

Arboreal Diversity

A guide to some of the Arboretum's
5,000-plus trees

Memento Mori

Talking about
death and dying

Thien Le '05

Captaining a dragon boat,
continuing a family legacy

HVERFORD

The Magazine of Haverford College

SUMMER 2021

—
Advocating for
Biotechnology's
Biggest
Innovators



Summer 2021

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

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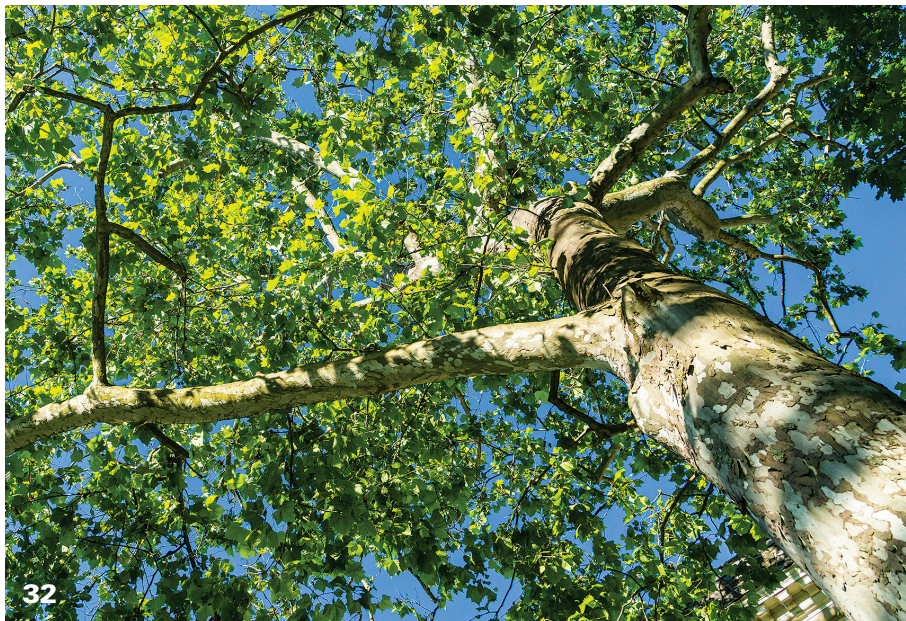
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ON THE COVER:

Washington, D.C.-based patent attorney Eldora L. Ellison '88. Photo by Joe Shymanski.

Back cover: Photo of Founders Green and the Visual Culture, Arts, and Media facility by Patrick Montero.

Inbox

BROKEN ELECTION SYSTEM

Your recent article “Fixing Our Broken Election System” [Spring 2021] does a nice job laying out many of the shortcomings with American democracy as well as the solutions being proposed to combat them. Unfortunately, since the article’s publication, it’s become increasingly clear that not only are voting rights under attack across the nation, but so are the procedures to count votes and resolve election disputes. How the U.S. addresses these challenges could have enormous implications, and I’m glad so many Fords are working to uphold democracy’s foundational principles.

—David Levine '04

(Elections Integrity Fellow, Alliance for Securing Democracy, German Marshall Fund of the United States)

Seeing the work of my fellow alums in the article “Fixing Our Broken Election System” struck a chord with me and my wife, because of our work with FairVote Illinois (fairvoteillinois.org), an ally of FairVote, to promote ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Illinois and throughout the country. We were pleased that the article presented dilemmas, but also solutions, as does RCV. The article ably explains ranked choice voting, thanks to **Rob Richie '84**, president and CEO of FairVote. We would add to Richie’s praises with our own plaudits that RCV enhances diversity in both ideas and candidates, ensures that a winning candidate has a clear majority of votes cast, and empowers voters and candidates by creating an opportunity to coalesce without loss of identity. It could be one more of the foundational structures for electoral reform. Thanks, also, to Ms. Goldberg’s excellent presentation of the other issues plaguing our democratic system, such as gerrymandering, campaign



finance, winner-take-all versus fair representation, Electoral College versus popular vote issues, and voting enfranchisement, and, finally, to her clear, cogent, and concise style.

—Malcolm Litowitz '86, P'15
and Susan Lee P'15

Progressive Democrats have taken a page from the Trump playbook. As we all know, Trump lost the recent election and then claimed “foul.” If only the election had been carried out fairly, he continues to proclaim, he would have won.

But now, the progressive segment of the Democratic Party, as represented in a recent article in *Haverford* magazine, follows the same path. “There is a myth in America that we are a conservative country,” so a representative of Justice Democrats exclaimed, but instead “we are a progressive country with antebellum institutions. . . . We don’t have a democracy that represents the will of the people.” (p. 43)

Those are strong words, and essentially repeat what Trump has said: that the electorate was rigged to deprive their side of the correct outcomes.

While the former president posits that current laws were broken, the Justice Democrats’ position is that current laws violate fundamental democratic principles. In both cases, however, the same judgment is reached: Current outcomes are “cooked” and thereby not legitimate.

A proposal often advanced is to elect presidents through a national popular vote. On a fundamental level, that would represent an important shift towards a unitary form of government and away from the federal structure on which this country was founded. Substantial majorities in a small number of large states could be sufficient to carry an election, and both smaller and more divided states would have little or no role in the outcome.

We have faced divisive times before, but have always found solutions under our constitutional structure. It has promoted our prosperity and our dominant position in the world today. While there remain major issues before us, largely in our efforts to limit currently outrageous degrees of inequality, we should nonetheless hesitate to tinker with our federal system. We should be very wary of reducing its effective structure of checks and balances.

—William S. Comanor '59

*(Distinguished Professor,
Fielding UCLA School of Public Health)*

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View From Founders



The cold and rain on Commencement day did not dampen spirits.

This has truly been a year like no other. We celebrated Commencement, for instance—two weeks later than normal because of our delayed semester start—masked and distanced on a record-cold rainy day that turned Cope Field, the College’s cricket pitch, into a sea of red-and-white umbrellas.

Despite the wet, chilly weather, the good cheer that prevailed brought up yet another swell of gratitude for the enduring strengths of Haverford, even as I’ve come to see our strengths in a new light.

It isn’t simply that we successfully met the challenges of disruption and change prompted by the seasons of COVID-19, even though we did: There were only nine positive on-campus test results among students over the course of the entire school year. The adaptations instituted—and embraced—emerged from a shared sense of commitment to others, and to a better world, that is at the heart of Haverford’s mission.

The College was particularly well-positioned to weather this storm because of our commitment

to community, and I see our success as affirmation of our long-standing approach to residential liberal arts education. I knew it was possible that we could do it, and I also knew that what was in our control might not be enough. I will remain ever grateful to our students, faculty, staff, families—and alumni, who support the College with your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure. All of you made our success possible.

And yet COVID-19 was not the only force of change this year, nor the one that I believe will bring the most durable impact and ongoing institutional strength to Haverford. We are experiencing a long-overdue national reckoning with race and racism. The murder of George Floyd last summer came as Haverford students called out and called on the College and its leadership, starting with me, to accelerate progress toward equity for all, beginning with racial equity. A student-led strike ensued, leading to learning, dialogue, and scores of institutional actions, for change today and for the decades

View From Founders

ahead. I now better understand my role and presidential responsibility for bringing about change that will endure.

At the same time, I understand the urgency of this work; it could not wait even as we navigated the intersecting global COVID-19 pandemic. I believe the collective work of students, faculty, staff, and alumni demonstrates that we are urgently and sustainably building a campus climate of inclusive thriving.

In this probing and understanding of our having fallen short, I see the Haverford I deeply admire and the values to which we aspire—of living with trust, concern, and respect. Some alumni and longtime Haverford faculty and staff have pointed out how easy it can be to regard our best intentions as some sort of perpetual motion machine—a source of energy from our “Haverford” identity that powers a sense that we’ve already arrived at a place of equity for all who choose Haverford. Thanks to what we learned before, throughout, and beyond the student-led strike, we now know it’s easier for many of us to see the incomplete picture in that self-perception.

To be clear: It’s not that Haverford doesn’t easily embrace, or testify to, the hard work of equity and inclusion. The challenge lies in how well we navigate this ongoing journey, which will continue to engage us in perpetuity as educators, peers, coaches, deans, alumni, staff, employers, and community members. Our students pointed out, and evidence-based best practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion also reveal, that we have much work to do in understanding and eliminating structural barriers that keep all Fords from thriving once they’re here.

And so we aspire to live by, and live up to, the values we espouse, on an ongoing basis. As part of constant renewal and learning, we neither take things for granted nor let our accomplishments foster complacency. Perpetual adaptation is required for a perpetual institution like our beloved Haverford.

Which brings me to the future. Let’s continue to question our assumptions about whether we have done all there is to do to ensure that every Haverford student has the opportunity to thrive. Let’s continue to discover new knowledge across scholarly and lived domains, fueling the life of the mind and the heart. I feel energized by the collaborative successes of this past year through

our adaptations to COVID-19, our work to make the College a place where all students feel a strong sense of belonging, and the outstanding liberal arts education our faculty and staff provided in a year unlike any other. And I feel the same intensity, drive, and determination in our strategic planning process. Just as this year brought bracing examples of the challenges inherent in change, so too will strategic planning bring forth a variety of perspectives for the best ways forward, building upon and strengthening our foundational values as we move toward Haverford’s third century.

Our alums bring a distinctive perspective to strategic planning that complements current students’ ability to see the College with fresh eyes: You have taken your Haverford values and approach into the world to observe and *live* its difference-making power. That perspective, when applied to planning for the College’s path forward, will help us see where we would benefit from a new or renewed focus, or where we may be failing to stretch in setting goals for ourselves. Just as current students must be able to thrive, so too must we steward the College to thrive for generations to come. Your perspective matters. I look forward to hearing more from you as our planning process continues to engage our constituent communities.

Since its founding in 1833, Haverford has pledged to educate “the whole person.” At the heart of this commitment is a liberal arts education built upon our enduring values. The past year has seen each of us as individuals, families, and communities struggle and grow in myriad ways. It has also been an opportunity for the College itself to grow across multiple registers. And if we succeed in this next stage of Haverford’s growth, it will not be the same school next year, next decade, or 50 years from now, when students again ask whether they are fully and well served by the Haverford of their time.

Whether we regard our past as illustrious or illustrative of challenges, or hold both perspectives simultaneously, there is no substitute for engaging frankly and lovingly with the present as we do the work, begun 188 years ago, of building a college that lives up to its values.

With gratitude,



Wendy Raymond

“
Perpetual adaptation is required for a perpetual institution like our beloved Haverford.
”

HAVERFORD IN SEASON



PHOTO: PATRICK MONTERO

Main Lines



Congratulations, Class of 2021!


The College gave out umbrellas to protect graduates from the rain during Commencement.

On Saturday, May 29, the College held its 183rd Commencement. But it was a ceremony unlike any other. Marking the College's first large, in-person campus event in well over a year, this year's Commencement was held on the cricket field (to maximize distancing), was livestreamed around the globe for the first time ever, and took place in the pouring rain.

But even rain couldn't dampen the good spirits of the resilient members of the Class of 2021, who finished their college careers during a global pandemic. The graduates carried cheerful red-and-white-striped Haverford umbrellas as they processed onto Cope Field and walked across the stage to get their diplomas from President Wendy Raymond.


With the focus firmly on the 325 graduates and

their accomplishments, there were no honorary degrees given at this Commencement ceremony. All of the speakers were members of the Bi-Co community. In addition to Raymond and Bryn Mawr President Kim Cassidy, the Class of 2021 selected Assistant Director of Admission **Praxedes Quintana '18**, **Lourdes Taylor '21**, and Associate Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing Asali Solomon to speak.

In her speech, Solomon offered advice from her 11-year-old son, who wanted the graduates to know: "Whatever career you choose, you'll do great. And even if you don't get famous, some people will remember you when you die." She also encouraged the Class of 2021: "Maybe instead of [pursuing] 'the good life,' use your education and the struggles of the last four years to figure out what constitutes 'a good life.'" —Rebecca Raber

PHOTOS: DAN Z. JOHNSON, PATRICK MONTERO





 Commencement speakers included (top row, from left) Lourdes Taylor '21, Associate Professor of English Asali Solomon, and Assistant Director of Admission Praxedes Quintana '18.



CLASS OF 2020: The College remains eager to invite our Class of 2020 (whose Commencement ceremony was virtual due to the pandemic) back to campus for an in-person celebration that will incorporate treasured Senior Week traditions. We will be in touch with the class once the possibilities become more clear. Contact **Franklyn Cantor '12**, the chair of the Commencement Committee (fcantor@haverford.edu), with any questions. Members of the class who would like to change their contact information for this purpose can do so at this link: hav.to/8b5.

Main Lines

10 THINGS That Make Us Happy

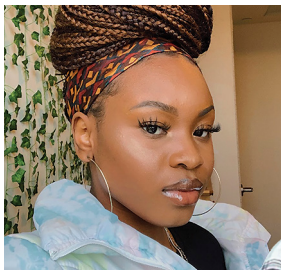


A live and in-person Pinwheel Day on campus. After having to settle for a virtual Pinwheel Day last year, Haverfordians were thrilled to welcome the colorful annual tradition back to Founders Green on the first warm day of spring, which this year happened to be April 27. For a glimpse of the fun (including a 360-degree video of the pinwheel-studded green), search “#pinwheelday” on Instagram.

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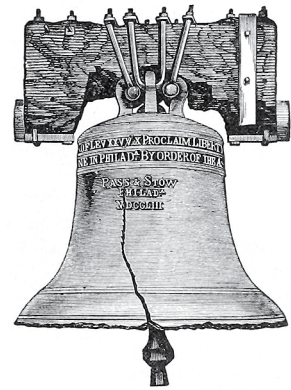
THE CENTER FOR PEACE AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP'S NEW

HaverPhilly Alumni Fellowships, which place recent Bi-Co graduates in entry-level positions at Philadelphia-area mission-driven organizations. The yearlong program is an evolution of the Haverford House Fellows Program, which has done similar work since 2002. The inaugural HaverPhilly Alumni Fellows are sociology major **Mercedes Davis '20** (below left), public health major Deborah Ekwale BMC '21 (below center), and anthropology major **Valentina Zavala-Arbelaez '21** (below right). The fellows will participate in a structured professional development series and also partner with CPGC staff and academic programs to strengthen community-engaged learning for Haverford students.



The television debut of the Hurford Center/NCAM Summer DocuLab project *Bicentennial City*.

The documentary, which charts the years of struggle behind the planning for the 1976 Bicentennial in Philadelphia, aired on PBS station WHYY on July 3 and was available to stream through the month of July. Learn more about the project at exhibits.haverford.edu/bicentennialcity.



The National Science Foundation grant

awarded to Assistant Professor of Biology Kristen Whalen, who will lead a team of interdisciplinary scientists to develop new methods to track and translate complex chemical signals exchanged between phytoplankton and bacteria that are fundamental to ocean ecosystems. The research project, which received \$374,267 from the NSF, is also designed to mentor underrepresented postdoctoral and undergraduate trainees. Four postdoctoral investigators from each of the four collaborating institutions will participate in course-based undergraduate research in the Haverford Department of Biology along with Haverford faculty to build mentoring networks and provide training in equitable and inclusive course design. Aiding this effort will be student consultants in the Bi-Co Students as Learners and Teachers Program.

Jolt, the new student-led, open-access digital science magazine.

Founded in 2021, with a staff of 15 student writers and editors, Jolt reports on recent scientific advancements, research, and discoveries around the world and at Haverford. Recent topics covered include neutrino detectors; crystal syntheses; bark bacteria and greenhouse gas emissions; lightning and the origins of life on Earth; and the ocean as a resource in the antibiotics arms race. Among the goals declared by the founders on the Jolt website: “To give voice to scientists from under-represented backgrounds,” and “dispel notions of incomprehensibility surrounding STEM by writing in a style accessible to all audiences.” Read it at: jolt.sites.haverford.edu.



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THE ROLE OF HAVERFORD FACULTY

in the creation of the *Teaching Responsible Computing Playbook*. The playbook, which aims to help higher education institutions incorporate ethics and responsibility into their computer science curricula, was a collaboration among 22 colleges and universities. One of its coauthors was Associate Professor of Computer Science Sorelle Friedler, who worked with her colleagues at Haverford and at the University of Utah and Brown University to integrate responsible computing ideas into the data structures and algorithms curriculum.

The reopening of the Nature Trail to the public.

When the pandemic shut down the campus in spring 2020, the Nature Trail was officially closed to outside visitors—disappointing many area residents who have come to treasure the trail as a place to get some fresh air and exercise, and commune with nature. (Still able to access the trail were Haverford College campus residents, students, faculty, staff, and emeriti.) With COVID-19 cases waning and vaccinations rising, the College was finally able to reopen the trail on June 1.



THE CATALOG FOR THE LIBRARY EXHIBIT “CROSSING BORDERS: FROM SLAVERY TO ABOLITION, 1670-1865”

being recognized with an award from the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). The exhibit was created by the students in Visiting Assistant Professor of English Sarah Watson’s 2019 writing seminar of the same name, and the catalog (co-edited by Watson and Quaker and Special Collections head Sarah Horowitz) won the ACRL’s Leab Exhibition Award in the student category.

The Thomas J. Watson Fellowships awarded to the **Class of 2021’s Soha Saghir** and **Joseph Stein**. The two recent grads will receive \$36,000 each to support independent research outside the United States. Saghir, a political science major from Karachi, Pakistan, will spend next year visiting seven countries, including New Zealand, India, Egypt, and France, to engage with Muslim communities to better understand their experiences with violence, healing, and peacebuilding. Stein, a native of Boulder, Colo., will travel to Iceland, the Andes, the Himalayas, the Caucasus, and other locales affected by the melting of glaciers, sea ice, and permafrost, to learn how the inhabitants are adapting to these shifts caused by climate change. Saghir and Stein are among 66 Haverford students who have won the prestigious Watson fellowship since 1973.



The Committee for Environmental Responsibility’s Sustainable Cookbook.

This vegetarian/vegan cookbook provides information on the connections between food and the environment, features microwavable recipes for dorm residents, and highlights ingredients that can be found at the Nest, Haverford’s student-run food pantry. The cookbook grew out of this year’s Do It in the Dark competition (DIITD), the annual campus-wide event that challenges dorm residents to reduce their energy use over a three-week period. With the pandemic restricting large group events and many Fords studying remotely, the DIITD student organizers had to devise new ways to promote awareness of energy and consumption. One was the Meatless Challenge, which asked students to cut back on animal products at mealtimes.

Student Mentors Bring STEM Support



In the past academic year, some first-year students in STEM classes got a little help from their friends. A new program, launched by sophomores Elizabeth Mari, Finley Medina, and Tien Vu, matched first-years from first-generation, low-income (FGLI) backgrounds or other marginalized communities with older student mentors who could support them in navigating STEM at Haverford.

“When I was a first-year interested in STEM, I was personally overwhelmed with the different types of requirements, what each department offers, trying to find a job, and thinking about pre-health and graduate school tracks,” said Annette Lee ’22, a biology and psychology double major and one of the program’s mentors. “I think connecting students to someone who already has experience navigating through these aspects of college allows for both academic and social support.”

Each of the 15 mentors served three first-year students in the inaugural year of the Koshland Integrated Natural Sciences Center (KINSC) Peer-Mentorship Program. While the program is student-generated and student-run, it is funded and supported by the KINSC. Mentors, who are paid for their work and receive training from the KINSC at the beginning of the semester, meet weekly with their mentees to offer support as wide-ranging as helping pick classes, navigating professors’ office hours, applying for research opportunities, and building confidence around challenging subject matter.

Mentor **Hasibe Caballero-Gomez ’21**, who

graduated in May with a chemistry major and environmental studies minor, held a session on how to look for and apply for internships. In another session, Caballero-Gomez says, “I spent an entire meeting reaffirming to them that they were capable of doing STEM, and that impostor syndrome was very common, but it didn’t mean they didn’t belong.”


Different from a peer-tutoring service, the Peer-Mentorship Program focuses on guidance managing the curriculum, social support, and relationship-building.

“As a mentor I leveraged the existing resources on campus and tried to ensure that, from their first semester, students know what resources are available to them and how to access them,” said mentor **Camille Samuels ’21**, a health, science, and society major who graduated in May. “Whereas tutoring has the objective of finishing assignments, I wanted to get to know my mentees as people and help them realize and achieve their goals.”

Many of the mentors said they wished this kind of support had been available to them as first-year students struggling to navigate STEM at Haverford. That is why they raised their hands to help the students coming up behind them.

“I received an email last summer about becoming a mentor, and I knew immediately that it was something that I needed to pursue,” said **Madison Adore ’21**, who graduated as a pre-med biology major. “I struggled with STEM courses during my first two years, largely because of the lack of community and support. I knew that I could relate to a lot of the struggles my mentees face, and direct them to the necessary resources.”

“From the outset, the KINSC was excited to support a peer-mentoring program developed specifically by and for students in STEM,” said KINSC Director and Associate Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Studies Helen White. “Peer mentors are in a unique position to understand the range of challenges that students face, particularly in their first year. This program enables peer mentors to share their knowledge, experience, and strategies in ways that help to build a stronger community focused on the success of all students interested in STEM. We look forward to welcoming more students to participate in the program, and to continue playing a part in its evolution.” —R. R.


“I knew that I could relate to a lot of the struggles my mentees face and direct them to the necessary resources,” said **Madison Adore ’21** (above), who was a peer mentor before graduating in May as a pre-med biology major.



**IN THE
COLLECTION**

Spotlighting the holdings of Quaker & Special Collections

It's been called the first modern novel, a foundation of Western literature, and one of the greatest books ever written. That's Miguel de Cervantes's *El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha*, better known as *Don Quixote*, which also has the distinction of being one of the most translated works of literature in the world.

Fortunately for the many Spanish literature classes at Haverford that have studied *Don Quixote* over the years, Quaker & Special Collections houses rare first edition copies of both the first and second parts of the book, published in 1605 and 1615 respectively.

While the novel was an immediate success, Cervantes had struggled for 25 years before that happened, serving as a soldier and a low-level government administrator while trying to forge a career as a playwright. Because he sold the publishing rights to part one of *Don Quixote*, he made little profit from its popularity.

The novel, a peripatetic tale of a self-styled knight (a man of

"reasoned unreason") who goes on a comic/tragic quest with his "squire" Sancho Panza, has been the subject of endless analysis over the centuries and continues to defy easy interpretation. That enduring resonance was explored by students in Israel Burshatin's "Quixotic Narratives" class, who collaborated with the library on a 2015 exhibit titled *Don Quixote Throughout Time: Imaging the Man of La Mancha*.

Organized to mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of Part II of *Don Quixote*, the exhibit, which lives on through its digital component, explores the cultural afterlife of *Don Quixote* in various media, as well as its wide influence in Spain and beyond. Wrote the curators, "The many iterations of *Quixote* examined in this exhibit underscore the vitality of Cervantes's text, revealing the diverse interpretations of the novel and the multifarious uses to which it continues to be put. These readings also demonstrate unequivocally that the novel's truth remains its inherent paradox: that reality is fiction and vice versa."

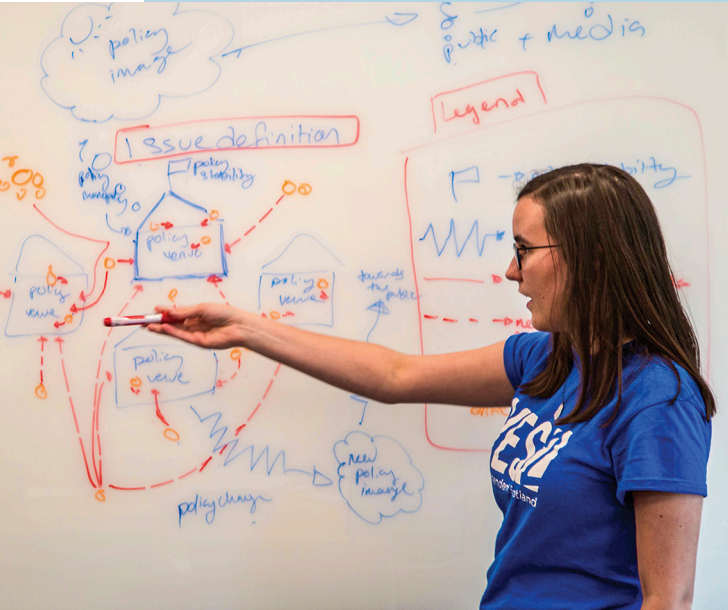
To view the digital exhibit, go to: hav.to/8et. —Eils Lotozo

Main Lines

COOL CLASSES

Class Name: *“Public Policy Analysis”*

Taught by: Associate Professor of Political Science Zachary Oberfield



A student in the “Public Policy Analysis” course explains her diagram.

Here’s what Oberfield has to say about his course:

This course has four main goals. One: to provide students with a deeper understanding of how public policy is made. Two: to introduce students to policy analysis—the art and science of providing problem-solving advice. Three: to teach students about how to conduct research. And four: to help students establish a foundation for a successful senior thesis.

I wanted to teach this course because I think it offers a nice capstone to upper-level political science students. We offer courses on Congress, the presidency, bureaucracy, etc., but this course tries to put insights from these varied fields together to ask how public policy is made. It’s super complicated, but incredibly important. I also wanted to teach this course because it gives students experience with policy analysis, a practical skill they may use in their careers and an important part of the policy-making process.

Cool Classes is a Haverblog series that highlights interesting and unusual courses that enrich the Haverford College experience. See more at hav.to/coolclasses.



WHAT THEY LEARNED

Nyla Robinson '21

Thesis title: *“Modelling Prison Population Dynamics Using Applied Epidemiology Models: An Exploration of the Mathematician’s Ethical Responsibility When Conducting Mathematical Research”*

Thesis advisor: Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics Rebecca Everett

Mathematics major and economics minor Nyla Robinson says her senior thesis was driven by personal passions: “I was inspired to model different prison population dynamics by my interest in using mathematics and my thesis to support activist work and organizing involving prison abolition and decarceration.”

The first semester of her thesis work involved choosing a mathematical model to study, alter, and run simulations on, but Robinson found major issues in her model, causing her to reroute the direction of her thesis.

“After choosing a model and studying it throughout the first semester, I came to the conclusion that the underlying assumptions the authors made were harmful and could not be removed, therefore making it unethical to use the model at all,” said Robinson. “This not only inspired me to completely switch to a different model during the second semester, but to also incorporate a discussion on the ethics and implications of the mathematical research we produce throughout my paper.”

Robinson fit her model to data on the Pennsylvania prison population provided by the Marshall Project, and simulated the COVID-19 spread based on the assumptions that no outside factors would intervene (mass decarceration, mass abolition, vaccine distribution in prisons, etc.). She realized, however, that regardless of the numbers and equations used in her mathematical models, the heart of her work was humanity.

“We must always think of the implications of our research, the ways in which it can be used, and, especially, the ways in which it can cause or contribute to harm for others,” said Robinson. “Human beings are not objects or tools to be manipulated for an end goal such as reducing costs or driving profits. When conducting research involving, or potentially impacting, human beings and their lives, their well-being, and their rights, we must always treat the preservation of these things as the end goal. That is the mathematician’s responsibility.” —Jalen Martin '23

“What They Learned” is a blog series exploring the thesis work of recent graduates. See more at hav.to/8f0.

PHOTOS: COLE SANSOM '19 (COOL CLASSES); PATRICK MONTERO (ROBINSON)

Un-Masking Emotion

Face masks have been a regular accessory during the pandemic, but for one Haverford fine arts major, they became an inspiration for her work.

In her senior thesis project, “Un-Masking Emotion,” Rachel Grand BMC ’21 sought to understand how people convey emotions while wearing masks—relying primarily on the eyes and eyebrows—and how others can interpret those emotions. Grand demonstrated what she learned in a series of 15 prints, which were exhibited in the *Fine Arts Senior Thesis* show in the Cantor Fitzgerald Gallery, and also put up as a temporary installation in the Phoebe Anna Thorne Kindergarten on Haverford’s campus. (The installation took place on a Saturday, as visitors were prohibited during school hours due to the pandemic.)

To create her prints, Grand used fellow students as her models, asking them, “What emotion do you think comes out particularly well through your mask?” She then took a photo of the student’s masked face expressing that emotion and used it as the reference for a print.

“Art can be an avenue for anyone to use to process their emotions,” said Grand. “Using this project to get people to think about what it actually means to wear a mask in terms of emotions and their conveyance has begun, and will hopefully continue, to inspire reflection and conversation,” said Grand. Going forward, some of Grand’s prints will be lent to the Thorne Kindergarten, to see if students are able to identify the particular emotion associated with each one.

Rachel Stern, a teacher at the school, said she welcomed Grand’s work in the classroom, as the




pandemic created challenges for both teachers and students in reading one another’s emotions due to the mask mandate.

“We can only see the eyes of the kindergarten children most of the time, and they can only see our eyes, because of our masks,” Stern said. “Certainly, we express emotions through our words and body language too, but our eyes are the only visible facial indicator of what we are feeling. Some children have very expressive eyes, while some eyes are less readable. Likewise, some children are very perceptive about emotions even this year, while others seem to miss or misinterpret more. We really have had to ‘relearn’ how to read emotion even as the children are learning to express emotion and read emotions.”

That need, for even experienced teachers to relearn such important social-emotional information gathering, said Grand, is exactly what prompted her thesis.

—Aidan York ’24

—  —
A series of prints (above) created by fine arts major Rachel Grand BMC ’21 were part of a temporary installation in Haverford’s Phoebe Ana Thorne Kindergarten (left).

PHOTOS: RACHEL GRAND BMC’21



Main Lines

The Club Life @HAVERFORD



HAVERPONG

WHAT: The school's new ping-pong club, founded during the spring semester, has been providing students with a place to unwind, relax, and enjoy a game of ping-pong, all while following COVID health and safety protocols.

WHEN: The club meets on Wednesday and Saturday nights in the Dining Center basement, playing casual games on the two ping-pong tables there. "When we have a lot of people, we play King of the Court," said Luke Mandel '24, a Haverpong co-head along with Aby Isakov '24. (As in tennis, in King of the Court players line up to play a singles point against a designated "king" and then replace that player if they win.)

DID YOU KNOW?: Haverpong also became an option for physical education credit in the year's fourth quarter. "Participating students have to play for three hours a week," said Mandel. They can log those hours by playing with a partner (whom they request or are matched with), playing at club meetings or in training sessions with one of the five Haverpong leaders, or a combination of these options. "The structure of the class may change once COVID is not an issue," Mandel said. "We may even look into going varsity, but that is a ways off."

The club, which is open to anyone from the Bi-Co of any experience level, posts informational content to its Instagram account (@haverpong), which also includes videos of club matches, and has an active GroupMe link. —A. Y.

One Crafty Gal

The talents of artist **Jessie Lamworth '18** are on national display on the third season of NBC's *Making It*. Lamworth, who was featured in the spring issue's Mixed Media section, is one of 10 contestants on the crafting show hosted by former *Parks and Recreation* costars Amy Poehler and Nick Offerman. The show, which airs Thursdays at 8 p.m. through Aug. 12, has so far set some off-beat challenges for its crew of makers, including baking unique cookies for a cookie swap, converting a closet into a new room dedicated to a loved one, and making a toy that represents its creator's personality. The ultimate winner of the "Master Maker" title takes home a \$100,000 prize.

"Being a contestant on *Making It* is one of the most exciting experiences of my career," says Lamworth. "The show is so wonderful for its creativity and genuine fun, and the other makers I get to work with are so talented and kind. It's such a feel-good, inspiring thing to watch, and Nick and Amy are hilarious as well!"

While one contestant is eliminated in every episode, we're happy to say that at press time, just after the broadcast of episode five, Lamworth was still in the running for Master Maker. —E. L.



New Leader of Institutional Advancement

Ara Serjoie will join the College as Haverford's next vice president of institutional advancement (VPIA). Serjoie will arrive on campus on Aug. 1 following a long career in mission-driven organizations and fundraising, most recently at North Carolina's Guilford College, where he has been vice president of advancement since 2016.

Serjoie, who lived in Tehran, West Berlin, and London before moving to the United States to pursue post-secondary education, earned his Ph.D. in higher education leadership and human resource studies at Colorado State University. He holds a master's in public administration from the University of Utah with an emphasis in nonprofit leadership and a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and sciences from Utah State University.

At Guilford, Serjoie provided vision and strategic direction for fundraising, alumni and constituent relations, and advancement operations. Guilford's fundraising increased each year since his arrival and hit a non-campaign-year record of \$8.4 million in the 2020 fiscal year—280 percent more than the year before he arrived.

Prior to that role, he was vice president of university advancement at California State University East Bay and president of the Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation. He also served in leadership positions at Clark College Foundation, the Girl Scouts of Utah, the University of Utah, and Weber State University. He has been involved with several campaigns both in a conceptualization and leadership capacity and as a member of the greater advancement team.

As the VPIA at Haverford, he will lead a team that builds and sustains understanding, appreciation, and philanthropic support for the educational mission of the College by nurturing relationships with alumni, students, parents, and other friends of the College. As a member of senior staff, he will be the chief strategist and advisor to the president on donor cultivation and stewardship, as well as cam-



campaign infrastructure and execution. He will partner with the Board of Managers to enhance their roles in achieving College strategy.

"We are incredibly fortunate that Ara has chosen to join us at Haverford," said President Wendy Raymond. "His intellectual engagement with the liberal arts, his love of getting to know students—and people in general—and the breadth of his professional and lived experiences make him ideally suited for this leadership opportunity."

"My family is very excited about becoming Haverfordians and being active participants in the life of the College," he said. "I look forward to joining you all soon, meeting you, learning your stories, and being a champion alongside you for the future of the College."

Serjoie succeeds Acting VPIA Deb Strecker, who will return to her role as assistant vice president of individual giving, and former VPIA Ann Figueredo '84, who served the College for more than a decade including through the record-setting *Lives That Speak* fundraising campaign. —R. R.

== 🐾 ==
Ara Serjoie comes to Haverford from Guilford College, where he was vice president of advancement.

Main Lines

Chesick Scholars Program Expands

The Chesick Scholars Program, which began in 2012 with a pilot grant from the San Francisco Foundation, was designed to welcome and support underrepresented students at Haverford. In its first eight years, it was centered on a residential, on-campus summer institute that introduced an invited cohort of 15 incoming first-years to College resources and coursework. The program, which in recent years has come to focus on first-generation, low-income (FGLI) students, also included ongoing faculty mentorship. Following last summer's decision to make the Summer Institute a virtual one due to COVID-19, this year the Chesick Scholars Program is changing further as it expands access for incoming students.

Now, instead of a 15-person cohort, the Chesick Scholars will include all FGLI students in an incoming class, which means the Chesick Class of 2025 will be roughly 100 students. This year, all Chesick Scholars have been invited to a series of biweekly summer sessions, called First In, over Zoom; they also are invited to attend Horizons, an on-campus, pre-Customs program in late August. The Summer Institute will not take place this year, but the Chesick Mentoring Program, which extends the pre-major advising all Haverford students receive to offer more holistic support for navigating college as FGLI students, remains largely the same, and will continue to involve faculty members as mentors.

"Even though many things are changing, many things are staying the same, too," said Barbara Hall, interim director of the program and an advising dean. "We're still deeply committed to partnering as a community of students, faculty, and staff to support and advocate for the amazing FGLI students at Haverford, who contribute in countless ways every day to the intellectual and social life of the college. We're still working to use the

FGLI-focused resources we have to benefit as many students as we can, recognizing that all deserve the best support Haverford can offer. We're still working together to transform Haverford, and still working to turn increased access into full inclusion."

The First In seminar series kicked off in mid-July and over the course of the summer will introduce the Chesick Scholars to campus support systems; prepare them to work with pre-major advisors and deans; and provide academic, social, and financial preparation for the first-year FGLI student experience on campus. First In also offers opportunities for the incoming students to begin to build community before arrival on campus.

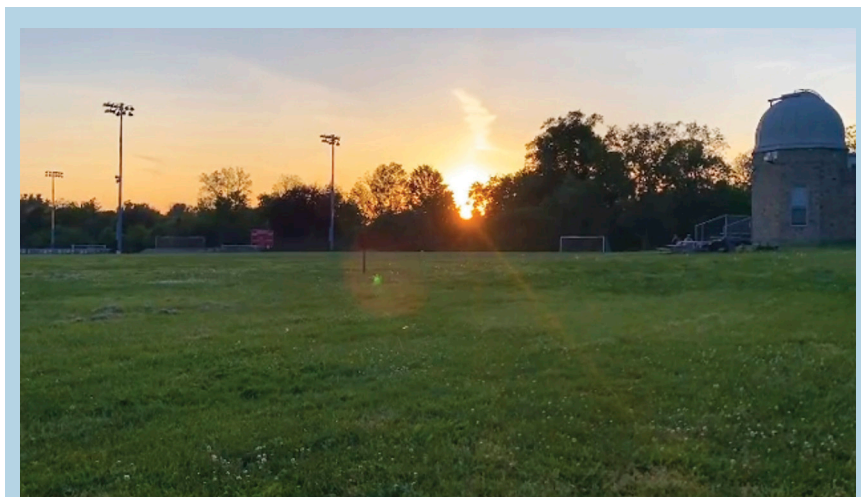
All this summer programming is the result of collaboration among Hall; Assistant Dean of FGLI Student Support and Programming Raquel Esteves-Joyce; Chesick Program Coordinator Julian Jackson; Jeff Tecosky-Feldman, an instruc-

tor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics who ran the Chesick Summer Institute from its inception; and a group of FGLI student leaders.

Beyond the summer, the Chesick Program is getting ready to welcome a new full-time director and is planning to expand its support for juniors and seniors. Beginning in fall 2021, Chesick's programming and resources will be organized around four pillars: Belonging and Empowerment, Thriving Academically, Transforming Haverford, and Preparing for Post-Haverford Life.

"FGLI students contribute so much to Haverford, inside and outside of the classroom, and we are lucky to have each and every one of them here," said Hall. "I am hopeful for the future of the Chesick Scholars Program because the students are phenomenal. . . . The expansion is an enormously exciting moment for Haverford."

—R. R.



HELP US REACH 10K FOLLOWERS ON INSTAGRAM!

This will unlock account benefits, including the ability to use "swipe up to read." Fewer than 15 percent of Instagram accounts reach this magic number, but many of our peers already have. We are less than 100 followers away! Can you help us reach this goal by following [@haverfordedu](https://www.instagram.com/haverfordedu)?



A *Mare of Easttown* Cameo for Haverford

HBO's *Mare of Easttown* starred Kate Winslet as a troubled police detective who lives and works in the gritty borough where she grew up and gets involved in a murder investigation that puts a disturbing number of her friends and family members under suspicion. The show, which premiered in April, was filmed in Philadelphia and in a number of towns in Chester and Delaware counties, and thoroughly titillated Philly-area viewers with all those familiar-looking location shots while making them cringe occasionally thanks to the over-the-top Delco accents affected by Winslet and the rest of the cast.

Haverford College also gets its moment in the *Mare of Easttown* spotlight. While no scenes were filmed on campus, the show's third episode has Mare's daughter and her band visiting the radio station of "Haverford College" (pronounced "HAYverford" by one of the characters). There she meets a fetching young student DJ and a romance ensues. (A later episode features a scene that has Philadelphia's Girard College standing in for the Haverford campus.)

Jennifer Waits '89, a former Haverford DJ who chronicles the history of college radio on the website and podcast *Radio Survivor*, caught the show and marveled in a post on Twitter (@SpinningIndie): "What are the odds that the first college radio station that I've seen on TV in years is a fictionalized version of MY undergrad college station?!! Mind blown."

Waits pointed out that on the show the station

is called WWXU, while Haverford's long-running but now defunct radio station was WHRC. And, she observed, *Mare of Easttown* gave the College an FM channel "at long last." (The station was campus-only AM during Waits' time at Haverford.)

Equally mind-blowing for Waits: "The wooden record library shelves at the Haverford College radio station on *Mare of Easttown* look A LOT like the WHRC shelves when I was a DJ there. Love that they even included alphabetical labels for the sections."

Post-script: In a follow-up report on *Radio Survivor*, Waits interviewed the show's production designer, who acknowledged that the similarities were no coincidence. Indeed, the design team had looked at photos of the WHRC studio Waits has posted over the years and incorporated elements into the look they created for the set. —E. L.



(top) The HBO series *Mare of Easttown* featured a fictional version of the Haverford College radio station (dubbed WWXU on the show), with Kiah McKirnan playing a student DJ. (bottom) Then-DJ Jennifer Waits '89 in the real Haverford College radio station WHRC in the 1980s.



Interim Chief Diversity Officer Named

Norm Jones has been named Haverford College's interim chief diversity officer (CDO). The higher education leader, who served most recently as chief equity and inclusion officer at

Amherst College, joined the Haverford community July 1, working part-time. He starts full-time Aug. 1.

Jones replaces Raquel Esteves-Joyce and Linda Strong-Leek, who remain with the College as assistant dean of first-generation, low-income student support and programming and provost, respectively.

"I'm thrilled to join the Haverford community at a time when institutions, within and beyond higher education, are rethinking approaches to racial healing and reckoning, and also committing to building community in ways that allow more people to be seen and heard," he said. "In the coming year, I seek to establish a clear and accessible infrastructure within which a permanent CDO can advance the important work of diversity, inclusion, equity, and justice. This work requires input and participation from all facets of the college, including alumni and [the Board]."

Jones will establish Haverford's CDO office and portfolio over the coming year, including instituting recommendations from the Advisory Committee on the Future CDO Structure.

President Wendy Raymond said of Jones, "His professional expertise and experience, interper-

sonal and scholarly talents, and high energy for accomplishing the work will soon be felt across our campus. I look forward to everyone intersecting with Norm during his 12 months with us."

Jones comes to Haverford following five years at Amherst College, where he was a member of senior staff and built the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which houses individual offices focused on equity and inclusion issues around students, faculty, and workforce and leadership. He also cochaired the President's Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.


Prior to joining the Amherst administration, Jones was associate CDO at Harvard University and worked at Dickinson College for 12 years, where he rose to become associate vice president and dean of institutional diversity. He also worked as a special assistant to the Harrisburg superintendent of schools. He holds a Ph.D. in workplace education and development and a master's in public administration from Penn State University, as well as a B.A. in English from Morehouse College.

"I believe in distributive models of leadership," said Jones, "and working with stakeholders across the institution to support them in their work and better understand what it means to use a DEI lens to ensure that all Haverford community members, irrespective of their social identities, experience the best the College has to offer."

The search for the College's permanent CDO begins this fall.

—R. R.




Norm Jones was the chief equity and inclusion officer at Amherst College before joining the Haverford staff on July 1.

FYI

Haverford students are a busy bunch. In addition to their major course of study, 54 percent of them also have a minor or concentration. The College offers 41 majors, 30 minors, and 13 areas of concentration. Some of the most popular majors? Political science, economics, biology, chemistry, psychology, computer science, English, mathematics, history, and physics.

A stop on the People's History of Haverford College tour.



Exploring Untold Stories

As pandemic restrictions eased this spring, tour groups of prospective students and their parents again became a common sight on campus. Also seen around campus this spring were groups of current students, faculty, and staff taking a very different sort of tour—one aimed at examining the College's past.

Dubbed the People's History of Haverford College tour, the project was launched by Associate Professor of Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Jill Stauffer and **Rebecca Fisher '18**, the cofounder of inclusive Philadelphia walking tour company Beyond the Bell.

Stauffer came up with the idea after a conversation about Haverford's placement on Lenni-Lenape land with Indigenous scholar Beth Piatote and Tailinh Agoyo, cofounder of We Are the Seeds, a local nonprofit that amplifies the voices of Indigenous people. Such a tour, Stauffer hoped, would allow students, staff, and faculty to look at Haverford from a new perspective.

Fisher, one of Stauffer's former students, used her experience of creating Philadelphia walking tours to design and then conduct the People's History tour, which features 11 stops, each one focusing on a different topic, from a story of a KKK cross-burning that happened near campus in July 1924 to the students of color boycotts in 1972 and 1977.

The tour also stops at Haverford's Edward B. Conklin Gate, which was designed by Julian Abele, the first Black man to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania with an architecture degree, and the Ira de Augustine Reid House, where Fisher talks about its namesake (Haverford's first Black tenured professor), who had his passport seized by the State Department in 1952 after he was falsely accused of being involved with the Communist Party. At the tour stop in front of the Cricket House, Fisher talks about Haverford's first Black student, **Osmond Pitter '26**, a

cricket player. On Barclay Beach, beneath the Penn Treaty Elm (a genetic copy of the Philadelphia original), she talks about legends surrounding Penn's treaty and what befell the Lenni-Lenape.

Another of the tour's stops focuses on Haverford's history of exclusion. Fisher describes a 1931 letter to Julian W. Mack, a prominent Jewish judge, from an unknown writer at Haverford who stated that, at the time, each class could have no more than three Jewish students. This was to ensure, said the letter writer, that these students "assimilated" and Haverford retained an identity as a Quaker institution.

To gather this sometimes-hard-to-find history, Fisher talked to as many people as possible.

"I very much consider the tour to be a product of crowd-sourced information," she said. "I talked to professors, librarians Liz Jones-Minsinger and Sarah Horowitz, and a few students. I found enough content for many versions of this tour, but I tried to really look at this past year and ask myself what the most urgent stories were."

"I hope people leave with more questions than answers," Fisher said. "If they research more about a person or a story, I will feel like the tour has done its job. If people walk around campus and have more context for not only the institution, but the Lenni-Lenape land that we live and work on, then I will feel like the tour has accomplished its task."

Fisher will return in the fall to lead more tours and train current students interested in conducting future tours. She and Stauffer are also looking for ways to integrate the tour into campus life as a part of Customs and new faculty orientation, or by creating a self-guided experience. "We're looking into making it available in video format or as modules that can be accessed via smartphones at different points on campus as a self-guided tour," said Stauffer.

—Sally Pearson '21 and Eils Lotozo

Main Lines

Neuroscience Major Launches



The Bi-Co Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program—which brings together perspectives from medicine, biology, and psychology, among other fields, for an in-depth study of the nervous system and behavior—has long been popular with students at Haverford and Bryn Mawr. There are currently 53 neuroscience minors across the Bi-Co, and 20 Fords graduated with the minor this year. But, says Assistant Professor of Psychology Laura Been, who has coordinated the minor since 2016, the most common question she has fielded from prospective students over the past five years is: “Can I major in neuroscience?” Now, the answer is finally “yes.”

The path to becoming a major has been a long one. Neuroscience was first introduced at Haverford as a concentration in neural and behavioral science in 1995, and became a Bi-Co interdisciplinary minor in 2013. In 2015, a working group of Haverford and Bryn Mawr faculty across biology and psychology departments began meeting, supported in part by a Mellon Foundation brainstorming grant, to discuss the introduction of a new major. And this spring, the Educational Policy Committee approved it.

“It has been a very intentional and deliberative process to create a

major that is rigorous, inclusive, and sustainable,” says Been.

Two new classes have been added to support the major: a 100-level “Introduction to Neuroscience” class and a “Senior Capstone” course. Additionally, neuroscience majors will be required to take a semester each of introductory biology, chemistry, psychology, and statistics, as well as four credits of upper-level neuroscience courses and one lab course in neuroscience.

For students like José E. Rodríguez ’22, who had planned on minoring in neuroscience, this new program expansion allows him to rethink his major course of study. Based solely on his interests, the junior from Puerto Rico has already taken most of the new major’s prerequisites, and plans to declare a neuroscience major.

“I think with its offering as a major now,” says Rodríguez, “many will be interested by its high applicability and usefulness in life as a degree that combines exquisitely with many other minor degrees—bio, econ, chem, philosophy, linguistics, English, etc.—or as a minor in itself alongside any other major.”

Neuroscience, Been notes, is inherently a cross-disciplinary field, and the working group intentionally wanted the new major’s requirements to reflect that.

“In the future, we hope to expand the major to include even more disciplines, including computer science, visual studies, and philosophy.”

—R. R.

PHOTO: DAN Z. JOHNSON

SCHOLARSHIPS AT WORK

With help from the Bobby Nofer Scholarship, **Oscar Melendez ’21** graduated with honors with a major in economics and a minor in Spanish.




“I can honestly say that this scholarship changed my life. As a low-income student in a single-parent household, I am eternally grateful and will attempt to follow the example of the Nofer family’s generosity.”



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.

Mixed Media




Sunny Singh '08 began shooting and sharing videos of hardcore punk band performances as a Haverford junior. Now, with his website hate5six.com, he has an international following.

Hardcore punk is loud, fast, raw, and primal music—and it has inspired a community built on the passion of its fans. “Hardcore shattered my expectations that art needs to be easily digestible and crafted to have mass appeal,” says **Sunny Singh '08**, who is drawn in “by the sounds of a vocalist screaming and the chaos of a show where the line between band and crowd blurs.”

Singh isn't in a band, but via his hate5six website he's become a key part of the hardcore scene around the world, channeling his passion for the music to help support, expand, and preserve its community.

Singh, who is 35 and lives in South Philadelphia, started collecting and trading videotapes of live hardcore punk performances during high school in Marlton, N.J., in the early 1990s. But he wasn't able to get serious about shooting and

sharing his own videos until his junior year at Haverford in 2007, when he found a high-definition video camera on eBay and used the then-new platform YouTube to share his work with a wider audience.

The idea for hate5six as a centralized repository for his videos came via the Great Recession: “When I graduated in 2008, it was difficult to find a tech job,” says Singh, who majored in math and minored in physics. “I needed to work on a project to keep my mind and skills sharp, so I decided to build the website as a way to learn web development. Soon I'd built a whole content publishing pipeline.” (The name hate5six jokingly refers to the new area code that had come into Singh's South Jersey town while he was in high school. “It changed from 609 to 856, and I was irrationally upset about it,” he says.)

With the website built, he began uploading his

Mixed Media

videos of local hardcore bands like Braindead and The Mongoloids, and fairly quickly an audience started watching. So he filmed more shows, uploaded them, and hate5six took off—the YouTube channel now has more than 130,000 subscribers from around the world, and the music press has taken notice of Singh, with *The Fader* calling his site “the internet’s hardcore gold mine.”

As his audience got bigger, Singh wanted to leave the tech world to pursue this archival and video-based work. “I felt that I could make a much more material impact and become a fully integrated person by making that transition, even if it meant sacrificing a salary and job security.” He realized that if only a small percentage of the site’s viewers donated each month, it would be enough for him to turn his passion project into a full-time gig. In March 2018 he used Patreon to crowdfund and

discover for the first time,” Singh says.

The impulses for preservation and discovery give Singh his sense of mission: “I don’t want to forget bands who inspired a lot of people. My conviction for this work has become only more steadfast over time.”

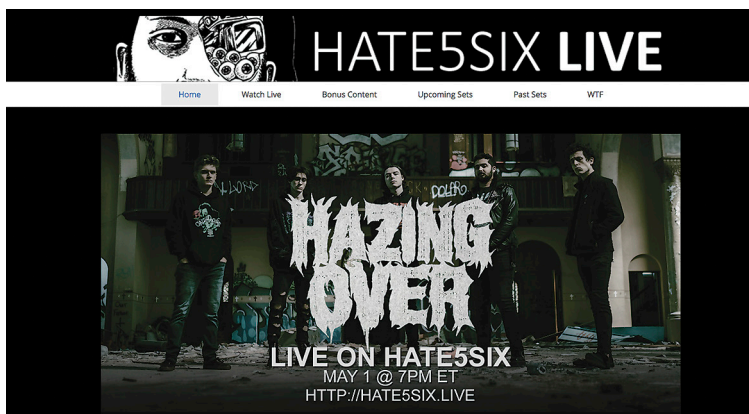
The COVID-19 pandemic’s sudden stoppage of live music changed Singh’s work and made it even more important. For the bulk of hate5six’s existence, he was against using it to livestream shows. “I was archiving history; why create a stream when people can go to a show?” he says. But once that wasn’t an option, Singh immediately started presenting online shows. “Code Orange did one in March 2020, and 13,000 people tuned in to watch live,” he says of his first livestream. The show, performed in an empty venue in Pittsburgh, caught the attention of *Popular Science*, which noted admiringly in an article that instead of the single static camera typically employed for livestreams, Singh “used an array of six cameras, including several mounted around the club and two handheld camcorder-style Canon cameras onstage to get close and add motion to the scene.”

More than two dozen streamed shows have followed. “It’s gotten me out of my comfort zone,” says Singh, “and given bands a new outlet to get their music out there and connect with people.”

Meeting the historical moment also led Singh to widen the site’s lens. “I’ve been covering Black Lives Matter and other rallies,” he says. “I’ve been out on the ground, taking my livestreaming gear and using my platform with all the subscribers to subvert expectations and [look at] what I think are important social issues.” These videos have been cited and used by The United Nations, *The New York Times*, CNN, and other news outlets, and Singh says this new direction reflects something he learned at Haverford: “not putting yourself in a silo.”

Singh’s main focus, though, continues to be sharing live music via hate5six, and he’s looking forward to getting back out into the world and the community he’s had a crucial role in maintaining and expanding. “Since I went full-time, I’ve been to Japan, Australia, Europe, and cities across the U.S.,” he says. “Every time I go somewhere, people tell me they’re at the show because they saw a show I filmed in Philadelphia. That was the vision I had when I was 13, and it makes me realize that my efforts have had meaning and impacted people.”

—Brian Glaser



After the pandemic struck, Singh added a new element to his website: livestreamed shows.

raised enough to support himself. “Enough of my viewers believed in the work that I used to do as a hobby,” he says. “Their support helps me, and helps me provide them with what they like.”

What they like is Singh’s library of thousands of raw, high-energy live recordings of hundreds of hardcore bands playing in venues that range from small home basements to Philly’s Electric Factory and venues around the world. Every day, the site’s Patreon supporters vote on which videos from Singh’s archive will be uploaded next, and the more than 3,000 videos on hate5six range from pioneering punk bands such as The Cro-Mags and Turning Point to contemporary bands like Die Choking and Binary.

The collection is born of a drive to preserve different eras of the hardcore scene. “By documenting these bands, I’m locking moments in time in place and making them available for people to relive or

ART

Whiteout conditions weren't going to stop **Max Weintraub '93** from supporting his artist friends at the launch of their exhibition at the Allentown Art Museum in February 2015. Then a professor of modern and contemporary art at New York City's Hunter College, he took a bus to the Lehigh Valley as a record-breaking snowstorm pummeled the Northeast.

"I thought this reception was just going to be me and a bunch of food," he remembers. "I was totally wrong."

The masses who braved the elements that evening wowed first-time visitor Weintraub, who recalled the experience five years later when he was asked to join the institution as president and CEO—a position he assumed in November 2020.

"Clearly, the museum had a strong backing from the community it serves, and that was attractive to me," says Weintraub, a seasoned educator and curator who came to Allentown from the Aspen Art Museum in Aspen, Colo., and who previously worked at the Herron School of Art and Design in Indianapolis as well as New York's Whitney Museum of American Art and Museum of Modern Art.

Leaning out of his office window, Weintraub can glimpse the back of the Miller Symphony Hall, a historic landmark that, along with the museum, helped lure him to Allentown. The cross-country move to a region once devastated by the death of the American steel and cement industries didn't faze him—not even during a pandemic.

"I did my due diligence, and by all metrics, Allentown was on a great trajectory pre-COVID, and that renaissance is continuing now," says Weintraub. "People are moving to live downtown, and we have plenty of restaurants and shops and cultural offerings around us. There aren't many cities this size that have an art museum with a permanent collection as well as a symphony."

The museum, which closed for five months early in the pandemic, had reopened—with reduced capacity and hours—by the time Weintraub took the helm in November. During lockdown, staff shifted programming online and developed new ways to engage audiences through #AAMatHome, offering virtual tours, educational activities, and workshops in everything from embroidery to toymaking to decorative chocolate design.

And even as COVID-19 transmission falls, Weintraub wants the institution's use of technology to climb. Excited about a nascent video art collection, he values "screen time" inside the museum, not just at home. He aims to introduce interactive digital components throughout the permanent collection of more than 19,000 works, which include the library from Frank Lloyd Wright's famed Francis W. Little House and the recently restored *Portrait of a Young Woman* by the Dutch master Rembrandt.

"The 21st century can still appreciate a 17th-century

Rembrandt [painting], but the experience needs to be contemporary," says Weintraub, who studied history at Haverford and has doctoral and master's degrees in art history from Bryn Mawr, plus a master's in medieval European history from North Carolina State University.

New technological features will also make future exhibitions "more dynamic"—although, Weintraub says, they're not short on appeal as is. Current shows, which run through Sept. 12, include *Roots: Sources for American Art and Design*—featuring creations by Plains and Northwest Coast Native Americans, African American artists from Gee's Bend, Ala., and the Shaker religious sect—and *Sleep Tight! Bedcovers and Hangings from Around the World*, a selection of intricate textiles from widely varying cultures.

Amid national conversations about racial and social justice, Weintraub is striving to expand museum access "in all senses of the word," noting that visitors feel unwelcome if they don't see themselves reflected in some measure in the artwork on display.

"We already have diverse representation in our collection, but like all institutions, we can always do better," he says. "We are rethinking our acquisitions to tell more inclusive stories and to be as global as possible in scope. It takes time to shift the center of gravity in a permanent collection, but come hell or high water, we are going to do it."

Weintraub and his colleagues are revising admission policies to ensure that financial barriers don't keep guests from visiting. And this spring, he started a fundraising campaign to establish a paid internship program, which he views as a way to foster equitable access to arts careers. Networks he built during his own internships at the Museum of Modern Art and the Denver Art Museum influence him to this day—and he might have rejected those opportunities if they hadn't come with a paycheck, because, like many students, he needed an income.

"Paid internships transfer dignity and power to the next generation," he says. "Resources shouldn't determine who gets to work here or enjoy our collection. This is the community's collection, not mine. I am simply a steward of it for as long as I have the privilege of being here."

More information: allentownartmuseum.org. —Karen Brooks



BOOKS

Q&A: Eve Gleichman '11




Eve Gleichman '11 (right) and Laura Blackett are coauthors of the new novel *The Very Nice Box*.

The *Very Nice Box* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), the debut novel from Eve Gleichman '11, follows a queer product engineer grieving a terrible loss. She works at a trendy, Brooklyn-based home furnishings company where every product gets a coy name (*Appealing Dining Table*, *Pleasing Water Glasses*, *Comforting Mugs*). When she unexpectedly falls into a relationship with her charismatic new (male) boss, she finds herself surprised by her feelings and struggling to ignore a growing sense that things with her new lover are not quite what they seem.

The darkly comic novel is already garnering praise. New York Times bestselling writer Kristen Arnett says, "The writing is sharp and dynamic,

the plot wonderfully compelling," and Haverford's own Hilary Leichter '07, author of the novel *Temporary*, calls the book "a deftly packaged story that hinges on the way we organize our days, our work, and our love."

Gleichman majored in English with a creative writing concentration, and wrote the book while working as a literary scout at Liz Gately Book Scouting. In fact they co-wrote it with friend Laura Blackett, a truly anomalous thing in a publishing landscape that is primed to venerate brilliant solitary minds. Emma Copley Eisenberg '09, herself a writer of a book of nonfiction and two forthcoming books of fiction, caught up with Gleichman to talk about the process of co-writing, how they made their way into the world post-college, and the genesis of the book's intriguing title.

Emma Copley Eisenberg: What did you get up to after graduating from Haverford? Was this novel always in you?

Eve Gleichman: I worked as a line cook for two years in Philly. Looking back, that period of time was really important because it had absolutely nothing to do with writing. But eventually I got impatient and applied to MFA programs, and ended up at Brooklyn College, which was wonderful. I studied short story writing exclusively in the program and have always thought of myself as a story writer—as opposed to a novelist. I didn't think I'd ever write a novel, and I certainly didn't think I'd co-write one. If you had told me back then that co-writing a novel was in my future, I wouldn't have believed you.

ECE: I'm very struck by the idea of co-writing and collaboration. Can you talk a little bit about how the idea of a co-written novel came to you?

EG: My co-writer Laura Blackett and I became friends in 2013. We both moved into the same apartment building in the same month, and pretty quickly became tight. One day, the thought just occurred to me that I'd like to write something with her. I think people think of novelists as tortured men, alone in their apartments with a glass of scotch and a typewriter, feeling sorry

for themselves and really suffering in order to write a great novel. My favorite part of this collaboration was that it was the opposite of that experience; it was extremely joyful, collaborative, productive, and queer, in that it fell well outside the bounds of that self-important-lone-man image.

ECE: Most writers never get to collaborate, so I love that you're creating a kind of model where that might be possible. Did you write alternate chapters, or did they somehow meld and become fully collaborative over time?

EG: I actually think writing is more collaborative than many writers admit. Writers are constantly referencing one another's work, and the workshop structure demands collaboration. I think ego gets in the way for some writers: *'I made this ALONE!'* We were so unsure about how the collaboration would go over that we initially came up with a pseudonym. But our publisher urged us to keep both our names, and to essentially lean into the collaboration instead of hiding it. I'm so glad we did; lots of writers have come out of the woodwork to say what you're saying: that they wish more collaborations were happening. We did alternate chapters, but we also each edited every chapter so many times that at this point, I have no clue who wrote which chapter. If you read a sentence from the novel to me, chances are I wouldn't be able to tell you who wrote the first draft of that sentence.

ECE: The book's setting is a hipster IKEA-ish furniture company with a tech start-up vibe. Was interrogating tech culture and the hyper-maleness that has often accompanied it important to you?

EG: Before we started writing the novel, I met Laura for lunch at her tech [company] office, and I could not believe the decadence, particularly compared to what I was used to in the publishing industry. Many of the details in



the novel, including the protagonist's job and the name of the box she is working on—which is also the title of the book—were inspired by that 30-minute visit. From the polished concrete floors to the video game rooms, the beautiful catered free lunches, the fruity ice water, and limitless snacks. That atmosphere is absurd, but it's also incredibly seductive, and I hope the STĀDA offices come off that way in the novel: over-the-top, but also really ... nice. I got started on chapter one that evening.

ECE: What would you say to Haverford readers who might be exploring writing or have a book within them?

EG: I think if the impulse is there, and the desire is there, follow it. The worst that happens is that you write a novel that lives in your drawer for its entire life. There are plenty of worse ways to spend your time. But if you want to write a great novel, life experience and lots of reading are essential.

ECE: Will you co-write more books? Something else entirely?

EG: I'm pleased to report that Laura and I are working on another novel! Like *The Very Nice Box*, the new novel will blend romance, satire, and suspense, but it will be set outside the highly saturated world of STĀDA.

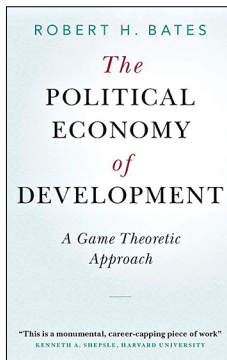
Emma Copley Eisenberg's fiction, essays, and reportage have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post Magazine, McSweeney's, Granta, The New Republic and other publications. She is the author of The Third Rainbow Girl: The Long Life of a Double Murder in Appalachia, which was a New York Times notable book of 2020 and was nominated for an Edgar and Lambda Literary Award. Her next two books, a novel and a collection of short stories, are forthcoming from Hogarth (Penguin Random House).

“
We were so unsure about how the collaboration would go over that we initially came up with a pseudonym.”

Mixed Media

MORE ALUMNI TITLES

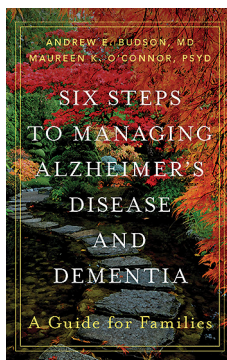
ROBERT H. BATES '64: *The Political Economy of Development: A Game-Theoretic Approach* (Cambridge University Press). In his 18th book, Bates addresses



the political origins of prosperity and security and uncovers the root causes of under-development. While so often rulers use the power of the state to appropriate the wealth and property of

those they rule, Bates explores the question: When do those with power use it to safeguard rather than to despoil? He looks for answers by analyzing the motivations behind the behavior of governments in the developing world, drawing on historical and anthropological insights, game theory, and his own field research in developing nations. Bates is the Emeritus Eaton Research Professor of the Science of Government at Harvard University.

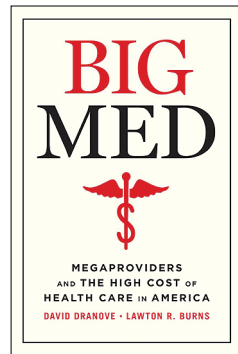
ANDREW E. BUDSON '88 and Maureen K. O'Connor: *Six Steps to Managing Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia: A Guide for Families* (Oxford University Press). In this book, the authors explain how families can manage all the problems that come



with dementia—including those with memory, language, vision, depression, behavior, agitation, aggression, sleep, falls, incontinence, and more—and still take care

of themselves, in six simple steps. A cognitive and behavioral neurologist, Budson is also the author of *Seven Steps to Managing Your Memory* and two other books.

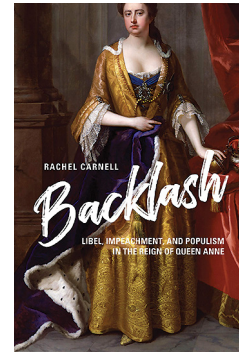
LAWTON BURNS '73 and David Dranove: *Big Med: Megaproviders and the High Cost of Health Care in America* (Wharton School Press). In *Big Med*, Burns and his coauthor argue that we're overlooking the most ubiquitous cause of our costly and underperforming health system: megaproviders, the expansive health care organizations that have become the face of American medicine. Drawing on decades of combined expertise in healthcare consolidation, the authors



trace *Big Med's* emergence in the 1990s, followed by its swift rise amid false promises of economies of scale. The book provides a nuanced explanation of how the provi-

sion of healthcare has been corrupted and submerged, and offers practical recommendations for policies that would reform megaproviders to actually achieve the efficiencies and quality improvements they have promised. Burns is a professor of Health Care Management in the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Wharton Center for Health Management & Economics.

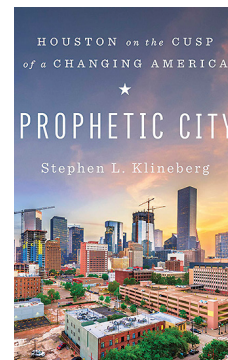
RACHEL CARNELL '84: *Backlash: Libel, Impeachment, and Populism in the Reign of Queen Anne* (University of Virginia Press). Carnell, a professor of English at Cleveland State University, offers an



account of the reign of Queen Anne and the true story behind the fall of the Whig government depicted in the 2018 film *The Favourite*. The saga involves the arrest of a

popular female Tory political satirist, the impeachment of a provocative clergyman for repudiating the ideals of parliamentary monarchy and religious tolerance, and a backlash that saw mobs surging in the streets and threatening religious minorities. When Queen Anne dissolved Parliament and called for elections, the proto-Brexiteer Tories won and swiftly began passing reactionary legislation. While the Whigs would return to power after Anne's death in 1714, this little-known era offers a historical perspective on the populist backlashes in the United States and United Kingdom today.

STEPHEN KLINEBERG '61: *Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America* (Simon & Schuster). Houston, Texas, has become one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse metro areas in the nation, surpassing even



New York by some measures. With a diversifying economy and large numbers of both highly skilled technical jobs and low-skilled minimum-wage jobs, Houston is a magnet for the

new divergent streams of immigration that are transforming America in the 21st century. Klineberg's study of the city's changing economic, demographic, and cultural landscapes is based on information collected in an annual systematic survey he and his students have conducted over the past 38 years, and offers a compelling data-driven map of the challenges and opportunities that are facing Houston and the rest of the country. A sociology professor at Rice University since 1972, Klineberg is the founding director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research.

LAURIE MORRISON '03: *Saint Ivy*

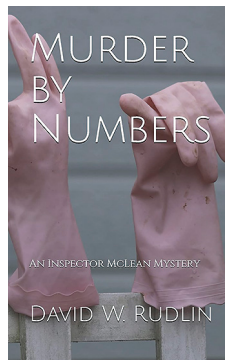
(Amulet Books). This thoughtful middle-grade novel about caring for others and for yourself—and what it truly means to be kind and vulnerable—follows 13-year-old Ivy Campbell, a scrupulously “good kid” who is struggling emotionally with her mother’s



decision to become a gestational surrogate. Determined to prove to herself that she’s just as unselfish as she’s always believed, she responds to the anonymous sender of an email asking for help. But the more Ivy works to aid this unknown person, the further she gets from the people she loves—and from the person she wants to be.

DAVID RUDLIN '80: *Murder by Numbers*

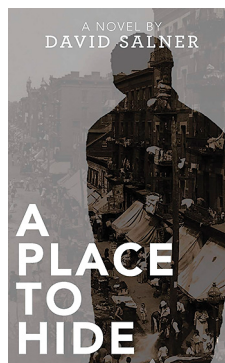
(self-published). The 13th installment of Rudlin’s mystery series featuring Inspector Ian McLean of Scotland Yard is set in London during the pandemic. While the city is in lockdown, a serial killer is offering home delivery. His victims include men and women, both young and old. Some are gently removed from life, while others are sav-



agely beaten. As the body count rises and the public starts to panic, Inspector McLean grows increasingly desperate as he searches for connections that may not even exist. When he’s not writing novels, Rudlin is a Tokyo-based executive.

DAVID SALNER '66: *A Place to Hide*

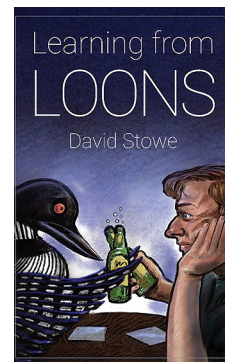
(Loyola College/Apprentice House). It’s 1923, and Bill Waite is on the run from a cruel Montana parole officer. Arriving in New York City, he needs a hideout and someone to trust. He finds both working on the Holland Tunnel with fellow laborer Virgil Pushkin Shulman—the first Jew he’s ever known—who guides him into a new life and helps him develop a fake identity. After a life of loneliness and hardship, happiness



DAVID STOWE '83: *Learning from Loons*

(Mighty Mitten Books). Like the loons that have fascinated him since his boyhood summers, Elliott Fowler thought he had paired for life. Instead, he finds himself navigating a separation as his two children prepare to leave the nest. The author of a failed self-help book called *Learning from Loons*, Elliott gets pulled toward spirituality as he researches a new book—and pulled toward a future

with a seemingly more compatible partner. A professor of English and religious studies at Michigan State University, Stowe has published nonfiction books on American music and religion,



including *How Sweet the Sound: Music in the Spiritual Lives of Americans* and *No Sympathy for the Devil: Christian Pop Music and the Transformation of American Evangelicalism*.

PIA CHAKRAVERTI-WUERTHWEIN '16

and Eirini Fountedaki, editors: ***How Does the World Breathe Now: Film as Witness, Archive, and Political Tool*** (Archive Books).

This collection of writings grew out of a film series conceived of by Berlin art space SAVVY Contemporary, which ran from September 2016 through March 2018 and each week invited a different speaker to choose a film that she or he felt answered, or further interrogated the question, “How does the world breathe now?” The book brings together the voices of more than 23 contribu-



tors who explore how film may be a constructive tool to examine the state of the world and its cruelties, and ponder how to form a more stable and supportive culture of film production and distribution.

→ 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



In the Race

Thien Le '05 raises money for charity and continues a family legacy as the captain of a dragon boat.

BY CHARLES CURTIS '04

In the sport of dragon-boat racing, 20 team members paddle in sync in a long boat, racing to the finish line against other vessels. It's an inclusive sport; people of all sizes can compete. It's also a test of teamwork, communication, and athleticism, and gives its competitors a sense of camaraderie.

All that is what drew **Thien Le '05**, P'24 to the sport back in 2011, when she was working for Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong. She was raising two kids (one of whom was born while she was working toward her Haverford degree), and she wanted to find something that would help her get in shape and expand her network while living overseas. Happily, she discovered Morgan Stanley had a dragon boat team there.

She immediately fell in love with the sport, and when she returned to the United States years later, she started a team with Morgan Stanley in New York in 2015 that competed in a corporate league against other companies and club teams.

Le, a vice president and financial advisor in wealth management, is now the captain of the crew—called the Sea Warriors—that won the corporate league title in 2019, and as the 2021 winner of Haverford's William E. Sheppard Award for services in alumni activities will explain, the sport for her goes beyond paddling and the synergy it takes to win races. There's also a family connection that Le feels so much closer to now that she's involved in dragon boating.

The sport is all about balance and working together. When you join a team, the first question is: How much do you weigh? You have to balance the boat, and we want to make sure we match you with a partner to do just that. There are 20 paddlers on a dragon boat. The front group is called the pacers setting the pace for the rest of the team to follow, and they're usually lighter in weight. The middle is the heavier paddlers known as "the engine." They would typically not be sitting in front or back positions, otherwise the boat would tip forward or backward. It's easy to tip a carbon fiber boat that's really narrow. There's also a drummer who makes the calls and keeps everyone in sync and someone who steers in back. The back and the front of the boat also need to be balanced in weight. I'm the captain and drummer of the Morgan Stanley

PHOTOS: HOLDEN BLANCO '17

team. I help set the race strategy for the team and line up paddlers for the boat. You need a loud voice, and you also have to know how to motivate the team members to paddle as one. Before the race, everyone on the team agrees on the pace and the calls for the race. Each race is different and the strategy is catered specifically to the lineup of paddlers and the weather and water conditions of the day. A one minute race could feel like ten minutes if people aren't in sync.

Like in other sports, there are different distance races to compete in. A sprint is 200 or 250 meters. There are 500-, 1,000- and 2,000-meter races. The dragon boat racers on the United States national team might finish 2,000 meters in nine minutes. For the corporate teams, that takes about 12 minutes for us to complete.

Bringing a little bit of Hong Kong to the United States. When I returned to the U.S., I realized I missed the sport and the people. We don't always become as close friends with our colleagues here. In Hong Kong, it's different. You go out drinking and eating, and go on vacations with your coworkers there. So I spoke to a few senior managing executives, one of whom was born in Hong Kong. It took a while to educate people, but then we finally got sponsorship to compete against other banks—HSBC, UBS, Goldman Sachs all have teams. I didn't realize the community here was so big. We started with only 12 people and grew to 90 active members in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, and we participate in races across the United States and Canada.

It's not just about winning. Our team partners with a New York charity every year, and in the past we have supported the New York-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital and Riverkeeper, a leading advocate for New York City's waterways. Guarding our waterways and defending clean drinking water are important for all of us, and the spirit of giving back is one of our core values at Morgan Stanley. Our team has raised more than \$50,000 since the inception of the team in 2015.

Dragon boating is a family affair. When I joined the team in Hong Kong, it was all about me and wanting to feel and look good, expand my network and get to know people. But my late grandfather



used to be a dragon boat captain in Vietnam. The more I paddled, the more I felt the sport was in my blood and part of my childhood memory. I remembered when I was a kid, there was a dragon boat festival in Da Nang. I was born in Vietnam and came to the United States when I was 9 years old. Now I have about 300 relatives in Queens, N.Y, and one year I got some of them together to try out the sport. They all miss my late grandfather and knew how important dragon boating was to him and wanted to be a part of it. I encouraged two of my cousins to try out and they made it onto Team USA, which competed in world championships. My daughter—who just finished her first year at Haverford—competed with me in Montreal two years ago. My 11-year-old son isn't allowed to be on a boat yet ... but he could probably be a drummer.

Her family loved rooting for the team. I remember my first race with the Morgan Stanley team here. A bunch of my family members came to the tent and brought a banner with the name of the team my late grandfather captained in Vietnam. They cooked barbecue and fed everyone. The whole team ate even though they knew they shouldn't right before a race. There were over 200 boats competing, so we had to wait hours for our turn and I had to stop them from eating more. We didn't win, of course, but it was so much fun.

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.

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Thien Le '05 (front, center, in white ball cap) with some of the members of the Sea Warriors, the dragon boat racing team she captains.

TELL US MORE

ELDORA L. ELLISON '88

Advocating for Biotechnology's Biggest Innovators



Recently, patent attorney Eldora Ellison got a cameo in journalist Walter Isaacson's 2021 book *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*. He interviewed Ellison over breakfast about her role in the ongoing legal battles surrounding the patents on Doudna's Nobel Prize-winning discovery of CRISPR, or gene editing, and concluded that Ellison "would be great on the Supreme Court, which nowadays could use at least one justice who understands biology and technology."

Ellison, who earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry, molecular, and cell biology at Cornell University before shifting to law, says she's more comfortable litigating from the other side of a courtroom bench or, on her days off, getting behind the wheel of her powerboat. But she is passionate about merging biotechnology and the field of intellectual property law—which she joined 27 years ago. For the last 16 years, Ellison has been a director, or partner, at Sterne Kessler Goldstein & Fox in Washington, D.C., and currently serves as cochair of the firm's Patent Office Litigation Practice. In 2018, she received the Haverford

PHOTO: JOE SHYMANSKI

College Alumni Distinguished Achievement Award for outstanding contributions to her field. Ellison has pursued and defended patents for some of the most cutting-edge biotechnologies of our time, including the next-generation chemotherapy Kadcyla for breast cancer, the blockbuster immuno-oncology drug OPDIVO, and the CRISPR gene editing technology.

How did your experiences at Haverford influence your career path?

The science training was phenomenal. To do research as an undergraduate student was relatively unusual then, and it was highly encouraged. I studied ribosomal RNA, part of the machinery that makes proteins in our cells. That set me up well for everything that followed.

I also really liked being at a small school for the opportunities to take on leadership roles. I very much enjoyed my experience on the Honor Council, dealing with violations of the Honor Code and adjudicating proceedings involving hard cases. Those made me think long and hard about things like fairness, integrity, and honesty. We don't see as much of those values in the greater world as we would like to. But those are principles that were ingrained in me at Haverford that I absolutely take with me to this day.

More broadly, the school and professors were so supportive that I felt like I could achieve whatever long-term goals I set my mind to—I didn't feel barriers.

When did the idea of intellectual property law grab you?

As a Ph.D. student, I studied a protein that cuts DNA, called an endonuclease, found in a bright yellow slime mold, *Physarum polycephalum*. My advisor and one of the postdoctoral fellows in the laboratory were trying to patent this protein for use in cutting

DNA. There was a clear need for people who understood both the science and the law.

I was attracted to the field of patent law because I could work on a number of different technologies and not spend the rest of my life studying one particular protein. I was also intrigued by the possibility of reading and writing about science [as a big part of my career]. So, after getting my Ph.D., I got a job in a law firm as a technology specialist writing and prosecuting, or pursuing patents. After about a year, I decided to go to law school at Georgetown University in the evenings.

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION,
says Ellison,
“recognizes that the exclusivity that patents provide is important to promote the progress of science.”

What does your job entail now?

I work with a variety of clients—universities, start-up companies, or large international corporations—on their intellectual property needs in the life sciences. Patents look a lot like scientific articles, but in the end the patent claims are what define the invention. Those claims define the property rights, just like the boundary lines on a deed to a piece of real estate.

Part of my CRISPR gene editing work relates to patent interferences, which is a proceeding to decide who is the first to invent an invention. CRISPR technology is very important because it allows researchers to edit genes so readily, a key reason two of its discoverers—Jennifer Doudna at the University of California, Berkeley,

and Emmanuelle Charpentier of France—won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020.

Why is patent protection important for biomedical discoveries and to spur innovative treatments for patients?

I'll take you all the way back to the U.S. Constitution, which recognizes that the exclusivity that patents provide is important to promote the progress of science. [Patents] give innovators the opportunity to protect their inventions, and provide investors a framework for obtaining a return on their investment.

It's a real honor to work on patents for innovations that save lives and have a real impact. With CRISPR we are already seeing it help people living with sickle cell anemia. To see the progress of drugs like OPDIVO, and know that one little part of it relates to my work—it is a privilege, and it is humbling.

What advice would you give to a recent Haverford graduate?

Believe in yourself and look for good mentors, including people who look nothing like you. Mine didn't. If I had only looked for African American women mentors, I'd have been out of luck. I was the only African American student in my graduate department, and I was the first Black partner in my current firm. Two of my best mentors along the way have been white men, and I've learned a lot from them. Would it have been nice to have had mentors who looked like me? Absolutely. But you can learn a lot from people who look nothing like you.

Then, heed their advice and work hard. Many times in life I may not have been the smartest person in the room, but I knew that I could work the hardest. —Kendall Powell

Kendall Powell is a freelance science writer based in Lafayette, Colorado.





Look to the Trees

They've always provided food, shade, and shelter. Now scientists are finding that trees also can boost human health and play a key role in addressing climate change. The Haverford College Arboretum is home to more than 5,000 of them.

BY SARI HARRAR ■ PHOTOS BY PATRICK MONTERO

With new urgency and awe, trees—from ancient old-growth forests to the brand-new maple sapling in your backyard—are capturing the human imagination.

Breakthrough science is revealing the amazing ways these botanical beings communicate and share resources via vast fungal networks. Above ground, researchers are documenting the profound health benefits of “forest bathing”—a quiet walk in the woods that can reduce blood pressure, soothe stress hormones like cortisol, and even sharpen memory. Trees have been critically important to humans for food, fuel, and shelter, and we may depend on them now more than ever: Climate scientists recently estimated that reforestation 25 percent of planet Earth could reduce atmospheric carbon by 205 gigatons, slowing global warming significantly.

Just how much are we waking up to the extraordinary power of trees? Consider this: As the pandemic upended our lives, sales of garden plants, including trees, soared. One-third of Americans told a national survey they were spending more time outdoors, and 60 percent said they appreciate nature more. Trees grabbed headlines when University of British Columbia forest ecologist Suzanne Simard, Ph.D., published her 2021 book *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, outlining her groundbreaking research on tree communication via mycorrhizal networks in the soil. Simard's work helped inspire the 2009 movie *Avatar* and the bestselling novel *The Overstory*. “The work I do about trees being connected and nurturing each other represents a worldview that has been known for thousands of years by the Aboriginal people of North America,” Simard told *New Scientist* magazine in April. “... I want

bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

This massive old North American native is one of just a few trees remaining from English landscape gardener William Carvill's original landscape plan for Haverford. (The other is the swamp white oak on Lloyd Green, now fenced to protect its root system.) The bur oak's gracefully lobed, leathery leaves shade the Magill portion of Lutnick Library, and its chunky, hairy acorns (“They're crazy-looking,” says Kent) clatter down on the library roof in autumn. Library renovations in 1968 featured a curving entrance ramp engineered to bypass the tree's fragile root system, just inches below the soil surface. “Trees this old are beginning to show their age,” says Haverford Horticulturalist Carol Wagner. “We're hoping it can live many more years. Cables support the weight of the long branches, so a big limb doesn't come crashing down in heavy rain or high wind.”



**China-fir “Chanson’s Gift”
(*Cunninghamia lanceolata*)**

With its delicate needles and tiny, dangling cones, this graceful conifer located along McIntosh and Woods roads at the Athletic Center follows a surprising campus tradition that combines horticulture with wayfinding. “Everywhere there was an intersection or a crossroad on the original landscape plan, William Carvill planted evergreens,” Wagner says. “If you were walking and saw pines up ahead, you knew that’s where the next crossroad was.”

[people] to want to go to the forest. That's the most simple, basic thing. Just go and be with it and love it and care for it and talk to it and show your respect for it."

With more than 5,000 trees, Haverford's 216-acre campus arboretum is a great place to begin. "People have been passionate about trees here since the College was founded," says Arboretum Director Claudia Kent. "It continues today. We get tens of thousands of visitors each year who come just to use our walking trails. And whenever we have to make the difficult decision to remove a big, old tree for safety reasons, we hear from people who loved those trees."

Haverford's extensive Arboretum Revitalization Program (reported on in the winter 2018 issue) aims to plant 1,000 new trees on campus by 2027, including replacements for 400 trees requiring removal and another 100 knocked down in a massive windstorm. "We are planting two trees for every one we remove," Kent says. "One goal that's very important to me is using native trees in wooded areas. We want habitat for wildlife, not just for people." You can use Haverford's Arboretum Explorer app to guide a walking tour of notable campus trees—and turn the page to meet a few of these beautiful botanical beings that share the 216-acre campus. Spending time with the trees is "a respite, like taking a deep breath," Kent says. "People call the Arboretum a hidden gem."

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.



College Lane oak allée

Originally named Maple Avenue for its rows of circa-1834 sugar maple trees, College Lane's iconic allée has evolved to overcome many arboreal threats. An ice storm ravaged the original trees in about 1902, though five survived into the 1980s. Red oaks were added to the allée, but succumbed to the contagious and deadly bacterial leaf scorch. "We countered with an assortment of oaks in the white oak family," Wagner says. White oaks are less susceptible to the disease; using a variety of trees rather than planting a monoculture reduces odds that a major campus tree feature will be entirely decimated by a single pest, she explains. Attempts to reintroduce sugar maples among the allée's oaks in the 1990s—a nod to Carvill's original landscape design—encountered an unexpected setback. "Unfortunately, the climate has warmed enough that the maples are not very happy down here anymore," Wagner says. The silver lining? Damage from that 1902 ice storm galvanized interest in preserving Haverford's botanical treasures by an organization called the Campus Club. It later became the Haverford College Arboretum Association.

hinoki falsecypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*)

Bonsai enthusiasts grow hinoki falsecypress trees as stunning miniatures. But this towering 77-foot-tall specimen, located at the Barclay Beach entrance to Barclay Hall, is a state champion tree. It's the tallest on record in Pennsylvania. Championship trees are determined via a point system, with one point each for height and trunk circumference and a quarter-point for every foot of crown spread. Haverford has eight state champion trees, all conifers, including a 61-foot-tall Siberian spruce (*Picea obovata*) and a Shensi fir (*Abies chensiensis*) standing 79 feet tall with a trunk girth of 115 inches, both in the Pinetum. Step beneath the hinoki falsecypress's sweeping branches and you'll discover this conifer's beautiful secret: a double trunk with soft red bark that naturally shreds away in long, graceful strips. The tree's cones, as small and round as marbles, turn from summer green to rich brown in fall.



Look to the Trees

London planetree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)

This iconic urban street tree can sequester more than 90 pounds of carbon per year, U.K. government scientists estimated in 2019, courtesy of broad, toothed leaves that harness sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into energy. A horticultural cross between the American sycamore and Oriental planetree, the London plane was once a European sensation—greening the glamorous boulevards of Paris in the 1850s, adopted by the soot-choked city of London by the 1920s, and then exported to the United States and beyond. A planetree “rustled its green leaves” in Charles Dickens’s *A Tale of Two Cities* and gets namechecked for its “tender and beautiful fronds” in George Frideric Handel’s comic opera *Serse*. These hard-working trees don’t just clean up the air around them; a single mature urban tree can supply half the oxygen a human needs in a year, reduce storm-water runoff by 31 percent, and release enough moisture to cool the air as effectively as six room-size air conditioners on a hot day. This specimen towers over Sharpless Hall.



VIRTUAL TREE TOUR

If you can't get to the Haverford College Arboretum to see its glorious trees in person, the next best thing is a virtual tour. Just go to the Arboretum Explorer app at haverford.arboretumexplorer.org and select “Tours” from the top menu bar. Then click on “Select Tour” to choose a campus tree tour, a Pinetum tour, or a tour of our state champion trees. All of the tours provide photos and information about the trees featured, and even identify their locations on a map.

tigertail spruce (*Picea polita*)

One of the stars of Haverford's Ryan Pinetum, this 58-foot-tall tigertail spruce has a spot on Pennsylvania's state champion tree roster. "Most of Haverford's champion trees are in the Pinetum because they're old and somewhat rare," says Kent. "Few other places have them." The Pinetum is "a little treasure that a lot of people are not familiar with," says Haverford Horticulturalist Mike Startup. Begun in the late 1920s, the Pinetum features five of the world's seven conifer families. Grouped by tree family, the collection was inventoried and labeled by volunteers in the late 1980s. In winter, the tigertail spruce grows red-brown buds at the ends of branches—and the subtle shapes and colors of this towering giant and the rest of the evergreen collection are striking. "It's especially beautiful in a snowstorm," Kent adds.



Look to the Trees





Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*)

Before barbed wire burst onto the scene in 1875, Osage orange trees fenced America's agricultural lands from the East Coast to the Rocky Mountains. Farmers planted 60,000 miles of the tough, thorny hedges in 1868 alone, historians report. In the 1930s and '40s, a new "hedgeman" gave this American native species a second act, when 200 million Osage oranges were dropped into the ground by the federal Works Progress Administration as windbreaks against soil erosion—and insurance against another Dust Bowl. But none of that explains the mysterious presence of Haverford's famous "climbing tree," one of a pair of Osage oranges in the playground beside the library. "The Osage orange tree species was discovered in about 1803 in Arkansas, and then it appears on Carvill's landscape plan for the campus just three decades later," Wagner says. "That's an amazingly short time." Dots on the old plan suggest the trees—also called "hedge apples" for their softball-sized green fruit—marked the entrance to a flower garden, Wagner says. A bigger unknown: when and why the climbing tree toppled over yet survived, providing kids (and a few adults) with plenty of sideways branches to scramble on.



European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Laciniata')

This perfectly rounded tree has been thriving in solitary splendor on Founders Green since planted through a donor's generosity in the 1980s. With lacy, serrated leaves and encircling web of low branches, it's a one-tree outdoor room—a good spot for lounging, napping, or admiring the smooth, gray bark and the glossy foliage that changes from dark green in summer to golden in fall. Surprisingly, this European beech's whimsical shape is not the result of pruning, Startup says. It just grows that way. "We nicknamed it the gumball," Kent says.



chinkapin oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

The chinkapin oak kept America on the move in the 1800s and early 1900s—and provided snacks for the journey. Its durable wood was a fence-post favorite that also served as hot-burning fuel for steamships and long-lasting ties for railroad tracks. Its lovely leaves are scalloped as delicately as the edge of a fancy, Sunday-dinner pie crust. In 1898, the *Trenton Evening Times* extolled the pleasures of its famously delicious little acorns: “They are more delicate than the chestnut and of rare flavor, but too small for the candy and cake maker to bother with or to be used for the table,” the article reported. “They are nice to nibble at in between times. ... The best of them are exceptionally sweet, tender and well-flavored.”

This young tree may not look imposing, but saplings ensure a future of healthy, big trees for the Arboretum. “It’s an image of hopefulness for the future,” notes Haverford Plant Curator Sally Anderson.

A Leafy Tradition

From a red-tipped Norway spruce to oaks, maples, tulip trees and rows of young Okame cherry trees near the library that bloom each spring, 67 “class trees” dot Haverford’s campus. Among the earliest classes whose tree still survives? The Class of 1936, who planted a Green Mountain sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) in 1986 at the corner of Founder’s Hall. Among the newest: The Class of 2021’s bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) installed behind the Visual Culture, Arts, and Media (VCAM) facility during Customs Week in 2017.

“The tradition changed two years ago, from giving a class tree to each [first-year] class to planting a graduation tree in students’ senior year, when they feel a deeper connection to the campus,” says Arboretum Director Claudia Kent. (Classes have also planted trees during reunions.)

Fords have been putting down botanical roots in the Arboretum’s tree collection for a very long time. A 1903 song, written by the **Class of 1899’s J.H. Redfield**, commemorates an Arbor Day tradition of planting a “Senior Tree” in early April. The second verse goes like this: “So deep, deep down we dig a hole / And then, where all can see / Upon the lawn at Haverford / We plant our Senior Tree.”

To see if your class has a class tree and find its species and location, go to Haverford’s Arboretum Explorer app at haverford.arboretumexplorer.org. Choose “Features” from the top menu bar and then select “Class Tree” from the “Type” drop-down list to search by year. —S. H.



DO YOU RECALL A FAVORITE TREE ON CAMPUS?

Maybe it’s one that you walked by every day on your way to class or whose shade you enjoyed in warm weather. Perhaps it’s a lovely specimen you got to gaze at from your dorm window, or visited during walks on the Nature Trail or in the Pinetum. If so, we’d love to hear about it. (No problem if you don’t know the tree species, just give us a description and the location.) Send a note to hc-editor@haverford.edu.



PRESERVING THE PAST, PLANTING THE FUTURE

The Arboretum serves to educate and preserve the beautiful, ecologically diverse habitat that is the Haverford College campus.

Go to hav.to/trees to check out upcoming Arboretum events and programs, become a member, and make a gift to support the College’s historic tree collection.

Memento Mori



“Death is not the opposite of life, but a part of it,” wrote novelist Haruki Murakami. And with the global death toll from the coronavirus pandemic topping four million in July, death has become a bigger part of life than most of us have ever witnessed.

The ancient Greeks and Romans, as well as earlier centuries of Christians, embraced the concept of *memento mori*. Translated as “remember you must die,” the phrase wasn’t meant to conjure morbidity or fear, but to inspire clarity and focus by reminding people of the extraordinary preciousness of life. Similarly, in the Buddhist tradition, the contemplation of death is an important practice. “Of all mindfulness meditation,” the Buddha said, “that on death is supreme.”

It is something we all share, an experience every human being will have, yet death often looms as something to be feared, and remains a difficult subject to talk about for many. Also difficult to discuss: the grief that death can bring to those who have lost someone.

Talking about death is something we will all have to do some time, so to help inspire and inform those conversations, we sought out some Fords who have become intimate with death: a priest, a hospice volunteer, a palliative care doctor, a visionary revolutionizing burial practices, and a man who experienced his own end and came back to write about it. We hope you enjoy their stories.

—Eils Lotozo, editor, Haverford magazine

Living With the End in Mind

Author Barbara Becker '89 explores life, love, and loss. **By Anne Stein**

Early on in life, **Barbara Becker '89** was curious about what she calls “those big questions.” Why are we here? What are we supposed to do with our lives? What happens after we die?

Coming from a family of doctors (her grandfather, father, and a brother) and nurses (her grandmother and mother), it wasn't surprising that the northern New Jersey native would think about life and death. At age eight, she learned that her father had previously been married to a British woman who died in an accident shortly after their honeymoon. In her young mind, “someone had to die for me to live,” explains Becker, who became even more fascinated by the role of love and loss in our lives.

She continues exploring those big questions in her recently published book, *Heartwood: The Art of Living With the End in Mind*. It's both a tribute to patients she cared for during her three years as a hospice volunteer in New York City's Bellevue Hospital and a memoir about mentors, friends, and relatives—living and dead—who have had a significant impact on her life.

Heartwood grew out of an earlier piece Becker wrote about a childhood friend's final year of life. “When Marisa was diagnosed with cancer, she made the most of the time left, exploring the world, getting married, and spending time with her friends,” explains Becker. “It made me think about how we can more fully live life with the end in mind. It's learning to be present to everything in life, the good and the bad, the light and the darkness.” An editor saw the essay and asked her to expand it to a book, which took nearly a decade to write.

Married and the mother of two sons—one chapter discusses the “taboo” topic of pregnancy loss and her own two miscarriages—Becker spent 25 years in strategic communications and international human rights before turning to writing and hospice work. “I started thinking of my own parents who I loved so much, and realized I was really afraid of them dying,” she explains. “I knew I had to face this somehow.” Becker trained with two Zen monks in New York City who prepared volunteer hospice caregivers.

In one chapter of *Heartwood* she tells the story of Mr. K, one of her toughest hospice patients, who yelled at her and kicked her out of his room after

he had a difficult phone conversation with his wife. “He'd lost the ultimate control, and he couldn't take it out on his doctor, so he took it out on me,” she says. “I learned that our interactions with the dying don't all have to look perfect. And that our job is to love others, as the theologian Thomas Merton said, without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy.”

Becker sat with hospice patients who are Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, and Maori. “Our worldview can look really different, and to me it was important to learn the language and stories that would give

Barbara Becker writes about her work as a hospice volunteer as well as her own losses in her book Heartwood.



me context for being fully there at the bedside with them,” she writes. But the best advice on how to talk to the dying came from the Zen monks who trained her.

“We put so much thought into the idea that people who are dying want to talk about the big questions, but sometimes, you go into the room and the person just wants to watch *Jeopardy!*. Your job is to meet them where they are, pull up a chair, and watch *Jeopardy!*. If they want to talk about their children, talk about their children. And if they want to talk about the Mets, talk about the Mets.”

An important aim of the book was to tell diverse stories about loss, Becker says. One chapter is about a Rwandan genocide survivor who lost her father and three young brothers, was sexually assaulted, and is HIV-positive; she has emerged from that trauma and grief and today helps other survivors.

Another chapter tells about a Muskogee Native elder named Generous Bear, who lives in Becker’s Lower East Side neighborhood. She writes about the visit they made to a site near their homes where more than 120 men, women, and children were slaughtered in 1643 by the Dutch. “He taught me the importance of creating rituals around loss,” Becker says. “We went through a ceremony to honor the people who had died there. It felt like such a healing act. I really believe in the power of ritual to help right wrongs.”

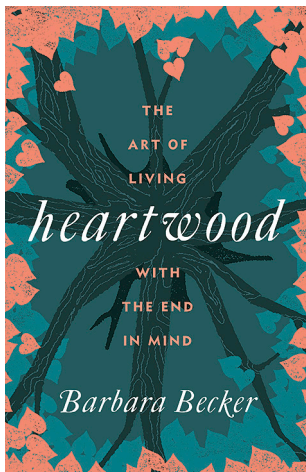
In *Heartwood*’s final chapter, Becker describes her decision to become an interfaith minister; she was ordained in 2017. She’s since been certified as a

disaster chaplain with the American Red Cross. The book’s postscript takes up life during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Becker participated in memorial services at Hart Island—New York City’s ‘potter’s field’ for the unclaimed dead. “It’s often said that death is the great equalizer, but the pandemic disabused me of the notion that all deaths are equal,” she says.

She cites a New York City minister who lost 44 congregants to COVID, mainly frontline workers “who didn’t have the luxury of working safely from home. There’s nothing equal about a death like that.” And she recounts the loss of her beloved Aunt Bev to COVID, and their final goodbye over the phone.

Since the release of the book, Becker has heard from readers, some who have lost loved ones and others who are themselves dying. They’ve found comfort in her stories. “I think there’s a sense of release and surrender for them,” says Becker. “We never tell these stories to one another, so we feel isolated. We don’t know what it looks like to die, or talk about who should be in the room. Do we want music playing? What are our wishes for our bodies? Those topics aren’t regularly discussed. So when someone goes out on a limb and tells some of the stories, it gives people permission to think about how they want to see their final days.”

Anne Stein is a Chicago-based journalist and regular contributor to Haverford magazine. Her features and profiles have appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Christian Science Monitor, LA Times, and ESPN magazine, among other places. She has huge admiration for those who wrestle with end-of-life issues on a regular basis.



In our culture, we are told that death is the last and greatest taboo—as welcome as a skunk at a garden party. Yet most often when I spoke of my experiences with loss, people opened up about their own. Death truly is a great equalizer, it turns out. As I sat with stories of grief and suffering, I began to hear an undercurrent of the inner resources people drew upon when their lives got hard. How people evolve and grow, even as the body withers. How we fare better when our sense of meaning is big enough to hold the things that don’t make sense. Every person, whether they defined themselves as religious, spiritual, agnostic, or atheist, made me even more curious about the ways in which we seek comfort and purpose, especially when we find ourselves in the crucible of our lives. Aren’t we, to borrow from William Faulkner, not meant to merely endure but to prevail?

—Barbara Becker, *Heartwood: The Art of Living With the End in Mind*

Talking About **Living** With Those Who Are Dying

Palliative care physician Justin Sanders '00 brings compassion and clarity to the seriously ill.

At age 21, during midterms at Haverford, **Justin Sanders '00** received a call that changed his life. A childhood friend who had been suffering from a serious illness was close to death. He flew across the country and was with her for the final hours of her life. Sanders, who already had planned on going to medical school, became fairly certain he would specialize in palliative care.

He traveled the world after graduating, including time at a hospice in Calcutta, helping feed, bathe, and give medicines to patients. “It was very routine in some ways and taught me that caring for the dying is like caring for the living,” says the art history major. “You’re trying to help them get as much out of life as possible.”

Now married and the father of two, Sanders earned his medical degree at the University of Vermont, followed by a master’s in medical anthropology, and completed a palliative care fellowship at Harvard. Formerly an attending physician in the Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care department at Boston’s Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, he recently accepted a position in Montreal, as chair of Palliative Care McGill, an interdisciplinary network of clinicians, educators, researchers, allied-health professionals, volunteers, and support staff working together across five teaching hospitals. Sanders spoke with journalist Anne Stein about palliative care’s open-hearted, human-centered approach to terminal illness and death.

Anne Stein: What is palliative care?

Justin Sanders: It’s specialized medical care focused on quality of life for people with serious illness. It’s appropriate for people at all stages of serious illness. Serious illness is a health condition that carries a high risk of mortality and either negatively impacts daily functioning and quality of life or excessively

strains caregivers. [Palliative care] grew out of the late 1960s hospice movement that started in the United Kingdom.

AS: Is palliative care’s main focus on death and dying?

JS: People have this strong association between palliative care and dying, but it’s really about enhancing the quality of life throughout the course of a serious illness. It’s a subtle but important distinction. Palliative care strives to ensure that the treatments people get align with what matters most to them. We’ll ask, “What are your most important goals?”

Palliative care reflects the notion that people have priorities in life besides living longer. Medical care typically operates as if that’s not the case. Medicine doesn’t generally act that way, so, in some sense, palliative care is about humanizing medical care. Palliative care aims to help people live the lives they want to live. If someone wants to be with their grandchildren, for example, we may get them out of the hospital and home with hospice care.

AS: What do you say to patients when you’re first called in to talk about palliative care?

JS: All of our focus is on how we can improve their life, managing symptoms and anxieties, up to the very end. We ask the patient what they know and understand about their prognosis. We talk about what we expect to happen over the course of their illness, including—if it’s important to them to know—how much time they might have.

We ask, “What abilities are so important that you can’t imagine living without them?” “What are you willing or not willing to go through to live longer?” If clinicians model these serious conversations well, families can go home and carry on those conversations with their loved ones in a way that makes a real difference in their care.

We ask what they are most worried about. A lot



“Palliative care reflects the notion that people have priorities in life besides living longer,” says Justin Sanders.

of physicians are afraid to ask that because often they can't address those worries, but to be able to say out loud what you are worried about is profoundly therapeutic. If you are able to engage in difficult conversations with people, if you are able to sit with that and respond to their emotion and sit in silence, it sends a message about what you are willing to do as a doctor, which is to go to difficult places with them. They are worried about being abandoned. Our field shows people that we will be caring for them until the very end. As a result, we develop strong relationships quickly with patients and families.

AS: Do you experience grief or sadness when a patient dies?

JS: Oh yes, absolutely! I was always resistant to this idea about never getting emotionally involved with patients. I've never believed that, not before medical school and not now. Our willingness to connect and engage with families gives my work so much meaning. It's an antidote to burnout, and it makes me more effective as a healer.

AS: How do you process grief?

JS: The palliative care team does a weekly "remembrance." Someone reads a poem or book passage that has meaning to them, then we read the names of the people who died in the last week or two. That can be 10 to 20 patients. Then we reminisce, tell stories

about what it was like to work with family. We cry. We grieve openly, and it's an incredibly healing and very powerful thing to be a part of. It's something all of medicine could benefit from.

AS: Is there a particular personality that goes into palliative care?

JS: We have a reputation for walking calmly into a crisis. Comfort with uncertainty would also describe people who do our work. You need to make decisions, even when you don't know the outcome. And you have to help other people cope with uncertainty.

AS: How has the pandemic affected your palliative care team and healthcare workers in general?

JS: We are at risk of a tsunami of grief in medicine because of the pandemic. The hardest thing for all of us is that we rely on families very much to be present with people in the hospital. That was impossible during the pandemic, and we all experienced a lot of moral distress about that. Holding up an iPad with a person who's going to die while their family members erupt in tears and you feel helpless to do anything about it is not an easy experience. God bless the nurses who do it all the time. The isolation for families and patients was profound. That's what a lot of us will wrestle with.

—A. S.

My Death

*During Labor Day weekend in 1995, **Tem Horwitz '66** went into anaphylactic shock in the middle of the night. As his panicked wife, Susan, drove him to the hospital from their remote home in the dunes above Lake Michigan, ten miles from the nearest town, Horwitz had a near-death experience.*

*After it happened, when what he had felt and witnessed was still fresh in his mind, Horwitz wrote down an account of the experience and its aftermath and eventually turned his notes into a short book, titled *My Death: Reflections on My Journey Into Non-Being*, published in 1996. Here are some excerpts from the book.*

As I sat there, my body struggling to breathe, I watched the dashboard in front of me lose its definition. The lights lost their brightness. Everything turned a dark gray, and then black. My body began to feel very heavy. I could feel the weight in the middle of my back. I let everything settle down into my center, not struggling with this feeling of heaviness. I responded weakly to Susan, partly because of the physical state that I was in but largely

because I was totally absorbed in the process of dying. My head felt huge and heavy, like a boulder. I felt my body toppling. I could not tell in which direction I was falling.

Sounds. There was only one sound component of this experience. At what I take to have been one of the stages of my biological death, there was a tremendous roar that came out of nowhere. It felt like I was hearing my body from the inside,

listening to the roar of my heart and my vital organs. There was no beat, like the beat of the heart, just a tremendous all-encompassing roar. The sound of water rushing through a gorge. I felt the fury and the rage and the potency of death, not my awareness of death, but the thing itself.

At this point the heaviness changed to a feeling of immersion in a liquid far heavier than water, a blue-black solvent that seemed to dissolve the substantiality of the material world so there was no longer solidity, stability or substantiality. This medium, this solvent, dissolved the very adhesive that held my world together. This was the universal solvent. All of the connections in the physical world disappeared. Here I was in this great nothingness—no longer black or void or silent or heavy—nothing, nothing, nothing. The part of me that was experiencing this state was again too curious to be fearful or confused. There was nothing terrifying about this geography. I supposed that this is what death is—a realm without space, without time, without definition, without stimulation. In this realm there was no longer a sense of self, ego, consciousness, body. There was no longer the same observer to observe, for there was no distinction between the me and the it, the place or non-place, the me or the not-me.

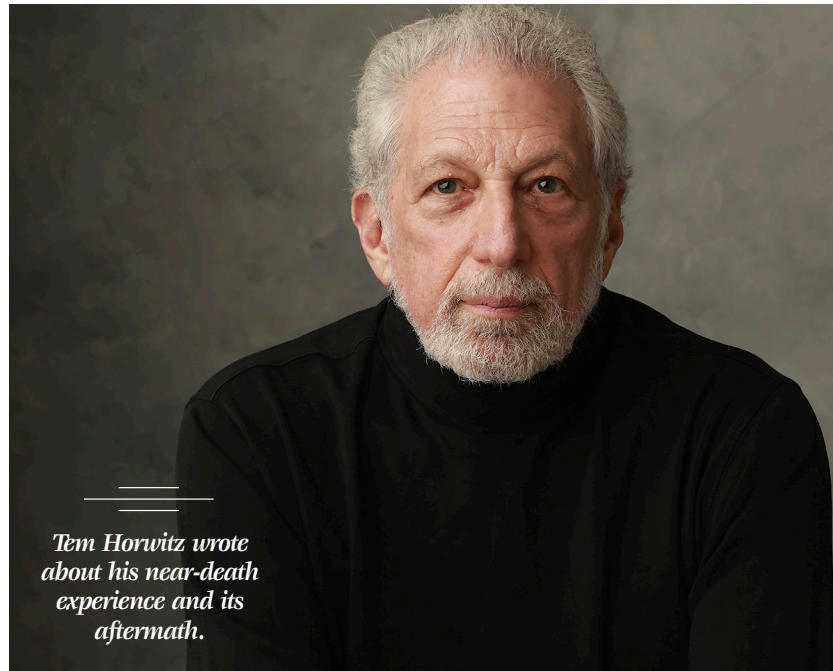
My death had the effect of placing me squarely in the present. What I experienced while dying or dead were “presents,” slices of time. On my return to the land of the living, I retained this sense of the “present.” The first two days were perfect, clear, timeless states. The people around me came and went. The nurses changed. Susan was there and was not there. For the most part I was awake. The transitions from waking to sleep were seamless. Sleep was dreamless. Awake, I was free of dreaming, wondering, speculating, fantasizing, analyzing. My thoughts would rise up slowly and clearly. They would then dissolve into nothing. No residue. No recycling. No tapes playing the same thoughts over and over. Initially there were abysses between thoughts. Vast empty spaces between thoughts. Peace.

I could not for that first week focus on what was to happen the next day, the next week, the next moment. Without a future to think about, there was also nothing to worry about. I could feel no anxiety because I was where I was, comfortable, healthy, warm, well-fed. Trips to the hardware store, bank accounts, letters left unwritten all seemed remote and irrelevant. . . . There was no vestige of self-importance left. It felt like death had obliterated my ego, the attachments that I had, my history, and who I had been.

Death had been very democratic. It had eliminated innumerable distinctions. With one bold stroke, my past had been

erased. I had no identity in death. It didn't stay erased—some would say that this was the real tragedy—but it was erased for a time. Gone was my personal history with all of its little vanities. The totality of myself was changed. The “me” was much smaller and much more compact than it had been. All that there was, was right in front of me. I felt incredibly light. Personality was a vanity, an elaborate delusion, a ruse.

How does it feel once the elusive pleasures of the future have been stripped from us? Removed from time for those first days



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*Tem Horwitz wrote
about his near-death
experience and its
aftermath.*

after my death, I felt a wonderful lightness. A feeling of relief at being able to drop the heavy bags that I had been carting around on an endless, repetitious voyage. . . . I had been delivered from the petty aggravations and anxieties of my life. It was not glorious, filled with a love of all things great and small, or a world consumed by grace. It was emotionless, liberated from memory, light and airy. . . . Having lost touch with the past, and not daydreaming into the future, I was lodged in the present.

This present was peaceful, free of anxiety, free of discursive thinking, no tapes playing and replaying in my head. I was simply content to lie around in the emergency room, in the hospital, to sit around the house going about my business. My days were filled with a quietness and stillness and sweetness. Clear and timeless. . . . I had caught a glimpse of eternity, and I was content to dwell in its embrace.

Tem Horwitz is a Chicago real estate developer and the founder of Cloud Hands Press, which publishes translations of classic works on Tai Chi Ch'uan and Taoist philosophy, as well as literary fiction and nonfiction, and books on philosophy, art, and history. My Death is available as an e-book at cloudhandspress.com.

A New American Way of Death

By Natalie Pompilio

Katrina Spade '99 didn't know exactly what to expect when she opened Recompose, the world's first full-service human composting funeral home, in Kent, Wash., in December 2020.

Spade, the company's founder and CEO, had been studying and promoting "natural organic reduction" for almost a decade, researching and developing best practices, raising millions of dollars to design and construct a facility, even helping change state law to allow the practice. She'd made an environmentalist case for human composting by noting how each year,

is spreading the word—and answering questions.

"Any conversation about death has the potential to make folks squeamish," Spade said. "I don't think it's only the thought of human composting that does that. Delving into the details of cremation or embalming can be similarly, like, 'whoa!' So if people are willing to take a look at death care practices a little more closely, they often come away thinking that the concept of being transformed into soil is pretty great."

Recompose is again seeking investors as it's poised to expand. In May, Colorado became the second state to allow composting as a post-death option. State legislatures in California, New York, and Oregon are considering similar measures.

"Competitors are cropping up, and the general feeling is we need more operators of this option to make a difference with climate change," she said. "In another 10 years, maybe natural organic reduction will become the default."

There is no typical Recompose client, according to Spade. They've come from across the country, from different religious backgrounds and divergent political persuasions. Among the first were an organic farmer and an underwater photographer.

"These are not just your stereotypical environmentalists," Spade said. "It's really about not going with the status quo and having choice in what you and your family and friends want when you die."

A Recompose-style send-off was originally designed as an intimate gathering of friends and family at the company's Kent facility, but the COVID-19 crisis took away that option. Instead, Recompose staff performed the ritual via video link, talking through each action as they lay the deceased in a cradle surrounded by wood chips, alfalfa, and straw, then placed that carrier into an individual white steel hexagonal chamber called a vessel. After mourners said their final goodbyes, the staffers sprinkled straw and other plant matter atop the deceased, then closed the vessel to allow the natural decomposition of the body, including bones and teeth, to begin.

The team that Spade has assembled to serve Recompose's clients is as important as the process she's created.

"I am astonished by the people on our team on a daily basis," Spade said. "There is a palpable energy, a drive to change the death care experience. I think we



Katrina Spade at the Recompose burial facility, where bodies are composted in a specially designed chamber.

traditional U.S. funeral practices unleash 600 million pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and leak enough harmful chemicals into the ground to fill eight Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Still, Recompose's immediate success surprised her: In its first six months, the company oversaw the transitions of more than 50 people from flesh and bone to fertile soil. More than 700 others signed up for its "Precompose" program, which allows them to prepay the current service price of \$5,500. The company's newsletter list has more than 20,000 recipients, and it keeps growing. That community of supporters

are cultivating a certain level of compassion and gentleness, too. We have the privilege of caring for people at their most vulnerable.”

In the Recompose process, the bodies remain in the vessels for 30 days and are then given a few more weeks to “cure.” The end result is one cubic yard of nutrient-dense soil that looks and feels similar to rich topsoil.

Families can opt to take some or all of that matter, or they can donate it to Bells Mountain, a 700-acre nonprofit land trust in southern Washington state. One couple took a small amount of soil enriched by their son to feed a tree planted in his honor. Another family spread their loved one’s remains throughout

their garden. Multiple farmers requested that their organic remains be returned to the lands they’d once cultivated. (Recompose suggests that the soil not be used on food crops.)

Said Spade, “It’s been lovely to see farmers, who already know the land and are so connected with it, choose Recompose for their death care [and go] back to the earth, quite literally.”

Natalie Pompilio, a former staff writer for The Times-Picayune, The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Philadelphia Daily News, is a freelance writer based in Philadelphia. Her most recent book is This Used To Be Philadelphia (Reedy Press, 2021), a collaboration with her photographer sister, Tricia.

Bearing Witness

As an Episcopal priest, **Andrew D’Angio White ’06**, who serves as the rector of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Kennebunk, Maine, has regular encounters with death. His priestly duties include providing spiritual guidance and support for congregation members as they face their own end of life or the deaths of family members, and he conducts funeral rites for those who have departed. We talked to him about that work.

On the importance of funeral rites:

[In the Episcopal tradition] a funeral allows people a way to experience their grief through rituals and prayers that are designed to hold those very emotions, and have been said for departed Christians for literally centuries. The liturgy helps to transition past the immediacy of death by creating a container for the emotions that surround it.

Yet, each death is unique. When we say the words of burial liturgies, whatever they are, we are saying them for one person in particular. And so the burial service is an opportunity to tell the story of the person who has died. In eulogies and in quiet conversations over coffee, we share their triumphs and loves, and, if we are honest, their shortcomings and failings, as well. Each friend and family member has a piece of the person’s story.

The pandemic’s affect on funerals:

I have not had a lot more services during the pandemic—if anything, there have been fewer. Many families in the congregation I currently serve who have lost loved ones have opted to wait until more people can gather. Those services I have conducted have typically been brief, outdoors, masked, and physically distanced. We have had to be creative in finding ways for family members to participate: In some cases, a funeral home has recorded a brief service and emailed it to the rest of the family. In others, we have live-streamed the service itself. Many of the familiar rituals around death have needed to be

altered or dropped: We have not been able to sing together, to gather as a larger community, to tell stories of the deceased and offer support to the grieving.

On the fear of death:

Fear grows in secret. The less we are able to talk about our own deaths, the more we will fear them. Often, simply giving people a chance to speak honestly about their own death and how they feel about it can help to ease their fear. Part of the privilege of being a priest is that I can have these conversations with people that they feel unable to have with family members who are not ready to directly confront their loved one’s death. And so, simply giving space to have the conversations and questions about death can make it into a paradoxically life-giving experience.

A beautiful death:

I was privileged to witness the death of a dear colleague, mentor, and friend. What made her death beautiful was the way she walked clear-eyed into it. She had a mystic’s heart, and knew enough about God to know that she was walking into a glorious mystery. Her prayer was what Jesus said to a man who needed healing: “Be opened.” She prayed to be opened to the fullness of the God she had spent her life coming to know. As the days before her death passed, her children and I gathered. We sang. We prayed. We laughed. We cried. We said “I love you” and “goodbye,” even when she could no longer respond. And then, she died—surrounded and filled by all that love. —E. L.

Living Legacies

*They were educators, activists, entrepreneurs, poets—and much more to those they left behind. And their Haverford memorials reflect their character, passions, and enduring impact. **By Pat Laws***

As family, friends, and classmates of **Kevin R. Jones '94** mourned his death last summer, they recognized his commitment to social justice issues and student success by creating an internship to help maximize the experiences of low-income students from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented at Haverford. The heartfelt tribute backed by more than 100 donors quickly grew to become a permanently endowed memorial.

“Through his light and kindness, Kevin brought people together and demonstrated the power that compassion at all levels can have in righting wrongs,” says his friend and classmate **Uzma Wahhab '94**. “His gentle nature sat comfortably alongside uncom-

promising ethics and strength, creating sanctuary for many.”

As an undergraduate, Jones cofounded the Sons of Africa, a student group that continues on campus today as Black x Brown. The California attorney was a champion of the underdog and eager to see Black, first-generation, and economically disadvantaged students have a fair chance at success.

“College was a special time in Kevin’s life—one when his conviction, sense of justice, and ethical compass developed and solidified in a way that would guide his steps through the years,” notes Kevin’s sister, LaKeisha Jones. “It is fitting that an [internship] created in his name will live on at Haverford to support generations of students in need, and we look forward to seeing how lives will continue to be shaped by his generosity of spirit.”

The Kevin R. Jones '94 Career Development Internship Fund follows a long tradition of remembering beloved and inspiring figures at Haverford and honoring their lives with scholarships, endowed professorships, campus structures, the planting of trees, and more. While these namesakes and the lives they led varied as much as their memorials, they are all very much a part of Haverford today.

Among Haverford’s newest memorials is the **Allen C. Fischer 1959** Atrium, created as part of the Roberts Hall renovation project. Fischer established a successful career in advertising, marketing, and the travel industry, but his lifelong passion was poetry. He published numerous works, beginning as an undergraduate.

Fischer got to know his wife, Renate Belville, against a background of classical music when she offered him an extra concert ticket. Their romance took off quickly, and she soon shared his deep commitment to the College. Says Belville, “Haverford gave him the encouragement and opportunities to grow.”

Her gift in memory of her husband is an apt tribute. When dedicated next spring, the atrium will showcase one of Fischer’s poems and provide an engaging meeting place for Haverford concertgoers. “It gives me joy to think of it,” says Belville.

With a legacy of philanthropy dating back sev-

Renate Belville (seated), whose gift in memory of her husband Allen C. Fischer (standing) funded the creation of an atrium bearing his name that is part of the newly renovated music facility.



eral generations, **Allen W. Stokes Jr. '69** doesn't have to look hard to spot his family name on campus. Stokes Hall, the Stokes Family Walk, and a chemistry lab in Hilles Hall are among the venues named for his ancestors. "As a student, I found great pride and connection to my dad (**Allen W. Stokes '36**) in reading an engraved plaque in the library recognizing his gift," he says. "He has been the inspiration for my life and for my charitable contributions."

"My grandfather, **Francis Joseph Stokes, Class of 1894**, started a successful company that pioneered development of freeze drying and plastic injection molding machines," he adds. "He was also a great outdoorsman and brought up his children to appreciate nature." In 1919, he established an endowment honoring his father, **Francis Stokes, Class of 1852**, to plant trees and shrubs on campus. Allen Stokes continues this family tradition as a supporter of the Haverford Arboretum.

The opportunity to remember family members is compelling to many donors. **Han-Hsien Tuan '85**, P'18, P'21, endowed the Dr. Ren Deh and Mei Ling Tuan Memorial Scholarship in memory of his grandparents, who were born in China in the early 1900s and graduated from prestigious universities.

"World War II came, and my grandparents found themselves in Shanghai," says Tuan. "There, my grandmother set up a kindergarten to teach young orphans, my grandfather became a professor of physics, and together they managed to turn their home into a makeshift refugee shelter, feeding and helping those who had been displaced by the war."

Tuan chose to honor their lives and character. "While growing up, I never saw either of my grandparents angry," he says. "They were truly the kindest and most humble of anyone I knew; they were also the happiest people I ever encountered." Despite the travails of World War II and the Communist revolution, as well as the challenges of migrating to the United States with five children, they never expressed any bitterness.

"Establishing this memorial scholarship was an opportunity for me to express my gratitude and love for my grandparents," Tuan says. "To help future Fords with financial aid is a perfect representation of my grandparents' generosity and their belief in education."

Many memorials recognize the broad and deep impact of long service to the College and the community. In 1981, Marilou Allen joined Haverford's staff as the director of the fledgling Eighth Dimension program to integrate service and experiential learning into the curricula and culture. The lifelong Ardmore

resident retired in 2015, having connected thousands of Fords with meaningful community service activities.

Allen also served as one of the College's Equal Opportunity Employment officers and Affirmative Action officers, becoming an invaluable resource for staff and a force for equality across the community. She helped establish the College's Women*s Center and launched Serendipity Day Camp, an affordable summer program on campus.

Recognizing her incomparable legacy, Allen's family, colleagues, neighbors, and students established a fund to support Eighth Dimension, renaming it as the Marilou Allen Office of Service and Community Collaboration. In 2019, a group of Serendipity campers planted a littleleaf linden tree in her honor near the Cope Cricket Pavilion. Future generations of children will gather in its shade for many years to come.

The Douglas and Dorothy Steere Professorship in Quaker Studies recognizes a couple who served the Society of Friends for much of their adult lives. Both Dorothy and Douglas, who was a professor of philosophy at Haverford from 1928 to 1964, were prolific authors, speakers, and organizers, and were actively involved in the American Friends Service Committee, traveling to Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa to assist with hands-on relief efforts.

Establishing the professorship was a priority for the Corporation of Haverford College, which focuses on nurturing the Quaker character and heritage of the institution. **Jonathan W. Evans '77**, P'18, served as clerk of the Corporation when the professorship was inaugurated in 2018. He has a fond memory of meeting the Steeres early in his freshman year when they invited new Quaker students to an afternoon social at their home.

While Evans suspects that their humility would have precluded the Steeres from thinking they should have a memorial, he's confident that they would approve the motivation. "It's a very meaningful way to lift up those who have gone before us and who serve as enduring examples of what's best about Haverford, where the search for truth has both intellectual and spiritual components, and we are called to make the world a more just and peaceful place." 🐾



Friends, family, and classmates of Kevin R. Jones, who died last summer, endowed an internship in his name.

At “Home” in India During the Pandemic

By Pankhuri Agrawal '06

At the beginning of March 2020, I remember drawing up a tidy schedule in my planner. Amay, my older son, was about to begin a two-month summer holiday from school, and I could not imagine being cooped up at home all day with a fidgety toddler and my baby, Vivan. So I promptly enrolled Amay in a gymnastics class and a summer camp run by his Montessori teacher. Then without warning, on March 25, as if the universe had played a cruel joke on all the efficient planners in the world, the Prime Minister of India announced a 21-day nationwide lockdown. Suddenly I was stuck in a tiny apartment in Bangalore, with two kids under three, along with my husband, Sunil, and my mother-in-law. We coped by playing hide-and-seek and making Lego towers. Our recently rented office space lay empty, and my plans to launch a travel consultancy I had named Yayavr (“nomad” in Hindi) bit the dust. To maintain my sanity, I began writing a series of essays inspired by spices and memories, and the idea that we can “travel” through food—exploring culinary traditions and experiences, recalling treasured family recipes—though we are grounded globally.

Across India, migrant workers were making the treacherous journeys to their villages and homes, on foot. I felt guilty complaining about my situation, when there were millions starving, without daily wages, and no hope in sight. Zadie Smith in her essay “Suffering Like Mel Gibson” articulated how I felt, writing that suffering is not relative, it is absolute.



We were and are all suffering, each in our own tiny cosmos.

Once the first lockdown was lifted, our main priority was a steady source of income. We had to pivot—and fast. My husband and I started to think laterally (a skill honed at Haverford), and we decided to take the plunge. We had a half-acre of rural land, two hours south of Bangalore, on which we would host overnight guests. In place of a campsite, we decided to build a homestay structure we dubbed “Hide and Teak,” and rent it out as an Airbnb. There was a growing demand in India for vacation homes within driving distance from major metro areas. We were optimistic about our new Hide and Teak project, and hoped that the country would overcome the pandemic, and things would return to a new “normal.”

We began construction at a frantic pace in June 2020, and moved into a tiny cottage to oversee the process. Instead of the city environment I was used to, we were immersed in a rural setting. Frogs jumped out when I brushed my teeth at night, and I had to check my shoes for scorpions before putting them on. I seemed to be living in Barbara Kingsolver’s *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, writing about nature and food. A lot of my early “gastro-travel” essays (posted at facebook.com/YayavrIndia) were nostalgic, recalling some of the dishes my mother used to make. Something about not being able to control the present took me back to the familiarity and comfort of childhood.

At the farm, we struggled with Internet connectivity. For Amay to attend his online class, I had to carry baby Vivan and a laptop to our neighbor’s porch to catch a connection. We soon gave this up, and instead encouraged our children to make mud pies, throw rocks in a pond, count grasshoppers, watch ants, and collect seeds on our countless walks.

I started taking online classes on running a small business. I learned how to cost out a menu for our homestay, to count how many cardamom pods go into 15 cups of masala chai, and how many pods make a 25-gram packet. I learned how to manage a small team of employees. It was a crash course in business management. Slowly Hide and Teak (hide-and-teak.business.site) took shape, and we welcomed our first guests in January 2021. Overnight, I became a new business owner, and we broke even within three months!

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Class News



HAVERFORD 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.

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Roads Taken and Not Taken

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The first quarter of 2021 bore a Pinwheel Day promise. Friends had started to meet in small groups outdoors, there was a buzz in the air, and people were venturing out for vacations. Then the second wave of COVID hit the country badly, bringing with it more devastation and anxiety. Many of my close friends struggled to find oxygen cylinders and hospital beds for their loved ones. Many lost parents, aunts, uncles, colleagues, and neighbors to this horrible virus. Vaccines were in short supply, and things kept getting worse.

In the face of this devastation, we took another road. For many people in the pandemic, their homes became their workplaces. We decided to make our “workplace”—Hide and Teak—our home. We gave up the tiny apartment that we rented in the city, which was clearly designed for working couples who went to offices and children who went to school. Those apart-

ments were not designed as “homes” where you could spend time with and nurture your family.

So many years after college, I found that a lot of the readings I did as a Growth and Structure of Cities major were again resonating with me—especially accounts of the changes brought by the Industrial Revolution in Europe and the growth of suburbia in the United States in the 1960s. This past year has completely changed our perspective on what “home,” “work,” “leisure,” “entertainment,” and “education” mean. The pandemic, for many of us, has altered our relationships with time. We went from planning entire months at a stretch (work meetings, family vacations, product launches) to being forced to live

in the present. It has been a year of pivots and a year of clearly seeing our priorities. We got lucky, and we are blessed to be surrounded by open skies and majestic mountains. I have a tiny circle of friends from whom I draw sustenance. I continue to struggle daily with the financial uncertainty of our future, but I am grateful for my family. Right now, the continued safety of our loved ones is the most important thing. We hold on to our inner tenacity to brave all that this pandemic could bring.

Please do feel free to get in touch with me via email at pankhuri.agrawal@gmail.com. I would love to hear from other Haverford alums about their food memories from childhood and their experiences with the pandemic.

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

Alumni Obituaries

45 Francis Fairman died at home on Jan. 29. World War II began during his freshman year at Haverford, and he enlisted in the V-12 Navy College Program and trained as an officer in the U.S. Navy while in school. After graduating, he served on Manicani Island in the Philippines. Upon returning to the U.S., he earned his master's in electrical engineering at the California Institute of Technology and started his career at General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y. He worked for a number of years at Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, Pa., until he

retired and opened his own consulting business. Fairman was known as a talented yet modest man; he enjoyed playing piano and composed symphonies that were later recorded by orchestras in Prague and Warsaw. He was a lifelong fisherman, a regular runner well into his 80s, a champion backgammon player, and a fan of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Gene, and is survived by his three children, Fleur Wallach, Mimi Hiret, and Francis Fairman IV; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

49 George Nofer P'80 died April 19. Nofer's time at Haverford was interrupted by military service during World War II, and he served in Germany. Upon return to the U.S., he finished his bachelor's degree, and attended Yale Law School, graduating in 1952. He began his professional career in trust and estate law at the law firm of Schnader, Harrison, Segal, & Lewis in Philadelphia, and served as president of the American College of Estate and Trust Counsel. He retired as a partner in the firm in 1992, but remained in active practice through 2005, and

I N M E M O R I A M

ARYEH KOSMAN

Aryeh Kosman, Haverford's John Whitehead Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, died June 17 of complications following a fall. He was 85.

After receiving his undergraduate and M.A. degrees at the University of California, Berkeley, he briefly studied at Hebrew University before earning his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He joined the Haverford faculty as an assistant professor in 1962, was promoted to full professor in 1973, became the Whitehead Professor in 1987, and retired in 2010.

"Aryeh was a star in Greek Philosophy," says Joel Yurdin, Haverford associate professor of philosophy. "Many of his articles are required reading for anyone writing on the topic, and they covered virtually every area of the field, including metaphysics, ethics, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of science." Such scholarship led to visiting professorships at Princeton, UCLA, and Berkeley and, in 1985, an award for distinguished teaching from the Lindback Foundation. That honor affirmed what, by then, thousands of Fords already knew: Prof. Kosman was thoroughly devoted to his Haverford students.

"I cannot think of Haverford College without thinking of Aryeh Kosman," says Jim Friedman '67. "He embodied the very best of Haverford: brilliant scholarship, deep concern for his students and colleagues, warmth, humor, and an awareness of our collective strengths and foibles. He was my teacher for four years and my friend for almost 60 years. For the last 15 years, we met frequently to discuss philosophy. Sadly the meeting scheduled



for today will never take place. Our community has lost one of its luminaries. We will all miss him."

Larry Tint '67 says of Kosman, "He was the quintessential Haverford professor, completely dedicated to enlightening his students, bringing an enormous knowledge base to the classroom, understanding the needs and limitations of his students, always available and willing to give his time graciously, allowing for divergence of opinion, and doing all of this with a sense of humor worthy of a stand-up comic. I, Haverford, and the world have lost a truly remarkable man."

An article in the Spring 1976 issue of Haverford's alumni magazine pointed out that philosophy courses were among the College's most

popular, with "historians, biologists, and musicians" vying to enroll. That the department was attracting so many non-majors was fine with Kosman. "Our purpose," he said at the time, "isn't to train philosophy scholars. It's to try to continue the tradition of Rufus Jones, to educate people in a moral way." Profiled again nearly a dozen years later, he said that "(h)uman beings are born with a deep desire to know. Curiosity knows no limits. We must think through an issue and follow the truth wherever it may go. There is no pleasure as deep as thinking."

Aryeh Kosman is survived by his wife, Deborah Roberts, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at Haverford; his former wife Tracey Kosman; his children Joshua, Isaac, Jacob, and Hannah; and four grandchildren.

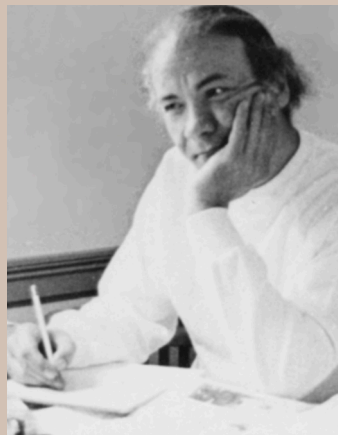
found a second career at the Oberkottor Foundation, leading the organization to open new schools for the deaf around the country. He became involved with the Alexander Graham Bell Association and was honored by the creation of the George H. Nofer Scholarship for Law and Public Policy. Nofer was a gifted singer and public speaker, and an active member of the Abington Presbyterian Church and, later, the Haverford Friends Meeting. He was also a member of the Corporation of Haverford College from 2009 to 2017. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Anne,

and his son Bobby, and is survived by his second wife, Rosemary; his son Paul Nofer; his daughters, Ellen Sinclair and **Jane Poskanzer '80**; and five grandchildren.

50 Robert Smith died May 24 of complications from a stroke. He was 96. For nearly 15 years, Smith was headmaster of Sidwell Friends School in the Washington, D.C. area, and was the author of *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*. Smith attended Harvard College for two years, then broke with Quaker traditions and served in the U.S. Army

during World War II. After the war, he attended Haverford, then transferred to the University of California at Berkeley, where he graduated in 1949. He received a master's degree in English literature from Columbia University in 1952, and was a teacher and dean at Columbia until 1965. As headmaster at Sidwell, Smith prided himself on knowing the names of all 1,000 students, and led efforts to diversify the student body. After leaving Sidwell, Smith served as a consultant to members of Congress and executive director of the Council for American Private Education.

HAROLD BOATRITTE



Harold Boatrite, classical composer and longtime professor of music at Haverford, died April 26 as a result of lung cancer. He was 89.

Boatrite was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pa., and graduated from Germantown High School. While largely self-taught, he did study under musicians including composer Stanley Hollingsworth, and was awarded a fellowship to the Tanglewood Music Center in Lenox, Mass., where he studied

composition with Lukas Foss and attended Aaron Copland's orchestration seminars. In 1967, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of music from Combs College of Music.

Boatrite created a wealth of music over his lifetime, from chamber and solo instrumental pieces to large-scale orchestral compositions. His works were performed throughout the United States and in Europe, including at the annual Prague Autumn International Music Festival; a production of his ballet, "Childermas," was nationally broadcast on CBS in 1969. His orchestral scores are now housed in the Fleisher Collection of Orchestral Music at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

He joined the Haverford faculty in 1967 as assistant professor of music, teaching elementary music theory, advanced theory, and composition. While working at Haverford, he served as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He taught at the College until 1980.

Boatrite had a lengthy association with the Concerto Soloists (now the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia), serving as consultant for new compositions. The orchestra performed many of his works, including his *Suite for Harpsichord* and his *Serenade for Oboe and Strings*.

At the invitation of pianist Rudolf Serkin, Boatrite was a composer-in-residence at the Marlboro Music Festival. In 1982, in honor of his 50th birthday, the Pennsylvania Alliance for American Music presented a series of concerts devoted to his music.

Up to the final days of his life, Boatrite was committed to teaching and mentorship, welcoming students into his studio on Waverly Street in Philadelphia. Vocalist Nina Simone, one of Boatrite's pupils, once said in an interview that Boatrite was one of her most prominent influences.

Former students will remember him for his gentleness, generosity, and philosophical wisdom.

He is survived by one nephew.

DELORES DAVIS



Delores Randolph Davis, who served as Haverford's recorder (registrar) from 1967 to 1986, died June 9. She was 101. Davis was born in rural Indiana in 1919. After the death of her mother when Delores was 4 years old, she was placed in an orphanage; she was later adopted by Daniel and Clara Randolph of Waldron, Ind. Following high school, she moved to Philadelphia, and attended the Baptist Institute for Christian Workers and Eastern

Baptist Theological Seminary, studying Christian education and sacred music. She worked in hospitals in New York, Nebraska, and California, before returning to the Philadelphia area in 1962. She worked at Eastern College for a few years before joining the Haverford staff, where she remained for 19 years until her retirement. In 1974, students honored Davis by dedicating the yearbook to her. She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Robert, and is survived by her son, Robert Davis, Jr.; her daughter, Marcia Jessen; three grandsons; and one great-granddaughter.

Alumni Obituaries

He retired from the council in 1988. He was a member of the Corporation of Haverford College from 1968 to 2014. He was predeceased by his wife, Eliza, and his father, **Robert C. Smith Class of 1914**, and is survived by his children, Susan Bastian, Katie Smith Sloan, and Geoffrey Smith; and eight grandchildren.

51 Ed Bellinger died March 31 at age 91. He attended George Washington University Law School, graduating in 1957, and then served as law clerk and assistant U.S. attorney of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. After his years in government service, he worked with the firms of Pope, Ballard, & Loos and Zuckert, Scoutt, & Rasenberger, before starting his own firm. Bellinger particularly loved boating, tennis, paddle tennis, and golf. He built his first boat in his parents' garage and loved to motor on the Chesapeake Bay. He was predeceased by his wife Ann Stevens Clark Bellinger, and is survived by his former wife, Adrian D. Bellinger; his daughter, Margaret McChesney; his sons, Edgar Bellinger, Jr. and **Robert Bellinger '84**; his step-children, Jack Stevens, Jennifer Stevens, and Julie Plants; and 11 grandchildren.

Al Willoughby died April 7 of congestive heart failure. After graduation, he relocated to Louisiana to work as a chemist, but then joined the U.S. Army, assigned to the Medical Corps stationed in Germany. Upon return to the U.S., he worked as a systems engineer for IBM for nearly 30 years, responsible for computer equipment maintenance at locations across the country. He retired from IBM in 1991. For more than 23 years, he performed with the amateur theater organization Savoy Company, appearing in numerous operas in both lead and supporting roles. He was a member of the Savoy's traveling troupe, and served in various leadership roles including president and member of the board of directors. He was also an active member of the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, where he played carillon and sang in the church's senior choir. He is survived by his wife, Bobbie; his sons, David and Alan; and three grandchildren.

54 Tim Bell died Feb. 2. After college, he joined the biological research film division of Smith, Kline & French, and held a post with the company in Montreal, Canada, for several years. After the film division was dissolved, Bell moved to Stonington, Conn., where he established Peaceable Kingdom Antiques. He became active in the local theater group and the yacht-racing community. Bell enjoyed life in recent decades with his partner Marianna Wilcox, her stepfamily, and their many friends. In addition to his interests in antiques trading, he also served as treasurer of the Stonington Land Trust, and was a member of the Stonington Conservation Commission. He was an avid naturalist and boater, and known to family and friends as a master conversationalist. He is survived by his children, Alexandra Witten, Daphne and Frederick Bell; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and the Streeter family.

Donald MacDonald, 88, of Midlothian, Va., died Jan. 7. Donald graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1958 with a degree in chemical engineering, and worked as an account executive at TEK Supply Company. Survivors include his four children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Philip Silver died Oct. 11. A resident of Madrid and Maine, Silver was a distinguished Spanish scholar, author, and translator, and was professor emeritus of Spanish at Columbia University. After graduating Haverford, he received master's degrees from Middlebury College and Princeton University in 1955 and 1960, respectively, and got his doctorate in philosophy from Princeton University in 1963. He taught at numerous institutions throughout his career, and published several books, including *Ruin and Restitution: Reinterpreting Romanticism in Spain*. Silver was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 1966, and was awarded the Queen Sofia Spanish Institute Translation Prize in 2020 for his English translation of Claudio Rodriguez's *Alianza y condena*. He served as a member of the Corporation of Haverford College, and was predeceased by his father, **Arthur Silver '27**.

59 Sandy Phillips died March 2 from complications of prostate cancer. During college, he served at the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in Philadelphia, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve following his graduation. He served three years as a Marine infantry officer in California and Okinawa, Japan. In 1962, Phillips joined Procter & Gamble where he would work for 32 years in positions of increasing responsibility, including manager of U.S. sales recruiting. He retired in 1994, and then founded a human resources consulting firm, Phillips Vancil and Associates. He was a member of numerous military and civic organizations, including the Society of Colonial Wars and the Marine Corps League; he founded and was the first commandant of Cape Fear Detachment 1070, Marine Corps League in Wilmington, N.C. He was named "Marine of the Year" by the commandant of the Department of North Carolina Marine Corps League in 2010, and was a frequent contributor to local and national publications on military and colonial subjects. He was a licensed lay Eucharistic minister, a good cook, a fluent speaker of French, and a collector of contemporary Japanese pottery. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Deborah; three children, Henry Alexander Phillips Jr., Brian Phillips, and Johanna Lum; and eight grandchildren.

60 Dennis Baker died Jan. 26 of heart failure. After college, he graduated from Columbia University Medical School, and then joined the U.S. Public Health Service, serving in Panama for two years. He completed his internship at Bellevue Hospital in New York, did his residency in general surgery at Tufts-New England Medical Center, and conducted a fellowship in vascular surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich. In 1975, he moved to Los Angeles, Calif., when he joined the vascular section of the UCLA department of surgery faculty and the Department of Veterans Affairs. He worked at UCLA

for over 45 years as a surgeon, professor, and administrator, retiring from clinical activities in 2010 but remaining active as an advisor and mentor until 2020. He was a member of many national and international surgical societies, and served in several leadership roles in organizations including the Western Vascular Society and the Southern California Vascular Society. He was awarded the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010, and received a commendation and the Veterans Affairs Distinguished Service Award. Baker spoke several languages and traveled widely. He spent his retirement explaining the finer points of raising Samoyed dogs to his sons, reading to his grandchildren, and lamenting the decline of UCLA football. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Kay; his sons, Chris and Mark; and four grandchildren.

62 William Freilich, a long-time resident of Montgomery County, Pa., died Oct. 3, 2019, in Needham, Mass. Born in Philadelphia, he was a 1956 graduate of Villanova University School of Law and worked in the legal departments of pharmaceutical firms including Merck and AstraZeneca. Following retirement, he became an historic interpreter at Valley Forge National Historical Park. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kay Haviland, with whom he traveled extensively; his children Robert and Margaret; two grandchildren; and several other family members and friends.

63 Will Riggan died March 10 due to complications from frontotemporal dementia. He was 80 years old. Riggan focused his career on education, as a teacher, counselor, and administrator. After college, he taught English and mathematics at the Watkinson School in Hartford, Conn., and worked summers as an Upward Bound teacher at Brandeis University and Tufts University. He attended Columbia Teachers College in New York City, graduating with his master's and his doctorate in urban education. He led educational research efforts for

organizations including New York State's Fleischmann Commission and the Childhood and Government Project at the University of California at Berkeley, and taught high school mathematics at two schools in the San Francisco Bay area. In 1998, he received a master's in counseling therapy from the University of San Francisco, and in 2002, he began work as a licensed marriage and family therapist in Santa Rosa, Calif. He also served as a clinical supervisor for Men Evolving Non-Violently. He is survived by his siblings, including his brother, **Rob Riggan '66**; his sons Benjamin and Daniel; his daughter, Emma O'Connor; and five grandchildren.

64 Michael Cook died March 30 at age 79. A noted rabbinical scholar of the New Testament, Cook focused his career on facilitating greater understanding between Jews and Christians in the U.S. and globally. He was the only rabbi in North America with a full-professorial chair in the New Testament. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College in New York in 1970, and began a Ph.D. in intertestamental literature. A prolific scholar, he authored the book *Modern Jews Engage the New Testament*, and delivered close to 250 academic papers at universities and other institutions, in addition to several hundred scholar-in-residence presentations at synagogues around the world. Cook served as the Sol & Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judeo-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, until his retirement in 2019. He was predeceased by his father, **Samuel Cook '27**, and is survived by his wife, Rabbi Judy Chessin; his brother, **Joel Cook '69**; his five children, David, Ben, Maia, Brett, and Chad; and five grandchildren.

65 Bill Becker died Feb. 11. After receiving his law degree from Washington University School of Law in 1969, he was hired by the law firm Laner Muchin, and represented coal mines, Chicago grocers, and also television and radio stations, and handled labor issues

and employment management for Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Studios. Eventually, Winfrey and her team asked Becker to become in-house general counsel. At Harpo, he rose to head a legal team of 25 employees, managing entertainment and FCC issues, and employment matters ranging from hiring to severance, as well as negotiating union contracts for the studio. Becker also helped with the mobilization of a legal team to investigate allegations of sex abuse at the girls' school Winfrey founded in South Africa, and once made a cameo on her television show. Outside of work, he enjoyed theater and traveling. Family, friends, and colleagues will remember him for his strong sense of ethics and wide-ranging abilities. He was predeceased by his first wife, Maureen, and is survived by his second wife, Lauralea Suess; his daughter, Cathy Becker; and one granddaughter.

67 Cleophus Charles died Aug. 23, 2020. He received his Ph.D. in American political and social history from Cornell University, and in 1973 joined the history faculty of Berea College in Berea, Ky., where he remained for a quarter century. He was the first tenured African American professor at the school, and established the college's program in Black studies. Together with his wife, Rosa, he launched the Cleo-Rosa Charles Pan-African Student Development Fund to support the work of student groups on campus. In 1997, Berea named him the first Carter G. Woodson Chair in African American history. Charles, who was blind, owned a substantial collection of Braille books, and was known for his dedication to mentorship and love of learning. He was predeceased by his wife, and is survived by his brothers Archie and William; his sisters Dorthula; Diane, and Lillian; many friends, and students that he and his wife mentored and considered their children, especially Patricia Edward and Saidah Miller.

68 Bruce Ackerman died Feb. 25. Ackerman graduated from Yale Law School in 1971, and then took a job researching subsidized housing and

Alumni Obituaries

community development under University of Southern California law professor George Lefcoe. While on the West Coast, he also taught administrative and local government law. In 1974, he and his wife, Marty, moved to New Jersey, where he worked for the offices of the state's governor and treasurer. Following this, he joined investment management company Merrill Lynch in New York City, primarily structuring, negotiating, and executing commercial mortgage loans. He retired in 2005. Throughout his life, Ackerman played lots of tennis and basketball, and enjoyed traveling. He will be remembered for his sharp intellect and dry sense of humor, which included learning how to request meals "without cheese" in the language of each country he visited. He is survived by his wife, Marty; his son, John; his daughter, Robin Cameron; and four grandsons.

70 **Dick Jarvis** died Oct. 8 at age 72. After college, he attended Rutgers University, graduating in 1973 with his post-graduate degree, and received his D.O. from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1977. He completed medical residencies in surgical medicine, emergency medicine, and family medicine, and served as an emergency room doctor at Kennedy Hospital in Washington Township, N.J. Later in his career, he moved into family practice, working at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. After he retired, he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, reading, and doing crossword puzzles in *The New York Times*. He was predeceased by his son Jason, and is survived by his wife, Marilee; his children Justin and Jessica; his stepchildren, Danielle, Christopher, Theresa, Jennifer, and Anthony; and 11 grandchildren.

74 **Marvin Trueblood** died March 2 at age 68. Marvin was a longtime employee of the Harrisburg Housing Authority, serving as the lead housing inspector. Outside of work, Trueblood was a dedicated community servant, and a member of St. Paul's Missionary

Baptist Church in Harrisburg, Pa. An avid scuba diver and swimmer, he traveled to many countries with the Harrisburg Scuba Diving Team. He is survived by his sister, Charlease Trueblood, and a host of relatives and friends.

76 **Dan Frank** died May 24 of cancer. He was 67. After college, he received a master's degree from the University of Chicago and became editorial director at Viking Press. He later joined Pantheon Books, where he worked for over two decades. Highly regarded in the publishing industry, his acquisitions and projects include Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, Cynthia Ozick's *Antiquities*, and Oliver Sacks' *Hallucinations* and *Musicophilia*. Due to his interest in comics and graphic novels and his ability to read French, he was able to acquire Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* for publication in the U.S. Among the authors published under Frank were the winners of two Pulitzer Prizes, several National Book Awards, numerous National Book Critics Circle awards, and multiple Eisners. Colleagues will remember him for his leadership, curiosity, and generosity of spirit. He is survived by his wife, Patty, his three sons, and one grandson.

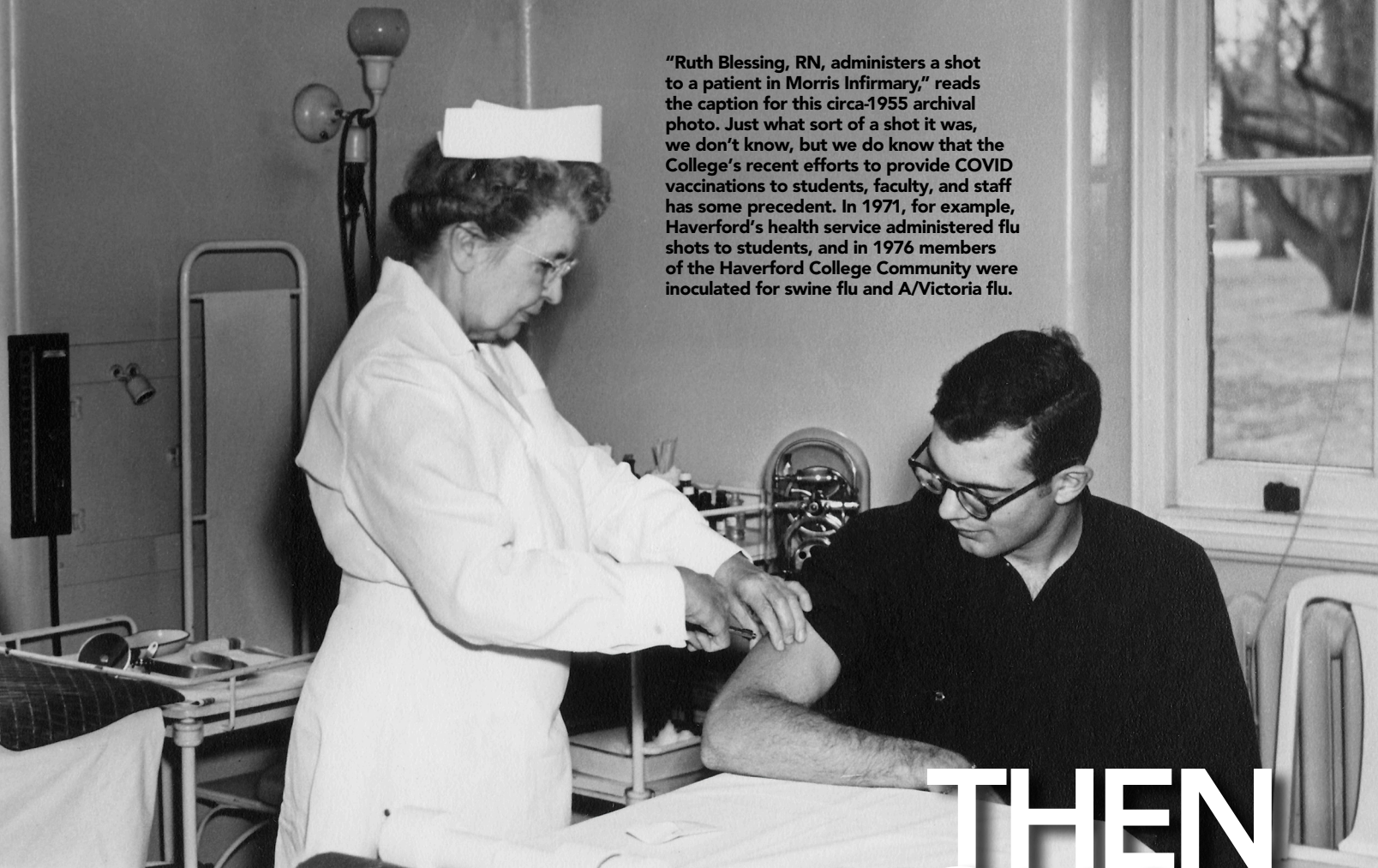
78 **Rob Haragan** died March 17 at age 64. He received his master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Louisville in 1981. Throughout his career, Haragan worked at IBM and Cisco Systems, ran his own company for several years, and consulted for French telecommunications company Alcatel-Lucent. A man of many talents, Haragan's curious nature led him to new interests throughout his life, including music, books, and sports of all sorts. He enjoyed horse racing, soccer, and running, and completed a 15-mile hike a few days before his death. He is survived by his wife, Karen, his daughter, Lauren, and numerous family members and friends.

82 **Michael Rosen** died April 27 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., from complications following surgery for pancreatic cancer. While in high school,

Rosen lived abroad with his family, with yearlong stints in Glasgow, Scotland, Cambridge, England, and Cork, Ireland. After college, he completed his master's degree in geology at the University of Rochester in 1984, his Ph.D. in geology at The University of Texas at Austin in 1989, and post-doctoral research at the University of Minnesota. His professional career centered on groundwater and surface water quality research, and he worked for several leading organizations around the world, including the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences in New Zealand and the United States Geological Survey at the Nevada Water Science Center, the Water Mission Area, and the California Water Science Center. He served as adjunct faculty at the University of Nevada, and was elected a fellow of the Geological Society of America in 2010. Outside of work, Rosen was passionate about hiking and birding, and was an accomplished self-taught guitarist, singer, and songwriter in the British folk tradition. Family, friends, and colleagues will remember him as an uplifting and cheerful man, and a devoted father and husband. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Laura Gibson, his children, Nick and Emma, and numerous other family members.

87 **Michael Schnorr** died May 9. After college, Schnorr worked in Philadelphia for a year before heading west to settle in San Francisco. He loved the city and was a dedicated Oakland Athletics and Raiders fan, and was known for his love of books, board games, world news, and hiking the hills and trails of the region. Mike is survived by his four children, Jake, Hattie, Livia and Abigail, and many other family members and friends.

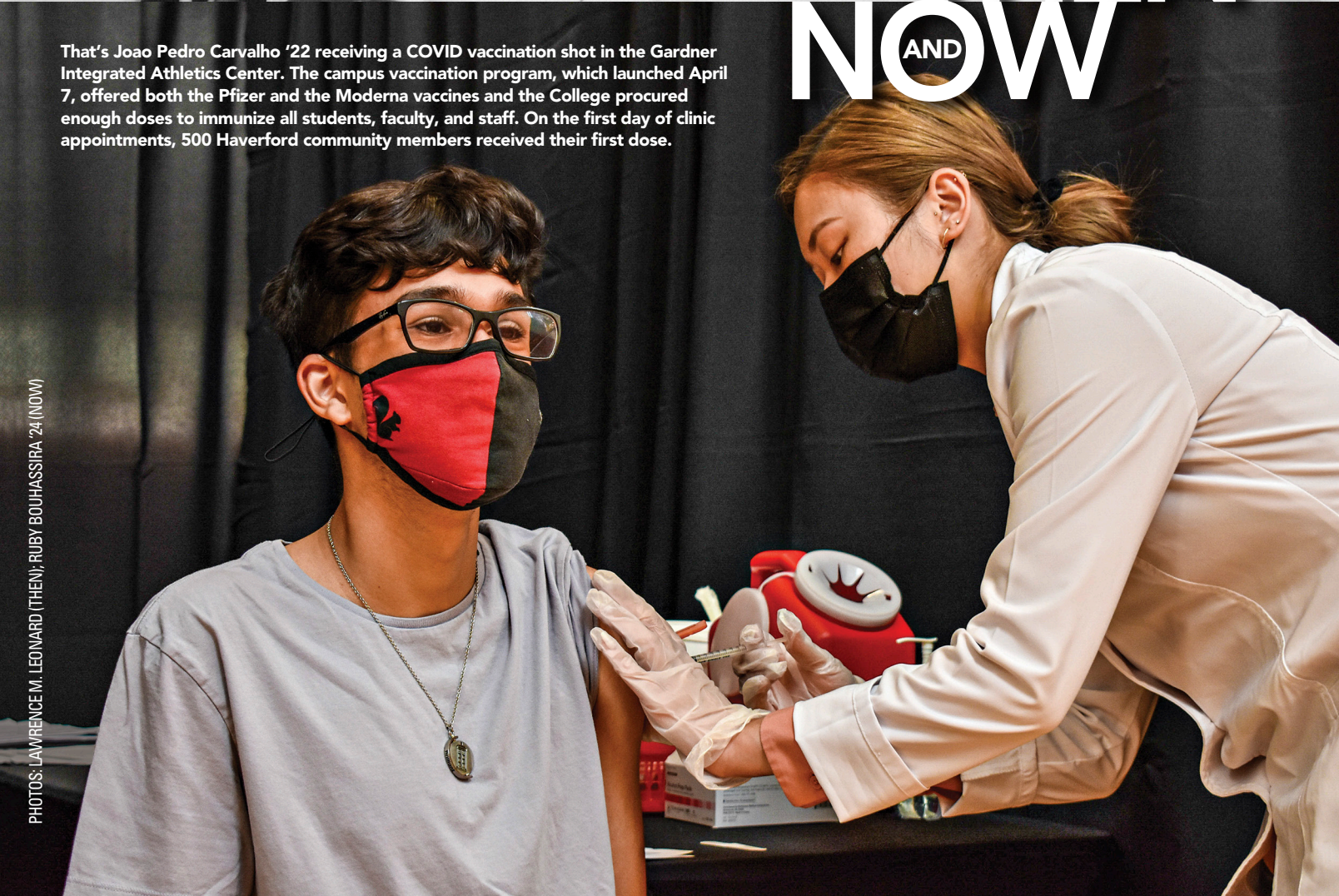
*Editor's note: In the Spring 2021 issue of the magazine, the obituary for **Martin Oppenheimer '48**, P'85 mistakenly noted that Oppenheimer left his role at the IRS to open his own practice. He left the government to join the tax department of a New York law firm, and later started his own tax practice. We apologize for the error.*



“Ruth Blessing, RN, administers a shot to a patient in Morris Infirmary,” reads the caption for this circa-1955 archival photo. Just what sort of a shot it was, we don’t know, but we do know that the College’s recent efforts to provide COVID vaccinations to students, faculty, and staff has some precedent. In 1971, for example, Haverford’s health service administered flu shots to students, and in 1976 members of the Haverford College Community were inoculated for swine flu and A/Victoria flu.

THEN AND NOW

That’s Joao Pedro Carvalho ‘22 receiving a COVID vaccination shot in the Gardner Integrated Athletics Center. The campus vaccination program, which launched April 7, offered both the Pfizer and the Moderna vaccines and the College procured enough doses to immunize all students, faculty, and staff. On the first day of clinic appointments, 500 Haverford community members received their first dose.



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