

New Home for Music

Bringing together all the elements
of a great musical education

Stephen Ridings '19

Stepping up to pitch
for the Yankees

Orion Kriegman '96

Perfecting the recipe for
urban food forests

HAVERFORD

The Magazine of Haverford College

FALL 2021

**Denne Michele
Norris '08**

**KICKING
THE DOORS
WIDE OPEN**



Fall 2021

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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

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Photo by Holden Blanco '17.

Back cover: Photo of a
"Biology 300 Superlab" poster
session by Patrick Montero.

Inbox

TREE FANS

Editor's note: In the Summer 2021 issue of the magazine, in our story about the trees of the Haverford College Arboretum, we asked readers to tell us about their own favorite trees on campus. Below are a few of their responses.

Thank you for the article “Look to the Trees.” The pictures were evocative and the descriptions fascinating.

You requested “favorite trees.” All are favorite, but the most memorable and long gone were the two female ginkgos on either side of the path across from Founder's porch. The smell of the berries when smashed on the ground has been likened to old gym socks, or worse. No one really liked the smell or the mess, but at circa-1970 Haverford, the administration and buildings and grounds folks were taking no chances that some students would arise to defend the ginkgos. When students arrived back on campus one fall, the ginkgos were gone. Even the stumps were gone!

—Bill Levin '72

I loved your piece on trees in the most recent *Haverford* magazine!

In my junior or senior year, the grounds crew planted a laburnum tree not far from the library on the way to the parking lot. I had never seen one before and loved the chains of golden flowers so much that when I got a yard and gardens of my own near Ithaca, N.Y., my wife and daughter gave me one for my birthday. Alas, it did not survive, but two decades later I got two more, and both blossomed and survive for the young couple that bought our house. I was loath to leave them, but found many thriving near our new digs in Oregon, in an iris garden near Salem. As for the tree at Haverford, I looked for it at reunions but I think it had suffered from the parking lot expansion, and I never saw it again. *Sic transit gloria*



mundi. Keep up the great writing and tree legacy.

—David W. Flaccus '65

I do have a favorite tree. It was the beech preceding the one in front of Founders now; I don't know what happened to it, but I am glad it has been replaced. That tree served as a clue some years later when we visited Newport, R.I. Knowing the slow growth of beeches, I realized that some of the trees were far older than the palaces they adorned.

I also have a least favorite tree (probably long gone): the female ginkgos [in front of Founders]. We trekked through their smelly, slippery fruit on our way to Meeting. (Fifth Day Meeting was required in those days.)

—Doug Meaker '57

I'd like to speak up for the katsura tree near the south end of Barclay in front of Sharpless. (I hope it is still there.) It has a great color in autumn, and the fallen leaves, when slightly damp, give off a sweet smell, like cotton candy. It is one of many favorites.

—John Erickson '83

Editor's note: We contacted Arboretum Director Claudia Kent to find out the status of that katsura tree, and she assured us: “Yes, it's still there. It's been inadvertently pruned by passing trucks a couple times, but still looks great.”

I read with pleasure the article “Look to the Trees” in *Haverford* magazine. I thought you might be amused by a blog I wrote several years ago, when

I was the academic dean of Seattle Pacific Seminary. Titled “Kant and the Climbing Tree,” it describes a sequence of experiences that took place back in the spring semester of 1971, when I was a freshman. The “Climbing Tree” is none other than that magnificent osage orange shown in the magazine on pp. 38-39. Here’s the link: signposts.spu.edu/the-climbing-tree/.

—Richard B. Steele '74

Editor’s note: In his lovely blog post, Steele recalls how he was affected by a dazzling lecture on Kant’s theory of knowledge given by then-Haverford professor Richard J. Bernstein, and explores what he’s come to learn about the nature of the mind and the aims of education. He also vividly describes the climbing tree: “Like many students over the years, I loved to clamber among the branches of that tree, or to lie on its stately horizontal trunk, reading or daydreaming. I thought of it as “my tree,” not in the sense that I “owned” it, of course, but in the sense that I felt grounded and restful in its leafy embrace. And if there’s one thing that college freshmen need—even if they don’t realize it, as they often don’t—it’s a sense of groundedness and restfulness.”

I worked in the Arboretum Office with the former director, Florence Genser, for all four years of my time at Haverford. I worked at the tables handing out plants to the new freshmen every year, did student membership sign-ups and mailings, unstuck the copy machine, and even learned to engrave

tags that went on the trees when someone adopted a tree. While I spent a lot of time enjoying the beautiful trees on campus, my favorite tree is not one that I got to enjoy too much while a student. For my graduation, Mrs. Genser gifted me with a willow oak planted that year behind my senior year suite in Leeds. It was a great surprise and a lovely gift that I visit each time I come back to Haverford. The tree seems to be doing quite well and is fulfilling its purpose as a replacement tree for an oak that I believe has been removed by now. It feels as if this tree is a small part of me that remains at Haverford.

—Alexis (Jue) Clark '94

Your fantastic article “Look to the Trees” thrilled me. Of course, the students, faculty, and staff are my favorite part of the Haverford campus, but my second favorite part is the trees—the soaring, leafy, “beautiful botanical beings” truly give our campus its unique, wonderful feel.

—Chad Poist '94

MEMENTO MORI

I was thrilled to see not only the story about my book *Heartwood: The Art of Living With the End in Mind*, but also the stories about all of the work by fellow Fords in the end-of-life space. The introduction to the section by *Haverford* magazine editor Eils Lotozo was perfect! I’m so grateful to her as well as to journalist Anne Stein for her insightful reporting.

—Barbara Becker '89



IN THE COLLECTION

What a pleasant surprise to find in the summer issue of *Haverford* magazine a reference to the student-curated online exhibit focused on the afterlives of Cervantes’s *Quixote*! Congratulations also for the image featured of the Quaker & Special Collections copy of the 1605 *Quixote*. I should add that although the Haverford copy of Part One appeared the same year as the [first edition], it is a second printing, with fascinating emendations, issued by the original publisher. As the student-curated exhibit notes, both the 1605 and 1615 *Quixotes* in the collection boast a fascinating provenance, coming from the library of the 19th-century Spanish politician Antonio Cánovas del Castillo. I do hope your “spotlight” spurs renewed interest in and access to the treasures in Special Collections. I followed the link and was really pleased to see how well our students’ entries hold up six years later!

—Israel Burshatin,
Professor Emeritus of Spanish and
Comparative Literature

Editor’s note: That digital exhibit, titled Don Quixote Throughout Time: Imagining the Man of La Mancha, can be viewed at hav.to/8et.



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Inbox

VACCINATION REMEMBRANCES

Your “Then and Now” (always a highly anticipated *Haverford* magazine highlight) on the last page of the Summer 2021 issue was timely and also reminded me that a flu shot was a required (not to say “mandated”) part of freshman orientation in September 1958 when I first discovered myself as a Rhinie. Depending on one’s vaccination status, it was a source of anxiety or commiseration to see fellow freshmen walking back to Barkley tightly gripping an aching left arm. Ah, for the days of blunt needles and vaccines that packed a punch. —Gary Blauvelt '58

Editor’s note: “Rhinie” was a nickname for first-year students at Haverford.

Thank you for another interesting and thought-provoking issue of *Haverford*! I generally drop what I’m doing when an issue arrives and immediately go to class



news and obituaries. (Life and death?) My class has now worked its way toward the beginning of both sections!

It was a wonderful surprise on the inside back cover of the summer issue to see two old friends in the “Then” [photo]: **Dick Croasdaile**, a fellow '55 classmate, getting a shot from Mabel Beard, RN, at the Morris Infirmary. Although the caption refers to the nurse as Ruth Blessing, there’s no question in my mind it was Mabel Beard.

Unfortunately, the 1955 *Record* does not have a picture of her. I called Dick to see if he remembers what the shot was for, but he does not.

Keep up the good work!

—John Flint '55

Editor’s note: We checked in with College Archivist Elizabeth Jones-Minsinger, and it does seem likely that the caption information misidentified the woman in the photo. Mabel Beard worked for 34 years as the nurse in Morris Infirmary, retiring in the summer of 1955.

DROP US A LINE

Email: hc-editor@haverford.edu
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NAME YOUR TREE

Support the Arboretum’s historic and growing tree collection by becoming a member at hav.to/trees.

Many of our most treasured trees were established by donors honoring special people and events. A gift of \$2,000 helps plant and care for a new 5’ to 10’ tree. You can adopt a growing tree with a minimum gift of \$1,000. Contact arbor@haverford.edu for help selecting your favorite.



HAVERFORD IN SEASON



PHOTO: PATRICK MONTERO

Main Lines



Out of the Stacks!


The Out of the Stacks! exhibition included a selection from the library's trove of Islamic manuscripts.

The personal journal of a Quaker man describing treaty negotiations between the U.S. government and an alliance of six Native American nations in 1794. A 1648 pamphlet by the founder of the radical English movement the Diggers, who exhorted his followers to “own all things in common.” A tiny, octagon-shaped Qur’an that dates from the early 1800s. The 1941 annual report of Friends Hospital revealing the many side effects of electric shock treatment.

These are just a few of the many fascinating items featured in the exhibition *Out of the Stacks! Students and Staff Explore Quaker & Special Collections*, which was on view in Lutnick Library’s

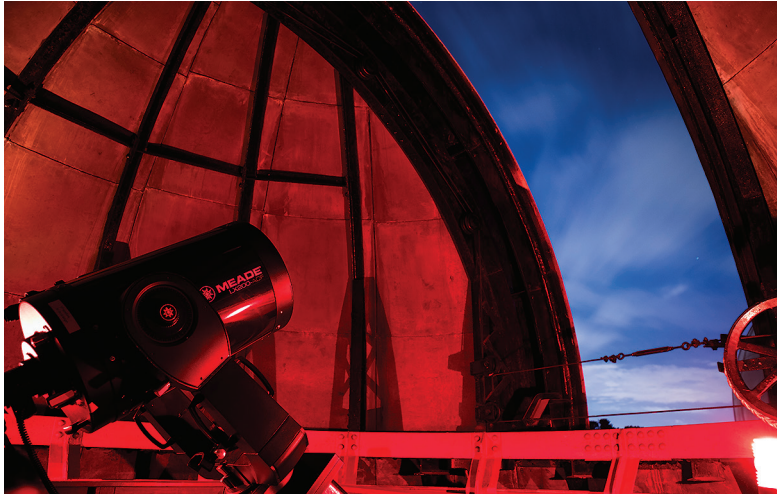
Rebecca and Rick White Gallery through Nov. 30.

The exhibit grew from the library staff’s desire to provide an opportunity to engage with some of the collection’s rare materials in person, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic, when, for a time, the shift to distance learning meant many of these resources were available only digitally. Items featured in *Out of the Stacks!* were selected, researched, and written about by nine student curators and two library staff members during the spring and summer of 2020.

Sarah Horowitz, curator of rare books and manuscripts and head of Quaker & Special Collections, applauds the student curators for choosing engaging materials that complemented each other. “One

PHOTOS: PATRICK MONTERO

10 THINGS That Make Us Happy



The return to in-person public observing at the Strawbridge Observatory. Members of the Bi-Co community, including family, were invited to do some stargazing at a September equinox-themed event that provided telescopes for observing the moon, Jupiter, and Saturn, and offered constellation tours, a model solar system activity, and astrophysics games. Also featured were two student talks, tours using the virtual planetarium software Stellarium, and an “Ask an Astronomer” Q&A session.

.....



FRIEND IN RESIDENCE JOHNNY PEREZ.

The prison abolitionist, organizer, and activist came to campus Oct. 30 for a five-day in-person visit, and was available virtually on other dates for classroom visits, workshops, and meetings with student groups. Perez is the director of the interfaith U.S. Prisons Program for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. He also leads a national movement to end solitary confinement in prisons, and is a research consultant to the Urban Institute’s Prison Research and Innovation Initiative.

Being named to the list of “Top 10 Zero Waste Campuses in the United States.” The colleges on the list were assessed by the Post-Landfill Action Network’s Atlas Zero Waste Certification Program, which Haverford signed on to in fall 2019. The program, which provides a benchmarking tool for campuses to set meaningful goals regarding waste, recognized the College for

a number of initiatives, including the Sustainable Purchasing Policy; the (RE)use store; a reusable to-go ware program; the Dining Center’s aerobic digester, which reduces the volume of food waste; and the work of campus groups such as the Council on Sustainability and Social Responsibility and the student-run Committee for Environmental Responsibility.

Another Centennial Conference Championship win

by the men’s cross-country team. This is the program’s 24th championship title, and its sixth in the last seven seasons. Women’s cross country earned a third place finish at the championships. The field hockey and volleyball teams also advanced to Centennial Conference Championship play this season.



The Undergraduate Science Research Symposium.

This annual event hosted by the Koshland Integrated Natural Sciences Center (KINSC) showcases student research done during summer internships. This year’s COVID-safer event spread the 84 posters on display throughout the KINSC buildings and Strawbridge Observatory; some included a QR code linked to an audio description, allowing students to present without being there in person. The event also included a Q&A session with seven students who spoke about connecting summer work to school-year research, finding research opportunities, and integrating into new labs.

The new Mini Innovation & Venture Grants from the Haverford Innovations Program (HIP). The inaugural grants went to two student ventures this semester. MATchMapper, being developed by a team led by Sam Tan '23, addresses the difficulty of locating medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction. Simpl News, the project of Peter O'Mara '22, is an online platform for retail investors to stay informed about their investments via a personalized newsfeed and access to equity research. (HIP supports strategic thinking around a problem, need, or interest that can lead to new solutions, entrepreneurial projects, and paths of learning.)

.....



The Days of Afrekete, a new novel by Associate Professor of English Asali Solomon, being named to the *Vulture.com* list of “Best Books of the Year (So Far).” Solomon, author of the novel *Disgruntled* and short story collection *Get Down*, sets her new work around a dinner party given by a private school teacher whose husband has just lost a political race and is being investigated by the FBI. *Vulture*, the culture and entertainment site from *New York* magazine, said this about the book: “The publisher describes *The Days of Afrekete* as *Sula* plus *Mrs. Dalloway*; Toni Morrison and Virginia Woolf may be towering names to live up to, but Solomon is on the right track.”



The first in-person Plenary session since Spring 2020. With students filling the Douglas B. Gardner '83 Integrated Athletic Center and also attending via a Zoom link, quorum was quickly reached. In just under an hour, Plenary attendees passed a resolution updating aspects of the Students' Constitution, and ratified a new version of Haverford's Alcohol Policy. To celebrate the Plenary's quick success, attendees were treated to food from a Waffle Cart food truck provided by Students' Council.



The major research grants awarded to three Haverford scientists.

A three-year, \$628,630 grant from the National Science Foundation's Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions program will support Assistant Professor of Psychology Ryan Lei's research on how children overlap race and gender in their representation of social categories. A \$439,072 National Institutes of Health grant will assist Assistant Professor of Psychology Laura Been's research into how hormone changes impact circuits in the brain and how those brain changes may be related to behavior changes. And a \$135,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will aid Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy Daniel Grin's work analyzing how the change of space-time affects the laws of physics, particularly the charge of an electron. All three grants will help support the work of Haverford student researchers in the professors' labs.



COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR KEN RUTO '22

winning the \$10,000 top prize in the SThree Social Shifters Global Innovation Challenge, which supports young people in developing business solutions to social and environmental problems. Ruto and his brother, who are from Kenya, won for the innovative software they developed as part of their enterprise Flux, which aims to address water shortages in the developing world. The software, called WayPoints, digitizes water utility operations in order to reduce water loss and create a reliable water source for communities. In 2018, the Flux project, for which Ruto has received support from Haverford's Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, the Maker Arts Space, and the Haverford Innovations Program, won a \$25,000 prize in the Cisco Global Problem Solver Challenge competition.



Main Lines

The Club Life @HAVERFORD

THE BI-CO JAZZ BAND

WHAT: A musical ensemble that comes together to play everything from standards to jazz covers of popular songs. In existence since at least 2017, the band, which played concerts at both Haverford and Bryn Mawr, went dormant during the spring 2020 semester, when the pandemic limited campus activities. During the 2020-21 academic year, the group resurrected itself strictly as a combo, with no wind instruments, due to COVID-19. After being revived as a full-fledged band in September, the group now counts 15 members and is currently led by drummer Eloise Kadlecsek BMC '22 and pianist Ben Klamka '22.

This semester, the Bi-Co Jazz Band has been practicing songs such as "Blue Bossa" and "Strasbourg St. Dennis," as well as Lake Street Dive's rendition of the Jackson 5's "I Want You Back," in preparation for live performances scheduled for December.

The jazz band accepts musicians of all playing levels; members include music majors as well as first-time vocalists. Kadlecsek herself did not start playing jazz until she joined the group in 2018.

WHEN: The Bi-Co Jazz Band practices from 12 to 2 p.m. in Marshall Auditorium every Saturday. During those weekly rehearsals, the group plays prepared songs and also does improvisations. "We not only want to play great music, we also want to have a social element where every member feels welcome," Kadlecsek says.

More information: Follow the club on Instagram (@bicojazz) and Facebook (Bi-Co Jazz Band).



Black Ecologies Workshop Series

Throughout the fall semester, the "Black Ecologies" workshop series explored the knowledge and traditions of local Black land- and nature-based practitioners, organizers, and scholars. In September, a "Black Urban Farmers Demonstration & Discussion" event (above) brought to campus Pili X, coordinator of the West Philly Peace Park, and Stanley Morgan, an urban farmer and organizer of the group Urban Creators. Along with a presentation, the workshop included hands-on guided work in the HCA garden, planting fall/winter crops—part of a project to recover the HCA garden as a viable space for student access to free organic produce at Haverford.

In October, Tiffany Johnson-Robbins, a clinical herbalist, raw food educator, and ethical wildcrafter, led a plant identification walk around the Nature Trail to teach about the properties of wild edibles and the ways Black people have found community with plants as sources of resilience and survival. And in November, Johnson-Robbins returned to campus to lead "Herbal Healing Arts: Lighting the Way to Freedom with Mullein" in the Haverfarm Greenhouse. In that workshop, participants crafted mullein stalk candles and learned about Black herbal traditions of creating household, spiritual, and survival tools out of everyday plants and other environmental materials.

The Black Ecologies series was organized by Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing Tajah Ebram and sponsored by the Hurford Center, the Committee for Environmental Responsibility, the Bi-College Department of Environmental Studies, and the Haverford College Arboretum.

—E.L.

FYI

HAVERFORD'S OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS has changed its name to Alumni and Family Engagement (AFE). The shift from the word "Parent" was driven by the recognition that "Family" is a far more inclusive term for the many individuals supporting Haverford students. And the change from the passive "Relations" to the proactive "Engagement" is a more accurate reflection of the kind of work the office does. For more information contact hc-families@haverford.edu. (Please note that the email hc-parents@haverford.edu will no longer be in use.)



IN THE GALLERY

Taking a 19th-century Uyghur allegorical poem as the point of departure for investigations into language, politics, religion, humor, resilience, and resistance in a pluralistic world, ***The Contest of the Fruits*** encompassed not only an exhibition in the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, but the premiere of an animated film, the launch of a book (published jointly by Haverford College and MIT Press), and a series of virtual events throughout the fall.

The Contest of the Fruits, which ran Sept. 10 through Dec. 12, is the creation of Berlin-based artist collective Slavs and Tatars, whose work focuses on empires, ideologies, culture, and religion in Eurasia. Founded in 2006, the group has worked on various multimedia projects that highlight the intersections and influences of Slavic, Caucasian, and Central Asian identity.

The exhibition's namesake text was written in Uyghur (pronounced "WEE-guhr"), a Turkic language spoken predominantly by Muslim peoples in western China. The poem details a munāzara ("debate" or "competition" in Arabic) between rivaling fruits, which take turns heckling each other and declaring themselves as the best fruit. The text serves as an allegory for cultural differences in language, politics, and religion in the Central Asian region.

Slavs and Tatars gave the poem's satire a modern spin, transforming the debate into a seven-minute film of an animated Turkic rap battle between 13 different fruits, including a mulberry, pomegranate, quince, and pear, which take the stage one by one to spit verses in which they diss each other and declare themselves as the dominant fruit of the bunch.

The Contest of the Fruits was supported by a Pew Center

for Arts and Heritage Grant awarded to Slavs and Tatars, and to the College's John B. Hurford '60 Center for the Arts and Humanities, the Philadelphia nonprofit Twelve Gates Arts, and the Council on American Islamic Relations. Assistant Professor of Religion Guangtian Ha—who met Slavs and Tatars at a conference in 2015 and shares with them an interest in the history of Islam in China and Central Asia—helped drive the collaboration at the heart of the exhibition.

The Pew grant, awarded in 2019, funded two years of planning for the exhibition, which included a series of related virtual events titled "The Contest in Context." Among these: a Uyghur and Urdu poetry reading, a look at Uyghur film, and a virtual roundtable discussion on Uyghur language preservation featuring rapper Nashtarr (who wrote and performed all of the characters' raps in the animated film.)

For Ha—who is the co-editor, with Slavs and Tatars, of the new book examining some of the themes of *The Contest of the Fruits*—bringing the exhibition to campus was important, especially in light of the recent events in Afghanistan, which has generated discussions about Islam and the Central Asian region.

"The Uyghur region is adjacent to Afghanistan," he said. "And it is closer to the broader Central Asia in language, religion, and culture than it is to East Asia. Bringing *The Contest of the Fruits* to Haverford was meant to raise our awareness of that civilizational hub lodged at the heart of what is often known as 'Eurasia'. From Buddhism to shamanism to Islamic mysticism, the Uyghur region exemplifies a historical era when syncretism and cosmopolitanism were the staple of life."

—Jalen Martin '23

Main Lines

Reorienting Customs



The “Red Fords” team at Dorm Olympics during Customs Week.

Traditionally, Customs, Haverford’s student orientation program, is a busy five days of campus tours, advising meetings, academic teas, panel discussions, and open houses designed to introduce new Fords to everything the College has to offer, as well as provide chances to make friends and have fun. Some of those diverting annual traditions include the SupaFun dance, a performance by a hypnotist, and Dorm Olympics.

While this year’s Customs programming followed along those lines, it also included some important changes intended to create more equitable experiences and to help foster class-wide community building. For example, what were once called Customs Groups are now known as Orientation Cohorts, which are made up of first-year students from several different residence halls on campus—a shift from the previous practice of grouping new students by dorm and floor.

Additionally, Dorm Olympics—a longstanding tradition in which students compete against each other, “Color War” style—wasn’t a competition among the different first-year dorms, but instead, among teams made up of several Orientation Cohorts from across residence halls. This year’s competing teams were designated the Blue Duck Ponds, the Black Squirrels, the Red Fords, and the Green Arboretums by Customs Co-Heads Hikaru Jitsukawa

’23 and Ryan Totaro ’22. (After squaring off in a tug-of-war, a golf-ball-carrying relay, a drawing competition, and other lighthearted games at different stations around campus, the Blue Duck Ponds emerged victorious.)

Other changes to Customs: The upperclass students who guided the first-years through orientation are no longer called “Customs People,” but instead have the title “Orientation Leaders,” and what was once an unpaid volunteer role is now compensated. This new model grew out of a wish expressed by students to make getting involved in the first-year orientation program more accessible to those whose financial circumstances make it difficult for them to take on time-consuming unpaid work. (With shifts to the structure of what had been a student-led, volunteer-based orientation program, staff in the Office of Student Life took over much of the responsibility for the design of Customs Week.)

Similar concerns about the barriers to involvement faced by students from less affluent families also prompted changes to the Residential Student Leaders (RSL) program. First developed three years ago as a volunteer role, the program was envisioned as a way to offer enhanced ongoing support to first-years and to strengthen community in the dorms. (Previously, Customs volunteers had continued to act as informal mentors to first-year students after orientation ended.) With the start of the current academic year, Residential Student Leaders became year-long paid positions, with 23 RSLs currently assigned to the dorms. (To apply for one of the slots, students must fill out a form and then undergo a Zoom interview with student leaders and Student Life staff.)

“Orientation Leaders for Customs did a wonderful job of welcoming new students to campus, getting to know them, and sharing information,” said Assistant Director of Housing Operations and Student Life Kristin Vitacco. “And now the RSLs are there to build on that, to help first-years learn resources on campus, to help them acclimate to living in a community, to enjoy fun and educational events with them, to help first-years be successful, self-sufficient, well-rounded individuals. The RSLs are very excited about working with the first-year students, and I am looking forward to watching the RSLs build community within their residence halls and watching first-years grow from their residential experience.”

—Rebecca Raber

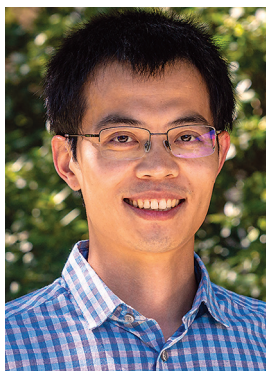
WELCOMING NEW FACULTY



Patrese A. Robinson-Drummer joins the **PSYCHOLOGY** Department as an assistant professor of neuroscience. She holds a B.A. in animal science from the University of Delaware and an M.S. from Saint Joseph's University in experimental psychology. She returned to the University of Delaware to earn her Ph.D. in psychology, focusing on behavioral neuroscience. Robinson-Drummer was a postdoctoral fellow at New York University before coming to Haverford in 2020 as a visiting assistant professor.

About her research: My research focuses on the emergence of learning and memory

systems in developing rodents. I am also interested in how early life experiences (like perinatal toxins, maternal abuse, and stress) can change the trajectory of these systems and subsequent behaviors. What excites me most about this research is how it sheds light on the fundamental psychobiological differences that exist between developing and adult animals (including humans)! It is important to understand that young animals learn about the world with brains that are not just small versions of adult brains. Importantly, what we learn about typically developing systems using these models helps us understand how disorders associated with learning and memory systems emerge and potentially how they may be mitigated.



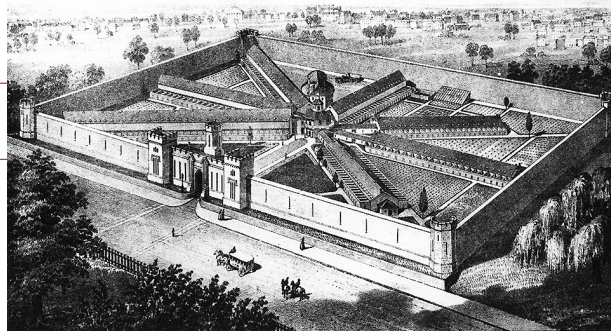
Foen Peng joins the **BIOLOGY** Department as an assistant professor. Peng grew up in rural mainland China and is a first-generation college student. He completed a B.S. in urban and rural planning and resource management in Shanghai. Peng later came to the United States and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Washington, where he studied evolutionary biology and plant genetics. Prior to coming to Haverford, Peng was a postdoctoral fellow in genomics research at the University of Connecticut.

About his research: I am interested in the genetic basis of adaptation and speciation. Sim-

ply put, what genes make humans different from chimpanzees? Of course it is much harder to study this question in humans than in other organisms. As an alternative, I study what genes make each flower special. Flowers are pretty and attractive to humans, but they do not exhibit these traits to inspire our fondness. Rather, they are trying to attract animal pollinators to help them transport pollen to other flowers of the same species. Even closely related plant species can have very different flowers in color and shape, and they correspondingly attract different groups of pollinators, like bees and hummingbirds. Actually, that is often the reason why there are different plant species: The different animal pollinators drive them to differentiate and keep their pollen separate from each other.

Knowing the gene identity after a long search can be very exciting and satisfying, but this only happens very occasionally. In general, understanding the tricks plants use to attract pollinators and sometimes manipulating those floral traits to assess pollinators' responses is a lot of fun. —E. L.

PHOTOS: HOLDEN BLANCO '17 (OLYMPICS); PATRICK MONTERO (ROBINSON-DRUMMER, PENG)



COOL CLASSES

Class Name: *"Break Every Yoke: Incarceration, Abolition, and Social Justice"*

Taught by: Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion Richard Kent Evans

What Evans has to say about the course: "Break Every Yoke" is about the connection between religion and prisons. We haven't always confined people in cages as punishment; the prison is, relatively speaking, a modern invention, and there's no reason to believe that it will be around forever. The modern penitentiary was designed right here in Philadelphia, mostly by Quakers, during [the late 1700s and early 1800s]. The men who invented our modern idea of the prison were convinced that they were on the right side of history. They thought that prison sentences could replace corporal systems of punishment, would provide the offender with the chance to reflect on, and atone for, their crimes, and would offer society a model of justice that was more just and humane than the criminal justice system of their day. Today, people from across the political spectrum acknowledge that their experiment has gotten out of control. The United States has the largest rate of incarceration in the world. There are over 2.3 million Americans behind bars. Students in this class are thinking through the complex relationship between religion and prisons. Though religion provided many of the ideas that created our carceral state, religion also animates the movements that are looking to create a world beyond prisons as punishment.

For this course, we're reading together some important, really cool, mind-bending scholarship from across the humanities. Students in the course are pen pals to people who are incarcerated, so we're learning from people who are currently behind bars. We'll also have the chance to meet and learn from the several abolitionist activists and leaders who are visiting campus this semester. And, through our Decarcerate Haverford Project, we're building momentum behind a movement that many of us would consider one of the most pressing and urgent social issues of our time. To me, classes like this are exactly what Haverford is all about: students and faculty thinking together, building together, and making plans to change the world.

Cool Classes is a recurring series on the Haverblog. For more, go to hav.to/coolclasses.

(RE)use Store Grand Opening




The (RE)use Store
in the basement of
Comfort Hall.

The start of the fall semester marked the grand opening of the Haverford (RE)use Store in the basement of Comfort Hall. The store, which offers a wide range of free items to students, grew out of a 2018 program aimed at curbing the waste left behind by the annual spring move-out ritual.

“The volume of discarded items, and the effort required to dispose of them, was staggering,” says **Franklyn Cantor '12**, assistant chief of staff in the President’s Office. He worked with Arboretum Director and Assistant Director of Facilities Management Claudia Kent to develop a process for collecting usable items and donating them to a non-profit, while keeping a small selection (including mini-fridges, clothes hangers, fans, lamps, and mirrors) for reuse within the student community.

Through a collaboration between the President’s Office, Facilities Management, the College’s Council on Sustainability and Social Responsibility, and the student Committee on Environmental Responsibility, that collection program evolved into the (RE)use Store, which launched last year in a limited capacity.

Due to the pandemic restrictions in place on campus, the store was open by appointment only and focused mainly on serving first-generation and/or low-income and other students of greatest need.

Now open to the entire community, under the hands-on leadership of Arboretum Program Coordinator Jennie Ciborowski, this “free store” for Fords boasts a more comprehensive inventory and a year-round calendar for donations and shopping.

Kitchen equipment for students in apartments is in highest demand, along with fans and lamps, says Ciborowski, but the store’s varying inventory also includes office and cleaning supplies, toilet paper, power cords

and adapters, first-aid items, toiletries, hangers, art supplies, books, and more.

Ciborowski says she’s excited to be bringing both service and sustainability to the Haverford community. “I just like the mission behind it,” she says. “I like giving away things to people who need them.” And she likes that the store is about rethinking waste. “The goal is a cycling process,” she says. “We’ll never eliminate the problem of waste and of things left behind, but if we can make less waste, that would be ideal.”

Student worker Luca Ponticello '24 says he enjoys “seeing kids come in and get a bunch of stuff they love for absolutely free. So much would have been thrown out if it weren’t for the store.”

Cantor calls the store a practical, community-based expression of the College’s sustainability commitment. “We’re thrilled to be able to repurpose and reuse more items within our community,” says Cantor. The store “minimizes the number of new items purchased—and the accompanying packaging—decreases costs for our students, and prevents many tons of items from heading to the landfill.”

More information at hav.to/reuse —Kaaren Sorensen

FYI

THE CLASS OF 2025 made history when its members arrived on campus in late August. With 411 students in the cohort, this is Haverford’s largest-ever first-year class. A few other notable numbers: Foreign nationals make up 9.2 percent of the class, 31 percent speak a language other than English at home, and 49.1 percent identify themselves as people of color. In addition, 19 members of the class are QuestBridge Match students (high-achieving, low-income students who receive early admission and full scholarships through a college match program). The Class of 2025 is also geographically diverse, hailing from 27 countries and 36 states.

4 Questions

On Space Travel

In her new book *30-Second Space Travel*, Professor of Physics and Astronomy Karen L. Masters, along with coauthors, presents 50 short, easy-to-understand chapters on key ideas, inventions, and destinations related to blasting into the great unknown. Part of a series that presents big ideas in technical fields to a mass audience, it is the second volume that Masters has helped write; in 2019, she contributed to *30-Second Universe*.



Most of the time, Masters, who also directs Haverford's Marian E. Koshland Integrated Natural Sciences Center, is busy teaching physics and astrophysics and researching galaxies, investigating how the internal structures—spiral arms, galactic bars and rings—reveal cosmic history. Masters says *30-Second Space Travel* was another opportunity to think about space and the exciting advances of the moment.

Recently, private companies—Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic, Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin, and Elon Musk's SpaceX—have raced into space. Why is this the moment that astro-tourism has taken off?

Karen Masters: It's an exciting point in the development of commercial space travel, but people have been working on this for a really long time. People were talking about competitions for commercial space flight decades ago. With the Space Shuttle retired, if the United

States wants to launch, it has to go to Russia and launch with them, or it needs a commercial option. It is a risky venture. It's very expensive. Maybe it took some very rich billionaires very interested in space travel and investing their money in that. They're egging each other on a bit.

Some have criticized the rich for spending their wealth on what's arguably a joyride into space. Should this really be their focus when society's struggling with climate change, a pandemic, inequality, and more?

KM: This comes up a lot for astronomers. Why spend on space rather than cancer? I think it's a false equivalency. I think we can do both—and we should do both. There is also an aspect of

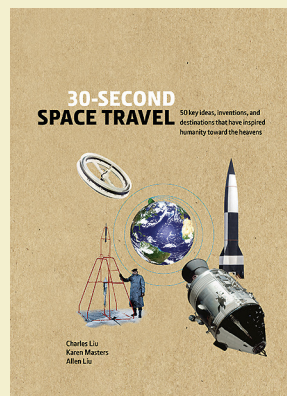
inspiring the next generation to be engineers and developing the next technologies. We also get a perspective of Earth when we go into space. We see it as a single planet, as a fragile, tiny dot in space. Those perspectives of Earth are really valuable to humanity.

What do you think is the future of commercial space travel in 10 years? In 50 years?

KM: Over the next 10 years, I imagine continued growth of space tourism—not such that millions do it, but probably hundreds of the very rich, so it won't be news anymore when celebrities go into space. Commercial companies may well be the launch platform for more and more of the scientific exploration of space. In 50 years, I hope we are starting to have exploration of Mars.

If you were offered a spot on the next rocket to space, would you take it?

KM: If I were offered a free spot on one of these suborbitals, I would totally take it. It's probably safer than flying on an airplane. If it were a much longer trip, like going to Mars, I don't think I would do that right now. I want to be here for my kids.
—Lini S. Kadaba



Main Lines

New Faces in Counseling and Psychological Services



Kaamila Mohamed



Noël Shipp

Haverford College's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) kicked off the new school year by welcoming a number of new members to its team.

CAPS grew its senior staff by two with the addition of Noël Shipp and Kaamila Mohamed. For both Shipp and Mohamed, their new jobs as CAPS psychological counselors represent a return to Haverford. Shipp, who earned an MSW at the University of Pennsylvania, previously served as a CAPS social work intern during the 2019-20 academic year. Mohamed, who earned a master's in social science at Bryn Mawr's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, was previously a Student Life Office graduate assistant as well as a member of the CAPS team at Swarthmore. In addition to serving as a CAPS counselor, Mohamed also will be the office's outreach coordinator.

CAPS also welcomed nine new members and three returning members to its graduate training program. The graduate trainees—who are either doctoral student externs, graduate social work interns, or postgraduate fellows—provide therapy

to a caseload of students and gain in-depth clinical experience.

Additionally, CAPS has added two new psychiatric consultants, Paula Bu and Charles Altman, who will each be available to students eight hours a week. This will almost double the available hours for psychiatric consultations and improve student access.

Even with all the new additions, which have brought greater diversity to the counseling ranks, CAPS is looking to grow its team further by hiring two student liaisons. The students in these new paid positions will inform and advise student groups about CAPS, help plan outreach and education events, and more.

CAPS is offering its usual array of services this year, including ongoing psychotherapy sessions, single-session consultations, daily drop-in appointments, and evening and weekend emergency coverage. CAPS also will offer several group therapy options, including a group for those living with anxiety, one for LGBTQ+ students, and one for students simply interested in relating and connecting. However, due to the campus mask mandate, all CAPS services are continuing to be held virtually via the HIPAA-compliant version of Zoom.

"I'm excited for CAPS to continue to develop in ways that help to meet our student mental health needs," said CAPS Director Philip Rosenbaum, "especially our additional staff who will provide unique perspectives to our department and help with scheduling of individual sessions, groups, and outreach opportunities." —R. R.

SCHOLARSHIPS AT WORK

With help from the Charles A. Dana Scholarship, environmental studies major **Ella Culton '23** succeeds in balancing her studies with a full plate of extracurricular activities and her job as a library assistant.



“I am so thankful to be part of a community that is deeply empathetic, intentional, and informed.

This scholarship is a tremendous privilege and an opportunity for me to pursue my academic interests with less stress and worry about meeting my tuition expectations.”



To support current use financial aid, visit haverford.edu/makeagift.
To learn about endowed scholarships, contact Deb Strecker at dstrecke@haverford.edu or (610) 896-1129.

PHOTOS: PATRICK MONTERO

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ART


A new book from Sarah Kaufman '03 showcases 60 of the photographs chosen from the thousands she has taken of Devil's Pool in Philadelphia's Wissahickon Valley Park.

As a child growing up near Philadelphia's Wissahickon Valley Park, photographer **Sarah Kaufman '03** spent hours exploring the nearly-2,000-acre urban oasis. With her Germantown neighborhood skirting the southeast corner of the park, she and her family visited on a regular basis; when she was older, Kaufman explored it on her own. "I did a lot of hiking in the park, and wading and looking for crayfish and catching tadpoles in Wissahickon Creek," she says. "I remember learning to ride a bike there on a wide gravel trail, and wiping out by a covered bridge."

Now an assistant professor of photography and art at Ursinus College, Kaufman was especially drawn to Devil's Pool, a 15-foot-deep by 25-foot-wide basin within the park where city dwellers seek relief from

summer heat. "Part of growing up was swimming in Devil's Pool. I remember watching the jumpers (from surrounding rock cliffs), and I have a great memory of sliding down the frozen waterfall there, and walking into the middle of the pool on ice," she says.

It's a magical place, says Kaufman, and it's the subject of her first book, *Devil's Pool* (Daylight Books). Packed with 60 color photos chosen from thousands she has taken, the book reflects her fascination with the human body and our connection to nature.

"Devil's Pool has this pull, this beauty of place, and it's such a source of community," says Kaufman, who used her 50-year-old twin-lens Rolleiflex camera for the project. She began shooting in 2014 and finished in 2020, with some pauses she says, to have two children, now ages two and five. (Kaufman's husband, **Duncan Holby '05**, is a

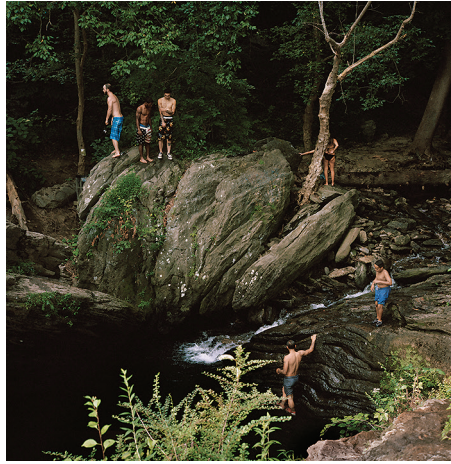
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software developer in the renewable energy industry. And she has another Haverford alum in the family: her dad, **Stephen Kaufman '70.**)

Kaufman's subjects are the everyday folks who jump and swim and hang out at Devil's Pool. "I've always wanted to photograph 'real' people, not models," she says. (That interest was reflected in a 2011 exhibition in Magill Library titled *The Nude Redefined*, which featured Kaufman's images of male and female nudes photographed in their homes.)

Kaufman remembers when she first peered through a camera. She was age six or so, and her mom let her look through the viewfinder of a 35mm camera in order to focus on objects. "I have a strong memory of framing photos but not taking them, because there was no film," she explains. As she grew older, Kaufman used a plastic point-and-shoot camera, a gift from her grandparents, to photograph still lifes in her bedroom. She took a photo class in high school, and at Haverford she decided to be an art major and concentrate on photography. "I didn't really understand where I could go with photography, I just knew I wanted to study it," Kaufman says.

In her senior year, her photography professor,



William E. Williams, suggested that she try a new format, and she switched from her 35mm camera to the larger, square-format images produced by a Rolleiflex. "I borrowed the camera from him, then as a graduation gift I got my own, and I've been using the same camera ever since." She credits Williams as a mentor and "a steady support and inspiration" to this day.

Post-graduation, Kaufman spent time in Bolivia teaching

and photographing, was an art department assistant at Haverford, earned an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, and since 2009 has been teaching at Ursinus. In 2011, she co-curated a Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery show titled *Through the Plain Camera: Small and Shapely Pleasures in Contemporary Photography*, with Rebecca Robertson BMC '00, another of Williams's former students.

Kaufman, whose studio is in a converted factory building in the Germantown neighborhood, has work on permanent view at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. With the completion of *Devil's Pool*, she says she's spending more time hiking in the Wissahickon and figuring out her next project.


More information: sarahkaufmanphoto.com

—Anne Stein



Sarah Kaufman, whose studio is in a converted factory building in the Germantown neighborhood, shot with a 50-year-old Rolleiflex camera for her book project.





Artist Joon Thomas combines watercolor and Persian calligraphy in “I will greet the sun again” (left).

ART

Joon Thomas '81 began practicing the ancient art of Persian calligraphy during fifth grade in Tehran, Iran. Although most classmates forgot all about reed pens and ink bottles after completing course requirements, Thomas continues to work with the same tools every single day, six decades later.

Thomas, who uses the gender-neutral pronoun “they,” says with a laugh: “At this point, I could do calligraphy with anything you handed to me.”

Now living in Gainesville, Florida, Thomas has been working as a professional calligrapher, graphic designer, and artist since their college days, and has created calligraphic artwork for books, magazines, museums, logos, invitations, marriage certificates, honorary degrees, tattoos, and more.

Thomas, who attended Haverford as Stewart J. Thomas, applied to the college at the recommendation of family friend **Lewis Marshall Johnson '45**, a Presbyterian minister who also lived in Tehran, where Thomas grew up.

Formal programs to support international students did not exist in the '70s, but Haverford's Distinguished Visitors Program, which brings a variety of scholars to campus, served as a de facto counseling office for Thomas, who was hired to hand-calligraph posters publicizing the arrival of every visitor. It was their first paid position as an artist.

“Early on, I treated calligraphy as a side job, like it was too much of a privilege to get paid to be creative,” Thomas says, recalling the many “real jobs” they cycled through, from managing a restaurant to serving as a personal assistant. “I would always be doing calligraphy on the side to support myself while working jobs that were supposed to be the money-making things.

And finally, I realized, ‘Wait. This is my job.’”

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in history, Thomas also studied Chinese at Penn, later convincing renowned artist and lithography master printer Chen Lok Lee to take them on as a mentee in printmaking as well as Chinese painting and calligraphy. Lee helped to hone the artistic skills Thomas brings to work commissioned from around the world including calligraphy in a myriad of styles in over two dozen languages. Thomas also teaches calligraphy and leads workshops for various universities, libraries, and other organizations.

“In calligraphy, you need to be precise; you are not supposed to make mistakes. But you also have to create something that is alive and in the moment,” Thomas says. “Especially in Chinese calligraphy, the emphasis is on how much energy and vitality, what we call qi, you put into the stroke. This matchup of precision and exactitude on one side and flow and dynamism on the other explains my approach to making art.”

Thomas creates and displays work at Gainesville's Sweetwater Print Cooperative, a studio and gallery space they cofounded 30 years ago. Their latest exhibit, *Reaching for Justice*, was inspired by conversations about social justice and policing in the United States. (Before moving to Florida, they also helped to found Vox Populi, now the longest-running artist collective in Philadelphia.)

“Why are we staying alive? What are we struggling for? To enjoy creativity,” Thomas says. “People want and need art, and it is empowering to recognize that your artistic talent has value, that it is an asset. Things got a lot better for me once I realized I could live my life being a creative person on my own terms.”

More information: palmstone.com

—Karen Brooks

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MUSIC



Singer-songwriter Dan Wriggins, who put out four records with the band Friendship, has a new solo EP titled *Mr. Chill*.

Singer-songwriter **Dan Wriggins '14** speaks quietly and thoughtfully, often pausing before answering a question, sometimes doubling back to start an answer again and take it down a different path. It's a tendency that carries over to his music: Whether with his long-running band Friendship or on his new solo EP, *Mr. Chill*, Wriggins's songs feel carefully handcrafted, the words whittled down to essentials and each element of the music selected and placed just so—creating maximal impact with the fewest ingredients.

"It's always been quiet and sparse, with a lot of musicians playing in minimal ways," says Wriggins of his work with Friendship, which the Maine native formed in Philadelphia with high school friends Michael Cormier and Peter Gill, the year after he graduated from Haverford. The lineup has expanded and contracted over the course of four records, with Wriggins's plainspoken lyrics and up-close melodies placed in spare, folksy settings.

Starting with *You're Going to Have to Trust Me* in 2015 and up through 2019's *Dreamin'*, each Friendship album has evolved the band's country/folk/rock sound, with guitar, bass, drums, and pedal steel being joined by everything from organ and flute to drum machines and vibraphone. But the music never feels dense or cluttered, and

Wriggins's voice and lyrics feel like he's sidling up to one listener at a time.

There is a strong influence of poetry in Wriggins's songs, which he's been building up since his time at Haverford. "I really loved studying creative writing," he says, "and my two guiding stars were Asali Solomon for fiction and Tom Devaney for poetry." Just this year Wriggins, who is 29, moved to Iowa City for a full-time poetry program at the Iowa Writers Workshop. "The relationship between poetry and music is complicated," he notes, "but there's plenty of crossover."

He says that his debut as a solo artist after more than half a decade with Friendship wasn't driven by COVID-enforced separation, but it's hard not to hear some modern isolation as his already minimalist musical universe shrinks even further to voice and guitar, quietly backed by organ and drums.

"I had some songs that felt better served by solo arrangements," he says, so he and Friendship's Cormier booked time at a studio in Rhode Island. The session yielded 14 songs, five of which Wriggins thought "hung together" into the *Mr. Chill* EP. The songs are intimate and mostly melancholy, falling somewhere between folk and the not-quite-country vibe of Vic Chesnutt or Richard Buckner, and mixing the economy of poetry and the prose of conversation with lyrics like "I can tell you stuff I can't tell anyone else/Because you don't threaten to help" and "You trust your gut/And your gut lies."

The release of the EP marks a time of major change for Wriggins—starting the MFA program, his Friendship bandmates scattering to different states, and the entire music industry rethinking how live music works. But he's not letting these changes move him off the path he's been on since playing campus shows with his Haverford band Attic Stairs and forming a group with Cormier and Gill: writing songs, recording them with a small group of friends, and touring as much as he can. "I'm not planning to pivot to trying to become a professor," he says. "My plan is to just keep touring—academia and music both seem really difficult, so I might as well do the one that's more fun."

Dan Wriggins's *Mr. Chill* EP is available at danwriggins.bandcamp.com, and the Friendship catalog is at friendshippl.bandcamp.com.

—Brian Glaser

PHOTO: JEFFREY BERKOWITZ

BOOKS

Q&A: Lawton R. Burns '73

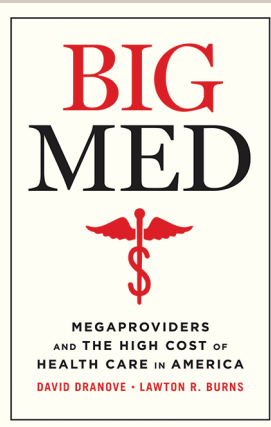
In Big Med: Megaproviders and the High Cost of Health Care in America, Lawton R. Burns and co-author David Dranove trace a troubling transformation. Gone, for the most part, is the 1960s landscape of independent community hospitals and small, friendly, Marcus Welby-style doctors' practices, as enormous healthcare systems that encompass dozens of medical centers and hundreds to thousands of physicians (plus a supporting cast of outpatient surgery centers, urgent care clinics, physical therapy practices, and even in-house health insurance plans) have become today's "face of American medicine."

Trouble is, bigger hasn't meant better. Drug companies and health insurers take plenty of blame when experts talk about the astronomical costs and failures of U.S. healthcare. But Burns, professor of healthcare management at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, and Dranove, professor of strategy and health industry management at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management, say large, integrated hospital systems—megaproviders—are quietly responsible for one-half to two-thirds of the nation's healthcare costs. And their mammoth bureaucracies ignore or stifle meaningful changes that could make Americans healthier. Megaproviders' size and influence often go unnoticed by consumers and even regulators, but the book offers solutions.

Burns, who also recently authored The Healthcare Ecosystem: Payers, Providers, Producers, spoke with health and medicine journalist Sari Harrar about the book.

Sari Harrar: What inspired *Big Med*?

Lawton Burns: David and I are both pretty passionate about healthcare. We both came up as assistant professors at the University of Chicago nearly 40 years ago, and we independently conduct research on healthcare systems, bringing different perspectives. David's an economist and an expert on the horizontal integration of hospitals, while I have a background in sociology with experience in healthcare management and am an expert on the vertical integration of hospitals and doctors' practices.



David reached out to me and said, "I'd like to write a book on megaproviders—they're merging horizontally and vertically." So it was a match. We both felt some frustration about what was going on. Sometimes you just have to raise the level of alarm.

SH: How consolidated are healthcare services at this point?

LB: The consolidation of hospitals has been going on since 1967-68. We're in the fourth wave of mergers, all spurred by things like changes in federal legislation, regulations, or insurance reimbursements. The number of U.S. hospitals in big systems has grown to about 70 percent. The remaining 30 percent are usually rural facilities or really strong urban facilities that don't have to merge because they're powerhouses on their own. At least 30 percent of physicians are employed by a hospital, and that's creeping up. Most of the others are in groups, as partners or employed by other doctors—though private-equity groups are also buying up physician practices. Only about 15 percent of doctors are practicing independently.

SH: Why does that lead to higher costs?

LB: Hospitals are consolidated in local and now in regional markets. That means health insurance companies don't have too many options as to whom they contract with. A large hospital system can tell an insurer: "We don't like your rates. We're not going to be in your network." Then the insurer has to turn around and tell employers: "I'm sorry, but your employees won't be able to use this major hospital system." It becomes a game of chicken, where the hospital tells the insurance company "we're dropping you" or the insurance company tells the hospital: "Hey, we're dropping you." You see it all the time—they take it to the press, and eventually they settle. That settlement means higher hospital rates and, thus, higher prices for healthcare.

SH: What's the impact on consumers' health and wallets?

LB: There are no documented health benefits and some evidence that quality of care goes down. That's partly because these systems are so big, they're not necessarily focused on getting

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BOOKS

continued from page 21

you better, they're focused more at the executive management level on getting even bigger and throwing their weight around in the marketplace. Doctors become demoralized, too. And when megaproviders raise prices, insurance companies aren't just taking those losses. They turn around and tell the employers who are providing the health insurance, or the employees: "Hey, you know, your insurance rates are going up, or your wages are going down to accommodate higher benefit costs." At the end of the day, individuals are bearing the cost.

SH: What about the conventional wisdom that mergers streamline services and boost quality, such as when local hospitals affiliate with prestigious medical centers?

LB: Healthcare is labor intensive. The vast majority of costs are labor, not technology. You don't get scale economies when it's a people business. When I hear bigger, I think bureaucracy, layers of management, corporate and regional headquarters—that doesn't sound efficient! And consumers still have to do their homework. The quality of cardiac bypass surgery you get at a local hospital affiliated with the Cleveland Clinic won't necessarily be the same as you'd get if you went to the actual Cleveland Clinic. If you are really skeptical, you'd say that's a marketing ploy. I think there's some truth to that.

SH: These giant systems sound like monopolies. Where are the Federal Trade Commission and other government anti-trust agencies?

LB: I call them oligopolies [limited competition in a market dominated by a few large actors]. In every major city you have two or

three big systems. With so many consolidation deals going on, the FTC and Department of Justice don't have enough money or manpower to go after everybody. They pick a handful of cases. Some they win, but they're fighting a losing battle.

SH: What's the solution?

LB: Basically, what we want to do is get more competition into these local hospital markets, because the research shows that competition fosters higher quality and lower cost. States should stop issuing Certificates of Public Advantage that give local hospitals immunity from federal antitrust laws. They should scrap laws that restrict new healthcare facilities built by newcomers to the market while protecting expansion by existing megaproviders. And hospitals and executives can be doing more to engage healthcare providers to provide higher-quality, lower-cost care.

SH: You studied sociology and anthropology at Haverford.

How did you move into healthcare management?

LB: I got a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago and got interested in healthcare, particularly in hospitals. So I started teaching and doing research on hospitals and realized, I didn't know enough about how hospitals worked. So while teaching during the day, I got an MBA in hospital administration at night. It was a tough two years, but I'm glad I did it. I've worked in administration for two hospitals after that, too. Healthcare is a complex ecosystem. You need to understand the business side to understand it.

Sari Harrar is a health and science journalist whose articles appear in AARP Bulletin, Consumer Reports on Health, Reader's Digest and other national publications.

MORE ALUMNI TITLES

TERENCE CULLETON '78:

A Tree and Gone (FutureCycle Press).



Culetton's third collection brings together 54 poems written in the English sonnet form. Nearly all employ outdoor settings—including beaches,

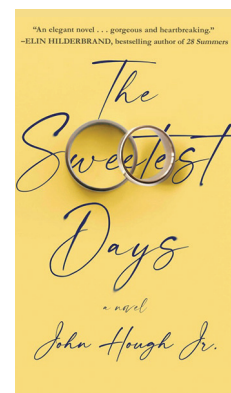
forests, meadows, canyons, and along the Delaware River—to explore aspects of our relationship to ourselves and to the natural world. One reviewer called Culetton's sonnets "intelligent, humorous, mouth-fillingly musical, and always thought-provoking."

JOHN HOUGH JR. '68:

The Sweetest Days (Gallery Books).

In this poignant portrait of a marriage, high school sweethearts Pete and Jackie Hatch have been together for decades.

Now in their sixties, their only daughter grown, they face scary news about Jackie's health as they travel to their Cape Cod hometown for Pete's first book signing. But a disastrous encounter with



an old schoolmate pushes their long union to the breaking point and forces them to revisit the long-ago event that

changed the trajectory of their lives.

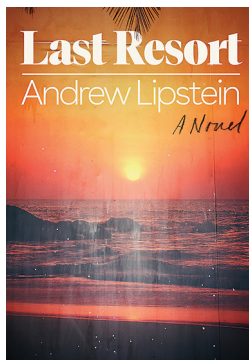
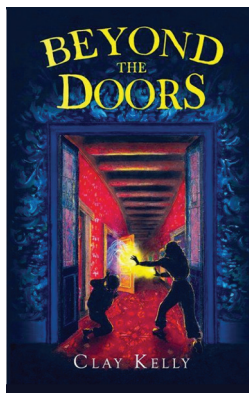
Hough is the author of five previous novels, including *Seen the Glory: A Novel of the Battle of Gettysburg*.

CLAY KELLY '93: *Beyond the Doors* (Pygmy Possum Press).

In this first installment of a new fantasy trilogy for middle-grade readers, World War II forces the evacuation of 13-year-old Hazel Benedict from England to a strange mansion in the Canadian woods. There, she discovers she is a Ranger—a rare teen who can travel through mysterious doors to other worlds. With her new Ranger companions and one extraordinary marsupial, Hazel will have to learn to navigate those worlds and stay one step ahead of a sinister foe who threatens to tear the worlds apart.

ANDREW I. LIPSTEIN '10: *Last Resort* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).

In this debut novel, young writer Caleb Horowitz seems on the verge of big things when his manuscript catches the attention of a literary agent who begins shopping it around to New York editors. But when it gets into the hands of a college rival who is the novel's "inspiration," Caleb is forced to make a Faustian bargain that tests his theories of success, ambition, and the limits of art.



RALPH J. LONG JR. '79: *Polaroids at a Yard Sale* (Main Street Rag Publishing Company). Long's second collection brings together a series of

thoughtful epistolary prose poems addressed to writers and artists such as Allen Ginsberg, Pablo Neruda, and Patti Smith. In a voice one critic called "somehow tender, celebratory, humorous, and tough," Long reflects on his own youth, travel, and the absurd contradictions and dubious morality of modern life.

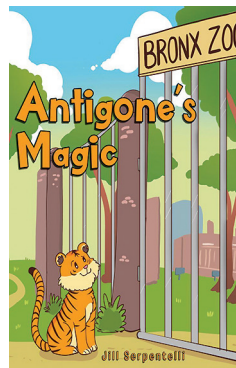
CAMPBELL F. SCRIBNER '03 and Bryan R. Warnick: *Spare the Rod: Punishment and the Moral Community of Schools*



(The University of Chicago Press). Scribner, an historian and assistant professor in the College of Education at the University of Maryland, and his philosopher coauthor argue that as schools have grown increasingly bureaucratic over the last century, school discipline has come to resemble the operation of prisons or policing and is in some measure responsible for the school-to-prison pipeline. They show that these shifts disregard the unique status of schools as spaces of moral growth and community oversight, and are incompatible with the developmental environment of education.

JILL SERPENTELLI '92: *Antigone's Magic* (Page Publishing).

In this children's book, Antigone, a stuffed tiger, discovers that he has the magical ability to transform himself into a very small, but very real tiger. When his owner, Tam, goes away for the weekend, Antigone embarks on a quest to find the answer to a question he's always had: Are the tigers at the zoo in jail? Fun and adventure ensue as he visits the Bronx Zoo to investigate.



MARK SHAIKEN '77: *Fresh Start* (1609 Press LLC).

In his debut mystery novel, retired bankruptcy attorney Mark Shaiken weaves a tale about the misdeeds of skyscraper developer Quincy Witherman, who has continued his family's 200-year practice of hiding assets in Switzerland. Now, needing protection from his creditors, Witherman hires bankruptcy lawyer Josephina Jillian Jones, known as "3J," but fails to disclose his Swiss assets to her, his bankers, the IRS, and the bankruptcy court—all felonies. In her gut, 3J knows something is wrong. So does Witherman's banker, Stacy Milnes. But will anyone succeed in catching Witherman?




➔ **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.

Ford Games



Major League Talent

Stephen Ridings '19 gets called up to pitch for the Yankees. **BY CHARLES CURTIS '04**


*Stephen Ridings
pitching for the New
York Yankees against
the Seattle Mariners
in an Aug. 6 game at
Yankee Stadium.*

In the 188-year history of Haverford College, just one alumnus had ever played in a Major League Baseball game: **Bill Lindsay, Class of 1906**, an infielder who played 19 games in 1911 with a team then known as the Cleveland Naps.

Since then, even with MLB teams drafting Haverford players to develop into possible major leaguers, no one else had accomplished that feat ... until Aug. 3, 2021. That's when **Stephen Ridings '19** came in to pitch an inning for the New York Yankees, some 40 miles from where he grew up on Long Island.

In his eventual five additional appearances for the Yankees, he allowed just one run and turned a lot of heads on social media by striking out a batter in his debut with a 100 mph pitch. Although he returned to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders Triple-A team not long after his initial run with the Yankees, his future may include more time with the storied New York franchise.

Ridings—who finished his degree in 2019 as a chemistry major after taking a leave when he was drafted by the Chicago Cubs in 2016—spoke to *Haverford* magazine about the journey that took him from the Main Line to the Majors.

PHOTO: ADAM HUNGER/GETTY IMAGES

Being 6-foot-8 and pitching is harder than you'd think. It's a double-edged sword. It comes with a lot of potential, but also a lot of struggle. There's the coordination of it; everything has to be just right in my pitching motion and mechanics to be successful. There is a larger scope of error as a tall guy.

The quirky reason he was drawn to pitching. Honestly, the reason I decided to play baseball instead of basketball when I was younger is how much I hated running. I was sick of running up and down the court. I loved pitching. I did have an aptitude for throwing, but to me, it's raw competitiveness—just me versus the batter, to see who's better, right here, right now. That's what drove me in that direction.

He wasn't a Major League prospect right away. My first two years at Haverford, for whatever reason, my pitch speeds would be good in the fall. Then, things would fall apart for me in the spring. I was a twig, a 6-foot-6 to 6-foot-8 string bean. I was gangly and had no coordination whatsoever. I was throwing just 82 to 84 mph and couldn't throw a strike, but I told my teammates, "Don't worry, I've got this. I'm going to throw 95 and get drafted." And my teammates laughed.

The weight room is his haven. Putting on some size over the summer between my sophomore and junior year helped a lot. To this day, the gym is my favorite place to be other than on the mound. [There's] something primal about lifting that gets me fired up. On the day I was taken by the Chicago Cubs in the eighth round of the 2016 Major League draft, the first thing I did was go to the gym—because the work wasn't finished, it had only just begun. I wanted to celebrate by doing what got me to that point.

The journey through the minor leagues was marred by injuries, a trade, and a canceled season. An elbow injury led to what's called Tommy John surgery that kept me out my entire first year. I was traded by the Cubs to the Royals in 2019, and in 2020, when the minor league season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

I dislocated my shoulder while swimming. The Royals released me from my contract that fall.

He didn't give up on his dream. I had a long talk with my girlfriend about my future, and I decided I didn't want to go out on a low note. I almost signed with an independent team in Canada. I was working out at a training facility in Florida, and the owner sent video of me throwing to a Yankees scout. When the scout came to see me throw in person, I hit 97 to 100 mph out of nowhere, maybe due to adrenaline. The Yankees signed me an hour later.

Getting the Major League call was bittersweet. I was pitching in Scranton for a Yankees minor league team when I found out my grandmother had passed away. I told the team I needed to be absent for a week, but while I was eating lunch, I got a call that I was going to join the Yankees. The whole drive to New York, I was excited. Don't get me wrong—it was an emotional week with everything going on. But it's hard not to feel anything but excitement. This is what I've worked my whole life to do.

The secret to success: Get mad. The Yankees were up 9-0 in the seventh inning against the Baltimore Orioles and the bullpen coach told me I was going in. After warmups, I drowned out everything, got angry and locked in. I yell at myself a little bit, things that can't be printed in this magazine. If you're coming out of the bullpen, you have to have some emotions and fire. That's the only good way to pitch, in my opinion.

He turned heads on Twitter. A popular account known as @PitchingNinja featured my 100 mph strikeout pitch. It's a high point in my life for sure. I tweeted back, "I peaked," and I stand by it.

Charles Curtis is a sportswriter for USA Today's For the Win and an author of the Weirdo Academy series, published by Month9 Books. He lives in New York City with his wife and son.



Ford Games



Advancing Women in Coaching


Assistant Field Hockey Coach and coaching fellow Chardonmay Hope on Swan Field. A grant from the Women's Sports Foundation helped bring her to Haverford.

The Haverford Field Hockey program has been awarded a grant from the Women's Sports Foundation's Tara VanDerveer Fund for the Advancement of Women in Coaching. Haverford is one of just 10 universities and colleges to receive one of the grants, which are meant to support collegiate female coaches on the rise, assisting with living expenses, professional development, and mentorship.

The grant has allowed the Field Hockey program to bring on board Chardonmay Hope as an assistant coach and fellow. Hope graduated

in 2018 from Kutztown University, where she was a two-time field hockey team captain and had a standout career as a goalkeeper. A criminal justice major at Kutztown, Hope earned a master's in management with a concentration in organizational leadership from Wilmington University in 2021. She got her start in coaching on the staff at Mansfield University and has served as an assistant coach at Widener University, Washington College, and on the club circuit with the Delaware Sharks Field Hockey Club.

"I believe this fellowship will allow me to learn under a great coaching staff and truly dive into

what it means to coach at the collegiate level,” says Hope, who, in addition to her coaching duties, continues to work as a juvenile probation officer.

“I always thought my true passion would be working in the criminal justice field,” she says, “but athletics, especially field hockey, have played a huge role in my life. I have coached for other programs, but being the recipient of this grant has really inspired me to invest my time into coaching and possibly pursuing a full-time career.”

The Women’s Sports Foundation—founded by tennis great Billie Jean King and named for longtime Stanford women’s basketball coach Tara VanDerveer—began awarding grants from the VanDerveer Fund in 2019 to address the lack of women in coaching positions. Since the passage of Title IX in 1972, the percentage of women in

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”

head coaching roles for NCAA women’s sports has steadily declined from 90 percent in 1970–71 to 41 percent in 2020. The numbers for assistant coaching positions were even worse. Only 28 percent of all NCAA assistant coaches in 2020 were women, and only six percent were BIPOC women.

Being part of the VanDerveer Fund’s efforts to advance women in coaching is particularly meaningful for Hope, who says strong female coaches helped shape her life. “My love and passion for field hockey truly comes from the women who have coached me,” she says. “I wish I could list every single one of them, but they believed that I had the

talent to play in college and did everything to make sure I accomplished that goal. These are also the same women who made me believe in having ‘grit’ and being the best woman I could be, on and off the field.” —Eils Lotozo and Curran McCauley

Interim Director of Athletics Named

The College welcomed Michael Vienna as interim director of athletics in August.

Before coming to Haverford, Vienna served in a similar role at Marymount University, where he helped guide the 22-varsity sport program through the COVID-19 pandemic and a transition to a new director of athletics.

Vienna brings more than 40 years of athletics administration experience to Haverford, including five years at Emory University, where he was integral in the administration of one of the nation’s most successful NCAA Division III athletic programs. Under his guidance at Emory, the Eagles captured nine national team titles and 30 UAA championships prior to his retirement in August 2020.

Before his move to Emory in 2015, Vienna—who holds a master’s degree in sport management and a Ph.D. in



Michael Vienna

higher education administration from Kent State University—spent 23 years as the director of athletics and recreation at Salisbury University in Maryland. His leadership experience also includes roles on the NCAA Division III Management Council and service on a number of NCAA committees, including the Division III LGBTQ Working Group and the Pathways mentorship program.

“Mike has a wealth of experience and a successful track record in athletic administration,” said Dean of the College John McKnight. “He is an inspiring leader who clearly articulated how one can make a big difference in a department, even with a short-term appointment.”

A national search for a director of athletics is currently underway.

—Eils Lotozo and Curran McCauley



TELL US MORE

ORION KRIEGMAN '96: Perfecting the Recipe for Urban Food Forests

In Orion Kriegman's Boston neighborhood, the Egleston Community Orchard is filled with fruit trees, vegetable beds, bushes, and flowers, and is host to art shows, outdoor movies, festivals, and cultural events.

The lush garden is one of 12 food forests in Boston, where Kriegman is executive director of the Boston Food Forest Coalition, a nonprofit community land trust that works with neighborhood volunteers to reclaim vacant, trash-filled parcels and transform them into public parks where food is grown. Boston's Department of Neighborhood Development has donated land and funding.

While providing local, sustainable, nutritious food is a primary goal, the benefits of food forests go way beyond fruits and nuts, Kriegman says: "A lot of it is about seeking connection, and people trying to improve their communities."

A Haverford political science major with a peace and conflict studies concentration, Kriegman credits the mentoring he received from then-Assistant Professor Jay Rothman, an expert in conflict resolution, with leading him to a pivotal post-graduation experience: two

PHOTO: LAUREN JUSTICE

years working in Guatemala to help implement policies in the 1996 peace accord that ended a 36-year civil war.

His current role builds on more recent experiences in the think-tank world: at Tellus Institute, working on global sustainability issues, and at NET New England, helping to create sustainable and equitable local economies. Along the way, he earned a master's degree in urban policy and public planning at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

His food forest work, says Kriegman, is simply about trying to build a better world for the next generation, including his young daughters, Brigid, 8, and Sylvia, 5. "As I've gotten older," he says, "the insight is that I'm just one person on a big planet asking what's the next right thing to do."

How do food forests impact communities?

Food forests planted in dense urban areas are seeds of hope as well as tangible expressions of joy and beauty. They are interactive, educational, and bring nature back into the city. The shade from trees mitigates the urban heat island; the unpaved land covered in plants captures rainwater, sequesters carbon, and provides habitat for endangered pollinators and beneficial insects, which are critical parts of the food chain supporting our songbird populations. These oases of life help reduce stress and violence in our neighborhoods, and growing up with regular safe access to green space reduces adverse mental health outcomes, which are more common for urban children. During COVID, these spaces became especially important as collective backyards where people could meet outdoors for socially distanced events and maintain connection in a time of isolation. It is amazing how a small urban lot can have such powerful holistic ripple effects throughout a neighborhood.

Can food forests help counteract what you call our "fragmented, polarized society"?

Food forests not only grow food, they grow relationships between people and the land, ourselves and our diets, and link neighbors in diverse communities, helping people meet and form friendships across divides of race, class, language and culture. They are a space where people weed together, share recipes, or listen to Albanian folk music, and where neighbors who have lived side by side for years may meet for the first time. Spring barbecues and harvest festivals generate moments of connectivity that are a source of community resilience. When a young man was murdered near Egleston Community Orchard, neighbors came out to support his family and friends, planting blueberry bushes to honor his memory. Every year an altar is created on the anniversary of his death. The food forest provided space for mourning and healing, and has become a symbol of peace in the neighborhood.

There are currently 12 Boston Food Forest Coalition sites. Is there a demand for more?

The desire to rebalance our lives with nature has only intensified over the years as the global crisis deepens. There is more demand—from neighbors, schools, churches, and temples—to transform neglected, trash-strewn lots than we currently have the capacity to support. The vision is to grow our team to develop 35 food forests across Boston by 2025, with the goal of one day supporting 100 or more sites. Our goal is to be a backbone organization supporting community stewards in the ownership, design, development, and care of food forests, and to hold these spaces in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy and literally eat of their fruits.

Can food forests be cultivated in other places?

Food forests are showing up in cities across the United States. What is different about our model is the network of smaller food forests stewarded by neighbors and linked in a citywide coalition. This model has been featured in academic studies and books about how to create community food forests, and we have received inquiries from folks around the country. I believe this is an innovation in green infrastructure for cities adapting to climate change, and will absolutely scale up and be improved upon going forward.

How did your time at Haverford College help shape your career path?

In so many ways, Haverford provided me opportunities to learn, explore, and grow. I took part in a peace studies mission to Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza, and spent a summer in South Africa working for the African National Congress supporting the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Most impactful were service-learning trips during spring break to help rebuild communities hit by hurricanes or to support Habitat for Humanity. The combination of Quaker values, consensus decision-making, and lessons about conflict transformation and mediation all set me off in the direction I have chosen, working for equity and justice. Combining that passion with my love for nature and the environment is what has brought me to the work I do today.

—Debbie Goldberg

Journalist Debbie Goldberg is a Philadelphia-based writer and former reporter for The Washington Post. Her article, "Fixing Our Broken Election System," was the cover story in Haverford magazine's spring 2021 issue.



A NEW HOME

An addition to Roberts Hall provides a bright, expansive space on campus for teaching, practice, rehearsal, and performance.

for Music



⤴ **A light-filled, two-story addition to Roberts Hall now provides an expanded and enhanced home for the Department of Music that includes the new Michael Jaharis Recital Hall, an extensive music library, faculty offices, practice rooms, rehearsal spaces, musical instrument storage, and more.**

Photographs by Patrick Montero

Haverford students have long had a broad and enthusiastic engagement with music on campus, but finding the space to explore that passion used to be something of a challenge. The many activities of the busy Music Department were divided between Union Hall and Roberts Hall, limited rehearsal space for campus ensembles was stretched beyond capacity, classrooms were used for lessons and coaching, and student musicians often practiced in basement rooms or backstage instrument storage areas.

No more.

With the completion of a new addition to Roberts Hall, the Music Department now has a beautiful—and centralized—home. The two-story structure, which spans the back of Roberts and extends a glass-walled wing toward Union, houses administrative and faculty offices, practice rooms, a classroom, an expanded music library, and the stunning new Michael Jaharis Recital Hall. With an entry facing Lloyd Green on the upper level, and another on the lower level looking out toward the Duck Pond, the building connects to the campus landscape in a dramatic way and gives the formerly scattered music program a real presence on campus.

The Roberts Hall addition is the work of Boston-based architecture firm William Rawn Associates, which also designed Seiji Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood (the summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra) and has created recital halls for Penn State University and Bowdoin College, a theatre and dance facility for Williams College, and many other high-profile arts-related projects. Bringing a real Haverford connection to the music building design were **Clifford Gayley '83**, the principal architect on the project, and Kevin Bergeron, project architect and a Class of 2023 parent.

According to Richard Freedman, professor of music and chair of the department, the brainstorming for a transformed music facility began a decade ago. While much of the original wish list has been realized, his favorite part of the design is how it brings the many aspects of music study and music-making together and makes them visible.

“For the first time in my 35-plus years at the College, students can now see and hear how the various dimensions of their musical education fit together, from private study to classroom, and from rehearsal to performance,” he says. “They have the benefit of lovely, acoustically flattering and climate-controlled spaces for their music-making, and have access to a superlative music library where they can put their musical ideas in the context of the great traditions from around the world. And above all, we have the Michael Jaharis Recital Hall, with its great acoustics and peerless view. If asked to sum it up, I would say: ‘Together, for the first time, everything you need for a great musical education.’”

A New Home for Music



^^ The Jaharis Recital Hall and its soaring wall of windows offers a panoramic view of the campus and the Duck Pond. The building can be accessed from Fletcher-Silver Walk, and the nearby Haverford SEPTA station is a five-minute walk from the facility.



- Roberts Hall (right) remains home to Marshall Auditorium, where large concerts are performed.

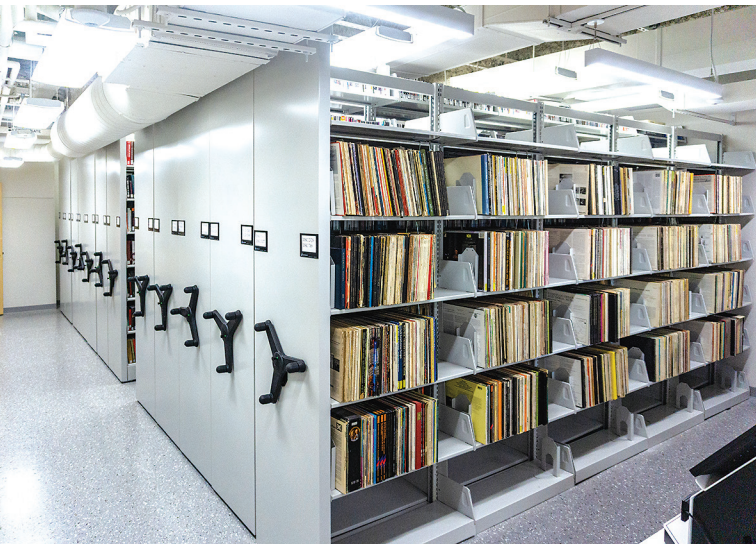


- The new recital hall was conceived as a rehearsal, instructional, and performance space for the Bi-Co Chamber Singers (pictured), Bi-Co Orchestra, Bi-Co Chorale, and chamber ensembles, as well as a place to showcase guest recitalists.

- The hall features fixed seating for 80; it has additional flexible seating on the floor and advanced capacities for sound and video recording and multimedia performance. The curtains on the side and back walls can be opened and closed to adjust the acoustics of the room for different types of performances.



A New Home for Music



^^ The Nan and Bill Harris Music Library supports all aspects of music performance, study, and research.

>> The Harris Music Library's collection includes a rich array of scores, chamber music parts, critical and theoretical writings, audio and video recordings, and core reference works. The library also subscribes to digital and streaming collections from around the world, and has audio-video and computer workstations that provide access to those resources, as well as digital tools for music editing and sound recording.





⤴ Professor of Music and Department Chair Richard Freedman teaches his “Thinking About Music: Ideas, History, and Musicology” course in the music facility classroom, which can accommodate 35 students.

⤵ One of the five practice rooms, each with a piano, that are located on the first level of the Roberts Hall addition along with the music library, a quiet reading room, and administrative offices. Also on this level: a quartet rehearsal space with two pianos.

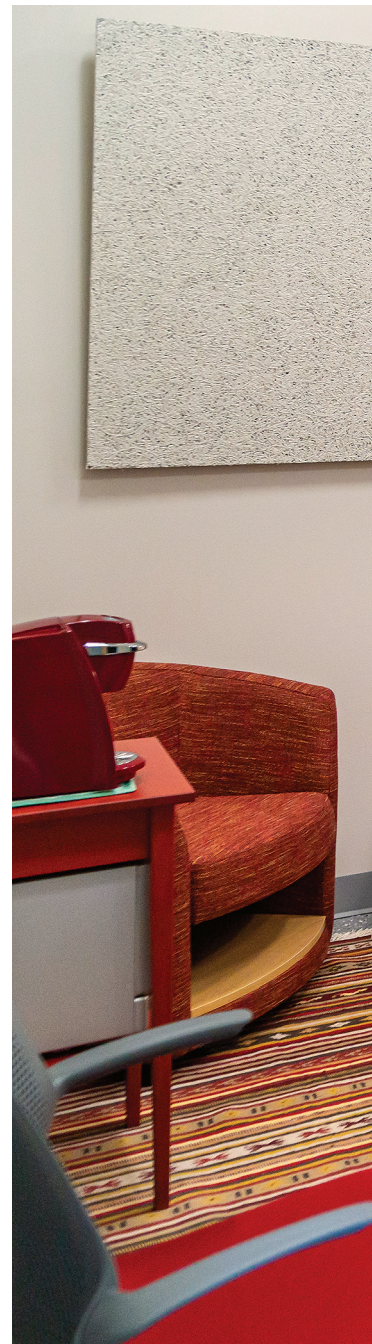


A New Home for Music



◀◀ The Allen C. Fisher 1959 Atrium is the central meeting ground for musical study at Haverford, serving as a lobby for audiences for Jaharis Recital Hall concerts and linking the hall to practice rooms, faculty offices, the adjacent Marshall Auditorium, and the Harris Music Library (for which it serves as the casual reading room). Outside, a patio with seating offers great views.

◀◀ The upper-level entrance to the two-story addition (which faces Lloyd Green) features a catwalk overlooking the atrium and connects to a backstage entry to Marshall Auditorium and to a window-lined hallway where faculty offices are located. From the walkway, a staircase descends to the lobby/reading room and the entrance to the Jaharis Recital Hall.





^^ Professor of Music Ingrid Arauco in one of the new faculty offices, which all feature pianos.

Where do buildings come from?

To keep tuition as low as possible, Haverford's operating budget isn't structured to accommodate major building projects. The College relies on philanthropy to sustain, innovate, and grow our programs and facilities.

A gift to the College made by the widow of **Charles Roberts, Class of 1864**, supported the construction of Roberts Hall in 1903. Its recent renovation and expansion was 100 percent funded by the generosity of alumni, families, and friends.



KICKING THE DOORS WIDE OPEN



Denne Michele Norris '08 becomes the first Black, openly trans woman to helm a major literary publication. By Emma Copley Eisenberg '09

 Denne Michele Norris in her book-filled West Harlem apartment.

Names are important in the Norris family, so when **Denne Michele Norris '08** came out as a trans woman earlier this year and had the opportunity to choose her own name, she wanted to make sure to choose something that honored those who have come before her.

Norris's father, the Rev. Dr. Dennis Earl Norris, had legally changed his first name as a loving gesture to his childless Uncle Dennis, and when he had a son of his own, his mother insisted he name the child after himself.

Denne (pronounced "Den") honors the nickname that many friends gave her over the years, and "Michele" is an homage to her idols Michelle Obama and champion figure skater Michelle Kwan. "Generally speaking, deadnaming trans people is not OK," she says, referring to people using a trans person's birth name contrary to their stated identity and preference. "But for me, I really value the years I spent as Dennis Norris II and the work I did in that time."

By work, she means the emotional and personal growth, but also the many projects she has worked on, including the critically acclaimed podcast *Food 4 Thot*, which she cohosts with three other queer writers: Joe Osmundson, Tommy Pico, and Fran Tirado. Described by the hosts as "a roundtable discussion ... wherein a multiracial mix of queer writers talk

Kicking the Doors Wide Open

sex, relationships, race, identity, what we like to read, and who we like to read,” the podcast brings humor and wit to conversations about the arts, culture, and the contemporary queer experience, particularly highlighting queer people of color and gender nonconforming and trans people. The group tours the country frequently to give live shows, and has watched *Food 4 Thot* grow to become one of the most successful Society & Culture shows on Apple Podcasts.

“Denne is one of the most resilient and vulnerable writers I know,” says Tommy Pico, a poet as well as a cohost of the podcast, which launched in 2017. “She tricks you with the levity of her personality, but underneath that she’s extremely hard-working, and she sees and knows everything.”

Norris is also an award-winning fiction writer, penning works that highlight the experience of queer Black characters navigating social, religious, sexual, and academic landscapes. Her chapbook of short stories, *Awst Collection — Dennis Norris II*, was named one of the best books of 2018 by Powell’s Bookstore, and her stories have appeared in prestigious national publications like *McSweeney’s*, *American Short Fiction*, *Smokelong Quarterly*, and others, as well as in several anthologies.

As in life, names are also important in Norris’s fiction, and she confesses to obsessing over naming her characters. “I can’t just pick any old name,” she says. “It has to be right. And when I find the right name, I know I truly understand who the character is.”

In August, Norris became the first Black, openly trans woman to helm a major literary publication when *Electric Literature*—an online journal with an annual readership of 5.5 million that strives to make literature exciting, relevant, and inclusive—named her editor-in-chief.

“It feels amazing,” she tells me, as we sit in her West Harlem apartment talking over the sounds of Manhattan traffic and the dings of Slack messages rolling in. Leaning back against her green velvet couch, she is quick to laugh, and speaks with deliberation and grace. “I feel like I have power professionally, which I’ve never felt before,” she says. “I feel like I get to use that to continue to kick the door open even wider. Forty years ago, ‘literary’ meant straight white male and stylistically spare. And now it’s so many more things. And it should be even more things.”

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Growing up in the liberal suburb Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Norris was the child of a second-generation Baptist minister and a schoolteacher classically trained in voice and piano. “Creativity is kind of the family business,” she says, referring not only to her mother but to her two sisters: One once worked as the manager of the Public Theater in New York City, and the other is part of the three-time Grammy-nominated jazz ensemble the Baylor Project.

Norris attended the University School in Hunting Valley, Ohio, an academically rigorous private, all-boys school, where she pursued her then-dream of becoming a professional classical violist and was one of the only Black students and one of the only openly gay students. One of her teachers there, as well as her private viola teacher—both Bryn Mawr alumnae—supported her creatively and encouraged Norris to apply to Haverford.

“From the moment we stepped onto campus, literally driving up Duck Pond Lane, I felt at peace and I felt at home,” she says. It also didn’t hurt that her tour guide was a violist of color and that Haverford offered a generous financial aid package.

Norris arrived in August of 2004, the last year that the Tri-College Summer Multicultural Institute was open exclusively to students of color. She describes it as an awakening, similar to how other Black intellectuals describe arriving at Howard University, sometimes called “The Mecca.”

“My only experience of Black people was in Cleveland where [they] were all Christians and all religious,” she says. “It was the first time I didn’t feel a conflict between being Black and queer. I was in this room with 30 super smart and progressive Black people from New York and California and D.C. just getting to know each other. It was a revelation.” Several of the people in that room would become important friends to Norris throughout her four years at Haverford and beyond. “A lot of those friendships have endured and been important to me personally and professionally,” she says, mentioning in particular fellow writers **Mari Christmas ‘08**, whose fiction Norris had the opportunity to edit when she began working at literary journals, and **Joanna Benjamin ‘09**.

While Norris’s parents tolerated her queerness at home, they did not encourage it, and being a student at Haverford was the first time she felt

completely free to be herself. She played viola all through her time at the College, playing in the Bi-College Orchestra and in chamber ensembles.

“I really started to lean into my femininity at Haverford because I felt safe enough to do that,” she says. At orchestra performances, she took to sporting a black dress and sparkly silver heels. One of her musical colleagues approached her after a performance and gushed, “My grandmother loved your shoes.”

Free to explore intellectually, Norris pursued political science at first, but a summer internship working for a congressional candidate quickly disabused her of this dream. “I saw what it took to get elected,” she says, “and I didn’t like it.” On a whim her junior year, she took an English class called “Contemporary Women Writers” taught by then-professor (now dean) **Theresa Tensuan ’89**, and her world was rearranged. Not only was Tensuan the first to introduce Norris to books written by women of color, but she also showed the class parts of *Paris Is Burning*, the iconic 1990 film documenting the lives of Black transgender women in the ball culture of New York City.

“One reaction was, ‘Oh my God, this is amazing,’ and the other reaction was, ‘Oh my God, this is too much for me,’” Norris says. “I identified so strongly with some of the girls in it, but I was also scared of the reality of what it meant to be a Black trans woman.”

She quickly switched her major to English and took her first creative writing workshop, which led to another and then another—and for the first time heard about a degree called a Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in creative writing. But, she says, it was her thesis, advised by Tensuan, that first made her fall in love with writing. In it, Norris explored the sexual agency of Black women in Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, among other texts.

“I remember it was a beautiful day, and I was



Norris (far left) in 2017 with fellow writers Fran Tirado, Tommy Pico, and Joe Osmundson. The four cohost the podcast *Food 4 Thot*, which has become one of the most successful Society & Culture shows on Apple Podcasts.

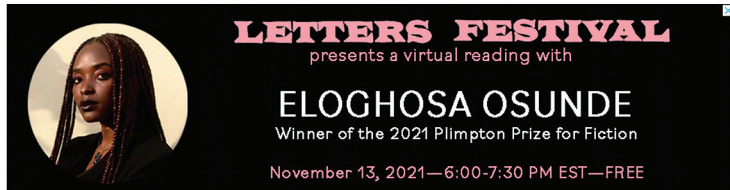
walking across Founder’s Green with my thesis, to go hand it in. People kept stopping me, and I kept telling them about the work I held in my hand, and I felt an enormous sense of pride at this thing that I had created. I remember thinking, ‘This feeling means something. Maybe I want to be a writer.’ ”

But the world would not make it easy. Norris graduated in May of 2008 at the very height of the recession and moved back home to Cleveland without a job.

“I didn’t want to play viola anymore,” she says. “I just started writing. I wrote a short story, and it took me the whole summer, and I read over it and I was like, ‘This is terrible. But this is what I want to do with my life.’ ”

In between shifts working at the high-end cosmetics and soap brand LUSH, Norris wrote and read literary fiction and started looking into MFA programs. Quickly realizing she couldn’t stay in Cleveland anymore, she transferred to the Philadelphia branch of LUSH in Center City and also took a job as an apprentice at the Walnut Street Theatre. Though she was still reading voraciously and watching old *Charlie Rose* show interviews with renowned writers, she says she actually prized the hours she spent selling fancy soap, too.

“A big part of my role at *Electric Literature* is



A Graphic Novel About 100 Years of Matrilineal Family History, From South China to Singapore

Weng Pixin on reimagining the lives of five generations of her female ancestors in "Let's Not Talk Anymore"

BY SAMANTHA CHEH



The online literary journal *Electric Literature*, where Norris is editor-in-chief, has an annual readership of 5.5 million.

being public-facing. I attribute my ability to be a good public representative and be in front of strangers and speak with confidence about who I am and what I think to my time at LUSH.”

An acceptance to the prestigious MFA program at Sarah Lawrence in 2010 soon offered her the opportunity to write full-time. She credits some of her success to the excellence of her MFA education—which allowed her to read more broadly and experiment with new forms and genres—her diverse and talented cohort, and the school’s proximity to the publishing industry in New York. But the program also prompted some deep and difficult reflections when it came to writing about race.

“I understood that most readers would assume by default that my characters were white if I didn’t identify them otherwise,” she says. “And I believed that there had to be a reason within my story for a character to be Black. That depressed me: that my identity was so marginal that unless it had a tangible use as a plot point, there was no value in it.”

After she turned in a story about a straight white couple, one of her colleagues of color took her aside and asked, “Why are you writing about white people? Ninety-four percent of literary publishing is about white people. Why would you want to add to that?”

These questions, in addition to the death of her father later that year, brought about a kind of existential crisis.

“I left Sarah Lawrence at the end of my first year feeling like, ‘Maybe I’m not a writer, maybe I should

go to law school.’ Not because I didn’t want to write, but because I was so overwhelmed by these questions and didn’t know how to solve them.”

A special summer writing program sponsored by the Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation (VONA), which admits only writers of color, came just at the right time. The members of Norris’s cohort, she discovered, seemed to approach writing from a place of Blackness as central, not marginal, and seemed to have found ways to be writing specifically for other Black people, free of the white gaze.

“They taught me that there is enormous value in me putting my identities on the page every time,” she says. “I think what VONA did was it freed me from feeling obliged to write about whiteness in order to be taken seriously.”

By the time she came back to Sarah Lawrence for her second year, she knew she would never write about straight white people again, and she had the start of what would become her first novel.

Life is twisty, and writers—especially writers with loans from prestigious MFA programs—need to pay the bills, so Norris took jobs at several non-profits while working toward her dream of becoming a writer, and along the way she added literary editor to that dream. She took a part-time unpaid position as the fiction editor of a small journal called *Apogee*, and then at a well-regarded online journal called *The Rumpus*. (“An unfortunate reality of cutting your teeth in publishing for many is taking on years of unpaid labor,” she says.)

While in these positions, Norris published many Black writers and writers of color who have since gone on to win major prizes and secure book deals. Among them: Deesha Philyaw, author of *The Secret Life of Church Ladies*, and Dantiel Moniz, author of *Milk Blood Heat*. She also kept writing and got an agent for her novel. But she still feared she would never reach a place where she could work full-time on what she loved: writing and editing.

“When I decided in early 2021 that I wanted to be an editor, I felt like, ‘I don’t have the experience, I haven’t come up in publishing, I guess that’s out of reach for me.’ But then looking at Black Lives Matter and looking at what publishing was doing to bring Black people in, I reframed it and I was like, ‘I think I can do this.’” She revised her resume and cover letter, and the first full-time editing job she applied for was at *Electric Literature*. She was stunned when they made an offer.

Halimah Marcus, executive director of *Electric*

Literature, had this to say about Norris: “In addition to being a talented and accomplished editor, Denne Michele’s warmth and passion for mentorship, on and off the page, helps writers and readers who have been excluded by the literary establishment feel welcomed at *Electric Lit*. It’s one thing to be an astute editor, and another thing entirely to build community. Denne Michele does both beautifully.”

Jennifer N. Baker, an essayist, fiction writer, creator/host of the podcast *Minorities in Publishing*, and a former *Electric Literature* contributing editor, lauds the “empathy, attentiveness, and humor” Norris brings to her work and says, “I am honestly so stoked to see Denne Michele take on a leadership role. What she’ll bring to *Electric Literature* is a true extension of its growth as a more inclusive and aware literary space.”

Meanwhile, after taking on this new position, the upheaval and quarantine that accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic gave Norris more time alone to think and reflect. She realized she needed to come out publicly as a trans woman and complete her gender journey by changing her name.

“Hello world!! My name is Denne Michele and I’m a reader, a writer, a former figure skater, and a Black Trans Woman,” she tweeted on June 6, 2021. “So happy to meet you!” That tweet quickly went viral in Twitter’s literary circles.

Her family also has been supportive. “I think it helped that we are connected on social media, so my family has seen my gender variant presentation for some time now, so it wasn’t a huge surprise, though it is an adjustment,” Norris says. “They are still getting used to my new name, and I’m gracious about that because I love them, and know they mean no harm. They’ve known me for 35 years as the man they believed me to be; these things take time, and it’s OK to mess up, as long as you own it and learn from it.”

Norris’s novel, following a queer Black boy’s estranged relationship with his Baptist minister father, is on the verge of completion, and she and her agent have plans to send it out to publishers this winter. Her work with *Electric Literature* has only put a bigger spotlight on her vision for the future of inclusive literature and on her own work.

“Denne’s writing confronts problems both contemporary and eternal—the problem of being alive, and the trouble of being alive *right now*,” says friend and fellow writer **Hilary Leichter ‘07**. “I can’t wait to see her take that kind of omnivorous and urgent approach to prose into

her editorial role at *Electric Literature*.”

“One thing I am reflecting on,” Norris says. “Is my time at *Electric Literature* going to be about me bringing more seats to the table, or is it going to be about me upending the table and building a new table, metaphorically speaking, that has no borders?”

She is especially excited to discover, nurture, and lift up the careers of writers of color, specifically Black trans writers. Of her history-making job, she says: “My feeling is, I’m the first, but I damn sure am not going to be the last.”

*Emma Copley Eisenberg’s fiction, essays, and reportage have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post Magazine, McSweeney’s, Granta, The New Republic and other publications. She is the author of The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia, which was a New York Times notable book of 2020. Her next two books, a novel and a collection of short stories, are forthcoming from Hogarth (Penguin Random House). She last wrote for the magazine about **Eve Gleichman ‘11** and their new novel, The Very Nice Box.*



GLOSSARY

Gender nonconforming: A broad term for people whose gender expression does not conform to the traditional expectations of their gender, or whose gender expression does not fit neatly into a category. While many gender nonconforming people may also identify as transgender, not all do.

Queer: A term used to encompass a spectrum of identities and orientations. Previously used as a slur, this term has been reclaimed and is now considered the most preferred and most flexible umbrella label for the LGBTQIA+ community. (Note: What began as a four-letter acronym, LGBT, has expanded to become more inclusive. Today, the letters are commonly understood to stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or sometimes questioning), intersex, and asexual, with the + sign denoting anything on the gender and sexuality spectrum that words can’t yet describe.)

Trans: People whose gender identity and/or expression diverges from gendered expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth; for example, a person who identifies as a woman and was thought to be male when she was born. Trans identity can look very different in many different cases. Some trans men and women choose to undergo gender-affirming surgery and/or take hormones, and some do not; some choose to adopt a more culturally traditional masculine or feminine gender expression, and some do not. No specific medical, hormonal, or appearance-based markers are required to “make” someone a trans man or woman; simple self-identification is enough.

—E.C.E.

A Quaker Marine in Afghanistan

By Colleen Farrell '08

Freshly returned from a semester abroad studying the battles at Thermopylae, Hellenistic culture, and Athena, the goddess of warfare, I was sitting across from my advisor in his office talking about my plans for the future, which involved becoming a Marine. “I would advise you against joining the military,” he said. He drew this advice from personal experience; he had spent the Vietnam War deployed as a combat medic and knew too well the toll war can take on a person.

A week later, I sat across from my Marine Corps recruiter in the Starbucks on Ardmore Avenue. I distinctly remember signing the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” documents, a reminder of how different the military would be from Haverford College, which celebrated the inner light in everyone. I was reminded of this difference again on weekends in my senior year as I attended boot-camp-style Marine trainings where I was denigrated by screaming drill instructors, then returned each Sunday night to Haverford’s peaceful campus where I was encouraged to indulge my intellectual curiosity.

That dichotomy was something I would continue to grapple with long after graduation. Raised in a Quaker family and a product of Quaker schools since the age of four, I was a Quaker and I was a Marine. The duality that seemed to define my adult life had its roots in my hometown. I was from Philadelphia, a city founded on Quakerism that also gave birth to the Marine Corps.

While there was not much time for reflection at my first military posting at Camp Pendleton in California, I was able to think about what I wanted my impact to be. When the opportunity



to lead a new type of unit called the Female Engagement Team (FET) arose in 2010, I volunteered. The FET was developed to aid the infantry in counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan by building relationships with Afghans. This was especially needed because male soldiers could not be in close contact with or search Afghan women.

As we began to do the work of the FET, I realized it was much more than searching women for items the military deemed dangerous. My team was located in a rural area of Afghanistan, where women’s healthcare was hard to come by and many girls’ schools had been destroyed by the Taliban. My team believed in the power that comes from educating a girl, and we created healthcare, education, and safety net programs for Afghan women. As I did this work, the duality came back to me. Was I helping Afghan women or was I helping the U.S. military in its counterinsurgency efforts? Could it be possible that I was doing both? I began to reconcile what I had always viewed as two

opposite institutions, approaches, and ways of thinking. This is when I finally had a fuller answer to the question I am asked often: “Why would a Quaker join the Marine Corps,” an organization antithetical to pacifism?

My work on the FET made me realize that we need people who have spent time contemplating equality and peace making important decisions in a time of war. We need people who think that educating women and girls in Afghanistan could assist with peace in the future. We need people who are capable of being tough and compassionate, empathetic and objective, able to deal with paradoxes, who can be balanced

despite the conflicting demands of a situation. Wouldn’t we want someone with a Quaker background to be making the kinds of impossible decisions a 23-year-old infantry platoon commander must make?

After separating from the military four years later, I watched from afar as the towns I served in fell, year after year, slowly but persistently, to the Taliban—culminating this year with our military’s complete withdrawal and the fall of Kabul. Like most veterans who served during the Global War on Terrorism, I had a feeling our time in Afghanistan could end this way, but a hope that it would not. The weekend that Kabul fell, I thought of my advisor. I felt a kinship to Vietnam veterans that hadn’t surfaced before. The questions that frame my time in service swirled in my mind. Did we do any good? Why do I feel that after 20 years of a military presence, it is only now that our nation cares about Afghanistan and the thousands facing persecution? And the one question that eats away at most

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Class News



The traditional September plant giveaway for first-year students. (Sophomores who were not on campus last year were also invited to select a plant.)



HVERFORD COLLEGE

Due to privacy concerns, the Class News section is not included in the digital edition of *Haverford Magazine*. To get updates on your classmates and other Haverford grads, sign in to the alumni community, fords.haverford.edu.

Alumni Obituaries

43 John Severinghaus died June 2 at age 99. A research scientist and inventor, Severinghaus started his career by contributing to the development of radar at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Radiation Lab during World War II, before the atomic bombing of Hiroshima convinced him to change fields from physics to medicine. He graduated from Columbia University Medical School in 1949, then served as a medical missionary in Navajo settlements. He joined the National Institutes of Health in 1953, where he invented the first electrode to measure carbon dioxide in the blood and the first blood gas analyzer, the latter of which has become a vital diagnostic tool in hospitals worldwide. In 1958, he joined the anesthesia department at University of California San Francisco, where he studied the effects of high altitude on blood gases, sometimes even acting as his own test subject. He authored over 400 papers, had a lecture series named after him by the American Society of Anesthesiologists, and was an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Anesthetists. Outside of work, Severinghaus was a hobbyist photographer, sang in the local choir, and traveled often with family, enjoying the Sierras particularly. He was a part of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin, the chairman of the Marin Healthcare District Board, and a member of Physicians Against Nuclear War. He was predeceased by his wife, Elinor, and is survived by his children, Ed, Jean, Wendy, and Jeff; two grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

44 John Frantz died Aug. 31. After college, Frantz attended the University of Rochester School of Medicine until 1946, when he entered the U.S. Air Force as an officer. He finished medical school while in service, conducting his internship at Henry Ford Hospital

in Detroit, Mich., and serving in a research lab in Dayton, Ohio, studying the survival of downed airmen under conditions of extreme cold. He completed his residency in internal medicine at University of Colorado Medical School, and worked in Colorado and Missouri before moving to Monroe, Wisc., where he worked as an internist until his retirement in 2007. He, his wife, and their three youngest daughters also spent two years volunteering with the U.S. Peace Corps at Nangarhar University in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. Frantz took great care to help educate the patients under his care, penning numerous informational articles about common diseases. He later self-published a collection of his writings, called *Sustainability*. Frantz was an outdoorsman and an environmentalist, and enjoyed backpacking, kayaking, and supporting local environmental and social justice organizations. He was predeceased by his daughters Betsy and Margaret, and is survived by his wife, Mary; his daughters Barbara, Caroline, and Winifred; 11 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

45 Lewis Johnson died March 22 at age 97. Johnson served in the United States military during World War II, graduated from the University of Louisville School of Law in 1949, and received his master's in divinity from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in 1958. He lived and worked as a missionary in Iran for decades, and was fluent in Persian. Upon his return to the U.S., he moved to Virginia, where he served as a lawyer and a Presbyterian minister. Johnson is survived by his wife, Parvaneh; his daughter, Sallie; his son, Marshall; his stepson, Mahmoud; and six grandchildren.

48 Jerald Howe died June 20 in Olney, Md. The son of a U.S. Army officer, Howe moved frequently during childhood, but in high school in Connecticut showed such promise in baseball that he was offered a contract as a pitcher by the New York Yankees, which he turned down to attend college. He began college at the United States Military Academy West Point, but after marrying his wife, Barbara, they returned to her

home in the Philadelphia area, and he finished his degree at Haverford. Post college, he began a career in home furnishings manufacturing in the Washington, D.C. area. He worked on several premium furniture lines, and was recognized with multiple lifetime achievement awards over his 60-year career. Howe shared his love of athletics with his children and grandchildren, and was a coach, mentor, and avid attendee at his family's sporting events. He was twice elected as president of the "Fathers' Club" of St. Albans School in Washington, D.C. He was predeceased by his wife, Barbara, and son Christopher, and is survived by his sons Michael and Jerald Howe, Jr.; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

John Larson died Jan. 2, 2020, at age 96. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and spent his career as a public relations officer for the U.S. Department of Defense. After college, he attended the University of Minnesota, receiving his graduate degree in history. Larson authored many books, including one on the history of the Chicago District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; he also wrote frequently for the Ramsey County Historical Society. He owned and operated Merrill's Landing boat rental facility on the banks of the St. Croix River for roughly 40 years, and served on both the St. Croix Hospital Board and the planning committee for the city of Taylors Falls, Minn. Larson was preceded in death by his wife, Ingrid, and is survived by his son, Richard Holland; his longtime friend Heinz Latzel; and his cousins, Walter Simonson and Mark Johnson.

49 Jack Henkels died Sep. 2. Before attending college, Henkels served three years in the U.S. Army during World War II, an experience he later documented in his 1997 memoir, *They Also Serve: An Armorer's Life in the ETO*. After the war, he attended Haverford, and then began work at his family's utility construction business, Henkels & McCoy, working in Pennsylvania and Utah during his career. He was an active member of his community, serving on the boards of Whitman College and the Utah Opera, and running an arts festival to benefit the



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to: alumni@haverford.edu.

Or, mail them to: Haverford College,
c/o Alumni and Parent Relations,
370 Lancaster Ave., Haverford, PA 19041

St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen. After his retirement, he earned a master's degree in history from the University of Utah in 1988. Henkels was an active parishioner at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Salt Lake City, a fixture on the tennis courts at the Cottonwood Country Club, and an avid fisherman and traveler. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean, and his daughter Helen, and is survived by his twelve children, John, Margret, Larry, Barbara, Anne, Mark, Jean, Richard, Edward, Diane, Donna, and Andrea; his grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren.

51 Benson Birdsall died April 25. Weeks before he was set to graduate college, Birdsall enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, and served as a pilot during the Korean conflict, earning an Air Service Medal. Upon discharge, he completed his studies at Haverford. Birdsall was a lifelong advocate for people experiencing homelessness and mental illness, helping to establish and staff an emergency shelter, a drop-in center, and a clubhouse for clients with mental illness. He also oversaw the construction of apartments for the homeless in Haverhill, Mass. He was honored at his 50th class reunion with the Haverford Award for Service to Humanity. Birdsall will be remembered for his willingness to share his home with friends in need, his witty remarks, and his storytelling abilities. He is survived by his nephews Clayton and Daniel; his nieces Mary and Lisa; Lisa's children, Caitlyn and Cameron; and his cousin Abbie-Jane.

Edward Westhead died of cancer on June 1, three weeks shy of his 91st birthday. After receiving his bachelor's and his master's degrees at Haverford, he earned his Ph.D. from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, and studied as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Uppsala and the University of Minnesota. In 1966, Westhead formed the department of biochemistry at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; he was later the first director of the institution's doctoral program in molecular and cellular biology. He was a longtime member of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a founder of the ongoing Symposium on Chromaffin Cell

Biology, and a visiting professor at several universities around the world. Westhead read broadly, enjoyed concerts and museums, traveled extensively, and was an avid outdoorsman until the last months of his life. In his later years, he began chronicling his adventures, including a solo trip he made down the Mekong river in Thailand in a foldable kayak in the 1950s. Westhead is survived by his wife of 24 years, Evelyn; his daughter, Victoria; his son, Edward; his six stepchildren, Liz, Janet, Karen, Mariella, Arthur, and Jason; and two grandchildren.

52 Richard Messick died Aug. 17 at age 90. After college, he received his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, and interned at Abington Memorial Hospital, before he served in the U.S. Naval Reserve and with the Second Marine Airwing. He was discharged in 1958, and then completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Temple University. During his career, Messick was a member of the Burlington County Obstetrical & Gynecological Society and practiced at Zurbrugg Memorial Hospital in Riverside, N.J., for over 30 years. At the facility, he served as the president of staff and provided many public educational courses. He was also on the staff of Rancocas Valley Hospital in Willingboro, NJ. Outside of medicine, Messick enjoyed travel, golf, cooking, and spending time with friends and family. Patients and family members alike will remember him for his dedication and compassion. Messick is survived by his wife, Nancy; his three children, Debbie, Lisa, and R. Richard Messick, Jr.; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

54 Darrah Thomas died Aug. 7 of pancreatic cancer. After college, Thomas attended the University of California, Berkeley, graduating with his Ph.D. in 1957 and serving as an assistant professor at the institution until 1959. At Berkeley, he did research in nuclear chemistry with Nobel Prize-winning professor Glenn Seaborg. Thomas worked for Brookhaven National Labs, and served as a professor of chemistry at Princeton

University and Oregon State University in Corvallis, Ore. At the latter school, he also served as the chair of the chemistry department and the director of the Center for Advanced Materials Research, and was named professor emeritus in 1997. He received numerous awards through his career, and was active in research at the institution well past retirement, publishing his most recent paper in early 2021. Thomas was a lover of the outdoors, an avid bird-watcher and fly-fisherman, and traveled often with his wife, Barbara. Family will remember his meticulous planning for family reunions, his razor-sharp sense of humor, and his curiosity about all aspects of the world. He was preceded in death by his son David, and is survived by his wife, Barbara; his son Steven; his daughters, Kathleen and Susan; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

55 Anthony Borton P'84 died June 6, the day of his 88th birthday. He earned a master's and Ph.D. in animal husbandry at Michigan State University. In 1964, he accepted a teaching post in the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at University of Massachusetts Amherst; he remained teaching there until his retirement in 1995. He co-authored the textbook *The Horse* in 1977, which was used in numerous institutions across the U.S., and worked to expand the equine studies program at UMass. In addition to teaching, he operated an Arabian horse breeding program and attended and judged horse shows in New England and beyond. He enjoyed traveling, hiking, and spending time outdoors on his farm in Conway, Mass., and was active in local government and land conservation efforts. In the final two years of his life, Borton penned an unpublished memoir of the pivotal moments in his life. He will be remembered for his ready smile and warm, quick wit. Borton was preceded in death by his wife, Ann, and his father, **Hugh Borton '26**, who served as president of the College from 1957 to 1967. He is survived by his daughter, Tami; his son, **Timothy Borton '84**; his two grandchildren; his dear friend Penny Degeorges; and his German Shepherd Sukee.

Alumni Obituaries

Charles Neuhaus died July 26. He was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy in 1956, and worked in naval intelligence for 30 years, serving tours of duty in Germany, Morocco, and Vietnam. He retired with the rank of captain in 1987. An expert on the Soviet military and clandestine intelligence collection, he was decorated with the Legion of Merit and five other meritorious awards plus the Combat Action Ribbon. After retirement, he remained active in history studies, and his hobby of classic cars. He was predeceased by his son, Charles “Ched” Neuhaus, and is survived by his wife of 40 years, Reni; his previous wife and mother of his four children, Joan; his daughters, Suzanne, Catherine, and Caroline; and four grandchildren.

56 Ted Regan died Aug. 28. After high school, Regan joined the Marines, serving until the end of the Korean War in 1952. After college, he joined N.W. Ayer & Son in Philadelphia as a copywriter. He remained at Ayer for 35 years, assisting on many of the agency’s blue-chip accounts, including DuPont, De Beers Diamonds, and AT&T. Perhaps his most recognized work was on a recruiting campaign with the U.S. Army; Regan later received a Clio award for crafting the campaign’s slogan, “Be All You Can Be.” Regan and his family remained in the Philadelphia area throughout his career even when Ayer moved its headquarters to New York; he would commute daily until his retirement in 1991. He loved the ocean, golf, his family, and a good party, and family and friends will remember him for his nicknames, his faith, and his “cackle.” He was preceded in death by his son Teddy. In addition to his wife, Mary Anne, he is survived by his daughters, Tracey Papariello, Ann Papariello, and Alison Edwards; his son Jeffrey; and 11 grandchildren.

59 Morris Longstreth died June 18 at age 88. After college, he received his master’s in divinity from Philadelphia Divinity School in 1963, and his master’s in English from Villanova University in 1970. He worked as an English professor at Montgomery County Community College and was an associate pastor at Christ Episcopal Church in Pottstown, Pa.

An avid community volunteer, Longstreth regularly delivered food with Meals on Wheels, assisted in church services at care homes, taught GED courses at the local prison, and served as a Big Brother to a group of teenage boys. He was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Pottstown. Longstreth will be remembered for his kind spirit and devotion to others, and for his support as a mentor to his students. He was predeceased by his father, **William C. Longstreth Class of 1913**, and is survived by his wife of 61 years, Barbara; his son, Paul; his daughters, Elizabeth Lee and Lydia Longstreth; and five grandchildren.

John Smith died Aug. 21 at age 84. After college, Smith served in the U.S. Navy, and then became the proprietor of Smith’s Furniture in Quakertown, Pa., for over three decades. Outside of work, Smith enjoyed games including golf, racking up three holes-in-one in his lifetime, and frequently playing under par. He was a talented woodworker, and built a single mast sailboat with his father they called the Double Bogey. Smith attended the First United Church of Christ in Quakertown, and was an active member of the Quakertown Rotary Club. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lynn, and is survived by his children, Dana and Robin; five grandchildren; and his longtime companion, Arlene Price.

61 Roger Groves died Aug. 17 at age 82. He served as a social worker for the Philadelphia Department of Public Assistance for three years, before completing his master’s in English literature at Temple University in 1967. While teaching mathematics in a private school, he attended The University of Lausanne School of Medicine in Switzerland, graduating in 1971. He was the sports medicine physician at Great Valley High School in Malvern, Pa., and served as a general practitioner for many years. In 1986, he also completed a Juris Doctor degree through the LaSalle Extension University, and often served as an expert medical witness in medical malpractice cases. Groves was a fan of classic literature and of sculpting, and was described by a friend as a philosopher-physician. He is

survived by his wife of 56 years, Susan; his three daughters, Allison, Elizabeth, and Rebecca; and six grandchildren.

62 Richard Parker died Aug. 13 of prostate cancer. Parker received his master’s degree from Brown University in 1963, and earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Chicago in 1968. He then attended Harvard Law School, graduating in 1971. Over the next decade, Parker taught at Rutgers Law School and practiced law in Boston. He then spent a year consulting in a law firm in Seoul, Korea, and conducted a Fulbright teaching year in Sendai, Japan, at Tohoku University in 1983. He held a visiting professorship at Osaka University from 1985 to 1987, before joining the faculty at Hiroshima Shudo University, where he worked for 18 years. Outside of work, Parker enjoyed fishing and studying Japanese language and culture, particularly Noh performances. He returned to the U.S. in 2008, moving to Maine where he lived until his death. In retirement, he taught and took classes at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Southern Maine. He was predeceased by his first wife, Valerie Mawdsley, and is survived by his second wife, Patricia; his brother, **David Parker ‘66**; his daughter, Anne Bergman; and two grandchildren.

63 Kent Smith died June 7, from Alzheimer’s disease and associated issues. He attended New York University School of Law, graduating in 1966. In the ensuing years, Smith worked as a lawyer in New York for the Reader’s Digest Association, the New York City Parks Department, and Time Inc. After leaving Time, he became increasingly involved in the operations of the Crowley Cheese Factory, in Healdville, Vt., which his parents had purchased in 1967. He took over management fully in 1987. Smith had a close lifetime association with The Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School, attending as a student and serving on the school’s board of trustees from 1969 to 2020. In his retirement, he moved to Rutland, Vt., where he coached cross-country and track for several area schools. A lifelong athlete, he was an avid

tennis player and runner who completed more than 30 marathons, including one above the Arctic Circle, as well as the 192-mile Hood to Coast relay race in Oregon. He is survived by his son, **Justin Smith '91**; his daughter, Ashley; and four grandchildren, including **Ashton Smith '23**.

64 Arthur Wood died July 14. After graduation from Haverford, Wood joined the College's Office of Admission, working as an admission assistant and then as assistant director of admission until 1967. From there, Wood built a number of careers in his lifetime, from research and advocacy to public policy consultancy. He served as the chair of the AIDS Committee of Toronto and board member of numerous charities and political associations, and was a medieval scholar and farmer. He was known to friends and family members as a teller of stories, a lover of dogs, and the loquacious host of hundreds of dinner parties at his home in The Beach neighborhood of Toronto. He is survived by his spouse of 33 years, Alan Hall; his cousins; and Alan's family in Canada and Australia.

65 Clay Stites died Aug. 27 after a heart attack. He spent a year at the London School of Film Technique in 1966, and attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, graduating with his MFA in film studies in 1969. Stites began teaching, and served as the head of the middle school at Wheeler School in Providence, R.I., before becoming headmaster of Friends Academy in North Dartmouth, Mass., in 1977. In his 15 years at Friends Academy, he took an active role as headmaster, greeting each student by name in the morning, participating in recess, teaching science and math, and leading student trips to Nantucket, the USSR, and China. He left Friends Academy in 1992 and moved to Los Angeles, where he was head of the Curtis School for five years. Upon retirement from that position, he co-founded the consulting firm RG175, and worked for 24 years as a consultant to independent schools. He and his wife Clara moved to Kendal Crosslands at Longwood in 2017. He will be remembered for his sense of

humor and public oratorship, and as a leader, dedicated pet owner, and loyal friend. In addition to his wife, Clara, he is survived by his brother, **Daniel Stites '60**; his son, Page; his daughter, Elizabeth; and four grandchildren.

68 Irving Crandall died May 23. Crandall served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, and then moved to Minneapolis, Minn., upon his return to the States. He earned his master's degree in physics from the University of Minnesota, and worked at Seagate Technology and Control Data for some years. The majority of his career was spent as a technical writer at Medtronic. He played numerous instruments, including bass guitar, clarinet, and kazoo, and was a talented acrylic painter. He loved nature and philanthropy, volunteering frequently in his community, and promoting local artists. In his spare time, he was a volunteer professor of computer literacy skills at Minneapolis Community & Technical College. His compassion and caring were driving forces in his life, and will be remembered for his generous personality, wry sense of humor, and love for sharing knowledge. Crandall was preceded in death by his second wife, Suzanne, and is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth; first wife, Sharon; and several nephews, nieces, and friends.

74 Alan Colsey died July 14 of cancer. He was 69. Perhaps best known for his role in the arrest of three people involved in the Brinks robbery-murders in 1981, Colsey served as police chief of New York's South Nyack-Grand View Police Department from 1980 to 2004. While still in his junior year of college, he was sworn into the police force. In addition to the Brinks case, Colsey was involved in numerous high-profile criminal investigations and assisted in efforts to computerize police records, update first responder technology, and conduct specialized police training. He served as president of numerous organizations including the Mid-Hudson Association of Police Chiefs and the O'Grady-Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund. Colsey earned master's degrees from Iona College

in 1994 and St. Thomas Aquinas College in 2004. At the latter institution, he served as adjunct professor and director of the MBA program. Colsey was a family man, with passions for history, photography, music, NASCAR, and cooking. He was known to family and friends for his witty one-liners. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; his children, Blair, Ben, Allison, and his "other son" Michael Sansone; and four grandchildren.

79 Edward Andujar died April 1 after a heart attack. Andujar graduated from Harvard Medical School, and conducted his residency at Temple University Hospital. He practiced general medicine in New Jersey for over two decades, before joining LifePharm Global Network in 2011 as a research scientist, studying the efficacy of dietary supplements. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and his daughters, Cosie, Tessa, Arabella, and Phoebe.

Russell Pomeranz died Sep. 4 of pancreatic cancer. After college, Pomeranz earned his master's in business administration from the University of Michigan, and spent his career as a financial strategist for nonprofits. He worked for a number of institutions including the International Center of Photography, Meet the Composer, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Vera Institute of Justice. In recent years, he ran his own consulting firm, Claverack Advisory Group, and wrote numerous articles on financial models for philanthropy. Pomeranz was a long-time trustee for the U.S. Committee for United World Colleges, the chair of Workforce Professional Training Institute, and an active board member of JobPath, among numerous professional affiliations. A lifelong athlete, he could most often be found walking and running the streets of New York City or Claverack, N.Y. His favorite sport was cricket; he was selected to the U.S. cricket team for the 1977 Maccabiah games in Israel, and played summers with the Pakistani Embassy team in the Washington Cricket league for a decade. He is survived by his wife, Christine; his brother, William; and his stepmother, Barbara Barna.

Alumni Obituaries

80 **John Ryan** died Aug. 9. He earned his law degree at the University of Chicago in 1983, and then worked as an associate attorney at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll in Philadelphia. He joined Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hoppel in 1987 and became a partner in 1994, specializing in corporate and real estate law. With his father, Robert Ryan, he co-authored the chapter “Federal Constraints on Land Use Planning” in the legal journal *Pennsylvania Zoning Law and Practice*. After leaving Obermayer in 2015, Ryan worked for a smaller firm in Devon, Pa., and briefly had his own law practice. He was an advisor to SunCenter Studios in Horsham, Pa., was a member of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania bar associations, and was admitted to practice law in federal courts. For almost two decades, he served as solicitor for the Radnor Township Zoning Hearing Board. Ryan was a history buff with a deep interest in

ancient Rome, and enjoyed looking for fossils in the woods. He was active in the Paoli Presbyterian Church in Paoli, Pa., where he taught fourth-grade Sunday school, and served on various committees. He is survived by his wife, Kathie; his daughter, Christine; and his son, Matthew.

81 **Matthew Danly** died July 4 after a long series of medical challenges. A long-time resident of Washington, D.C., Danly worked with a number of organizations, including the Library of Congress. He spent his free time studying art and religion. Danly is survived by family members and friends, including his brother, **Bruce Danly '78**.

89 **Joe Crownover** died Aug. 5 of cirrhosis. After college, he graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in Latin American studies. In 1990, he began working

with Amigos de las Américas, first as a volunteer and then in various program support capacities in Ecuador, Costa Rica, and at the national office in Houston, Texas. More recently, he served as vice president of the board of the organization's Austin, Texas, chapter from 2018 to 2021. In 2000, he began working for Shell Oil Company in education and development, and he served in several roles at the company over the course of two decades. He also was an active board member on a number of educational nonprofit organizations. Crownover was well known for his passion for community service. In recognition of his leadership and service to AMIGOS, Crownover received the 2021 Philip C. Johnson Alumni Service Award before his death. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer; his son, Garrett; his daughter, Taylor; and many other family members, friends, and colleagues around the world.

Roads Taken and Not Taken

continued from page 44
veterans: Was it worth it? What about for those that we lost? Should I have listened to my advisor 10 years ago? But that was the road not taken.

If I had not taken this road, I never would have seen how a Quaker can thrive in the military and make the institution and the work it is doing better in the process. During the time I served in the FET, women were legally barred from serving in combat, a wartime paradox right off the pages of *Catch-22*. The military was insisting on gender inequality as an institutional policy while at the same time circumventing its own policy to allow women to work in combat zones. After I left the Marines, this contradiction moved me, along with three other plaintiffs, to take legal action against the Department of Defense over the ban on women in combat. That lawsuit ultimately forced the military to lift the ban in January 2013.

I feel closer to understanding my relationship to Quakerism because of the road taken. As Quakers, we are asked to

consider if we are called to be pacifists. Ten years on, I would join the Marines again. I know what it is to really know my platoon members and look out for their welfare. I know the feeling of meeting a young girl who yearns to go to school but is banned from doing so. I know the feeling of laughter after 10 weeks without it. I know what it means to be faithful to those on our left and right, both American and Afghan. I know the tension of being “outside the wire”—beyond the security perimeter of the base—for the first time, where anything can happen. I know the feeling of sitting in a Quaker meeting silently offering gratitude for bringing my team home safely. I am grateful for the experiences I have had because of the road taken.

It is as a Quaker former Marine that I continue to support women in Afghanistan from afar. I serve on the board of the

nonprofit Sahar Education, which works to advance girls' education in Afghanistan. With the fall of the Afghan government, our organization's focus has drastically changed from supporting schooling to now fundraising for flights and resettlement expenses to evacuate our staff for whom it has become unsafe to remain in the country. These courageous women and men have helped Sahar educate more than 250,000 girls since 2001. While it is hard not to feel despair as the Taliban returns, I have high hopes that we will be able to continue Sahar's work in the field and am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve such an important mission.

Colleen Farrell served four years as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. She currently lives outside of Boston, Mass. To learn more about supporting Afghanistan and the work of Sahar Education, visit sahareducation.org.

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



This 1980 photograph shows fans filling the bleachers for the men's soccer team's 75th anniversary game against Harvard University. The Haverford players are in the white shirts, and the game took place on Walton Field.

THEN AND NOW



The women's soccer team went up against Ursinus College in a doubleheader in October that also took place on Walton Field, whose grandstands are now on the opposite side of the field. Another big change from our "Then" photo: In 1980, there was no women's soccer program at Haverford. The Board of Managers decision to go co-ed had just been announced in May 1979, and women's sports took a few years to get established. Today, the College has 12 women's varsity teams.

PHOTOS: WALTER HOLT (THEN);
DAVID SINCLAIR (NOW)

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