what the different areas of France are about in terms of economy and industries. They're saying, "Here is fertilizer.

Here is oil. There, they have pigs. Here's tobacco, and lace, and sugar. They're sending vegetables over to England there, and getting textiles from England here." A map like this comes out of a French tradition, a way of thinking. How can we take a piece of reality and understand it in a geometrical, mathematical way? It's kind of a French specialty: How to create an abstract, beautiful version of the truth. The challenge is not losing the truth in the process!

(3) A few of his editions of Montaigne's Essais: I have tons of copies of this book. Every time I re-read it for a course, I use another pen to make notes. I began by underlining in pencil and then I go to red pen, then to blue pen, then purple pen. Eventually, I am going to have to start again. Maybe there's a green pen out there. ...

6 Image of the staircase in the Château de Chambord: In the early 16th century, the King of France said, "I'm going to hire the smartest person who represents Renaissance culture in Italy, and he's

going to design something for me, and we're going to start a Renaissance in France." And so he hired Leonardo da Vinci, who designs this castle and this spectacular double-helix staircase. The staircase is hollow in the middle, so you can climb it and see someone on another part of the staircase, and you think you're going to run into them, but you never do. I've been running around Italy and France studying staircases as part of my research for the book. That's something that I'm pretty obsessed with—the experience of going up a certain kind of staircase and what that does to the body and what that does to the mind, and how it can evoke a sensation of infinity. It's kind of a long story. ...

7 Notes for his next book: You can just open up any page of the notes I take, and it's going to look like that. This is how I organize my research. You summarize what the book you've just read says, and then in brackets, you add your own thoughts. I show students this method. They don't have to do it exactly this way, but it works as a model for how to organize your thinking.

—Eils Lotozo

COOL CLASSES

CLASS NAME:

"Revolutions in Neuroscience"

Taught by: Assistant Professor of Psychology Laura Been and Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology Mary Ellen Kelly

Here's what Been had to say about the class:

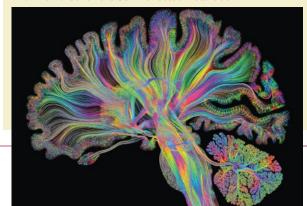
The field of neuroscience is a multidisciplinary, dynamic field exploding with new discoveries and technological advancements. Every week there are new reports that further illuminate the workings of our brain and move us one step closer to a better understanding of human behavior. In designing this course, we wanted to ask, "With all this momentum moving forward, what can be gained by revisiting the past?"

To try to answer this question, we designed this course as a survey of revolutionary developments in the field of neuroscience that produced paradigm-shifts in our thinking of brain and behavior. The goal was not only to discuss the neuroscience underlying these discoveries, but also to provide an historical and personal context to the science. We evaluated the environment that produced such insights and, with a new perspective, moved forward to the present day to discuss modern approaches and theorems.

Each section of the course culminated with a visit from a current leader in the field whose research continues to advance our understanding of the brain. The visiting researcher lead an in-class discussion about their research, and students also got to talk with the visitor about the path they took to get to their current position. In addition, two visitors gave a public research talk as part of the Distinguished Visitors lecture series.

Additionally, with generous funding from the Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities, students visited the Franklin Institute to see the *Self Reflected* installation. Created by artist and neuroscientist Greg Dunn with artist and applied physicist Brian Edwards, *Self Reflected* [which shows the human brain in action] is the most complex piece of brain art in the world. Students took a selfie (#selfiewithselfreflected) and blogged about their experience in the context of course themes.

Color map of the human brain created by Greg Dunn and Brian Edwards for the *Self Reflected* installation.





Universal Design for Learning

he Instructional Technology Center (ITC), partnering with the Office of Access and Disability, is working to promote Universal Design for Learning (UDL) on campus. (An outgrowth of a 1980s initiative focused on using new technology to improve education for disabled students, UDL has grown into a framework that aims to optimize the learning experience for all individuals—disabled and nondisabled.) To kick off the UDL initiative, the ITC asked students to finish this sentence: "I learn best in class when ..." More than 45 students responded and their comments (above) were posted on the bulletin board outside the Instructional Technology Center in Stokes 205. Among their observations: "I learn best in class when the professor teaches visually," and "I learn best in small group discussions with guiding questions." As a next step, the ITC is planning workshops to discuss some of the comments.



The exhibition *Resistance After Nature*, curated by Kendra Sullivan and Dylan Gauthier, tracks the practices of artists who imagine and construct alternative approaches to such entangled ecological, political, and economic issues as indigenous sovereignty and water rights, the fossil economy, ocean acidification, and deforestation. This exhibit, which runs March 17–April 28 in the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, brings together insurgent environmental art that proceeds from the recognition that the Earth is imperiled but the future is unwritten, and asserts that another world is possible; indeed, it is already here. We are making it together even now. *Resistance After Nature* is organized in conjunction with the Hurford Center's 2016-17 Faculty Seminar "Environmental Design, Sustainability, and Artistic Intervention," led by Markus Baenziger (fine arts) and Joshua Milton Moses (anthropology/environmental studies).

Getting It Right

Arrival, the intimate, humanistic science fiction film about a linguist (played by Amy Adams, right) learning to communicate with newly arrived aliens, garnered praise from audiences and critics alike, but we wondered how it worked as a depiction of the field study of linguistics. Luckily, we knew just who to ask.

Brook Danielle Lillehaugen is an assistant professor in the Tri-Co Linguistics

Department who conducts fieldwork on the endangered Zapotec languages of Mexico. She has developed the Tlacolula Valley Zapotec Talking Dictionary as an online resource, and she is part of the team preserving the now extinct dialect of Colonial Valley Zapotec via manuscripts at the Ticha Project. So we asked her how the portrayal of a linguist's work in the film measured up to her own experiences.

Haverford College: In the film Louise, the linguist, communicates with the aliens via their written language, which looked like a Rorschach test. I was fascinated by the way Louise marked up their writing to decipher it. Did that look correct or believable to you?

Brook Danielle Lillehaugen: Well, in fact they had a linguist do that. Even though it was a fake language, the filmmakers were like, "If you were trying to figure this out, how might you mark it up?" And this linguist from Magill University in Canada, Jessica Coon, did that for them.

What we saw Louise in the film do is something very similar to what I do. You're trained [as a linguist] in understanding all the possible ways that languages can be, so that you can encounter a language that's not described by Western science and ask that question: "How does this language work?" And you're not starting from scratch. You've seen languages that follow certain rules, or do x, y, or z, and so you're looking for those things. I like that that's



what they showed Louise doing.

HC: Is there something they got really wrong about linguistics in the film?

BDL: I think the part of the film that's most controversial to linguists has to do with this Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis that's the backbone of the film's final twist. This hypothesis, which is also sometimes called linguistic determinism or linguistic relativism, exists on a continuum. One of the

strongest statements of this hypothesis is that the language that you speak constrains how you view the world—like your language is a pair of glasses and you're seeing the world through the grammatical constraints of that language. Other people feel that's probably not very realistic. [They] think that language does not constrain how we view the world, but instead reflects certain cultural components, and while language can mark certain things, it doesn't mean we can't observe things that our language doesn't mark. And I would say that most linguists probably are on that end of the spectrum.

HC: What would you want someone who knows nothing about linguistics to take away from this film?

BDL: The part that's most interesting to me is how it demonstrated her coming to understand the [alien] language, and I would love people to see that [this] is a scientific undertaking. There's some sort of structure that she needs to decode, and there is a process to do so, but it takes creativity. Secondly, I'd want viewers to realize that ultimately it's really a human connection. Louise succeeded, in part, because she was herself and she wanted to get to know [the aliens], even to the point of naming them and caring about them. I think that really sums up a lot of what field linguists do. It's not just the science. There's nowhere you can look up the answers, so you have to be creative. -R. R.

Read a longer version of this interview at hav.to/24j.

news + notes

Assistant Professor of Economics Carola Binder published an article, "Time To Rethink The Fed's Framework," co-written with Alex Rodrigue '17, on the Huffington Post.

Ruth Marshall Magill Professor of Music Curt Cacioppo gave a concert in Venice at Lo Squero on the Isola San Giorgio Maggiore on the Grand Canal. The program was a retrospective primarily of music that he wrote for the Quartetto di Venezia. Also in Italy, Carola Binder



Cacioppo's "Hamlet Elegy" had its world premiere in Parma. Back in the United States, he enjoyed the premiere of his "Variations on a Theme of Mozart" and a recital performance by pianist Silvanio Reis of his "Philadelphia Diary." The Orpheus Duo gave the world premiere of Cacioppo's "Parisian Room Waltz," and Cacioppo was a guest performer at the 7th annual Livewire festival of new music at the University of Maryland, where he premiered the complete preludes for solo piano of composer Christopher Shultis.

PHOTOS: PATRICK MONTERO (GLASSMAN, WHITE)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Fine Arts **Christina Freeman '05** presented an immersive exhibition, *A Precipice, Abandon, A Dotted Line*, at Flux Factory in Long Island City, N.Y., as part of her residency there. The labyrinthine video installation invites the viewer to experience darkness as a space for embracing the uncertain.



Hank Glassman

Janet and Henry Ritchotte '85 Professor of Asian Studies and Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures Hank Glassman led a two-week trip to Japan for 15 Haverford and Bryn Mawr students. The group stayed in temples and rural inns. This is the third time for the trip, which is part of a course cluster on "Contemplative Traditions" offered in Bryn Mawr's 360 Program.

Associate Professor of History Darin Hayton gave a six-week series of lectures for Philadelphia's Wagner Free Institute of Science on the history of early astronomy. He also gave a presentation in October titled "Plague, Famine, and Death: The Terrifying History of Comets" for Science on Tap, a weekly "science cafe" organized by the Academy of Natural Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, the College of Physicians, and the Wagner Free Institute of Science.

Associate Professor of Fine Arts Hee Sook Kim showed her work in two group exhibitions: *Beyond Hangeul* at the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., and *Circular* at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J. She received a special prize from the organization Arte Laguna, which sponsors an award program for international contemporary art, for her work "Paradise Between 4." Fallani Venezia published the image in silkscreen in a limited edition of 50 and gave an opening reception for it in Venice, Italy, in November.

Professor of Music and Director of Choral and Vocal Studies Thomas Lloyd premiered two new compositions this fall. In October, at the Bryn Mawr Family Weekend Concert, the Chamber Singers performed his "Vogelgesang" (Birdsong) accompanied by musicians from the Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture Takht Ensemble. In November, his original anthem for choir and organ, "You have known me" (Ps. 139), had its premiere in a performance by the Cathedral Singers at the Philadelphia Cathedral. The work was composed for the seating of the new bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. And Lloyd's music was

in the national spotlight in February, when the recording by Philadelphia ensemble The Crossing of his work *Bonhoeffer* was nominated for a Grammy for Best Choral Performance. The piece was inspired by the life of the Lutheran theologian who died in a Nazi concentration camp.

Professor of Biology Philip Meneely, Associate Professor of Biology Rachel Hoang, and Instructor in Biology Katherine Heston published *Genetics: Genes, Genomes, and Evolution* with Oxford University Press. The new textbook covers the fundamental principles of genetics and molecular biology in both bacteria and eukaryotes from an evolutionary perspective, using data and tools of genome analysis.

Associate Professor of Philosophy J. Reid Miller published his book, *Stain Removal: Ethics and Race*, via Oxford University Press. The book challenges the idea that we are born as unblemished subjects, unmarked by qualitative associations of value and race, and argues that value is inheritable as well as mediated through race. Wrote one reviewer: "Through the metaphor of the stain, J. Reid Miller traces the long history of thought suggesting that embodiments like race can and



do signify ethical qualities. He argues that these qualities do not 'attach' to subjects from the outside—like a stain on innocent and unraced beings—but are instead what allow us to see people as distinct ethical individuals. The objective of ethics, he shows, is not to determine whether race is good or bad but to illustrate how our 'unique' personal traits emerge through our multiple relations to others."

Associate Professor of Chemistry Joshua Schrier is part of a consortium of 27 computational chemistry faculty at primarily undergraduate institutions that received a National

Science Foundation grant for the project "MRI: Addition of High Performance Computers for the Molecular Education and Research Consortium in Undergraduate Computational Chemistry." The \$225,000 grant is funding a computer cluster to be shared by the consortium.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Helen K. White published a paper, "Long-term weathering and continued oxidation of oil residues from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill," in *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. Among the paper's co-authors were three Haverford alumni (David Findley '15, Alana Thurston '16, Patrick Williams '14) and current senior Chloe Wang '17.



Helen K. White

ford games



ots of Fords pursue law careers. But there's just one who exited the profession to launch one of the world's most popular ultra- and trail-running websites, iRunFar.com. Bryon Powell '00 was a cross-country and track athlete and a history major at Haverford before he found post-graduation work at a law firm in Washington, D.C., then powered through law school at night while balancing his day job. Powell worked in law for eight years, with just under three as an attorney specializing in food and drug regulations, before a tempting idea began to take hold. "I didn't get much personal satisfaction out of my legal work," Powell says. Mounting stress made him crave the outdoors and a change of pace, so to speak. "I'm not usually a risk taker," he says. But of his eventual decision to flee the law and turn his running blog into an authoritative source—and source of income—he says: "So worth it."

That was 2009. Now, Powell lives just outside the outdoor enthusiast's mecca of Moab, Utah, with his girlfriend, Meghan Hicks, who is senior editor to his editor-inchief at iRunFar. Powell's site, supported by a small staff, covers gear, events, training, and all topics of interest to those who pursue outdoor trail running and tackle ultramarathons (technically any race longer than the standard 26.2 miles). Powell, who finished third in the 250-mile Ultra-Trail Gobi Race in China in 2015, is the author of Relentless Forward Progress: A Guide to Running Ultramarathons, and co-wrote the trail-running guide Where the Road Ends with Hicks. iRunFar, which gets more than a million page views per month at peak season, is a full-time job, and then some.

Running early, and often, and far:

I grew up a distance runner, but in college they needed sprinters, so I became one. It was a great blessing, and it really saved me, because I didn't burn out. After a few years of sprinting, I wanted to get back out and run some miles. I started with some short road races that evolved into longer ones. Now, my distance of choice is 100 miles, and the farthest I've raced is 250.

How the site was (re)born: I started blogging in law school because I was working my butt off and couldn't keep in touch with my family and friends, so I used it to update them on my life. I graduated and started writing more about my running, and I realized they didn't want to read about that, so I spun it off to be just about running. In 2007, I decided to make it more informational, about shoes and gear, just because I wasn't seeing that kind of thing



Powell at the turnaround (and high point) of the Yading Skyrun in Sichuan, China. The 18-mile course climbs nearly 7,000 feet to reach an elevation of 15,000 feet.

out there online. In 2008 I went to my first industry conference. I was still just working on it in my free time at that point.

The big leap: I was getting really stressed at work. There was a lot of anxiety. Then I met my girlfriend, who was living out in Yosemite, Calif., in the summer of 2008. We did a race called the Marathon des Sables together in Morocco. It's out in the desert, and you race each day, then camp each night, so I had a lot of free time to think. And basically, on the plane back, I asked her, "Do you mind if I quit my job and come live with you in California?" And the next Monday I was looking for a real estate agent to sell my house.

How he pulled it off: The great thing about a website, as opposed to something like a restaurant, is that you don't have to invest in much infrastructure or pay other people to get it going. It was just me. So it's not like I'd put up 250 grand and, if it failed, I was out that money. I kept my law licenses up to date, just in case, but I can't say I was psyched about the idea of going back. Luckily, it just kept growing. We fund the website now through advertisements and marketing partnerships, like race sponsorships.

A day in the life: There's no typical day. I travel about eight months a year, all over the world, to different races and events. I'll usually do video interviews before and after the race, and live reporting on race day. A lot of the benefits that come with commingling work and life the way I do are fringe benefits, like being able to work from anywhere. The downside is that I feel like I can't take a day off, because there's so much I want to do. And there has been a different type of stress and uncertainty as everything

has scaled up. But we're finally getting to the point where we can make decisions not based on making sure iRunFar survives or flourishes, but based on what will help me and Meghan flourish. I used to work 18-hour days, but now it's more like 12.

On Ford influence: One of the biggest things you learn at Haverford is just how to

think and how to adapt, so you can try anything and find a way to succeed. On a given day, I can be an accountant, a web designer, or a writer. I'm not a natural writer, but I learned how. So my advice to someone thinking about doing what I did is not to fear trying what you're passionate about. There are so many options for what you can do next.

What makes it worthwhile: There's incredible passion and enthusiasm in this sport. Just today I spoke with a guy in his mid-70s who lives in Colorado. He doesn't have a computer, so he has people print out articles from iRunFar and bring them to him so he can stay up to speed on ultra-running. And on a personal level, the feeling is just amazing. When I'm out there, 60 miles in, just cruising along, I'm thinking, "Wow. I can do this. I get to do this."

-Mara Miller '10

Mara Miller '10 is a writer and editor in Philadelphia. She studied Classics and ran track at Haverford.

A Dramatic Season's End

The Haverford women's basket-ball team took the top seed in the Centennial Conference tournament in February. This was the team's sixth consecutive appearance in the tournament—a record for the program.

The team faced off against visiting Gettysburg in the conference semi-finals at the Gooding '84 Arena on campus, and started the game on a scoring spurt, taking a seven point lead with less than four minutes left in the first quarter. Playing in front of a revved-up home crowd, the Fords looked



poised to turn away the Bullets early. But at the end of a contest that was dramatically tight from the opening tip until the final buzzer, Gettysburg finally edged Haverford 59-55.

The team, led by head coach Bobbi Morgan, compiled a 19-7 overall record for the season, posting the second most wins in program history. Junior Co-Captain Sierra Berkel '18 (above), who was named First-team All-Centennial, led the Fords in scoring and rebounding for a second straight season.

→

Keep up with your favorite Haverford team at haverfordathletics.com.



dam Cann '06 had two very specific thoughts when he began writing for The Philly Soccer Page in 2009. "Idon't know what I'm doing," the former Haverford soccer player thought as he prepared to cover the sport known as football outside of the United States. "And how quickly will I be found out?"

He wasn't a sportswriter by trade. But with a passion for and in-depth knowledge of the game he's been playing since he was five, Cann quickly found an audience. He's still at it. At last count, his tally was 800 posts for the Philly Soccer Page. And he's still writing for the love of the game instead of for pay—and balancing his soccer reporting with his studies toward a marketing Ph.D. at Texas Tech University.

The Charlotte, N.C., native has a cerebral approach to soccer, which drew him to the sport in the first place.

"The original appeal was the dynamic nature of the sport," he says. "Once it starts, it keeps going. You have to figure out what's happening on the fly. I also figured out that you didn't have to be big, strong, or considered fast to still be competent and a regular contributor."

On top of that, Cann was a rarity as a soccer player. While most people love the thrill and glory of scoring goals, he found joy in playing defense, disrupting opponents' game plans.

"There are a lot of people who want to be on the ball, and it's really fun to take it off of them," he says. "If I can figure out who I want to defend and take them out of the game, teams often don't have a backup plan."

A history major, Cann never thought about pursuing a career writing about a game that has only recently become popular in the United States. But while Cann was playing for a Philadelphia club team after his graduation from Haverford, a journalist asked if there were any players who could write for a new website focused on the sport in Philly with a particular focus on Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union, which had just been founded in 2008. Cann—who grew up devouring the

columns of *Charlotte Observer* sportswriter Tom Sorensen—jumped in while working at a local bookstore.

This wasn't just a fans-writing-for-fans site—the Union issued a press credential to The Philly Soccer Page, giving Cann the chance to speak to players and coaches after matches. He found that stressful at first, before realizing he could build relationships with those in the locker room.

These days, Cann's expertise lies mainly in what's called "tactical analysis:" blog posts that feature a detailed breakdown—with video clips—of the strategies used during games, including the way players funnel the action toward one side of the pitch to take advantage of a weakness, or the way they employ plays like free kicks.

"It's asking what big decisions coaches made," he explains. "It's looking at the major incidents that tell us something about what the teams are trying to do to score or prevent goals."

Cann had other passions as well. Years after he began writing for The Philly Soccer page, while working at Saint Joseph's University Press, he discovered a love for social psychology and decided to pursue a graduate degree by cold-calling a professor at Texas Tech, which accepted him, although he eventually pivoted to focus on marketing. Leaving Philadelphia for Lubbock, Texas, meant Cann wouldn't be able to cover Union games in person, but he's still pumping out tactical analyses.

"I generally try to write about matches as an extremely interested outsider who is trying to make points about how players played, not about the players themselves," he says. "I do it because I love the people I work with, but also because it fits into that happy valley as something I care about enough to spend hours thinking and writing about without, I hope, being too emotionally involved to analyze it critically and coolly."

—Charles Curtis '04

Charles Curtis '04 is a sportswriter for USA Today's For The Win and the author of the Weirdo Academy series, published by Month9Books. He lives in New York City with his wife and son.

mixed media

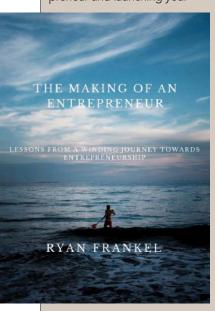
BOOKS

Q&A: Ryan Frankel '06

Ryan Frankel learned a lot about being an entrepreneur over the course of the more than five years he and a partner spent conceiving and developing the start-up Verbalizelt, a language translation platform for businesses. Now, Frankel, who wrote regularly about his startup experiences for Forbes.com, has distilled much of what he learned into a new book: The Making of an Entrepreneur: Lessons from a Winding Journey Towards Entrepreneurship. The book tells the story of launching and scaling Verbalizelt, which included a stint with start-up accelerator Techstars, an appearance on the television show Shark Tank, the near shut-down of the company, and a last-minute buyout offer. In May 2016, after a year of discussions with potential buyers, Frankel and his partner sold Verbalizelt to fellow New Yorkbased translation service Smartling. Since then, Frankel has moved on and is now living in Miami and working on a new venture. He talked to Philadelphia-based entrepreneur Brad Aronson '93 about the book, his entrepreneurial journey, and what's next for him.

Brad Aronson: Tell us about your book.

Ryan Frankel: It's a candid inside look at the highs and lows of growing a start-up. The media glamorizes becoming an entrepreneur and launching your



own company—"It's going to be the next Facebook. ... It's all roses." But the reality is that very few people get it right the first time. Even when they get it right, it's usually not a grand slam. So for the entrepreneur, or for the person who wants to be an entrepreneur, or the family member who wants to support an entrepreneur, my goal was to create a very honest look at what it's like and have people learn from my experiences.

BA: What advice would you give to an entrepreneur who's just getting started?

RF: Being an entrepreneur isn't for everyone. It's very important to take stock of what encapsulates being an entrepreneur. It's also important to involve friends and family with what you're about to do, because continued on page 31

Dear Yasmeen

SOPHIA KHAN '08

fter English major Sophia Khan '08 turned in her exhaustive (and, she says, exhausting to complete) thesis on British Pakistani author Mohsin Hamid, she found inspiration as a novelist—though she didn't know it at the time.

"I was walking down the Nature Trail," she says of the shortcut from Woodside Cottage to her apartment. "I guess I was thinking in full sentences, because this sentence just popped into my head."

I know my mother is dead the day I find the box.

"I had no idea what to do with that," continues Khan, 31, who lives in Islamabad, Pakistan, with her husband and infant son. "I was so done with writing ... after having just finished my thesis."

But writing wasn't done with her. The sentence opens her debut novel, *Dear Yasmeen*. First published in 2015 by HarperCollins India under the title *Yasmeen*: *A Novel*, the book came out in the U.K. last year as *Dear Yasmeen*, published by Periscope

Books. It's available on Amazon, and U.S. publication is expected.

The complex story alternates between a heartbroken husband and a lonely daughter who struggle to move beyond the shadow of the title character, the wife and mother who vanished five years earlier and left behind a box of love letters she exchanged with a mysterious man. *Yasmeen* was shortlisted for the 2016 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize and this year's Karachi Literature Festival fiction prize.

Khan (like her novel) straddles two continents. Born in Pakistan to a Pakistani economist father and an American mother who worked for the U.N., Khan wrapped up high school in Salt Lake City.

"There definitely was some culture shock," she says. Haverford offered a warm respite. "For four years, I had a sense of place in America."

Khan also learned the fundamentals to succeed as a writer: "My horizons expanded so much. Before I got to college, I loved reading. But I didn't think too deeply about the craft and art of it. Until you're a good reader, you can never be a good writer. Haverford made me a good reader."



A year after graduation, Khan began *Yasmeen*, and what she had initially seen as just a side project quickly took over her days. Three years later, in 2011, she finished—and got an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. *Yasmeen* took another three years to get published, as Khan looked for an agent. (Many times, she says, "I didn't even get the honor of a rejection letter.") She also completed edits on the novel, cutting 100,000 words from the manuscript and



reducing a favorite character to one sentence.

"This book took so long [to come out], I wrote my second book," she says. Khan won't reveal details beyond genre—sci-fi. But she does offer advice to aspiring authors:

"Really the most difficult part of writing is sitting down and writing," says Khan, who now works during her son's naps. "If you have an idea, sit down and do it."

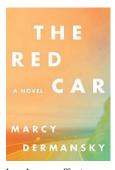
—Lini S. Kadaba

More Alumni Titles



NICK BRUEL '87: Bad Kitty Takes the Test (Macmillan). The latest book in Bruel's popular Bad Kitty series spoofs the mania for standardized testing in schools by having the truculent title

character take a test—administered by a chicken—to prove she is a cat.

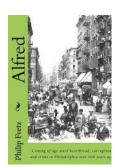


MARCY DERMANSKY '91:

The Red Car: A Novel (Liveright). Dermansky has become known as a master of transgression for her mordantly witty novels (Bad Marie, Twins), and

her latest offering cements that reputation. Its heroine (a Haverford College dropout whose exit was spurred by an unusually racy Honor Code violation) is living in Queens with a husband she doesn't love when she inherits a red sports car from a former boss and mentor and is forced to

reevaluate her life. During a trip to San Francisco to retrieve the car, she revisits past lives and loves (including her brief time as a Haverford student) as she begins a journey of self-discovery. Declared *Kirkus Reviews*: "Dermansky delivers a captivating novel about the pursuit of joy that combines dreamlike logic with dark humor, wry observation, and gritty feminism."

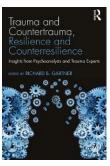


PHIL FRETZ '67:

Alfred (CreateSpace). This fictional coming-of-age tale recounts the story of a 15-year-old orphan boy in Philadelphia in the 1890s, who sees a glimmer of hope when a stranger

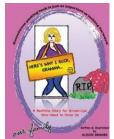
comes to his aid in a police station.

RICHARD B. GARTNER '67, editor:
Trauma and Countertrauma, Resilience and Counterresilience: Insights from Psychoanalysts and Trauma Experts (Routledge). This volume collects the personal reflections of seasoned trauma specialists and psychoanalysts on what



is rarely revealed by clinicians: their personal traumatic material. Writing about the models they have developed for articulating and synthesizing the countertrauma that arises from long-term

exposure to their patients' often-harrowing experiences, the book's contributors shed light on the inner lives of people who work to heal the wounds of psychic trauma. Gartner, a psychologist and psychoanalyst in New York City, also wrote Betrayed as Boys: Psychodynamic Treatment of Sexually Abused Men.



'92: Here's Why I Suck, Gramma: A Bedtime Story for Grownups Who Need to Grow Up

ALISON GRAMBS

(Self-published). In 1985, when Grambs was a teen-

ager, her grandmother gave her a handwritten book. Twenty-nine years later, she

More Alumni Titles

continued from page 27

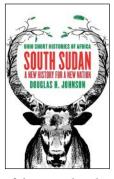
finally read it. This hand-drawn, interactive book, says Grambs, "is a story about getting a familial relationship right the second time around because you messed up the first time around." Grambs is the author of *The Man Translator* and *The Smart Girl's Guide to Getting Even*.



CHRIS GUITON

'96: Go For Broke (NextGen Press). In his second novel, Guiton (A Shot at Happy) tells the story of a promising young associate in a prestigious New York law firm who flees the relentless

pressure of the job to embark on a madcap jaunt to Europe. Through his character's misadventures, Guiton, himself a corporate attorney, explores a few of life's challenging questions: How much of ourselves do we have to sacrifice to make ends meet and relationships work? And how do we stay true to ourselves when the world pulls at us to become someone we're not?

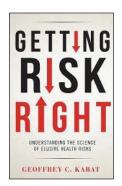


DOUGLAS H. JOHNSON '71:

South Sudan: A
New History for a
New Nation (Ohio
University Press).
Often considered
remote and isolated from the rest of
Africa, and associated with the violence

of slavery and civil war, South Sudan has been an arena for a complex mixing of peoples, languages, and beliefs. The nation's diversity is both its strength and a challenge as its people attempt to overcome the legacy of decades of war to build a new future. Drawing on recent advances in the archaeology of the Nile Valley, new fieldwork as well as classic ethnography, and local and foreign archives, Johnson recovers South Sudan's place in African history and challenges the stereotypes imposed on its peo-

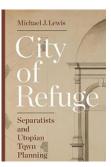
ples. A fellow of the Rift Valley Institute and a prominent historian of Sudan and South Sudan, Johnson was a consultant during the Sudan peace talks.



GEOFFREY C. KABAT '67:

Getting Risk Right: Understanding the Science of Elusive Health Risks (Columbia University Press). We depend on science and medicine as never before, yet there is

widespread misinformation and confusion, amplified by the media, regarding what influences our health. This book provides a much-needed antidote to what has been called "an epidemic of false claims." A cancer epidemiologist at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the author of *Hyping Health Risks*, Kabat writes a regular column for Forbes.com on the perception versus the reality of health risks.

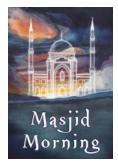


MICHAEL J. LEWIS '80: City of Refuge:

780: City of Refuge:
Separatists and
Utopian Town
Planning (Princeton
University Press).
Utopian town planning produced a
distinctive type of
settlement character-

ized by its square plan, collective ownership of properties, and communal dormitories. Some were sanctuaries from religious persecution, like those of the French Huguenots and American Shakers, while others were sanctuaries from the Industrial Revolution, like those imagined by Charles Fourier and Robert Owen. While they have traditionally been viewed separately, these settlements, Lewis shows, are really part of a continuous intellectual tradition that stretches from the early Protestant Reformation into modern times. Lewis is the Faison-Pierson-Stoddard Professor of Art History at Williams College. His books include *Frank Furness*:

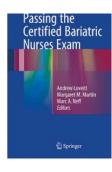
Architecture and the Violent Mind and The Gothic Revival.



RICHARD MORRIS

'65: Masjid Morning (CreateSpace). In this modern-day Romeo and Juliet story, set in a small town in Maryland, a Muslim premed student meets secretly with a Christian high-

school senior to answer her questions about Islam. Meanwhile, the boy's father is leading his congregation in the construction of a mosque, as the girl's father heads an effort to stop it. Morris's previous books include the historical thriller *Well Considered* and the young adult novel *Canoedling* in *Cleveland*.



MARC A. NEFF '92,

Andrew Loveitt, and Margaret M. Martin, editors: *Passing the Certified Bariatric Nurses Exam* (Springer). This guide for nurses seeking to earn the CBN designation, which

certifies their specialized knowledge in the care of patients undergoing weightloss surgery, can also be used as a general resource for medical students, residents, dietitians, and other health professionals interested in a concise review of the rapidly growing field. Neff is medical director of the Kennedy University Hospital Bariatric Surgery Program.



DAVID F. PYKE '76,

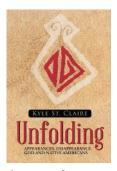
Edward A. Silver, and Douglas J. Thomas: Inventory and Production Management in Supply Chains, Fourth Edition (CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group). Authored by a team of experts, the new edition of this book covers the current context of inventory and production management, including managing inventory in multiple locations and firms, and presents sophisticated concepts and solutions with an eye toward today's economy of global demand, cost-saving, and rapid cycles. Pyke is a professor at the University of San Diego School of Business Administration.

THE NEW INSTRUCTION LIBRARIAN

CANDICE BENJES-SMALL

'95 and Rebecca K. Miller: The New Instruction Librarian: A Workbook for Trainers and Learners (ALA Editions). This book offers a comprehen-

sive guide to helping ease the transition for librarians who are new at instruction. Grounded in research on teaching and learning from numerous disciplines, the book explores the different roles an instruction librarian is usually expected to play, demonstrates the importance of performance evaluation and management, and provides guided reading lists for further study. Benjes-Small is library instruction team leader at Radford University.



KYLE ST. CLAIRE
'68: Unfolding:
Appearances,
Disappearance
God and Native
Americans (WestBow
Press). This first
novel by retired
Episcopal clergy-

man St. Claire tells

the story of a Connecticut minister whose interest in Native American spiritual practices draws him and a young woman parishioner into an ancient drama that challenges their ideas about reality and human and divine relationships.

FORD AUTHORS: Do you have a new book you'd like to see included in More Alumni Titles? Please send all relevant information to hc-editor@haverford.edu.

DANCE

rofessional dancer **Dana Nichols '14** discovered the Philadelphia Dance Company—known as Philadanco—as a sophomore on her first trip into West Philadelphia. She was on her way to an Ethiopian restaurant with friends when they came upon a street sign that read "Philadanco Way," she recounts. "I saw their sign and thought, 'Maybe I could be there some day.' "

Now an apprentice in the first company and a principal dancer in the second, Nichols went straight from Haverford to Philadanco, which was founded in 1970 as a haven for African-American ballet dancers and a troupe that celebrates black dance.

Four days each week, Nichols takes ballet, modern, and jazz classes at Philadanco, on top of three-to-five-hour show rehearsals. In between she goes for physical therapy, studies choreography, attends dance classes elsewhere, and teaches at a local dance studio. This year Nichols will tour with Philadanco throughout the United States and in the United Kingdom, with a final show at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center.



Dana Nichols '14 (left) performing with Philadelphia dance company Philadanco.

Despite a lifetime of training, it was a huge leap, admits the Los Angeles native, to go from college student to professional dancer. "I danced every day until I was age 18, then I cut back in college, so I spent a good two years getting back on top of my craft."

Nichols started classical ballet lessons at age 6 and could have skipped college to attend a dance conservatory, but instead she came to Haverford. "My grandfather was an English professor, my parents are very literary, so it was in my family's DNA to get a college degree," she says. "I'm a reader and writer and interested in people, so it was important to me not to bypass college."

The English major (with an Africana studies concentration) was a member of Bryn Mawr's dance program and took two to four dance classes a semester. She started the Haverford College Dance Company, which performs and brings in guest teachers. When a Bryn Mawr graduate who danced with Philadanco urged Nichols to consider the company after graduation, she started training with the group and was soon invited to join.

"What's most rewarding so far is that I've truly tested my limits, and now I feel like I can do anything," Nichols says. "I've made my body do things I truly believed I couldn't do, and that's remarkable."

—Anne Stein

ART

s a child growing up on the outskirts of Washington, D.C., **Henry Richardson '83** often visited the home of a family friend, a documentary filmmaker with a penchant for American artists of the early 20th-century. The gentleman's walls were adorned with prints and paintings by Thomas Hart Benton and George Bellows, Richardson recalls, images that captured his imagination and sparked his interest in art. When he was 12, Richardson persuaded his mother to allow him to explore the National Gallery of Art on his own. "She would drop me off at 10 in the morning and return to pick me up at around three," he says. "Can you imagine such a thing in this day and age?" But the immersion was exactly what Richardson craved: "I was free to wander the galleries at my own pace, peruse the art and think about things."



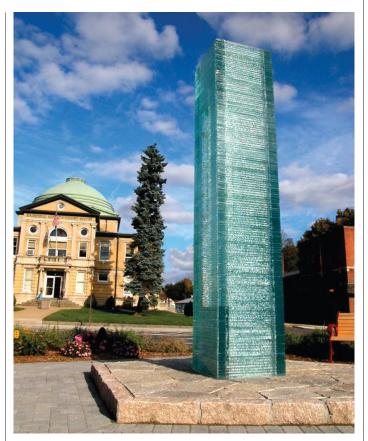
Richardson has been thinking about art ever since. Today he works full time as an artist, transforming enormous sheets of plate glass into ethereal sculptures that seem to defy the general properties of matter. Treating glass like "transparent stone," Richardson chisels and welds, manipulating the materials into luminous spheres, columns and spirals that appear exquisitely fragile and at the same time remarkably solid. "Glass is an interesting material," he observes. "It's a barrier to airflow, but not to sight. It both absorbs the

light and reflects it. It's also a material that hasn't been explored as a sculptural medium by many artists, so it gives the process of creation a pioneering aspect that I find incredibly satisfying."

Indeed, Richardson has spent decades exploring the potential of his chosen materials. Manipulating the glass as other sculptors do stone or wood, he carves individual sections, then binds them together using acrylic polymers and ultraviolet light, in a process similar to that used by dentists bonding crowns to teeth or scientists fusing blown glass together for use in the lab. The only difference in his process, says Richardson, is volume. "I use liters and liters of polymer silicate," he notes.

Richardson, who is self-taught as an artist, works his magic from a purpose-built barn in the Berkshires, far from the art establishment. "I was never in the art world formally. I've always charted my own path, which has allowed me to tackle not only my materials but also my subject matter in a fresh way."

A Quaker who has found in the concept of "inner light" a continuing artistic theme, Richardson's works have been featured in solo and group exhibitions around the country and may be found in private and corporate collections. He has also received a number of public commissions, including one to design the 9/11 Memorial in Danbury, Conn. "Tve been very fortunate to have a number of generous patrons who really believe in my work," says Richardson, who observes that people often have a primal reaction to the glass; they want to touch it, a response that drives him to try to continually break new ground while





Richardson, a self-taught artist, carves individual sections of glass, then binds them together using acrylic polymers and ultraviolet light. Top: He created this 9/11 memorial for the town of Danbury, Conn. Bottom: "Du Froid 1."

at the same time creating works that will endure.

"Bryn Mawr Geology Professor Maria Luisa Crawford was an important mentor to me as a student," says Richardson, who majored in geology at Bryn Mawr (and lived in one of the dorms there from his sophomore year on). "She encouraged non-linear thinking and was always pushing me to look at all the components of a problem before



Richardson's 5,000-pound sphere "Tikkun," was inspired by the Hebrew term *Tikkun Olam*, translated as "repairing the world."

trying to solve it, a non-conformist approach that resonated with me." And Richardson says he isn't the only one. "I look at my Haverford classmates and see many who are successful in an array of professions, yet they share a common bond: They're outliers," he concludes. "At Haverford, students are encouraged to be curious and to think outside the box, and that is a great gift." —Lori L. Ferguson

Q&A: Ryan Frankel '06

continued from page 26

the reality is it's all-consuming. You're going to have to make sacrifices, whether that's missing social occasions with friends, or working late in the evenings instead of spending time with loved ones. Get your support system involved in what you're doing. It makes it all the more rewarding and I think it enhances the chances for success.

BA: What led to starting VerbalizeIt?

RF: I got really sick while travelling in China. Despite knowing the medication I needed, I couldn't communicate with any of the pharmacists due to the language barrier. That was that "Aha moment," when I knew there had to be a better solution for travelers trying to navigate a language barrier—something far better than a Google translate in terms of quality, but also something far cheaper and more reasonable than traditional brick and mortar translation call centers.

BA: What was it like being on the show Shark Tank?

RF: Not everything is as it seems ... The ways in which you get on the show and excel have a lot to do with how well you can present. For someone like myself, who is very cut and dry, at first I didn't resonate all that well with the show's producers.

You need to be entertaining. Also the six to eight minutes you see on TV—that's an hour to an hour-and-a-half of filming. But everything else is real. I continue to stay in touch with the sharks and for the most part they are true to their TV personalities.

BA: How did you eventually make yourself resonate with the producers? Did they coach you?

RF: The producers suggested I go to the store, purchase a [can of] Red Bull and then go back to my hotel room and jump up and down on the bed until I got crazy wild, excited, and more animated. I did it half jokingly, and I think it helped. It showed that running a business doesn't always have to be serious; you can have fun with it.

BA: Your entrepreneurial journey came close to ending with a



shutdown of your company. What was that like?

RF: The decision to pursue an exit from VerbalizeIt was both personal and professional. We believed that we had hit a wall on achieving the high growth we aspired to, and I was starting to notice signs of emotional burnout in myself and amongst my colleagues. That forced my business partner and I to have a frank discussion about an exit. If we weren't successful in [finding a buyer] we agreed the next best step would be to wind down operations and return our leftover capital to our investors. Traveling to meet with leaders to discuss the merits of an acquisition was invigorating but also draining, and during a vear's worth of those conversations we experienced incredible highs and lows.

BA: What were the lessons learned?

RF: First, acquisitions don't happen overnight. The ultimate transaction comes at the end of a lengthy journey. You need to build momentum towards an exit well before you're ready to consummate a deal so that you have multiple options. And secondly, many acquisitions, especially among startups, are more a function of relationships than they are of products and services. I started getting to

know my competitors around the same time we were raising our first round of capital, and I began a relationship with our acquirer's CEO four years before we were ultimately acquired. Those subsequent four years enabled me to build credibility that helped when it came time to pursue an exit.

BA: Tell us about your newest venture.

RF: It's called EduPlated, as in "educated plate," and we're connecting people aspiring to make better nutritional decisions with a dedicated online nutrition coach. With Verbalizelt, we had human translators providing translation services to customers all over the world, all through technology. EduPlated utilizes a similar model, but rather than having translators, we have registered dietitians. These are highly qualified nutrition professionals providing recommendations, guidance, and nutritional plans to clients who can work with them from the comfort and convenience of their home or office.

Brad Aronson '93 invests in startup technology companies, and works with at-risk youth and young adults in Philadelphia. He also writes about inspirational people and kindness at bradaronson.com.

THEATER

he 19th-century Underground Railroad had a resurgent moment in 2016, and Scott Sheppard '06 was right in the middle of it

As Colson Whitehead's novel The Underground Railroad won awards and spots on best-seller lists, Sheppard and his writing/performing partner Jennifer Kidwell were getting their interactive theater piece The Underground Railroad Game in front of bigger crowds and appreciative critics-including Ben Brantley at The New York Times, who put the play on his "Best Theater of 2016" list.

Like Colson and author Ben Winters (whose





Scott Sheppard '06 (left) with collaborator Jennifer Kidwell in the New York production of their play The Underground Railroad Game.

2016 thriller Underground Airlines imagines an alternate history for America), Sheppard and Kidwell bring their audience into the historical network of secret escape routes for slaves with a bit of misdirection. Instead of diving right into stories of slavery and abolition, The Underground Railroad Game begins with a memory of Sheppard's school days as a kid in Hanover, Pa.

"There was this middle school unit about the Civil War," recalls Sheppard, 32, who has lived in Philadelphia since graduating from Haverford. "The teachers decided to make a wholesale re-enactment of the war-everyone was split up into Union and Confederate soldiers, with different color T-shirts. The educational games and

quizzes became simulated battles, and you could accrue points for doing well in these competitions."

One of the ways Sheppard and his schoolmates competed was by playing "The Underground Railroad Game," in which dolls represented slaves and boxes throughout the school were "Safe Houses." Students scored points by capturing the dolls or ferrying them to safety.

As Sheppard described the curriculum to Kidwell, they discovered the creative bedrock for their play. "We decided to make a piece that used this as a jumping-off point about America's id, what's lurking below the surface. We thought of all the ways we haven't dealt with our own history, how we push down our guilt and our fear of dealing with these issues, ways in which we tell history so we don't have to deal with things so much."

The play has the two actors as Teacher Stuart and Teacher Caroline presenting the Civil War unit to their students, and it quickly becomes clear that the audience has been cast as the school kids. After a lighthearted opening, gradually the fourth wall goes up and down, Sheppard and Kidwell move in and out of character, and the comedic tone that begins the piece gives way to unsettling meditations on race and identity.

"The idea that you're not sure where you are and what the rules are and how the story is being told—that's the genetic material for the piece," says Sheppard. And because the performers are constantly interacting with the audience in the "classroom," each performance can have a different tone and cadence.

The pair first developed The Underground Railroad Game with Lightning Rod Special, the theater company Sheppard co-directs, and then saw the play nurtured in a series of productions by Fringe Arts in Philadelphia and Ars Nova. The fall 2016 Ars Nova production in New York, whose run was extended twice due to high ticket demand, earned positive reviews in the Times, The New

Yorker, and elsewhere, and now Sheppard and Kidwell are taking the piece on a multi-year U.S. tour.

Sheppard, who has led theater workshops at Haverford in recent years, has a full creative schedule lined up for 2017 and beyond, with a new play called Holden opening in New York and two other pieces that are in different stages of writing and production. "It's a little bit like cooking," he says about his menu of touring The Underground Railroad Game while simultaneously building new works. "There are some things where the ingredients are bought but not prepared, some things ready to be served, and some things being eaten right now." -Brian Glaser

HISTORY LESSON

Emperor Akihito of Japan made headlines in August when he gave a rare televised speech hinting at his wish, after 28 years on the throne, to retire. Though Japanese law bars the emperor from stepping down, a government panel is looking at ways the monarch, whose health is declining, could abdicate. As the news stories popped up, we were reminded of a long-ago visit that Akihito paid to the Haverford campus.

He was 19 years old and bore the title Crown Prince when he came to Haverford on September 15, 1953, as part of an international tour. While he was here, reported The Evening Bulletin, he got a tour of the Duck Pond (where, he was told, freshmen "got a hazing"), watched a football practice on Walton Field (where he was forced to dodge a player going after an errant punt), and attended a philosophy seminar led by Professor Douglas Steere. Akihito also ate in the dining hall in Founders with students, faculty, and then-President Gilbert White, and was reportedly fascinated by his first encounter with a soft drink dispensing machine.

For Akihito, Haverford was an extra special stop on the U.S. leg of his tour. It was here that he had a joyful reunion with two old friends: **Robert Togasaki '56**, then a sophomore; and his former tutor, Elizabeth Gray Vining, who hosted the Crown Prince at her Mount Airy home during his three-day stay in the area.

Vining, a Bryn Mawr grad, Quaker, and well-known author of novels for young readers, had spent four years in Japan, teaching the Crown Prince English, and acting as a tutor in the private school attended by members of the royal family and a few others selected by examination. She grew close to Akihito (whom she dubbed "Jimmy") and their friendship lasted throughout her life. She would be the only non-Japanese person invited to his wedding in 1959.



During a 1953 visit to campus, Japanese Crown Prince Akihito (center), now the Emperor of Japan, was reunited with his former tutor Elizabeth Gray Vining and old friend Robert Togasaki '56.

The Evening Bulletin's report on the Haverford visit noted that the Crown Prince "broke into a sunny smile" when he spotted Togasaki, who remembers the Crown Prince saying, "C'mon, let's speak Japanese."

The two had become friends in Japan, where Togasaki, who later attended Phillips Exeter Academy, was a fellow student with Akihito in middle school classes taught by Vining. His proficiency in English also prompted Vining to select him as one of two students invited to join her private tutorials with the Crown Prince. Now a professor emeritus of biology at Indiana University, Togasaki has stayed in touch with Akihito since that reunion at Haverford. Asked whether he supported his old friend's desire to leave the throne, he responded, "Absolutely. He's earned it." —Eils Lotozo, reporting by Steve Sachs '54

TELL US MORE

From Jazzman to Bread Man



Finding career success and, more important, deep satisfaction in one creative field is hard enough—finding it in two is downright rare. For Dan Greenspan, though, the drive to pursue successive careers as a jazz musician and a bread baker stems from a belief that life's biggest returns can't be measured on a bank statement.

Greenspan, a former Haverford music major, is the founder, owner, and head (and only) baker at Dan's Brick Oven Bread, which he launched in 2010. He works in a small room in the home he built in Richmond, N.H., and at the height of his production, he baked 200 loaves weekly in 11 varieties.

He has since scaled back to about 100 loaves weekly in six or seven varieties. His breads are available at several food co-ops and gourmet stores in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and he offers home delivery for a few select clients as well.

Greenspan is also a professional bassist who, with Mili Bermejo (his wife of more than 35 years), performs as part of the musical partnership Arte del Dúo. While his wife's piano playing sounded in the background, Greenspan spoke to *Haverford* magazine about musicianship, bread baking, and moving to the mountains to pursue a life of making things with his hands.

How far back do your musical roots go?

My dad was a professor of radiology at Yale, but he was also an amateur musician. He played violin. Classical music was the great love of his life. I started playing the piano when I was six and picked up cello when I was seven. When I came to Haverford I joined the orchestra, and I'd go into Philly every week to study with [cellist] Orlando Cole, who taught at the Curtis Institute of Music. But I gave up cello after that year and developed a deeper interest in jazz.

Was it a no-brainer to make music your career?

I took a year off after my freshman year at Haverford because I wanted to work. I returned to Berkeley [Calif., where he had attended high school] to manage a sports store and sell tennis shoes. When I came back to Haverford after that year away, I bought an electric bass, and that's what I played through the rest of college. I started playing with my friend Bert Seager '77, psychology professor Tom D'Andrea, and guitarist Brian Pardo '78. We had a quartet. When I graduated, I moved to Vermont to run a diner in Springfield. A year later Bert called me and said he needed an acoustic bass player, so I went to New York, bought a bass for 2,000 bucks, and learned how to play it in a week. Bert and I played together for the next 25 to 30 years.

At some point you met Mili, who comes from a family of Mexican musicians ...

Bert, Mili, and I all moved to Boston around the same time for separate reasons. We formed a band, and that band was together for quite a few years in different formats. The way things work in the jazz world is that everyone's in more than one group, especially if you're making your living as a musician. My standard hotel gig was with Bert or other piano players like him. [Greenspan played brunch service at Boston's Four Seasons Hotel for 20 years.] My thing with Mili became quite a bit different. It was more of an art project at first. She's a composer, singer, she's everything, really. She's taught at Berklee College of Music for more than 30 years and has a book just coming out now on jazz improvisation for vocalists.

So how did bread baking and the move to New Hampshire enter the picture?

I started building a house in New Hampshire in 2000. It was supposed to be a little getaway and it just developed into a major project. Mili and I grow a substantial amount of our own food. We have fruit trees. We have a greenhouse, a root cellar, a huge garden. I think we both became completely disillusioned with the consumerist aspect of American culture and took a lot more pleasure in making things and doing things rather than buying things. I know a lot of people value making a lot of money, and then their enjoyment is in how they spend it. That just didn't quite float the boat for us.



When I first moved to Boston there was a bread made by a company called Baldwin Hill supposedly based on an ancient Belgian recipe called desem. It's naturally fermented and uses the yeast and bacteria present on wheat berries to create the leaven. The woman who made desem popular was Laurel Robertson, who wrote a famous cookbook called Laurel's Kitchen and another called The Laurel's Kitchen Bread Book. So when Baldwin Hill went out of business and I couldn't buy their bread anymore—this was also when I was between jobs after moving to New Hampshire—I decided to use this technique to start making bread.

Did you immediately go all-in?

For the first time, we went to see a financial planner. He said, "If you think you're actually going to do this to produce some income, the money in your retirement account will serve you a lot better as an investment in your new business." So I hired a couple of masons from Burlington, Vt., to live here for a few weeks and build us a 4-by-6-foot wood-fired brick oven. We converted the screen porch that was attached to the kitchen into the bake room.

Let's talk philosophically about bread as a real, living food.

What can I say? Wheat is a grass seed. To think that you can take a grass seed and turn it into something healthy and delicious using nothing more than time and temperature is just amazing. The leaven—the stuff that makes it rise—is two parts flour, one part water. You mix it together, bury it in a bag of freshly milled flour, and tend to it over a three-week period. When you're done, what was just a ball of flour and water is now this really alive thing. You add salt, and you could live on this bread. I mean, in the old days, bread and water... you could literally live on it.

Is this true of all bread?

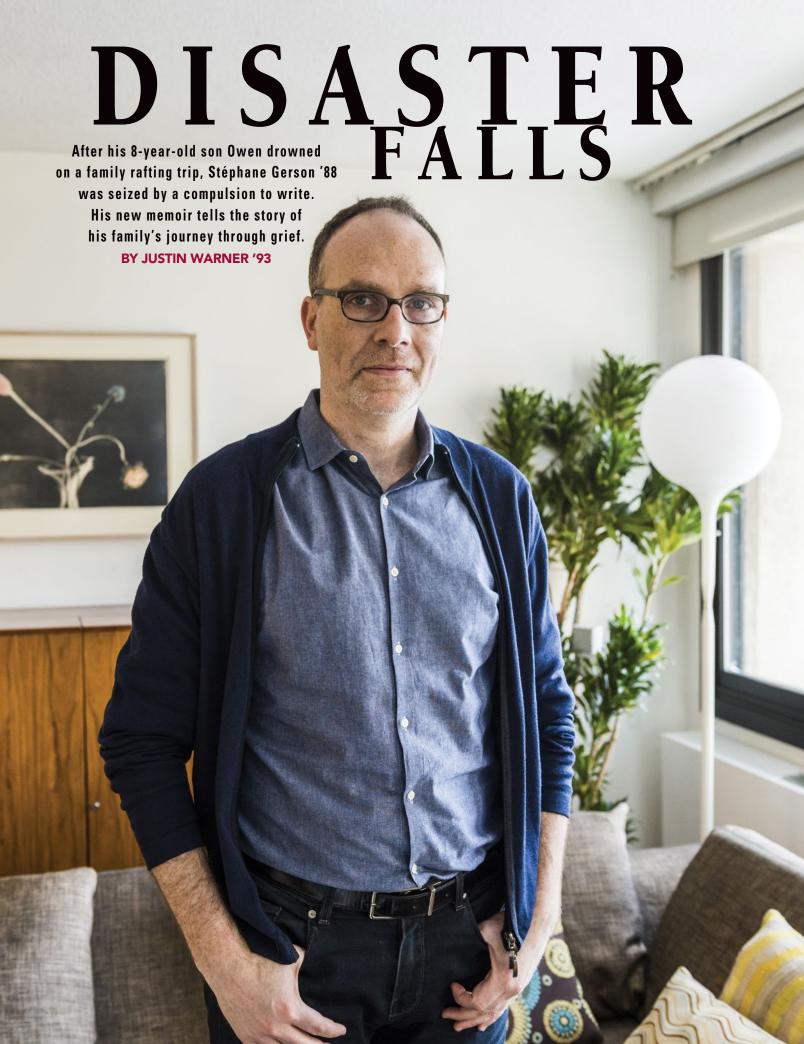
Once modern mechanized farming took over, you can't live on most commercial bread and water anymore, no. There's no nutrition left in it. But this little operation I have here is different. I personally know the people who grow the grain I use. I know they don't use pesticides or petroleum-derived fertilizers. I mill the grain myself. I have a wonderful stone mill that was built by a guy and his son from North Carolina out of four-inch-thick pink granite. It spins slowly so the flour doesn't heat up. It takes me two to three hours to mill 150 pounds.

Do you see any connections between the discipline needed to be a serious musician and a devoted baker?

There's clearly creativity involved in both endeavors. And discipline, yes. When you practice music, there's a methodology that can make your practice much more successful than just adding up the hours behind your instrument. The same can be said of baking. If you work efficiently, you can get maximum benefit from the time you spend. I don't get moved in the same way by making bread as I do by playing music. My head goes into a different space when I play music. The connections are more spiritual. But the miracle of turning grass seed into food ... that's good enough for me.

—Cheryl Sternman Rule '92

San Jose-based food writer Cheryl Sternman Rule '92 is the author of Ripe and Yogurt Culture.



The young man or woman writing today has forgotten the problems of the human heart in conflict with itself, which alone can make good writing, because only that is worth writing about, worth the agony and sweat.

---WILLIAM FAULKNER, 1949 Nobel Prize acceptance speech

téphane Gerson '88 reads me the Faulkner quote before summarizing the dilemma he faced in writing his latest book: "I was nervous about sentimentalizing and I was nervous about intellectualizing." Faulkner's directive helped him, he says, along with the words of Herman Melville ("Woe to him who seeks to please rather than appall.") and others who have articulated the value of writing honestly.

This is what he wanted to write honestly about: On July 27, 2008, Gerson's 8-year-old son, Owen, drowned during a family rafting trip on the Green River in northwestern Colorado. The site of the accident has been known since 1869 as "Disaster Falls." The book that Gerson wrote about the accident and its aftermath is also called *Disaster Falls*. The more revealing subtitle is *A Family Story*.

We are in his family's Manhattan apartment just after the book's publication last month, talking over prosciutto, crusty bread, cornichons, and rich, soft cheese. A philosophy major at Haverford and now a professor of French and French Studies at New York University, he lives in Greenwich Village, in faculty housing with a panoramic view.

At one point Gerson acknowledges a stroller propped against a wall. "It's not Owen's," he says. He and his wife, Alison, now have a three-year-old son, Elliot. Their older son, Julian, is a junior at Middlebury.

The stroller disclaimer passes inconspicuously in the conversation. But listening later to the recorded interview, it pops out at me. I wouldn't have thought it was Owen's; there was no sense of a shrine in the common areas, and I already knew that he has a stroller-aged son. Did he assume that I might assume it was Owen's, nonetheless? Have other people assumed that? Is that part of how your identity changes—that people believe you're forever frozen in a terrible moment, or that you constantly need to reassure them that you aren't?

I'm not sure I should have brought that up here. But I am nervous about sentimentalizing Gerson's story, and I am nervous about intellectualizing it. So I might as well write about that, too.

The Gersons' terrible moment was preceded by joy, even triumph. The entire (pre-Elliot) family had been together on the guided rafting trip (suitable for ages 7 and up, according to the rafting company's brochure) when Owen died—just hours after he had proclaimed it "the best day of my life." Owen had been struggling with anxiety; his par-

ents and therapists wondered if he harbored subconscious trauma from 9/11, when as a toddler he fled downtown Manhattan with Alison, both covered head-to-toe in ash. But Owen's confidence had blossomed on the rafting trip, and he was eager for more adventure. Stéphane and Owen were paddling an inflatable kayak called a ducky (calling to mind a toddler's toy floating peacefully in a warm bath). Passing through Disaster Falls, the ducky capsized and both were knocked loose into a mercilessly churning current; Owen was swept away. His body was found a few hours later in a "sieve"—a narrow space between rocks that can pin a rafter in place while torrents of water rush over him.

Because of the remote location of the accident, Stéphane, Alison, and Julian, then eleven, spent that night together in a tent on the riverbank, Owen's body resting nearby, as they waited until morning so they could continue rafting to an extraction point. It's just the three of us now, Alison had said. We have to stick together.

wo weeks later, Gerson started writing. He wasn't sure why, but he felt almost supernaturally compelled: "Part of me was kind of observing it as it was happening," he recalls. "My other forms of writing have been much more premeditated." In works like *The Pride of Place: Local Memories and Political Culture in 19th Century France* and *Nostradamus: How an Obscure Renaissance Astrologer Became a Modern Prophet of Doom*, he had painstakingly researched and interpreted selected moments in history, but this book was different: "The writing itself was a level of awareness of the new reality which we had entered," he reflects. "And part of that reality was my compulsion to write."

Gerson describes this new reality in the prologue to Disaster Falls: This is what you become: a walking reminder of the nightmare that haunts all parents nowadays. In a world that promises children safety and happiness, such deaths become personal failures, crimes against civilization, an affront to our collective aspirations.

I ask him to elaborate. "Since the 19th century, there has been a movement toward the nuclear middle-class family, and the children as the repository of all hopes and investments, initially economic, but also emotional as well, and we're very much of that world now," he explains. "And I was part of that."

I'm part of it, too. Gerson and I are both Haverford

Disaster Falls







alumni who teach at NYU and have two children. So again, in the spirit of writing honestly, Gerson is a reminder of a nightmare that haunts me. But having read that he knows this, I try not to project that in words or affect during the interview. Whether I succeed, I don't know.

n the days and months following the accident,
Gerson discovered a previously invisible community
of loss—friends, acquaintances, and even strangers
revealed tragedies to him that he had never known
about. But he felt strangely detached from those who
had no firsthand experience with a parent's grief and who
feared that experience terribly. Friends and family were
sympathetic, loving, and helpful, but, some,
he sensed, were subtly and understandably
self-protective. Even the first few Amazon user
reviews acknowledge the radioactive subject
matter. From one reviewer: "A friend asked
me a short while ago why I was reading this
book and how on earth could I finish it." From
another: "All the best to each of you who

It's as if even reading about the loss of a child poses a risk (which emotionally, perhaps it does).

decide to dive into the pages of Disaster Falls."

To a large extent, *Disaster Falls* is about that subject of risk. "We live in a world in which risk is much more controlled to some degree," Gerson says. Childhood diseases are rarely fatal; car seats provide near-military-grade protection; minor injuries trigger nationwide recalls of playground equipment that was already far safer than the monkey bars today's parents grew up on. And yet, he adds, "Some forms of risk cannot be averted. And I think that the loss of a child really captures this. It's very visceral to people. I can be the best parent. I can do everything, and still lose my child."

The morning after I write the above paragraph, I learn that a man was struck and killed the previous day by an Uber driver at an intersection near my home in Queens. The intersection is on my son's route home from middle school. I text my wife: We should remind him not to use his phone while he's walking home. I calculate the probability that he will listen, and it's not high. I could go back to walking him home, but for how long? And in the grand scheme of things, what quantifiable difference in the risk of Anything Happening To Him would it really make?

Gerson might have reduced Owen's risk that day. At the time, he asked the guides if he and Owen could safely ride a ducky through the Falls, and the responses were nonchalantly affirmative, almost as if it were strange that he was asking. After the family filed a lawsuit, the rafting company's director acknowledged in a deposition (which Gerson did not attend and read only to complete the book) that a

ducky has a 25 to 35 percent chance of capsizing in rapids like Disaster Falls, compared with 5 percent for a raft. The guides had never shared these statistics, or anything similarly specific, with the families on the trip. In fact, the director admitted there was no formal protocol to assess the skill level of the guides, and that the trip leader's swift-water rescue certification had expired months prior to the accident. He also refused to acknowledge that the trips, which the brochures touted as "open to ages seven and up," were marketed to families with young children, and argued that a guide's primary purpose was to "provide a quality experience," not to ensure safety. (The company settled the case.)

Still, riding these falls in the ducky was Owen's choice,

and the permission was Gerson's to give. "I very much wanted to make it clear that even though he was 8 years old, Owen was an actor in his own life," Gerson says. "Another kid would have said no. And he said yes because of his own personal psychological history that led him to overcome some of his fears. And if you say no to that, it's all part of a context of a certain life. And negotiating, as a parent, how much you control." Despite wanting Owen to succeed in the face of a challenge, Gerson sensed that day that the falls posed a somewhat greater risk than he had expected,

but lacking expertise, he deferred to the guides' assurances: "The question for me had to do with trusting my instincts, vis-à-vis trusting the information I was given. And at some point I didn't want to trust my instincts. I let [the information] override them."

For any parent, these little conflicts between instinct and information are unrelenting. Sometimes it turns out your instincts are wrong, irrational, off-base—perhaps even that your own neuroses are in some small way at odds with your child's development. Other times it turns out your instincts are right, attuned to something you couldn't even articulate logically. Usually, one choice doesn't matter much in the long run. But sometimes it does.

t one point during the interview, Alison arrives home from a run. We talk briefly about small things; we mention the book, but not the subject of the book. She heads off to shower, change, and pick up Elliot from preschool. The interaction is friendly, pleasant, and unremarkable if you don't think about what I'm doing here.

Alison's commitment to holding the family together held fast, even during the first hard years, when each person's grief took a different form, and those forms occasionally clashed. "Her response to grief was so much more physical than mine ... and it was so much more social," Gerson

says. "It was so much more spiritual, too, even though she's not a very religious person."

For Gerson, Alison's openness to adapting the journal into a book was essential. "Her response for me was a real sign of love, of trust," he says. "She kind of gave me a blank check, trusting that what I would produce would be something that she would be satisfied with."

Or maybe she saw the real value in the process, not the product. Back when the book was still a personal journal, Gerson recalls a historian friend telling him, "You know, whenever you're writing, even something private, you're not alone. You're writing with others, or for others, to some degree." The insight stuck with him. "I remember at one point I told Alison, 'If I write this [book], Owen will be less alone.' And she said, 'If you write this, you'll be less alone.' And perhaps there's a lot of that as well."

She did read the manuscript, but offered corrections or a different perspective mostly on factual, concrete details. Owen's older brother, Julian, also contributed: "His notes of avoidance. "It felt to me that during those three days he became my father again," Gerson says. "He taught me things, he brought me closer; I didn't feel any anger or resentment toward the past, because he listened to what I told him. [How] he parted with me then has stayed with me, and will stay with me until I die myself."

hen Elliot was born—unexpectedly;
Alison became pregnant at 46—the
Gersons' friends, co-workers, and neighbors shared in their joy, but Gerson also
sensed, in some of them, a tinge of relief:
that on some level, the universe had atoned for Owen's
death. Perhaps it lifted some of the lingering shared grief
that always re-announced itself in their presence. I ask
Gerson if parenting felt different this time around. He pauses, unsure. He says there is "a sense of being less anxious,
of projecting myself less into the future, of approaching
child-rearing with lesser ambitions for the child. With

YOU BECOME: A WALKING REMINDER OF THE NIGHTMARE THAT HAUNTS ALL PARENTS NOWADAYS.

were sometimes a little more forceful than Alison's, but also funnier. ... There were times that he told me I should cut things, or that I was being too tough on myself, or that wasn't quite the way he remembered things, or I got his batting average wrong. At the same time, the biggest compliment he paid me was when he said there were certain moments when I managed to express what he felt but couldn't put into words."

Part of the book explores Gerson's strained relationship with his own father, who had never been emotionally demonstrative. "He had a hard time talking about Owen, and that silence was very difficult for me, and again made me feel like I had a father who wasn't even there," says Gerson, who was born and raised in Belgium. After his father was diagnosed with terminal cancer, though, things shifted. He eventually chose to end his life in Belgium, where medically assisted euthanasia is permitted. Unlike with Owen, Gerson and his father were able to see ahead, clearly, to an end point, and they spent his last three days together, finally communicating openly after a lifetime

Julian and Owen, I remember wanting to impart so much, there was so much I wanted to teach them. And now, it might sound a little hokey, but I feel like I have much more to learn from them."

I ask him about healing, a word I've always found a little suspect in this context. He agrees that it's not quite the right description of his life since the accident. "It was finding a way to keep on living," he reflects. "It's finding a way of living, but with the presence of Owen and with the memory and acceptance of what happened that day. And in that way, I think the writing for me was pivotal. For other people, I think there might be a different way. It's finding a language within yourself that enables you to see what happened in all its dimensions."

I can't know for sure, and I honestly hope I don't find out, but that seems true.

Justin Warner '93 is a playwright, lyricist, and journalist based in New York City. He teaches expository writing at NYU and is currently writing the libretto for a musical adaptation of Andrew Solomon's Far From the Tree.

Be Mindful



Augusta Hopkins '93 has trained in mindfulness and meditation in the U.S., France, Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam, and is now a mindfulness meditation teacher and founder of San Franciscobased Mindfulness for Stress Reduction and Success. Hopkins shares her learnings at companies and organizations such as Google and the Environmental Protection Agency, in small in-person groups, and with people across the country virtually.

"Mindfulness meditation is not about emptying the mind. It's about being aware, and present, and allowing it all to be just as it is," she says. "It is about befriending reality, not fighting it."

Hopkins says she's thankful for the work of **Jon Kabat-Zinn** '64, who first developed his stress reduction clinic at the University of Massachusetts in 1979. "If Jon hadn't opened the door, mainstream mindfulness wouldn't have reached as many people as it has," she says. She has also learned from Michael Baime '77, the founder and director of the Penn Program for Mindfulness, and his work with cancer patients. Here she shares ways to practice mindfulness.



There's no time like the present. Begin your mindfulness practice by giving this article your full attention. Feel the magazine in your hands, noticing the texture of the paper and the colors on the page. If you're reading on a computer, acknowledge this amazing machine that brings you information whenever you want it. Check your posture. Are you comfortable? Marvel that you have eyes that can see, a mind that can make meaning out of this black and white space, and the luxury to spend time reading.



STOP (Stop. Take a breath. Observe. Proceed.) Keep a pebble in your pocket and let each inadvertent contact be a cue to pause and feel the moment. Or place a small Velcro dot somewhere your hand will accidentally touch multiple times a day, like a refrigerator handle, a door knob or a light switch. "We very quickly become accustomed to what we see but it takes longer to ignore what we touch," Hopkins says. "Let that touchstone, or dot, be a reminder to stop and take a few breaths so as to fully engage in life and come to know how you are feeling emotionally and physically."



Bring mindfulness into daily life. Informal practice is just as important as formal practice. "Choose a regular activity climbing a specific set of stairs, inserting the car key in the ignition, opening a certain door—and use it as a way to come back to yourself," she says. "Our minds are so often out in the future or back in the past. The more ways we can come back to the present and be, the more we can enjoy our lives."



Practice gratitude. Make a daily list of three things you are thankful for, then share it with a friend over dinner, phone or text. If you have trouble falling asleep, relax by reciting the alphabet and listing things you are thankful for with each letter. For example, Hopkins suggests starting with air, breath, community, delight, elephants, feet ... whatever comes to mind. "After a few letters, I can feel joy in my body," she says.



Cultivate joy every day. Recognize pleasant experiences, like the feel of the sun on your face or the cooling freshness of drinking water. Actively engage in pleasurable activities, like going to a concert or a show. Take time for simple joys like reading a book, taking a walk or meeting with a friend. "Taking time to engage in one thing that brings joy every day, and something substantial every week, alters one's perspective from despair to hopefulness," she says.



Smell the roses and feel the thorns. By smelling the roses, people nourish themselves and make the thorns less overwhelming. "This helps build resilience and gives you strength to stand up for things you believe in," Hopkins says. Notice how your body reacts when you hear bad news. What's happening in the center of the chest? In the low belly? Give unpleasant emotions the chance to run their course, then offer yourself tenderness and compassion.



Consider formal mindfulness practices. If you can make time for a formal practice—10, 15 or 45 minutes a day—you will deepen the benefits of informal practices. Among the formal practices Hopkins teaches about are awareness of breath, sitting meditation, walking meditation, body scanning, and loving —Natalie Pompilio

For more insights, visit augustahopkins.com.

DOTHE RIGHT THING

The expansion of Haverford's Initiative in Ethical Engagement and Leadership brings opportunities for students to grapple with ethical questions in a variety of ways.

BY NATALIE POMPILIO

n today's world of "fake news," "post-truths," and "alternative facts," Haverford's Initiative in Ethical Engagement and Leadership (IEEL) may be more important than ever. Funded in 2014 by a nearly \$2 million gift from **Andy Pleatman '66**, the multifaceted initiative continues to look for ways to integrate ethics into all aspects of life while encouraging the Haverford community to be socially responsible and civically engaged.

"The current political situation in the U.S. is certainly relevant to IEEL," Pleatman said. This administration will force everyone to look within themselves for answers. Ethical leadership is about understanding both sides and trying to find a sustainable solution with moral principles."

Thus far, IEEL, which is scheduled to be funded for five years, has hosted a symposium on scientific ethics, created the Ethical Leadership Summer Institute (ELSI) led by visiting professor **Neal Grabell '77**, and funded the "Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility" working group on campus. Thanks to the initiative, there are at least 10 new courses with an ethical focus in

different disciplines.

"We have seen a dramatic increase in the teaching of ethical thought across the curriculum," College President Kim Benston said. "IEEL's effect has been really quite dynamic."

Pleatman works in China, where he helps manage a leather tannery and finishing company and is a representative for the foundation which gives this company's profits back to society. He knows a lot about staying true to your beliefs in challenging times. A 2015 survey of Chinese businesses by well-respected Charney Research found more than a third of businesses paid bribes in order to operate, despite a government-led anti-corruption campaign. One respon-

dent said bribery is "an unspoken rule of the industry."

"I've never paid people off, never done anything corrupt, and I've paid the price with the government and some customers," Pleatman said. "Integrity and ethics are very important parts of leadership. All of us have some sense of ethics and values, but the test is when we're confronted with the easy way out."

Haverford has always encouraged students to engage in fundamental issues of inequality and social justice. Many take the College motto—"Not more learned, but imbued with better learning"—and put their knowledge into action for the greater good.

(clockwise, from top left) Amanda Grolig '19, George O'Hara '18, Freda Coren '17, Smitha Pallaki BMC '17, Nathan Sokolic '19, and Allison Hacker '17, give presentations on the off-campus groups they volunteer with as part of their course requirements for the new Community Engagement and Social Responsibility seminar.



Learning to Do the Right Thing

But the increased focus on ethics is especially relevant now, Benston said.

"The intensification of deception and deceit in the public sphere sharpens the need for education that blends critical thinking with ethical commitment," he said. "IEEL aims to provide opportunities for confronting ethical challenges while students are forming their moral disposition so they can internalize the capacity for consistent ethical thinking."

Associate Professor Kaye Edwards' Community Engagement and Social Responsibility seminar is one of the new courses developed with the ethics initiative funding. In addition to a weekly class that requires presentations, outside reading, critical written reflections, and in-class participation, students are required to volunteer a minimum of

Coren'17, an anthropology major, is volunteering with the Philadelphia health and wellness organization Puentes de Salud (founded by Haverford alum Dr. **Steve Larson '83**).

Coren told the class about Puentes de Salud's good works and strong sense of community, but also shared her apprehensions about disciplining some of the young people she has been working with: "I'm not their teacher. I'm not their mom. I'm kind of an authority, but I don't want to be," she said, taking in her classmates' feedback.

Later, Coren said she liked having a class that facilitated talking about "how to be ethically, responsibly, and humbly engaged with communities that are very different from ours. This is an opportunity to talk about things I know instinc-

and considering a sociology major. "Offering credit for this class speaks to Haverford's values as an institution. There's a value in working with others and in the community."

There's also a value in working closer to home and on campus. Adam Rosenblatt, a visiting professor in the Peace, Justice and Human Rights interdisciplinary concentration, began organizing "ethics lunches" during the Fall 2016 semester.

"Andy's gift allows us to do some creative work and experiment," he said, "[and find out] where are the gaps and where can we offer more?"

The lunches are open to the entire campus community—staff, faculty and students—and Rosenblatt encourages all community members to lead discussions. One goal is to erase the myth that ethics are rules that only apply to certain people at certain times.

"I want the series to showcase how people in our community are grappling with ethical questions all the time, in everyday lives," he said, "and that it's valuable to have conversations about ethics outside of the classroom, a particular discipline, or the hierarchy that often governs interactions between students, faculty, and staff."

Among the topics touched on during lunch discussions: "Care, Wellness and the Campus Health Center" and "Teaching in an Emergency."

"The theme of the whole thing is critical reflection," Rosenblatt said. "We can have these conversations and move past the assumptions that people bring to ethics."

One lunch topic, "The Ethics of International Service and Volunteerism," was conceived by Maria Padron '19, who has spent time volunteering in an orphanage in Nicaragua, where she worked with children who had current and past traumas she wasn't prepared to handle. Padron, who is doing an independent study looking at ethical issues and engagement and disengagement in partnerships, has also started to think

"Integrity and ethics are very important parts of leadership. All of us have some sense of ethics and values, but the test is when we're confronted with the easy way out."

three hours per week doing direct service, advocacy, or social change work.

"It's so important for students to engage in intentional reflection on the work they're doing in communities," Edwards said. "The idea is to get them to think more deeply about what's going on and what are the causes of the problems they're seeing. There's a train of thought in our country that says if you're in poverty, it's your fault. If you're sick, it's bad behavior. People blame the individual without looking at the factors behind their situations."

During a recent class session, students gave presentations on the outside groups with which they are working. Freda tively, to learn from others, and to discuss what people who study [these issues] have to say about going into a community that's not yours and trying to be an ally."

Making volunteerism part of a course's requirements was also a good idea, she said, lowering hurdles for students who feel they're too busy with class work to give back.

Amanda Grolig '19 agreed that the seminar's byproduct—students giving of their time to help others—was one reason she wanted to take it.

"I wanted to have more time for social justice issues, and this gave me a great opportunity," said Grolig, who is working with two restorative justice groups



about eco-tourism and "voluntourism."

"A lot of the eco-tourism and voluntourism projects are marketed to young adults as life-changing experiences in which you get to help and do something you can put on your resume," she said. "I think it's important for people to look closely at programs before they go, to make sure no one's being exploited or taken advantage of."

This is outside-the-box thinking, the kind IEEL was meant to generate.

"This is the College saying, "We want to do civic engagement right," said Janice Lion, associate director of the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship. "You have to be as careful with engagement as you are with research papers and academic scholarship. You have to give it the time it needs."

IEEL is also moving forward by building on its past successes. The Ethical Leadership Summer Institute had 12 participants last year and will double in size this year. The program, which Haverford students must apply to for admission, will have 12 students in each of two sections—Ethics in Business and the Professions and Ethics in the Sciences.

Those who attended the original 12-day program said they were challenged by the workload and inspired by the Haverford alumni who returned to campus to share real-world examples of ethics in action. That line-up included human rights lawyer Bob Swift '68, sports agent and author Ron Shapiro '64, physician and biotech entrepreneur Ted Love '81, Environmental Protection

Associate Professor
Kaye Edwards' Community
Engagement and Social
Responsibility seminar is one of
at least 10 new courses with an
ethical focus whose creation
was supported by the IEEL.

Agency official Samantha Beers '84, and Sara Recktenwald '87, a managing director at Goldman Sachs. Among the topics the alumni speakers addressed were drug pricing, conducting internal investigations into employee wrongdoing, and the allocation of limited law enforcement resources.

A typical 12-hour day during ELSI began with an ethical challenge from Grabell, such as, "If you're negotiating with someone who is lying, is it OK to lie in return?" The students would analyze the problem using the teachings and theories of well-respected ethicists. The utilitarian might argue that the greater good trumps all, and if one must lie to obtain it, so be it. Someone inclined towards ethical relativism might compare negotiations to a poker game, with players using whatever means possible to win and knowing others are doing the same.

Grabell, a lawyer who spent more than 20 years in the business world, would also present students with real situations he'd encountered as an ethics compliance officer, then ask them to come to a consensus on the correct course of action.

"There's no one right way to analyze these cases," Grabell said. "We also talked

about how ethics is not only about acting correctly but being willing to act, to step forward, when others are not willing to do so."

"The obvious moral choice wasn't always obvious," said summer institute participant **Grace Mangigian '16**. "It wasn't always clear that this is right and this is wrong ... and just because something's legal doesn't mean that it's moral. Everyone's perspectives helped me realize it's not only black and white. There's a lot of gray area, and that's when you really need to have the ethical background that [the institute] gave us to make decisions."

In addition to the expansion of the summer institute, IEEL will grow its efforts with the hiring of a full-time program coordinator to support ethical global learning and help cultivate deeper relationships with the community beyond the campus. Laying this groundwork now means the work will continue beyond Pleatman's gift.

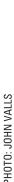
"We're creating sustainable programming," Lion said, "making good use of what's already been developed and moving forward."

Pleatman said his Haverford education shored up the good values he'd learned from his parents. He wants the same for today's students and hopes to see the next generation of ethical, socially responsible leaders come from his alma mater.

But in order to reach their full potential, students have to be willing to do things that make them uncomfortable and to fail. he said.

"Current education, whether in high school or college, rewards maximizing strengths, but then you get out and live life and you're limited by your weaknesses," Pleatman said. "Ethical leadership comes at a cost. Values are values because they cost something. Being willing to face this cost is what character is all about."

Natalie Pompilio is a Philadelphia-based freelance writer and a regular contributor to the magazine. See her interview on mindfulness with Augusta Hopkins '93 on p. 41.





Changing the Pallet

What began as a business opportunity for Adam M. Pener '95 has become a mission: to shift the shipping industry from wood pallets to those made from environmentally friendly corrugated cardboard. BY LINI S. KADABA

It's hard to imagine corrugated cardboard pallets evoking much passion. But for **Adam M. Pener '95**, the environmentally friendly mode of shipping has become a consuming cause.

"I got into this as a businessman," says Pener, 44, president of Green Ox Pallet Technology with headquarters in Denver, Colo. "But I've become a reluctant crusader of sorts. Because sometimes, that's what it takes."



Founded in 2009, the company makes pallets to transport stuff in trucks and planes or store in warehouses—but instead of the traditional wood, it uses corrugated cardboard. Initially recruited as chief operating officer, Pener cultivated investors. Along the way, the Portland, Ore., outdoorsman who majored in political science at Haverford (and got a master's in international economics from George Washington University) grew ever more enthusiastic for Green Ox's products and mission.

"My biggest goal in this world," he says, "is to see corrugated pallets do their job, which is to save money and reduce emissions."

On average, corrugated pallets, which are plenty strong, weigh 40 pounds less than wood and take up less space, Pener says. That means reduced dead weight and increased product per truck. And that, he argues, adds up to fewer trucks on the highways, which means less emissions and less wear and tear on infrastructure. The pallets are also completely recyclable, creating zero waste. (Corrugated, however, is not as durable outdoors and cannot hold very heavy items.)

Among the companies to fully embrace the concept is IKEA, which

switched its entire supply chain to corrugated pallets in 2012. Since then, the international furniture retailer has reportedly reduced its emissions by 300 thousand metric tons, and decreased truck trips by 15 percent.

Pener's enthusiasm has morphed beyond Green Ox clients and investors to the ambitious goal of massively reducing carbon emissions. In 2015, he started the nonprofit Change the Pallet. It is separate from Green Ox and doesn't endorse a particular manufacturer. But the two groups share goals. Change the Pallet wants to increase awareness about the benefits of corrugated cardboard and shift an industry wedded to wood. Its ultimate target is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by "hundreds of millions of metric tons" by 2025, its website states.

Pener has plenty of social justice experience and success. After Haverford, he helped start Conflict Securities Advisory Group. Its research on companies with investments in U.S.-designated terror sponsors, such as Iran, North Korea, and Sudan, aided divestment campaigns, particularly in Sudan, he says.

Pener credits Haverford for sharpening his critical thinking skills and teaching him "to challenge the norm, ... to think whether or not you're being spoon-fed something."

When corrugated pallets first appeared on the market in the 1970s, he says, they needed to be glued or stapled together at the point of use. That hurt market share. Fast forward to the 2000s. Green Ox created a two-piece, foldable pallet that easily fits together—no glue, no staples. The company, with seven full-time employees, also makes different sizes and shapes. This year, it added the Green Ox & Box, a combination box/pallet for small businesses to ship products.

But upending a \$10-billion-a-year pallet industry where wood is king is no easy task. Pener, who has had some doors slammed in his face, spends his days meeting with business executives, making presentations, and proving his point with beta testing in Kenya, Costa Rica, and the United States.

"[Amazon founder Jeff] Bezos disrupted retail," declares Pener with the conviction of a crusader. "We'll disrupt transportation."

Frequent contributor Lini S. Kadaba is based in Newtown Square and is a former Philadelphia Inquirer staff writer. She also wrote about novelist **Sophia Khan '08** in the Mixed Media section of this issue.

WOOD PALLETS VS CORRUGATED PALLETS



- Weight: an average of 50 lbs.
- Made from: wood, many from virgin trees
- Require nails for assembly and sometimes end up in landfills at the end of their useful lives; must be trucked from warehouses for disposal after goods are delivered on them.
- Standard sizes



- Weight: an average of 10 lbs. (The pallets' lighter weight means trucks carry less weight overall, use less fuel, and emit less CO2.)
- Made from: paper, a high percentage of it recycled
- 100 percent recyclable
- Easily designed in dimensions that optimize truck space



FAKE NEWS has become a social media scourge, and perhaps a threat to all of us. Four alumni journalists muse on what's driving the phenomenon and how it might be stopped. **By Tom Kertscher**

f there is any doubt about the primacy of fake news—stories masquerading as news that are wholly invented or intentionally highly misleading—consider that the phenomenon is now regarded as a threat to the planet's health and safety.

In its "2017 Doomsday Clock Statement," the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the hands of its clock another 30 seconds closer to midnight. We're now only 2.5 minutes from the apocalypse, the scientists warned, because, in addition to the threats posed by nuclear weapons and climate change, "new global realities emerged, as trusted sources of information came under attack, fake news was on the rise, and words were used in cavalier and often reckless ways."

President Trump, frequently found to be trafficking in untruths, blasts long-established mainstream media (CNN, The New York Times) for being fake news. But if you think Mr. Trump and his supporters are the only ones generating and disseminating fake news, you'd be wrong. In early February, The Atlantic observed that many progressives had recently shared "online stories that look like real journalism but are full of fables and falsehoods." Among the stories cited were several that appeared on the website Medium suggesting the existence of a Trump conspiracy even grander and more nefarious than his opponents had imagined. (Among them: "Trial Balloon for a Coup?" and "The Immigration Ban is a Headfake, and We're Falling For It.")

Sometimes the eyebrow-raisers are over the top ("Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President"). Nonetheless, in the three months leading up to Trump's defeat of Hillary Clinton in the race for the White House, false stories about Trump and Clinton were shared 38 million times on Facebook, a study by Stanford and New York University researchers found.

And then there was "Pizzagate." A month after the election, a North Carolina man walked into a pizzeria in Washington, D.C., and began firing an assault rifle. The man told police he had come to "self-investigate" an election-related online conspiracy theory—which had gained traction as a fake news item—that Clinton and her campaign chairman ran a child sex ring from the back rooms of the restaurant. Fortunately, no one was injured in the

Atomic scientists aren't the only ones worried about the phenomenon. Among registered voters surveyed in a Fox News poll a few days before Trump's inauguration, 61 percent were "very"

worried that fake news was hurting the country and another 23

percent were "somewhat" concerned. And yet, a day after that poll was published, *The New York Times* described efforts to curb fake news by Facebook and Google, where so much of it is spread, as "small" and "a drop in the bucket."

To discern why fake news is so popular, how much the campaign—and mainstream media—played a role in its rise, and what, if anything, should be done to combat it, we consulted four Haverford alumni journalists: Katherine Greifeld '15, a reporter for Bloomberg in New York; Roy Gutman '66, a freelance correspondent in the Middle East and former McClatchy Newspapers reporter, who won a Pulitzer in 1993 for his coverage of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina; Max McClellan '88, a producer for CBS's 60 Minutes; and Erica Phillips '04, a Wall Street Journal reporter in Los Angeles.

THE FAKE NEWS BOOM

In a long take-out published in December ("Where fake news came from—and

why some readers believe it."), the *Los Angeles Times* heard from experts who said people believe fake news because it's titillating or because it confirms something they already believe. "BOOM! Wikileaks Confirms Hillary Sold Weapons To ISIS," a fake news story carried by a number of sites, would be one example of that.

Max McClellan '88

"I think I think it's

easy to get drawn in by the provocative headline," said 60 Minutes' McClellan. "And I think that's what a lot of the fake news sites and news articles prey upon is your natural curiosity—something that seems completely counterintuitive, like the notion of the Pope sup-

porting Trump. It's like, what? Really? Let me see what that is."

"There's the emotional aspect of it," said the Wall Street Journal's Phillips. "You see something and you immediately want to say something about it, you want your friends to know. That immediate need to communicate how you feel about something just makes for social media feeds that are full of uninformed and emotionally driven sharing, [combined with] less scrutiny, and less thoughtful critical checking of this material."

Fake news, of course, is nothing new. Sensational stories, and highly opinionated and gossipy reports, were a common feature of newspapers in the and NBC News outperformed fake election news on Facebook. But in the final three months before election day, the top-performing fake election news stories on Facebook—such as: "FBI agent suspected in Hillary Clinton email leaks found dead in apparent murder-suicide"—generated more

shares, comments, and reactions than the top stories from major news outlets.

"That's how you get people storming into pizza parlors with assault rifles," said Bloomburg's Greifeld. "That wouldn't have happened without social media and these platforms."



in our history has such a massive world of information been out there at our fingertips, but it's equally true that never before in history has such a massive world of bad information been out there."

Trump, particularly during the campaign, has certain-

ly been a factor. PolitiFact, the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact-checking website, has given Trump its Pants on Fire rating (awarded for a statement that is false and ridiculous) more than 60 times. Two of his Pants on Fire claims from the campaign: When Clinton "ran the State

Department, \$6 billion was missing," and the number of illegal immigrants "could be 30 million."

"People's passions were so inflamed, and some of the things that came out during this presidential campaign were so ridiculous that it wasn't as much of a stretch to believe some

of the fake news stories that came out," said Greifeld.

Politicians "often stretch, conceal, or exaggerate facts and mislead the public in order to get elected," Gutman observed. "But in more than four decades as a journalist, I've never seen an American election where one candidate and his team built their campaign on outright untruths."

THE MEDIA

It's easy to blame the politicians, of course, but do mainstream media outlets—based on what they did or didn't do—bear some responsibility for the rise of fake news? A post-election column in *Wired* magazine argued that "more than the usual amount of tribalism online" and low citizen trust in traditional media "formed the perfect petri dish in which

"How do you go about bringing information

when there is a very strong

resistance to the facts?"

late 18th into the 19th century. Many had no qualms about simply making things up. In 1835, for example, one paper ran a series about the discovery of life on the moon that proved to be a huge seller. But the proliferation of fake news in our own era has more serious consequences than a silly story about the moon. And the reach of fake news has been extended and accelerated by the power of social media. What's driving the rise, according to the *Los*

Angeles Times, is "new technology colliding with a widespread mistrust of big institutions."

A BuzzFeed analysis found that prior to the final push of the presidential campaign, the top election content from major news

outlets such as The New York Times



Roy Gutman '66

THE CAMPAIGN

The Pizzagate episode was evidence of how the election campaign stirred emotions that were sometimes inflamed by fake news. "Obviously, there's a real partisan divide in this country, so it's fertile ground for this kind of phenomenon to take root," said McClellan. "Because we are in such a fiercely partisan atmosphere, people might be interested in

seeking out news that confirms their position rather than being rigorous about making sure that it's completely factual.

"This election was being fought by two folks who really had two very different worldviews and two sides

that were deeply committed to their candidates," he added. "Never before

a plague of misinformation could fester and bloom."

"I have to think that journalism shares some of the responsibility," Greifeld said. "There were a lot of news organizations that became very political during the campaign. It wasn't difficult to see which candidate they supported. That really disappointed me. I'm not sure how that contributed to the rise of fake news; I have to think it did in some way.

"It definitely turned away some readers," added Greifeld. "Traditionally reputable sources came with full-throated support of Hillary Clinton, and that's not something I love to see any news organization do. I'm very proud to work at a news organization that didn't do that. I don't think that's helping anyone, and I think that isolates potential readers. Certain news organizations really lost their credibility in the eyes of a lot of people."

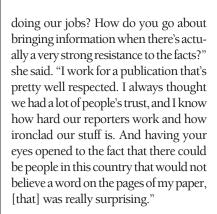
McClellan agreed that a perception of partiality was a problem, saying: "There is no question that the view of journalism today is that it is, by and large, not unbiased. When there is that perception that the news is not being delivered straight, that helps contribute to this opening that fake news has wedged itself into."

Gutman pointed out that journalists sometimes have to repeat lies or claims that can't be disproved immediately, citing a dossier passed to the FBI that made unverified claims about Trump, including lurid details of a trip he made to Moscow in 2013. Gutman said nearly every story he read on the dossier

was careful to highlight the questions surrounding the sources of that story.

The rise of fake news, said Phillips, led her to re-examine her approach to her work as some questioned the credibility of the Wall Street Journal. "It was

kind of unmooring. It's like, Were we not WHAT CA
So, what she fake news?
"Journali watchdogs of job description from the rhete of what the re"The public sists live up to



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

So, what should be done to combat fake news?

"Journalists are self-appointed watchdogs of government, and our job description is to ferret out the facts from the rhetoric and inform the public of what the real news is," said Gutman. "The public should insist that journalists live up to their job description."

Such efforts are under way. But it won't be easy.

Six weeks after starting a new venture with Facebook to find and disprove fake news in Facebook feeds, PolitiFact reported in January: "Here's what we've learned so far.

Fake news is like a nasty weed. It grows quickly and is hard to kill."

But there are steps readers can take, our alumni journalists agree. A few tips from *Scientific American*:

"When there is that perception that

that helps contribute to this opening that

the news is not being delivered straight,

fake news has wedged itself into."

- **1.** If a headline catches your eye, check the source before you decide whether the article is worth reading. Have you heard of the site before? Has it published trustworthy results in the past?
- **2.** Look for clearly false information elsewhere in the article. If you're trying to decide whether or not to trust a particular "fact" in an article, it doesn't bode well if there is clear misinformation quoted somewhere else.
- **3.** If you're still not sure about a source, look around to see if anyone else is carrying the story. Can you find it elsewhere at a source you trust?

"It's a new reality; it's a new normal," McClellan said of fake news. But it's also, he contended, a potential boon for traditional media.

"If we do our jobs right and solidify ourselves as go-to sources for the thoroughly vetted, credible information that's out there, then we traditional mainstream media have the chance to become more indispensable than ever."

Tom Kertscher is a PolitiFact Wisconsin reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. His reporting on Steven Avery was featured in the documentary Making a Murderer. He's also the author of sports books on Brett Favre and Al McGuire.



Roads Taken and Not Taken



Hilary Stokes Taylor '97

I am not a true minimalist, like those who own only two cups because there are two people in the household. Still, I do feel that having fewer possessions takes up less space in our brains. I am also a single mama who wants a marvelous life for her daughter. I grew up in Vermont. I spent summers wandering hay fields and winters building snow forts. Can I re-create that for my daughter, in densely populated and climate-gentle Southern California? Can I get her to want to spend more time outside than in? I sure as heck want to try.

Combining my parenting dreams and my lifestyle preferences, along came a Perfect Idea: to purchase a custom-built, 250-square-foot Tiny House on Wheels and plunk it in the countryside, where I can feel the breeze at all times, sit outside with friends drinking wine under strings of lights, see my daughter dirty and happy and laughing, and generally be more with less.

To get ready for the move, I sold or gave away all sundries that would not be

accompanying us. I am now the proud owner of two mattresses, a shag rug, three table lamps, and five small side tables/bookshelves. My daughter is delighted with her few-and-easily-seen toys tucked in the "master" loft. I ruthlessly reduced my clothes. I had to say goodbye to all my "Stuff"—those things I had collected over the last 20 years and thought I would never be without.

Dear Stuff,

You are so beautiful, so soft, so glamorous! I love your textures, your colors, your shapes, the way the light gleams on your smooth surfaces and reflects off your shiny edges. I remember my joy at coming upon you at the yoga center, in my grandmother's sideboard, in the cute boutique, at the kitchenware store, in the charming art store. We bonded immediately. I knew we would be inseparable. Alas, however, 'tis not to be. It is time for me to set you free, to pass you to the consignment store, donation box, old friend, new friend, family member; they need you to now bring them the same joy we once shared. But do not fear! I am not replacing you, Stuff, for you are irreplaceable. My mind's eye remembers your

curves, how you felt in my hands, what you did for me and my dear ones. Now I will be collecting time, sunlight, fresh air, dog walks, camping, nine hours of sleep.

Love, Hilary

I also shrank my life. I shrank my paycheck, spreading 11 months of salary over 12 months in order to have a free summer month with my daughter. I shrank access to media by not purchasing wifi. I have become a life homeopath, distilling into its smallest essence all that invigorates and nourishes me.

The main challenge in all this was finding a location to park my Little Dove (as I named the house). Changing zoning laws made the process arduous and convoluted. I am an avid supporter of planned Tiny Home communities, which are fighting slowly to be accepted as legitimate housing. In the meantime, I found a spot at a gorgeous RV park. But the park manager said the Little Dove was ugly. Ouch! I was the proud mama defending her duckling. I ran at them full bore, wings flapping, honking loudly. The rejection stung! Especially when continued on page 78

giving back

Lives That Speak, and Sing, and Play

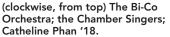
hen David Scull Bispham, Class of 1876, brought his zither to Haverford, he was told to practice off campus because music was forbidden. Bispham nonetheless went on to become a prominent baritone and, in 1914, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the College.

In spite of its early music ban, the College has produced generations of composers, performers, and music lovers. Any Ford will tell you that music permeates daily life-from a steady schedule of a cappella group performances each semester, to student-organized live music shows in the basement of Lunt Hall, to the Concert Artist Series that brings acclaimed classical music performers to campus. Music is central to the character and culture of Haverford College and its mission of promoting both the personal and intellectual growth of students. "The real benefit of years spent playing music is ineffable," says Fangyu (Panda) Xiong '15, who played piano in chamber music ensembles and the Bi-Co Orchestra, sang in the Haverford-Bryn Mawr College Chorale, and organized student recitals before graduating and becoming a software development engineer. "I gained a lot of confidence performing on stage."

Ensemble singing has long been a campus tradition, and the Chamber Singers, a mixed choir of 30-36 members, perform a challenging and varied repertoire ranging from the works of classical masters to international folkbased styles. They recently returned from a trip to Berlin, where they sang collaborative concerts with three local choirs, including one made up of Middle







Eastern refugees. The Chorale performs a major work each semester, bringing around 120 students, alums, faculty, staff, and community members together in song. Haverford currently boasts eight active a cappella groups, one of the high-



est per capita totals of any U.S. college. "My a cappella group meant the most to me while at Haverford," says **Luis Rivas** '16. "It provided a safe space for me to have fun and enjoy making good music."

The 70-member Bi-Co Orchestra has

performed several world premieres, and the chamber music program includes various avenues for performances of chamber music and solo repertoire both on and off campus. Jazz and flute ensembles at Haverford and the wind ensemble and Gamelan at Swarthmore further expand the connections and opportunities available to Fords. "Music has always been a large part of my life, so when I first came to Haverford, I joined the Bi-Co Orchestra the first moment I could," says violist Catheline Phan '18. "Neuroscience is what I'm most interested in pursuing at Haverford, but I also balance that with a large passion for ethnomusicology," she adds.

Distinguished as both scholars and musicians (projects by professors Tom Lloyd and Curt Cacioppo have earned Grammy nominations), Haverford's music faculty lead a dynamic program that takes full advantage of the College's proximity to Philadelphia, one of the world's leading music centers. Department Chair Ingrid Arauco's composition class, for example, pairs students with professional musicians to rehearse, perform, and record contemporary music through the Network for New Music. "Hearing music I've written performed live is an incredible experience," says Chloe Lindeman '17. "Not only is it fun to see how the phrases I've

imagined come to life, but I always learn something new about the instruments I'm writing for and what they can do. It reminds me that the time and effort I've put into the music are worth it."

At the center of the action, the Union Music Building and performance and practice spaces in Roberts Hall are stretched beyond capacity. Classrooms double as locations for private lessons

Music is central to the character and culture of Haverford College and its mission of promoting both the personal and intellectual growth of students.

and ensemble coaching. Some lessons even take place in cramped, noisy practice rooms. Many spaces are not sound-proofed. Marshall Auditorium, where large concerts are performed, and the smaller MacCrate Recital Hall are both long overdue for technical and acoustic upgrades and seating refurbishment.

Aiming to bring needed changes to the College's music facilities, *Lives That Speak: The Campaign for Haverford* includes the creation of a state-of-the-art

music complex. The revitalized buildings will become the home of the Bi-College Department of Music and a comfortable base for student musicians, faculty, and guest artists. "New spaces, properly outfitted, will offer the entire campus community an ideal environment in which to practice, perform, study, and create music," says Arauco, the music department chair. "The new facilities—including classrooms, teaching studios, private practice rooms, and a music library—will meet the needs of a growing number of students for whom music-making is a necessary and integral part of life."

The Jaharis Leadership Music Challenge, created by the Jaharis Family Foundation and Haverford, is an \$8 million matching campaign dedicated to supporting this project and facilitating a broad array of on-campus musical activities. The challenge will match 2:1 all gifts made before December 31, 2022.

Music is at the heart of the Haverford experience and a source of joy for many. It has a promising, vibrant future at Haverford. Zithers are welcome here.

—Pat Laws

To learn more about the Jaharis Leadership Music Challenge and how to triple the impact of your gift, contact Deb Strecker at (610) 896-1129 or dstrecke@haverford.edu. For information on upcoming musical events and performances, visit haverford.edu/music.





(left) student band Bazmati Vice; (right) the Haverford College S-Chords.



Rap artist and producer Howard Brown '12 is featured in one of a series of short videos in which alums talk about the role Haverford has played in their lives.

Lives That Speak Videos Online

ou might not expect alumni working in fields ranging from technology to finance to the arts to have much in common, but Ellie Power '92, Howard Brown '12, Ken Koltun-Fromm '88, Dave Barry '69, Karan Shah '09, and Amita Tomkoria '06 all have a story to tell about how Haverford shaped their futures. While their experiences in and out of the classroom are as distinctive as their interests and personalities, all of

them credit Haverford with preparing them for future careers. In a series of short videos, alumni talk candidly about the important role of Haverford in their lives.

These individual vignettes, directed by **Ben Hickernell '00**, go further into the lives of Haverfordians featured in the documentary *Lives That Speak*.

To view the original film and other alumni profiles, visit hav.to/ltsfilm.

500 MORE REASONS TO GIVE

Every Ford has heartfelt reasons for giving back to the College with an annual gift. By making an automatic, recurring gift with your credit card or bank account, you can add 500 more reasons.

All sustaining gifts made before June 30 will be matched with \$500 from an anonymous donor. Commitments of any amount (paid in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual installments) covering a period of 24 months are eligible.

COLLEGE LANE COURSEY READ

- You'll have no more worries about forgetting, or scrambling to meet year-end deadlines.
- It's easy to get started. Grab your credit card or bank account information and visit haverford.edu/makeagift.
- Installments are budget friendly, and smaller payments add up to a big impact for Haverford.

Here are a few more reasons to give:

- Your continuing commitment reflects Haverford's important role in your life and your belief in its future.
- You're in! Sustaining donors become members of The Sharpless Society, which recognizes the College's most loyal supporters.

 Sustaining gifts are paperless and eco-friendly, saving the Earth's and Haverford's resources.

And remember:

Initiating a recurring gift now brings an additional \$500 to Haverford!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact annualgiving@haverford.edu or (866) GIFT-4HC.

ALUMNI WEEKEND Featured Events

May 26 — 28, 2017

In addition to the events highlighted below, there will be class-specific dinners and parties, campus tours, and lots of opportunities to visit with your fellow Fords. Facilities open for the weekend include the bookstore, the libraries, and the Arn '76 and Nancy Tellem Fitness Center. Make your plans now to join the fun!

Sharpless Hall Celebration

Friday, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Celebrate the 100th anniversary and transformational renovation of Sharpless. Hear biology and psychology alumni and faculty discuss the future of these disciplines and the growing connections between the natural and social sciences. Wine and cheese will be served.

John G. Bullock, Maxfield Parrish, and George, Mary, and William Vaux: Photographers of the Real

Opening Reception, Friday, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; Marshall Fine Arts Center, Atrium Gallery

See photographs, manuscripts, and related works by John G. Bullock (Class of 1874), Maxfield Parrish (Class of 1892), and George Vaux (Class of 1884), William Vaux (Class of 1893) and their sister, Mary Vaux Walcott. All were local birthright Quakers with strong Haverford ties.

Welcome Dinner

Friday, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Dining Center Food and fun are available to alumni of all classes.

Step Sing

Friday, 9:00 to 10:30 p.m.; Taylor Steps, Bryn Mawr College Singers of all abilities and pitches are welcome to raise their voices.

Bi-Co Party

Friday, 10:30 p.m. to midnight; Goodhart Hall Music Room, BMC Join your Bi-Co classmates for drinks, sweets, and socializing after the Step Sing.

HaverCamp

Open Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; Ira De A. Reid House

Child-care services for children ages 3 to 13 are provided by energetic Haverford students and overseen by a certified teacher. Activities include a nature walk, story time, arts and crafts, and a supervised trip to the family carnival and magic show. *Pre-registration is required.*

A Toast to Haverford

Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to noon; Roberts Hall, Marshall Auditorium Grab a mimosa and join President Kim Benston in a celebration of the College today. Find out what's new at Haverford, hear the class gift announcements, and applaud our Alumni Award honorees: Bruce Andrews '90,

The Forman Award

John Bowers '67, The Haverford Award

Scott Burau '02.

The MacIntosh Award

Katharine Baratz Dalke '07.

The Young Alumni Award

Robert Eisinger '87, The Perry Award Robert Elwood '82, The Perry Award Thomas A. Farley '77,

The Distinguished Achievement Award Maia S. Freundenberger '13,

The Young Alumni Award

Neal S. Grabell '77,

The Friend Award

Steven M. Jaharis '82,

The Kannerstein Award

Catherine Koshland '72.

The Kannerstein Award

The Ramicistem Award

Douglas Meiklejohn 67, The Haverford Award

Beatrice Mitchell & Paul Sperry

CP '17, The Friend Award

Alexander Robinson '96,

The Kaye Award

George Stavis '67,

The Sheppard Award

E. Vincent Warren '86,

The Distinguished Achievement Award

Live Music and Food Truck Festival

Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.;

Founders Green

Join us for an afternoon music festival featuring four talented alumni bands performing in numerous musical genres. Enjoy a variety of cuisines and treats from nine of the area's best food trucks. Visit with old friends and meet new ones. There's something fun for everyone at the festival!

Reception with Faculty

Saturday, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.; Dining Center, West Wing Enjoy wine and cheese and visit with faculty and friends.

MAGILL LIBRARY "Expanding the Universe"

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Sharpless Gallery Stop by to learn about astronomy, the

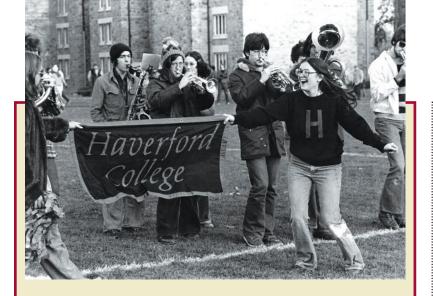
Stop by to learn about astronomy, the telescope, and Haverford; curated by Victor Medina del Toro '17. See other pop-up exhibits on the main floor of Magill.

"Sharing Our Stories: Voices from Haverford College"

Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Magill Library, Group Study Room Alumni who have celebrated their 50th Reunion, as well as those who are members of the LGBTQ community, are invited to make their voices heard by recording an oral history of student life at Haverford College and the impact of a Haverford education. To schedule a time to share your story, contact Catherine Toia at ctoia@haverford.edu or (610) 795-7923.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, go to: fords.haverford.edu/alumni-weekend





Once a Ford, Always a Ford!

The moment you received your Haverford degree, you became a member of the 14,000-strong Alumni Association. No dues are required, and simply by keeping your records updated, you're able to gain access to the following benefits, 24/7, at fords.haverford.edu.

Networking opportunities: Get access to the Alumni Directory at fords. haverford.edu by clicking on the "Directory" button to the left of the screen. To login, use your current email address, which must match the one we have on file in our alumni database. Need to update your information? Send an email to alumni@haverford.edu, or fill out the help request form on the login page.

Attend lectures, happy hours, and other events organized by regional and affinity alumni groups across the country. Or get virtually connected to Haverford alumni around the globe using the Facebook and LinkedIn groups. Find it all at fords.haverford.edu.

Job-search tools and career services: Haverford alumni are excellent resources for career and job search advice; and the Center for Career and Professional Advising (CCPA) offers events and online services to facilitate alumni networking. Alumni can also access many proprietary job-search and career-planning databases provided through the CCPA. For more information, visit haverford.edu/career-and-professional-advising/alumni-resources.

Journals online: Alumni have access to thousands of premier academic journals through JSTOR and Project MUSE. (Login is required.) For more information, visit fords.haverford.edu/services.

Athletic facilities: Apply for an ID card and you (and a guest) will have access to the Arn '76 and Nancy Tellem Fitness Center, the basketball courts, and the squash courts. Visit the Douglas B. Gardner '83 Integrated Athletic Center (GIAC), Room 205, during business hours to complete an application.

Library cards: Apply for an alumni card and get borrowing privileges at the Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore College libraries. For more information, visit Magill Library, or call 610-896-1175.

Weddings at Haverford: Interested in having your wedding reception on campus? Contact Conferences & Events at (610) 896-4923 or hc-events@ haverford.edu, for more information. Please note that Haverford does not permit outside caterers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about all of these programs, and more, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at (610) 896-1004 or alumni@haverford.edu.



Saturday, March 18

THIRD ANNUAL **PUBLIC POLICY FORUM**

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This exciting annual event demonstrates how Haverford alumni have leveraged their educations in service of greater ethical purposes and invites students from across the Tri-College system to learn more about careers in public policy. Students also present their policy-related research, and have opportunities to speak with alumni public policy professionals about their questions and findings. The day includes alumni panel discussions on topics including education, health, foreign, and education policy, as well as policy in the developing world. The Haverford College Lawyers Network will present a panel on Law and Local Government. Keynote speaker is **Bruce** Andrews '90, former deputy secretary of Commerce in the Obama administration. This forum is organized by the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, the Center for Career and Professional Advising, the Koshland Integrated Natural Sciences Center, and interested faculty.

Sunday, April 9

10TH ANNUAL JOE SCHWARTZ '83 MEMORIAL 3K RUN AND WALK

12:30 p.m., Founders Green

Joe Schwartz '83 was a four-year member of Haverford's cross country and track teams, excelling in both sports. Schwartz was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) at age 34, and courageously endured the disease's hardships for 13 years before his death. All proceeds benefit the ALS Association, Greater Philadelphia Chapter. Last year, 332 runners and walkers participated, raising more than \$55,000 to help fund research and patient care.

Visit fords.haverford.edu for details, registration information, and additional events that may be happening in your area.

class news





Due to privacy concerns, the Class News section is not included in the digital edition of Haverford Magazine.



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Roads Taken and Not Taken

continued from page 52

we consider the inelegant, boxy form of RVs themselves. I wondered: Will my Little Dove get into Haverford? And yes, she did, finally settling on the really *cool* land of a friend.

I found a local builder, and one day, after construction had begun on the unfinished interior, my daughter brought a friend to the site. After briefly checking on the progress, they started raking dirt. And kept raking. And raked some more. That is exactly why I am undertaking this crazy adventure.

We moved a few days before Thanksgiving. I was elated to unpack, organize, reorganize (there's a lot of that), and create order out of chaos in my 250 square feet. And it turns out that living Tiny absolutely, completely suits me. I sleep heavily in my cozy loft. Each morning, I lift my head a few inches and see trees and sky outside the windows at the foot of my bed. I am deeply grateful for the two feet of countertop between stove and sink, and I store pots and pans in the oven. My daughter also sleeps like a log, not stirring while I bang around downstairs. I even repurposed the crib my father built for my daughter, adapting its railing for my loft and one of its leg posts as a banister. I am living with affection, simple beauty, and alignment with my truest self.

You could say the Quaker value of simplicity has become core to my life, so one road leads straight back to Haverford. Yet because moving into a Tiny House on Wheels is well outside the norm, another road veers sharply off the map.

Hilary Stokes Taylor '97 majored in French and English comparative literature at Haverford and received a master's in French from Middlebury College. She is the director of the Language Learning Center at Cal State San Marcos. To learn more about her life in a Tiny House on Wheels, visit Hilary's blog: lacolombette.wordpress.com.

CARE TO SHARE YOUR STORY of roads taken (or not taken) since graduation? Drop us a line: elotozo@haverford.edu

alumni obituaries

39 Maurice A. Webster Jr. died Nov. 5. He worked for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. in Philadelphia from 1951 to 1974 and served as managing partner from 1964 to 1974. He was predeceased by his wife, Nancy, in 2012. He is survived by his children, Stephen Webster '65, Rebecca McKinnon, and Andrew Webster, six grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

Marlis Gildemeister, a graduate of the College's Relief and Reconstruction Program, died May 11, in Austria. Gildemeister, who received her master's degree through the program with a thesis on American relief to Austria after the end of the First World War, went on to work for many years with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in post-war Europe. Among her assignments: helping displaced persons in Germany who had received their American entry papers prepare for the adjustment to life in the U.S.A. Following her service with the AFSC, Gildemeister turned her energies to raising beef and growing timber on her family's alpine farm in Austria. Though her time at Haverford was brief, she remained connected to the College throughout her life, providing support to the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, and, most recently, offering a generous gift to help fund the Douglas and Dorothy Steere Professorship in Quaker Studies. (Gildemeister was a student of Douglas Steere, who created the Relief & Reconstruction program.) In a letter about her contribution, Gildemeister wrote, "I feel truly happy to have had the chance, in gratitude to Haverford for what it once gave me in life, to have been instrumental in providing some assistance to the College in its unique endeavors, based on its own special philosophy, to prepare young people for the challenges of global responsibilities."

Howard W. Starkweather died Sept. 8 at age 90 in Wilmington, Del. He earned a Ph.D. from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, now part of New York University, and worked as a research chemist for the Dupont Company for 40 years. He had 14 patents to his name. Starkweather was a past clerk, a longtime chair of the Board of Trustees, and a member of many committees at Wilmington Friends Meeting. He was intellectually curious all his life, and was unfailingly compassionate and committed to caring. He was the devoted husband of Elizabeth Focardi Starkweather from 1948 until her death in 2000, and took loving care of her through a 12-year illness. He is survived by his children, Mary Starkweather-White, John, and Catherine, and two grandchildren

49 Bruce L. Baer, a retired physician, died Sept. 19. During World War II, he was a hospital corpsman in the Fleet Marine Force. He graduated from Duke University School of Medicine and trained in internal medicine and gastroenterology. He was a recipient of the National Institute of Health fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, and a past president of the Baton Rouge Academy of Internal Medicine. Baer was a physician at the Baton Rouge Clinic from 1958 until his retirement in 1995. He was also a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, where he served as a Eucharistic minister, and of the Serra Club of Baton Rouge. He is survived by his daughters, Jeanne, Patricia, Kathleen, and Bettye; 12 grandchildren; and five great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Eleanor Werner Baer, who died in 1999, and by his second wife, Anna Marie Achord, whom he married in 2003 and who died in 2005.

Carlos Barraza died Oct. 13. He was 94 years old. He is survived by his wife, Maria; sons, Daniel and Carlos; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

51 Harry E. "Bud" Garrison Jr., 87, died Jan. 1. He served two years in the Army and was honorably discharged with a rank of Second Lieutenant. Garrison and his wife, Joan, then moved to Florida, where he taught and coached football at The Bolles School. While there, he earned a master's degree in history at Jacksonville University. Later, Garrison was project head and data control manager at Gulf Life/American General. His personal passions were his family, playing golf, and watching Jaguars and Seminoles football. He was preceded in death by his wife and by his daughter, Cynthia. He is survived by his son, Kenneth, and a grandson.

53 Kenneth L. Fernandez, 86, died Nov. 10. He was a lifelong Christian Scientist and a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Rockville, Md. He served for two years in the U.S. Army. Fernandez retired from the U.S. Department of Commerce after a career in government as an economist and international trade negotiator. Most notably, he was a U.S. negotiator during the Kennedy Round at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1964 to 1966. Over the years, Fernandez was active in coaching soccer and participating in Boy Scouts with his sons. He enjoyed the outdoors, and his home away from home was the family summer house in Brookville, Pa. After retirement, Fernandez loved to travel and collected artifacts and artwork from around the world. For many years, he helped

provide homeless people with meals at Bethesda Cares. He is preceded in death by his loving wife, Anne, and is survived by his children, Lisa, Glenn, and Lawrence; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Robert Thomas Seeley died Nov. 30 at the age of 84. In 1959, he earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from MIT. He taught at Harvey Mudd College, Brandeis University, and the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he worked from 1972 until retirement as an emeritus professor in 2002. In 2012, Seeley became a fellow of the American Mathematical Society. In his free time, he made music, built furniture, learned languages, and traveled the world. He loved being active outdoors. Even in his 80s, Seeley biked through Belgium, attended a wedding in Uganda, ran 5Ks, volunteered with the "elderly," and taught math to prisoners and grandchildren. As his heart began to fail, he adjusted his interests, replacing runs with long walks in the woods, taking Arabic classes with his wife, and returning to the piano. He is survived by Charlotte, his wife of 58 years; daughters Mara and Lauren; son Karl; and eight grandchildren including Jake Seeley '12. He was predeceased by his

Frederick Dean Tabbutt died Nov. 11 at the age of 84. He earned his doctorate in chemistry at Harvard and started his career teaching chemistry at Reed College. In 1970, he joined the planning faculty for The Evergreen State College, and the following year began his 27-year tenure at Evergreen. Tabbutt authored many articles for chemistry journals, and filled several temporary teaching and research positions in England and at Carleton College. In addition to chemistry and teaching, he was devoted to his family: his wife Betty; his children, Sarah, Ken, Mark, and Joanna; and his 11 grandchildren.

C. Edward "Ted" Trump died Dec. 14. After college and a two-year service in the Army, he worked for the Sarples Company, which later became Alpha Laval, both dealing with the production of centrifuges. He worked as a sales engineer for these companies until his retirement several years ago. Trump had many interests, including skiing, sailing, photography, and most of all a devotion to antique cars and sports cars in which he enjoyed gymkhanas and hill climbs, or simply driving around the hills and countryside. Trump is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sue, and their sons, Jeffrey and Kimball.

54 William Wistar "Wis" Comfort died Nov. 28, at age 83, following a brief illness. He was a widely published mathematician and scholar whose teaching career spanned five decades. His father was William Wistar Comfort 1894, president of the College from 1917 to 1940. A formidable runner and racquet

sports athlete, Comfort was beloved by his peers for his sense of fairness. As a lifelong Quaker, he could be counted on to speak for the marginalized or overlooked. Comfort held academic positions at Harvard University, the University of Rochester, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He joined Wesleyan University in 1967, served as chair of the department of mathematics three times, and retired in 2007. Comfort received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington. He married Mary Constance Lyon in 1959; she died this past May. His principal post-retirement avocation was Dixieland trombone, and his rich, deep singing voice delighted many. He is survived by his children, Howard and Martha, and four grandchildren.

Thomas Beckett Rentschler, age 84, died Oct. 25 after a brief illness. After college, he served two years in the Navy and then returned to his home state of Ohio to pursue a career in banking. He was ultimately named president, CEO, and director at Fifth Third Union Trust, now Fifth Third Bank. He was also elected to the Ohio House of Representatives as a Republican for two terms. Rentschler was an active volunteer and fundraiser in his community. An antiquarian and historian, he published scores of articles in specialized fields in national-circulation magazines and journals, and authored two books based on original research. Rentschler was a multi-term member and President of the Miami Conservancy District, the fourth in his family to serve in these capacities since the District's founding following the great flood of 1913. He was also proprietor of Blue Hills Farm. There, once-tattered croplands and overgrazed pastures are managed to maintain select areas as an active hay-crop farm while also stabilizing virgin woodlands and rebuilding Ohiotype prairies, all of which are creating a fledging natural preserve. He was married to his sweetheart, Dorothy "Dody" Grevey, in 1954; she died in 2004. Rentschler leaves two sons, Thomas and Mark, and seven grandchildren.

56 Leon Craig MacKown, 83, died Oct. 2. He was a reporter for the *Hartford* Times early in his career, then settled in as a writer for the American Bankers Association in Washington, D.C. His love for the game of soccer had him coaching a youth team, refereeing for youth and adult leagues, and even playing on a "35-and-up" adult soccer league. Other interests included sailing, music, classic cars, and spending time with his family. His "how can I help?" attitude was infectious and his sense of style brought a smile to friends' faces. He was preceded in death by two wives, Judith Ahearn MacKown in 1985, and Janice Church MacKown in 2016, and a stepson, Curtis Church. He is survived by three sons, Daniel, Stephen, and Christopher; two stepchildren, Claire Brodd and Peggy Bulbulian; and eight grandchildren.

Carl Robert Ruppenthal Jr. died Jan. 11 in Charlotte, N.C. He received his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania, and married Carolyn Magruder in 1961. Ruppenthal served in the U.S. Navy as a ship's physician on the USS

Piedmont stationed in Japan and San Diego. Upon discharge, he completed his medical residency at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio, specializing in hematology. In 1968, the family moved to Charlotte where he practiced at the Nalle Clinic for the next 32 years. He was a skilled, compassionate physician, devoted to his patients and respected by his colleagues. He served as the president of the Nalle Clinic from 1982 to 1984 and was chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at Charlotte Memorial Hospital from 1985 to 1987. As a member of the Myers Park Baptist Church for 48 years, he served in many capacities: chair of the Board of Deacons, Sunday School teacher, and choir member, to name a few. Ruppenthal enjoyed gardening, music, and reading. His grandchildren lovingly called him "Grandbob" and cherished his sense of humor. He was predeceased in death by a son, Steven Fiske Ruppenthal. In addition to his beloved wife of 55 years, Carolyn, he is survived by his sons, John and Jeffrey, and four grandchildren.

57 Edwin Jerome Kirby Jr., 81, died Sept. 28 while surveying, which is what he loved to do. Kirby was the beloved partner of Cynthia Bell for 30 years. He was self-employed and a member of the Maryland Association of Engineers. He enjoyed golfing and sailing and was an avid reader and history buff. He is survived by Cynthia; his children Cynthia, Pamela, and Dearest; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his first wife, Mary, and a daughter, Jennifer Sweeney.

58 Robert Stowe Benjamin, 80, died Oct. 1 in East Northport, N.Y. After graduating from Haverford with a degree in music, the talented violinist and viola player went to the Mannes School of Music in New York City. He was the youngest musician of that day to be hired by the New York City Opera Company at Lincoln Center, where he performed for 41 years, until he was the oldest musician in the orchestra. Benjamin was an avid birder and naturalist, and loved tending to his garden. He was predeceased by his devoted life partner of more than 40 years, Jack Henry.

William Farnsworth Weber, 79, died Nov. 7. He earned his medical degree at Yale University and completed his internship at Mary Fletcher Hospital in Burlington, Vt. He was drafted into the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C., and was then transferred to the Special Forces division. After discharge, he completed training in psychiatry at the Mayo Clinic. He practiced in the Washington, D.C., area and in Maryland for about 10 years, then joined the administrative side of psychiatry, becoming a medical director at hospitals and clinics around the country. Weber was passionate about mental health and felt tremendous joy at seeing his patients improve and feel more hope in their lives. He retired in 2007. Weber and his wife, Elaine,

had six children. He served in many callings in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was devoted to his family. He loved swimming, bike rides, and nature. He was a talented pianist and vocalist, and his family will fondly remember his turns at the piano, with all gathered 'round. He leaves his wife, Elaine; children Christopher, Margaret Dehlin, Catherine Scott, Elizabeth Day, Jonathan, and Timothy; and 12 grandchildren.

65 S. Frederic Johanson, 72, died Oct. 11. He earned a Ph.D. From Johns Hopkins University in 1969. He was a professor of ancient Greek and history at the University of Richmond and Acadia University before switching careers to work in IT at the University of Chicago until his retirement in 2012. He loved to travel and was an avid history buff. He was active in the Civil War Roundtable, first in Chicago and then in Bloomington. He was a diehard soccer enthusiast, fantastic chef, and a lifelong Cubs fan. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rosalie; his daughter Erika Knudsen and son Karl; two grandchildren; and a step-grandson.

69 S. Terrence Keenan of Malvern, Pa., died unexpectedly on Sept. 11. After completing his MBA at Columbia University, he began a career in business that began on Wall Street and took him to Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and elsewhere before returning to Malvern and starting his own business. Keenan was a lifelong fitness buff, an automobile enthusiast, and an avid sailor.

Pavid Solomon, 57, died suddenly in Baltimore on Oct. 20. He earned a MD/Ph.D in 1990 at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and City University of New York. A member of the faculty and staff of Johns Hopkins University, he was a gifted and compassionate physician who will be deeply missed by his patients, his colleagues, and the academic community to which he contributed. He loved music, especially his flute; he loved hiking and nature; and he loved sharing all his interests with the people he cared about and, if possible, a dog or three. Solomon is survived by his three children, Sophie, Daniel, and Jesse; his wife, Claudia Summer, and also leaves behind an enduring friendship with the mother of his children, Debra Brodlie.

83 Edward Louis "Ed" Wilmer of Chalfont, Pa., died Nov. 11. He was 55. He began his working career with PECO and later went to work for Iron Mountain. Wilmer was employed as a programmer and analyst at the time of his death. He was a former youth pastor for West Oak Lane Church of God and more recently a Sunday school teacher with Chelten, a Church of Hope. In his free time Wilmer enjoyed scale modeling and photography. He was the beloved husband of Delores Harris Wilmer and the father of Charles and Katherine.



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