

SUMMER 2018

# swarthmore

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE BULLETIN



ART OF TEACHING

32

**To Her, With Love**

Celebrating the singular  
Kaori Kitao.

by Jonathan Riggs

► “Swarthmore was extremely generous to me. Anything I wanted to, I could teach: Baroque and the Renaissance, architecture and the city of Philadelphia, the history of cinema, a design course I created called ‘Everyday Things,’ *anything*,” says Kaori Kitao, the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor Emerita of Art History. “I loved teaching, but most of all, I loved the students.”

LAURENCE KESTERSON

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by Elizabeth Slocum

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Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon '12 photographed by Laurence Kesterson on her family’s Dayton, Texas, farm.

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We all stumble. Even Swatties.

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Therese Ton '19 bakes up plans for her sweet, STEM-focused biz.

**BIKER GRANDPARENTS**

Jay Martin Anderson '60 on how cycling unites his family.

**'JEOPARDY!' GENIUS**

Hear how Rebecca Rosenthal '20 got game (show).

EDITOR'S COLUMN

# APPLES FOR ALL THE TEACHERS



LAURENCE KESTERSON

by  
**JONATHAN RIGGS**  
Editor

INSPIRED BY Swarthmore-forged educators such as Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon '12 (pg. 22) and Kaori Kitao (pg. 32), we *Bulletin* staffers have been talking about the lessons we've learned working together.

The biggest is keeping the magazine growing and changing: For example, our cartoon caption contest has been retired for a new quiz column (pg. 18).

Underpinning it all, of course, is our commitment to continuing to learn from your Swarthmorean example: We are all teachers; we are all students.

## BLESS YOUR ART



Katie Auld Aron '98's daughter, Maddie (left), and John Verosky P'14 (right) shared colorful takes on our spring 2018 back cover. Thanks!

+ WRITE TO US: [bulletin@swarthmore.edu](mailto:bulletin@swarthmore.edu)

## SWARTHMORE COLLEGE BULLETIN

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We welcome letters on subjects covered in the magazine. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity, and style. Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or the official views or policies of the College.

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LETTERS

## VENI VIDI VERDI

Like all alumni, I always first turn to my class notes. Then, I would read Verdenal Hoag Johnson '45's, even though she graduated when I was 3! I don't remember when I stumbled on her column, but once I had, it was always a must-read.

In October 2013, the *Bulletin* profiled her, writing: "In 2008, Verdi ended her yearly class agent letter declaring, 'Life is short. Break the rules. Forgive quickly. Kiss slowly. Love truly. Laugh uncontrollably. And never regret anything that made you smile.'"

Verdi died last summer; her absence from Class Notes saddens me. But her words have been on my refrigerator door ever since I first read them. They will remain there, as I remember her many columns that made me smile.

—JANE JONAS SRIVASTAVA '63, West Vancouver, British Columbia



## SEW COLORFUL

I ENJOYED the spring 2018 *Bulletin*, including "Needle and Thread," about a quilter.

My mother, Ann Stoddard Sielman '57; sister, Becky Sielman '85; and I all quilt. Here's the quilt Becky designed and made (with her daughter, Mary Kuchenbrod '16) as a graduation gift for her son, Charles Kuchenbrod '18.

Appropriately for his major, all the designs reference mathematics. (It's also featured in my book, *Art Quilts International: Abstract & Geometric*.)

I run Studio Art Quilt Associates Inc., which has 3,500 members in 39 countries, and will publish my sixth book, *Art Quilts Unfolding: 50 Years of Innovation*, this fall.

Our lives need more color—and quilts!  
—MARTHA SIELMAN '82, Amston, Conn.



## Alma Maters

In 1998, Vivian Yeh '83 and I attended our 15th Reunion with my kids, Miranda and Owen Kephart, and Vivian's, Aiden Greer.

We took a photo (from left: Owen, Vivian, Miranda, me, and Aiden) that we re-enacted this May as Owen '18 and Aiden '18 graduated.

—DONNA GRESH '83, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.

## CONGRATULATIONS, RETIRING FACULTY



**Rachel Merz**  
Walter Kemp  
Professor in the  
Natural Sciences

Arriving at Swarthmore in 1985, Rachel Merz researched ecological and evolutionary questions. A marine biologist, she led students on global expeditions and inspired many to pursue science.



**Mike Mullan**  
Men's Tennis Coach

Arriving at Swarthmore in 1978, Mike Mullan led his men's tennis team to three NCAA Division III titles and served as a professor of sociology. He will continue to teach at the College.



**Don Shimamoto**  
Professor of  
Mathematics and  
Statistics

Arriving at Swarthmore in 1985, Don Shimamoto researched algebraic and differential topology and computational geometry. He chaired his department for four years and his division for six.

+ MORE: [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)



COMMUNITY VOICES  
**CHANGING LIVES**  
**CHANGING THE WORLD**

One year in, a campaign update

**P**RESIDENT Valerie Smith kicked off the public launch of *Changing Lives, Changing the World* on March 31, 2017,

with a joyful celebration on the Science Center quad.

At the time of the launch, the College had raised \$253 million toward a goal of \$450 million (by June 30, 2020)

and had already put those funds to work for the benefit of the College. For example, the Matchbox fitness center, Parrish Hall renovations, and the Aydelotte Foundation

were made possible by contributions received during the “silent phase.”

Now, thanks to the generosity of more than 10,000 donors, with gifts ranging from a few dollars to millions, our community has collectively given more than \$301 million to the campaign as this issue goes to press.

Here are just a few examples of progress from the past year, organized by the campaign’s four primary themes:

**Connecting the Liberal Arts**

- *Embedded Travel*: Students in the Afro-Cuba Experiential Learning Course traveled to Cuba in spring 2017. The program was a collaboration of the Dean’s Office, Black Cultural Center, Black Studies, Sociology & Anthropology, Linguistics, Spanish, and Latin American and Latino Studies.

- *Externships*: During winter break, 230 students matched with alumni, parents, and friends of the College for Extern Week, an annual opportunity for students to shadow mentors in fields of their interest.

- *Faculty Research*: Professor of Economics Amanda Bayer is using state-of-the-art research to enhance diversity, inclusion, and innovation in the practices, programs, and research at the Federal Reserve and in the economics profession more broadly.

by  
**EMILY WEISGRAU**  
 Director of Advancement  
 Communications

**Building an Inclusive Community**

- *Financial Aid*: This year, the College continued its commitment to need-blind admission and meeting full need with grants rather than loans by providing \$42.5 million to 55 percent of the student body. Approximately half of those funds came from endowed scholarships.

- *The Student Emergency Fund* made nearly \$20,000 in distributions last fall for 90 individual needs, including DACA application renewals, medical bills, GMAT registration fees, funeral travel, and externship expenses.

**Enhancing our Social Impact**

- *Sustainability*: The Green Revolving Fund (GRF) replaced 300 outdoor metal halide lamps. The savings of 165 watts per lamp will reduce expenses by approximately \$1,980

per month—savings that have been reinvested into the GRF to support future projects, including lighting upgrades for Friends Historical Library and the Science Center.

- *Chester Community Fellowships*: Through this Lang Center summer program, students spent 10 weeks at local agencies such as the Chester Children’s Chorus, Chester Education Foundation, and Chester Housing Authority.

**Creating Vital Spaces**

- A committee of faculty, staff, and students is evaluating community needs for *dining and gathering*, determining what type of spaces might be needed and investigating operational requirements.

- Interior renovations are preparing Sproul Hall for the *Hormel-Nguyen Intercultural Center*, opening this fall. The former observatory will bring the Intercultural Center, the Religious and Spiritual Life Office, the Interfaith Center, and the Office of International Student Services under one roof for the first time.

- *Biology-Engineering-Psychology (BEP)*: Since Phase 1 construction began in June 2017, the site has been excavated and structural steel installed. Learn more on pg. 16! 📍

➤ **EXPLORE** these and other stories of success, find a campaign event, or make a gift at [lifechanging.swarthmore.edu](http://lifechanging.swarthmore.edu).



STEPHEN KARPFF '92

**REWIND: COMING IN SIDWAYS**

How a circuitous path led—at last—to fulfillment

“I THINK I have another conversion-disorder kid,” said the school nurse on the phone. “He faints at the mention of blood.”

I told her it sounded more like significant anxiety. The frustrated nurse responded that she wanted to teach the student mindfulness grounding techniques, but the parents refused because of religious beliefs.

“Well, today’s your lucky day,” I said. “I majored in religion in college.”

That always surprises people. Most nurses majored in, well, nursing. Even among those of us who came to the field sideways, most majored in something more relevant. I’ve long since given up explaining how a B.A. in religion from Swarthmore is connected to just about everything throughout my career.

I never planned to be a nurse. When I graduated from Swat, I was pretty aimless. Eventually, I decided on the medical field and entered a “hybrid” nursing program: three semesters to an RN, three more to a master’s degree and nurse practitioner certification.

by  
**JULIE LOVE**  
 '90

I did the pediatric track but ached at seeing kids hurt or sick. With two children to raise and a pile of student loans, I needed a job. I don’t recall whether I knew Charles River was a psych hospital when I applied. The facility in Massachusetts was what we call a “real rock ‘n’ roll joint,” where earnings were frankly referred to as “combat pay.” I learned crisis-management skills and moved to a calmer hospital. But with no medical benefits, I found a second job as a school nurse. I surprised myself by loving it. Finally, a chance to take care

of a whole community of kids! I looked forward to watching them grow from preschool through eighth grade.

Three years later, the school closed. I developed a patchwork of psychiatric jobs and teaching gigs, and served as adjunct faculty for eight nursing schools. I lectured in pediatrics and led maternity clinicals, but my primary specialty was always psych.

My patients die younger than the general population: They have difficulty getting adequate health care from providers who are comfortable treating disorders beyond the brain. I like to think I had an impact on my nursing students—who’ve gone on to have an impact on this issue.

Recently, I found my current job developing and implementing the McLean School Nurse Liaison Project, a grant-funded program to improve pediatric mental health throughout southeastern Massachusetts by offering consultation and education services to school nurses and staff. With my 15 years as a psych nurse and pediatric nurse practitioner, 10 years as a nursing instructor, and four years as a school nurse, it’s as if someone stalked me for the last few decades and then designed a job precisely for me.

I serve more than 400 schools, giving in-service presentations, developing useful resources, and fielding phone calls on topics like the student afraid of blood. I helped that school nurse understand the best way to frame the grounding techniques so that the family would see them as supporting, rather than violating, their religious views.

Usually the connection to my undergrad degree isn’t so obvious—but it’s always there. How to communicate clearly; how to flexibly engage with another’s viewpoint and move forward to solve a problem; how to absorb, integrate, and utilize the information all around us to passionately care about and advocate for those in need—these are all integral to being a psych nurse as well as to a Swarthmore education. 📍

BEHIND THE BOOK

# The Questions of Causation

by Dana Mackenzie '79

CAUSES AND EFFECTS are ubiquitous in what society asks of scientists. Will requiring students to take algebra improve test scores? Did global warming cause this heat wave? Does smoking cause cancer?

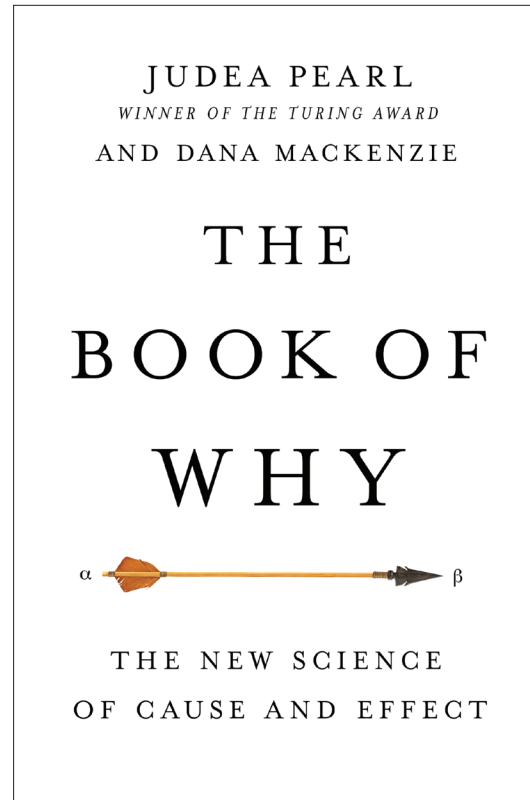
Statisticians carefully tiptoe around these questions. In Statistics 1 class, I taught my students the mantra “Correlation is not causation.” For example, countries with higher chocolate consumption tend to have more Nobel Prizes per capita. They’re correlated. But no one thinks that we can advance science by eating more chocolate.

Strangely, the textbook never explained causation. It never told the students how to diagnose and quantify causal effects, how to distinguish spurious from real. It failed them, and I failed them.

For nearly 30 years, my co-author, Judea Pearl, has been working to illuminate this blind spot. Statisticians refuse to address questions of causation, yet these are of greatest importance.

I joined Judea to write this book because I feel that it is profoundly important in our era of “big data.” Yes, data are useful and important, but they need to be combined thoughtfully and purposefully with causal models. “You are smarter than your data” is our new mantra. I hope our book will wake up a few scientists and empower non-scientists to demand real answers—not just correlations. ⑤

Available now, *The Book of Why: The New Science of Cause and Effect (Basic Books)* is Dana Mackenzie '79's eighth book.



AUTHOR Q&A

# BEYOND THE MARKETING: SAMANTHA GOTTLIEB '00

by Michelle Crumsho

Although human papillomavirus (HPV) is the world's most common sexually transmitted infection, most people never know they are infected, says medical anthropologist Samantha Gottlieb '00 ([bit.ly/SGLecture](http://bit.ly/SGLecture)).

She examines the gendered marketing of the HPV vaccine Gardasil in her new book, *Not Quite a Cancer Vaccine: Selling HPV and Cervical Cancer* (Rutgers University Press).

“Vaccines are important,” she says, “but we need to understand how they have been developed, marketed, and promoted to us.”

**What did you discover?**

How important it was to understand the HPV vaccine in the context of broader U.S. debates. Merck's decision to present this as a women's cervical cancer vaccine, rather than to focus on the STI protective benefits for both women and men, had a huge impact on how the public understood it. It is now approved for both boys and girls, which wasn't originally the case. The newer Gardasil 9 vaccine provides much better coverage for the many types of HPV that can cause cancer, making it a better vaccine overall.

**Is Gardasil a wonder drug?**

It's easy to think, *Wow, we have a really amazing first step against cancer. We should think that we've known for nearly 40 years that cervical cancer is caused by a virus. And now we know other cancers—such as oral, anal, and penile—also have a viral cause. So, is it great that we have a way to prevent against a virus*



TOBY SANDERSON

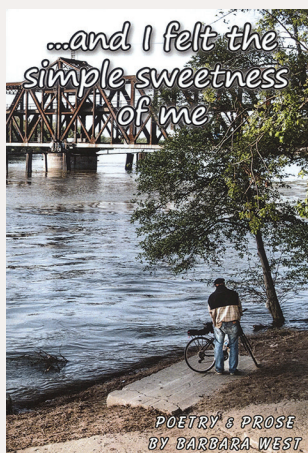
that can mutate into cancers? Yes! But the story is more complex and reveals historical, gender, and commercial biases contributing to the development of a vaccine that many people still distrust.

**What's the impact of calling this a “cancer” vaccine?**

I think it has done a huge disservice to the vaccine's potential in the U.S.—its value is quite different in countries where the deaths due to cervical cancer remain devastatingly high. Thus, I think the reasons to vaccinate against HPV in the U.S. are not the reasons that Merck, clinicians, and public health officials have insisted upon. ⑤

## HOT TYPE: NEW BOOKS BY SWARTHMOREANS

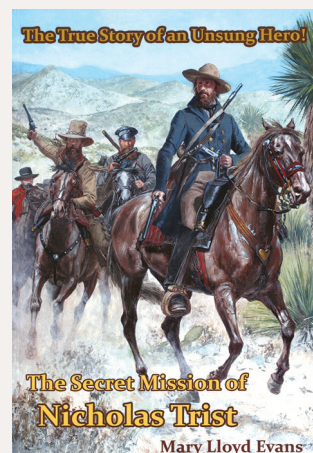
Submit your publication for consideration: [books@swarthmore.edu](mailto:books@swarthmore.edu)



► Barbara West '90

*...and I felt the simple sweetness of me*  
Cold River Press

In her first published book, West weaves achingly intimate poetry, prose, and photography born of her commitment to art ([bit.ly/BWest90](http://bit.ly/BWest90)) as well as from her hospice nurse work. “Writing this on the verge of turning 50, while pondering the tragedies I witness in the lives of so many patients and loved ones,” she writes, “I hope that the luxury I have had to ‘turn within and reflect’ will be of benefit to others.”



► Mary Lloyd Evans '54

*The Secret Mission of Nicholas Trist*  
CreateSpace Publishing

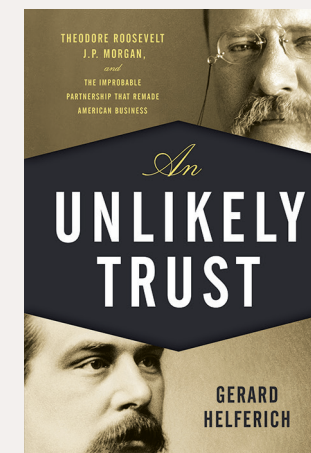
In this “living history with its extraordinary cast of characters,” Evans brings mid-1800s America to life via the story of Nicholas Trist, a peace-seeking diplomat whose Mexican-American War-ending negotiations got him fired for insubordination by President James K. Polk. “How were we to learn the lessons of history when the history is not taught?” she writes about her labor of love to share this little-known true story and the example it can set for America today.



► Miriam Scheiber Seidel '73

*The Speed of Clouds*  
New Door Books

A deep dive into Y2K-era sci-fi fandom, Seidel's debut novel is also the poignant story of one fan's efforts to find a new way to live on Earth. Mindy Vogel, a young woman in a wheelchair who lives a rich emotional life through a *Star Trek*-esque fan club, must reinvent herself when everything in her world changes, seemingly for the worse. *Clouds* “blends quiet and deeply human moments with the world-shaking consequences of epic science fiction,” raves author A.C. Wise.



► Gerard Helferich '76

*An Unlikely Trust*  
Lyons Press

The world's two most powerful men at the dawn of the 20th century, Teddy Roosevelt and J.P. Morgan, were more than battling colossi. Best-selling author Helferich finds that their long association was far more complex and permanently changed the dynamics between government and business. “Not least of all,” he writes, “it is the story of how citizens with vastly disparate philosophies and interests managed to come together for the good of their common country.”

GLOBAL THINKING

# ALL YOU NEED (LE) IS LOVE

This compassionate traveler reaps what she sews

by Jonathan Riggs

TIME AND TIDE wait for no man, woman ... or pincushion.

For six decades, Jane Jonas Srivastava '63 lovingly used a little lemon-yellow-and-green pincushion from her mother. When it began to leak sawdust, however, Srivastava decided it was time to compost it—and discovered something she'd never noticed before.

"There were 14 pins and 96 needles inside the pincushion," she says. "About half of the needles had eyes so small, I knew I'd never be able to thread them."

Ahead of a trip last year through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, Srivastava planned to knit cozy hats to give away to infants she would meet. Then she realized another way she could weave together new relationships. Creating colorful fabric packets of roughly five needles wrapped in ribbon, she brought the gifts along on her journey from British Columbia to Central Asia.

"When I travel, I want to truly connect with people, and sharing craftwork is a way of sharing your lives," she says. "I want to have a better understanding of the world and the people in it, and I thought this would be a special way to reach out."

Through markets and villages and even a 1-year-old's birthday party—where the inevitable outcome of a magician's dove flying over the dinner table left everyone in stitches—Srivastava talked and listened with an open heart.

Language barriers mattered little, after all, with her craftwork and needles to smooth the way, helping her spark new friendships with wool dyers, silk weavers, gold embroidery artisans, and even her airplane seatmates.

What she found was that any gesture of goodwill and generosity she made was matched—or exceeded—wherever she went.

"Every woman I gave a gift to gave me something she'd crafted, too: a handmade doll, a beautiful bag, an herb-stuffed amulet," she says. "At first, I was bothered about this, but then I realized that accepting their gifts in exchange for mine was just being respectful."

For Srivastava, the concept of being a gracious guest in other people's countries and homes guides all she does—particularly when she can repay hospitality via her skill with a needle and thread. She's been known to mend her hosts' frayed placemats, bathroom curtains, and even a cherished quilt made from childhood pajama scraps.

Sewing and needlework are skills her mother taught her, and Srivastava's proud to pass them on, teaching her 10-year-old grandson how to knit. (Although he may not



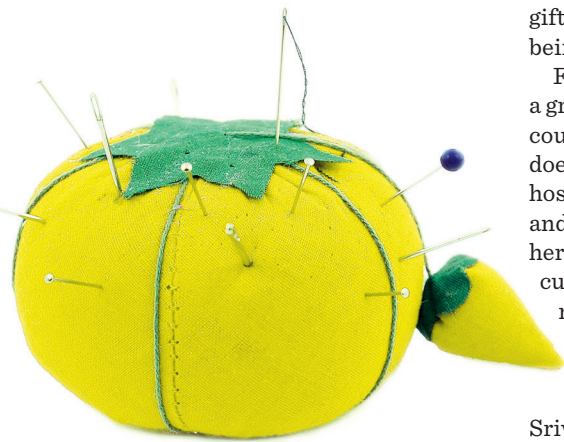
JANE JONAS SRIVASTAVA '63  
Adventurer

have the patience to tackle a scarf yet, she chuckles, he can knit a fabulous bookmark.)

In addition to her crafting, she practices Taoist tai chi, swims, hikes, volunteers at the Vancouver Opera, and regularly kicks up her heels at contra and English country dances.

Travel, however, remains a big focus: She's been a globetrotter since she was a child, when she accompanied her grandmother to Mexico. Her planned trips for 2018 alone include Oaxaca, the Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, and, closer to home, California, Texas, the Northwest U.S. ... and Swarthmore, for her 55th Reunion.

"I'm very lucky to be able to travel—it allows me to see and learn so much," she says. "I've always said that, in my old age, I would rather live in one room on tea, toast, and good memories than in a fancy apartment eating caviar and wishing I'd traveled more." ❦



SHARING SUCCESS AND STORIES OF SWARTHMORE

# Common good



**NEW AGE**

Experience Sarah Jaquette Ray '98's lecture "Coming of Age at the End of the World."  
+ **HEAR**  
[bit.ly/SJRJay](http://bit.ly/SJRJay)

**DAY IN THE LIFE**

Tag along with current students at Swarthmore!  
+ **WATCH**  
[bit.ly/SwatDay](http://bit.ly/SwatDay)

**SEEING CHANGES**

Hayden Dahmm '15 is enhancing our campus navigation for the blind.  
+ **READ**  
[bit.ly/HDahmm](http://bit.ly/HDahmm)

**BIG DIFFERENCE**

Students share how Swarthmore shaped their lives.  
+ **VIEW**  
[lifechanging.swarthmore.edu](http://lifechanging.swarthmore.edu)

**LADY JUSTICE**

Cosmo interviews Lourdes Rosado '85 on her work with New York's first female attorney general.  
+ **HONOR**  
[bit.ly/LRosado](http://bit.ly/LRosado)



► "Our youngest grandsons, Liam and Declan Jones, with me and my wife, Pat Anderson, outside our Gasthaus in Nonenhorn, Bavaria, Germany, on the last day of our ride around Lake Constance (der Bodensee)."

WHEEL LIFE

## Road Warriors

by Jay Martin Anderson '60

WE BEGAN biking through Europe with our grandchildren in 2004, when the oldest was 11 and I was 64. We may have answered the question "When they're old enough, will *we* still be young enough?"

Our motivation is simple: Give the grandkids an experience they'll remember, some challenges they can rise to, and a desire to be lifelong bikers. It seems to be working.

+ **CONTINUED:** [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)



► “There are many things that connect us,” Richard Monari '16 says of best friend Kelly Smemo '16. “Shared fandoms, humor, a deep love of Wawa.”

## ANIMATED DISCUSSIONS

by Elizabeth Slocum

Kelly Smemo '16 and Richard Monari '16 are two peas in a pod ... er, podcast.

Inseparable at Swarthmore, they shared a major (linguistics), a job (at McCabe), and even a leadership position (co-president of the Anime Club).

So when assignments with AmeriCorps pulled them apart—Smemo to Philly, Monari to Colorado—the “eternal partners in crime” drew up a solution: *Animate the World*, an original anime-themed podcast.

“We’ll discuss whether animation has to be aesthetically pleasing to be watchable, or how anime deals with budget cuts,” says Smemo. “And I also make fun of Richard for an hour, which is pretty amazing.”

When their conversations veered toward yet another shared obsession—the K-pop band Seventeen—Smemo and Monari launched a spinoff, *Sixteen: A Seventeen Fancast*. The pair now alternate discussions each Sunday, with hourlong episodes going live on iTunes and Google Play every Tuesday.

Though they don’t track their audience, Smemo and Monari *do* know they’re reaching beyond their circle of friends: An unknown commenter left a glowing iTunes review. But with this passion project, the listeners who matter most are the two doing the talking.

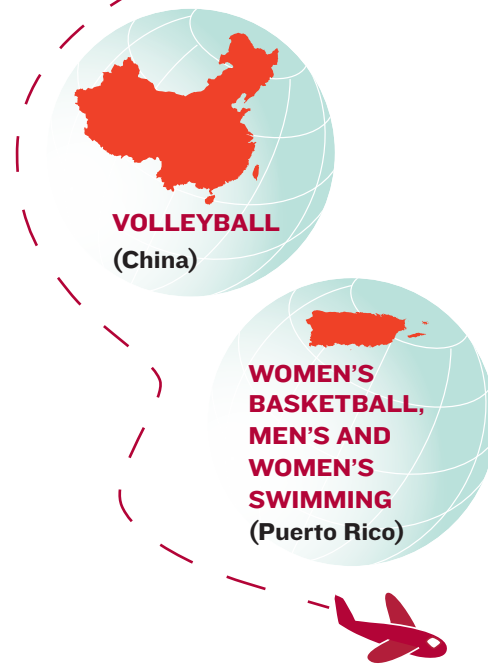
“The podcasts have been an easy way to keep in touch,” says Smemo. “It’s a nice log of our friendship.” 📌

Speaker of the Year Miriam Pierson '18 and Nate Urban '18 won the American Parliamentary Debate’s Team of the Year. They’re the first Swarthmore team to do so since 1987.

+ **MORE:** [bit.ly/SwatDebate](http://bit.ly/SwatDebate)

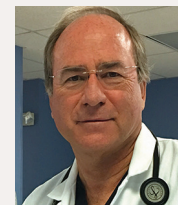
## THE GARNET GO GLOBAL

In the last year, Swarthmore sports teams have trained, played, and given back around the world!



## THE DOCTOR IS IN ... BOOKSTORES

In his new book, *Med School 101 for Patients*, Dr. Kilbourn “Sandy” Gordon '76 draws from his own emergency and



urgent-care medicine experience to provide step-by-step instructions on how patients can get the most out of doctor visits.

“It’s a short, easy-to-read guide to help people communicate with their physician on a whole new level,” he says. “I want all patients to have the experience of exceptional office visits.” 📌

## SBAN Strong

by Amanda Whitbred

The Swarthmore Black Alumni Network (SBAN), in just five years, has grown from an idea into a community, reaching a significant milestone.

“We have raised over \$100,000 for transformative summer internship experiences,” says SBAN Co-Chair Tracey Patillo '90.

In 2016–17, SBAN partnered with the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility to create and support the Urban Inequality and Incarceration (UII) program, offering students social justice internships.

One of the first projects UII interns tackled is an extension of Professor Keith Reeves '88’s academic work. Last summer, interns worked alongside attorneys assisting incarcerated individuals who as juveniles received mandatory sentences of life without parole. (The 2012 Supreme Court decision *Miller v. Alabama* declared those sentences unconstitutional.)

Future internships could focus on urban education or health care,



► Celebrating SBAN at the Black Cultural Center: Erika Janifer '04, Jaky Joseph '06, Tom Spock '78, Kip Davis '75, BCC Director Dion Lewis, and President Valerie Smith.

but UII’s greatest impact, says SBAN Co-Chair Jaky Joseph '06, is the opportunity it offers students.

“Organizations that study these issues and are willing to take on interns often can’t provide financial support,” says Joseph. “UII helps students who may be facing financial pressure accept an unpaid internship.”

Beyond fundraising, SBAN organizes events to bring black alumni and students together on campus and regionally. In addition to SBAN’s annual Garnet Weekend program in the fall, the network most recently

hosted an outing to the Baltimore Museum of Art to see a special exhibit by artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby '04.

“We want to keep the network strong and offer our alumni a variety of ways to engage,” says Patillo. “SBAN is open to anyone who identifies with and wants to join our community.”

“Our goal is to strengthen connections,” says Joseph. “We want to hear any ideas about how we can make SBAN more impactful and an even better Swarthmore resource.” 📌

+ **EXPLORE:** [swarthmore.edu/SBAN](http://swarthmore.edu/SBAN)

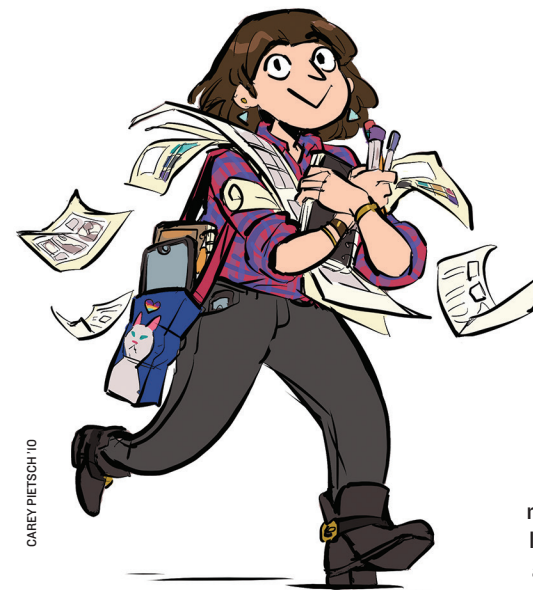
## A Magic Pen

Tabletop gamer, plant collector, *Animorphs* superfan: Carey Pietsch '10 makes art fun ... and fun art.

“I’m really drawn (sorry) toward the cartoony end of the spectrum, with the goal of pushing poses and acting in expressive and funny ways,” she says. “My first published comics were one-off strips in the *Phoenix* that were all just silly gags.”

Pietsch collaborated with the McElroy family podcasters to adapt one of their shows into the new fantasy graphic novel *The Adventure Zone: Here There Be Gerblins*. Rendered in her signature style, *Gerblins* is a kindhearted/comedic, sparkling/snarky adventure. (*Dungeons & Dragons* has never been as charming as in her panels depicting a wizard-cleric-fighter elevator sing-along to “The Girl from Ipanema.”)

“I’m interested in using fantasy as a tool to explore interpersonal relationships in new settings,” she says. “Using magic or fairy-tale rules to learn empathy and express vulnerability is a theme that comes up again and again when I’m writing.” 📌 —JONATHAN RIGGS





# COUNCIL UPDATES

by Emily Anne Nolte Jacobstein '07 and BoHee Yoon '01

**F**OR THREE years, Alumni Council has hosted a professional clothing drive for Swatties. Next year, we'll work with Ville retailers and a professional tailor.

Welcome, new members: Joseph Becker '66, Geoff Cline '96, Robert Cushman '71, Petrina Albulescu Dawson '76, Mike Dennis '93, Sampriti Ganguli '95, Christine Kim '17, Patricia Scholz-Cohen '85, Stephen Schwartz '84, Riana Shah '14, Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon '12, Sean Wright '96, and Shivani Chinnappan '18.

Welcome, new execs: President Emily Anne Nolte Jacobstein '07; VP Anne Richards '97; Liaisons Julian Harper '08, Laura McKee '88, and Laura Markowitz '85; Secretary BoHee Yoon '01; Nominating Chair Janet Erlick '88; and Special Appointees Kip Davis '75, Way-Ting Chen '94, Peter Jaquette '74, and Charles Bailey '67.

Jaquette and Bailey will explore initiatives such as the Sustainability Sages pilot, where alumni mentor current President's Sustainability Research Fellow (PSRF) students.

"Sages provide academic and research support," says PSRF alumna and Office of Sustainability intern Bridget Scott '18, "and also build truly meaningful relationships."

"It's fabulous to work with students on projects with real connection to the College community," says Jaquette, who helped launch the program.

Finally, we matched the more than \$1,900 donated by 200-plus seniors to their class gift. With donors' help, the gift added more than \$14,000 to the Student Emergency Fund. 📍

+ MORE: [bit.ly/AlumCoun](http://bit.ly/AlumCoun)



LAURENCE KESTERSON

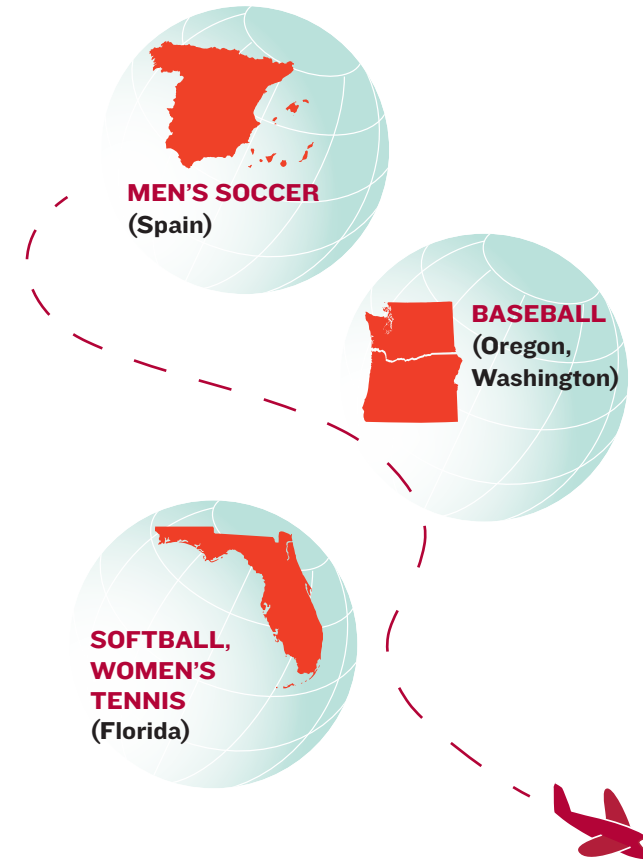
▶ PSRFs Nick DiMaio '19 (far left) and Dayo Originwa '18 (far right) completed projects with the guidance of their respective Sustainability Sage mentors, Leonard Nakamura '69 (left) and Tom Sahagian '74 (right). "I'm impressed by how much these students accomplished and grew in the process," says Nakamura, "especially in the midst of a tough period of academics."

## SUSTAINABILITY SAGES PAIRED WITH STUDENTS

PSRF	PROJECT	SAGE
Chloe Klaus '19	Purchasing & Policy Change	Sean Mangus '13, sustainability analyst at DaVita Inc.
Dayo Originwa '18	Building Control Systems: Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Buildings	Tom Sahagian '74, formerly of Enterprise Community Partners
Nick DiMaio '19	Climate Protection & Carbon Pricing	Leonard Nakamura '69, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
Sierra Spencer '18	Biofuels: Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Buildings	Peter Jaquette '74, senior director, PIRA Energy Group
Natasha Markov-Riss '20	Sustainability Planning in OSE	David Meyers '75, CEO of Eastern Research Group
Isabel Llosa '20	Food and Dining	Jenny Harvey deHart '88, chief sustainability officer at Unity College

Unpaired Sages on call include Don Chen P'21, director of equitable development at the Ford Foundation; Eric Studer '97, of TNZ Energy Consulting; Jon Makler '98, of the Oregon Department of Transportation; and Anson Stewart '10, project lead for analysis and research at Conveyal.

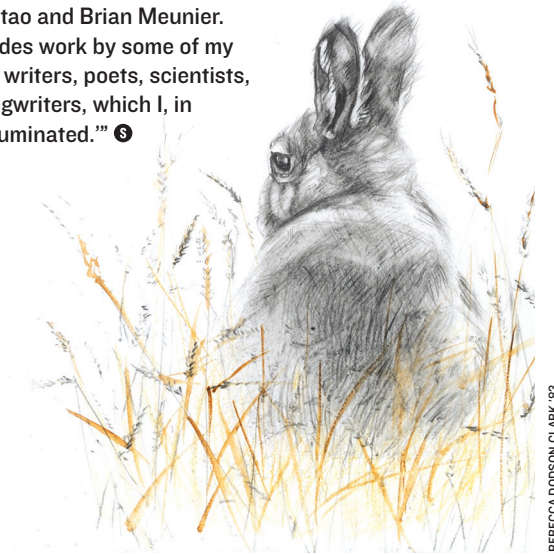
TO NOMINATE AN ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBER, EMAIL LISA SHAFER: [LSHAFER1@SWARTHMORE.EDU](mailto:LSHAFER1@SWARTHMORE.EDU)



## Art in Quiet Moments

Rebecca Dodson Clark '83 created her free online *Book of Hours: An Artist's Book for the Anthropocene* ([bit.ly/Clark83](http://bit.ly/Clark83)) to move medieval prayer books to the virtual age.

"It provides light but underscores our vast separation from the natural and spiritual worlds," says Clark, who remains inspired by professors like Kaori Kitao and Brian Meunier. "It includes work by some of my favorite writers, poets, scientists, and songwriters, which I, in turn, 'illuminated.'" 📍



REBECCA DODSON CLARK '83



**A:** This quizmaster made it to the *Jeopardy!* College Championship semifinals, amassing \$69,600 in two games.

**Q:** Who is Rebecca Rosenthal '20?

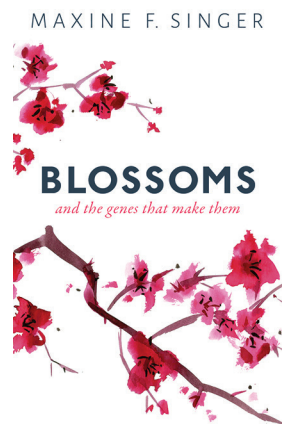
+ MORE: [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)

## STAMEN ALIVE

THIRTY years ago, no one knew how a plant began to make a flower.

In her new book, *Blossoms: And the Genes That Make Them*, Maxine Frank Singer '52, H'78 shares the science behind the solution to this floral mystery.

"My hope is that after reading this book, whether you see long-stemmed red roses in a street kiosk, or yellow tulips in spring gardens, or wild purple asters covering a mountainside in late summer," she writes, "you will remember that they are the result of genes working and evolving over the long history of life on Earth." 📍



# From Professors to Peers

**I**N ALL OF HER courses, Polish music expert Barbara Milewski seeks to connect with her students as a fellow adventurer rather than an ultimate authority.

“I want them to know the field of musicology is wide open. There’s all sorts of research that awaits its scholars; there are topics for the taking,” she says. “I invite them to ask questions that might lead to new ideas and areas of interest deserving of further exploration.”

That’s exactly what happened when cellist Mackenzie Pierce ’11 took Milewski’s Chopin seminar—it planted a seed. Not only did he learn Polish after graduating, but he’s now a doctoral candidate in musicology at Cornell—and a friend and colleague of Milewski’s.

“One of the most important and enjoyable aspects of being a scholar is having a network of people to share concerns and questions with, and I’m lucky to have had that with Dr. Milewski,” says Pierce. “In fact, it’s hard to put a finger on the moment we went from student/professor to collaborators in a larger conversation.”

After all, this kind of collaboration isn’t uncommon at Swarthmore.

For example, Professor of Statistics Steve Wang and Zoey Werbin ’17 recently earned a National Science Foundation grant to expand upon an independent study they completed together ([bit.ly/WangWerbin](http://bit.ly/WangWerbin)).

Pierce and Milewski were especially excited this March, when their year-in-the-making multidisciplinary festival, “Forbidden Songs,” premiered at both Cornell and Swarthmore ([bit.ly/FSongs](http://bit.ly/FSongs)). Through a live concert, lecture, and film, the pair helped reclaim the long-censored music of



LAURENCE KESTERSON

▶ “As someone who has grappled with 20th-century Polish musical identity and memory for years, it’s so satisfying to work with shared purpose to bring to light new perspectives,” says Associate Professor of Music Barbara Milewski about her former student Mackenzie Pierce ’11.

the iconic, yet almost-forgotten, Polish composer Roman Palester.

Best of all, they agree, is that this is just the beginning of their ongoing collaboration.

“It takes many minds to explore the music of midcentury Poland,” says Pierce. “I’m happy to share some ideas

that have been germinating for a few years now.”

“It’s rewarding to have an intellectually creative relationship with a former student who now in his own right is a very fine musicologist,” Milewski says. 📍

—JONATHAN RIGGS

## SPORTS SHORTS

### LACROSSE

Cam Marsh ’18 became the fifth player in men’s program history to score 100 career goals.

### SOFTBALL

First-year head coach Melissa Finley led the team to their best conference record since 2010.

### TRACK & FIELD

The women’s team took second and the men third in the Centennial Conference Championship.



## LIGHT THE WAY

AT SWARTHMORE’S 146th Commencement on May 27, President Valerie Smith awarded honorary degrees to entrepreneur and public interest lawyer Edgar Cahn ’56, poet-writer-activist Sonia Sanchez, and biomedical engineer and educator Francisco Valero-Cuevas ’88.

“They are intellectually curious,” she said, “and have seized opportunities to create, produce, and contribute in a wide variety of arenas.”

“All of the things that enable us to function as human beings, we have devalued,” Cahn told graduates. “We need to value work that the market does not value, and we need to value people whom the market does not value. Market price does not equal value. Being the best human being you can be is priceless.”

“The day is walking towards us and I say, give us the spirit, O Lord, O my sisters and brothers. And for it put, to put on our eyes,” Sanchez said. “And forever, let us be in the eyelash of your memory ... where there is always the precision of young men and women serving themselves, sewing themselves into the sleeves of justice and activism and change and love.”

“You are now officially empowered by your education. Use it—and your talents—wherever your passion may lead you, regardless of the major written on your diploma,” concluded Valero-Cuevas. “Be empowered, be passionate, be determined, be yourself, and most of all, be happy.” 📍

+ **EXPERIENCE** Commencement and watch all speeches: [bit.ly/SwatCom18](http://bit.ly/SwatCom18)

**NOMINATE A 2019 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT BY SEPT. 14:**

Email Jennifer Piddington at [jpiddin1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:jpiddin1@swarthmore.edu).



LAURENCE KESTERSON AND DAN Z. JOHNSON

▶ Edgar Cahn ’56, Sonia Sanchez, and Francisco Valero-Cuevas ’88

## Garnet Generosity, Sports Edition

April’s Rise Up with the Garnet Athletics Challenge scored big: 1,829 Swarthmore community members across four countries and 43 states gave more than \$146,845 to support our student-athletes.

An alum-athlete kicked it off by pledging \$25,000 to be unlocked once 300 individuals made a gift of any size. Garnet supporters quickly met the goal, inspiring Charlie Sussman ’05 to pledge \$5,000 to reach an additional 500 donors.

They kept upping the ante: Marian Ware Director of Athletics Adam Hertz gave \$1,000 for 1,000 donors; Associate Vice President

for Advancement Don Cooney gave \$1,500 for 1,500 donors.

All 22 teams reached their goals. While field hockey had the highest donor participation rate, women’s lacrosse got the most total donors and men’s soccer raised the most money.

“On behalf of our student-athletes who directly benefit from your generosity, thank you for supporting our Garnet Athletics Challenge,” says Hertz. “Your personal commitment to the Garnet helps them wear our ‘S’ with pride.” 📍

—PATTON VO



LAURENCE KESTERSON

## FIELDWORK

At home, even when it comes to tidying sofa pillows, Jen Moore finds the fun way to tackle mundane chores.

"I'll just toss them across the room," she says with a grin.

On campus, where she is the history department's administrative assistant and assistant coach of the softball team, Moore is still fun ... and also fiercely devoted.

"I want my students to engage in campus life actively and get the most out of Swarthmore," says Moore. "This frames my coaching role as a teacher and the field as my classroom."

A first-generation college student who earned a master's from the University of Pennsylvania, Moore is a lifelong athlete. Growing up, the "really competitive" New Jersey native started at age 5 with soccer, and moved on to basketball, field hockey, and her great love, softball.

One of the Swarthmore staff's most valuable players, Moore relishes her roles, on and off the field.

"I value the Division III experience we have for the students here," she says. "We really support the whole person—being fit mentally and physically." **S**

—KATE CAMPBELL

► "I call our work 'project graduation,'" says staffer Jen Moore. "Swarthmore educates future leaders. What could be more important?"



## CREATING VITAL SPACES



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► On April 20, ironworkers of Local 401 placed the last steel beam on the Biology-Engineering-Psychology (BEP) building. The target completion for Phase 1—including all space for engineering and all teaching and research lab space for biology and psychology—is summer 2019.

+ **LEARN MORE:** [lifechanging.swarthmore.edu](http://lifechanging.swarthmore.edu)



KYLE KONDROR

► Pictured winning the conference title on May 6, Swarthmore baseball then made its first Division III World Series appearance.

## Dream Season

by Kyle Kondor

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, Garnet baseball, led by Centennial Conference and Mid-Atlantic Region Coach of the Year Matt Midkiff, won the conference, the NCAA Tournament New York Region, and a game in the Division III World Series.

Although their World Series run ended May 27, the team's 44 home runs

this season and 38 overall wins set program-best records.

The seniors—second baseman Matt Palmer '18 and relief pitchers Jackson Ramey '18 and Max Kassin '18—may have missed Commencement, but they helped make Garnet history. **S**

+ **MORE:** [swarthmoreathletics.com](http://swarthmoreathletics.com)



## SWEET SCIENCE

From a communal kitchen in Palmer Hall, Therese Ton '19 bakes up tasty treats (like this strawberry shortcake), available in the Ville at Hobbs and the Co-op or at [toscah.com](http://toscah.com).

The bio major's eventual goal? A brick-and-mortar business offering STEM workshops for students on the biochemistry of baking.

"Creating all these desserts," she says, "has simultaneously satisfied the creative soul and scientist in me." **S** —ELIZABETH SLOCUM

+ **ICING ON THE CAKE:** [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)



# QUIZ'MORE

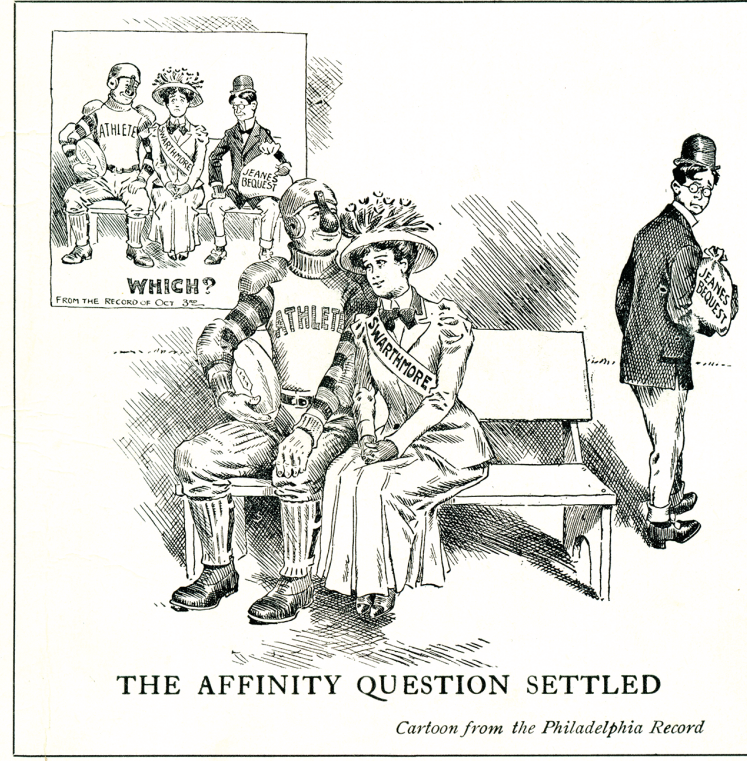


How well do you know your alma mater? Give this the ol' College try!

by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen '09

- 1** IN 1992, what band of Swarthmore College students, led by Mario Vuksan '93, became one of the top musical acts in Croatia?
- 2** APPROXIMATELY how many books are in Friends Historical Library?
- 3** SWIL stands for what?
- 4** IN 1948, President John Nason briefly suspended publication of *The Phoenix* after it printed an editorial about what groundbreaking treatise?
- 5** IN 1907, wealthy Quaker Anna T. Jeanes offered Swarthmore her estate, rumored to be worth \$1 million (more than \$25 million in today's dollars), if the College discontinued what?

Know any fascinating Swarthmore trivia? Send your question/answer to [quiz@swarthmore.edu](mailto:quiz@swarthmore.edu). If we use it, we'll send you a prize!



FRIENDS HISTORICAL LIBRARY, SPA/20/1M57

LEARNING CURVE

## 'YES, AND ...'

In tech and life, enthusiastic improvisation carries him forward

by Jonathan Riggs

RUNNING A STARTUP is a lot like performing improv. "Jump in and contribute, figure it out on your feet and contribute, push through the terror and contribute," laughs entrepreneur Matt Van Itallie '98. "You have to meet every challenge with humor, confidence, and curiosity—and say, 'Yes, and ...'"

A proud Vertigo-go guy, Van Itallie credits his time with the Swarthmore troupe with helping him in his current role as CEO of the Maryland-based Sema. Aimed at solving the world's multibillion-dollar problem with software maintenance, Sema rose from the ashes of Van Itallie's first startup.

"It was very Swarthmorean in all the right ways: We built a tool that could read and understand all journal articles," he says of his initial venture. "My goal was to make sense of all the science on earth."

Though that business model ultimately failed, it gave Van Itallie the bravado and the bones from which to build Sema, which is creating software that helps fix *existing* software. They are building automated deep-learning systems that write new code to correct the planet's never-ending outdated or broken supply.

"Imagine what technologists could accomplish when they are freed from fixing old problems," he says. "Sema



LAURENCE KESTERSON

will make it possible for them to double the time, energy, and human creativity they spend on creating new code."

Several of the world's top software maintenance and machine-learning experts believe in Sema so much they've signed on as founding contributing scientists, joining a

formidable group that includes Sema's very first (junior) board member—Van Itallie's 6-year-old daughter.

"Every day, we'd have conversations about how my business is going," he says. "She asked questions and 'got it' quickly—and keeps me on my toes about achieving our company goals."

Yes, running a startup is a lot like performing improv, but it's a lot like college, too.

"I'll never forget Swarthmore's extraordinary professors helping me understand that the present is only one way that the world can look," he says. "A startup is all about seeing a different way for the world to look and actually believing that you can change it." **S**

**"Every day, I tap into my curiosity—I learn, find a key, unlock a door."**

ANSWER KEY

1. CROATIAN LIBERATION FRONT. Their first song, "Croatia's Gotta Be Free," went to No. 2 on the Croatian music charts. The band—Vuksan, Van Curtis '95, and Robert Greenawalt '92, with Alexandra Cole Spadola '94, Maya Newton '94, and William Buttram—donated all profits to humanitarian and medical aid in Croatia.
2. 50,000. FHL is the world's largest Quaker research library with 400 major manuscript collections, 9,000 volumes of original meeting records, and a vast collection of photographs and graphics in addition to its books and periodicals. FHL was established in 1871 as a gift of Quaker Anson Lapham; installed in a fireproof alcove of Parrish Hall, it survived the 1881 fire largely intact.
3. SWARTHMORE WARDERS OF IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE. Formed in 1978, it was a spiritual heir to the Canton of the Ivory Tower, because of the tender of a sum of money."
4. KINSEY REPORT VOLUME I, SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN MALE. More than 100 Swarthmore men contributed sexual histories, comprising about 2 percent of the total 5,000 included.
5. INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS. The Board of Managers decided to refuse the gift, stating: "We believe [intercollegiate athletics] liable to abuses ... but it would seem that if competitive games with other colleges are on the whole objectionable, they should be abolished for that reason, and not because of the tender of a sum of money."



► “We want to use innovative technology to support every student and help them achieve their dreams,” says Kirk Daulerio '95, co-founder of AdmitHub.

LIBERAL ARTS LIVES

## GETTING INTO COLLEGE 2.0

### Using tech to add a human touch

by Cara Ehlenfeldt '16

### KIRK DAULERIO '95 Chatbot Champ

KIRK DAULERIO '95 realized that no one human could answer every college admission question ... but artificial intelligence could help.

Daulerio is the co-founder and chief marketing officer of AdmitHub, an educational tech company that uses AI like chatbots to help prospective and current college students.

“We kind of fell backward into the whole realm,” says Daulerio.

At first, they tried traditional outreach, but found text messages better sparked students' interest. So they created the ultimate staff member: a chatbot to help students through the admissions process.

“The students loved it!” he says. “They would burn through the initial questions and answer everything.”

AdmitHub provides more than 20 higher education partners with chatbot tech. A recent study conducted by classmate Hunter Gehlbach '95 on Georgia State's chatbot, Pounce, showed that its assistance led to a 21 percent decrease in summer melt—the phenomenon when students who plan to attend fail to enroll.

Chatbots especially aim to help traditionally underserved students, but they provide everyone with a nonjudgmental space to ask even the silliest questions, including “What's your best pickup line?” (Our favorite: “Want to grab some Java?”)

“The admissions process can be stressful,” Daulerio says. “We want to take the anxiety out for students and keep it lighthearted and fun.”

The most common message the chatbots receive: “Thank you.”

The success of AdmitHub's chatbots not only informed Daulerio's new book, *Engaging Generation Z*, but also traces back to his own college years.

“I found Swarthmore to be so transformational,” he says. “that I wanted a career helping others attain that same type of experience.”

LIBERAL ARTS LIVES



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► “Swarthmore taught me the most important thing is to use our gifts and knowledge to make the world a better place,” says Brenna DiCola '11. “For me, that meant teaching. I may not make the big bucks, but I get to share my passion for learning with hundreds of children each year.”

## ALL WHO WANDER ...

### On the trail, she found herself

by Kate Campbell

Brenna DiCola '11 walked 2,189.2 miles in 155 days. On purpose.

Along the way, she got caught in wild rainstorms, crossed paths with meandering porcupines and foraging bears, and nearly collapsed from the aching in her knees. But stunning views sustained her, and each time she met a stranger who became a friend, she felt her faith in humanity—and herself—renewed.

“The people and the community of the Appalachian Trail surprised me the most,” says DiCola, who for six months in 2015 stepped away from her teaching career and into nature, seeking time to reflect. “Fellow hikers became lifelong friends in the matter of an hour. You were just yourself, and you talked about real things. You'd have these deep philosophical conversations and then joke about running out of toilet paper in the same breath.”

As tribute to the students she left behind in the Midwest, the middle-school math and Spanish teacher brought along a purple puffball named Sasnak (“Kansas” backward), posing with the whimsical creature on many scenic stops for her blog ([sasnaksadventure.wordpress.com](http://sasnaksadventure.wordpress.com)).

DiCola was touched by the hospitality she found as she trudged through the wilderness under 50 pounds of gear, where “trail angels” would offer her a ride or a warm place to spend the night. These

anonymous friends would often leave “trail magic” along the way for weary hikers.

“You'd be walking along and stumble upon a cooler filled with fresh snacks and cold drinks,” she marvels. “Never had I lived in a world where you didn't think twice about eating something from a mysterious cooler, or where you trusted complete strangers with your life.”

When her adventure ended, DiCola returned to the classroom, with new lessons to share.

“It turns out that hiking alone in the woods was the most connected to humanity I have ever felt,” she says. “It didn't matter who we were, where we came from, or what we did outside the trail. We were all just people.”

### BRENNA DiCOLA '11 Journeywoman



# A LIFE OF THE MIND

Lessons from her past  
inspire her teaching

*by* Ryan Dougherty

*photography by* Laurence Kesterson

# E

EARLIER this year, the teacher one classroom over called out to Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon '12: "Hey, will you come talk to this kid?"

The student wanted to drop out because he was making \$25 per hour and his family needed every bit of it.

"I get that," she told him, "but when you're 25 with no diploma, things will look different. If you finish, you can get a small-business loan, maybe start your own company."

After mulling it over, he decided to enroll in night school.

"That child no longer has to decide between a future and a paycheck," says St. Julian-Varnon, a scholar of Slavic studies with a bachelor's from Swarthmore and a master's from Harvard who returned to her high school alma mater in Dayton, Texas—population 7,734—to teach history.

Then there's the dyslexic boy whose parents told him he'd be lucky to work at McDonald's, for whom St. Julian-Varnon built a college plan and found scholarships. And the AP student with the photographic memory who was going to settle for a job at the plant but, after St. Julian-Varnon's encouragement, applied and was accepted to Texas A&M for mechanical engineering. And the Latino kids who came up to St. Julian-Varnon the day after the 2016 presidential election, one with puffy eyes, afraid they would be deported.

"Episodes like that," she says, "are why I do this."

She knows these kids because she *was* that kid. Literally. St. Julian-Varnon sees students sitting in the same desks she did, reading from the same books, and, just as she once did, struggling to fill in the blanks of their future.



► "I blame Swarthmore for ruining my dream of being a corporate lawyer making lots of money, and sometimes for not being able to sleep at night," says Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon '12. "But I wouldn't want it any other way."

“Swarthmore made me painfully aware of how a lot of the things I faced growing up, no child should have to face. And that’s led me back to teaching where I grew up.”



► “I tell my students you can work at the plant. You can work at the prison,” says St. Julian-Varnon. “But what I want to teach you is how to live in general. Work is not living. Living is taking joy in something. And I want you to think about how you can take joy. And if I can teach you how to think, you can do anything.”

She will eventually return to the academy for her Ph.D. But not, as she once aspired, to write the most acclaimed books in her field. Now, she wants to educate lower-income communities to enrich and empower them.

“I’m living the life of the mind, learning every day,” she says. “But if I’m not teaching other people how to do it, not living in service of others, I’ve not only betrayed myself, I feel like I’ve let down my Swarthmore community. And I’ve worked entirely too hard for that.”

**‘THIS MAGICAL PLACE’**

St. Julian-Varnon grew up outside Houston on a cattle farm in Dayton. Her mother and father, a freight handler and a





mechanic, went to segregated schools. No one from her immediate family graduated from college. All that St. Julian-Varnon's parents wanted was for her to finish high school and find a good job.

She knew early on she was one of the smartest kids in town. But what was that worth, really? From kindergarten through high school, she never saw more than one other person of color in her advanced courses, and almost all her teachers were white.

Then there were the put-downs: "Kim, you're not black, you speak proper English," and, on the flip side, "You're black and smart and a woman: You'll get in anywhere."

St. Julian-Varnon eventually found her niche, joining the marching band and falling for a boy who would later become her husband. (He's an actual rocket scientist; "space voodoo, far as I'm concerned," she laughs.) But even on her way to class salutatorian, she couldn't quite envision a life beyond Dayton.

Then she saw a postcard for the Discover Swarthmore program: "Visit this magical place outside of Philadelphia," St. Julian-Varnon remembers. Although it was her first time leaving Texas, she felt surrounded by like minds. Sitting in on a Russian fairy-tales class with Professor Sibelan Forrester, she thought, *Yep*.

Buoyed by her first campus visit, St. Julian-Varnon decided to apply to Swarthmore. And then she researched what it would take to get in. Her heart sank. When her decision letter arrived in a thin envelope, she tossed it in the garbage. Her mom made her fish it out.

And in one moment, the world opened.

"I just remember running around the house screaming," she says.

St. Julian-Varnon's parents encouraged her dream, but it wasn't until she packed her boxes and headed to the airport that her father fully realized what this all meant.

"He couldn't understand why I needed so much stuff. I was like, 'Daddy, I'm going to Philadelphia. Like, I'm moving there today,'" she laughs. "And he was mortified. But it was just like, 'It's OK, I love you. See you in December.'"

#### STANDING OUT

*I like these people, but I'm totally gonna flunk out, St.*



Julian-Varnon recalls thinking in her first week at Swarthmore. "I was terrified. I had never been around academics before."

At orientation, her first assignment came from Professor Robert Weinberg: Read a 300-page history book in a few days. "I'm like, dude, what?" St. Julian-Varnon says. "The whole thing?" She met students from Exeter and didn't know where or what that was.

"I didn't talk in my first two freshman seminars out of fear someone would ask how I got here," she says.

## THE POWERHOUSE

Kimberly St. Julian-Varnon '12 grew fascinated with Russia at 13, once she saw The History Channel's *Russia: Land of the Tsars* miniseries. Russian became her academic focus at Swarthmore, after she took a first-year seminar on Lenin and Stalin with Isaac H. Clothier Professor of History and International Relations Robert Weinberg and roomed with Jacqueline Bailey-Ross '12, another African-American student with Slavic proclivities.

"It's all their fault," she jokes.

Fast friends, St. Julian-Varnon and Bailey-Ross studied Russian, among several languages. As seniors, they encountered an African-American freshman in a Russian class. "Oh yeah, you're with us," St. Julian-Varnon told her.

When the Swatties attended a Slavic conference in Washington, D.C., it shook the room. "How are there *three* of you?" St. Julian-Varnon was asked.

"We just shrugged," she says. "Swarthmore never told us we couldn't."

(They paved the way: Two African-American women and a third student of color took second-year Russian this fall. "That's what's cool about Swat," says St. Julian-Varnon. "It's become this sort-of Russian minority powerhouse.")

At Harvard, St. Julian-Varnon was the only person of color in her program, and at conferences she's usually one of two or three. At one Slavic conference, she was mistaken for a janitor and asked to clean up a spill. "Then I put my Harvard badge on," she says, grinning.

Again and again, though, she's asked *why*. *You're black. Why do you study Russia? Why do you care? Why not American history?* In the classroom she sidesteps these questions by relating subjects like Stalin to the students' lives.

History is never boring, she says: "Y'all watch HBO, right? You want sex, scandals, and politics? The Bolsheviks have all of it."

Today, St. Julian-Varnon speaks Russian, French, and German, and she has worked or studied in Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Serbia. She is a respected scholar—no qualifiers needed.

But to her students, she's still "St. Ju Ju" or "St. Communist." For the latter, she just smirks.

"I'm like, 'Children, if I were a communist, your grades would be better.'" ⑤

*"My teaching is so influenced by my Swarthmore professors, who never told me I couldn't do it. They kicked my butt, pushed me, and refused to let me rest on my intellectual laurels."*

But you can't hide for long at Swarthmore. Weinberg and other professors pushed her to speak. They sat with her for office hours, sometimes with St. Julian-Varnon in tears, going over the finer points of academic writing. Slowly, her confidence grew.

"Without teachers and professors like that," she says, "I'm not a success."

But there were other adjustments: namely, living in the Northeast. St. Julian-Varnon became known as The Texan: the girl with the drawl, the one in the winter coat in September, the one who had regularly watched her father deliver calves.

"I stood out," she says.

But from minute one, St. Julian-Varnon relished the Swarthmore ethos. She delighted in the opportunity, finally, to interact with scholars of color, and threw herself into activities ranging from Peaslee Debate Society to rugby.

She excelled in the classroom, majoring in history. She also earned a Davis Projects for Peace grant with Joshua Cockroft '12, assisted with building more than 100 latrines for people suffering from cholera, and helped establish a local scholarship in Madagascar.

After spending her junior year at Oxford, St. Julian-Varnon came back to Swarthmore—and into her own.

But even with these successes, she faced obstacles. Reminders of her otherness.

When St. Julian-Varnon prepared to fly to Ukraine for a research trip, her mother read about racial attacks there and begged her to stay home. But after a pep talk from Weinberg, she boarded the plane.

"And yeah, I ran into some skinheads, and it was terrifying," she says. "But that's how I knew I needed to do it."

#### BEING ON THE GROUND

St. Julian-Varnon went on to earn a master's from Harvard in Russian, Eastern European, and Central Asian studies. A Ph.D. program and tenure-track position beckoned, but she felt pulled in another direction.

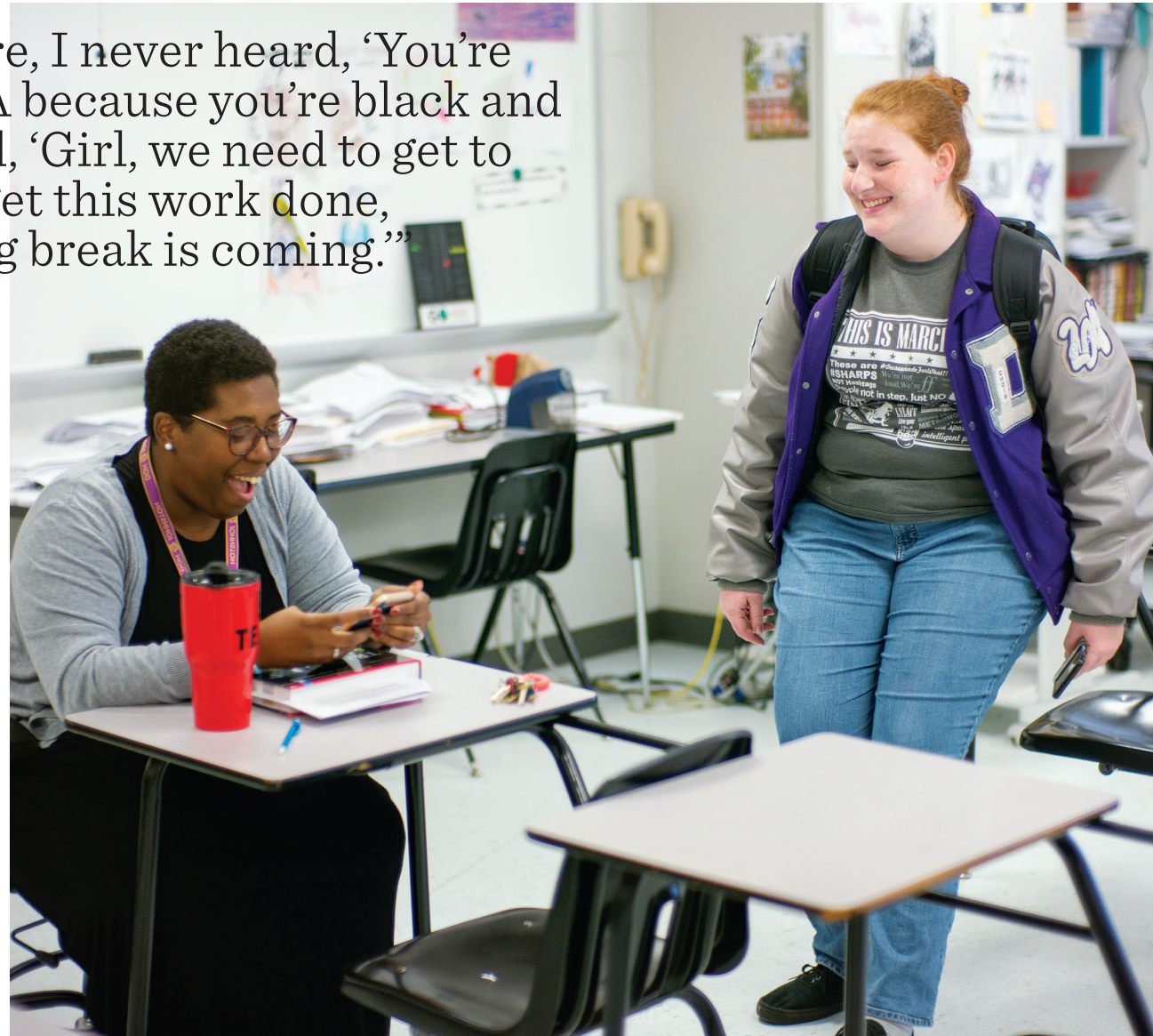
She wanted to clear her head, and also to be on the ground, sharing her passion for history with the type of student she had been.

So, four years ago, she returned to Dayton to teach seventh- to 12th-grade history. Some things had changed; with a weaker local economy, students had more anxiety and responsibility. But most had not; there remained that milieu of *I'm from Dayton, don't expect much from me*.

"It's my job to change that line of thinking," she says.

St. Julian-Varnon teaches students whose parents are in prison, or going through rehab. At her other job, teaching history at Lee College in nearby Baytown, she has students who bring toddlers to class as well as students in their 60s. But her message doesn't waver.

"At Swarthmore, I never heard, 'You're gonna get an A because you're black and smart.' I heard, 'Girl, we need to get to McCabe and get this work done, because spring break is coming.'"



► "I want to make history accessible to all: If no one but Ivy League-educated people can read it, what's the point?" asks St. Julian-Varnon. "My definition of success now is living my days helping my students in some way, shape, or form."

"These doubts you might have, these negative things you might be hearing from others, well, I thought and heard the same things," she says. "But you can transcend them."

St. Julian-Varnon runs a laid-back classroom, but she doesn't take excuses—especially from her advanced high schoolers, most of whom are used to coasting to A's.

"Then they get to me and they're getting pushed and they want to quit," she says. "But I won't have it. They have to put their all into it with me."

Almost every day, a student asks St. Julian-Varnon why she came back to Dayton. At first, she wasn't sure how to respond.

"Well, I think you deserve a good education," she says. "Why don't you think you deserve a good teacher?"

On good days, her students are locked in, making connections between lessons and subjects. They're calling each other out for not backing arguments with evidence.

"You can actually see the learning happening," St. Julian-Varnon says. "The brains firing off."

And every once in a while, she gets to see the impact she's making on someone's future.

She returned to Swarthmore in the fall as one of the Aydelotte Foundation's inaugural Frank 5 Fellows and shared stories from the classroom ([bit.ly/KSJV12](https://bit.ly/KSJV12)). Among

them, the boy with the lucrative job who decided to stay for the diploma.

A few weeks later, the boy watched a video of the speech in his Dayton classroom. His teacher, Bret Alldredge—the one who had asked St. Julian-Varnon to speak to the young man, and the one she had gone to as a student for guidance—had put it on.

She peeked into the classroom and saw tears in the boy's eyes.

"Then the bell rang, and he came up to me and just said, 'Thank you,'" she says. "I told him, 'You owe me a diploma,' and he looked up at me and said, 'You're gonna get it.'" 📍



# TO HER, WITH LOVE

Celebrating the singular  
Kaori Kitao

by Jonathan Riggs

photography by Laurence Kesterson

Kaori Kitao, the William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor Emerita of Art History, taught at Swarthmore from 1966 to 2001.

To many, she's a legend, and one of the College's all-time best educators—just see for yourself: Read her credentials ([bit.ly/KitaoCV](http://bit.ly/KitaoCV)), Swarthmore profile ([bit.ly/KitaoSC](http://bit.ly/KitaoSC)), and retirement/Baccalaureate address ([bit.ly/KitaoBacc](http://bit.ly/KitaoBacc)).

When we asked to honor her in this teaching-themed *Bulletin*, however, she had a request:

"Swing the spotlight on the audience!" she said. "It should be much more interesting than the character on the stage and her soliloquy."

As anyone who knows Kaori discovers, it's always best to heed her wisdom. As she wishes, the audience speaks below. (Relish her own inimitable words on her blog: [bit.ly/KaoriKitao](http://bit.ly/KaoriKitao).)

#### FRED WASSERMAN '78

"Kaori taught me how to look and see and understand. As a sophomore, I had the good fortune of taking her Renaissance and baroque architecture class. When I was traipsing through Italy the next year, I brought my notebook from that course so I could be guided by Kaori.

"My Swarthmore education was standing in her doorway or sitting in her office, talking about art and architecture

and politics and feminism. She really encouraged us to question authority, scholarly and otherwise. I ended up questioning hers when I wanted to write a thesis instead of doing a senior reading. Kaori was the chair of the department and changed the rules, so it became an option for everyone.

"She was so wonderful and flexible and appreciated the kind of student I was. She's so brilliant—a force of nature. She's a giant."

#### ALISON DUNLOP PINOLET '80

"During an architecture lecture in 1979, Professor Kitao was showing slides and came to an off-center one: mostly roof line and streetlight. Without changing her tone, she said, 'And this is what happens when you are always looking up.' She had such a playful sense of humor. I still spend a lot of time looking up in new places, but always remember to check where I'm putting my feet!"

► "I was born in 1933 and left Japan for the U.S. in 1952; my life in Japan was 19 years; this was the start. In 1957, I got together with my love, Tokiko, who passed away in 1995; we shared our life for 38 years, 19 twice," Kaori Kitao wrote in a 2017 blog post, "Numerology." "My teaching career also lasted 38 years; I took my first job in 1963 and retired in 2001. I assumed a male identity until 1971, when I regained my rightful womanhood; I was 38 then. If I lived until 2033, I will have had 38 years of single life; I will then be 100. Cool."

**CONNIE HUNGERFORD,**  
**Mari S. Michener Professor of Art History**

“When I came to the College in ’75, Kaori was a senior colleague—very dynamic and welcoming—and a great lecturer. She ribbed students, but she was always totally respectful. She had high standards, and they were pleased to deliver. Also—perhaps because she had been one herself—she was sensitive to the needs of international students.

“I’d say she was the most actively engaged person with architecture on campus and was responsible for some of the quality architects we hired. She was relentless about the importance of architecture, that these are not just buildings, but statements about who we are, what our aspirations are, and where we come from. Look around campus—she is behind some of the more imaginative buildings.

“More than the buildings, her legacy is her students and her sense of delight in discovery and inspiring that in them, too. It is fitting that the Kitao Gallery was named for her, and she’s done other things for the College that are surprising, like a math lecture she endowed. And she gave the funds to establish a student internship program in the List Gallery.

“She was also the first person on campus who was really interested in film, and her courses were hugely important—not just the film history but the projects she had students doing with primitive 8 mm cameras. She was always a model of developing new interests and exploring them thoroughly.”

**DOROTHY TWINING GLOBUS ’69**

“I have a deep fondness in my heart: She was the best teacher I ever had. I remember a hard, long conversation about city design we had that changed how I thought about everything.

“She was Timothy then, but my junior year, she was on sabbatical. She went to Rome and came back much transformed: Her hair had grown long, and she was wearing these fabulous bright shirts—beautiful deep pinks, yellows, oranges. We all said, ‘Wow, what *was* she up to in Rome?’

“The first time I met her as a woman, it took me a second, but we all agreed that it was very gutsy what she did and that it was just good to have her back.”

**JOSE ORTIZ ’72**

“Kaori’s always been an inspiration and a mentor—she has such empathy. I met her as Timothy and saw the gradual transition, and, even though we never talked about it, I knew what she was going through. I’m Hispanic, and when I was at Swarthmore, I was in the minority. But the beauty of Swarthmore is its philosophy to bring out the light in you. And that’s what Swarthmore did for me, and what I feel Swarthmore did for Kaori.

“She’s been my favorite teacher since ’71. The first day of class, she said, ‘If English is not your native language, you can write in any language you want, because I know nine.’ (She knows 13 now, I believe.)

“After our first paper, she said, ‘I’m going to read you an example of A+ work, but I’m not going to mention the name.’ She starts reading in Japanese, and there’s only one



▶ “I loved teaching courses that were new to me because I had to do *my* reading day by day, along with the students,” she says. “The point is to enjoy learning and expanding one’s horizons so you develop that habit. School doesn’t end with college.”

Japanese student in the class. Everyone laughed—she set the tone for us all to have great senses of humor.”

**HARRY WRIGHT, former provost, and JOSY WRIGHT**

**HW:** “We lived close by. As he was transitioning, we’d notice little things as he walked by our house: a new shoulder purse, for example. After we got back from vacation one time, we asked how Kaori was doing. Somebody said, ‘Well, now he’s using the women’s bathroom—they don’t mind, but they do wish he would leave the toilet seat down.’”

“Everything good you’ve ever heard about her is true, **and more.**”

—Jane Hooper Mullins ’50

**JW:** “At the drugstore, Kaori and I would talk about colors of lipsticks. Most people were accepting, but the art department didn’t quite know what to do.”

**HW:** “People caught on when the artist Robert Motherwell gave a lecture at Swarthmore. After Kaori introduced him, he said, ‘I want to thank Madame Chairman.’ That sealed it publicly.”

**JW:** “To have been there—in that age, to hear it said aloud—was amazing. We always liked Kaori very much. Not only was she a fascinating, wonderful professor, but also just a terrific person.”

**MIKE INSKEEP ’78**

“When I was an intimidated freshman, Kaori’s matter-of-factness about her transition inspired me—not that she ever said anything, but it just happened in a public way. About five years ago, one of my brother’s children transitioned, so I wrote to Kaori, thanking her for laying the groundwork.

“To quote from her email response, she wrote, ‘I have never been a trans activist. For one, I’m not by nature drawn to be part of a group of any kind. This may seem selfish when it is obvious that I could and should serve as a role model, but my conviction is being what I am without being categorized and labeled.’ (Read her blog post on this topic: [bit.ly/Kitao](http://bit.ly/Kitao).)

“That’s how she approached her role at Swarthmore.”

**TOM BUTCAVAGE ’82**

“So, how can one person influence you so much, professionally and personally? In my case, there are two examples: her courses ‘Philadelphia, City + Architecture’ and ‘Rock. Garden. Rock Garden.’ As an architect and a gardener (thanks to Kaori), both influences and occupations are intertwined (thanks to Kaori). Her advice on bonsai—‘it is easy to make trees little, but not little trees’—pretty much sums up her wisdom and delivery. I always want more.”

**KATE CONWAY ’76**

“Professor Kitao honored me by accepting my proposal for a directed reading in ‘Semiotics and the Visual Arts.’ In turn, she offered a semester of vexingly opaque texts in French.

“She fiercely questioned every philosophical assumption we encountered and graciously, patiently explored them with me. We persevered through that transformative spring of 1975, buoyed both by Professor Kitao’s wry sense of humor and the scent of lilacs wafting through the office windows.

“From Kaori, I gained courage to face cultural, language, and intellectual challenges without hesitating. Four decades and countless world travels later, I remain humbled by her integrity, passion for inquiry, and extraordinary expertise.”

**JANE HOOPER MULLINS ’50, former registrar**

“I’d known Kaori since she first came to Swarthmore, and she was always very nice. Her wife, Tokiko, was an absolutely exquisite tapestry maker. Regarding her change, Kaori never cared what people thought, but she was careful—she first worked it out with the Social Security Administration so it wouldn’t penalize Tokiko, for example.

“I audited one of Kaori’s Philadelphia architecture classes. She was so superb that people you wouldn’t have thought jumped to enroll if Kaori was teaching. Everything good you’ve ever heard about her is true, and more.”

**BILL YARROW ’73**

“Walking through a museum with Kaori is an experience like no other: To see art through her eyes is a gift.

“Recently, she and I toured a Cartier-Bresson exhibit and saw a photo of a man sleeping on a bench. Behind him was a billboard and she said, pointing to the billboard, ‘You know, that’s the dream.’

“This is just one example of Kaori’s fertility of understanding. She has an empathetic imagination that allows you to see into windows that might otherwise be opaque.

“Over the last number of years, I’ve tried to get together with her for a meal or a museum visit when I’m in New York. Every time I am in her company, I am lifted to a higher plane: enlightened, entertained, excited. She’s extraordinarily generous and kind, and as always, an intellectual and artistic titan. I treasure our relationship.

“I’ve been a professor of English at Joliet Junior College for 25 years. Many teachers fall in love with their students, but after the class ends, we often lose contact. What a special privilege—for teachers and for students—to reconnect.

“Seek out professors you remember fondly. Joy awaits!”

➤ **ADD your own Kaori Kitao tributes to ours:**  
[bulletin@swarthmore.edu](mailto:bulletin@swarthmore.edu)



## Exploring the complicated, valuable role of failure

by Kate Campbell

art by Bulletin staff

**F**AILURE COMES in many mutable forms: A lost job. A burned pie. A cloud of ravenous aphids devouring a prized rose bush in midsummer.

It can strike after decades of success, or daily, or never. Or just that once. Failing, though a distinctly personal experience, can whip up a universal gut-churning uneasiness. At Swarthmore especially, opinions on failure are tangled up in the all-encompassing drive to excel.

After all, failure is something to avoid.

*Isn't it?*

Staring unblinkingly into failure and absorbing—even appreciating—the experience is a practice that's gaining ground. Casting fresh light on the topic is becoming more common on college campuses, too, where high-achieving students are sometimes just starting to grapple with the concept.

# “Our foray into the wedding business was an epic fail ... and an epic lesson.”

—Sabrina Moyle '96

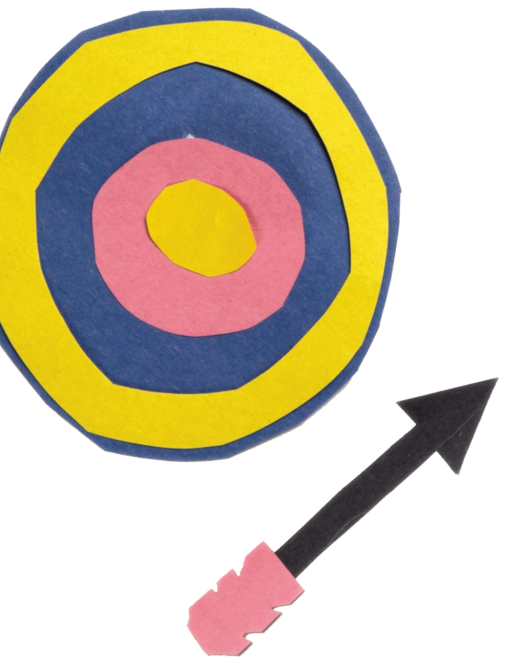
“Failure is uncomfortable,” says Bridget Scott '18. “No one I can think of likes it.”

She got familiar with the feeling, though, in a Swarthmore chemistry lab.

“It was the toughest class I’ve ever taken—every week, I felt like I fell more behind,” she says. “I was angry at myself and convinced that I failed this introductory course that was supposed to be easy for everyone.”

But friends and campus mentors helped her see things differently.

“I began to realize this is an experience that every Swat student has at some point,” she says. “One grade doesn’t define me—this takes a lot longer for some people to realize at Swarthmore. I learned what I could control, and what I could do to bounce back from failure.”



## AN INVITATION

Sabrina Moyle '96 wasn't bracing for failure when she and her sister, Eunice, founded the design studio Hello!Lucky. But she was definitely anxious. They started their letterpress greeting-card company in 2003, the same year that Facebook launched.

“Our lives were changing, and so was the world,” she says. “We were scared that people might stop sending cards.”

She worried, too, about what others would think if the business failed—especially her Stanford Business School classmates and her colleagues at the prestigious consulting job she had just quit.

“I was scared of what they would think even if I *succeeded*—after all, none of my classmates were starting small businesses, let alone anything as seemingly frivolous as greeting cards.”

The sisters started selling wedding invitations, holding out hope that—even if social media made the greeting card obsolete—traditional invites would remain in vogue. Though paper invitations were about to become a big business, the sisters struggled to keep up with the rapidly changing market, sacrificing free time and dealing with demands of high-end wedding planners.

“We were running out of cash,” Moyle says. “I was hating my long days of testing our website and dealing with wedding emergencies.”

They were in over their heads. Even after landing the cover of *Martha Stewart Weddings*, the business was failing. In 2013, eight years after starting it, they closed the print studio and laid off 20 loyal staffers.

“It was a painful, expensive failure that pushed me to the brink,” says Moyle. “But it also opened a door.”

By losing everything, she found a new purpose inspiring people to lead more joyful, creative lives. In addition

to licensing their designs to a growing number of partners, the sisters co-founded the Write\_On letter-writing campaign, designed popular posters for the Women's March on Washington, and wrote three books to empower young people. Hello!Lucky is now profitable.

“Our new business model freed my time up to return to my passion to help enact social change,” says Moyle, who joined the board of The Mosaic Project, which teaches middle-school students to peacefully interrupt discrimination and inequality.

Still, it was a choppy ride, especially in light of the culture she'd experienced at Swarthmore.

“We set such high standards for ourselves, exacerbated by demanding professors and brilliant peers, that we created a pressure-cooker environment,” she says. “Sometimes it felt like we needed to sacrifice ourselves at the altar of academic excellence.”

Realizing it was OK to stumble opened Moyle's eyes.

“One of the hardest things about shutting down Hello!Lucky's wedding business was the guilt of admitting to my peers, to my family—to the world—that I failed,” she says. “Once I took responsibility for what I was meant to learn from the experience, I gained the freedom, wisdom, and confidence to move on toward a fuller realization of my life's calling.”

## PART OF THE JOURNEY

Failure is a natural—and important—part of the educational journey, says Swarthmore Director of Admissions J.T. Duck, who reads countless Common Application essays on what prospective students have learned from their own shortfalls. Duck is focused on how students use their support networks and maintain their optimism.



“We want to identify students who are nimble in their approach to Swarthmore's—and life's—challenges and opportunities,” he says.

Educators at elite colleges are seeing unprecedented levels of stress among students, adds Rachel Simmons, author of *Enough as She Is: How to Help Girls Move Beyond Impossible Standards of Success to Live Healthy, Happy, and Fulfilling Lives*, who facilitated a special failure workshop at Swarthmore.

“If students don't have the tools to manage failure, they grow fearful of

## A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE

Over the last couple of decades, I have been privy to a lot of failure conversations—thousands as an anxiety therapist and, yes, a few in my own head, too. Most have been the Mark Twain variety: tragedies we live through that never happened. Still, we suffer just as greatly from the failures we invented as from the ones that occurred.

As a therapist, I help patients understand that there is no monolith called failure. It is one narrative frame among many other possibilities. When we choose to make a more nuanced analysis, look what we can discover. As a wise friend told me, “What's the best example of failure? America. My goodness, how those explorers completely missed their mark!”

So it is for us. We ended up somewhere else, or it seems we did. The time spent fighting what happened prevents us from exploring where we've landed and integrating new discoveries into our life.

As a Swarthmore student in Patrick Henry's religious studies class, I had the clichéd experience that I'd never had before. I got a B. I went through—sort of—Schopenhauer's stages of truth: ridicule (This class isn't important); violently opposing (This is impossible!); accepting as a given (Right, the truth hiding within that B for me—I am not good at everything I do. I am not religious-scholar material and that's OK! Liberating!).

This was a radical shift in my 20-year-old mind. But today as a 50-plus-year-old, I continue to relearn the lesson that, yes, there are things I can't do well, but I can ask for help from others who can. Liberating, still.

In the end, failure is code for transition. A pivotal point. It's uncomfortable until you adjust. You just haven't learned the meaning for you, yet. The key is shortening the interval between the alienation of perceived failure and being reunited with ourselves.

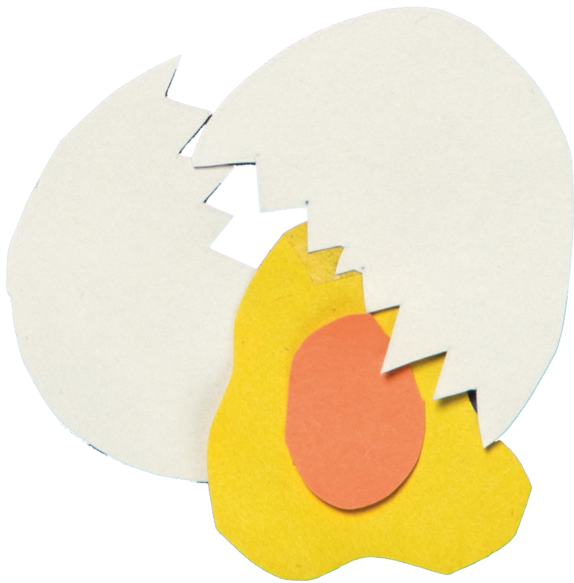
We can never really fail. We keep trying. We can't plan those points of inflection, but whether by enlightenment or belly-crawling through the morass, we—by our indelible imprint toward growth—flip that curve around from the downturn we expected to the uptick we discover as we reach toward the sun. ☀

—Tamar Chansky Stern '84 is the founder of the Children's and Adult Center for OCD and Anxiety and author of *Freeing Yourself from Anxiety* and the *Freeing Your Child From Anxiety* series.

+ MORE: [tamarchansky.com](http://tamarchansky.com)

“The best research students I work with at Swarthmore are those who get excited and inspired by hard problems that require patience and resilience.”

—Kathleen Howard, biophysical chemistry professor



#### AN OPPORTUNITY FOR KINDNESS

Self-compassion is so important, in fact, that Stephanie Lechich '14, a clinical psychology doctoral student at Long Island University in Brooklyn, has made it the cornerstone of her research and practice.

“Embracing difficult experiences and integrating them into one’s identity shows the ability to relate to others in a healthy way,” she says. “When someone doesn’t see achievement as a direct measure of self-worth, it becomes easier to treat yourself and others with kindness—regardless of the extent of your successes.”

A star shooting guard in high school, Lechich came to Swarthmore confident she would excel on the basketball court.

“I imagined that I would set myself apart,” she says.

Instead, she sat on the bench for her first three years.

“This was deeply humbling,” says Lechich, who had to learn new skills before becoming a starter her senior year. “I had to develop the capacity

to be kind to myself despite my frustration and to redefine success by setting more realistic standards.”

She found the same to be true of the academic experience at Swarthmore, where top-of-their-high-school-class students are quickly humbled by their first C’s, D’s ... or worse.

“Talking to fellow students can bolster confidence,” Lechich adds. “It can be difficult to appreciate the inevitability of failure and its importance for personal growth, but by not allowing the feeling of failure to swallow you whole or dictate your self-worth, you can become a more skilled and confident person.”

#### INNER LIGHT

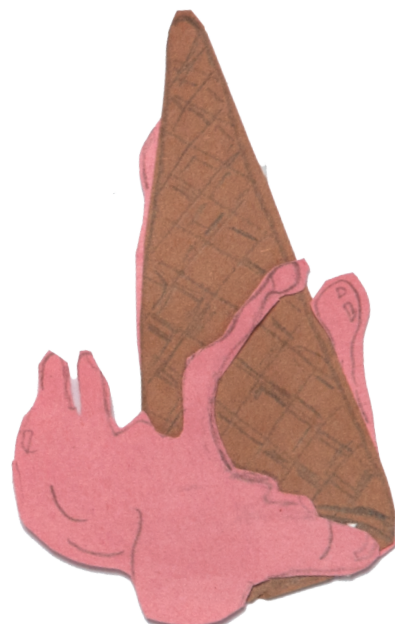
“Swatties try to be tolerant of failure, but there’s some tension there: Nearly all of us who make it into a place like Swarthmore only do so because we successfully navigated school and social systems that are intolerant of failure,” says Sabrina Joy Stevens '07, a senior manager for campaign and digital strategies at the National Women’s Law Center in D.C. “We’re all in an ongoing process of unlearning the perfectionism that got us there.”

She discovered this about herself in a previous role as an executive director in an education organization.

“I was so desperate to prove I was capable that I was too terrified to admit when I didn’t know something or needed help,” says Stevens.

Accepting that she should leave that position—and let go of her perfectionism—proved transformative.

“I learned a ton from it,” she says. “I was reminded of how important it is to listen to my gut, even when it’s telling me things that my ego finds inconvenient. I’m a better person for having learned those lessons.”



it,” she says. “They limit themselves by avoiding the creativity and risk-taking that yields the most exhilarating kind of learning. Giving them the tools to handle setbacks takes the fear out of the experience and teaches students that failure is a critical part of learning and personal strength.”

Simmons says many of the highest-achieving students use self-criticism as a form of motivation, but she advocates for self-compassion instead.

“Why should we have to beat ourselves up to move forward?” she asks. “I don’t want my students to believe they have to trade their self-worth and wellness in exchange for success.”

Trial and error are often the path to discovery, but especially in science.

“Failure’ isn’t a word that I use in research,” says Kathleen Howard, a biophysical chemistry professor at Swarthmore. “The whole point is to figure out something new and unknown.”

After all, research requires you to redefine what “success” and “failure” even mean.

“It is a process of exploration,” she says. “You might not reach whatever destination you had in mind, but that is something you have to embrace.”

#### RISKY BUSINESS

The same is true in other fields.

“The constant in an artist’s life is failure,” says Brian Meunier, a Swarthmore art professor who has published several children’s books. “I’ve come to fully expect that the work will come out differently from my original idea.”

Meunier applies this principle to his teaching, too.

“In the 38 years that I’ve been teaching at Swarthmore, there’s always something that happens differently each semester, something unexpected,” he says. “I either use that the next time I teach the course, or make sure I avoid it.”

One thing he always tries to teach is that the Swarthmorean tendency toward perfectionism can actually get in the way.

“Perfectionists are risk-averse, and you simply cannot do art in any meaningful way if you don’t take risks,” he says. “My primary task is to find ways throughout the semester to gently, and with good humor, ease the students away from the stranglehold of their perfectionism.”

When it comes to encouraging future entrepreneurs and visionaries, Katie Clark, director of Swarthmore’s Center for Innovation and Leadership, believes in helping students focus on learning from their mistakes and failures—in the most productive ways possible.

“If students can start to learn how to negotiate failure and think of failure as a skill they can practice,”



she says, “they’ll be better equipped to be lifelong learners from their own individual experiences.”

Entrepreneur Laura McKee '88 found an opportunity to do just that. The co-founder of Autism Home Support Services faced an embarrassing moment with her team when she admitted she hadn’t yet accompanied one of her techs into the field.

“Ever since, I have made it a point to spend time ‘in the trenches’ with the folks who are closest to the customers,” she says. “That was a great learning experience.”

Rather than letting the idea of failure rattle us, McKee believes it should rally us.

“It’s natural to want to de-emphasize mistakes or, alternatively, to dramatize failures as being catastrophic, but it can be the steps to the side that bring the most enjoyment and satisfaction,” she says. “Swarthmore is a tremendously fertile environment to continue becoming the person that the sum of your experiences—good and bad—makes you.”

Fictional characters have much to teach about confronting failure, adds

Jocelyn Roberts Davis '84, who studies and writes on literature’s lessons of leadership.

“Shakespeare’s Henry V is a great example of a leader who is adaptable and able to learn from his failures,” says Davis, author of *The Greats on Leadership: Classic Wisdom for Modern Managers*. “He reflects, asks for advice, and is willing to take different approaches. Most importantly, he’s not committed to his own rightness.”

Brian Meunier steps a few feet back from his project in a Swarthmore classroom, squinting his eyes and reassessing its rightness and wrongness as parts of a whole. We can look at failure in this way, too.

The job was lost, yes. The pie was burned. The roses were stripped. But in the disappointment, new paths were beaten out. (And hungry aphids fed.)

More exacting than perfection, failure demands new ways of looking—and like the matchless monarch Henry, a willingness to try again. 🍷

✦ **SHARE** your Swarthmore experiences with failure: [bulletin@swarthmore.edu](mailto:bulletin@swarthmore.edu).

# A FRIEND THROUGH TRAGEDY

In the months before JFK was killed, a Quaker woman shared her heart—and her home—with Oswald's wife

by Elizabeth Slocum

**I** HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE to look in the face the idea that if I had led my life differently President Kennedy might be alive. Perhaps most people whose lives touch the matter have a host of 'if only' thoughts. Mine will be with me forever.

*If only* she'd known a rifle had been hidden in her garage. *If only* she'd realized the violence of which her friend's husband was capable.

*If only* Ruth Hyde Paine had seen beyond the surface of Lee Harvey Oswald ...

These ruminations by a shaken Ruth—from an essay presented as Warren Commission Exhibit No. 460—are among the personal reflections, correspondence, and related materials in the Ruth Paine Hyde Papers on Marina Oswald, RG5/109, a permanent collection of Swarthmore's Friends Historical Library donated by Paine to the College in 1985.

A Quaker mother of two, Ruth befriended Marina and her family in 1963, inviting them into the home she owned with husband Michael Paine '53. It was the last place Lee Oswald would sleep before President Kennedy was killed.

Through a series of letters translated from Russian (the originals of which are available at FHL), the two women opened up to each other, and—unwittingly—to the ages.

March 4, 1963  
Dallas, Texas

Hello Ruth!

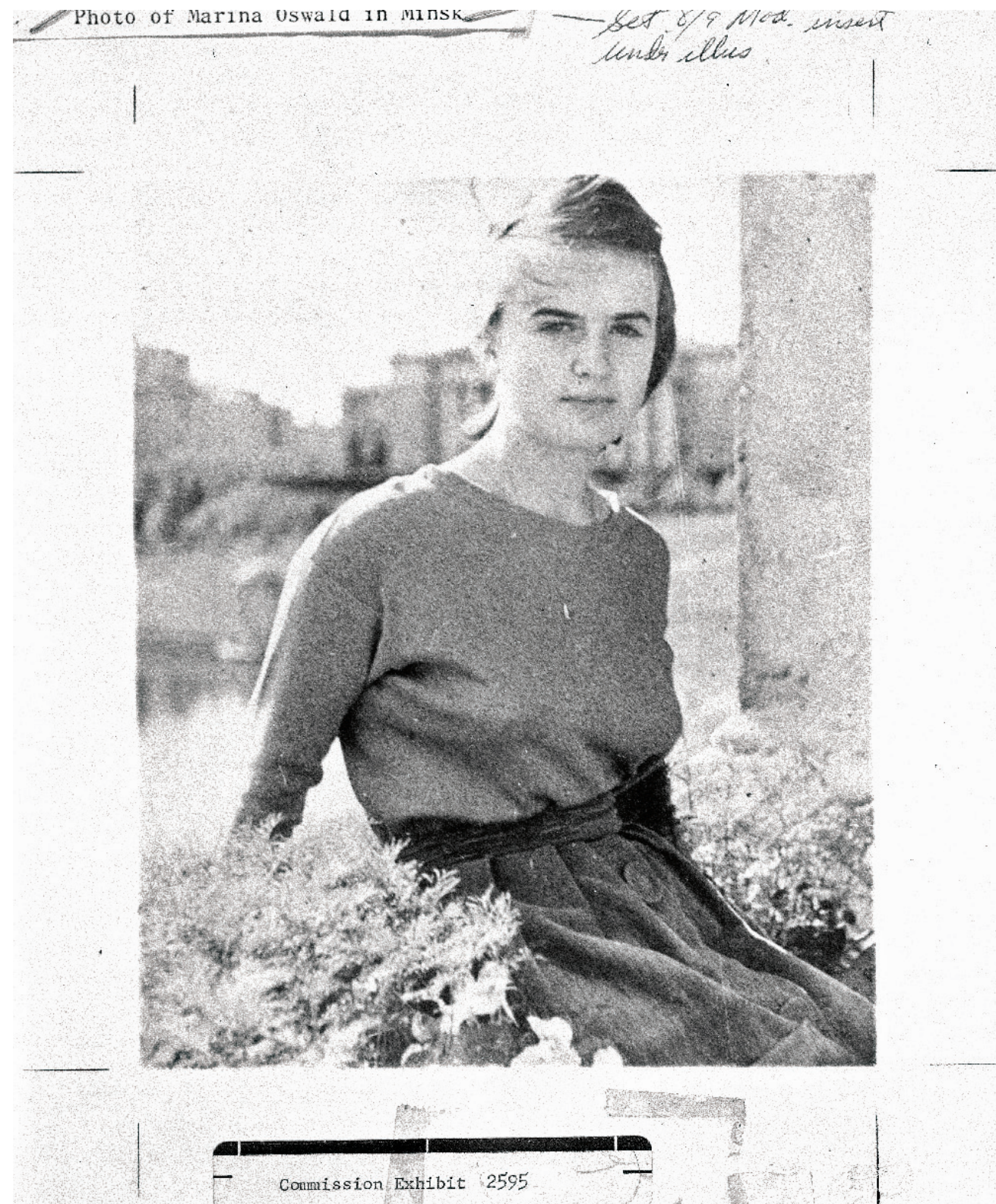
Yesterday I received your letter and was very happy that you had not forgotten us. Come and see us, certainly. Anytime from morning on, whatever is convenient for you ...

Sincerely,  
Marina Oswald

THE OSWALDS, still relatively new in town, had been invited to a party. There, they met Ruth Paine.

Ruth was a 30-year-old with an affinity for Russian. A Quaker since college, she embraced the faith's peaceful ideals and joined a pen-pal program with students from the Soviet Union—a Friends initiative that sought to bridge the era's East-West divide. As Ruth's interest in Russian grew, she studied the language in hopes of one day knowing it well enough to teach.

Aware of this, a friend asked her to a party where she could put her Russian skills to use.



► Pictured in this National Archives file, the former Marina Prusakova was a young pharmacist in Minsk when she met her future husband, Lee Harvey Oswald, at a dance in 1961; the couple married six weeks later. After baby June was born the following year, the family moved to the U.S.



Eight months after arriving in Texas, Marina Oswald was lonely and still knew little English—and her husband, Lee, liked it that way. A Soviet sympathizer, self-taught Marxist, and former Marine, Lee met and married his Russian bride in 1961 during a defection to the USSR. A year later, frustrated by poor work and pay, he requested a return to the U.S. and settled in Dallas with Marina and their new baby, June.

At the party, Lee talked about life in the USSR while Marina mostly kept to herself. Though she and Ruth barely had a chance to speak, they managed to exchange addresses and vowed to be in touch. A few weeks later, they reconnected at a park and got to know each other through rudimentary Russian.

Like Marina, Ruth had a young family of her own. After moving to Texas in the late '50s, she and her husband, Michael, had two children 15 months apart, Lynn and Christopher. They made their home in Irving, a booming suburb northwest of Dallas.

Michael's job with Bell Helicopter had drawn them from the Philadelphia area, where the couple first met through a folk-dancing group. A native New Yorker, Michael spent two years at Harvard before transferring to Swarthmore; he left after a year. Ruth studied at Antioch College in her home state of Ohio and took Quaker courses at Pendle Hill. After a two-year courtship, she and Michael married at Media Friends Meeting, just down the road from Swarthmore.

But by 1963, they were far from Pennsylvania, their marriage crumbling. Michael moved into an apartment one town over, while Ruth stayed in Irving with the children. Despite this, the two remained cordial, getting together often to catch a movie or sit down for dinner.



▶ *Marina to Ruth, May 25, 1963:* "It is hard for you and me to live without a return of our love—interesting, how will it all end?" Above: Lee and Marina Oswald, on a train leaving Russia. Right: Ruth and Michael Paine '53, arriving for Warren Commission hearings, after their lives and the Oswalds' intersected.

with Marina blossomed. In Russian, the women bonded over the shared experiences of young motherhood and the complexities of their marriages. Marina confided that Lee wanted her to return to the USSR against her will—she loved America and was desperate to learn English, despite Lee forbidding it. Marina also confessed some happy news: She was pregnant with her second child, due in the fall.

Since returning to the U.S., Lee had struggled to maintain a job. A position with a welding company lasted just three months, followed by a stint at a graphic-arts firm that fizzled six months later. With few new prospects in Dallas, he and Marina made plans to move to New Orleans, where Lee was born and still had family.

Concerned about Marina, Ruth offered her friend a temporary place to stay. Once Lee found work and a new home for the family, Ruth would then drive Marina and June to Louisiana to meet him.

March 26, 1963  
Irving, Texas

Dear Marina,

Michael has just told me that he would be glad to come by for Lee and you on Tuesday, April 2nd if it is convenient for you to come to dinner at our house then. ... He wants to meet Lee and you. You can, of course, bring June. I will put up a bed for her ...

Sincerely,  
Ruth

**MICHAEL HAD ARRIVED EARLY** at the Oswalds' Dallas apartment. As Marina loaded the car for the ride to Irving for dinner, Michael struck up some small talk with Lee—and took notice of the curt tone he took with his wife. In between polite chatter with Michael on politics and the Soviet Union, Lee barked demands at Marina in Russian.

At dinner and afterward, bothered by his demeanor, Ruth struggled to keep conversation with Lee—but her friendship

25 May, 1963  
New Orleans

Dear Ruth! Hello!

... I'm ashamed to confess that I am a person of moods. And my mood currently is such that I don't feel much like anything. As soon as you left all "love" stopped, and I am very hurt that Lee's attitude toward me is such that I feel each minute that I bind him. ...

I kiss and hug you and the children. June sends greetings to Lynn and Chris -ha, ha! Greetings to you and Michael from Lee.

Sincerely,  
Marina

**THE NEW ORLEANS REUNION** was not a happy one. Marina was less than charmed by their cockroach-infested apartment, and with no friends there beyond Lee's family members, her feelings of alienation grew.

## MICHAEL PAINE '53 (1928–2018)

Michael Paine '53, an aeronautical engineer who studied at Harvard and Swarthmore but became internationally known due to being an acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald, died March 1, 2018.

Although Michael barely knew Oswald—his estranged wife, Ruth, had befriended the latter's Russian wife, Marina, and occasionally included him in plans—the fact that their paths crossed a few times ensured an enduring place in the public consciousness for Michael. After the assassination of President Kennedy, Michael testified before the Warren Commission that he believed Oswald had acted alone, and, decades later, was reported to have penned an essay, "My Experience With Lee Harvey Oswald."

Beyond that, Michael was a lifelong activist who supported conservation, Planned Parenthood, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

His testimony to the Warren Commission regarding Ruth and Marina's friendship adds an interesting layer to this complicated story:

"Ruth was mostly learning the language, so she was limited in her vocabulary and couldn't talk about—she explained to me she couldn't talk about—political or economic subjects," he testified. "It was a topic on which her vocabulary didn't serve her, but it did appear she had spoken of quite a number of things. Marina had told her about movies she had seen in the Soviet Union, but I thought that ... Ruth's knowledge of Marina was fairly shallow. And Marina was quite reserved. Now, it may have been more so when I was in the house that she was not as much at ease as she was, perhaps, with Ruth herself.

"Of course, Marina was in a position where she always had to be polite. Ruth is easy to get along with, however, so I didn't expect Marina to have difficulty. But I didn't think Ruth and Marina were bosom friends or buddies, but neither, of course, I didn't mean to suggest the opposite.

"Ruth was enjoying Marina's company, and I was glad to have Marina staying with Ruth. It actually reduced the cost. Ruth saved money. The bills were less while Marina was there, and Ruth, in general, was happier." ⑤

After consulting with Michael, Ruth offered Marina a lifeline: Move in with me and the children for as long as you want. Ruth could teach her English, help her care for June, and ensure she got prenatal treatment. In a year or two, Marina would be ready to find a job of her own.

By early fall, Lee and Marina had finally consented. Ruth drove the 500 miles to New Orleans to fetch her friend, and Marina cheered when they crossed the Texas state line. Upon their return, Michael swung home to retrieve some



► The night before JFK's death, Lee Oswald stayed at the Paine house.

tools and help the women unload luggage into the garage—several duffel bags and a package wrapped in a blanket.

Lee wasn't far behind. Ten days after the women arrived in Irving, he called to say he, too, was back in Texas, looking for work in Dallas as he stayed at a boarding house. He hitchhiked to the Paine house to see Marina that day and made plans to return and spend the night over weekends.

Still jobless by mid-October, with a baby due any day, Lee finally caught a break. Over coffee with a neighbor, Ruth learned of an opening at the Texas School Book Depository. Lee quickly applied.

Days later, the Oswalds had plenty to celebrate: a new baby, Rachel, and a new job for Lee.

**ON NOV. 21, LEE SHOWED UP UNEXPECTEDLY** at the Paine house, the first time he'd come by without asking Ruth beforehand. The women were hardly surprised—he and Marina had been fighting, and both saw it as his way of making amends.

After dinner, Lee turned in early. Ruth made her way out to the garage and was surprised to find the light on inside. Figuring Lee had gone in to retrieve some belongings, she retreated, giving it little thought.

Lee had already left for work the next morning when Ruth woke up at 7:30. Remembering it was the day of President Kennedy's lauded Dallas visit, she turned on the TV and set about her day.

Marina joined her later, baby Rachel in arms, as the motorcade made its way through downtown, passing by Lee's new workplace. Together, they watched in horror as the announcement came in: The president had been shot.

As lunch went cold on the kitchen table, a knock came at the front door. Six officers and sheriff's deputies were outside. Lee was in custody, they said, accused of killing a police officer near his rooming house.

Though the authorities lacked a search warrant, Ruth pointed them to the garage, where most of Lee's things were stored. They asked whether Lee possessed a rifle; to Ruth's surprise, Marina said he did—she'd seen it a few weeks ago,

poking out from a wrapped-up blanket.

As they stood there, the blanket lay empty, discarded on the garage floor.

*Dec. 27, 1963*

*Marina, dear,*

*Truly, I don't know what to say. I don't know whether it is better to be quiet or to speak. Things are already difficult for you, and I don't want to trouble you. I want to explain that I felt lonely when I read through your letter to me. I was very happy to see the letter, but when I had read it I knew nothing further about you. You wrote me as if I were an old grandmother and not a friend. You closed your face to me. Is it true, have I offended you? If so, excuse, forgive me, please ...*

*Sincerely,  
Ruth*

**MARINA OSWALD AND HER DAUGHTERS** left the Paine house for good the day after the assassination. Between countless interviews and visits from reporters and authorities, Ruth grieved for her friend and pleaded for her to contact her, as calls and letters poured in from strangers expressing sympathy and support.

Marina spoke before the Warren Commission. So did Ruth and Michael Paine, providing key testimony in the assassination investigation. To their minds—and Marina's—Lee killed Kennedy, and did so alone. (Years later, Marina publicly reversed her position.) Despite government praise for their cooperation and published accounts attesting to their innocence, the Paines—and their proximity to history—would electrify conspiracy theorists for decades to come, insisting the couple played a more sinister role than “friend.”

Either way, the endlessly probed story of JFK's assassination isn't complete without Ruth and Marina. Their papers at FHL can be read as a tiny beacon in this chapter of American history—a light illuminating the Quaker ideals of community and friendship—or as a complicating shade hinting at a darker truth. Whatever conclusion readers come to, these files, housed forever on Swarthmore's campus, are fascinating reading.

Though the women's kinship wouldn't survive the tragic events of November 1963, Ruth held out hope their bond could be mended, *if only* others knew the full story:

*This tragedy has smashed the private world in which two mothers, Marina and I, concerned ourselves with diapers. But we are still the same two people, who must go through each day by the light it gives. I hope she can forgive me for adding to the invasion of her privacy. I want the nation to know what an innocent, fine person she is. ⑤*

➤ **INVESTIGATE:** [bit.ly/FHLPaine](http://bit.ly/FHLPaine) or [friends@swarthmore.edu](mailto:friends@swarthmore.edu)

## A TREASURY OF ALUMNI-RELATED ITEMS

# class notes

### ALUMNI EVENTS

#### GARNET HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Oct. 26–28

There's nothing quite like fall at Swarthmore: students studying in the library, the leaves beginning to change—and you, taking it all in.

[swarthmore.edu/garnetweekend](http://swarthmore.edu/garnetweekend)

#### CHANGING LIVES, CHANGING THE WORLD

Join President Valerie Smith in Minneapolis–St. Paul, Phoenix, Houston, or Denver this fall. [lifechanging.swarthmore.edu/events](http://lifechanging.swarthmore.edu/events)

#### ALUMNI COLLEGE ABROAD

Join fellow Swarthmoreans on an educational journey. [bit.ly/SwatAbroad](http://bit.ly/SwatAbroad)

“London on Stage,” hosted by K. Elizabeth Stevens, associate professor and chair of theater: **Jan. 6–13**

“The Pride of Africa: Namibia, Botswana, & Zimbabwe,” hosted by Tim Burke, professor and chair of history: **March 7–21**



LAURENCE KESTERSON

The Class of 2016 was all smiles during Alumni Weekend. See more: [alumniweekend.swarthmore.edu](http://alumniweekend.swarthmore.edu)

## 1938

**Lois Wright Brown** celebrated her 100th birthday in April at her retirement community in Concord, N.H., with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends, and relatives gathering for cake and festivities. **Lois** continues to do pretty well. Among the guests were daughter **Prudy Brown Nagel** '70 and her husband, **Bob Nagel** '68, and **Lois's** grandson **Randy Brown** '95.

## 1941

**Libby Murch Livingston**  
[lizliv33@gmail.com](mailto:lizliv33@gmail.com)

It may not seem like a big deal, but I have moved from my sweet cottage here at Piper Shores in Maine to what we call the Big House. (Don't tell, but I started that moniker 16 years ago.) Many of you know the flurry of moving, of downsizing, of trying to remember, well, anything. Difficult at best. In other words, I am full of myself and

a probable pain to those around me. What a great family I have, who all pitched in and toted my stuff, hung pictures, and joined me in this new orientation.

But my apologies, as I have given no thought to my Swarthmore responsibilities, with only one “tie-in”: that there are others going through this ordeal.

I find that I really love my tiny ground-floor apartment, which has a door to the gardens outside and four lovely windows bowing out to the other folk. I do not *have* to eat the too-big meals or go to all the entertainment, intellectual or otherwise, and can enjoy all these nice people. I have enjoyed all the memorabilia

I have waded through—wartime letters, Commencement programs, photos, photos, photos ... all that fascinating stuff.

Come visit me! But wait for our summer ...

# 1943

**Betty Glenn Webber**  
bettywebber22@yahoo.com  
616-245-2687

The *Bulletin* has offered Garnet Sage secretaries the option to contribute a column twice yearly instead of quarterly. The new “Their Light Lives On” section, for one thing, siphons off the obit material that, sadly, is often our major news. And, of course, we no longer have the variety of activities we did, so we tend to think we have no news at all. Not true! We’d like to hear from you.

My own life is going better than I have any right to expect. With regular critiques by my children, I am still driving; I’m blessed by the flexibility this provides to maintain old connections and interests. So far, I’m cane-dependent outside home, but nothing more. I get to a pool three times a week for water exercise, have problem-free eyesight but lousy hearing, need a granny booster seat to offset the 4 inches of height I’ve lost—and I’d better not complain about any of it.

Although this column will not appear until summer, most of us are just emerging from winter a bit like Punxsutawney Phil, looking forward to a quick spring. The relentless series of nor’easters made Massachusetts resident **Mary Stewart Trageser** say, “It feels like winter is long, but so

is my ‘books read’ list.” If she was lucky, not too many were read by candlelight during power outages. She recently came to great-grandparenthood and rejoices in the powers of modern communication to keep connected to the little guy in Seattle.

**Ginny Curry Hille** happily reports that all’s well in St. Louis. She’s anticipating a summer jaunt to Seattle to celebrate son Rob’s 65th birthday. Her other son, **Peter** ’77, and wife Debra are closer by, in Berea, Ky., and Skype to keep her updated with her great-grand Eliza. **Ginny**’s whole family will be with her for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Jack Dugan** has been in touch, taking a quick timeout to spend in the hospital with what he calls a minor heart attack. Following his retirement 28 years ago, he recruited some friends from Buck Hill Falls, Pa., to organize the Buck Hill Conservation Foundation. Their fundraising to demolish the abandoned Buck Hill Inn was successful; they plan to create a small park on the site, incorporating a couple of mementos from the Poconos resort, including the fireplace and hearth from the famous East Room where Friends met on First Day mornings. Many of us have fond memories of Buck Hill, some of casual visits and some of long-term associations.

**Jack** adds, on a personal note, that his eyesight is worsening and that he keeps a wheelchair or walker handy for those “mobility issues” we all seem to have. He expresses the sadness we all feel each time we lose a classmate. We send our sincere condolences to the families of the ’43ers listed in winter’s In Memoriam: **Nicholas Beldecos**, **Barbara Valentine Hertz**, and **Dorothy Shor Thompson**. The College also sent word of **Robert Hecht**’s death on Nov. 2. I think of **Bob**’s College days in terms of his great tennis talent. His obituary notes that he continued working professionally until the last day of his life!

## ‘WAR OF THE WORLDS,’ REVISITED

Share your broadcast memories: [bulletin@swarthmore.edu](mailto:bulletin@swarthmore.edu)

# 1947

**Marshall Schmidt**  
kinmarshal@aol.com

In our earlier years, it was fun to report on the exciting lives and growing families of our classmates and their ways of showing dedication to Swarthmore.

Being class secretary these days, the opposite is true, as obits are often the only available news. A normal closure is so true of our four classmates below: They will be missed.

**Janet Hotson Baker** died Nov. 3 at the Kendal community in Kennett Square, Pa. After Swarthmore, she married the late **Norman Baker** ’49 and had two daughters, Sarah and Joan. A thorough and tireless copyeditor, **Janet** was indispensable to numerous authors at top publishing houses.

**Marjorie Moerschner** died Oct. 9 in Massachusetts. She received an education degree from Boston University and taught primary grades before becoming a real estate title examiner. She enjoyed traveling, spent summers on Cape Cod, and was a church deacon and volunteer.

**John Cairns** died peacefully Nov. 5 with daughter Karen at his side. A proud World War II Navy veteran, John was also a distinguished professor, prolific author, champion of social consciousness and sustainability, fly-fishing enthusiast, avid hiker, and experienced folk dancer. He is survived by four children, including **Heather Cairns Chambers** ’80, and five grandchildren.

**Jeanne Fischer Winch** died Jan. 13 surrounded by family at Crosslands in Kennett Square. A Swarthmore native, **Jeanne** was the widow of **Raymond Winch** ’45. She was active in numerous organizations, including the League of Women Voters, and

enjoyed sailing, piano, tennis, reading, and art. She is survived by four children, 11 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

# 1949

**Marjorie Merwin Daggett**  
mmdaggett@verizon.net

It’s a joy to receive emails from classmates. One short, welcome one arrived from **Ted Wright**, who’s “still in contact with roommate **Bob Forster**. New resident here at Glen Eddy (Niskayuna, N.Y.) is **Nancy Gibbons Walden** ’53.”

**Bill Hirsch** sent a longer one: “After 50-plus years in our Wayne, Pa., split-level, where Roberta and I raised our three children and led a busy, fulfilling life, we made a major move—in October we became apartment residents of a continuing-care community, the Quadrangle, in Haverford, Pa. Nice place. Plenty doing. Friendly people. Early dinners. The move and house sale were hugely helped by our children. Goodbye, law practice. No regrets.”

“Sadly, dear friend and Swat roommate **Bill Will** died Aug. 10. Much missed. First-rate guy, in all respects. Charter member of Swat’s ‘Society for Preservation of Italian Culture,’ of which **Rudy Hirsch** ’50 (no relation) was an important contributor.

“Grands doing well. Roberta and I sometimes attend lectures, do some doctoring, see an occasional movie, read, and do nothing. Hellos from **Phil Gilbert** ’48 and **Maralyn Orbison Gillespie** at Kendal Crosslands.”

In a lighter vein, a month or so later, **Bill** wrote: “Dear Classmates, a few inquiries: Suppose it takes three minutes to boil an egg. How long would it take to boil 100 eggs? Also, do you believe that the various ‘fertilization clinics’ practice a form of eugenics?” All responses gratefully received—publication not promised!

Warm wishes from **Jean Michener Nicholson** in Medford,

## LIFELONG LEARNING AT SWARTHMORE

### CENTER CITY PHILADELPHIA

#### Fall 2018:

• “Oedipus and Antigone,” taught by Gil Rose, Lippincott Professor Emeritus of Modern and Classical Languages; starts in September

• “Apocalypse: Hope and Despair in the Last Days,” taught by Professor of Religion Mark Wallace; starts in October

#### Spring 2019:

• A course on computers led by Richard Wicentowski, followed by a course on microbes by Amy Cheng Vollmer. Stay tuned for details.

### NEW YORK CITY

#### Fall 2018:

• “Physics, Modern Medicine, and the Body,” taught by Frank Moscatelli, Magill Professor Emeritus of Physics

#### Spring 2019:

• “Scandale!” a course on German theater taught by Professor Hansjakob Werlen

### BOSTON

#### Fall 2018:

• “Beyond Realism,” taught by Philip Weinstein, Cummins Professor Emeritus of Literature

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N.J., who hand-wrote this delightful note on a page from a grocery-list pad: “Life at Medford Leas is fine. Visits from children and grandchildren are wonderful. I’m active at Medford Friends Meeting. I give hand and back massages to Alzheimer’s patients and visit bedridden people here regularly.”

Condolences to **Wanda Tyler Will** ’52 on the aforementioned death of husband **Bill Will**. After graduating from high school in 1943, **Bill** was a medic in World War II, following Patton across Europe. He participated in the Battle of the Bulge and, at the war’s end, cared for captives of the Mauthausen Concentration Camp in Austria.

**Bill**’s career followed a family tradition of teaching and social justice work. His most challenging position was deputy administrator of the Model Cities Program in Philly during turbulent years from 1967 to 1974. **Bill** worked for the United Way until retirement in 1987, and in 1991 founded the Citizens for Informed Decisions in Healthcare Inc. He was also a prolific writer and an amateur poet.

**Lawrence Weiskrantz** was characterized at his death Jan. 27 as one of the “greats” of experimental psychology. He earned a master’s from Oxford and a Ph.D. from Harvard, and in

1967 became a Magdalen College fellow and an Oxford psychology professor. He is perhaps best known for discovering “blindsight,” when a brain injury makes someone blind yet he or she can nevertheless detect, point accurately at, and discriminate visually presented objects. A colleague wrote of his modesty and the inspiration he was to others.

Our sympathy to the daughters of **Priscilla Buck Alfandre**, who died in D.C. in January. She was the widow of the late **Bob Alfandre**. She did graduate work at the London School of Economics and received a master’s from George Washington. She became a renowned teacher of third and fourth grades at Sidwell Friends School, creating its first open classroom, the “Blue Room,” where sophisticated discussion, incisive writing, and creative thought were encouraged. On its wall was a great map and the Blue Room ethos: Everything is something. Everything is connected to everything else. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

Condolences also to Judy Otero, widow of **Hector Otero**, who died in March 2017. **Hector** was born in Bolivia and was on one of Swarthmore’s fine soccer teams. After graduation, he went into the medical laboratory business in

Houston. One of his outstanding accomplishments was the Micro Med Automated laboratory, which he owned, operated, and directed. He was remembered by friends and family for “his sweet soul and the giving nature of his spirit.”

**Donald Gordon** died in January. Our sympathy to his widow and two children.

**Paul “Bart” Trescott** died in February and **Herbert Kaiser** in March. I’ll share more in fall’s notes.

# 1951

**Elisabeth “Liesje” Boessenkool Ketchel**  
eketchel@netscape.com

**Ralph Lee Smith**, one of our most faithful contributors, writes: “I am basically in good shape for a 90-year-old, except that my kidneys have ‘gone south’ and I am on dialysis, with treatment three mornings a week. This makes it impractical for me to attend dulcimer gatherings any distance from home. I have taken this bull by the horns by creating ‘Appalachian Spring: Mountain

Songs and Stories with the Dulcimer,” co-featuring my musical collaborator, Madeline MacNeil. We sing and explain the dulcimer’s history in the Blue Ridge, Appalachian, and Cumberland mountains. We sent a flyer to civic groups and libraries, and promptly got four gigs! No telling where this might go. Dylan, watch your step!”

Great, as always, to hear from class president **Dan Singer**: “**Maxine** [**Frank Singer** ’52] (pg. 13) and I seem to be reasonably successful at aging in place. We remain in the same house we have lived in since 1960—our major concession is an electric chair to go up and down stairs. (**Maxine** is the principal user of that toy.) We have good help from friends and neighbors, and we are learning to deal with the various ills that flesh is heir to. I lunch with **Lew Rivlin** about monthly—still a great pleasure. My biggest concern is about the public scene—depressing, to say the least—but it’s good to know that so many of us are still around.”

**Kathy Adams** was “visiting family in March, with the Continental Divide in the background and a red grosbeak at the feeder. A small fox occasionally skitters through the yard. We skied at Winter Park, Colo., on intermediate blue runs this week. No more black diamonds as knees get older.

“In December, I worked on St. George Island at my Florida daughter’s home. Her 2 1/2 acres on Apalachicola Bay were once part of a turpentine plantation and still show ‘cat faces’ on pines where ceramic cups were hung to catch resin.

“Our 40–50 registered Holstein cows on our 1876 family farm have been sold as the Dutch brought in huge numbers of cows from Canada, when forced out there in large part for overproduction. They now overproduce here and have driven many American dairy farmers out of business. I’m advertising for horse owners to rent empty barns and pastures.”

**Jim Lincoln** writes: “**Maggie** [**MacCollum Lincoln** ’56] and I have been thinking of moving to Canada or Finland or Switzerland ... and it’s *not* because we had



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three nor'easters dump snow on us in Concord, Mass., during each of the last three weeks."

**Eleonore Zimmermann** moved to Jefferson's Ferry in South Setauket, Long Island, two years after the death of husband Sverre Lyngstad. "My stepdaughter and her family live a little farther west and visit as often as teenage activities allow. I depend very much on a walker, which makes traveling out of the question. Jefferson's Ferry is near Stony Brook, where I taught French and comparative literature for almost 30 years. The university furnishes us with good concerts, lectures, and classes. We are well taken care of, with buses and nice gardens. I would be delighted by visits and can promise a lovely brunch on Sundays." Email her: [eleonore.zimmermann@stonybrook.edu](mailto:eleonore.zimmermann@stonybrook.edu).

**Jean Matter Mandler** "returned to London, eager for spring—only to find my terrace covered with snow, the weather so cold I wanted to return to California."

**Dick Frost** is "supporting efforts to mandate gun regulation, by writing and emailing Democratic Senate candidates and liberal organizations, who sometimes respond because I am contributing to their causes."

"The slaughter of 17 students and staffers in Parkland, Fla., has created a massive, vibrant movement across the nation. The children offer a rare, promising sign of optimism in the shriveling democracy we know under President Trump."

"Meaningful gun regulation in the U.S. separates civilization from savagery. It spares lives and represents an enlightened national compact in place of anarchy."

"I am well. My wife, Barbara, and older daughter, Caitlyn, are with me, and the weather here in Santa Fe, N.M., is sunny."

**Morey Wetherald** died March 13. Upon graduation, he served in the Navy, then joined Boeing as an engineer, working on the interior design of the first 747 Air Force One. After wife Donnie died in 2006, **Morey** reconnected with **Joyce Powell Craig** '52 and enjoyed visits with her in Charlottesville, Va. Our condolences.

# 1954

**Elizabeth Dun Colten**  
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Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458  
[lizcolten@aol.com](mailto:lizcolten@aol.com)

I received an updated class list and note several new addresses. If I mention changes, perhaps you will discover another Swarthmorean living nearby. **John Bennett** and his wife made the move to a

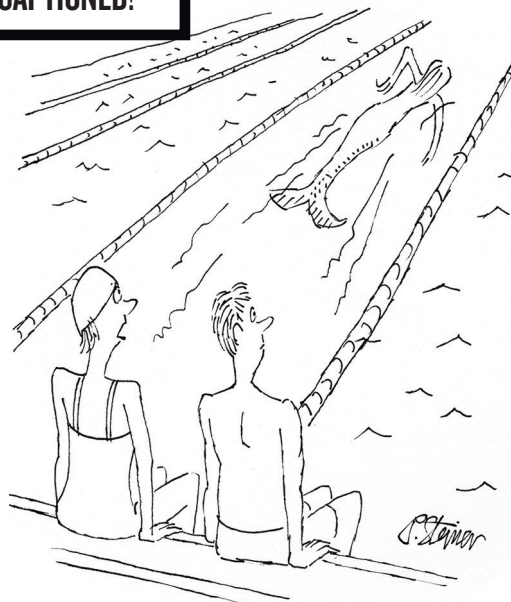
one-floor living arrangement (515 Main St., Apt. 3B, Chatham, N.J. 07928)—"walking distance to all necessities ... food, medicine, church." **John** sees **Larry Schilling** regularly.

I was saddened to learn that **Harry Cowell** died Sept. 2. He was an orthopedic surgery specialist and editor of *The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*. **Susan Marx March** died Feb. 11. **Sue's** career included working with the American Friends Service Committee, the United Way, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the YWCA of Hackensack, N.J. As her obituary notes, "She will be remembered for her devotion

to family, her passion for social service, her generosity, and her sharp intelligence." Grandson **Matthew Dreier** '18 carries on the Swarthmore legacy. **George Lowen** died peacefully March 14 after a long illness. Predeceased by his wife of 47 years, **Ann Bradley Lowen**, he is survived by son Steven, daughter Susan, and three granddaughters. He will be remembered for his expert care, kindness, wit, and thoughtful advice.

**Gabriel Hearn-Desautels** '20 is the recipient of the Class of 1954 Scholarship. He comes from Maryland, is a political science/history double major, and wants to become a journalist.

## CAPTIONED!



"That dolphin kick will never qualify for the competition."

— **Phyllis Hall Raymond** '54, M'71

"Legs are such a drag."

— **Kevin Carr** '08

"I'm concerned about the lengths they're willing to go to improve Olympic athletes' performance."

— **Walt Pinkus** '65

"I should have taken Speculative Fiction."

— **Elisabeth Commanday Swim** '99

✦ **CAPTION THIS!** is being retired in favor of our new Quiz'more feature (pg. 18). Many thanks to our faithful contributors! Revisit past cartoons at [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu).

# 1955

**Sally Schneckenburger Rumbaugh**  
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**Dick Hodgson** writes that online discussions of his astronomy book have led to a proposal that amateur astronomers, by recording the positions of the brighter trans-Neptunian objects, could improve our knowledge of their orbits.

Welcome Christmas messages came from some classmates. One showed **Jean Elliott Golden** against the magnificent mountains of Yosemite, taken last August.

**Bill Shepard** sent his holiday letter, complete with family pictures. Last summer, wife Elza fell, cracking her femur, leading to three weeks in the hospital and six months of convalescence. "As a result," the letter explains, "**Bill** has more to do around the house, but he has still managed to do some academic work, having written a few short book reviews and revised some articles for publication," one of which—on New Zealand Muslims—is to be translated into Turkish.

Daughter Christina still teaches at Christchurch Boys' High School and bought a house nearby, so **Bill** and Elza see their grandson most days. Ralphy, II, does well at

school and continues with karate, piano lessons, and bass guitar, which he plays in the school band. The Shepards' son Bill, in Paris, is busy with the beamline but found time to earn a third dan in karate, becoming a sensei (teacher). He and his family spent Christmas with **Bill** and Elza in New Zealand.

**Carol Elkins** writes: "I loved hearing from **Caroline Thomas Bosbyshell**. Both of us were dear friends of **Valerie Worth Bahlke**, who shall never be forgotten. But her letter made me realize something: The **Roger Abrahams** who wrote *African-American Folktales*, a book that greatly influenced my work, was the same one who was in our class at Swarthmore! During the 1990s, when I was a drama therapist at King's County Hospital, I used one of the stories in this book as the basis for a short play. The stars were a schizophrenic street woman and a charming, seductive, alcoholic man. The two of them created, for me, an image of the way theater should always be.

"A year ago, when I started working on my play *Bible Folk*, I was still trying to re-create that vision. Much to my amazement, I discovered that our little performance at King's County, so many years ago, was in an old collection of videos. Yes, the video had captured the essence of those two, for sure. Furthermore, it identified the book, which I immediately ordered from Amazon.

"I do wish that I had connected these dots before he died, because I sure would love to show him this movie! One has to believe that, even though connections are never made, they are nonetheless real, and have far-reaching consequences. Nothing is wasted!"

**Lauren Suter**, who was on the advisory council of D.C.'s Textile Museum and was an active member of the American Wine Society, died Oct. 28 in Princeton, N.J. He and his wife spent a great deal of time in Catalonia and visited the island of Madeira often.

**Horace Reeves** died Nov. 25 in Mount Holly, N.J. Before Swarthmore, he served in the Marine Corps, and after graduating, he became an

architect and engineer, taking over his father's construction company and running it for more than 40 years. **Horace** enjoyed sailing, opera and classical music, traveling, and photography.

**Lydia Ratcliff**, who died Feb. 13, spent her junior year at the Sorbonne and graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill. She became an assistant and ghostwriter for financial columnist Sylvia Porter, and later moved from Manhattan to a small Vermont farm, where she raised livestock humanely and sold them to top New York eateries. Delivering the carcasses, she "would arrive at these world-class restaurants in her blood-soaked pants with a Louis Vuitton briefcase under her arm, speaking French and Italian to the chefs," according her *New York Times* obituary ([bit.ly/LRatcliff](http://bit.ly/LRatcliff)).

**Clinton Fink** died March 2 in Lafayette, Ind. **Clinton** earned a Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Michigan and became a passionate peace researcher, educator, and activist. He led the Consortium on Peace Research, Education, and Development and organized an alternative newspaper in the Lafayette area.

# 1957

**Minna Newman Nathanson**  
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Although you are reading this in the summer, my deadline is in March as we on the East Coast are experiencing several days of gale-force winds, rain, and high tides. In D.C., we await the first signs of spring, especially Japanese cherry blossoms.

Three classmates died in October. After receiving a master's in social work from Bryn Mawr, **Felicia Forsythe Humer** worked for the Montgomery County Board of Assistance in Norristown, Pa., for 35 years. An accomplished pianist—she played by ear at age 4—**Felicia** enjoyed singing in choruses. Passionate about serving

those in need, she volunteered at the YWCA and food banks, and tutored local first-graders. She is survived by daughters Alice and Anne, stepdaughter Kathleen, and six grandchildren.

**Peter Gragg**, a poet, author of short stories and plays, photographer, videomaker, artist, and craftsman (who also went by "Peter Gordon" and "Green Griffin"), was a longtime resident of Arlington, Mass. **Peter** attended Harvard and the deCordova Museum art program; served in the National Guard; taught math in Sharon, Mass., and at Milton Academy; worked for the Boston Library Consortium; and was active in the Arlington Center for the Arts. His *Roots of Arlington* series and other videos can be viewed on YouTube ([bit.ly/PGordon](http://bit.ly/PGordon)).

**Natalia Harkaway** also died in October. Please send any reminiscences you have of these three.

# 1958

**Vera Lundy Jones**  
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Bay Head, NJ 08742  
[verajonesbayhead@comcast.net](mailto:verajonesbayhead@comcast.net)

**Lee Bigelow** and his wife have lived in St. Jeannet, France, longer than anywhere else. And they certainly travel a lot! They visited Malta for **Lee's** 80th birthday, and from there went to the island of Gozo, where "it stretched our minds to imagine a civilization in such a small, isolated place, before Stonehenge and Egypt's pyramids." Later, they went to Crete to see the remnants of the Minoan civilization; they "recommend it for its history and welcoming people." The Bigelows enjoy hiking with friends in St. Jeannet—"after 20 years, these friends have become almost like family." The couple visit the U.S. every year to see their families in St. Louis and Nyack, N.Y.

A right halfback from 1954 to 1958, **Ted Widing** was selected to the Garnet All-Stars for the

1950–59 decade in honor of 100 years of Swarthmore soccer.

**Tony Joseph** was walking with granddaughter Shlomit in Jerusalem in December, wearing a Swarthmore sweatshirt, when a woman stopped him and asked, "Did you go to Swarthmore?" The woman's late husband, **Christian Anfinsen** '37, graduated from Swarthmore much before **Tony's** time. (**Christian** was a member of Swarthmore's football team and a biochemist who shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1972.) She explained that her phone and computer were not working, and Shlomit offered to help. "Libby Anfinsen led us—complete strangers except for the Swarthmore connection—to her apartment in Jerusalem." Shlomit called the internet company, and **Tony** lent Libby his cellphone to call a friend. "This was our mitzvah for the day," he writes. "I enjoy carrying the Swarthmore flag wherever I go—look what great results I achieved this time!"

**Joel Tibbetts** died March 1. He received a doctorate from Vanderbilt Divinity School and, as an ordained minister, served churches and institutions in Illinois and Vermont. **Joel** retired from Rockford College as a religion and English professor, and he and wife Karen moved to Arlington, Vt. **Joel** had two children and four grandchildren. The class extends its sympathy to his family.

# 1959

**Miriam Repp Staloff**  
[staloff@verizon.net](mailto:staloff@verizon.net)

**Gail First Farber** writes: "Just returned from 'admitted students' days at S'more, where they entice those who are admitted to 'commit.' Such a totally immersive event didn't exist back in our days when the flurry and fury of application and acceptance didn't have so much drama. For some, orientation was our first day inside a building! It was fun to watch all

those kids with 'Class of 2022' IDs hanging around their necks tentatively and enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to meet with professors, sit in on classes, and hang out in all the nooks and crannies and crooks of trees. I kept my distance, keeping my son from Minnesota company while his daughter was pulled from a sizable financial package at the University of Vermont to this Brigadoon with no financial package. Well, S'more won her over and will have the opportunity to help my granddaughter emerge as a 'product of Swarthmore' in 2022. "On Earth Day, the place is gorgeous. The Biology-Engineering-Psychology building will be completed in two years. And Martin is still the same long halls of hope."

**Michael Sobel** delightedly reports that daughter **Hannah '22** will attend Swarthmore this fall. She plans to major in music and join the track and field team.

**Ted Nelson** is a fellow at the Internet Archive in San Francisco. He received a visit from **Charlie Harris's** daughter Nomi and grandson Jeremy, who reported that **Ted** was "smart, for a grownup." **Ted's** wife, Lauren Sarno, is a black belt and a Grammy winner as a member of a San Francisco chorus.

## 1960

**Jeanette Strasser Pfaff**  
jfal2@mac.com

My suggested topic asked you to comment on the role of "community" in your lives. You, in true S'more fashion, managed to touch on many aspects of the concept.

One classmate focused on her physical neighborhood. She moved there as a young parent with little kids, and now she's "the weird old lady in the middle of the block. You know, the one who's been there since—what, the Civil War?" She feels connected to the place,

and her neighbors are a source of support.

Some, like **Gil Harman**, see community as closely linked to their profession. Others emphasized the variety of communities to which they belong. **John Harbeson**: "I've more or less always felt part of a community, indeed often multiple communities—some local, others further removed, like my professional organization, my choirs, and, of course, Swarthmore60. The intensity of involvements seems to ebb and flow. After eight years on my condo board, I am well and truly done with that!"

**Linda Habas Mantel** echoes this: "I have always belonged to many communities—scientists, biologists, women in science, fans of art and music. Of course, it started with the Swarthmore community—and the Class of '60!" She emphasizes the role of community in effecting social change: "The student project I have worked with for many years (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) works with underrepresented students in STEM fields. Through the program they feel a sense of community, which is often lacking for such students in science classes."

Community can foster artistic endeavors, too. **Lolette Sudaka Guthrie**: "Our return to Chapel Hill, N.C., in 2004 felt like a homecoming, a return to a community of likeminded people. It was where **Paul '59** grew up and where we both made good friends. What I didn't know is that I would also find myself part of three wonderfully nurturing artist communities. I feel so very lucky! I joined the Orange County Artists Guild and am part of a small group of 2-D artists who meet biweekly for critiques. For the last 10 years, I have been a member of the artist-owned Hillsborough Gallery of Arts. This community of 22 artists ranging in age from mid-40s to 83 has been immeasurably important to me. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be a co-owner of a business, let alone one that would support my passion for painting!"

Some of us are experiencing the pangs of the loss of familiar

community. One classmate shares that a sense of community is important for his well-being but hard to find as he ages. He participates in a book club and goes to university seminars, but his connection with these people is limited. "The younger people in these groups don't want to socialize (outside the group) with this particular old person. I consider this situation to be normal: It's an unusual older person who makes close friends with much younger folks. Even being friendly with the older folks is not like being with old friends." He finds comfort in family ties.

The above sentiments are echoed by **Yvonne Schaelchlin Palka**: "**Johnny** and I moved to Minnesota. I long to be part of a community like the one we left behind on Whidbey Island, Wash.: people who were kindred spirits. You always met someone you knew when you went to the store or walked down the street. I also loved the number of artists on Whidbey, and it made for beautiful and rich interactions to be part of a co-op gallery. We haven't yet found those things here, but time will reveal other connections, I hope. Meanwhile, family connections are strong—that counts for a whole lot!"

Some of us have found new communities. **Bob Heaton**: "Very much in the community at Broadmead CCRC [in Maryland], where, after three years, I co-edit the monthly paper with **Bob Fetter '53**, perform with the Broadmead Playreaders, manage two bridge groups, and organize half-day fishing outings on Chesapeake Bay. Also, I'm still part of the Swarthmore community, keeping up with fraternity brothers and lacrosse teammates. And I follow, and occasionally contribute to, our class listserv. I'm grateful to the people who make all that possible."

**Carolyn Panzer Sobel**: "I moved to Kendal at Hanover, N.H., last June and have spent the past nine months learning its ways. Yes, there is a real sense of community here, and an upbeat atmosphere. Many of the residents have connections with nearby Dartmouth, and some with Swarthmore. In fact, someone

here, a Haverford graduate, asked me if I knew **Lolette Sudaka Guthrie**, and I responded, 'Well, yes, she was my roommate!' Small world. The period of loneliness in my big, beautiful, rural house is over. (Now, if it would just sell!)"

## 1961

**Pat Myers Westine**  
pat@westinefamily.com

Virginia's "weird winter" season is continuing into March. As I write, classmates and their families experience weather extremes. **Linda Cooley Weinberger** and her husband were flooded by Hurricane Irma last September and barely "escaped with our pet cats on a jet ski manned by a neighbor." Their house was damaged, their cars destroyed. The house has been restored, and they and the cats have moved back in. As she says, "No amount of insurance covers all the costs associated with being homeless for several months." **Roger '60** and **Diane Marshall Shott** visited their kids in California before their son and his wife left for Singapore. Fires in California caused son Eric to evacuate, and when he returned, he had to wear a smoke mask. In the past year, **Roger** and **Diane** have also gone to Montana and Apalachicola, Fla., for fishing and relative/friend visiting.

The winter issue of *George School's Georgian* featured a picture of five 1957 graduates, including **Jennifer Abraham Page** and **Wendy Coleman Goble**, who met last October to celebrate their 78th birthdays "with cake, sharing of adventure stories, and lots of laughter."

In January, **Linda Gordon** was interviewed on *IA*, a syndicated show on NPR, about her book *The Second Coming of the KKK*, in which she writes about how, in its heyday, the Klan was part of everyday American life even after federal efforts to outlaw the group. An Amazon review says the book

helps to explain the dangerous appeal of today's atmosphere of intolerance. **Linda's** radio appearance included a discussion of what history can teach us about why hate groups and white-supremacy groups are on the rise.

**Roman Jackiw's** son Stefan, "one of his generation's most significant artists ... with an impeccable technique," played Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Opus 26, with the National Symphony Orchestra at the Kennedy Center in February. Stefan began playing the violin at 4, is a Harvard grad, has toured the world as a soloist, and performed the world premiere of David Fulmer's Violin Concerto No. 2 "Jubilant Arcs," written especially for him and commissioned by the Heidelberg Festival.

Just after last column's deadline, **Steve Vessey** informed me of wife **Kristin Bergstrom Vessey's** death. **Kris** died Jan. 11 after a fall at home earlier in the month. She married **Steve** soon after graduation,

and they lived in Puerto Rico for several years before moving to Bowling Green, Ohio. After their daughter started school, **Kris** completed an M.S. and a Ph.D. at Bowling Green State. She researched and taught in the biology department in the '90s and then transferred to the Center for Environmental Programs from 1998 to 2002. She served three voluntary terms as president of Bowling Green's League of Women Voters (LWV), served on the LWV state board, was founder and chair of the Coalition for Green Space, and was president of the BG Parks and Recreation Foundation. She also served on a wetland mitigation board and was chair of LWV of Ohio's advocacy and education committee. She and **Steve** faithfully attended our reunions, including our 55th two years ago. We send our sympathy to **Steve** and their two children and three grandchildren.

**Mohamed Faisal** died in January

2017. The son of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, **Mohamed** spent one year at Swarthmore and graduated from Menlo College. He was the first of his siblings to study abroad and, after college, became director of Saudi Arabia's saline water conversion in the '70s. He later financially supported a study about the feasibility of bringing Antarctic icebergs to Mecca, but the study discovered that no iceberg could survive crossing the Equator. Influential in Arabian banking, **Mohamed** founded the Faisal Islamic Bank of Egypt and the Faisal Private Bank, and chaired the King Faisal Foundation. He leaves a wife and three children; his son is also prominent in Saudi Arabian finance.

If you have memories of **Kris** or **Mohamed**, please email me for inclusion in future columns. My thanks to those who stay in touch. I look forward to hearing from more classmates in the future.

## 1963

**Diana Judd Stevens**  
djesteven1@verizon.net

'63'ers on the move: **Barry Mendelsohn** from Fort Defiance, Ariz., to Mays Landing, N.J.; **Mike Taylor** from Providence, R.I., to New Orleans; and **Kathie Kertesz**, her third move in 14 months, from Mill Valley, Calif., to Kentfield, Calif. **Kathie** dislikes moving and hopes to return to writing and music, with a long-range goal of partner dancing again. John and **Mary Kay Dewees Pietris** are glad they moved to their life-care community in Winchester, Va. Last summer, they took cruise No. 35 from Seward, Alaska, to NYC via the Canadian Arctic and the Northwest Passage. In the fall they cruised to Canada, and earlier this year they traveled in the Caribbean.

After I reported the November death of **Carol Finneburgh Lorber**, I learned that the Cheltenham (Pa.) Township Adult School dedicated its spring catalog to her memory.

**Carol** served as its president and was an active student and committee member. In addition, Swarthmore's Board of Managers, of which husband **Bennett '64** is a member, initiated and funded the Carol Lorber Fellowship. Beginning in 2019, the fellowship will be used by a Swarthmore student to do summer research.

**Tom Owen-Towle's** latest book, *Growing All the Way to Our Grave: Conscious Aging and Mindful Dying*, is available through Amazon. *Planting Empire, Cultivating Subjects: British Malaya, 1786-1941* by **Lynn Hollen Lees** was published by Cambridge University Press earlier this year. It examines a multiethnic colonial society where power was divided among Malays, Chinese, and Europeans, virtually all of whom were immigrants.

**Chuck Otto** retired from the University of Arizona after 43 years. Speaking of retirement, **Kelly Ann Lister** started volunteering at the golf course from which she retired. Then she heard about a spiritual care ministry at a Cleveland hospital. After 10 training sessions, which focused on learning to listen rather than voice an opinion, **Kelly Ann** was commissioned to visit patient rooms to listen, and she learned how lonely people are when hospitalized. Her current volunteer work is serving Communion to Catholic patients. Volunteering keeps **Kelly Ann** active and provides wonderful opportunities to serve others.

**Dave '62** and **Alice Handsaker Kidder** have two talented, interesting women staying with them through Host Homes for the Homeless. Contact **Alice** (flintkiddr@aol.com) if you are interested in the program.

Because of the September 2016 Swarthmore exhibition of photography by **John Cratsley's** late brother **Bruce '66**, there have been two shows of **Bruce's** photographs in the Boston area, including one at the Groton School, which **John** and Holly's granddaughter attends. At the 20th anniversary sister-city celebration of Concord, Mass., and Nanae, Hokkaido, Japan, **John**



SPOTLIGHT ON ...

### DAVE '62 AND ALICE HANDSAKER KIDDER '63

Dave '62 and Alice Handsaker Kidder '63 recently reinstated their version of Host Homes for the Homeless in their Boston-area home. The program addresses the problem of not enough beds to shelter homeless women.

"We are indebted to Swarthmore for opening our eyes to poverty conditions, when we participated in the Chester Project," they say. "Our academic training led to our ability to research for answers, and in small ways to affect public policy during our working days. There are rewards to meeting people of different income brackets, and building coalitions to serve."

+ CONTINUED: [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)

helped cut the ribbon for Nanae's dedication of Concord Street.

Sondra and **Dick Mabry** were able to coordinate attendance at our reunion with their twin grandsons' high-school graduation in Denver and a trip through some Northwestern states. **Atala Perry Toy** takes annual buying trips to Arizona and Colorado for her company, Crystal Life Technology. Her art photography continues to win awards at juried shows.

**Sandy McConnell Condry's** recent travels include Iceland, Vietnam, Lebanon (younger daughter's home), and Boston (son's home). Her entire family of 14 gets together each summer, most recently at one of the Finger Lakes. When **Sandy** is at home near Rochester, N.Y., she visits daily with daughter **Kirsten '89** and family, takes classes at Osher, and does, among other activities, yoga, Jazzercise, folk dancing, and folk singing.

At a planning meeting for our 55th, I learned that **Scott Kane's** son, **Scott '93**, was named director of mental health for the Pacific Fleet and promoted to captain. Also, that **Alyssa Nathan '21**, granddaughter of **Dave '62** and **Suzi Merrill Maybee** and daughter of **Len '92** and **Lynne Maybee Nathan '91**, was a member of the Swarthmore volleyball team that played in the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship.

**Jane Jonas Srivastava** (pg. 8) has declared herself fully healed from the major foot surgery she had last October. As evidence, she cites hiking for two days at 9,000 feet in Oaxaca state, Mexico, snowshoeing on a local mountain, and contra dancing. Dance friends from Vancouver Island and the States helped **Jane** the first few weeks after surgery; she got around on a knee scooter until week eight and swam five days a week as part of her rehab.

**Hanan Ahmed '19** continues as the Class of 1963 scholarship recipient. She studied Arabic and peace resolution in Rabat, Morocco, this spring and is grateful to our class for its financial support of her education.

Have news? Please send it my way by email, snail mail, or phone.

# 1965

**Kiki Skagen Munshi**  
kiki@skagenranch.com  
smore65.com

**Peter Meyer** finds local politics on the New Hope (Pa.) Borough Council interesting and challenging. They're dealing with intermunicipal conflicts for a borough of 1 square mile with a population under 2,000. One is a move from parking meters to kiosks, a technological no-brainer but a political football. **Peter** also writes that he has a *great*-grandson, Silas, 2, and that he and Kristen had a wonderful trip last September working east along the British coast of the English Channel. "In Dunkirk, we visited the rooms where the entire mission was planned and coordinated in Dover Castle, which also boast tunnels for 'sally ports,' where medieval cavalry could charge out to try and break a siege."

**Julie Bunce Elfving** moved last year to a life-care community. Although she's in an independent-dwelling unit, she had lived alone for so long that it has taken time to get used to hearing footsteps and voices in the hallway. That said, she enjoys the many available activities and has room for a little garden, so she'll pursue the Master Gardener program. **Lucia Norton Woodruff** and her husband transformed their front yard by adding a small pond with a waterfall and native planting to draw birds and butterflies. "This will require constant attention, so we think of it as our latest 'pet.'" They have also been traveling—a September trip to New England, and a holiday tour of Sicily in October. **Lucia** still plays chamber music alone and in several orchestras in Austin, Texas, and with old friends back East.

We still have social activists! **Jerry and Robin Hannay Nelson '67** didn't march with the kids against gun violence because of Kennedy Center tickets, but they

stuck the map on neighborhood doors hoping someone would take their places—and got to the Mall after the performance. And **Dick Grossman** is "so fed up with the Board of Managers' failure to divest from fossil fuels that I have notified the Alumni Office that I won't give them any more money until they divest."

**Ron Hale** spent three weeks in Ecuador working with residents of Ona, a tiny town high in the Andes, to explore bringing community-based tourism to the area by reviving the town's oldest barrio. The proposed living-history museum would share and celebrate the area's rich architectural, social, artistic, and cultural traditions—all in a region of extreme poverty, with people eking out a living in ways that haven't changed much over the past several hundred years. **Dave Darby** wrote from an apartment overlooking the Danube: "We are doing concerts, museums, favorite restaurants, and strolling the city." **Glen Kanwit** spent a week in the Yucatán Peninsula in mid-March and enjoyed chancing on the unexpected—in Merida, an open-air *folklorico* performance and renting of bicycles; in Edzna, a small archaeological site with dramatic Mayan structures in a virtually deserted jungle.

**Robert Cohen** has a grant to explore how the move to machine learning and artificial intelligence will impact the U.S. economy and jobs. He was also going to Russia in May–June for the first time since graduation, as his wife is teaching there.

**Tom Kramer** became a grandfather: "My daughter **Kimberly '10** had a boy, Calvin Gottfried." **Tom** is still running, "but time is catching up with me. In fact, it has probably passed me, I am so slow. Yesterday, I got a free entry to the Marine Corps Marathon in October for being a Hall of Fame runner." **Ann Stuart** is also a first-time grandparent—grandson Julian was born in the middle of Chapel Hill, N.C.'s biggest snowstorm in years. "I continue to deeply enjoy having morphed from neurobiologist to happy amateur musician (cello) in retirement. For

the past nine years, I have played in a string quartet of likeminded women pals once a week. ... As well, I am part of the 'duo project' of a terrific Durham piano teacher who matches her adult students with string players, then coaches us in chamber music for performance for one another." **Vivian Ling** writes that a book she had worked on for "what seemed like an eternity" was finally published. She is the general editor of *The Field of Chinese Language Education in the U.S.* and the author of about 40 percent of the content. The book is billed as a history of the field but is told through the personal stories of the remarkable people who pioneered and cultivated it—former missionaries, Chinese émigrés from the communist revolution, survivors of the cultural revolution. Then, to stave off postpartum depression, **Vivian** embarked on another book!

# 1967

**Donald Marritz**  
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swarthmore67.com

**Mark Sherkow** and husband Bob Hostettler—both retired—are consolidating two condos into one. **Mark** continues his writing class, sings in a men's chorus, and is active in a book-discussion group that includes other Swarthmoreans.

**Lawrence Arnstein** "just got back from Tibet, where I shared my most recent meditations with the monks, who turned out to be big fans of my books about being a world-class soccer player and international diplomat. Actually, none of that is true, but I'm so intimidated by reading the Class Notes, I want to invent a more interesting life. I recall an interview with the chairman of the English department and a few of his minions, where they were all very nervous about me going to graduate school at Stanford.

## GARNET SNAPSHOT



Congrats, new Garnet Sages! The **Class of 1968** celebrated its 50th Reunion June 2 at Alumni Weekend's Parade of Classes.

"Not in the English department?" asked the chairman, his voice quivering with fear. "Oh, no," I assured him, "it's a creative writing program." "Thank God!" he replied. That settled, they allowed me to graduate, and wished me luck. The reputation of the English department, deemed for a few dangerous moments to be resting on my shoulders, was saved. I've done nothing to sully its reputation since then, having gone on to drive a taxi in Manhattan where no one demanded to know what changes occurred in the concept of tragedy between the Shakespearean period and the Restoration. More important to me was always knowing who was making the midnight hoagie run to Chester."

**Karen Seashore Louis's** most recent book, *Positive School Leadership: Building Capacity and Strengthening Relationships*, was published in April. "It may not be the last [book], but anything else will probably be less scholarly. I am now on a phased retirement, which has convinced me that I am unable to do the work that I have been doing for the past 40 years part time." She and husband Dan are going to "try to break out into a different kind of creativity/good life by leaving Minneapolis for a while next year. Yes, I know that I can read dissertations remotely, but I

hope that there will be distractions. The University of Minnesota is likely to survive without me ... the goal has always been to be completely done before 75. I will just make it."

Law school geeks **Janet Munnecke Madden** and **Stephen Yeazell** got together in January when he was in San Diego for the Association of American Law Schools' annual meeting. "We had a great time reminiscing and catching up," **Janet** says. "We remembered some of our favorite professors: for me, Susan Snyder; for **Steve**, Sam Hynes. And I recalled with pleasure an all-crêpe dinner **Steve** prepared for us one night."

**Jon Fleischaker** was honored by the National Council of Jewish Women for his work on the First Amendment and government transparency, including helping to write and later enforce the Kentucky open-meetings and open-records laws. He and wife Kim Green established programs at Western Kentucky University to support aspiring journalists.

**Mickey Herbert** was selected as a member of the College All-Century soccer team.

**Phyllis Teitelbaum** is very sorry for having missed our 50th Reunion, but she made up for it in part by hosting a mini-reunion at her Princeton, N.J., home with **Mary Porter Maly**, **Kit Ashburn**

**Champlin**, and **Margaret "Margie" Heritage Perryman**. **Phyllis** says it was great to re-establish close friendships and to get to know **Margaret's** husband, Bill Benton. **Charles Bailey** had a piece in *The Hill*, "Agent Orange—a humanitarian concern we can do something about" ([bit.ly/BaileyHill](http://bit.ly/BaileyHill)). **Charles** has retired but is continuing the longtime work he did with the Ford Foundation on this issue. He says the "tragic legacy ... could end if the two countries' leaders chose to do it. ... A war legacy that for decades was a source of resentment and recrimination can be a compelling example of how we build a better future." Soldier on, **Charles**.

# 1969

**Jeffrey Hart**  
hartj@indiana.edu

**Rob Turner** is enjoying retirement from his job as director of publications and graphic artist in the Museum of New Mexico's Office of Archeological Studies in Santa Fe. He recently married Kerstyn Porsch, and the wedding was enhanced by the presence of **Leonard Nakamura** and **Ronald Martinez**.

**Belle Brett's** novel, *Gina in the Floating World*, will be published in September.

**Tom O'Donnell** had surgery in February at the Cleveland Clinic to replace an aortic valve. He still performs as a folk singer in England and the U.S. and was joined by **Alan Hollister** at the Kingston Trio Fantasy Camp in Scottsdale, Ariz., last August.

**Carol Cymbalak Foster** is retired and intensively gardening native plants on her Connecticut property.

**Michael Schudson** married Julia Sonnenvend a few years ago, and in September they had their first child, Noah Peter Schudson. **Mike** has three adult children from a previous marriage. He teaches at the Columbia School of

Journalism.

Joel Gagnon says wife **Sally Graetz Gagnon** had been very sick but is on the road to recovery. **Randy Larrimore** was elected to the Chesapeake Conservancy. He is working on establishing a national park trailhead for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail on the Nanticoke River in his hometown, Seaford, Del. In a broader effort to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay area, he joined a group using advanced remote-imaging technologies to map the land cover, focusing on agriculture and native plants.

**Rich Wolfson** taught his last course at Middlebury College in Vermont, during which Esme Fahnestock, daughter of **John Fahnestock**, was one of his students. In January, **Rich** and wife **Artley Swift Wolfson** visited Monterey, Calif., where **Rich** teaches a climate-change course at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

**Stephan Lynn** sent a wonderfully detailed update, including a dramatic account of his work on improving emergency medicine facilities in New York. Email me for more.

**Carl Kendall** attempted to cheer us up by arguing that the depressing cultural climate is a likely example of the cycle of rise and decline experienced by many other civilizations. It was certainly the deepest and most philosophical response to my call for classmate missives. He set the bar high for future entries.

**Terry Lewis** is back to her roots in Detroit, having retired from the National Cooperative Bank in D.C. Technically semiretired, she still works in economic development as CFO of the nonprofit Center for Community Based Enterprise. Her appointment by President Obama to the board of the Overseas Private Investment Corp., the U.S. government's development finance agency, will continue until she is replaced by the Trump administration.

**Marianne Robbins** transitioned from shareholder to "of counsel" at the Previant Law Firm in 2016, after 39 years. She is active in

the American Bar Association's Equal Employment Opportunity committee and enjoyed Costa Rica with husband Matt, two adult children, and the latter's significant others.

**John McDowell** co-edited and introduced *Animal Tales from the Caribbean*, collected by George List and published by Indiana University Press.

**Jack Lohr** is serving a small, diverse congregation in Queens with members from more than 20 nations and no majority racial/ethnic group.

**Fran Hostettler Putnam** attended husband **Spence** '67's 50th Reunion. She still volunteers in Vermont working on solutions to climate change at the local and state level. She enjoys hiking, skiing, and spending time with her kids and three grandchildren, all of whom live nearby.

**Debby Frazer** retired as executive director of the Friends Foundation for the Aging on April 30. In March, she and husband Jack Malinowski moved into their newly built condo unit on the same block as their food co-op, eight blocks from their house of 41 years, and a block from **Lenny Nakamura**, all in Philly's West Mount Airy neighborhood.

**Lindsay Richards** enjoys retirement: book clubs, mountain biking, bridge, and skiing. "Plus, I'm finally a grandma! Anyone passing through Missoula, Mont., is welcome to visit. **Michael Fields** and **Nanine Meiklejohn** '68 were here last fall."

**Darwin Stapleton** and wife Donna had the incredible experience in January of serving as staff for the inaugural Historically Black Colleges and Universities Speech and Debate Tournament at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas.

**Ellen Daniell** attended Christmas Revels in Oakland, Calif., her ticket courtesy of star performer **Julian Lopez-Morillas** '68. She enjoyed the performance and being in the audience with **Bruce Hamilton** '70, with time for catching up during intermission. **Ellen** saw many friends from the Class of '67 when she attended their 50th Reunion, staying with Peter and Peggy Thompson, faculty friends with whom she has stayed in touch.

# 1971

**Bob Abrahams**  
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swarthmore71.org

I guess we're getting old, but we're still hanging in there. I have my own physical issues (maybe Parkinson's), but that doesn't stop me.

**Tom Bates** has had eight angioplasties since 2000, underwent a quintuple bypass in November, and was in the hospital for 37 days. "I have to amend my thinking about my own mortality. What's the saying? Life's a bitch, then you die. But then, I had two roommates at Swarthmore—**Mark Proctor** and **Guy Yates**—and both of them died quite a while ago." **Tom** lives in Germany with a woman he met six years ago; she works for the Department of Defense running an after-school computer lab for Army kids. They've traveled a lot in Europe, so life goes on.

**Ken Giles** was interviewed for the new documentary *Democracy's Messengers*, about young pages on Capitol Hill. "I was a U.S. Senate page in 1965," **Ken** says. "The Voting Rights Act was passed that year, as well as Medicare and Medicaid, and the 'War on Poverty.' I still have the Senate vote sheet I filled out, showing that the Voting Rights Act passed, 77-19. My experiences helped turn me into a civil rights and peace activist. I worked for the federal government for more than 30 years, became a music teacher in D.C. public schools, and now teach violin in the D.C. Youth Orchestra Program and several area schools." The documentary is on YouTube ([bit.ly/DemMessengers](http://bit.ly/DemMessengers)).

**Don Mizell** was appointed to a second term on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Florida Committee, focused on voting rights. His poetry book, *Ruminations*, will be published this fall, and he's writing, directing, and producing *Paradise Lately*, a documentary on the history of

## BULLETIN BOARD

Notes and announcements from our staff.

### LAUGH TRACK

Calling all comedians! Help tickle our collective funny bone with Swarthmore-themed jokes and laugh-out-loud College memories.

### GOT MILK?

Family-owned bovine farms are giving way to large, corporate dairies. Are you affected? Weigh in on this udderly important topic.

### WRITE HERE, WRITE NOW

Have a great idea for a feature, profile, or story? Get in touch!

[bulletin@swarthmore.edu](mailto:bulletin@swarthmore.edu)

Broward County, Fla.

If you want to share what's going on for you in the Class Notes, please email me. You don't have to wait for my reminders.

Finally, we sadly report the passing of two classmates. **Hank O'Karma** died in February in Danbury, Conn., and **Nathan Wei** died in March at Georgetown University Hospital in D.C. after a brave battle with gastric cancer.

at the Haverford School, including an elective class on the U.S. and Vietnam.

**Angela Mercer** retired from her internist practice in Virginia Beach, Va., in April 2017 after more than 40 years. Soon after, both sons got married, and husband **Reggie Corinaldi** '75 surprised her with a 65th birthday trip to Cuba. "I still do some HIV and general internal medicine work on a voluntary basis," she writes. "I also am active with a local medical society. I sing in a chorus and church choir and have started official voice lessons."

**Neil Raphael** and wife Janis Raye operate Brigantine Media, a small marketing and publishing business in Vermont. This spring, they published a book of essays by Reeve Lindbergh (daughter of Charles and Anne), and two years ago they developed a series of books teaching math using Lego bricks. Son **Bennett Raphael** '09 was on *Jeopardy!* (and won a game!), and daughter Adrienne, a published poet, is getting an English literature doctorate from Harvard and writing a book on crossword puzzles and literature.

After 22 years at Penn State, **David Rosenbaum** and wife Judith Kroll, an authority on bilingualism, moved near LA and assumed faculty positions at UC-Riverside, fulfilling their desire to live near twin daughters Nora and Sarah.

Lots of you probably caught up at the reunion, but here are some updates that came in before the gathering.

**Bill Ehrhart** figured in several sections of Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's documentary *The Vietnam War* last fall. **Bill** told *The Philadelphia Inquirer* that he'd had so much to say when Novick interviewed him in 2011 that she had to send for more film. As you may recall, **Bill** was one of the first Vietnam War vets admitted to Swarthmore. He teaches English

**David** "continues to play the violin with friends and still wakes up rarin' to go with his research on the cognitive psychology of physical action planning."

**Stephen Lang** has four films lined up, all sequels to the wildly successful *Avatar*. "Four sequels may seem a bit much, but it is a tale very much worth telling: The saga that James Cameron has written and is now realizing on 'film' is beyond epic in scope and intention, absolutely bursting with emotion, excitement, and relevance," he writes. "I hope and believe it will have powerful resonance, not solely as entertainment—although it will be eye-poppingly and heart-poundingly so—but as a cultural benchmark on a global scale. Hey, why not aim high?"

**Geoff Davis** retired from biotech in April 2017. He and wife Sylvia, whom he married in 2010, have one son and three daughters between them, ranging from 28 to 36. They live on 13 acres in Auburn, Calif., with their two English shepherds and operate Auburn Kennels. "We love having visitors," **Geoff** writes. "We are seven miles off I-80, so a convenient stopover for anyone heading from the Bay Area to Tahoe. Plus, you can drop off your dog!"

After 35 years as a computer programmer, **Anne Anderson** has been teaching applied statistics part time for about 10 years at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts. She and husband David Baxter, also a programmer, have daughter Kate (born in 1987), who helped create the computer game BioShock Infinite and now works for Google.

**Robert May**, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Linguistics at UC-Davis, became vice chair of the University of California's systemwide Academic Senate last fall and will become chair for the 2018-19 academic year, necessitating a move to San Francisco.

**Allison Barnes** retired in 2013 after 18 years with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Philadelphia. She and husband Dennis Young live in Exton, Pa. "I am enjoying catching up with family and

friends, taking nature walks, birdwatching, volunteering at a community garden, trying out new recipes, and traveling," she writes. Daughter Emily (born in 1979), an editor and writer, lives in Conshohocken, Pa., with her husband and two children, and daughter Evelyn (born in 1981) lives in Jersey City and works in marketing for GlaxoSmithKline.

**David Bates** retired in January "and has enough projects to keep any boredom at bay," wife **Ginny Mussari Bates** writes. "I am still traveling to make the insurance industry better and still (mostly) enjoying it." They're enjoying grandson Henry, I.

Congrats to **Andi Sassi Howard**, who became a grandmother March 7 when Lake Penelope was born to Chris and Alexis Howard in LA.

We're making it easier for you to submit news. Email me; update your profile at [SwarthmoreCollege73.com](http://SwarthmoreCollege73.com); or post on [facebook.com/SwarthmoreClassOf1973](http://facebook.com/SwarthmoreClassOf1973).

# 1975

**Sam Agger**  
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Great, separate reports from the awesome **Ken Andres** and **David Gold**: The Swarthmore men's basketball team made it to the NCAA Division III Elite Eight! **Dave**, in Boca Raton, Fla., reports his "middle son, Jonathan, moved down from NYC to join my law firm. So I now have two of three sons trying cases with me. We're also blessed with two grandsons and another on the way." (My wife and I, **Sam**, have also joined the grandparent club with the birth of our granddaughter to our daughter and son-in-law in Bloomington, Ind.)

**John Deshong**, with Bechtel in California, sent a wonderful update. (I'm counting on your following through, kind sir, on one of your upcoming visits to the D.C. area!)

"The last year has been quite eventful. Son Michael got married in San Diego to his wonderful new wife, Maria, plus got his ideal job as an assistant U.S. attorney in criminal special trials in San Diego's Department of Justice office. My daughter finished a molecular biology master's at UC-Davis and is looking for a biotech job. My wife, Fran, is incredibly busy as the new chair of the Orange County Democratic Party, trying to turn four congressional districts blue to help turn the House. I learned that after 120 years, Bechtel is closing its San Francisco headquarters and consolidating operations in the D.C. area. I will trade my S.F. apartment for one in D.C. and look forward to more involvement in legislative/Capitol Hill matters. Who said turning 65 has to be boring?"

**David Meyers** writes: "While my day job as CEO of ERG continues into its 35th year, I have been devoting a good deal of personal time to help improve voter participation by college students. Student turnout is incredibly low (even at Swarthmore), and it has the potential to impact many elections. There are more than 600,000 students in Pennsylvania alone, a state that was decided by less than 50,000 votes in 2016. I am helping to launch a statewide Pennsylvania program that includes Swarthmore. If anyone wants to get involved anywhere in the country, email me: [david.meyers@erg.com](mailto:david.meyers@erg.com)."

**Suzanne Durrell** ([bit.ly/SDurrell](http://bit.ly/SDurrell)) was named Whistleblower Lawyer of the Year!

**David Bradley**, Fulbrighter to the Philippines and chairman of Atlantic Media, was presented with the 2017 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Larry Schall**, Oglethorpe College president, only looks happier when he is playing soccer ([bit.ly/LSchall](http://bit.ly/LSchall)).

**Rick Vally** wrote on honoring Reconstruction ([bit.ly/RVally](http://bit.ly/RVally)).

**Robert Zoellick** assailed the POTUS in *The Wall Street Journal* ([bit.ly/RZoellick](http://bit.ly/RZoellick)).

Finally, sadly, **Deborah Hayek** lost her two-year battle against cancer. Wishes of warm support to her family and friends.

# 1977

**Terri-Jean Pyer**  
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Greetings, everyone!

**Dave Schroeder**, retired CIO and very active author of a musical comedy, the Xenotech Support novel series, and the new Congruent Mage fantasy series, announced a milestone: By early April, sales of his books surpassed 15,000 copies. With wonderful reviews pouring in, **Dave** may embark on mystery novels next.

In February, **Lewis Shuster** was appointed to the board of TP Therapeutics, a clinical-stage structure-based company that discovers and develops precision medicine for cancer and other diseases. In 2002, **Lew** founded, and is currently CEO of, Shuster Capital, a strategic and operating adviser to life-science company executives and investors. He has devoted his career to this field, with 30 years' experience as CEO, CFO, or COO of life-science companies. He has also served as a director of more than a dozen of these firms, and has chaired audit committees of public companies. He is a director of HTG Molecular Diagnostics, Principia Biopharma, Cleave Biosciences, and Active Motif. After earning an economics degree at Swarthmore, **Lew** received an MBA from Stanford.

**Jerry Tersoff** was elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), among the highest honors accorded an engineer. He will be formally inducted at the NAE's annual meeting in D.C. on Sept. 30. A principal research staff member at IBM Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., **Jerry** is being recognized for his theoretical contributions to the engineering science of materials growth and modeling, nanoscale electronic devices, and semiconductor interfaces.

**Helene Abramowitz** died June 23, 2017, in NYC. After briefly attending law school in D.C.,



**Helene** returned to New York, where she freelanced as a proofreader and medical editor, and volunteered with—among other organizations—New York Cares, coaching job seekers. Our condolences to her friends and family.

And our condolences also to **Margaret McWethy** on the passing of her father, Robert, on Jan. 29 at age 98. A retired naval captain, Robert lived a distinguished life of service, including the founding, with wife Liz, of the Weems Creek Conservancy to preserve the natural beauty of the Maryland creek where they made their home.

## 1979

**Laurie Stearns Trescott**  
sundncr88@comcast.net

**Peter Cohan** is a management consultant, venture capital investor, teacher of strategy and entrepreneurship at Babson College, and writer, contributing articles to *Forbes*, including about the seemingly impossible task of valuing Bitcoin ([bit.ly/Cohan79](http://bit.ly/Cohan79)).

**Alan Ford** enjoys working with his American University students who are learning spatial data transformation and analysis, using GIS technology to explore problems. Extremely active in environmental groups working on habitat management/restoration, he is president of his chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society and an active member in other regional organizations. **Alan** was recognized in 2016 as Virginia's Cox Conserves Hero and in 2017 was asked to participate in a TEDx Salon event. He and his wife of 15 years, Elaine, happily reside in McLean, Va.

On social media, **Jan Mostov** found me and says he is back in his hometown, Youngstown, Ohio, where he's practiced law for 34 years. He and wife Evelyn have been married for 23 years and have a daughter graduating with honors from Ohio State. **Jan** says

what remains most memorable and significant today (and way back when we were in college) was interacting with fellow students. He's "stoked" about seeing his mates from '78 and '79 at reunion.

**Katie Aiken Ritter's** *Viking: A Man Called Black Mountain* is now in print. What was supposed to be a short story about a man of color in the Viking era turned into a novella about a decent person grappling with impossible choices. In writing and in her market research, **Katie** was surprised that racial injustice would be so overtly accepted throughout the country, and by how so few books exist with a black protagonist. She's excited and a bit nervous to join the evolving dialogue about how our society represents diversity. **Katie** and husband Mark are turning a second home into a whole-house Airbnb in the darling waterfront town of Chesapeake City, Md. Remodeling in winter naturally involved *all* the pipes in the house breaking, turning a serene construction timeline into immediate fix-it action.

Our collective condolences to **Martha Savage** and her family as they mourn the death of son Kelly Robert Savage on May 5, 2017, at a Japanese psychiatric hospital. To learn more and to work toward preventing tragedies like this, check out **Martha's** [change.org](http://change.org) petition: [tinyurl.com/norestraintsjapan](http://tinyurl.com/norestraintsjapan).

**Lesley Wright** celebrates her 19th anniversary as director of Grinnell College's art museum. In the spring, she and a biology colleague co-curated the interdisciplinary exhibition "Making Life Visible: Art, Biology, and Visualization," featuring work by contemporary and historical artists and scientists. Though **Lesley** ultimately majored in art history, she once was a double-major with biology, so she enjoyed bringing both passions together. "Professor Emeritus Scott Gilbert spoke at our faculty planning workshop, along with several Swarthmore alumni who inhabit the art-biology collaborative space."

Please contact me with news by email or through our Facebook class page. Be well!

## 1981

**Karen Oliver**  
karen.oliver.OI@gmail.com

*Recent books and news media:* Did you see it? In November, **Jonathan Franzen** reflected on the role of the writer in times of crisis in a *Guardian* essay on the state of national and world affairs, "One year of Trump: Is it too late to save the world?" ([bit.ly/FranzenTrump](http://bit.ly/FranzenTrump)).

And you can hear chief digital officer **Thomas Hjelm** talk about how NPR navigates constant transformations ([bit.ly/HjelmCXO](http://bit.ly/HjelmCXO)). Transformational life coach and certified grief-recovery specialist **Ellen Landsburg Monsees** published a memoir of her journey after her husband's death, *Lost and Found: Finding a Joyful Life After Loss*.

**Susan Morrison's** *A Medieval Woman's Companion* (2016) came out in German in 2017 and won several awards. **Susan** was off on a college-visit trip with her son, a high-school junior—nine colleges in five days. Grueling!

*Other stories from daily lives:* Exciting news for our next reunion—beer and sake could play a part! From **John Fischer**, a professor at the CIA (that's the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y.) with a specialization in wine and beverage management: "Recently, CIA built a brewery on campus, so I have a new favorite class to teach: The Art & Science of Brewing." In spring 2017, **John** sat on a panel at the Craft Brewers Conference in D.C., and he did so again this year in Nashville, Tenn. There were 16,000 attendees expected! **John** also reports that Dassai Sake is building a brewery less than a mile from campus, that the CIA has signed an agreement to teach and promote sake, and that he will be creating a sake curriculum. I'm looking forward to the mini-course at our 40th in 2021!

From our foodie in the North to an unnamed fast-food chain in

the South, where **Lisa Lee** was camped out in search of Wi-Fi: "I'm happily ensconced in Atlanta and in my new position as executive director of the Emory University Alumni Association. I'm adapting to apartment living for the first time in 18 years. It's going pretty well except for an issue with my fiber-optic cable that may require opening the walls of my—and perhaps my upstairs neighbor's—apartment to repair. I'm enjoying the city and even attended my first Swarthmore alumni event, when President Smith came to town. If you're ever in Atlanta, let me know!"

**David White** and wife Jan have been traveling, with Antarctica their latest adventure destination. While down south they planned to visit Argentina and Brazil, as well. Amazing photos are on Facebook. I'm officially jealous!

A reminder from your class secretary that I can't make this stuff up—I need help from *you*. Please take a minute to send me news to share!

## 1983

**John Bowe**  
john@bowe.us

A few '83ers have children in the Class of 2018—**Donna Gresh**, **Martha Reed**, **Vivian Yeh**, and surely others. Congrats! Others have children still at Swat—**Lynn Fryer Stein** ... who else?

**Ellen Argyros** says both sons are out of college and are homeowners, the elder in Austin, Texas, the younger in Brockton, Mass. **Ellen** teaches English at Babson College and "writes the occasional poem." Husband **Ken Schaphorst** '82 is jazz director at Boston's New England Conservatory.

**Deb Winer** is creating shows, studying, writing, and caretaking her *Classic American Songbook* series.

**Laura Wilson Porter** still lives in Scotland, but "moved to Greenock,

## ALUMNI COUNCIL NEWS

The Alumni Council held an open session during Alumni Weekend. Learn more at [bit.ly/AlumCoun](http://bit.ly/AlumCoun) or on pg. 12.

[alumni@swarthmore.edu](mailto:alumni@swarthmore.edu)

to a beautiful, old house with a turret. Working for Inverclyde council, now managing a health- and social-care team."

A year into his first term as U.S. senator, **Chris Van Hollen** pressed the incoming Federal Reserve chairman that the Fed be shielded from any White House effort to influence its oversight of Deutsche Bank.

For two years, **Rebecca Dodson Clark** has been working on her free-to-all online *Book of Hours: An Artist's Book for the Anthropocene* (pg. 13).

**Wendy Merson Rich** has the perfect phrase for raising kids: "Walk the parental tightrope between intrusion and neglect." She and her daughter visited campus recently. **Wendy** became certified to supervise other therapists in emotionally focused therapy, an incredibly rich and rewarding part of her work. She also began learning Flamenco dance, "a fierce, complex, joyful, and humbling art that will keep me busy for years (if my knees hold out)!"

**Maria Simson's** elder son is a William and Mary freshman; her younger is in his last year of elementary school. "I am in my 30th year of marriage. Under a pseudonym, I wrote the first volume of a romance trilogy that was published in February; second volume comes out in August."

As for me, **John Bowe**, my daughter is about to enter the working world with a master's in social work, and my son is halfway through Lafayette College. I just passed 10 years at Akamai in Cambridge, Mass. Like many of us, I'm looking for what to do next with my empty-nest, nonwork time. Any suggestions?

## 1985

**Maria Tikoff Vargas**  
maria@chrisandmaria.com

**Tim Kinnel**  
kinnel@warppmail.net

Thanks to everyone who replied to **Maria's** email! We were delighted to hear from so many of you.

**Gene Dillman** is the clinical director of a high-needs primary medical center serving a large refugee and immigrant population—"the new New Zealand. It gives one a unique view of the historical and current geopolitical origins of much of today's existential malaise." He and partner Mark have been there four years.

**Josh Gamson** enjoys life in the Bay Area as academic assistant dean at the University of San Francisco, "writing when I can, raising kids, and trying to keep on learning things."

**Paula Rockovich Gable** finished a second doctorate and is interim minister at First Unitarian Church of Cleveland.

**Hans Hurdle** is slowing down and moving to the Chesapeake Bay waterfront. Wife Cindy is retired, and his three sons are all college-age; the oldest just graduated.

Despite having three kids in college and a 10th-grader, **David Landes** recently retired. "The days fly by, and I enjoy sending lots of email and catching up with friends."

**Ruthie** and **Nathan Woodliff-Stanley** live in Denver, where

**Nathan** is the ACLU of Colorado's executive director and **Ruth** is canon to the ordinary at the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado. Both of their sons are Swarthmoreans: **John** '21 is a rising sophomore, and **George** '18 graduated in May.

**Gloria Thomas** is director of the Carolina Women's Center at UNC-Chapel Hill. She sees **Andrew Perrin** '93 on campus and **George Telford** '84 at Duke women's basketball games. She enjoyed reconnecting with former roommate **Sue Levin** and her family in Portland, Ore.

**Adam Reeves** marked his 15th year at the Justice Department; he is deputy chief of economic crimes at the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Francisco. Daughter **Katie** '22 heads to Swarthmore this fall, and **Adam** plans to be back on campus regularly—if she lets him.

Speaking of kids at Swarthmore, **Becky Sielman** wrote the last tuition check for her son **Charles Kuchenbrod** '18, who joined sister **Mary Kuchenbrod** '16 as a third-generation Swattie. (See the beautiful math-inspired quilt **Becky** and **Mary** made for **Charles**, pg. 3.)

**Robert Neff** has been in Palo Alto, Calif., for 22 years and works on integrated circuits. He remains an avid cyclist and is active in local bicycling issues. He and wife Nancy are happy their two sons are supporting themselves after college.

**Claire Mathews McGinnis** is the theology department chair at Loyola University, where she has taught for 25 years. "I get up to Swarthmore a lot, since my daughter **Killian** '19 is there, along with **Patty Scholz's** daughter **Meg Cohen** '19 and **George Woodliff-Stanley** '18."

**Julie Brill** reconnected with **Sara Miron Bloom**, Jody Baron (a visiting student from Rice our senior year), **Karen Hicks** '86, and **Stephanie Schaertel** '86. "It was wonderful to get together again—and interesting to compare notes on what we didn't learn at Swarthmore!"

**Andrea Packard** is Swarthmore's List Gallery director. She and husband **Jay Dahlke** '83 live in Wallingford, Pa., where their

younger son is in high school. "Last year, I had a solo exhibition at Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville, Ark., and this past fall/winter, I was artist in residence at the Hudson River Museum in New York. Some of my mixed-media collages can be viewed at [andreapackard.net](http://andreapackard.net)."

**Susan Poser** and **Steve DiMagno** enjoy life in Chicago. **Susan** completed her second year as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), and **Steve** works on cancer diagnostics and therapeutics research at UIC as a professor of medicinal chemistry and pharmacognosy. They recently hosted several Swarthmoreans, including **Ben Dugan**, **Jennifer Johnson** '83, and **Sue Swearer** '87.

On a sad note, **David Bedell** moved in with and spent two years reconnecting with his parents, helping them with end-of-life decisions before saying goodbye to both in 2017. He is "grateful to have had that time with them."

Finally, **Deirdre Murano** suggests we do a favorite-book column: "Another class did it a few years ago and it was interesting." Let me (**Maria**) know what you think.

Thanks, and keep the updates coming!

## 1987

**Sarah Wilson**  
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As our class notes move inexorably further back in the *Bulletin*, many of us value relationships begun at Swarthmore more than ever.

**Joseph Ruff** says these friendships continue to be among his most durable and stable. Just in the last year, he's visited **Bill Liang**, **Sugato Dasgupta**, and **Vivek Gujral** '88.

**Joseph** and his wife moved to Chico, Calif., to retire. But after two years, he was lured back into working as a software engineer at a high-tech Bay Area startup. "This time working remotely from

Chico, at least. I often fantasize about starting a second career as a teacher at Chico State or Butte College instead." Meanwhile, one of his children is a psychology undergraduate, and the other started his first year of law school.

**Gehan Talwate**, one of my fellow Mary Lyon survivors, is also shifting his focus onto his children, as they embark on their college careers. He spent Christmas with ex-wife **Keara Connolly** and their daughters, Maya (at Berklee College of Music) and Liliana (at the University of Michigan). **Keara** splits her time between London and Belize, where she has a home and a business (short-term apartment rentals) in Caye Caulker. **Gehan** splits his time between London and Cape Town, where he has a home and a bicycle.

"I am now officially a gray-hair, chairing a small portfolio of data companies in London and New York. I also have a big data startup in London called ISHKA (loosely named after the Gaelic 'uisce beatha,' the water of life, aka whiskey, my favorite tippie). My other business is dedicated to my search for the world's best martini (martinimandate.com)." **Gehan** hosted **Anthony Ibrahim** and his family for cocktails and dinner in Cape Town in January and had a wonderful dinner at **Pierre Cesbron** '88's Paris home in December.

**Tamar Doron Harris**, who left the U.S. many years ago, is in Vancouver, British Columbia, teaching teens writing and literature. "So long to bread-and-butter jobs in commercial writing, hello to overscheduled teens. All tips welcome!"

**Reid Neureiter** wins the annual prize for class updates! His youngest son, **Luke** '22, will attend Swarthmore in the fall. "He will do his best to make the soccer team, hopefully joining **Aidan Stoddard** '20 (son of my soccer teammate and co-captain, **Tom Stoddard**), who plays on the varsity squad."

**Reid**'s oldest two are out of the house (one a Carleton graduate living in Berlin, the other a junior at Wesleyan). **Reid** and wife Nora have some trepidation about

becoming empty nesters, but Nora is busy with her consulting business, and **Reid** anticipates spending more time on sports photography (with a focus on cycling and skiing) as well as writing a sports column and taking pictures for his neighborhood newspaper. **Randy James** visited **Reid** last spring, and they spent a few fun days skiing Copper Mountain in Colorado.

**Zahid Maker** writes from Karachi, Pakistan: "The 30th Reunion was something very special. Swarthmore, for me, is a secret pool from which we younglings drank deeply, eyeing each other with wonder at the uniqueness of the other. Thirty years after graduation, worn and torn by reality, it was rejuvenating to return to the same pool, drink together, share joys and heartaches, refresh old friendships, and continue to make new ones. What a gift! **Rayyan** '20, my eldest, remarked this winter—after a Swarthmore study trip to Israel and the West Bank—that he, too, is having the best experience ever."

**Courtney Austrian**, who works for the State Department in London, was featured on TV describing the new U.S. Embassy building there (bit.ly/CourtneyA87).

**Pat Carney**, CEO of EyeGuide, was one of nine finalists in the NFL's startup competition. EyeGuide uses eye-tracking technology to quickly diagnose neurological impairment.

Now that we're all in our 50s, let's concentrate on keeping in touch and not worry if our achievements seem small in comparison. Please send your updates to swarthmore87@gmail.com, or join our private Facebook group "Swarthmore '87 25th Reunion" to enjoy more frequent contact with one another.



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# 1989

**Martha Easton**  
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**Kathy Stevens**  
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There is a season for everything—many classmates have been marking the loss of loved ones.

**Bob McCann** lost his mother in December, and then in February, his father died. **Kathy Stevens** was at the funeral, along with **David Buek**, **Jay Peichel**, **Tim Malarkey**, and **Pat McCauley**. Our sympathies to **Bob**.

**David Salmanson** lost his wife, Lori Lorenz, to an aneurysm in November. "One of the only upsides to this awful tragedy has been the outpouring of love and support I've received from the Swat community. In addition to the many letters and messages (thank you—I read them all!), I was able to visit in person with many classmates, including **Debby How**, **Kir Talmage**, **Val Lieber**, **Ben Weiner**, **Lisa Kaiser**, **Gerald Quirk**, **Bob Scher**, **Dan Garfield**, **Monty Wilson**, and **Doug Horgan** and **Mike Niklaus** (twice each!). My children and I have been warmly embraced by their love and kindness."

Read **David**'s blog about grieving: benthamorfoucault.blogspot.com.

I, **Martha**, lost my own father last August. When I was 16, he took me on an outrageously long 40-hour drive to see Swarthmore. The first minutes I ever spent on campus were with him, and I never would have gone there without his encouragement and support. There's no doubt that Swarthmore was the happiest, best possible, and most life-changing college for me, and I'm so grateful to my father for getting me there—and for so many other things.

I know there are others who have lost family in the last few years who haven't chosen to share with Class Notes. It's always gratifying to see our Swarthmore friends closing in with love and support

around these great losses. It's strange to think that we have known each other for more than half our lives, and, of course, it's wonderful to have kept these dear friends for that long.

This column isn't all about loss. We do have one big, happy piece of news to report: The amazing **Patrick Awuah** won the World Innovation Summit for Education Prize for 2017, presented by Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, chairwoman of the Qatar Foundation, in recognition of **Patrick**'s work at Ashesi University. Take care, all.

# 1991

**Nick Jesdanun**  
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**Sertaç Yeltekin** left his banking job in Milan after 15 years and joined a Singapore-based venture fund that invests in socially viable companies in Asia that serve low-income populations. He considers the change "the best remedy for empty-nest blues," as both daughters are in college in the U.S. He plans to spend most of his time in Southeast Asia after working remotely from Italy for the first several months.

In the U.K., **Jess Hobart** worked on the unsuccessful "Remain" campaign to fight Brexit and pounded the pavement for Liberal Democrats. She also teaches robotics and helps run a small health-care charity. She and kids Luka, 13, and Nik, 11, are with her in London while husband Sasha spends most of his time in Belarus, heading the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's Minsk office.

**Kristi Cunningham Whitfield** is director of D.C.'s Department of Small and Local Business Development, tapping her own experiences as a small-business owner to help others at all stages of development. When she's not working, she chases after Drake, 5, and Sammy, 3, and keeps in touch



KRISTEN NELSON

► "I've discovered soccer fandom. It turns out that I enjoy spending a couple of hours in a stadium, drinking beer and shouting to encourage the Portland Thorns or Timbers to score," says Fran Poodry '92. "I never knew that about myself until recently."

## PHYSICS EXPLORER

### Science education inspires all she does

by Jonathan Riggs

FRAN POODRY '92's favorite subject is as powerful as it is fun.

"Physics is a way of discovering and exploring the rules of the universe," she says. "Plus, you get to play with toys."

Still, her journey to *physic*-al fitness wasn't without a few bumps along the way.

"My first real experiences with failure came at Swarthmore: I dropped out of Physics 7 and almost quit

the subject entirely over Quantum seminar," she laughs. "But I kept on going and discovered the best way for me to learn material was to teach it."

And she did—for more than 20 years. Today, she draws from that classroom experience as director of physics for the educational company Vernier Software & Technology and co-author of Vernier's new experiment manual, *Physics Explorations and Projects*.

"I believe students should learn to use data collection and analysis tools without a recipe," she says. "I taught my conceptual physics students to use software on their own, and to poke around at menus until they could configure what they needed. This book trusts students to be able to figure things out."

In fact, Poodry is a longtime advocate of Modeling Instruction pedagogy and interactive engagement methods in science education, serving a term as president of the American Modeling Teachers' Association. And though she's no longer in the classroom herself, she stays connected with other educators, particularly through Twitter.

"I follow a number of teachers, and every day they're asking questions, helping, and supporting each other," she says. "I love seeing and participating in that, and have met some wonderful people."

After all, they're each fighting the same good fight: ensuring that every student receives the highest quality science education possible. Even for future nonscientists, Poodry believes these skills are crucial.

"Science is a problem-solving method that uses data to discover answers," she says. "Scientific data analysis is the tool that provided evidence for the existence of the Higgs boson and the progression of global warming, but just as importantly, it's a tool everybody can use. *Everyone* should be able to think about what their information is and where it comes from—and then evaluate it."

And, of course, once you realize science is part of everything we do, it creates many opportunities to use it for fun. For the Oregon-based Poodry, she found a new hobby in that intersection that couldn't be ... cooler.

"I love the sport of curling and how it's very physics-based: friction, angular and linear momentum, energy," she laughs. "In some ways curling is like golf or dancing: easy to learn to do adequately, but you spend years getting really good." 🌟

with **Robin Bennefield**—though mostly through her blog, Robins Have Wings, as **Robin** is always traveling.

Also in D.C. is **Deborah Vagins**, who's working on civil rights and women's rights issues. She recently joined the American Association of University Women as senior vice president of public policy and research, helping to increase equity and empowerment for women and girls. This follows 10 years at the ACLU and three at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She keeps in touch with several alums, including **Matt Zbornik '90**, **Scott Field '90**, **Kyle Baird '90**, **Dennis Kennedy '90**, **Dave Malaxos '90**, **Jim Bock '90**, **Ann Park '93**, and **Jean Tsao '93**.

**Adam Sohn** left Microsoft, then Amazon, to join Lockheed Martin as vice president for space communications, covering external relations and employee engagement.

**Margo Crawford** joined Penn as an English professor after eight years at Cornell. Her new book explores the black arts movement of the '60s and '70s and more-recent trends in black aesthetics. **Heather Rigney Shumaker's** next book, *The Griffins of Castle Cary*, is a children's adventure story with three kids, a dog, and some ghosts. She's in northern Michigan with sons Xander, 13, and Luke, 10, and "getting used to the idea that I have a child heading to high school."

**Jim Shulevitz** can top that. His daughter, a high-school junior, is starting her college search. **Jim** isn't worried about her getting in, as she has strong academic and extracurricular credentials. The bigger question: how to pay \$60,000-plus a year for tuition at Swarthmore and many other colleges, without expecting financial aid. Plus, he has two more children rapidly growing up. He welcomes advice from classmates.

**Phil McLean** lives with wife Hoa and three kids in Media, Pa., while practicing anesthesiology at Springfield Hospital, just north of Swarthmore. He built his own outrigger canoe—it just needs some paint.

## GARNET SNAPSHOT



The bar mitzvah of **Andy '93** and **Eliana Miller Perrin '93's** son Daniel became a Swarthmore mini-reunion last fall. From left: **Ihsan Taylor '94**, **Becca Zerkin '93**, **Gary Winzelberg '91**, **Andy, Eliana, Megan Valentine '81**, and **Rebecca Posner-Hess '21**.

Finally, this word from **Matt Zurcher** in Colorado: "**Andy Dailey** kicked my rear end at Vail—and we only skied for a couple hours!" Yup, we're not spring chickens anymore.

## 1993

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**Andres Versage**  
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Looking back on our daunting 25th Reunion—can it possibly have been that long?—we fondly recall that afternoon on Parrish Lawn, that stroll along Crum Creek, that leisurely nap at McCabe ... all those things we never had time for freshman year! Swatties arrived from far and wide; there was plenty of Renato's and Swat Pizza for everyone, and there was that thing that happened at Saturday's party that had everyone talking ... look, this was written pre-reunion, so work with us, OK?

On to the news! First off, **Matt Alford** straight-up rescued someone (bit.ly/MattAlford). Beat that, Class of '94! Seriously: **Matt** was surfing in

Southern Cali, just enjoying a **Matt Alford**-sort-of day, when a woman fell into the ocean, and he saved her. He's an honest-to-goodness California surfing hero. We call movie rights.

Did we mention that **Kerry Abrams** was named dean of Duke Law School? Yup. Mic drop. **Kerry** is described as a "leading national authority in immigration law and family law." We would tell you to start laying the groundwork for your kid's Duke Law application by fetching **Kerry** a beer at reunion, but, again, this is coming out post-reunion, so you may have missed your chance.

**Gayle Isa** will move on to new challenges this year after 25 years as leader of Philly's Asian Arts Initiative. Check out the *Inquirer's* article: bit.ly/Gayle93. In other news, legit big-city newspapers now write stories about us. Way to go, 1993!

**Andrew** and **Eliana Miller Perrin** are in Chapel Hill, N.C., where they've lived for nearly 18 years. **Andy** is a UNC-Chapel Hill sociology professor and chairs UNC's general education curriculum revision. **Eliana** is division chief of primary care pediatrics at Duke and leads the Duke Center for Childhood Obesity Research. Son Jonah, 17, is finishing high school, organized his school's delegation for the March for Our Lives in D.C.,

and is working on Ryan Watts's U.S. House campaign (N.C. 6th District). Son Daniel, 13, is in seventh grade and does social media for N.C. Modernist Houses.

**Steve Estelle** writes, perhaps from the back of a VW minibus or an old Warren Miller movie location: "We've moved from Hawaii to Montana to support son Graham's ski racing. I'm typing this from Snow Basin Resort in Utah, waiting for his first giant slalom run in the Northern Division finals. Giant slalom today, slalom tomorrow." Tough life, **Steve!**

**Jen Tucker** is "rearing an 8-year-old who fancies herself a teenager." **Jen** is a "dance mom" who secretly wishes she were a "ski parent like **Steve Estelle**." **Jen** made frequent (and ingenious) use of emoticons in her note, but the use of emoticons is :(ed upon in Class Notes! :)

**Davirah Timm-Dinkins** and **Delvin Dinkins** are in N.J.: **Davirah** is associate director of college counseling at the Hun School of Princeton, and **Delvin** is assistant headmaster at the Pingry School. **Delvin** writes: "With two kids in college, one of them in Swat's Class of 2021, we're semi-empty nesters! Or so they say. When not at work, I run around circles, ovals really: I'm still chasing ghosts around the track, looking for the elusive perfect race. We look forward to reunion. (Final plug: Our class has set two goals for our silver anniversary: 75 percent participation and \$75,000 raised. Please help!)" By the time this prints, we hope **Delvin** matched up on the track against some punk college kids at reunion and showed them that '93 can still get it done.

**Inge Daniels** writes: "All is well with **Joe [Jankovsky]** and me. On our little downtown half-acre, we're growing our CSA-share's worth of vegetables, eggs, and honey, some of which is sold by the kids to sweeten their college funds. **Joe's** acquired a serious green thumb, starting most of our garden from seed and tending a half-dozen hives. In his free time, he plays in a soul band and works at Bose. I tend the pollinator beds and kids and am enjoying growing my landscape architecture

practice." We hope **Inge** and **Joe** brought plenty of veggies, honey, and portable audio devices to reunion.

**Lily Engle** is still working at her "amazing employer, the Conservation Fund." She's training for her latest race—the Cherry Blossom Ten Miler—and looks forward to "a Scotland trip in May and then our annual Wyoming vacation in the fall." **Lily** has an adorable new niece and is happy her sister and her husband are "only over in Annapolis, so we can see her a lot! She was born four months after Dad died, so bittersweet, but we are focused on the joy." Thoughtful and poignant, **Lily**—and a fine note to end on.

## 1995

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**Erik Thoen**  
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I, **Sally**, hope everyone's having a good 2018!

**Elizabeth Cohen** is an associate professor in Syracuse's political science department, and her second book, *The Political Value of Time*, was published by Cambridge University Press. "I'm also looking forward to being an outside examiner for Swarthmore's Honors Program this May."

From **Hannah Freedberg**: "My wife, Christine, and I marked five years in Cincinnati this summer. We welcomed son William Thomas-Freedberg to the world Jan. 4, 2017. He amazes us at every moment, and we feel so lucky to be his moms."

**Jim Foley** "got to ride along on Swarthmore basketball's wild ride to the Elite Eight and reconnect with old teammates along the way. It started by taking my family to Wesleyan—up here in Connecticut where I live—and watching Swat down the Cardinals to reach the Sweet 16. The following weekend, I joined what seemed like half the

early '90s roster in Tarble Pavilion. I even got to say hi again to Ernie Prudente. Swat may have fallen short of the Final Four, but the gym was rocking like a Haverford game, and it was a great week of Swat basketball and reconnection—and hopefully the start of a new annual tradition!"

**Jason Ryan** lives in Redondo Beach, Calif., with wife Sari and two daughters, 8 and 12. "I have now been teaching full time for 13 years. (A sabbatical is long overdue)," he writes. **Jason** and Sari are both marketing professors: he at Cal State-San Bernardino, she at Cal State-Dominguez Hills.

**Kevin Pike** owns Schatzi Wines, a small import company focusing on wines from Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and northern France, and expanding this year into the Loire Valley and northern Italy (Alto Adige, Valtellina, Alto Piemonte). "My wife, Robin Touchet, and I have a farm in the Hudson Valley where we grow organic, heirloom grains we will use for distillation into gin, bourbon, and rye whiskey. We plan to make eau-de-vie from fruits typical of the region (pear, apple, blueberry), and cider from heirloom apple varieties made in the Champagne method. We have a year's worth of grain in storage, and plan to start renovation on the barn into a distillery this spring. We also have a small apiary. The kids, Rhys, 12, and Sylvie, 10, are growing up far too quickly."

**Danielle Tylke** remarried and lives in Belgium with her two sons. She is becoming more involved with service projects supported by the school where she works. "There is so much need in every city, and it is inspiring to see how many people are trying to make the world a better place, one small step at a time."

**Karl Knaub**, wife Eve, and sons Henry, 8, and Leo, 5, are moving to Madison, Wis., this summer to be closer to family and for a change of scenery. "We look forward to real springs and falls, a lot of cheese, and exploring the Midwest."

Finally, **Alyssa Apsel** was appointed director of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell (bit.ly/AApsel95).

## 1997

**Joy Oliver**  
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Let's start with beginnings, shall we?

**Erik Henriksen** and his wife celebrated the arrival of second child Vera Jane in November, leading **Erik** to take parental leave. **Monica Patterson** and partner John Saint-Loth celebrated the first birthday of daughter Lydia Saint-Loth Patterson on July 17. **Justin Herring** and wife Seetha Ramachandran delight in son Leo, who is nearly 2. **Justin** works at the U.S. Attorney's Office for New Jersey, and the family lives in NYC.

In February, **NiYa Costley** and Swarthmore's Alumni Gospel Choir performed throughout South Africa. **NiYa** has nearly achieved an educational technology Ph.D., with only the dissertation writing process left. **Anne Richards** and **Chris Rodger** are well in Chelmsford, Mass. **Anne** is moving toward a larger ownership role in her feline veterinary practice, as her older business partner gradually phases out. She and **Chris** hosted a student during extern week and encourage others to get involved. **Jill Rubin** and her family love life at the Cobb Hill co-housing community in Hartland, Vt., with its working farm and ample outdoor trails. In March, **Jill** started work at the Sustainable Food Lab—a three-minute walking commute from her house.

**Martin Carrillo** is entering his third year as the sound designer for LA's Broad Museum. He also created the score for *Eat Me*, a film available on iTunes and Amazon Prime. **Kate Walker** wrote, produced, and edited a short film that spreads across three screens for the American Museum of Natural History's "Unseen Oceans" exhibit. **Kristin Walker Levine's** fourth book, *The Jigsaw Jungle*, was published in June; her second, *The Lions of Little Rock*, was an answer on *Jeopardy!* in

December. In January, **Nazima Kadir** discussed her book *The Autonomous Life?*, about the life of politically motivated squatters in Amsterdam, on BBC Radio 4's *Thinking Allowed*.

After 10 years as a Department of Justice prosecutor in Miami and D.C., **Jason Linder** moved to LA in June 2017 to rejoin the law firm Irell & Manella as a partner, heading its Global Investigations and Anti-Corruption group. In January, Ladenburg Thalmann Financial Services selected **Dan Sachar** as vice president of enterprise innovation. **Joe Khan** (bit.ly/JoeKhan) joined Weisbrod, Matteis & Copley's Philly office, where he prosecutes civil claims against corporate villains. **Joe** oversees lawsuits against Big Pharma on behalf of communities devastated by opioids. As his first foray into private practice, **Joe** feels lucky to have found a firm so dynamic, idealistic, and—best of all—full of Swatties, including **Kristin Davis '06**, **Matt Krauss '06**, and **Charles Fischette '01**.

I, **Joy**, have handed off the class secretary torch. I have moved to Paris and anticipate being much too busy eating baguettes and drinking Champagne to compile class notes. (Look me up if you're in town.) Many thanks to everyone who offered to take over. The lucky winner is **Lauren Jacobi**—you should receive her first plea for news in a few months.

Sadly, **Michael Brogan** died March 12 after a long struggle with leukemia. He leaves behind wife **Meagan Howell-Brogan '98** and three children. Friends in the Class of '97 Facebook group remember **Michael** as kind, brilliant, and a gentleman through and through.

## 1999

**Melissa Morrell**  
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On Sept. 16, **Rachel Brooker** married Swen Sommer, "father of my daughter, Olivia Lux Brooker

Sommer, and my stepson, Kolja Leon Bauer." **Nate Schaffran '00** and **Amber Frank** attended.

In January, **Toki Rehder** was promoted to developer at Pennrose LLC, a Philly-based affordable-housing developer. "I'm enjoying my new career—every day there is a new problem to solve. I also get to work with amazing architects, civil engineers, lawyers, and contractors, which is my favorite part of the job."

At the beginning of the year, **Gordon Roble** and his family made the transcontinental jump so that he could become associate director of comparative medicine at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, after almost 10 years in NYC. "I have already caught up with **Melissa Morrell**, **Ashwin Rao**, and **Ambrose Dieringer '01** and hope to see more local Swatties in the coming months."

**Carrie Griffin Basas**, another Seattlite, gave a talk about her educational experience and advocacy, as part of the Ignite Education Lab, presented by *The Seattle Times* and Town Hall (bit.ly/CBasas). In September, **Carrie** marked her second anniversary as director of the Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds, where she helps families and schools resolve conflicts and sits on the governor's small Cabinet.

**Jessica Carew Kraft** became a California naturalist and is leading groups of adults and kids on a

quest to eradicate nature deficit disorder. She's also using her soc/anth degree to write a book on primitive-skills communities and rewilding.

**Josh Knox** had the pleasure of staying with **Eric Bishop-von Wettberg** and family in their new digs in Burlington, Vt. "We even breakfasted on authentic Montreal-style bagels ... who knew?" **Josh** enters his 10th year caring for 11 properties in western Massachusetts as a park ranger with the Trustees, and is finally in the process of hiring an assistant staffer. **Eric** moved from Miami to Burlington to join the University of Vermont's Department of Plant and Soil Science, where he is creating more climate-resilient chickpeas for small farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Ethan Friedman** is in Austin, Texas, with his wife and daughter, doing software development at a UT lab. "I would love to hear from fellow Swatties in town!"

In addition to the Alexander Technique, **Jenny Briggs** now also teaches neuromuscular therapy at the Pittsburgh School of Massage—and loves it!

**Deborah Stein** had three plays in production this spring. In March, *Marginal Loss* premiered in Louisville, Ky. Also in March, her collaboration with **Suli Holm '97**, *The Wholehearted*, played in NYC, while in April *Natasha* and *the Coat* premiered at the Minnesota Jewish Theatre. She teaches at UC-San Diego and lives in LA with

her husband and dog.

**Tobie Barton** lives near beautiful Lake Tahoe with husband Ian and daughters Zoa, 10, and Polly, 5. She left her position at the University of Nevada-Reno to work full time with the Education Development Center, promoting health and school readiness for vulnerable children.

**Scott Samels** released a music video about the Bay Area housing crisis (bit.ly/SCSHousing).

**Roger Bock** still works on making computers smarter in the Boston area and looked forward to coaching ultimate Frisbee at his son's school this spring.

**Ben Fritz** in March published *The Big Picture: The Fight for the Future of Movies*, which chronicles a dramatic shake-up in Hollywood that has made superheroes and sequels inescapable and original films for adults an endangered species. *The Big Picture* is a *Los Angeles Times* best-seller, and **Ben** received positive reviews from *The New York Times* and *Publishers Weekly*. **Ben** lives with his family in LA, where he covers Hollywood for *The Wall Street Journal*.

Things have been pretty fun for me, **Melissa Morrell**, since retiring last September. In November, I went to Portugal with my mother and aunt to celebrate some round-number birthdays. So far in 2018, my significant other and I have adventured in Death Valley and the Canyonlands in Utah. When not traveling, I've been tutoring reading and math at my daughter's

school. Tutoring has been incredibly rewarding, more than I could have imagined. It is fun to use your brain in new ways.

## 2001

**Claudia Zambra**  
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These notes bring Class of '01 news from around the world. After a few years in Munich, **Martin Krafft** and Penny and their two half-Kiwi daughters moved to New Zealand, where **Martin** freelances around machine learning and blockchain tech.

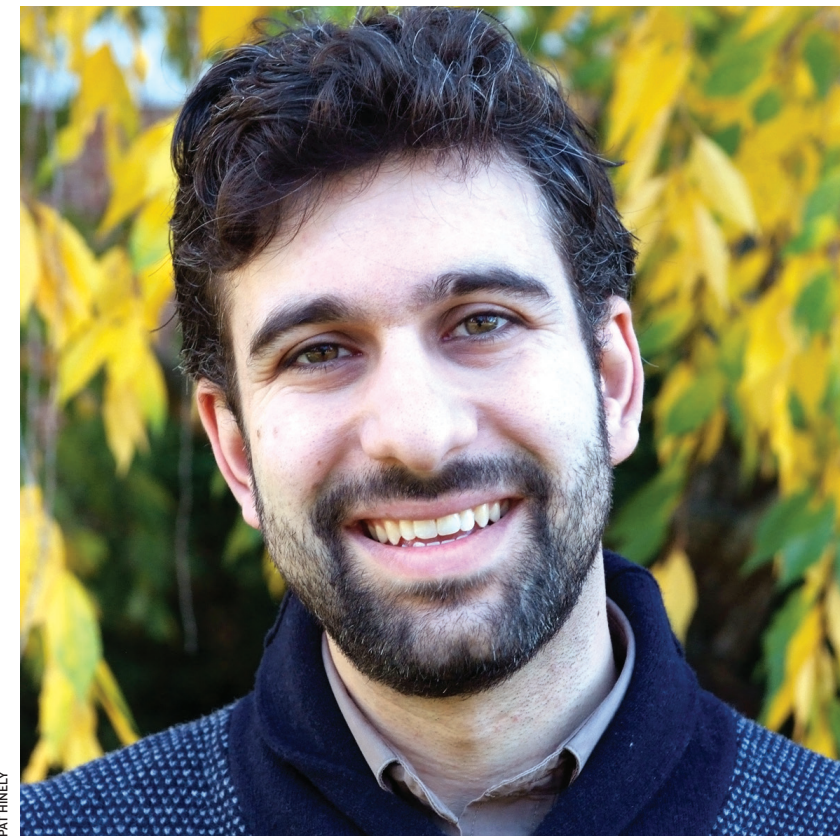
**Antoinette Eitz** happily lives in London, working in finance. She skis the Alps every weekend in the winter—please let her know if you pass through! **Elizabeth Meehan** planned to walk the Camino de Santiago through Portugal in June.

**Ryan Neiheiser** and wife Kristina Argyros welcomed daughter Artemis Silver Neiheiser in March. They are curators of the Greek Pavilion at this year's Venice Biennale for Architecture. Their project, "The School of Athens," looks at architecture of the academic commons, from Plato's Academy to today.

**Rich Aleong** is moving back to Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood from the suburb of Evanston, with his last teen a high-school senior this fall. He was to visit home (Trinidad) for the first time in a decade in May, and looked forward to reconnecting with family and friends.

**Clara Fuchsman** is a new assistant professor of oceanography at the University of Maryland Horn Point Laboratory. **Christine Lattin** is moving to Baton Rouge, La., to start a faculty position in Louisiana State's Department of Biological Sciences in the fall. She's excited to have her own lab, warm winters, lots of Cajun/Creole food, and a Mardi Gras break from classes!

**Kenneth Kim** was appointed education committee chair for



PAT HINELY

► "When I hunt for manuscripts, I look for just a few small details," says Joel Blecher '04. "A digital library allowed me to move effortlessly through a hundred texts in a single sitting."

## SACRED AND FLEXIBLE

### Finding wisdom in manuscripts' margins

by **Kate Campbell**

WHEN JOEL BLECHER '04 first traveled to the Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul to unearth early drafts of a medieval Islamic text, he almost missed the manuscript library itself.

"I walked right past it," he says. The winding streets and bountiful bazaars cloaked the entrance, but "a few turns and swivels to the left and I spotted it."

The text, *Fath al-Bari*, formed the basis of his book *Said the Prophet of God: Hadith Commentary across a Millennium*. Beyond the Qu'ran, works like *Fath al-Bari* helped Muslims understand Muhammad's sayings and

practices—called hadith—to navigate the human experience, from matters of law and love to worship and war.

In the documents he found in Istanbul, Blecher was struck by the notations and corrections made in the margins by its author. The fact that the author changed his interpretation of hadith in his own lifetime suggests flexibility in the Islamic tradition.

"Islam should not be reduced to a single sacred book, frozen in time," says Blecher, an assistant professor of Islamic history at George Washington University. "I impart to my students

and readers the need to go beyond the Qu'ran and develop a broad awareness of the many kinds of texts, people, and movements that have helped shape Islam as a living tradition over time."

Blecher's early interest in the field was ignited as a religion major at Swarthmore, where professors including Steven Hopkins and Tariq al-Jamil helped him make his first trip to Syria. He became so captivated that he decided to make Islam the focus of his doctoral work, continuing his studies across Syria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Tunisia, and India.

In his painstaking quest to shed new light on the hadith, Blecher must reflect on more than a thousand years of debate over the sayings and practices of Muhammad. Unlike the Qur'an, which was likely written down soon after the Prophet's death, the hadith collections and their meaning evolved slowly over the following centuries. He hopes to help readers understand how communities from classical Muslim Spain to medieval Egypt to modern India to militant groups like ISIS have interpreted the hadith in different ways for their own context.

"The history of Islam is a history in which Muslims are always reconsidering how the many layers of their textual inheritance square with their present social and political circumstances," Blecher says.

His next book—awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies—will also explore the medieval Muslim world.

Blecher's *Profit and Prophecy: Islam and the Spice Trade* will retell this world-changing history—the spark for Europe's "age of discovery"—through the eyes of medieval Muslim scholars who risked faith and fortune through pilgrimages and port cities spanning the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean. ❸



### SPOTLIGHT ON ...

#### ALYSSA RAYMAN-READ '99

Alyssa Rayman-Read '99, a labor and civil rights attorney, was named vice president and director of the Conservation Law Foundation Massachusetts.

"I love being in a job and at an organization that allows me to really 'walk the talk'—applying all my capital and energy to create meaningful change in the areas that most matter to me," Rayman-Read says. "We take on the hardest environmental battles and move the needle forward—ensuring that Massachusetts continues to be at the forefront of environmental leadership in our nation and the world."

+ **CONTINUED:** [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)

the Society for Gynecologic Oncology (SGO), as well as scientific program chair for SGO's International Meeting for Women's Cancer—evolving and innovating care for women with GYN cancers.

**Allegra Gordon** works as research faculty at Boston Children's Hospital and the Harvard School of Public Health. She and partner Martha celebrated the first birthday of identical twins Solomon Gordon McEwan and Raphael Raboff McEwan. They feel lucky to have already introduced them to a stellar sampling of Swatties via visits from **Aryani Manning**, **Tamara Manik-Perlman '02**, **Sarah Kowalski**, **Patrick Boe**, **Sarah Yahm**, **Fab Tepper**, and **Nina Schichor '02**.

Laura and **Mark Dingfield** were thrilled to welcome second son Adam last summer. **Mark** was appointed associate provost at Penn and enjoys commuting to work with Laura, a palliative and hospice medicine physician at Penn.

Dory and **Patrick Thrasher** welcomed Mirah Wise Thrasher in December; they were fortunate to have **Darren** and **Caitlin Schlapp-Gilgoff Wood** schlep down to Brooklyn with their kids to show Mirah how to be a New Yorker. Kevin and **Fran Smith Burlingham** welcomed son Ash David Burlingham on Nov. 19.

**Eric Leive** is an art producer at the mobile game studio Pocket Gems. He bought a home in Castro Valley, Calif., where he lives with son Elias, 5, and wife Keika. **Mattathias Schwartz** is in D.C. with wife Eva, making fairly regular visits to New York. He is heading west to Oregon for a spell this summer.

**Talia Young** is a Smith Conservation postdoctoral fellow at Princeton, through which she started Fishadelphia, a youth-run, community-supported program bringing fresh N.J. seafood into South Philly; **Gabe Cumming '00** is collaborating. She also gave a talk at Swarthmore on her work at December's biology senior seminar in honor of Rachel Merz's retirement—a total delight. Baby Max Robin Wise Young is now a year and a half—and a trip.



## SPOTLIGHT ON ... JONATHAN ROSA '03

Jonathan Rosa '03 ([bit.ly/JRosa03](http://bit.ly/JRosa03)), a linguistic anthropologist at Stanford University, received the 2018 Charles A. Ferguson Award for Outstanding Scholarship, presented by the Center for Applied Linguistics.

"Swarthmore is an incredible context in which to investigate and reimagine possible worlds," says Rosa, "not only in formal classroom discussions and assignments, but across campus in student organizations and everyday dialogues, as well as in broader collaborations linking Swarthmore to local and global communities."

+ **CONTINUED:** [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)

a master's in architecture at the University of Hartford in May.

**Hofan Chau** is based in Hong Kong, teaching Reiki, tai chi, and Heart Imagery. Last summer, she visited **Dan Finkel '02** and **Christine Hancock '02** en route to Peru's rainforests.

**Ben Galynker** is a senior producer at Electric Funstuff, an educational interactive-experience studio. Wife **Ester Bloom '04** is a senior editor at CNBC Make It. **Ben** is also part of a startup, Hats & Ladders, which received funding from the National Science Foundation to create a career-readiness tool for high-school and college-age youth. The family is moving to Riverdale, N.Y., this summer.

**Anna Perng** hosted Philly's inaugural Disability Inclusion Summit and helped launch the #InclusionRevolution, a campaign to advance equal access and full participation for all people.

**Gabriel Tajeu** moved to Philly to start a faculty appointment in Temple's College of Public Health. He is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Services Administration, focusing on cardiovascular health, cost-effectiveness modeling, and health-care disparities. **Gabriel** released his second album, *Southern Skies*, on Spotify and iTunes.

**"Derek" Xiao Chang** has lived in Hong Kong for 12 years. Any Swatties stopping by should give him a shout!

**Helaine Blumenthal** and husband Dan had second child Maxine on Dec. 21. Nina is very happy to be a big sister, now that she's realized Maxine is here to stay.

**Paul Wulfsberg** is posted to Jordan and will transfer to Algeria next year to be embassy spokesman.

**William Tran** was invited to trial-judge the ice dance competition at the 2018 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January in San Jose, Calif., and received an appointment as a sectional singles/pairs competition judge. **William** also passed the Adult Gold Moves in the Field test.

**Blair Cochran** and Chris Guttridge welcomed son Nicolas in October. After three years in Cameroon, they will move to Morocco in August to teach at Casablanca American School. Visitors welcome!

Tom and **Ilana Luft Barrett** had baby Raphael "Rafi" Daniel on Halloween. Tom matched for residency in otolaryngology at Washington University in St. Louis, so they are moving to Missouri this summer.

**Kate Hurster** had daughter Esperanza "Zara" Christiana Espinosa on Dec. 5. The home birth in Ashland, Ore., was attended by husband Al Espinosa and a midwife.

**John Fort** was delighted to plan a June road trip to the Northwest. Daughter Amelie Cook was helping him, now that she has a driver's permit. **John** hoped to see **Kate Hurster** and Zara during the trip.

**Helaine Blumenthal** and husband Dan had second child Maxine on Dec. 21. Nina is very happy to be a big sister, now that she's realized Maxine is here to stay.

**Julie Gregorio** and **Andrew Stout** are delighted with the arrival of Alfred "Alfie" William Gregorio-Stout, born March 11. Amalia, 4, is a very sweet big sister. While **Andrew** enjoys paternity leave from Jibo Robotics, **Julie** is rehearsing for her choral role in Boston Baroque's performance of Beethoven's *Fidelio*.

## 2005

**Jessica Zagory**  
[jzagory@alum.swarthmore.edu](mailto:jzagory@alum.swarthmore.edu)

**Christopher Segal** and Christen Fornadel (Haverford '04) enjoy daily adventures with son Alexander George Fornadel-Segal, born Sept. 8.

**Lauren Stadler '06** and **Jonathan Fombonne** had Oscar Lewis on Feb. 3. They live in Houston, where **Lauren** teaches at Rice University.

**Arthur "Ace" Chalmers** left family practice for a startup specializing in in-patient psychiatry, and he loves life in the hospital. **Ace** also made a big move from the east side to the west side of Sacramento, Calif. The new job comes with more vacation time, so he is planning a Mexico surf trip this summer. "I'm a terrible surfer but like speaking Spanish, so I figure I'll break even on fun. Anyone interested should drop me a line."

After finishing a postdoc at Penn, **Dave McCandlish** is an assistant professor of quantitative biology at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. He lives on the north fork of Long Island with his two children.

Since August, **Jesse Young** has worked for BuroHappold, a British engineering firm with an office in NYC's Financial District. He returns to Philly on weekends to hang out with sister **Talia Young '01** and his 1-year-old nephew, and to run a cabinet-making business and small dance studio.

**Joy Mills** is moving to York, England, to pursue a psycholinguistics master's. She would love to connect with U.K. Swatties!

*Classmates in print:* "We have a president, not a king," said **Sam Berger**, senior policy adviser at the Center for American Progress, and quoted in *The Washington Post* ([bit.ly/SamBerger](http://bit.ly/SamBerger)).

Ever have a dispute with a community member that has you frustrated and feeling helpless? If you live in Bellingham, Wash., you are in luck, thanks to **Addie Candib** ([bit.ly/AddieC](http://bit.ly/AddieC)).

And **Jorge Aguilar** was featured in *Einstein* magazine ([bit.ly/JAguilar](http://bit.ly/JAguilar)).

Thanks to all who contributed to Class Notes! In between running marathons in national parks, riding bike races in Utah, and seeing **Kate Hurster '03** in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival with **Claire Hoverman '03** and **Belle Vreeland Hoverman '67**, I will finish my general surgery residency and embark on a pediatric surgery fellowship at Children's Medical Center Dallas this summer. I look forward to seeing Swatties in DFW and Central Texas!

## 2007

**Kristin Leitzel Hoy**  
[kleitzel@gmail.com](mailto:kleitzel@gmail.com)

**Caleb Ward** is in Berlin, working on a philosophy dissertation on sexual ethics. His full-time job, however, is baby Béla, born in March 2017.

**Rebecca Benjamin** and **Sorelle Friedler '04** had baby Cora in October. They enjoy living in Philly, where **Rebecca** teaches high-school math.

**Rachel Ackoff** and husband Lee Leviter welcomed son Oz Levikoff in October. They each loved their parental leaves and are fired up to fight for paid family leave for everyone. They live in Brooklyn, and **Rachel** works for Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice, where she mobilizes American Jews to fight Trumpism.

**Stephanie** and **Dominic Hum** had their first child in December. Kira Taylor is a wonderfully happy chunky monkey who does an impressive job of eating, sleeping,

and filling her diaper. Stephanie and **Dominic** live in Dallas, where they look forward to raising Kira with a bit of Southern class and charm. **Dominic** runs Goldman Sachs's Management & Strategy team in its Securities Division, where he has grown the team from four people to 22 expected by fall. He is also co-head of the approximately 350-person Asian Professional Network for the Dallas office. For Swatties interested in joining the team, please reach out!

**Ross McCullough** welcomed fourth child Theresa in January. He is finishing a religious studies Ph.D. at Yale.

**Tanya Hoke** lives in Cambridge, Mass., and is celebrating five years of running her own investigative consulting firm, Belem Group. In 2016, she launched Galen Diligence, which provides investigative due diligence to high-integrity investors and operators in the legal cannabis industry. She did not expect an Asian studies major to lead to being a licensed private investigator.

**Jonathan Petkun**, a former Marine captain and current Ph.D./J.D. student, filed a suit for the military to consider the impact of PTSD on circumstances of discharge: "Commanders in the field need broad discretion," he says. "When I was an officer, I thought if I made a mistake, veterans would have recourse. Now I see that is rarely the case."

**Kasie Groom Regnier** is director of applied research at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. Her team runs the facility's water science laboratory, maintains water quality, and designs and runs water systems for exhibits. Never boring, that water! She's also seen plenty of Swatties who've made their way out to the peninsula, including **Natalie Negrey Kennedy**, **Eileen Earl '10**, and **Laura Twichell '06**. She's in love with her sweet, little longhaired dachshund, Maddy. Husband Eric finished a six-month submarine deployment this spring.

**Jessica White** took a position at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy in Houston, where it's an exciting time to be an immigration lawyer. **Jessica** won her precinct chair election in March's

Democratic primary and is eager to turn Texas blue this fall. When she's not climbing the corporate ladder or breaking down doors to get out the vote, she's practicing her true passion: Argentine tango.

**Tracy Kwon** is a nurse and union shop steward on an oncology-medicine unit in NYC. She lives in Brooklyn with partner Juan Cruz and friend Charles. A few years ago, she co-founded Left Voice, a socialist independent media outlet. She writes sometimes, but spends most of her time organizing health-care workers.

**Juliet Braslow** and **Carlos Villafuerte '08** are still exploring the beautiful Southern Hemisphere after their first anniversary of moving to Santiago, Chile. **Juliet** works in the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Department of the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Visitors welcome!

**Erica George Baugh** is enjoying her first year at UC-Irvine medical school. She started a mentoring program for middle- and high-school girls in Santa Ana who are interested in medicine and science. On weekends, she and her husband spend time in downtown LA.

**Jennifer Yee** and **Eric Duchon '08** had second child Eleanor in December. They live near Boston.

## 2009

**Melanie Spaulding**  
[maspauld@gmail.com](mailto:maspauld@gmail.com)

Co-founders of Occupy Democrats **Rafael Rivero** and twin brother Omar were featured in *LA Weekly*. **Mara Revkin** wrote for *The Washington Post* about work she presented to the U.N. regarding the recruitment and use of children by militants in Iraq and Syria. **Harrison Magee** is a shop steward with the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1, living, building, and restoring masonry around his native NYC. He is also fighting like hell for good union jobs.

**Juan Victor Fajardo** lives and works in his hometown, Caracas, Venezuela, as the founding manager of Growing Up in Venezuela, a social program supporting private schools in low-income areas. He started a part-time MBA to develop this initiative and came in second for the MBA Student of the Year Award, given by the Association of MBAs; he received the award at a London ceremony. **Uma Nagendra** completed a plant biology doctorate at the University of Georgia and moved to Kauai, where she conserves endangered Hawaiian plants and seabirds at Limahuli Garden and Preserve. Visitors are encouraged!

**Krys McIlraith Belc** won a Sustainable Arts Foundation grant! **Krys** is pursuing an MFA at Northern Michigan University. **Yuan Liu** and **Douglas Gilchrist-Scott** took a road trip in February from Chicago to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to visit **Krys**, spouse **Anna Belc** '07, and their three boys. They played in snow, ate a pasty, and walked on Lake Superior.

**Randall Keith Benjamin**, now in Charleston, S.C., after earlier work in D.C., is bringing new meaning to "taking it to the streets" by serving as one of the youngest transportation chiefs for a major U.S. city. In September, **Diana "Teddy" Pozo** became co-organizer of the Queerness and Games Conference, an internationally recognized event dedicated to the intersection of LGBTQ issues and video games. **Teddy's** most recent academic publication appears in *Digital Love: Romance and Sexuality in Video Games*.

**Camila Leiva** had been an educator and artist in Santiago, Chile, for five years. Thanks to **Ruth Schultz**, **Camila** applied for a job with Minnesotans for a Fair Economy and moved back to the U.S. in August to work with community organizations building power in the Twin Cities. **Ruth** and **Camila** are back organizing and rabble-raising together. Also moving to Minnesota for work is **Tally Sharma Venjohn**, who had looked forward to getting back to Minneapolis since college!

**Garth Griffin** was promoted to

director of data science at a small cybersecurity technology company in Somerville, Mass. His commute is a short walk from where he lives with wife **Ariel Horowitz** '10, up a tree-lined path. **Garth** and **Ariel** traveled last year to visit **Sam Schneider** and wife Molly Pieri in Armenia while they finished a stint in the Peace Corps. **Nicole Boyle** is living in Chicago, working in health care, and trying to stay warm in the winter snow (which she hopes will be gone by summer!).

**Kate Goertzen** and **Erek Duskant** got married in October in D.C. **Kate** is an advocacy and campaign consultant, while **Erek** works with BlueLabs, the company he co-founded in 2013 with other alums from President Obama's 2012 campaign. Other D.C.-area Swatties include **Reina Chano Murray**, a GIS project manager at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She commutes from Baltimore, so stopping by the White House or Congress after work for a quick protest before heading home has become a thing for her this year.

**Sarah Reynolds Wolfolds** is returning to work from maternity leave for her second year as an assistant professor in Cornell's undergraduate business school. She and **Stephen Wolf Wolfolds** '08 had second baby Gwendolyn Denise on July 1, 2017. Parker loves his new role as big brother. **Maurice** and **Shandra Bernath-Plaisted Weeks** bought their first home in beautiful Detroit, and feel kinda old because of it. **Andrew Jampol-Petzinger** started a philosophy-based cryptocurrency, Philocoin. It crashed immediately. **Daniel** '08 and **Marissa Schaffer Sartori** had first child Miriam Eva in August. **Marissa** is an associate in the real estate group at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. They enjoy life as a family of three in NYC.

**Sasha Shahidi** is busy traveling, writing an update from an airport waiting for an overnight flight to Bogotá! Yours truly is also packing in a lot of travel this year, hitting up France, England, Scotland, and Iceland in a whirlwind two weeks in November; Arizona in March; and Hogwarts in May, by way of

Universal Studios. Next fall's trip is to Scandinavia, so let me know of any can't-miss spots in Stockholm, Oslo, and Copenhagen!

## 2013

**Paige Grand Pre**  
jgrandpre@gmail.com

As we neared our 5th Reunion, classmates were wrapping up educational plans, making big moves, and starting new positions before returning to campus.

Still in the educational system is **Joan O'Bryan**, studying at Cambridge and having a blast in England. After almost four years in D.C., **Vishaal Chhabria** returned to academia last August, moving to NYC to attend Cornell Tech's startup-oriented computer science graduate program. **Nick Felt** also dived back into academia when he moved back west to sunny Stanford, Calif., with partner **Rose Pozos-Brewer** '15, who started a Ph.D. in learning sciences. He transferred to Google's Brain team, where he works on machine-learning research software and has several Swattie colleagues. He misses the vibrancy of NYC but enjoys having nearby family, more nature, and better avocados.

**Chris Geissler** is in his fourth year of a linguistics Ph.D. at Yale, where **Sarah Babinski** '16 is a second-year. **Chris** studies Tibetan phonology, teaches pottery, and works to organize a union. **Zach James** finished his second year at NYU Law and is well on his way to being a public defender. Highlights of his law school career include discovering the "Law School Memes for Edgy T14s" Facebook group and accurately predicting the Season 2 finale of *The Good Place*. **Monika Zaleska** started a Ph.D. at the CUNY Graduate Center, studying Polish and French literature. **Seyeon Lee** started a master's program in Korean medicine (acupuncture, herbal medicine, and the like) at Pusan National University in South Korea.

Her dream is to help people heal. Numerous others brought home yet another diploma this spring. Excited to embark on his career in Boston, **Marcus Mello** graduated from Harvard's Graduate School of Design in May with master's degrees in architecture and urban planning. **Griffin Dowdy** narrowly avoided an academic meltdown and graduated in May from Columbia Business School, after which he moved to Arkansas to work in strategy at Walmart. He received notice that no other Swatties live there, but that won't keep him from hosting happy hours. After finishing a Fulbright in Jordan, **Miriam Hauser** moved to Minnesota to be a social worker at the Center for Victims of Torture.

Other classmates are making strides in their careers. **Alejandro Sills** continues his job at Interactions LLC in Austin, Texas, and ran his first marathon in February. He plays cello in the Central Texas Medical Orchestra and occasionally in other ensembles. **Ana Apostoleris** left a Harvard fellowship in spring 2017 and now works for Legal Outreach, a college-prep nonprofit serving NYC kids from underresourced high schools. She loves teaching constitutional law and managing a debate program. **Peter Haury** wrapped up spring travel season as an associate merchant for Totokaelo and Need Supply Co. before making the jump from Manhattan to Brooklyn this summer. He's adjusting to life in the boroughs. **Julio Alicea's** piece on education—"To teach students who've experienced trauma, first make them feel safe" (bit.ly/JAlicea)—was published in *The Christian Science Monitor*. **Mairin Din** is a licensed real estate agent and consultant at NYC's Douglas Elliman Real Estate. For about a year, she has enthusiastically guided first-time buyers and renters in Manhattan, the Bronx and Brooklyn. Contact her!

Turn to the *Bulletin's* back inside cover: **Madge Ross** and **Wes Marcik** got married in August 2016 and finally celebrated with a wedding in Philly in October 2017. **Madge** is an Air Force officer, while **Wes** is a contract specialist. They



SHERWIN LAINEZ

► "A lot of people see songwriting as a gift instead of a skill set," says Cecily Bumbray '12, "but it's definitely something you have to work on."

## LOVE AND FREEDOM

### She's a soulful singer on the rise

by Amanda Whitbred

TWO YEARS into her Swarthmore career, Cecily Bumbray '12 had a revelation. Then, she called her mother, Sherry Bellamy '74.

"I told her that I didn't want to go into development or be a diplomat," she says. "I wanted to make music." Soon after, boxes began arriving.

"My mom started sending me—on top of all my Swarthmore reading—music business books," she laughs.

It paid off: Bumbray released her debut album, *Songs of Love and Freedom*, in May and recently wrapped up a year as an artist-in-residence at

Strathmore, a nonprofit arts center in North Bethesda, Md. Strathmore selects six young musicians for the program, which offers industry seminars on everything from giving a good interview to working with a producer.

Bumbray's music career started early.

"I recently found this green notebook from when I was 5," she says. "In big, scribbly letters, I had written little songs and poetry."

The performance part took longer. "In eighth grade, I finally sang

in front of people and didn't hyperventilate," she says. "I realized, OK, I can keep doing this."

At Swarthmore, while Bumbray worked toward her degree in black studies and political science, she also took voice lessons and performed in the Swarthmore Chorus, two a cappella groups, and the Gospel Choir.

She even flew out to Los Angeles one spring break to record in a studio and "throw myself into that world."

It was a steep learning curve, but she approached it with the same curiosity and drive she applied to her coursework.

"I graduated from Swarthmore with a degree that I was super proud of—I felt like I knew a lot about the world," reflects Bumbray. "And then I dove into this new career path that I didn't know anything about. I read a lot of books; I took an online songwriting course; I studied music theory. The music business is very complicated, but I learn more every day."

Her recent residency was a continuation of that learning process. In May alone, Bumbray gave three concerts, including one to celebrate *Songs of Love and Freedom*.

"I've worked on *Songs* for years," she says. "It's about finding a place of self-acceptance, self-love, and freedom—whatever that means for you."

It's a message she believes in so deeply that it became the theme for a Strathmore workshop Bumbray led.

Designed for nonsingers and singers alike, "Singing for Healing" taught participants how to use breathing, meditation, and vocalizing to release worry, judgment, and stress. She'll offer it again one day, but her focus now is on touring and promoting her album.

Out in the world doing what she loves, Bumbray is grateful for all the support she's received—especially from her mother.

"She's a person who, if she says she's going to do something, she does it," says Bumbray. "I am really blessed to have her support and example." 📍



### SPOTLIGHT ON ... JALISA ROBERTS '13

Jalisa Roberts '13, a dance teacher, choreographer, and founder of the New Orleans nonprofit The Cocoon, will appear this fall in *Vessels*, a seven-woman harmonic meditation on the transcendental possibilities of song during the Middle Passage.

"Dancing is when I feel most at peace in the world, and it is the gift I have to share with others," says Roberts. "In my work with students, I use dance as a language to amplify their voices and their agency."

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moved to Montana from Colorado in December and are exploring Big Sky Country. They miss their time as Swat athletes, so **Madge** has gotten involved in a women's basketball league, and **Wes** is coaching the high-school boys lacrosse team.

That's it for now. Hope to have seen you at the reunion!

# 2015

**Alexis Leanza**  
[leanzaalexis@gmail.com](mailto:leanzaalexis@gmail.com)

**Abigail Frank** and **Nate Cheek** are making slow but enjoyable progress on their debut mystery novel, tentatively titled *A Murder Mystery: A Mystery About Murder*. **Abigail** started a new chapter in life (working at a literary agency in New York), and **Nate** started a new chapter in the young-adult spy-thriller series he insists he's reading ironically (when he should be focusing on his studies at Princeton).

**Matthew Goldman** lives in his hometown—"but not the only city on Earth," his Swat soc/anth inner monologue occasionally needs to remind him—New York, where he is a writer/editor at Hunter College. In addition to spending time with Swatties in NYC and Philly, he had the extraordinary joy of traveling

to India with **Anushka Mehta** for her sister's wedding in January. He brandished his Swat tote in five airplanes, three cities, and countless photographs in between. You can take the boy out of the College ...

**Mayra Tenorio** won the Luce Scholarship. She is part of a student-led team evaluating initiatives launched at Cambridge to prevent harassment and sexual assault misconduct, and is slowly organizing her archive of interviews with women worldwide to produce her own podcast.

# 2017

**Emily Wu**  
[emilywul456@gmail.com](mailto:emilywul456@gmail.com)

**Isabel Clay**  
[isabelmarieclay@gmail.com](mailto:isabelmarieclay@gmail.com)

**Robert Abishek** took a gap year before applying to medical school this summer. While job hunting, he volunteered at the Christiana Care Health System's maternity ward and the Helen Graham Cancer Center in Delaware; served as the alumni adviser and a board member for the Delaware Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program; and played rec soccer and volleyball. After nine months of searching, **Robert** secured

a clinical research coordinator position at Penn's Scheie Eye Institute. He's enjoyed learning about ophthalmology and getting to know his co-workers. **Robert** would love to continue exploring Philly and encourages classmates to get in touch.

**Kendell Byrd** works at BuzzFeed, does professional theater in LA, is learning more about technology and video production, and speaks at conferences.

Star-crossed Swatties **Corinne Candilis**, **Dylan Gerstel**, **David Ranshous**, and **Ben Roebuck** are swamping it together in D.C. **David** is automating K Street lobbyists out of their jobs; **Ben** is plotting his rise in Democratic politics; **Corinne** is crunching the numbers on the nation's trendiest pharma launches; and **Dylan** is trying to save NAFTA and his Mario Power Tennis win streak. They are often found hosting **Katherine Ianni** and **Raffaella Stoutland** for Wine 'n Cheese Wednesdays. They hate their landlord and have an eclectic collection of fine jams. Also, like **Liam Fitzstevens**, **David** is getting a full eight hours of sleep every evening. **David** also shook hands with Mike Pence and found his hand to be cold and clammy!

**Christina Chen** started a full-time job as a medical scribe at an oncology/hematology clinic in Fremont, Calif., to figure out if she is really, truly going to become a doctor, or if she should just completely change the 50-year plan she made as a pass/fail first-

year choosing courses for the first time. She's also been writing snail mail to friends, reading children's books, journaling, watching Chinese dramas with her parents, hanging out with high-school friends, and meowing with **Brandon Chow** every now and then. **Brandon** is in a stats and data science Ph.D. program at Yale.

**James Chen** does software development at ZenQMS in Bridgeport, Pa., and is moving to Bryn Mawr soon. **Olivia Cheng** has been chilling in San Francisco with **Antony Kagura '15**. **Andrew Conant** lives in San Jose, Calif. (and works in Mountain View). If you're nearby, say hi!

**Peter Daniels** is finishing a year-and-a-half residency and working as kitchen leader at Upaya Zen Center in Santa Fe, N.M. This fall, he'll start at Harvard Law School.

**Liam Fitzstevens** has been collecting human feces in Gabon ... in the name of science. **Josh Foster** claims he hasn't clipped his toenails since graduation. He's going for 17 inches!

**Margaret Hughes** is working on a Massachusetts campaign to defeat the first statewide anti-transgender ballot referendum. Come get out the vote with her! **Raehoon Jeong** is in a bioinformatics Ph.D. program at Harvard.

**Rebecca Mayeda** and **Jonathan Saltzman** moved to Philadelphia's Logan Square. **Rebecca** is a medical assistant in Bryn Mawr, and **Jonathan** is an investment analyst in Philly.

**Jacklyn Pezzato** started an astronomy Ph.D. program at Caltech, where she is building an analytical model for clouds in brown dwarf atmospheres.

**Reid Pickett** is a paralegal. **Alondra Ivette Rosales** is an elementary (grades 2–4) ESOL teacher in Philadelphia. **Nick Schmidt** completed his first year at Drexel College of Medicine. **Richard Vu** ran the Love Run, his first half-marathon, on March 25. **Fangling "Ceci" Wu** is doing restructuring at PWP.

**Henry Zhang** is a predoctoral fellow at UChicago's Energy Policy Institute and a personal research assistant for director **Michael Greenstone '91**.



# their light lives on

our friends will never be forgotten

expanded tributes at [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)

### Marion Rous Hodgkin '39

Marion, a children's book editor who transformed the field with her impeccable taste, died March 11, 2015.

Successful in American and English publishing, "Marni" had a fascinating life beyond her editorial work: She was the first woman to win a Yale Henry Fellowship and was the daughter and wife of Nobel Prize-winning scientists.

### Charlotte Hutchison '40

Charlotte, a peace and human rights activist, died Jan. 1, 2018.

A Bryn Mawr graduate, "Sherry" was a member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, League of Women Voters, and National Society of Colonial Dames in America.

### Margaret Leeper Tillett '40

Margaret, a dedicated statistics supervisor beloved by her large family, died April 17, 2018.

A member of the Order of the Eastern

Star, the Order of the Amaranth, Daughters of the Nile, and the White Shrine of Jerusalem, Margaret was a field hockey and basketball star at Swarthmore.

### Louise Zimmerman Forscher '44

Louise, an English teacher, avid letter writer, mother, and grandmother, died Jan. 25, 2018.

A Quaker, Louise taught at Hunter College and the Shipley School before moving to a house built by her second husband in the woods of Bedford, N.Y. A collector of dolls, books, and pencil sharpeners, Louise loved traveling, politics, dancing, and the great outdoors. Her daughter requests memories: [ahcoulombe@gmail.com](mailto:ahcoulombe@gmail.com).

### Frank Mustin '44

A World War II Navy veteran who became a captain of industry, Frank died March 11, 2018.

Rising through the ranks at his family



### Gertrude Blood Seybold '39

A businesswoman, Francophile, and Quaker activist, Gertrude died March 1, 2018.

In addition to helping her family found and expand a publishing and consulting firm, Trudie was instrumental in launching a community health center in her beloved midcoast Maine.

business—Fleer Chewing Gum Co., maker of Dubble Bubble—Frank first directed the international branch, then the entire company, as well as Fleer baseball cards. He loved to golf and ski, and was an avid windsurfer into his 80s.

**Patricia Jones Parnell '45**

A beloved teacher and published poet affectionately known as “the Queen of the Hoot,” Patricia died March 22, 2018.

Immensely proud of her family and devoted to her faith, Pat also purchased a newspaper with her sister and served as co-owner and contributing editor for many years.

**Norman Morton NV**

Norman, a Navy veteran, exceptional athlete, and residential builder, died Oct. 31, 2017.

Recruited by the New York Yankees, the New York Giants, and the Pittsburgh Pirates farm system, Norman ultimately played professional baseball for the New Orleans Pelicans. In later life, he impressed many with his golf, tennis, and bridge acumen, as well.

**Howard Sachar '47**

Howard, a professor emeritus of history and international affairs at George Washington University, died April 18, 2018.

A respected historian and author of 16 books and numerous scholarly articles, Howard won the National Jewish Book Award twice and founded Brandeis University's Jacob Hiatt Institute in Jerusalem.



**Barbara Darrow Hays '48**

Barbara, an intellectually curious scientist, nature lover, and mother of four, died Jan. 31, 2018.

An adventurous spirit who traveled the world working for Semester at Sea, “Bobby” also taught and supported science at multiple colleges and universities. After retiring, she volunteered as a docent at the Museum of Natural History, passing on her love of science by introducing children to the Carnegie Museum dinosaurs and the world of natural history.

**Mary Bryan Klusmeyer '48**

Mary, who provided invaluable support to the York Art Association as its executive secretary, died Dec. 5, 2017.

A lover of history, Mary was also a dedicated member of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, and the Out Door Country Club.

**Burdette Poland '48**

A World War II veteran and lifelong scholar, writer, and lecturer, Burdette died April 1, 2018.

Specializing in the revolutionary histories of Russia and France, “Bud” built a distinguished professorial career at Pomona College, earning a place in countless hearts for being, as his obit says, “a unique and marvelous teacher, father, and husband, with a dry wit and gentle, generous, and thoughtful spirit.”

**John Koelle '49**

An engineer and Air Force captain who served in World War II and Korea, John died April 25, 2018.

A weekly food pantry volunteer, John was also a certified diver who loved oceanology, underwater photography, reading, classical music, and all things Sherlock Holmes.

**Edwin Nicholson '49**

Edwin, a Quaker builder who believed in peace and community, died April 20, 2018.

Responsible for the construction

of countless homes, structures, and subdivisions, Ed was also involved in political and civic activities. Twice a candidate for the Indiana House, he was also volunteer construction supervisor for 28 Habitat for Humanity homes.

**Paul Trescott '49**

A professor emeritus of economics, Paul died Feb. 8, 2018.

Drawing on his own experience teaching and traveling in China, “Bart” was especially proud of his book *From Frenzy to Friendship*, which critics said presented one of the clearest portraits yet of the complex story of the controversial U.S.–China Peoples Friendship Association.

**Lawrence Weiskrantz '49**

Lawrence, who remained impeccably modest despite his reputation as one of the greats of experimental psychology, died Jan. 27, 2018.

Chair of his department at Oxford from 1967 to 1993, Larry was most famous for discovering “blindsight”—when a brain-injured person who is blind due to their injury can detect and discriminate visually presented objects.

**Eugene Galanter '50**

A Columbia University professor emeritus, leader in the psychology of cognition, and patent-holding innovator, Eugene died Nov. 9, 2017.

Highly decorated as a World War II veteran and multi-engine, instrumented-rated pilot, Eugene was also the author of 12 books and the founder of several computer training schools and a testing company.

**Thomas Kinney '50**

Thomas, an Army veteran and amateur musical theater star, died April 6, 2018.

A pillar of Bowling Green State's English department for 32 years, Tom was beloved for his riveting courses on Shakespeare, Chaucer, and the legend of King Arthur. He loved to travel, canoe, sing in his church choir, play golf, read mysteries, and hear and tell jokes.

**Frederick Morehead Jr. '50**

Frederick, a chemist and author, died Jan. 21, 2018.



**Herbert Kaiser '49, H'04**

Herbert, an American diplomat who was instrumental in helping more than 10,000 South Africans of color become medical professionals, died March 30, 2018.

A Navy veteran and polyglot, Herbert witnessed the racially based disparity in quality of health care during a tour of duty in South Africa. A decade later, he and his wife, Joy Sundgaard Kaiser '51, founded the nonprofit Medical Education for South African Blacks, which raised more than \$27 million and earned the gratitude of Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu.

After building an impressive career at General Electric as well as in the research department at IBM, Frederick retired to become an adjunct chemistry lecturer. He also published more than 60 articles in professional journals and served his community on many civic associations.

**John Schwantes '50**

A chemical engineer, conscientious objector, lumberjack, and firefighter, John died Feb. 6, 2018.

Warm, kind, generous, smart, fun-loving, and adventurous, John traveled the world with his family and remained as curious as he was compassionate all his life. A woodworker, avid churchgoer, choir member, and volunteer driver for the American Cancer Society, John brought smiles to loved ones' faces

with his painstakingly maintained Wii bowling league spreadsheets.

**S. Morey Wetherald '51**

Morey, a Navy veteran, family man, and lover of life and adventure, died March 13, 2018.

Capping off his distinguished career at Boeing as deputy chief engineer for the interior configuration and design of the first 747 Air Force One, Morey traveled the globe, founded a school for special-needs children, and shot gorgeous photos of great blue herons.

**Michael Paine '53**

An aeronautical engineer who studied at Harvard and Swarthmore but became internationally known due to being an acquaintance of Lee Harvey Oswald, Michael died March 1, 2018.

(Read more in our feature “A Friend Through Tragedy” on pg. 42.)

**Elizabeth Harlow Phillips '53**

Elizabeth, a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother who was also a former chair of the Quadrangle Library, died Jan. 30, 2017.

As her husband, Steve Phillips '55, wrote in a tribute, he met Betsy at Swarthmore, where he “asked her if she would take an intelligence test as part of a psychometric course I was taking. She agreed. After giving her two tests, I decided she was a lot smarter than me and asked her for a date!” A year later, they were married.

**George Lowen '54**

George, a beloved father, father-in-law, grandfather, physician, and friend, died March 14, 2018.

As his obit says: “Family, friends, and former patients treasured his expert care, sweet kindness, sharp and playful wit, thoughtful advice, and above all his deep love.”

**Clinton Fink '55**

An enormously compassionate peace researcher, educator, and activist dedicated to creating a better world, Clinton died March 2, 2018.

Over his career as editor of *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*; chair of the Consortium on Peace Research,

Education, and Development; and a visiting scholar at Purdue University, Clinton was also an accomplished pianist, singer, and actor.

**Dennis Becker '56**

Dennis, an attorney especially proud of his work desegregating school districts in the South, died April 18, 2018.

An Army veteran who loved playing card games and golf, Dennis was also a major contributor to the incorporation of the town of St. James Plantation, N.C., and served on the first town council as its mayor pro tem.

**Gordon Kahn '56**

A world traveler who loved culture and the arts, Gordon died Feb. 24, 2018.

Across the U.S. and even Italy, Gordon charmed countless others in his career as a classical music and jazz radio host, actor, teacher, and blogger (bit.ly/Kahn56).

**Patricia Dilley O'Neil '56**

Patricia, a loving homemaker and diligent professional tax preparer, died Feb. 24, 2018.

Devoted to community service, Pat also liked to golf, ski, in-line skate, knit, listen to classical music, attend the theater, solve puzzles, and play games like bridge and pinochle.

**Natalia Harkaway '57**

A chemist and patent examiner, Natalia died Oct. 12, 2017.

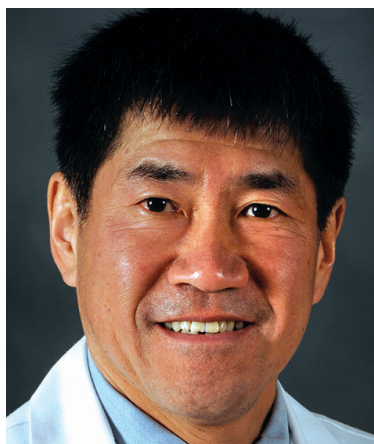
At Swarthmore, Natalia was active in the Hamburg Show, the Women's Student Government Association, Turkish Folk Singing, and the Outing, Chemistry, German, and Russian clubs.

**David Robinson '57**

David, an Army veteran, Russian linguistics professor, and longtime volunteer in the mental health field, died April 14, 2018.

David served as his church organist for more than 30 years, a keyboardist for countless central Ohio cultural performances, and the harpsichordist for the annual presentation of Handel's “Messiah” at Mount Vernon Nazarene University. In 1995, he also teamed up with Peter Schickele '57,





**Nathan Wei '71**

Nathan, known for his invaluable contributions to the development of interventional rheumatology, including arthroscopy, stem cells, and platelet-rich plasma for the treatment of osteoarthritis, died March 27, 2018.

An enormously influential teacher, doctor, and mentor, Nathan was also an ace cook and fitness enthusiast who was happiest fishing, sailing, snorkeling, and snowboarding with his family.

H'80 at a circus in Indiana to play the calliope on the P.D.Q. Bach album *The Short-Tempered Clavier and Other Dysfunctional Works for Keyboard*.

**Joel Tibbetts '58**

Joel, a respected educator, minister, and Renaissance man, died March 1, 2018.

An inspiration to many for how he lived his faith with love, generosity, and heartfelt service to others, Joel was especially proud of his family. He took pleasure in guitar, cross-stitch, trains, and his beloved Westies: Holly, Fiona, and Mackenzie.

(He also wrote to the *Bulletin* in 2016, asking about a poem that had appeared in the magazine decades prior. Although he could only remember the first and last lines, it haunted him. Thanks to digitization, we solved his mystery: an untitled work by Barbara Babcock Dolliver '48 from the November 1985 issue.)

**Mohamed Faisal '61**

A businessman and member of the royal family of Saudi Arabia, Mohamed died Jan. 14, 2017.

Per the official statement from the royal court, "The funeral prayer will be performed for the soul of Prince Mohammed bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud after Asr prayer on Saturday 16/01/1438H at the Grand Mosque in Makkah."

**Kirk Roose '68**

Kirk, a Quaker, attorney, tennis player, and activist who loved walking the

shore of Lake Erie, died April 27, 2018.

In addition to helping thousands of disabled Ohioans receive Social Security benefits through his law practice, Kirk was a lifelong lover of barbershop harmony, arranging hundreds of songs in four-part harmony, and singing with and directing numerous quartets and choruses—including an unforgettable performance at Carnegie Hall.

**Henry O'Karma '71**

Henry, an Emmy-winning TV director and producer, died Feb. 24, 2018.

A member of the Directors Guild of America, Hank created more than 200 hours of network television, including *What Every Baby Knows* with Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and *I Am Your Child* with Rob Reiner.

**Daniel Carbone '72**

A disciplined spiritual seeker, devoted father, and masterful woodworker, Daniel died March 13, 2018.

Known as "the guitar whisperer" for his end-career work creating and repairing custom instruments, Daniel was famous for approaching every task

with passion and attention to detail, whether it was roasting and brewing his own coffee, learning golf, or nursing back to health the fig trees his Italian grandfather had planted.

**Deborah Hayek '75**

A doctor and devoted mother who "waged a ferocious fight against cancer for nearly two years," Deborah died March 1, 2018.

After graduating from Swarthmore, Deborah earned her medical degree in Albany, N.Y., completed her internal medicine residency in Philadelphia, and moved to St. Louis to pursue fellowship training in critical care.

**Michael Brogan '97**

Michael, who taught at St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., died March 12, 2018.

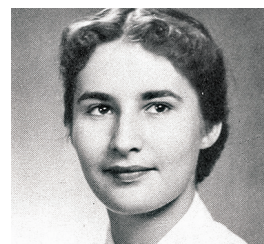
His loved ones described him thus: "A passionate seeker after truth, he loved philosophy, theology, teaching, the natural world, music, poetry and literature, his hometown sports teams, his friends, and his family. His faith was unwavering and brilliant. Shortly before he died he said, 'Don't let anyone say this was unfair. I am the luckiest man alive.'"

**Jeffrey Billion '06**

Jeffrey, a dynamic, charming, and much-beloved force of nature who played poker professionally before earning an MBA, died Aug. 14, 2017.

"His interests were as varied as he was brilliant," his loved ones wrote. "An archer with a crack shot, a talented chef, and a fierce debater, he touched many with his infectious laugh and dry wit.

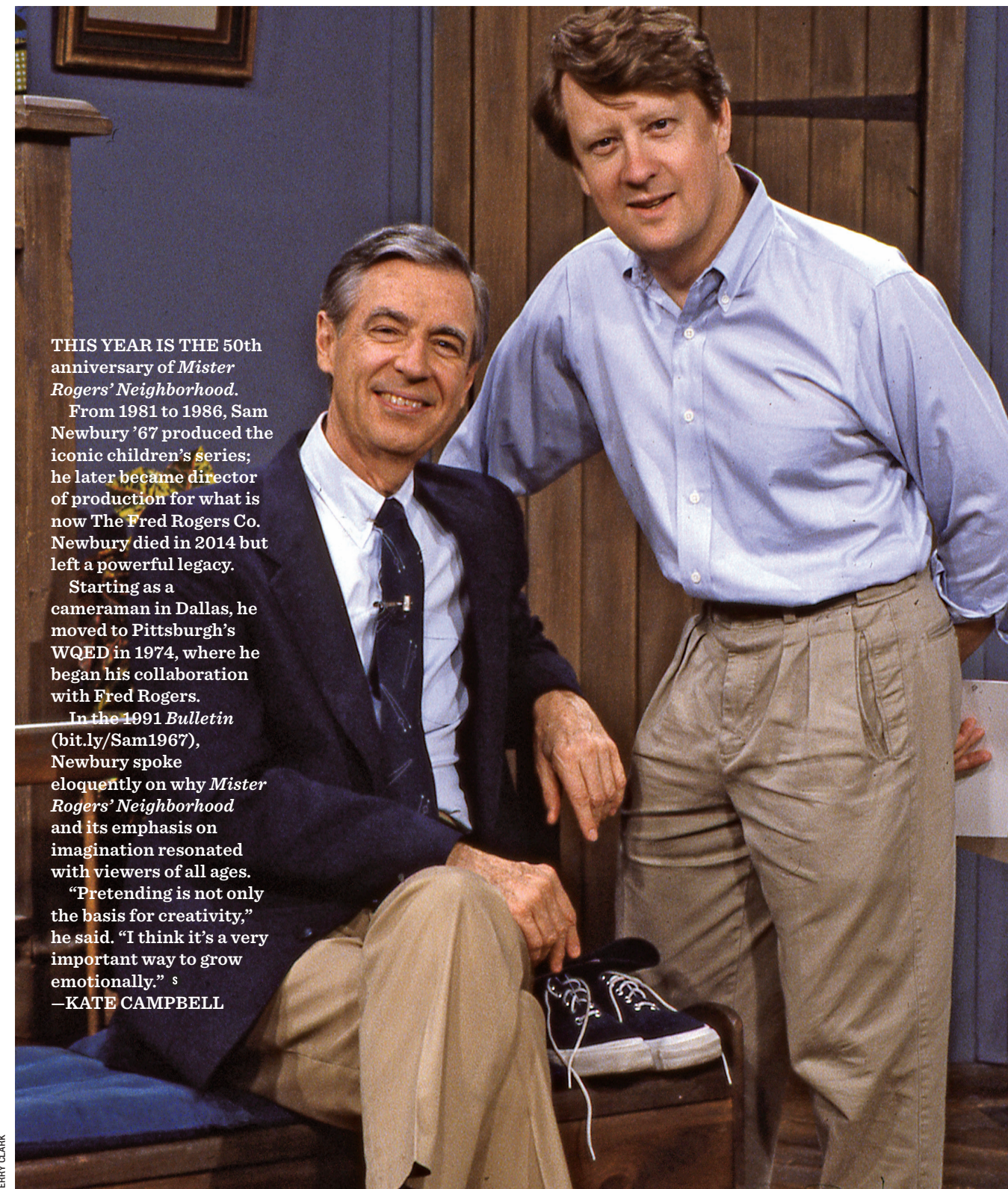
"Neither his heart, humor, nor beer cheese soup recipe will ever be replicated. In all ways, he was one of a kind."



**Correction**

In last issue's "Their Light Lives On," our tribute to Marilyn Modarelli Lee '56 (pictured here) was accidentally paired with the *Halcyon* portrait of Betty Moss Evanson '56. Betty was surprised—but gracious—when we called to apologize. ❧

# looking back



THIS YEAR IS THE 50th anniversary of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.

From 1981 to 1986, Sam Newbury '67 produced the iconic children's series; he later became director of production for what is now The Fred Rogers Co. Newbury died in 2014 but left a powerful legacy.

Starting as a cameraman in Dallas, he moved to Pittsburgh's WQED in 1974, where he began his collaboration with Fred Rogers.

In the 1991 *Bulletin* ([bit.ly/Sam1967](http://bit.ly/Sam1967)), Newbury spoke eloquently on why *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* and its emphasis on imagination resonated with viewers of all ages.

"Pretending is not only the basis for creativity," he said. "I think it's a very important way to grow emotionally." ❧

—KATE CAMPBELL

TERRY CLARK



LAURENCE KESTERSON

## TEACH OUT, TOUCH FAITH

by Jonathan Riggs

“WHEN IT COMES to education, too often the public dialogue focuses on negatives,” says Lisa Smulyan ’76. “I want us all to better understand the tensions and possibilities—the full story—so we can support the good work while challenging the problems.”

Swarthmore’s Henry C. and Charlotte Turner Professor of Educational Studies ([bit.ly/Smulyan](http://bit.ly/Smulyan)) still believes in the transformative power of good teachers—and of a strong infrastructure behind them.

“I wouldn’t have been doing this for 42 years if I didn’t believe we could fix education,” she says. “I’m not willing to give up, and I’m happy when other people choose to be a part of it, too.”

### How does teaching education feel?

It’s unbelievably depressing, and has been for years. This is not a Trump effect, but from years and years and presidents and presidents and decades and decades of underfunding and misplaced regulations and structures that work against the abilities of people who are trained to do good work.

### What makes Swarthmore a special training ground for teachers?

When I told my dad—who is a doctor—that I was going to be a teacher, he said, “You’re smart, you went to Swarthmore, so why would you do that?” There are still parents who say the exact same thing to their Swarthmore students. The liberal arts philosophy itself is about learning to think, share, and work with others to answer complicated questions. It sounds very lofty, but it’s the perfect foundation for teaching.

### What programs are you involved in?

Swarthmore belongs to the Consortium for Excellence in Teacher Education, a coalition of about 20 colleges and

universities with teacher education embedded within the liberal arts. As a spin-off of a Ford Foundation grant to that organization, I work with a cohort of Philadelphia teachers called Teachers Write Now. We write, publish, present, meet as a support group, and run leadership institutes. I also run the Teachers as Scholars program, where public-school teachers come to campus to attend seminars in a variety of disciplines, everything from poetry to ecology to statistics to prison work. This year, we’ve opened it up to our partnership schools in Philadelphia.

### Describe Swarthmore’s educational studies department.

We’ve made much more explicit our commitment to community partnerships as part of our scholarship and our teaching. For example, Ann Renninger works with the Radnor Watershed Program at the local middle school. Edwin Mayorga brought his Education in our Barrios Project to Philadelphia, working with several communities and schools.

### What makes you proud of your department?

We embed our teacher certification and training in the broader study of the institutions, processes, and issues around education, and we connect our broader studies in the field to practice. That way, the teachers we train have this incredible depth of understanding of education’s role in society, and our students who don’t become teachers experience the complex intersection of theory and practice.

### What can we do to improve the state of education?

We need to encourage people who come to places like Swarthmore to go into education, but I don’t think they all need to be teachers. No matter what field you go into, an understanding of how education—a crucial institution in society—has gotten you there and left others behind is beneficial. And then we need resources flowing in. Imagine if Philadelphia had taken all the money that went into the Eagles parade and given it to our public schools. **S**



**MOMENT IN TIME**

Wes Marcik '13 and Madge Ross '13 returned to campus last fall to celebrate their match(box) made at Swarthmore.



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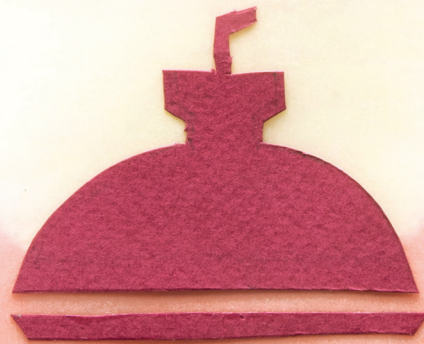
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