

SPRING 2019

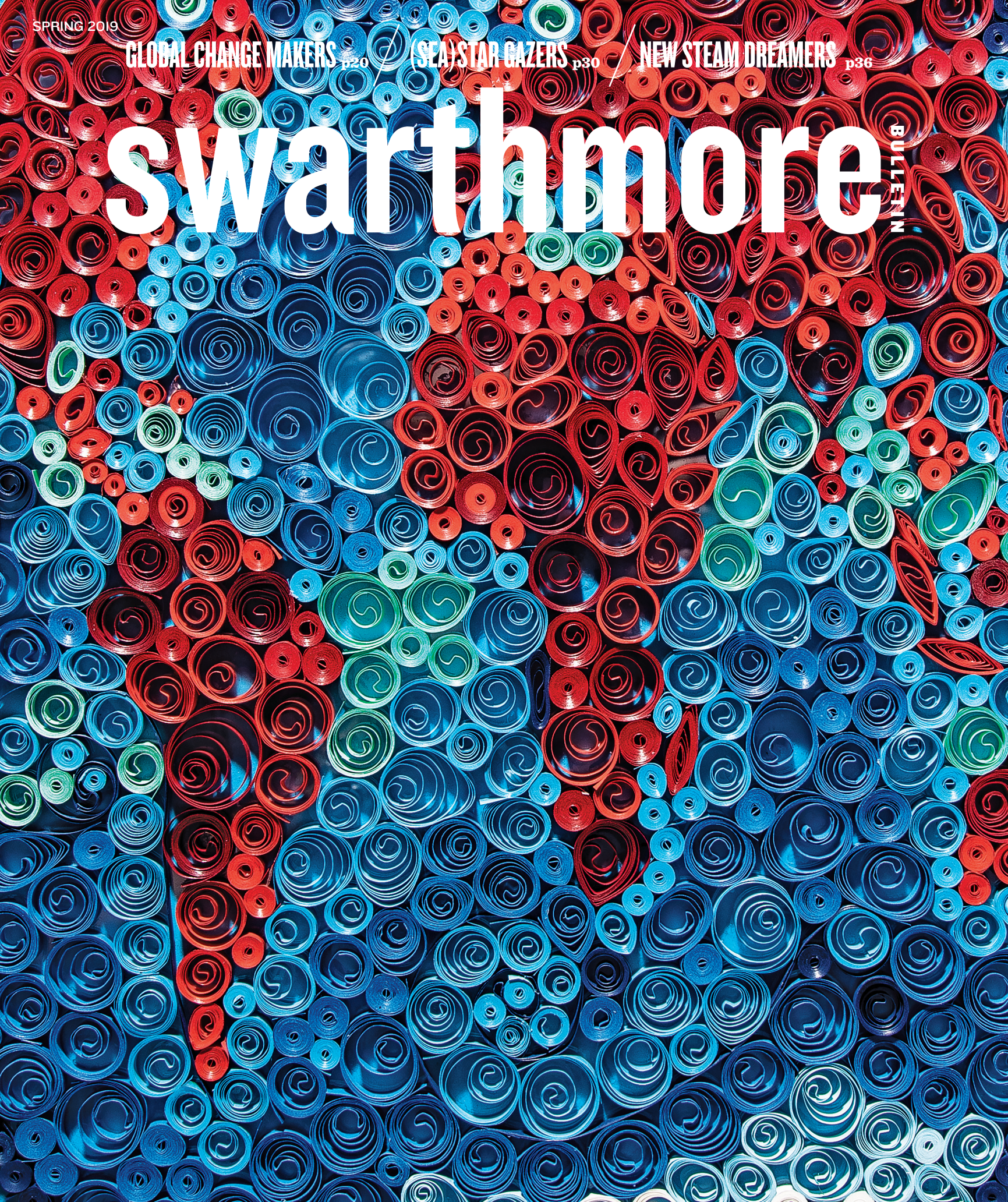
GLOBAL CHANGE MAKERS p20

(SEA)STAR GAZERS p30

NEW STEAM DREAMERS p36

# swarthmore

BULLETIN





BEAUTIFUL COMPLEXITY

# 36

## Full STEAM Ahead

At the intersection of the arts and sciences, businesses thrive.

by Elizabeth Slocum

► This tiny toy dog, made with a quilling tool, arrived from India and captured our imaginations. STEAMventer Disha Katharani '06 has brought new life to an ancient art form.

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**The Global Bridge**

Swarthmore alumni are creating change in their home countries.

*by Elizabeth Redden '05*

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Why are sea stars dying off? Ocean health plays a role.

*by Kate Campbell*

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**Linked by Letters**

Even as their post-College lives took different paths, seven friends stayed connected.

*by Barbara Lea Couphos '49*

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**Looking Back**

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SPOKEN WORD

78

Kenneth E. Sharpe

**ON THE COVER**

A map of the world composed of quills. Creative entrepreneur Disha Katharani '06 developed a tool to make the art of quilling easier for kids of all ages (see "Full STEAM Ahead," pg. 36). *Bulletin* designer Phil Stern '84 used the product to visualize Swarthmore's international embrace (see "The Global Bridge," pg. 20) as "a bubbling cauldron of ideas." Photo by Laurence Kesterson.



EDITOR'S COLUMN

# Migrations



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► The ruby-throated hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*, a precision flyer with a taste for nectar.

by  
**KATE CAMPBELL**  
Interim Editor

SOME HUMMINGBIRDS, like this one in the garden near the Hormel-Nguyen Intercultural Center, travel more than 2,000 miles twice a year during their migration.

This January, the *Bulletin* staff had its own migration as we said farewell and good luck to Jonathan Riggs—who brought energy and life to the magazine as its editor since 2015. Jonathan traveled 2,716 miles to take a position at the University of Southern California.

In his words: *“Thank you all for the privilege of being your Swarthmore College Bulletin editor. It’s been an unbelievably rewarding journey, and this place and its people have changed my life. I am immensely proud of every issue my gifted colleagues and I produced in your honor, and I’m deeply inspired by the knowledge that they—and you—will continue to shine the light of Swarthmore. Thank you for the illumination!”*

We’re excited to share this migratory spring issue: on global alumni who pollinate new ideas in their home countries, STEAM alumni busily bringing new technology to the marketplace, sea stars navigating intertidal currents, and loyal letter-writers who stayed close through many of life’s journeys.

Enjoy! 🍷

+ 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

### NO 'ORDINARY' ISSUE

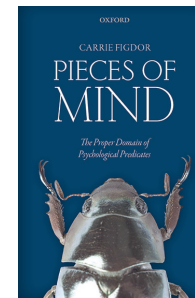
The winter 2019 issue of the *Bulletin* was the best I've ever received. This one I actually wanted to read! Thanks for listening to us and covering a wide range of Swarthmore alums in a genuine way. It's so much more impressive for a college to turn out people who—you can count on it—approach their lives creatively and passionately than for a college to have a few stand-out alums per class. Your issue helped show that this is undoubtedly what Swarthmore does. Good job.

—MARGARET COOTE '98, Rochester, N.Y.

### FAMILIAR TERRITORY

In the winter 2019 edition, I was delighted to see a print of the 1927 Swarthmore campus map. My parents, Laurie '78 and Kevin Browngoehl '78, have a print of this exact map displayed on the wall of their home in Bryn Mawr. They bought it at the Harriton House flea market about 20 years ago, and I grew up looking at it before I myself went to Swarthmore. We would love to learn more about the map and how many other prints may exist out there!

—JUDY BROWNGOEHL '09, Philadelphia, Pa.



### THE BIG PICTURE

We regret that the book cover image for *Pieces of Mind* by Carrie Figdor '81 was cropped in the winter 2019 issue. Please accept our apology and enjoy the full cover pictured here and with the online article. [bit.ly/MINDMatters](http://bit.ly/MINDMatters)

CONTRIBUTORS

**Beth Walrond** *Illustrator*



Walrond uses bold shapes and soft textures to build expressive characters, scenes, and maps. Her work can be found in books, magazines, and advertising campaigns.

**Jacob Howland '80** *Professor*



The McFarlin Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tulsa, Howland recently published articles on Soviet literature and ideological tyranny in *The New Criterion*.

**Elizabeth Coleman '69** *Poet*



Coleman is a poet, public-interest attorney, environmental activist, and teacher of mindfulness. In *HERE: Poems for the Planet*, Coleman brings together her love for poetry, for justice, and for our planet.

### BETTER OFF?

It pains me to see that an alumnus you profiled in the winter 2019 issue is defending the immoral treatment of federal employees, and ignoring the even-worse plight of low-wage employees of federal contractors, resulting from the shutdown of 25 percent of the federal government.

In an interview with PBS's Paul Solman on Jan. 10, Kevin Hassett '84 said that “in a sense, they're better off” because the furloughed employees will get back pay when the shutdown ends, but “in a sense” shows that he knows that it's harming those who depend upon their regular paychecks. Besides being unable to pay essential expenses while furloughed, they will be burdened by a huge backlog of work when the shutdown ends.

The employees who are not furloughed because they are deemed “essential” are being treated even worse, not getting paid while not receiving the supposed “benefit” of forced time off. And contractors' employees are not going to receive back pay for the work they didn't do during the shutdown.

But that doesn't mean that the government is saving money. The costs of shutting down government functions and getting them started again far exceeds any savings from not paying contractors for work not done.

To be fair, Hassett did acknowledge (in a portion of the interview that was not broadcast) that the first three weeks of the shutdown would cost the economy some \$20 billion in output, and \$10 billion for every week after that. All this because President Trump was proud to shut down the government if Congress would not force taxpayers to pay billions of dollars for an ineffective border wall that Trump claimed federal workers wanted, when polls showed that the vast majority of federal workers did not want either the wall or the shutdown.

Well before the shutdown, Hassett told the *Bulletin*, “I am not a critic of President Trump's.” As head of Trump's Council of Economic Advisers, Hassett's defense of Trump's shutdown brings dishonor to the economics profession and to Swarthmore, I'm sorry to say.

—FRED STOLLNITZ '59, Silver Spring, Md.  
Employee of the National Science Foundation (a government agency), 1971–2006



LAURENCE KESTERSON

COMMUNITY VOICES

# RELAX AND RESTORE

Simple joys relieve the stress of everyday life

**I**NTENSITY has long been a defining thread of the Swarthmore experience. Indeed, students, staff, faculty, and alumni take pride in their ability to stretch and challenge themselves and one another intellectually and personally.

Without question, this commitment to hard work leads to pathbreaking research, innovative thinking, transformative collaborations, and lifelong friendships.

While a passion for knowledge and commitment to ideas and ideals is laudable, the sheer pace of life can be relentless. Finding those fleeting moments that restore us while doing the important work we are called to do is critical—sometimes even fun.

My special source of joy is an exuberant golden retriever named Qhubeka. (Her name is a Nguni word that means “to move forward.”) Because my travel schedule prevents me from having my own dog, I have happily taken on the role of “godmother” to this gorgeous puppy

with soulful eyes. Qhubeka lives with her parents, John ’66 and Paula Lawrence Wehmiller ’67, a few blocks from campus.

Smart, funny, willful, and enthusiastic, Qhubeka exists entirely in the moment. She doesn’t hide her affection or her playful curiosity. According to Paula and John, on her daily walk she waits patiently at the end of the driveway of Courtney Smith House to check if I’m home. She likes to “count her people.”

Time spent with Qhubeka is a temporary oasis from the rush of life and work that has unexpectedly enriched other parts of my life.

Without the occasional break and time to relax, reflect, play, or do nothing, periods of intense work can contribute to high levels of stress. Joy, on the other hand, has a way of creating a ripple effect, and helps to rejuvenate us. As the author Alex Soojung-Kim Pang has observed, “You cannot work well without resting well.”

At Swarthmore, a number of campus initiatives are underway to help students, faculty, and staff achieve greater balance in our lives. The Matchbox and the newly renovated Hormel-Nguyen Intercultural Center provide members of our community with popular spaces where they can recharge and socialize. Our plan to

reimagine Sharples Dining Hall as a campus commons will create yet more opportunities to unwind. Besides accommodating students at mealtimes, this new facility will become a

place where they can relax and take breaks; gather and foster relationships with others; and engage in creative group activities.

At this moment in our national and global culture, we can find many causes for concern and consternation. The pace of the news cycle and the expectations of connectivity work against our intentions to reflect and restore. Moreover, our lives carry their own rhythms of joy and pain, celebration and loss.

My wish for everyone in our extraordinary community of learners and doers is that we all find and cherish our restorative moments. Like the meaning behind Qhubeka’s name, let’s together be inspired to “move forward” with curiosity, enthusiasm, and the intention to live in this moment. 🍷

by

**VALERIE SMITH**  
President



LAURENCE KESTERSON

## STUDENTWISE: MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

How Swarthmore put a film career in focus

I NEVER THOUGHT of myself as a filmmaker—that is, until my sophomore year, when my culminated racial and political frustrations gave form to my first script. My screenwriting professor, Rodney Evans, met with me after reading *Swisher*, a day-in-the-life story of a young black man moving drugs in a neighborhood where a violent act of police brutality has occurred. When he told me I should “just make it,” I didn’t really understand how.

“Figure out a way to get money,” he said. “Take a directing class with me.

I’ll help you figure out the rest.”

It didn’t strike me as real until I was on set in West Philadelphia, managing a cast and crew with the help of a Lang Center summer grant, a New York casting session, and months of networking. Out of everyone I was working with, from my producer to the child actors, I was the least experienced person on set. To use the vernacular: That jawn had me geeked.

Stumbling backward into a film minor was one of the most significant learning experiences I’ve had at Swarthmore. Convention has never

been my strong suit; I have an extreme aversion to the idea of upward mobility in any sort of field. I’ve always thrown myself directly into the process. After shooting *Swisher*, I realized I knew relatively nothing about photography—I had relied on my good friends Kyungchan Min ’18 and Julian Turner ’18 to sculpt the visuals. So I enrolled in a black-and-white photography course with Ron Tarver, and weaseled my way into being his TA so I could gain practical darkroom experience.

All of my academic experience prior to this had been concentrated in the world of papers, research, exams, and staring at a chalkboard, not understanding why I should care enough to do more than pass the class. But working with my hands in the visual arts gave a tangibility to my dreams. Professors Evans and Tarver pushed me to break free and also gave me a frame of reference for my future—as a biracial son of an immigrant mother, having two black professors with nonacademic backgrounds was instrumental in owning my identity as an artist. (Evans, a visiting assistant professor of film and media studies, is an established independent film director; Tarver, a visiting assistant professor of studio art, is a Pulitzer-winning photojournalist.) I could see myself in them, and it inspired me to stop inhibiting my true ambitions.

Now, I’m in the process of creating my last student film here as well as my senior exhibition at the List Gallery. It still doesn’t feel real. But this is the only thing that makes sense to me in a place like Swarthmore. This is the only thing that makes sense to me, period. So I have to just make it. 🍷

By TIYE PULLEY ’19, a studio art major and film & media studies minor from Annandale, N.J.

BEHIND THE BOOK

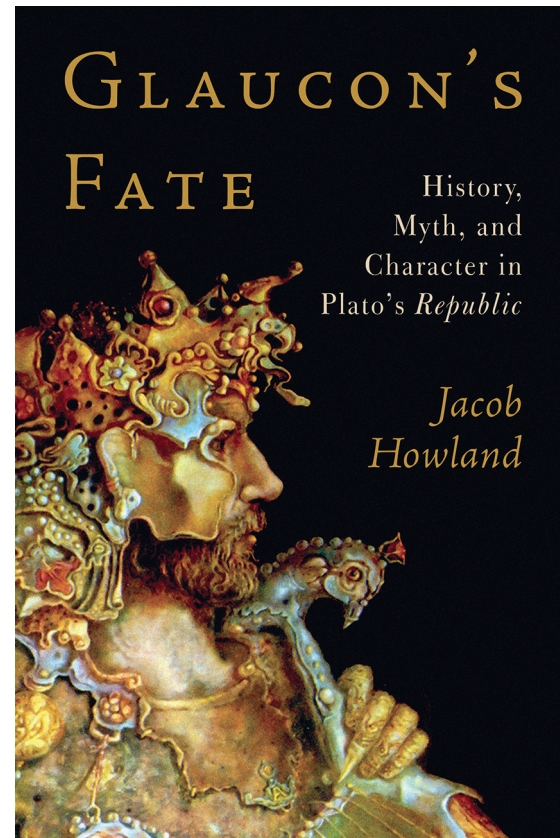
# 'Republic' Revolution

by Jacob Howland '80

THE *REPUBLIC* dramatizes Socrates's attempt to convince Plato's brother Glaucon that the just life of philosophy is preferable to the unjust life of tyranny. Until I read Mark Munn's *The School of History*, I'd always assumed Socrates succeeded. But Munn speculates that Glaucon died fighting for the Thirty Tyrants—the brutal oligarchy, led by Glaucon's relatives Critias and Charmides, that ruled Athens in 404–03 BCE, targeted Socrates's public philosophizing, and put to death roughly 1,500 Athenians. This idea astonished me, but I found substantial evidence to support it.

Munn's hypothesis casts the *Republic* in a new and tragic light. If he is right, Plato's intelligent and courageous brother—suspended as he was between the corruption of Athenian politics and the integrity of Socratic inquiry, between kinsmen who were leaders of the Thirty and a just friend who fell afoul of them—could not be saved even by the age's most capable advocate of virtue and philosophy. What went wrong? That is the guiding question of *Glaucon's Fate*, which focuses on Socrates's rivalry with Critias and explores the strange resemblance between the ideological tyranny of the Thirty and Callipolis, the *Republic's* supposedly ideal (but in fact totalitarian) city of philosopher-kings. ❸

Available now, *Glaucon's Fate: History, Myth, and Character in Plato's Republic* (Paul Dry Books) is Jacob Howland '80's fifth book.



AUTHOR Q&A

# LOVE-LOVE: ROWAN RICARDO PHILLIPS '96

by Jonathan Riggs

**“Tennis has always made sense to me as a conversation between the players that we, the spectators, get to overhear,” says Rowan Ricardo Phillips '96. An acclaimed poet, Paris Review sports columnist, and Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, Phillips lyrically chronicles the remarkable conversation that was the 2017 professional season in his new book, *The Circuit: A Tennis Odyssey* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux).**

**“Often, art’s spark is set off by what you love,” he says, “and I felt compelled, in a good way, to write this book.”**

**What has tennis meant to you?**

I inherited my love of tennis from my parents, but when schoolwork started to pile up, I left playing behind. I think I hit twice, maximum, on the courts at Swarthmore. But as I grew older, tennis came back to me with a spectacular and vibrant intensity. I play every week and catch as many matches as I can. Looking back, tennis is one of the longest relationships I've had in my life, even thinking back to the sneakers, tracksuits, and that old, wooden Slazenger racket that I wish I still had around.

**What's the response been like?**

I've been moved to hear readers say the book made them want to go outside and play, or catch up on the next season. The book's written in a style that reflects how I feel about tennis: It's a lyrical thing with building increments, dips into sadness and humor, has turns that are historical and others that are more contemplative, but most of all, there's a deep love for the game and for the sentence.



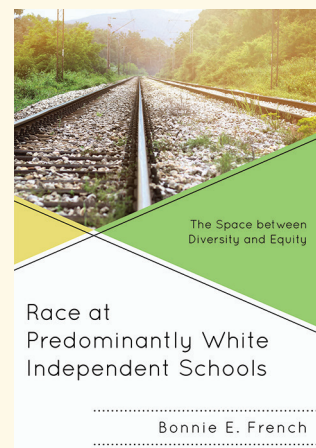
SUE KWON

**For artists, where is tennis going?**

Tennis has many great stories to be told, with fascinating characters both major and minor. At its best, tennis is a beautifully multifaceted experience with so many possibilities for writers to explore. And *The Circuit* is just that: a possibility to look back at a year from a different horizon. ❸

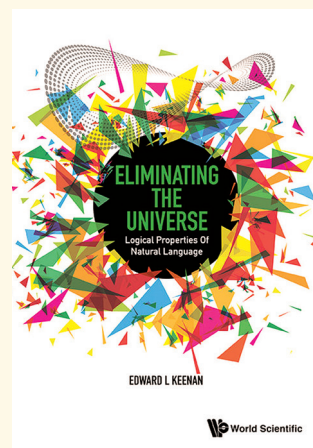
# HOT TYPE: New books by Swarthmoreans

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



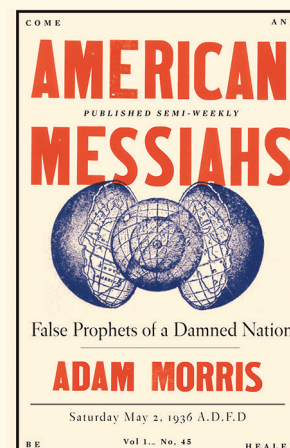
► **Bonnie French '01**  
*Race at Predominantly White Independent Schools*  
Lexington Books

“My seven years as an independent school student, five years as an independent school teacher, and three years researching independent schools have led to this book,” French writes, describing why she was driven to explore and confront the pervasive individualized and systemic racism she encountered. “The fundamental question of my research is this,” the assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice adds, “how does diversity in independent schools relate to racial equity in independent schools?”



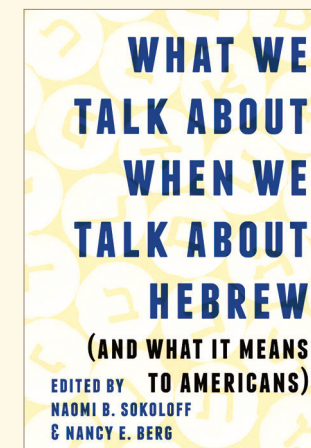
► **Edward Keenan '59**  
*Eliminating the Universe*  
World Scientific Publishing

Synthesizing nearly four decades of the logical expressive power of natural language, this book is aimed at linguists, logicians, and computer scientists. Keenan begins cheekily by thanking Noam Chomsky for inspiring him to “think I could discover interesting things about the mind without doing any work, just sit on my duff, ponder my language and prove some theorems. Of course things didn't turn out as simple as that, but this work appears to have brought me full circle.”



► **Adam Morris '06**  
*American Messiahs*  
Liveright

Dating back to the American Revolution, our national consciousness has been influenced by a string of dangerously charismatic prophets, such as Cyrus Teed, Father Divine, and Jim Jones. “Although messianic sects are usually dismissed as ‘cults’ that distract from more legitimate social forces, Americans claiming to be the messiah have organized impressive experiments in alternative lifestyles,” Morris writes in this re-evaluation, “and often located themselves on the radical fringe of movements for progressive social change.”



► **Naomi Sokoloff '75 and Nancy Berg, editors**  
*What We Talk About When We Talk About Hebrew*  
University of Washington Press

Despite the vitality of contemporary Hebrew language and culture, why is its study languishing at American universities? In this collection, essaysists from across the U.S. share their perspectives and experiences. “One of my main motivations for working on this project was to profess my enduring belief in the value of language learning as part of a liberal arts education,” Sokoloff writes. “It changed the way I think, the way I see the world, and the way I see myself.”

GLOBAL THINKING

# ANIME NINJA

From Japan, he's helping shape the world's most animated Netflix options

by Paul Wachter '97

WITH MORE THAN 400 animation production companies in Japan, it makes sense that global streaming behemoth Netflix would base its anime operations in Tokyo—after all, the genre has exploded in worldwide popularity over the past few decades.

"Anime is a unique form of storytelling," says John Derderian '97, Netflix's Tokyo-based director for Japan and anime. "There's a broader scale of emotions that are on display than in, say, your typical Hollywood blockbuster or television series."

His own animated journey began in March 2013, when Derderian, a former corporate lawyer, left AMC Networks to join Netflix to help them negotiate and execute licensing agreements for independent television. At the time, the company's international footprint was relatively small.

"We had launched the service in the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, and the Americas," he says, "but we hadn't yet expanded through Europe, Asia, or Africa."

Derderian's interest in pop culture started at Swarthmore, where he was active in theater and reviewed films for *The Phoenix*. Though his entrée to Netflix was his law degree, he had always been drawn to the creative side of the TV industry.

"The independent television team was a scrappy group," he says. "So even though I was working on the legal side, the team was open to anyone finding interesting programming opportunities."

"At first we were concentrating on shows that would work for our existing footprint," Derderian adds. "But we quickly learned that there were a lot of global shows that worked well across all markets."

Among several examples is the Australian drama series *Wentworth*, set in a women's prison, and the British sci-fi anthology series *Black Mirror*.

"Basically," he says, "our hypothesis was that excellence will find a broad, global audience."

When Netflix launched in Japan in 2015 and in Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Singapore the following year, Derderian found himself spending more and more time in Asia. After being named to his current position, he relocated to Tokyo with his wife and infant son.

As in other markets, Netflix has quickly moved from signing licensing deals for properties such as *Naruto*, an anime classic that chronicles the adventures of an eponymous adolescent ninja, to producing original content.

"As a team, we try to find stories and storytellers that can flourish in anime, which, because the worlds are brought to life through drawings, is essentially boundless as a narrative medium," Derderian says. "Some of the best anime tackles unlikely subjects and novel environments—but that's what makes it challenging and fun to program." 🎧



MARCUS MEISLER / NETFLIX

## JOHN DERDERIAN '97 Executive

### INTERESTED IN ANIME? DERDERIAN RECOMMENDS:

*Aggretsuko*, about a cute red panda who sings death-metal karaoke.

*Devilman Crybaby*, a not-for-the-faint-of-heart adaptation of Go Nagai's classic and controversial manga.

*Violet Evergarden*, a visually lush and emotionally rich coming-of-age sci-fi series.

*Castlevania*, a dark fantasy that's also funny.

**"Our hypothesis was that excellence will find a broad, global audience."**

SHARING SUCCESS AND STORIES OF SWARTHMORE

# common good

ON THE WEB

### A PHINEAS VALENTINE

Phineas surprised students and staff with hand-made cards on Valentine's Day.

+ WATCH [bit.ly/PhineasValentine](http://bit.ly/PhineasValentine)

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Critical Conversations Symposium was a great opportunity to engage with one another about the effects of racial inequality and discrimination.

+ EXPLORE [bit.ly/SwarthmoreBlackHistory](http://bit.ly/SwarthmoreBlackHistory)

### SONGS FROM WAR

Associate Professor of Music Barbara Milewski on WWII concentration camp music.

+ READ [bit.ly/MusicWWIIcamps](http://bit.ly/MusicWWIIcamps)

### ECONOMIST AMANDA BAYER

Discussing diversity in the field of economics.

+ LEARN [bit.ly/SwarthmoreEconomist](http://bit.ly/SwarthmoreEconomist)



LAURENCE KEISTERSON

EARTH SONG

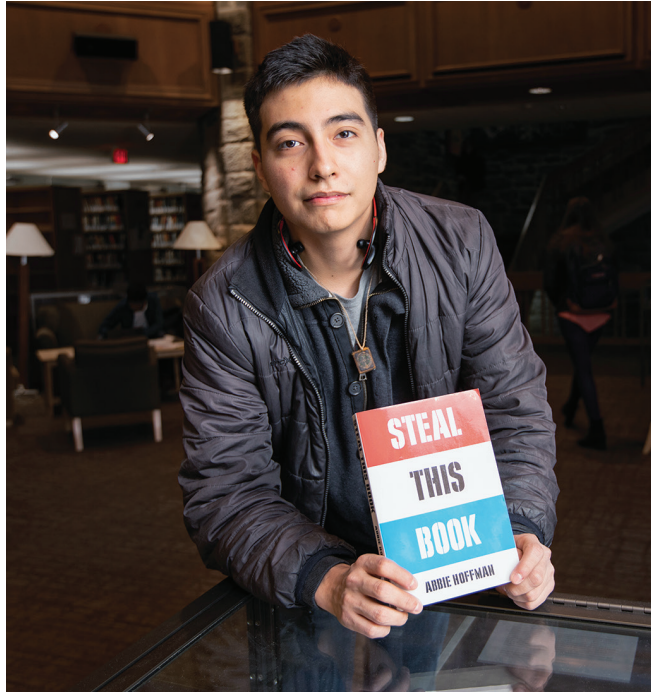
## Promise of a New Day

by Elizabeth Coleman '69

BOOKENDED by a foreword from the Dalai Lama and a guide to activism by the Union of Concerned Scientists, *Here: Poems for the Planet* (Copper Canyon Press), the international eco-poetry anthology I edited, grew out of my despair at the results of the 2016 presidential election. It grew out of my determination not to let hopelessness rule my life; it grew out of my background as a public interest lawyer, an environmental advocate, and a poet.

And finally, it grew out of my love for my four young grandchildren and my concern for their future.

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



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► **STEAL THIS COLLECTION!** Winner of Swarthmore's 2018 Newton Book Collection Competition, Martin Palomo '19 says "Steal This Collection! A Collection of Radical History and Activism" encourages the challenging of authority, power, and assumptions through engagement with texts that make us uncomfortable in order to promote profound change through creative action. "My collection hosts books that relate to the themes of social justice," says Palomo, a peace & conflict studies and history double major. "Most of the books, at some point in time, have been considered radical texts in their own field or by general readers. I hope that the theme conveys a call to action in regards to social justice and the promotion of creative action when dealing with conflicts. Ultimately, it's a reaffirmation of our commitment to each other and a reminder to settle for nothing short of justice."

► American economist Frank Whitson Fetter, Class of 1920, was the subject of a recent campus lecture by Fulbright Scholar Ramina Abilova, a senior researcher and head of the photo laboratory at the State Museum of Fine Arts of Tatarstan Republic, Russia. She researches amateur photography and its links to everyday life history, and highlighted her study of Fetter's photography of every day life and architecture and the historic period that it documented.



HALCYON

## SPORTS SHORTS

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Garnet won the Centennial Championship, beating Johns Hopkins 79-61 and claiming the team's second conference title.

### MEN'S SWIMMING

For the second time in program history, men's swimming captured the Centennial Conference Championship, winning the 2019 title at Gettysburg College.

### WOMEN'S SWIMMING

The women's swimming team was the runner-up at the Centennial Conference Championship for the second consecutive season.

### WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

The women's indoor track & field team finished in second place at the Centennial Conference Championships.

### MEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Daniel Belkin '19 was named the Most Outstanding Field Performer as the men's indoor track & field team finished third at the conference championship.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Swarthmore recorded its largest margin of victory since 2015 with an 80-46 win over Goucher.



ALYSSA NATHAN '21

► Men's basketball dominated this season en route to the NCAA Division III Tournament.

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

## EXPANDING ACCESS



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► "It's critical for there to be a place where people can access information," says Jetter '74.

## Welcome and Needed

Marie and Cynthia Jetter College and Career Center to Open in Chester

by Ryan Dougherty

**T**HE CHESTER Education Foundation (CEF) announced the creation of the Marie and Cynthia Jetter College and Career Center, which is expected to begin serving the Chester community this spring.

The Jetter Center is a revival of the College Access Center of Delaware County, which was co-directed by Swarthmore and served the Chester community for almost 10 years. And

it's a testament to the passion Cynthia Jetter '74 and her late mother, Marie, shared for expanding educational opportunities for young people in need.

"Although my mother didn't have the opportunity to expand her own education, she was such a strong advocate for it," says Jetter, who drove the creation of the College Access Center as director of community partnerships and planning with the Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility. "However and whenever she could, she tried to help

and support educational programs, particularly for young people.

"I know I would not have taken the leaps and bounds I did to get a better education if not for her," Jetter adds, "and I know how much she gave up to afford me that opportunity."

The Jetter Center will extend college and career services from the renovated offices of the CEF and through partnerships with schools and community organizations throughout Chester. "It's a really nice program that helps students who don't have any other resources in or outside of school," says Ashley Henry, project director for youth empowerment at the Lang Center. "It's meeting the students' desire and meeting an important need in the community."

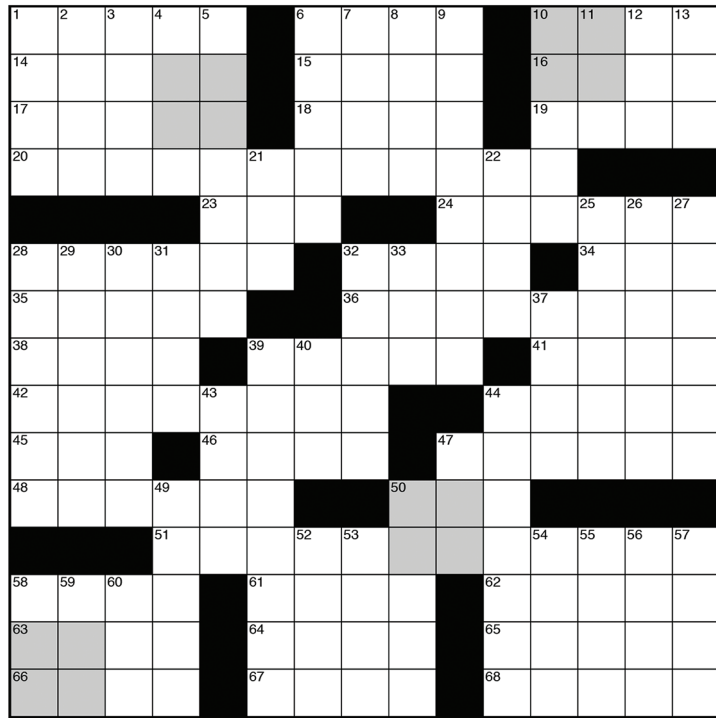
The CEF is a natural fit to continue and expand the work of the College Access Center, based on its 30-year history of providing educational support services and forging community partnerships. When the College Access Center closed last June, Swarthmore committed to ensuring continuous service to, and partnership with, Chester youth.

"From the moment we heard that the College Access Center might be closing, colleagues such as Dion Lewis [director of the Black Cultural Center], Greg Brown [vice president for finance and administration], and I spent months strategizing with [President] Val Smith about how we might maintain programming with our Chester partners," says Ben Berger, executive director of the Lang Center and associate professor of political science. "It wasn't a question of whether, but of how."

Any support of the young people of Chester in pursuit of higher education is welcome and needed, adds Jetter. "It's critical for there to be a place where people can access information," she says, "that allows them access to greater opportunities." ❸

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





ANSWER KEY AT BULLETIN.SWARTHMORE.EDU

## CROSSWORD: WHO NEEDS CUPID?

by Roy Greim '14

### ACROSS

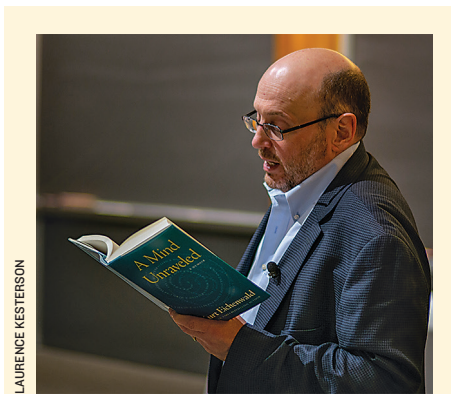
- 1. Theater preceder
- 6. Frenzied
- 10. Urban woe
- 14. Unit in electromagnetism
- 15. \_\_\_-Japanese War
- 16. Pride Month letters
- 17. Historical turning point
- 18. Lit. collection
- 19. "Nessun dorma," e.g.
- 20. "Luck Be a Lady" musical
- 23. Mens \_\_\_
- 24. Look upon
- 28. Doesn't make the grade
- 32. Unbridled joy
- 34. It could help you take a hike
- 35. Gets one's feet wet?
- 36. Quiche variety
- 38. Leaves speechless
- 39. Jungle swinger
- 41. Words of comparison
- 42. If opposites attract, what each shaded area of the puzzle represents?
- 44. French farewell
- 45. Casino area with games of chance
- 46. Name of four Holy Roman Emperors
- 47. Shan't
- 48. Catnap
- 50. Running total, in short
- 51. Tobacco giant

- 58. Emmy winner de Matteo
- 61. Cartoonist who drew party animals
- 62. Parrish Parlors staple
- 63. Sword handle
- 64. List ender
- 65. Current president of the College
- 66. Online amusements
- 67. Like morning grass
- 68. Mello \_\_\_

### DOWN

- 1. In \_\_\_ (dazed)
- 2. Ex-NBAer Ginobili
- 3. Game
- 4. Montreal Canadiens, to fans
- 5. Items needed at McCabe or Sharples
- 6. Carne \_\_\_
- 7. Matter's superior
- 8. In the know
- 9. 1946 Swarthmore grad and building namesake
- 10. You can do it to a tire or a price
- 11. Baseball VIP
- 12. Sash
- 13. Video game franchise set in San Andreas and Vice City, briefly
- 21. Marshal under Napoleon
- 22. Dirty look

- 25. Phrase that casts doubt
- 26. Pre-Easter
- 27. Go extinct
- 28. Overwhelms, as with work
- 29. State whose lieutenant governor is Josh Green '92
- 30. "Swan Lake" role
- 31. Family tree fig.
- 32. \_\_\_SmithKline (pharmaceutical manufacturer)
- 33. Chaney of horror flicks
- 37. Offers a helping hand
- 39. Came by
- 40. Decay
- 43. "Star Wars" ice planet
- 44. Expiration date?
- 47. "Yum!"
- 49. Quarrels
- 50. In the appropriate manner
- 52. Like a paper needing an extension
- 53. Part of Caesar's boast
- 54. Winter coat?
- 55. Regional SEPTA offering
- 56. Like 11% of Swarthmore students: Abbr.
- 57. Common to London and NYC
- 58. UPS rival
- 59. Brazil's second-most-populous city
- 60. Right angle



LAURENCE KESTERSON

➤ Kurt Eichenwald '83 spoke on campus in February about his latest book, *A Mind Unraveled*, which centers on his life with epilepsy, including challenges he faced as a Swarthmore student, and his ensuing decades-long battle not only to survive, but to thrive. "People say this book is a story of survival, no, this book is a story of control," he says. "It's a story of my decision that, no matter what happened, I would envision a life I wanted to live and I would live that life."



## Star Power

Films with ties to Swarthmore alumni were among those nominated for the movie industry's greatest honor at February's 91st Academy Awards. Steven Farneth '00 was an executive producer of *Green Book* (above), which won Best Picture. *A Night at the Garden*, directed by three-time Oscar nominee Marshall Curry '92, was in the running for Best Documentary Short, while *Roma*, executive produced by David Linde '82, won Best Cinematography, Best Foreign Language Film, and Best Director.



➤ The concert hall of Lang Music Building has been an architectural icon of the College for decades.

## Inspired Giving

At the February Board meeting, Manager Jane Lang '67 announced that she and her niece, fellow Manager Lucy Lang '03, would designate \$7 million from her father Eugene Lang '38, H'81's Fund for the Future to upgrade and renovate the Lang Music Building.

They also issued a challenge of their own: If the College could raise an additional \$1 million, they would give \$1 million more, raising the total to \$9 million.

Their decision energized their fellow Managers, who erupted into applause and gave them a standing ovation. Manager Emeritus Samuel Hayes '57 then surprised the group by pledging \$100,000 to the renovation effort. In quick succession, John Chen '76, P'19, David Singleton '68, P'99, David Bradley '75, H'11, and David McElhinny '75, P'17 each committed the same.

"We are incredibly grateful for Jane's and Lucy's commitment to leading by example," said President Valerie Smith. "We are all inspired by their love for the College and their desire to ensure that our students continue to enjoy a world-class liberal arts education." ⑤

➤ **LEARN MORE OR CONTRIBUTE:** [lifechanging.swarthmore.edu](http://lifechanging.swarthmore.edu)

## COMPLEXITY FROM CELLS TO CONSCIOUSNESS

Swatties, surprise, and a new paradigm of interdisciplinary scientific thought

by Brennan Klein '14

**FRISSON IS THAT FEELING** when you encounter something so stunning that it sends a tingle down your spine. For Conor Heins '15 and me, a recent scientific theory has been the source of our frisson. We decided to organize a cross-disciplinary workshop with the hope that others would be similarly inspired. If you had told me that this scientific workshop would lead us to Greece, with several recent Swarthmore alumni, I would have scoffed. Surprise: That's precisely what happened.

## CHORDS OF MEMORY

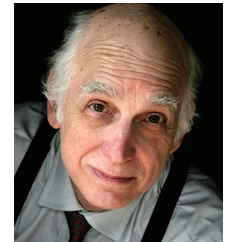
**LEGENDARY** American folk singer and songwriter Pete Seeger would have turned 100 this May.

Christopher "Kit" Lukas '56 was a student at Swarthmore when he first crossed paths with the activist and musician—he was tasked with driving him to the Philadelphia Folk Festival.

The drive was the start of decades of friendship. To honor Seeger's work, Lukas created the film *If I Had a Hammer: Pete's Legacy*, which will air on public television May 3, Seeger's birthday.

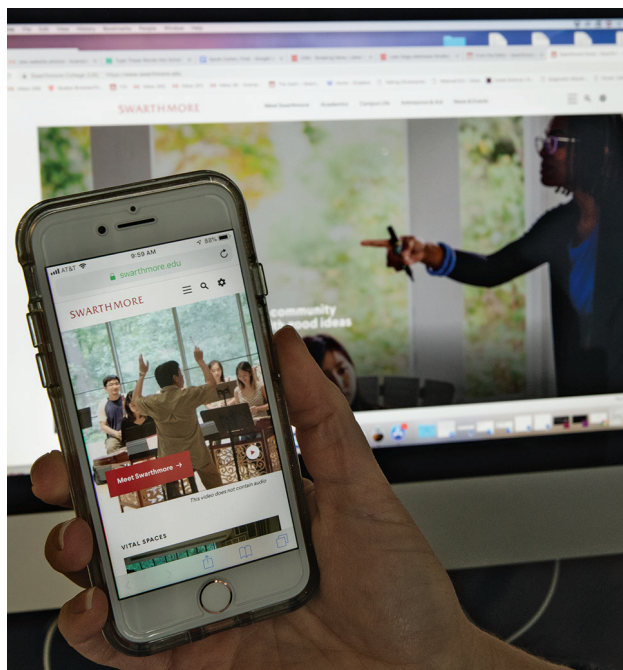
"Swarthmore gave me the belief that political and social views are not something just for the classroom, but for life," says Lukas, who served as cameraman, producer, writer, director, audio person, and lighting engineer on the film. "Pete was more than just a folk singer—he had deep empathy for every creature." ⑤

—KATE CAMPBELL



➤ A film by Christopher Lukas '56 honors Seeger's legacy.

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



LAURENCE KESTERSON

➤ The College's new mobile-first website design includes more photos and videos, easier navigation, and numerous enhancements to increase accessibility and improve search capabilities.

## ENGAGE!

Swarthmore celebrates a dynamic website redesign this spring, focused on making the site more engaging, accessible, and beautiful.

"The design and site structure is informed by quantitative and qualitative research on how current and prospective students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents use and engage with Swarthmore.edu," says Alisa Giardinelli, interim vice president for communications.

The year-and-a-half-long process included focus groups and other research that guided the project; wireframes and design prototypes; the actual development and building of the site; the migration of the previous site's content to the new one; and the creation of new content the site now features, says web designer Steven Lin.

The new mobile-first design improves the site's functionality and includes the addition of a set of Spanish-language pages within the admissions section. Pages specifically for alumni and parents reflect the overall site improvements, including more photos, easier navigation, and enhancements to the alumni directory.

"The new website represents more than 18 months of effort and collaboration between ITS and Communications—a small but mighty team of writers, developers, and designers," says Giardinelli. "We're grateful to everyone who allowed us to visit their classes and meetings, reviewed iterations of the site, and shared their thoughts throughout the many stages of the redesign process." 📍

+ CHECK IT OUT: [swarthmore.edu](http://swarthmore.edu)

## HOW BLUE (OR RED) IS YOUR GREEN?

YOUR CREDIT CARD STATEMENT can also be a political statement.

That's what social entrepreneur Mark Hanis '04 hopes to prove through Progressive Shopper, a web extension that reveals the political tendencies of online retailers. Using donation data culled from more than 500 companies, the left-leaning startup provides buyers with real-time brand ratings, from "Highly Recommended" to "Please Shop Elsewhere."

Dismayed by 2016's election results, Hanis and co-founder Van Chappell began searching for ways to turn their frustration into activism. "We realized," Hanis says, "that most people shop much more often than they vote, donate, or advocate, and that our most powerful action could be to find ways to change consumer behavior."

The pair leveraged public records, available through the Federal Election Commission, on corporations' contributions during the 2016 and 2018 election cycles. Once Progressive Shopper is installed in a browser, it pops up with that data when a web user visits an online store. Apple, for example, gets high marks from the plugin, with 95 percent of its political contributions going to Democrats. At just 59 percent, however, Amazon gets a middling review, with a note that "Better Options Are Available."

"Consumers are no longer comfortable or happy to buy what marketers put in front of them—they want to consciously choose brands and companies that fit with their values," says Hanis, who's also a research fellow with Stanford's Handa Center for Human Rights and International Justice. "We set out to make the process easier, to give consumers credible information that's easy to understand, right at the point of purchase." 📍

—ELIZABETH SLOCUM



### WHAT DID YOU SAY?

At Swarthmore, back in the day, or just a few years ago, did you use phrases like: "Define your terms" and "The personal is political," or other slogans that may or may not have gone out of fashion? We'd love to know!

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

## CREATIVE COLLABORATIONS

by Andrea Packard '85

**P**IECE TOGETHER: *The Quilts of Mary Lee Bendolph*, Swarthmore's fall 2018 exhibition, was a dream exhibition for me as an artist, curator, and Swarthmore alumna.

When the exhibition, *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*, began a national tour in 2002 at Houston's Museum of Fine Arts, people were moved by the quilts' innovative designs and the way the repurposed fragments of worn fabric embodied resilience in the face of racism and poverty. In January 2017, nearly 30 years after I joined my own quilting group, I proposed to faculty in the Department of Art and Art History that we host an exhibition of Gee's Bend quilts.

I discovered that Mount Holyoke College Art Museum curators had begun organizing *Piece Together*, the first one-person exhibition by one of the most acclaimed quilters from Gee's Bend. We partnered, and I began adapting the exhibition for two spaces at Swarthmore: the List Gallery and McCabe Library. A William J. Cooper Foundation grant allowed me to conduct research in Gee's Bend, Ala., and to edit and publish the exhibition catalog, which includes essays by Swarthmore's Provost, Professor Sarah Willie-LeBreton, as well as faculty and staff from Mount Holyoke College.

Together with Susan Dreher, visual initiatives and exhibitions librarian, and Alicia Ruley-Nock, a Swarthmore quilter, I curated a companion exhibition, *Responses to Gee's Bend*, to hang alongside the Gee's Bend quilts in McCabe Library. It featured quilts by 17 artists from around the country and two quilts made by students who took Black Art: Quilting as Culture, a course taught by Ms. Ruley-Nock and Professor of History Allison Dorsey.

Many projects grew out of *Piece Together*, including *Gee's Bend Oral Histories*, a book by Yixuan Maisie



RUBIN BENDOLPH, JR.

➤ Mary Lee Bendolph, *Strip Quilt*, 2006, mixed fabrics including polyester, corduroy, and cotton blend, 82 x 75 inches. Swarthmore College Permanent Collection.

Luo '19 and Catherine Williams '19, who were awarded Petrucci Family Foundation grants to conduct research in Gee's Bend. Provost Willie-LeBreton and I mentored Maisie and Catherine as they conducted research and collected 15 quilters' stories about diverse topics, including farming, religion, home remedies, quilting, and civil rights activism.

In September, Mary Lee Bendolph and 15 other Gee's Benders came to Swarthmore for the reception for *Piece Together*. Maris Curran's acclaimed film about Gee's Bend, *While I yet Live*,

was screened, and Bendolph family members gave powerful testimony—describing the darkness of racism as well as the brightness of the quilts, which embody their religious faith and love of community.

This January, Swarthmore purchased two of Mary Lee Bendolph's quilts: *Fleet* and *Strip Quilt*. I'm thrilled that we will continue to learn from the history and aesthetics of Gee's Bend. 📍

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

# QUIZ'MORE



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

by Lauren McAloon

**1**  
WHAT INSPIRED the name of the College's student newspaper, *The Phoenix*?

**2**  
FOR WHAT SONG did Vaneese Thomas '74, H'14 acquire a U.S. Billboard R&B top 10 hit?

**3**  
WHERE DID THE NAME "Swarthmore" originate?

**4**  
WHICH GARNET ATHLETIC TEAM was the first to become coed?

**5**  
IN 1881, who became the first recipient of an honorary degree from Swarthmore?

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!

Swarthmore Hall remains a Quaker retreat house.  
4. SWARTHMORE COLLEGE'S PING-PONG TEAM. In his March 1, 1955, *Phoenix* piece, "They Said It Couldn't Happen: Ping Pong Team Cops First Win," Tex Wyndham '58 wrote that "Miss Jojo Black [Pesaresi '55], in addition to providing inspiration for the team, also played some exhibition games with some of the members of the Drexel J.V.'s. This points the way for the football and wrestling teams to follow the progressive example set by the ping-pong team in making good use of the female talent of the College."  
5. SUSAN J. CUNNINGHAM H'1881, the College's inaugural professor of math and astronomy (1869-1906). She built, equipped, and lived in the College's first astronomical observatory. It became College property upon her death, was later converted to offices, and is now the Cunningham House of the Scott Arboretum.

1. "THE GREAT FIRE," WHICH DESTROYED PARRISH HALL—the only building on campus at the time—late in the night of Sept. 25, 1881. Happily, the College literally rose from the ashes. The first *Phoenix* was printed in 1882 at the press of the *Media Record*, as were volumes II and III.  
2. "LET'S TALK IT OVER." That song and "(I Wanna Get) Close to You" were the two biggest hits from her 1987 self-titled debut. One of the founders of the Swarthmore College Gospel Choir, Thomas has since released five more albums and has sung backup on countless recordings by other musical legends.  
3. ENGLAND'S SWARTHMOOR HALL, the home of Thomas and Margaret Margaret earning the sobriquet of "the mother of Quakerism." To this day, that she took George under her wing and became a major leader in the faith herself. After Thomas's death, she and George later married, with Margaret earning the sobriquet of "the mother of Quakerism." To this day,



► Swarthmore's first professor of math and astronomy (1869-1906) also lived in the College's first observatory. Learn the identity of this pioneering academic in No. 5 of our Answer Key below.



## LEARNING CURVE

# BUSINESS (ROLE) MODEL

She's inspiring entrepreneurs of any age or gender

by Elizabeth Slocum

"AM I TOO LITTLE to start a business?"

The simple question from a 9-year-old niece a decade ago led to a realization for Emily McHugh '90: "There's a lot of thinking around entrepreneurship that's very male- and age-centric," she says. "But the truth is, you're never too young or old, and gender doesn't matter."

Drawing from her own experience as co-founder of the accessories company Casauri, McHugh began writing *The Little Girl's Guide to Entrepreneurship: What I Know Now That I Sure Wish I Knew Then*. Among her applicable-to-anyone lessons: Scaling back is OK if it helps you survive; pride shouldn't prevent you from asking for help; and risk-taking can be immensely rewarding.

"You don't have to be an entrepreneur to be entrepreneurial," says McHugh, who with her sister, Helena, launched Casauri in 1999. "It's really more of a mindset—taking a certain amount of initiative and being willing to take a chance."

At Swarthmore, McHugh didn't expect to head down a business track; the trilingual French, Spanish, and linguistics major simply hoped for a career that would put her language skills to use. But a job at a French bank in New York City led to an MBA at Columbia, where Casauri's business plan was born. The line's colorful totes and laptop cases—co-designed by McHugh and Helena, a Fashion Institute of Technology grad—have been featured in *Vogue* and *USA Today* and sold at the MoMA Design Store in New York and Tokyo.

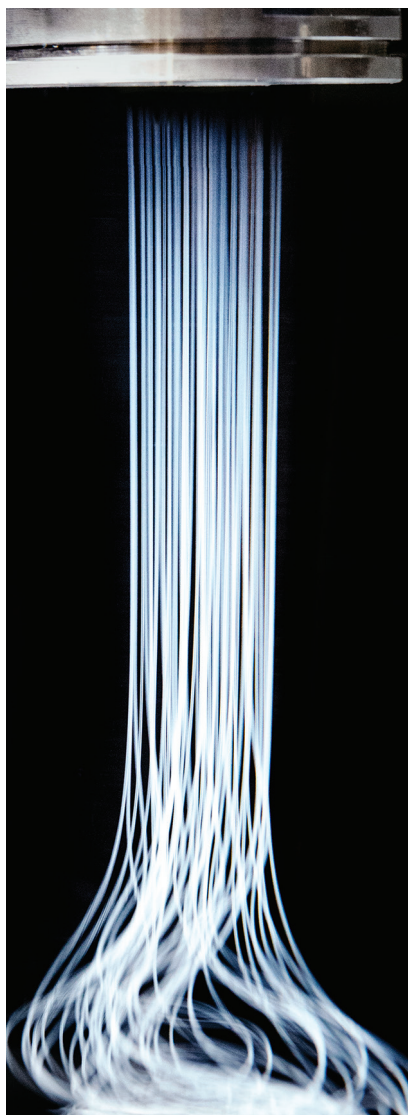
Looking back, an entrepreneurial spirit has always been with McHugh—as a little girl growing up on a farm in Jamaica, as a tween launching a part-time cleaning business in New Jersey, and as a 20-something violinist busking in the subways of New York. But she credits Swarthmore for



laying the foundation for her success.

"In any career direction," she says, "whether it's entrepreneurship, medicine, science, you name it, the liberal arts set you up for forward momentum." ❸

**"Swarthmore made me feel like there was no intellectual challenge I couldn't overcome."**



BOLT THREADS



➤ Bolt Threads designs biomaterials at the molecular level—“using inspiration from nature,” says Sue Levin ’85, the company’s chief commercial officer. She is in charge of introducing those materials into the marketplace.

LIBERAL ARTS LIVES

## UNCOMMON THREADS

Bioengineering efforts make apparel from proteins

by Tom Kertscher

### SUE LEVIN '85 Chief Commercial Officer

A bite from a venomous spider once left Sue Levin '85 gravely ill after a backpacking trip. When she recovered, she went on to enjoy a variety of careers.

Today, she’s something of a spider promoter as chief commercial officer at Bolt Threads, a Bay Area bioengineering firm drawing national attention for developing a lab-grown spider silk spun into a necktie.

“The company’s mission and its performance got me over my spider issues,” she laughs.

A history major and team captain in softball and soccer at Swarthmore, Levin went on to work as a global director of women’s sports marketing at Nike, and then started Lucy, a women’s activewear retailer. She joined Bolt Threads in 2014, becoming the first non-scientist and non-Ph.D. holder on the company’s executive team.

“For the first year or so,” she says, “I think I understood only 20 percent of what was being said most of the time.”

Though spider silk was studied in the development of Bolt’s microsilks, no arachnids are used in its production. Somewhat akin to polyester, the microfiber is made from proteins rather than hydrocarbons.

Bolt’s aim is to replace polyester with protein polymers made from renewable resources, and to design them using processes that are cleaner than what is currently used in the textile industry.

The company has agreements, due to be announced this year, with several more of the world’s leading manufacturers of apparel, footwear, and accessories.

“Somebody in your closet is working with us,” Levin says. 🍷

LIBERAL ARTS LIVES



PUNAHOU SCHOOL

➤ “My favorite part of our project was having them shift gears in the way we expect them to learn,” says Jamey Clarke ’91 (right) with Michael Chock, founder of Honolulu Luthiers Guild.

## MAKING WAVES

He’s melding music and physics to help children

by Kate Campbell

DREAMY AND BUOYANT, the easy-to-cradle ukulele’s sunny, plunky sound is linked to all things Hawaiian, even with its Portuguese origins.

High school physics teacher Jamey Clarke ’91 wanted to keep the winsome instrument’s positive vibrations going.

“We do a unit on waves and sound, and I’ve always liked it when the kids brought in their instruments,” says Clarke.

When he heard about the Ukulele Kids Club’s mission to provide instruments and music therapy to children in hospitals, Clarke thought of his Punahou School students in Honolulu. He convinced his principal to allow the juniors and seniors to build four-dozen ukuleles and ship them to hospitals across the U.S.

“I thought it would be a good way for them to make a connection to the

outside world,” he says. Plus, it would enliven the curriculum and use the high school’s new maker space.

But first, the teenagers would have to buy into the idea of spending months building something only to then give it away.

More substantially, Clarke would have to learn to build a ukulele.

“At Swarthmore, I was an engineering major and an amateur boat builder,” says Clarke. “I had this really innovative class with Carr Everbach where we measured the flow rate of Crum Creek using honeycombs. There was always a standard of maintaining excellence and finding a balance.”

After spending most of his career as an engineer, Clarke shifted to teaching, earning a master’s in education at Harvard. The move to Hawaii came when his wife accepted a pediatric medical residency in Honolulu.

“I love the people, the culture, and the diversity,” Clarke says. “You really form a connection.”

Among those connections was local luthier Michael Chock, who assisted with the project that involved using 3-D printers, a laser cutter, and other tools. “We worked together to design an affordable instrument,” says Clarke. “The students took a lot of pride in their work and gained woodworking skills in the process.”

Clarke wants his students to appreciate that it’s OK if you don’t know exactly how to do something when you begin a project.

“The big picture we are teaching is resilience,” he says. “We try to bake that into our instruction while they are honing their craft.” 🍷

### JAMEY CLARKE '91 Music Maker



# THE GLOBAL

# BRIDGE

Swarthmore alumni are creating change and growth in their home countries

by Elizabeth Redden '05

illustrations by Beth Walrond



STUDENTS ARE DRAWN to Swarthmore from around the world. When they graduate, many return home with aspirations to bring about social change, build a business, or otherwise make a distinctive mark.

This academic year, Swarthmore enrolled 232 international students—a number about double what it was a decade ago—representing 54 countries.

“They like that they’re going to be able to interact with faculty, that it’s a small school—probably the same things a domestic student would say,” Jennifer Marks-Gold, director of the International Student Center, says of what draws them to the College. “Some of them have projects they’ve started in their home countries before they

even get here; the social justice aspect is really important to them.”

Perhaps the quintessential example of an international alum who returned home to export the Swarthmore ethos is Patrick Awuah ’89, H’04. The founder and president of Ghana’s Ashesi University, Awuah established the institution in 2002 in an attempt, he has said, “to create an institution like Swarthmore College in Africa.”

The primary way Ashesi is modeled on Swarthmore is in its broad undergraduate curriculum, he says.

“At the time I was making this decision [to found the university], the higher education system in Ghana was enrolling about 5 percent of the country’s college-age individuals,”

says Awuah, who won a MacArthur Foundation “Genius Grant” in 2015.

“They were educating the leadership of this country, in the public sector and the private sector. Because there was such a small cohort, they were going to be the ones running the courts, running the businesses, running public services, and so on. What I felt was missing was that there wasn’t the attention to critical thinking, or to having students deeply discuss ethics. We wanted to demonstrate a new approach.”

Here, eight former international students share what they took away from Swarthmore—and what they’ve since given back to their communities.

## Gunilla Nilsson ’92 Banker with a Different Bottom Line



SWEDEN



UNLIKE FRIENDS who had the luxury of going on campus tours, Gunilla Nilsson ’92 picked Swarthmore out of a book of U.S. colleges.

“It was a lucky fluke,” she says.

“I had a wonderful time at Swarthmore,” Nilsson adds. “I was exposed to topics in the classroom that I would never have encountered had I stayed in Sweden. I met a very diverse student body. And this possibly sounds a bit goofy, but I really like that Swarthmore’s so idealistic. It’s wonderful when you’re young to go to that sort of place, because it really makes you feel like you can do anything.”

Nilsson studied economics at Swarthmore and went into investment banking, a career she enjoyed but did not find entirely fulfilling. “As I grew older, I guess my Swarthmore roots came back to me,” she says, “and I realized I wanted to do something that was more useful to society.”

So for the past decade, Nilsson has worked for Swedfund, a development finance institution owned by the Swedish government that invests in developing countries with an aim toward creating jobs and alleviating poverty. As a senior investment manager, Nilsson leads a team that invests in renewable energy projects, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and in poorer countries in Asia.

“It’s quite fascinating to visit a site in Namibia, and a year later you come back and see that there’s a very large solar farm that’s been built,” says Nilsson.

“My job,” she adds, “is very Swarthmore.”

## EFUA ASIBON ’16 ADVOCATE FOR THE ‘DISLABELLED’



JONATHAN MCCARTHY

Efua Asibon ’16 came up with the idea for the nonprofit she co-founded, Dislabelled, while still in high school. As a freshman at Swarthmore, she received a \$4,000 grant from the Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility that she used toward funding the nonprofit’s first project, a summer arts and robotics program for Ghanaian students with autism.

“In Ghana, there’s a lot of stigma attached to people with disabilities,” says Asibon. “What we’re trying to do is to remove the labels, sort of *disable* the label that has been placed on them.”

“We are very much into making them self-sufficient and helping them to be more productive—to let everybody see that if you give them the right skills and support, they can do the work.”

Dislabelled is raising money to open a skills institute in Ghana for adults with physical disabilities. Asibon says the planned Dislabelled DREAM Institute will provide training in business, digital skills, and basketry, and employ graduates to weave baskets that can be sold as a source of sustaining revenue.

In 2017, Asibon was recognized with the Queen’s Young Leader Award, an honor that “discovers, celebrates, and supports exceptional young people” from across the British Commonwealth. Apart from her work on Dislabelled, Asibon is an account manager for Facebook in Ireland. She earned a master’s degree in international development and humanitarian emergencies from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

“Growing up, I always saw people with disabilities on the streets of Accra,” says Asibon. “I never saw them when I went to church; I never saw them when I went to the cinema or when I was hanging out with friends in restaurants or in school.”

“I thought it was worrying that they were marginalized from society. That really, really got to me, and I just felt like I needed to do something about it. I’m someone who fights injustice.”



GHANA

“What we’re trying to do is to remove the labels, sort of *disable* the label that has been placed on them.”

## JUAN VÍCTOR FAJARDO '09 SOCIAL CHANGE-MAKER



SOFIA STECCHI

Juan Víctor Fajardo '09 knew when he was at Swarthmore that he wanted to one day return to Venezuela.

"I have always been aware of how much work is needed here," he says. "There's just so much that needs to be done to guarantee basic human rights and a decent life for Venezuelans."

Fajardo manages a social program that supports private schools in Caracas's poorest neighborhoods. The program, *Crecer en Venezuela*, or *Growing Up in Venezuela*, partners with an elementary school and signed a second agreement with a high school in February.

"Given the severe economic situation in Venezuela—hyperinflation, people not getting paid enough, very low wages—the situation makes it very difficult for private schools to operate in poor areas," Fajardo says. "We're trying to figure out how schools can become sustainable."

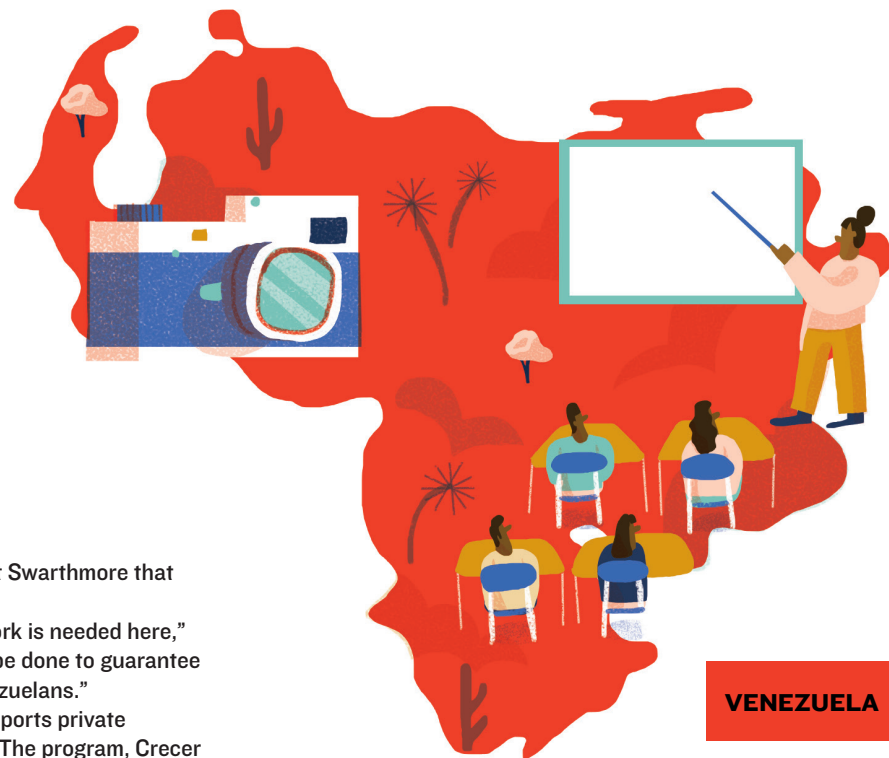
Fajardo took a circuitous path to nonprofit work, first earning a master's in journalism from New York University. "I never thought I'd be working in the nonprofit world," he says. "I always thought I'd be writing about this, mainly, but this work makes me feel useful in this crisis. It's not difficult to have an impact here, because wherever you look, there's an opportunity for a social business or an entrepreneurial solution to a social problem."

Enrolled in an MBA program at the IESA School of Management in Caracas, Fajardo continues to work as a journalist, including as

a freelance editor for an English-language magazine, the *Bolivian Express*.

Fajardo, who majored in philosophy and minored in Latin American studies at Swarthmore, credits his time at the College with helping him develop what he describes as an intellectually honest way of approaching problems.

"Ultimately, what motivates my work is the idea that providing education to underprivileged students is key to a democratic society," he says. "Through my life, my generation, we've experienced [in Venezuela] a breakdown of the legal and institutional basis of democracy. I want to live in a democratic society, and this is what I ultimately work for through this very powerful tool of education and critical thinking."



VENEZUELA

**"We're trying to figure out how schools can become sustainable."**



## Alexandra Papalexopoulou '88 Builder of a Global Business

AS STRATEGIC PLANNING DIRECTOR for Titan, an Athens-based, family-led cement and building materials company, Alexandra Papalexopoulou '88 guided the company's international expansion.

"We started investing more and more abroad, going from being mostly Greek-generated revenue in 1992 to just below 7 percent last year. The rest is from other countries," Papalexopoulou says. Through a series of acquisitions, partnerships, and greenfield investments, Titan expanded to develop major operations in 10 countries, and now has cement plants or joint ventures in Albania, Brazil, Bulgaria, Egypt, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, and the United States, in addition to Greece. The U.S. is Titan's biggest market.

Papalexopoulou has traveled the world to visit Titan's partners and many of its plants abroad. "I find it very rewarding, very interesting," she says.

Papalexopoulou, who studied economics at Swarthmore, initially planned to pursue a Ph.D., before a stint as a research assistant at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development convinced her that a career in academe was not for her. Instead, she earned an MBA at INSEAD, in France, before returning to Greece to join Titan, her family's business.

Swarthmore helped prepare her for a business career, and some of those skills were nuanced, Papalexopoulou says. "Business is about interacting with people, thinking critically, being able to not stress too much under pressure," she says. "In many ways, Swarthmore formed me into the person I am today."



GREECE

**"Business is about interacting with people, thinking critically, being able to not stress too much under pressure."**

## Emanuel Jinich '79 Mathematics Educator



EMANUEL JINICH '79, A MATH MAJOR, discovered Swarthmore's education program his junior year. It would mark the beginning of a prolific career.

"I've dedicated all my life to mathematics education," says Jinich, who has been a school director since 1990, the head of K-12 private schools in Mexico City, and the author of mathematics textbooks.

In the early 2000s, he and a group of colleagues developed a mathematical software program for fifth- and sixth-graders that was sent to every public school in Mexico as part of a Ministry of Education project promoting the use of computers in education.

Jinich is now head of the Sephardic Hebrew School, a private K-12 campus in Mexico City. But he's never too far from the classroom, where he can be found teaching calculus one hour a day.

"It's the best hour of the whole day," says Jinich, who has taught continuously since Swarthmore, going on 40 years. He holds a master's in mathematics education from the Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute, in Mexico City.

"I don't know why mathematics is so difficult for students to learn," he adds. "If and when I retire from being a school director, I'm going to become a mathematics teacher full-time once again."

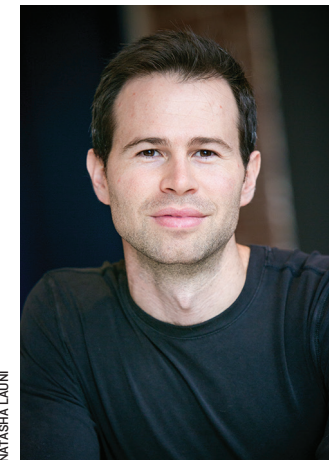


MEXICO

Teaching calculus one hour a day is "the best hour of the whole day."



CANADA



NATASHA LAUNI

## ANDREW STOBO SNIDERMAN '07 HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, LAWYER, WRITER

For Andrew Stobo Sniderman '07, the U.S. invasion of Iraq and the abuses at the Guantánamo Bay prison had a big effect in setting him up for a career as a human rights defender, as did his experience advocating for an end to the genocide in Darfur.

"The most formative practical experience I had at Swarthmore was working on Darfur activism with a group of phenomenal students," says Sniderman, who co-founded the organization that became the Genocide Intervention Network. "The College gave us a little office in the basement of the train station and a couple of computers. There were a few mice scurrying, so we set up a mouse trap and we got a printer and a long-distance phone plan. I remember having this feeling of limitless possibility, that if we were clever enough and worked hard enough, we could do anything. We were part of a student movement trying to use American power for something worthwhile in this moment when the abuses of American power were so obvious to all of us.

"Meanwhile, I'm kind of a foreigner," Sniderman says. "Part of me said I'd like to go back to Canada one day and be in those rooms where we're trying to decide our place in the world."

Sniderman was able to realize that goal when he served as human rights policy adviser to Stéphane Dion, the first foreign minister under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Sniderman, a Rhodes Scholar who earned a law degree from the University of Toronto, has focused his career as a lawyer and journalist on issues related to international human rights, refugee law, and—closer to home—Indigenous peoples' rights in Canada. In April 2018, he argued his first case before the Supreme Court of Canada, against the imposing of mandatory minimum fines, or "victim fine surcharges," on criminal offenders.

Now a visiting researcher at McGill University's Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism in Montreal, Sniderman is working on a book about an Indigenous reserve in Manitoba, the white town next door, and the legacy of racism.

"I'm trying to explain using this very local case why these reserves are separate and unequal," Sniderman says. "It's inevitable that if you're a Canadian righteously writing speeches and working on global refugee policies that you come face to face with the hypocrisies of Canada."





## FENG HE '03 STARTER OF STARTUPS

Feng He '03 wanted to see “more creativity, more ideas coming from a younger generation of Chinese.” So he co-founded DemoHour.com, a Kickstarter-like crowdfunding website in China, conceptualized as a platform to help individuals raise money for passion projects.

“I was very interested in startups,” says He, who majored in math at Swarthmore and earned an MBA from Stanford University. “We just felt there was a lot of energy among young Chinese to want to invent or create things, and there wasn’t a good outlet or source of funding for them. We were trying to solve that problem.”

**“There was a lot of energy among young Chinese to want to invent or create things.”**

Since selling the company in 2013, He now works on a different Beijing-based startup, jiandanxinli.com, connecting users with psychotherapists. He made a point while at Swarthmore of taking classes in as many disciplines as possible, including English, history, linguistics, psychology, and studio art.

“Both my education and my experience at Swarthmore gave me confidence when faced with something very new, something I’ve never done before,” he says. “I have this confidence that no matter how hard it seems, I can probably learn it very quickly. It goes back to Swarthmore. It was challenging for me to acquire knowledge in all these different disciplines, but also Swarthmore gave me a very well-rounded foundation. My education gave me an appreciation for art, for the humanities, and a pretty good understanding of technology.”

With startups, there are new challenges every day, He says. One example: “You need to do marketing, and it’s just you and two other guys; they have no idea and you just need to figure it out.”

“But I have some basic understanding of human psychology,” He adds. “I can recognize that I’m seeing something beautiful, so I can create a marketing campaign that will speak to people.”

## Su Wai ‘Hillary’ Yee ’14 Fashion Entrepreneur



SU WAI “HILLARY” YEE ’14 IS MAKING Myanmar a more fashionable place.

As CEO of MGOU Myanmar, Yee operates a master franchise of a China-based retail brand. Since opening its first Myanmar store in December 2015, MGOU has expanded to 19 stores across the country, selling fashion accessories, cosmetics, and household items.

Yee wears a second hat as CEO of Uniforms by CiCi, which sells uniforms direct to employers. It’s a spin-off of CiCi Clothing, a fashion brand she founded—currently on hold—focused on professional women’s wear.

“I knew that I wanted to do business in Myanmar,” says Yee, who majored in economics and Chinese at Swarthmore and studied abroad for a semester in Beijing. “There are more opportunities as an entrepreneur here. I feel like I have an edge because I can bring forward-thinking ideas into a market that is not as competitive.”

There are challenges, Yee notes: Support is limited. There are very few investors or venture capitalists, and access to capital is still quite low.

“But all in all,” she says, “it’s more like a blank space here, so I will have more opportunities to grow.”

## TRENDING UP! SWARTHMORE IS DRAWING MORE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

“There is concern about international students being less interested in higher education in the United States, but we are seeing the opposite in our applicant pool,” says Jim Bock ’90, vice president and dean of admissions. “International applications are up 14 percent this year. Many more families and students abroad are recognizing the value of a liberal arts education, and Swarthmore, in particular.”



# Stars of the Sea

Why are sea stars dying? Ocean health plays a role.

by Kate Campbell

**A**LL HAIL the echinoderms! Among them, a strange and wondrous creature that motors through salt-soaked currents and intertidal pools with self-generated hydraulic power—and tube feet.

Call them by their common name, sea star or starfish. But know they are uncommonly marvelous and important scouts of the ocean's health. Though frequently five-armed, some sea star species can have up to 50.

Brainless, and heartless, they still have the ability to regenerate lost limbs, reproduce by splitting themselves in half, and see in the dark with a tiny eye on the tip of each arm.

So, really, how could anyone resist complete infatuation with these mysterious stars of the sea?

Sarah Cohen '82, a professor of biology, evolutionary ecology, and genetics at San Francisco State University, has devoted a lot of recent attention to understanding their evolutionary significance—and, more recently, new threats to their survival.

"I am pretty possessed by sea stars lately," says Cohen, who researches the *Leptasterias*, a genus of six-rayed sea stars. "I spend a lot of time thinking about sea squirts, or tunicates, too."

Both sea stars and sea squirts are intriguing, says Cohen, because they have amazing powers of regeneration and really different body organization. "Sea stars, in particular, have body plans that operate in completely different ways than we are used to," she says. "Their body surfaces, under magnification, show a teeming forest of spines, waving tube feet, and small pincers on stalks that act to clean off debris and protect against predators."

Their small size makes them convenient subjects for lab study. Cohen's husband, Peter Barschall '80, has even used his engineering degree to help with experiments, working with a collaborating physics professor to construct tiny grippers used to measure attachment strength in the lab and field. And they have used a miniature shower system to replicate the tidal flow in coastal habitats. Cohen's lab at San Francisco

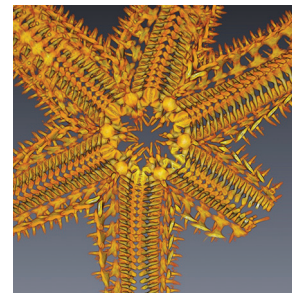


LYDIA DANILLER

► *Leptasterias*, a genus of sea star. "How marine species will be impacted by the changes in environmental conditions and how able they are to adapt is an area of active investigation," says Sarah Cohen '82, "but much less is documented in comparison to terrestrial species."



MARGARET JOHNSON



CAMILLA SOUTO

► Top: Intertidal anemone, surrounded by *Leptasterias* sea stars. Bottom: Skeletal sea star; a CT scan shows an intricate view.

State's Estuary & Ocean Science Center can mimic storm surges, now more common because of climate change. This is one way to study their attachment strength—think of those tubular feet—and their tolerance to temperature shifts.

Cohen looks at sea stars through the lens of ecological, behavioral, and environmental features, questioning how those characteristics shape their evolution and genetic systems.

"They are an eccentric organism that's globally important," says Cohen. "They're also cute."

In Greek, *echinoderm* means "spiny skin"; the upper side of their body is a nubby surface of calcium carbonate plates with tiny spikes, just one of their many protective adaptations.

The variety and adaptability of echinoderms is so expansive, in fact, that defining that bumpy skin literally scratches the surface of the operating mechanisms of these carnivorous predators.

"We look at the ways many of the species perceive their environment and if they use fine-tuned adaptation versus acclimation," she says. "I have always been fascinated by organisms that keep their offspring near them, rather than letting them disperse great distances." Heartless—yet somehow connected.

She wonders, though, how this strategy works successfully in a

population sense. Don't they become inbred and lack new genetic diversity to adapt? And most important, what happens when the environment changes a lot? As coastal storms are more intense and frequent, she says, the organisms clearly face more stress.

"These species may be adapted to local conditions and be good at changing as local habitats change, up to a limit," she believes, "and then once that limit is exceeded and they can no longer adapt, they will disappear, at least temporarily, from those areas."

For an animal with an ancient fossil record dating to the Ordovician period around 450 million years ago, disappearing—even temporarily—is a red flag. Another new worry for the communities Cohen studies is the threat of sea star wasting disease, or SSWD. The virus manifests in the spread of white patches of eroded tissue and devolves into destroying its host so entirely that only a gooey mass of the sea star remains. The cause of the epidemic that has affected dozens of species is mysterious, says Cohen, and likely related to viral pathogens and added environmental stress. She and her students and collaborators are exploring multiple possibilities. The community of sea star researchers remains vigilant for explanations.

"I really enjoy carrying out research in a collaborative way, with colleagues, students, postdoctoral associates," says Cohen, who even plans family vacations around the Pacific Coast's best intertidal pools. "A great thing about combining ecology and genetics is that the puzzles involve varied research, from fieldwork to wet lab experiments to genetic analyses and computational bioinformatic comparative work."

In general, Cohen says that staying local, and not dispersing far, gives sea stars the best opportunity for adaptation. "Another way of saying it is that the scale of dispersal matches the scale of environmental variation," she says.

In her most recent study, Cohen was surprised to find a unique genetic group of sea stars clustered around the outflow of the San Francisco Bay into the Pacific Ocean. The discovery

**"TWO MAJOR CHALLENGES TO PERSISTENCE OF MARINE SPECIES ARE THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT EFFECTS OF OVERHARVESTING AND DESTRUCTION OF SPECIES HIGH IN THE FOOD WEB, AND CHANGES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS THAT SUSTAIN SPECIES."**

**—SARAH COHEN '82**

## AMAZING STARFISH FACTS

They have no brain, no heart, and no central nervous system. Yet, if they are upside down, they can quickly turn over again.

Instead of blood, sea stars have a circulatory system made up primarily of seawater.

Sea stars have sensory nerves at the end of each arm that can sense light and dark and also chemicals in the water (e.g., the “smell” of their prey).

Many sea stars eat by pushing their stomach out through their mouth and into a bivalve’s shell. The starfish then digests the animal and slides its stomach back into its own body.



Sea stars commonly have five arms but can have up to 50, which they’re able to regenerate. There are more than 2,000 species.

Sea stars move using hundreds of tube feet, which are located on their underside. The tube feet are run by a hydraulic water vascular system that is unique to Echinodermata.

of the population began as a practical quest: She wanted to find “wave-bashed rocky intertidal field sites” near campus to bring her students to during class periods.

“We want to see how evolution happens in the wild,” she says.

Hands-on expeditions help her classes see science in new ways. “For some students, getting out at low tide to look for sea stars and seeing this unexpected home of strange and colorful diversity is a life-changing experience,” says Cohen, who still remembers the stimulating labs and inspiring field trips that marked her time as a Swarthmore biology major. “We went out and *did* biology. It made bio real and electric, and the labs

taught us to think and write.”

Researching with Cohen was a gateway into a science career for Alejandro Bellon ’15. He was part of Swarthmore’s extern program and spent a week in her lab, followed by an experiential summer internship funded by Swarthmore.

“Dr. Cohen was a great guide to have helping me through it all,” says Bellon, who just started a Ph.D. program in Biology and Society at Arizona State University incorporating ecology with social sciences. Time in Cohen’s lab involved going out to the marina, at first to collect tunicates, and later to check on field experiments. With a collection of juvenile tunicates, Bellon would test the water chemistry

and feed the invertebrates while taking pictures to keep track of their development. There were long hours analyzing all those photos, too.

“I still love the fact that tunicate larvae start off with a brain and tail for mobility and then get rid of both as they settle down for a life as filter feeders,” he says. “Goes to show that in some circumstances, a brain costs more than it’s worth.”

Ultimately, Bellon gave his first scientific presentation on his tunicate work at the national meeting of Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology, in Austin, Texas. Cohen works to impart that same enthusiasm in all her students and interns—hoping that together they will find answers

“IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES A BRAIN COSTS MORE THAN IT’S WORTH.”  
—ALEJANDRO BELLON ’15

about *Leptasterias* that will ensure the population continues.

Serendipitously, because San Francisco Bay sea stars don’t move around too much at any life-history stage, she says, they are great narrators for changes in local conditions.

Even when the news isn’t good.

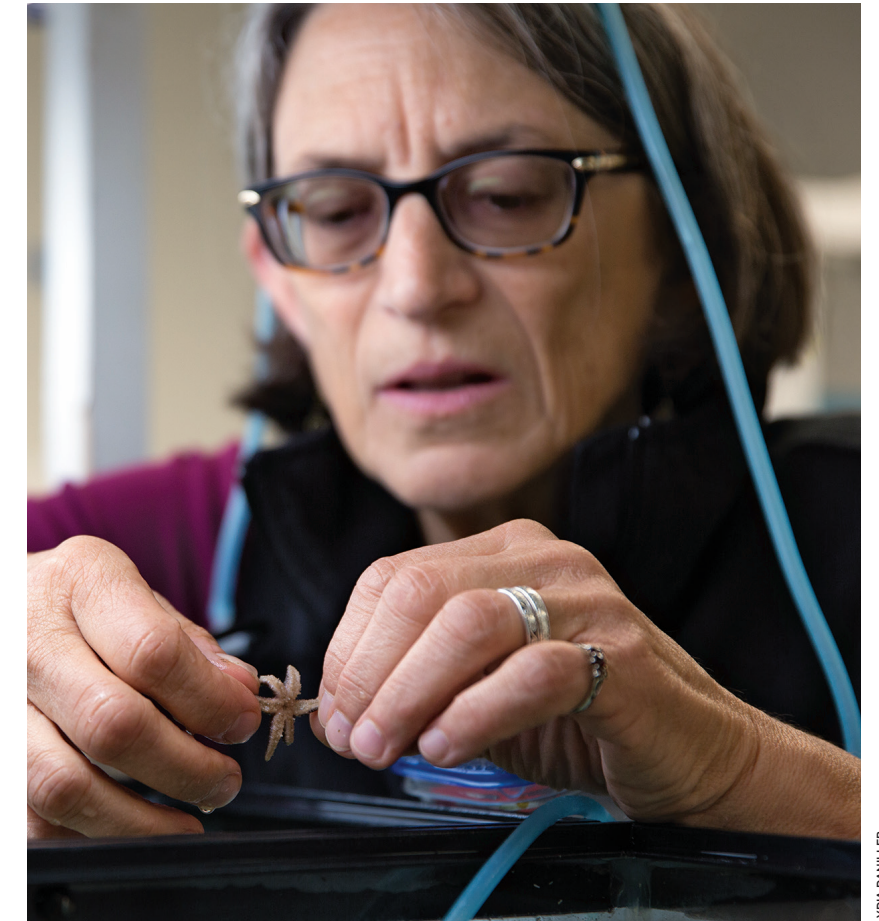
“Recently, all our populations associated with the local bay outflow disappeared over the space of about a year, first declining and then disappearing completely,” says Cohen. It’s not what they wanted to discover, but they have been able to genetically compare contemporary samples with historic ones from the California Academy of Sciences and other collections.

“We found that the genetic composition of these sea stars along our Pacific coast has changed dramatically over the past 100 years,” she says. Her guess is that a feature of species that do keep their brood nearby is that there may be frequent local extinctions, and that recolonization may take a long time.

Often at the end of a day of faculty meetings and writing, Cohen strolls down to the bay to check on experiments in the water.

“I get to laugh a lot with students in our open-ended discussions,” she says. “It’s a highlight of being a professor and researcher who teaches the practice of research to new students.”

The tide laps, the papers are graded, the students’ projects are moving forward. And somewhere, a sea star devours its evening meal by pushing its stomach out of its body and into the bivalve. Evolution advances. 🌊



LYDIA DANILLER



MARGARET JOHNSON

➤ Top: Cohen examines a *Leptasterias* sea star in her lab. Bottom: Green anemones and a *Pisaster*, a genus of Pacific sea stars.

# FULL S T E E A M AHEAD

At the intersection of the arts and sciences, businesses thrive

by Elizabeth Slocum



► "Swarthmore made me appreciate diversity a lot more than I did before college," says Disha Katharani '06. "Even though in my daily life I may not be encountering ethnically diverse people the way I did at Swarthmore, it's easier for me to understand that diversity can exist in people's perspectives, or in people's style of communication—and how diversity can be something that you benefit from, rather than being an inhibitor or a challenge."

# C

## AN YOU HELP ME?"

The young kids at a Mumbai activity center were thoughtfully engaged in a paper art project. One

by one, they carefully rolled slender strips into colorful spirals for use in larger tactile creations. But the children were growing frustrated and losing interest fast, calling on assistants for the cumbersome coiling work.

So Disha Katharani '06 found a solution, a new spin on a centuries-old art form.

"We developed a motorized tool for paper quilling," says the co-founder of the learning-focused Imagimake Toys. "Once you insert the paper and press a button, the coil is automatically formed. It's really exciting and fantastic, because it allows the child to focus on the forms and shapes that they want to create—not the tedious task of rolling paper. The possibilities are endless."

The cornerstone of Imagimake's Spyrosity kit, the quilling tool is a recent winner of the Parents' Choice Foundation's Fun Stuff award. But it's also an example of the interdisciplinary nature of many Swarthmorean startups—fueled by the "STEAM" subjects of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics.

"When I think about teaching engineering in a liberal arts context, one of the best ways that we set our students up for success is by helping them learn how to see the deep connections between seemingly unrelated areas of inquiry," says Matt Zucker, associate professor and chair

of engineering. "Engineering also exposes students to all kinds of technical problems, so they'll have confidence and adaptability no matter what project they decide to tackle."

Businesses develop for all sorts of reasons: To fix a problem. To fulfill a need. To do something better, more efficiently, more effectively, more creatively.

Or sometimes—as in these STEAM-powered endeavors—to do all of the above.

## IN PURSUIT OF THE PERFECT CUP

The conversation started—as so many great ones do—over a cup of coffee.

Only *this* talk included one of the top specialty roasters in what's arguably the coffee capital of the world.

Was it possible, Luis Fernando Vélez asked Eduardo Umaña '15, to brew a sweeter, less bitter cup? The coffee connoisseur had been using the reverse French press method at his Amor Perfecto cafés in Colombia, but the process was tough to replicate outside a shop. Umaña—an engineer, Bogotá native, and fellow coffee lover—was eager to find an answer.

"I started exploring ways to brew coffee using negative pressure," says Umaña, forcefully pulling water through the grounds to extract more of the coffee's flavor. "Vacuum brewing was largely unexplored, and there weren't any machines that could conveniently apply the brewing method for making coffee at home."

Enter the FrankOne, the first electronic vacuum-extraction coffee brewer on the market (and, amazingly, the first coffee brewer from Colombia, period), created by the Miami-based Umaña under Vélez's mentorship after two years of trial and error. Named for coffee-export pioneer and former president Francisco de Paula Santander—"he's a national hero in Colombia, our George Washington," Umaña notes—the FrankOne draws the coffee away from its bubbly, bitter crema, producing a cleaner, sweeter serving in about 30 seconds. The result meets the Specialty Coffee Association's Golden Cup Standard: the "perfect" cup of coffee.

That fact alone has been enough to generate buzz among coffee enthusiasts and techies. Nearly 1,800 backers pledged more than \$166,000 toward FrankOne's successful Kickstarter campaign, and *Gear Patrol* declared it "the most interesting new coffee maker in a very long time."

Umaña has a knack for marrying form and function while reimagining objects used every day. As an engineering student and SwatTank participant at Swarthmore, he designed and manufactured a ceramic-and-leather watch, still available for purchase through his website <http://classic.engineering>. (The minimalist timepiece makes a cameo in FrankOne's Kickstarter videos.) For his senior project, under guidance from Engineering Professor Carr Everbach, Umaña created an artful Möbius strip-inspired lamp that can be



FRANK DE PAULA

► "At Swarthmore, I learned to learn," says Eduardo Umaña '15. "That is exactly what I need to be very good at to meet the responsibilities I have on a day to day."

turned on and off with a short, sustained whistle.

The FrankOne, though, is his biggest project to date, with shipping expected to start this April. But it hasn't been without snags: In early January, when manufacturing was about to begin, the motor in a 5-month-old prototype short-circuited and died—a scary case of early life failure.

After an emergency meeting, a design tweak, and weeks of continuous testing, production resumed. To Umaña, the near-catastrophe was a blessing in disguise.

"Had we not discovered this, we would have found out in a potentially unpleasant way," he wrote to backers in an update on his Kickstarter page. "Imagine having thousands of machines all over the world that unexpectedly start to fail."

It's one of the downsides of a startup—having to navigate uncharted waters. But Umaña is undeterred.

"I have too many ideas in my mind that I want to hold in my hand," he says. "I think I will be creating objects the rest of my life. Being an entrepreneur makes that possible—it is the only path that gives me the freedom to create."

## DANCE YOUR HEART OUT

Sarah Gladwin Camp '05 is never quite sure what she'll

"When I think about teaching engineering in a liberal arts context, one of the best ways that we set our students up for success is by **HELPING THEM LEARN HOW TO SEE THE DEEP CONNECTIONS BETWEEN SEEMINGLY UNRELATED AREAS OF INQUIRY.**"

—MATT ZUCKER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF ENGINEERING

encounter on any given workday: a budget concern, a sick employee, a mysterious monster hidden somewhere inside her studio.

“OK, team,” she whispers to her pint-size crew. “You have to be very quiet. I’ve been looking around for footprints and trying to figure out where he is. Want to help find him?”

The youngsters gleefully join her on the enchanted journey, crawling through cavernous tunnels, feeling drops of rain upon their arms, and twirling around like tiny tornadoes. In time, the secret search party transforms into a delightful dance party, with a stop for story time in between.

For Camp, the founder of the creative-movement class ZoomDance, every day is an adventure, brought to life by her students’ imaginations.

“In my past as a nanny, I’d seen plenty of kids’ dance classes that were slow and not that fun, working hard on things that didn’t seem that engaging for the kids,” says Camp. “So I devised a class that was really active and adventurous, where we’d read stories and act them out, and work on qualities and dynamics—being playful and courageous, in addition to learning dance moves.”

What started in 2008 as a single class for South Philadelphia preschoolers, advertised through flyers passed out in parks, has grown into a full-fledged business. Today, ZoomDance has three additional teachers, more than a dozen weekly class sessions, party-hosting services, and a summer day camp. The key, says Camp, has been adapting to the needs of families.

Including her own: Since daughter Sydney came along three years ago—born to Camp and husband Ben ’05—Camp has tweaked her teachings and modified her workload, hoping to strike the right work-life balance.

An athlete growing up, Camp “accidentally got interested in dance” in college. She entered Swarthmore intending to be a physics major, loading up on math and science classes her first semester. For her PE requirement, though, her options were limited, so she decided to give Modern 1 a whirl.

“I totally loved it,” says Camp, who made dance her major and later earned a master’s in contemporary dance. “By the second semester of my freshman year, I was doing six hours



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► “As an entrepreneur, I’ve got a huge amount of dedication and drive and *pride* in what I’m doing because I’m building it from scratch,” says Sarah Gladwin Camp ’05. “It’s like renovating a house by yourself: You think, ‘I touched this. This is *me*.’”

“Swarthmore gave me the confidence of being able to do a lot of things. **TODAY, WHEN I ENCOUNTER A CHALLENGE, I ALWAYS KNOW THAT I HAVE THE MINDSET TO THINK CREATIVELY ABOUT WHAT THE SOLUTION CAN BE.**”

—DISHA KATHARANI ’06

of dance a day, helping start a performance team, and looking at studying dance abroad. I kind of just dove head-first into it.”

What appealed most about dance was how it enabled her to interact through motion, to be funny, awkward, or unusual in the physical. It’s the perfect mode of expression for children, Camp says—using their bodies and minds creatively to bring out their personalities.

“Art is so important for everybody, but especially young kids, because it alters how they see and relate to the world, and how they interact and collaborate with other people,” she says. “The way that our culture works right now, that’s pretty essential.”

That’s the big takeaway from her ZoomDance classes, and a large reason why her repertoire has resonated with local families.

“I’ve realized that I’m not actually trying to teach the kids

dance at all,” says Camp. “What I’m really teaching is how to work together and take care of each other and share space and take turns and behave in different situations.

“Dance is just the medium I’m using.”

#### IMAGINE IT, MAKE IT

Disha Katharani ’06 didn’t set out to create a toy company, but her customers insisted. That’s what it felt like, anyway.

After Swarthmore, the math and engineering major returned to her native India as an Ernst & Young consultant. An MBA led to her first entrepreneurial journey, By the Buy, offering buying and marketing support to retailers.

“We did a lot of work for children’s bookstores and playgroups,” Katharani says, “so many of our services were centered around kids as our target market.”

That included workshops and programs in the children’s “edutainment” space—with a strong educational, skill-building, or craft-based objective. Sensing her audience was much wider than she could reach through her clients, Katharani launched Imagimake, a Mumbai-based children’s activity center, co-founded with her husband, Ravi Kumar. As parents began requesting activity kits to bring home or give as gifts, a toy line was a natural next step.

“We were quite fortunate,” Katharani says, “that the market led us to where the next turn should go.”

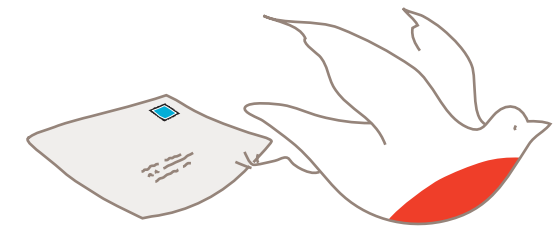
Imagimake has grown to more than 50 products, designed to inspire a child’s imagination. Besides the crafty Quill On line, the company has received critical praise for its Mapology puzzles: pieces cut into the shapes of states or countries, with separate flags identifying capitals and fun facts about each location.

Although the toys are available on Amazon, through Imagimake’s website, and in stores overseas, Katharani hopes to further expand their reach in the U.S. and globally. One way is through exhibitions. Her crew travels annually to Germany’s Spielwarenmesse, the largest toy fair in the world, and has exhibited stateside the past two Februaries at Toy Fair New York. Katharani foresees a European expansion in 2019, with orders already being filled in Greece, Hungary, and Belgium.

As the business grows, through successes and setbacks, Katharani stays grounded in her STEAM foundation formed at Swarthmore—in the engineering logic that drives her product development; the math that touches every business function, from accounting to finance to inventory; and the creativity gained from studying across the liberal arts.

“Swarthmore gave me the confidence of being able to do a lot of things,” she says. “Today, when I encounter a challenge, I always know that I have the mindset to think creatively about what the solution can be.

“Spending four years at Swarthmore set me up for life.”



# LINKED BY LETTERS

**Even as their post-College lives took different paths, seven friends stayed connected**

*by Barbara Lea Coupfos '49*

**S**TARTING shortly after our graduation on June 6, 1949, until March 2012, six of my Swarthmore friends and I maintained a lifelong commitment to one another via an ongoing group letter called the Round Robin.

On campus, we were known as the Holy Seven—or sometimes as the *Unholy Seven*—and ever after we depended on our Round Robin to keep us heart-connected. Every two or three months, each of us would be thrilled to receive in the mail a pleasantly fat envelope, from which we'd eagerly take out and read the six individual letters written by our fellow chums, swap out our old letter for a new one, and then mail a new fat envelope, sending our trusty bird along on its next flight.

I remember these letters being chock-full of our triumphs and heartaches, family upheavals, world travels, and daily minutia, and I consider the "Sevensers" each to be a treasured, integral part of my life. Today, only two of us remain, but our memories—and letters—will last forever.

▶ Barbara "Bobbe" Lea Coupfos '49 holds a treasured moment in time: a photo with six of the "Holy Seven."





**SO WHO WERE THESE FABULOUS FRIENDS?**

**Mary Lee Schell Herndon '49**, an English literature major from Indianapolis who left Swarthmore at the end of our junior year to marry. (We flunked chemistry together—the first failure we ever experienced—before barely squeaking through the second time!) She later got her B.A., had three daughters and one son, and traveled extensively through five continents. Mary Lee died in 2013.

**Maralyn Orbison Gillespie '49**, from New Albany, Ind., majored in English literature. A gifted writer, she became the senior editor of the *Swarthmore College Bulletin* and ultimately the College's associate vice president. Always gracious, poised, and lovely, she also built a happy marriage, won many prizes for her gardening, and continues her intellectual pursuits and hobbies apace.

**Laura Reppert Unger '49**, from Glenside, Pa., majored in English literature and married Richard Unger '48; three of our Holy Seven were in their wedding party. The devoted

mother of four sons who heavily invested her creative energies in community service, Laura died in 2013.

**Lynne Davis Mifflin Schloesser '49, M'64**, a Spanish honors student from Drexel Hill, Pa., earned both her B.A. and a philosophy M.A. from Swarthmore. She was also crowned May Queen in 1949; were we ever proud of her! Not only was she a true beauty, but she was also extraordinarily bright with a compassionate, kind heart. The mother of five, she worked for a time as a vocational counselor in Swarthmore's Dean's Office before moving to France with her second husband. She died in 2011.

**Margaret "Peggy" Comfort Smith '49**, from Haverford, Pa., majored in psychology. She left Swarthmore early in our senior year to marry Malcolm Smith '48; they had two daughters and one son. She went on to complete her college education and to become first a teacher and then a docent at a living history museum, where she loved to spin yarn on a wheel, weave on a loom, and churn fresh milk from a cow into butter. Peg died in 2002.

► Photos from the Round Robin files: At left, Peggy Comfort Smith '49 and Lynne Davis Mifflin Schloesser '49, M'64, roommates for several years, circa fall 1947. Above, Maralyn Orbison Gillespie '49 in 1948.



**Susan "Susie" Reinoehl Flindell Miller '49** arrived from Havana, Cuba, where she had lived most of her life; she was deeply interested in the Spanish language. She left Swarthmore our junior year to get married, a union that proved to be short-lived; she married again in the early 1960s and moved to Virginia. Susie attended our 60th Reunion in 2009 and died in 2017.

And me, **Barbara Lea Coupfos '49**, known as Bobbe Lea. Mary Lee and I were roommates our freshman year, and I went on to work in the NYC book publishing field, rising from girl Friday to the foreign editor of Crown Publishers. My first boyfriend at Swarthmore, Paul Coupfos '49, became my second husband after he reappeared in my life in late 1967; we had a very good marriage until his death in 2013. Since April 2014, I've been happily ensconced in my older daughter's lovely New Milford, Conn., home, delighting in spending time with my three granddaughters and their families.

AS THE ONLY still-living members of our beloved College gang, Maralyn and I chat



► Barbara "Bobbe" Lea Coupfos '49 holds a 1949 *Halcyon* photo of Lynne Davis Mifflin Schloesser '49, M'64 (top left), who died in 2011. One of Coupfos's many scrapbook pages (above) features memories and mementos from Swarthmore in the late '40s, including a photo of Caroline Reynolds Hiester '50, who read textbooks aloud for fellow student Rocky Bonavita '49. "There's also a photo of Ed Dennison '49 and me on a date in Philadelphia, and a portrait of Mary Lee Schell Herndon '49, my roommate our freshman, sophomore, and junior years," says Coupfos (top right).



► Top: One of the few photos of all members of the Holy Seven, taken in March 1948, when Susan Reinoehl Flindell Miller '49, newly married, came on a short visit to see her best College chums. From left: Lynne Davis Mifflin Schloesser '49, M'64, Peggy Comfort Smith '49, Barbara Lea Couphos '49, Miller, Laura Reppert Unger '49, Maralyn Orbison Gillespie '49, and Mary Lee Schell Herndon '49. Bottom: At their 40th Reunion in June 1989: Gillespie, Peggy MacLaren Ulrich '49, Unger, Smith, and Couphos.

frequently on the phone. It's great fun to share chuckles and concerns, and even "see," in our minds' eyes, the smiles or sadness or wonderment of our very different lives in our elderly bodies.

The last flight of our treasured Round Robin ended in 2012. I had kept all the old letters that I had written, and one day, several months ago, I sat down and reread them. What a vivid review of my own 91-plus years, but also a heightened awareness of the challenges bravely navigated by my dear old classmates.

The underlying theme I rediscovered was the immense life-enriching importance provided by our deeply experienced connection. As students at Swarthmore, we lived together, laughed and cried, encouraged and listened, argued with and applauded one another. We celebrated our achievements and commiserated our setbacks and loved one another like sisters.

Never after April 1948 were all seven of us together in one group, but it meant everything to know that we were only ever as far away as a letter in the mail.

I am grateful for many things I gained at Swarthmore, but in some ways these friendships were the best, bringing such color and depth and connection to my life that I am stunned by my good fortune,

To be part of such a special group of strong, bright, loving women who each, in her own unique way, made a positive difference in her own life and in our wider world. Wow. 📧



## SCRIBES AND SCROLLS

There is an entire aviary of Swarthmorean Round Robins—Joyce Favorite Akerboom '49 wrote in to tell of a vivid memory of one she shared with a group that included her "puckish pal," the late Helen Blankenagel Miller '48. "One gal mentioned something about a 'scroll' in her letter. That was all Helen needed," Akerboom remembered. "She typed her next contribution on toilet paper! We all had a good laugh when the Round Robin came our way."

## A TREASURY OF ALUMNI-RELATED ITEMS

# class notes

### ALUMNI EVENTS

#### LGBTQ+ ALUMNX COMMUNITY DAY

April 28

No matter where you are in the world, you can connect with fellow LGBTQ+ alumx in our first worldwide gathering. Find an event near you, or learn more about a digital meetup. [bit.ly/swarthmoreLGBTQ](http://bit.ly/swarthmoreLGBTQ)

#### ALUMNI WEEKEND

May 31–June 2

Join classmates and friends on campus for the Parade of Classes, Alumni Collection, and so much more! Registration is now open.

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

#### ALUMNI COLLEGE ABROAD

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

“Flavors of Catalonia”:  
Join Professor of Modern Languages & Literatures María-Luisa Guardiola on Spain’s colorful coast:  
Sept. 28–Oct. 6

#### GARNET HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND

Oct. 4–6

Save the date for this annual celebration of what makes Swarthmore special. [swarthmore.edu/garnetweekend](http://swarthmore.edu/garnetweekend)



DAVID SINCLAIR

The Garnet had plenty to celebrate in February as two teams clinched Centennial Conference titles. The men’s swimming team (above) won their second championship in three years, while men’s basketball dominated en route to the NCAA Division III Tournament. More: [swarthmore.edu](http://swarthmore.edu)

## 1944

**Esther Ridpath Delaplaine**  
[edelaplaine@verizon.net](mailto:edelaplaine@verizon.net)

**Frances “Wally” Wallin Shaw** died Dec. 22. **Wally** was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., moved to Pennsylvania, and attended George School before majoring in psychology at Swarthmore. She married **Robert Shaw** ’41 in 1943. After **Bob** finished law school, they moved to Granville, Mich., and raised four children. She was a social worker in a local Head

Start program and volunteered in environmental organizations before she and **Bob** retired to Florida.

After **Bob**’s death, **Wally** returned to Granville, where she was surrounded by family and wilderness neighbors. A memorial service will be held this spring.

On a personal note, I am a proud great-grandmother of Maya Miller Delaplaine, born Dec. 21 in Berkeley, Calif.

**Nancy Grace Roman** ’46 was my neighbor for many years. Her death on Dec. 25 was noted across the country because of her many contributions to astronomy and spurring women to enter scientific fields. After Swarthmore, she received an astronomy Ph.D.

from the University of Chicago. Against all odds, she climbed to the top of her profession, serving as chief astronomer at NASA from its inception until her retirement. She is known as the Mother of the Hubble telescope, having lobbied Congress for early funding. It is said that more than anyone she persuaded the astronomical community to support space astronomy.

We became reacquainted when I moved into her condo building. She urged me to join her Spanish class that met at her Unitarian church and, more recently, to meet monthly with a group of her Unitarian friends. Her many accomplishments were celebrated Jan. 15 at her church.

## 1949

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

Our sympathy to the family of **William Schweikle**, who died in October 2017 in Florida. He had been a NASA engineer. His hobbies were gardening and farming, but most of all he loved spending time with his wife, four children, and many grandchildren.

**Dorothy McCloskey Martin** died Aug. 1. Our sympathy to her family. Condolences also to the family of **Margaret "Meg" Thomson Colgan**, who died in April 2018. During college, we knew **Meg** wanted to be a doctor, and she became an outstanding one. She completed medical studies at the University of Rochester, where she met husband Frank. She interned in pediatrics in St. Louis, followed by a pediatric cardiology residency and fellowship in Houston. She, Frank, and their family returned to Rochester, where **Meg** held important pediatric and teaching posts in several hospitals over the next four decades. In 1992, she was awarded the university's Gold Medal Award honoring her "integrity, inspiring teaching, and devotion to medical students."

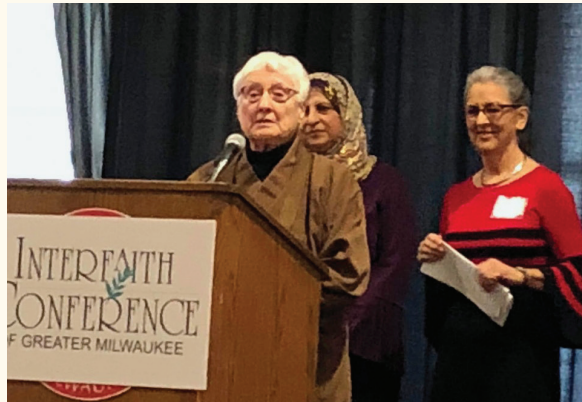
Even as her career grew, her main focus was her family. For her five children, she found time to be a Cub Scout den mother and a Girl Scout troop leader. She loved to cycle, ski, and travel. In later life, she volunteered at pediatric clinics and delved into art history studies enough to become a docent. **Meg's** obituary caught what we remember of her—"she exuded confidence, had an infectious laugh, and a generous spirit."

THE BCC  
IS TURNING 50!

What does the  
Black Cultural Center  
mean to you?

bulletin@swarthmore.edu

## GARNET SNAPSHOT



The Rev. **Tonen Andrews O'Connor** '54, resident priest emerita at the Milwaukee Zen Center, received the Frank Zeidler Award in December from the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee.

## 1952

**Barbara Wolff Searle**  
bsearle70@msn.com

Very short column this quarter. I so wish that I was hearing from more of you!

I received a lovely update from **Joan Berkowitz**, who was "surprised and delighted to receive an Academic Star Award this semester. My department chair's nomination reads in part, 'I so appreciate **Joan's** attention to her students. Her students appreciated her excellent presence in the classroom and recognized that **Joan** was in the business of teaching to teach, and to do that well.'" **Joan** is a University of Maryland University College professor.

All that's left is to tell you about myself. My grandson **Powell Sheagren** '22 finished his first semester at Swarthmore. He is adjusting well to the East Coast (although we had to buy him lots of winter clothes), and came home with lots of stories. Grandson Calder at the University of Chicago is deep into quantum mechanics

and other such topics. As for me, I'm getting along, wishing we had more of the sunshine Southern California is famous for.

## 1954

**Elizabeth Dun Colten**  
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Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458  
lizcolten@aol.com

Happy New Year 2019! What were you doing 65 years ago? Studying for comps? Worrying about orals? It was a *long* time ago!

**Fredericka Nolde Berger** finds satisfaction teaching Choral Speaking the Scripture in Wesley Theological Seminary's doctor of ministry program. The Bergers look forward to granddaughter Astrid's high school graduation in May.

Travel is still on **Beth Wood Bowers's** agenda: Florida, California, and Hawaii. Three grandsons are in college, and the fourth is a high school sophomore. A Christmas family gathering was scheduled in the Florida Keys.

**Larry Franck** enjoys his snow bird schedule: Florida from Nov. 1 to Easter, but visiting Maryland

and Pennsylvania for Christmas week. His sailboat, *Whisper*, has participated since 1992 in the seasonal parade of lighted boats motoring around the mangoes at the edge of Punta Gorda.

The Franklin Institute announced its 2019 award recipients, and Princeton Professor Emeritus **John Hopfield** was among them. **John** was honored "for applying concepts of theoretic physics to provide new insights in a variety of areas, including neuroscience and genetics, with significant impact on machine learning." Since retiring 10 years ago, **John** no longer teaches undergrads, but he helps young researchers find their areas of study. He noted that the author of a "scary" article (his adjective), bit.ly/AlphaZeroNYT—recommended for anyone with an interest in the future of AI and its interaction with human intelligence—once had a class with him.

A 2018 highlight for **Tonen Andrews O'Connor** was the award she received from the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee "for exceptional service to society through longtime direct work with those incarcerated within the state prison system ... and advancement of interreligious knowledge, tolerance, and friendship through extensive public speaking." **Tonen** will spend 10 days in Japan in May to practice with old friends at a little temple near Kyoto, but also travels in the U.S. to stay connected with her sons and families. She finds it hard to believe that her oldest *great-granddaughter* is now in college!

**Ann Reeves Reed** has three grandchildren in college, with two more scheduled to attend next year. She and Charlie enjoy the easier living in their new (smaller) house. "Still chugging along," says **Naomi Lichtman Rose**. She recently visited her Boston great-grandchildren, anticipated a granddaughter's upcoming wedding in Austin, Texas, and planned a trip to Martinique at the end of January. Tennis, however, not so good!

**Sally Richards Nicolai** died Oct. 26. Although her health had declined, she will be remembered for her vibrant lifestyle and spirited energy. An avid animal lover, she

was a lifetime member of Florida's Naples Zoo. Her former husband, **Karl** '53, died in 2009, but she is survived by four children and her longtime companion, John Keene. **Marlee Turner** died Nov. 28. **Marlee** started a teaching career, co-founded a public relations firm, and later became an owner of Northern Pines health resort and B&B in Raymond, Maine. Raised in the Quaker tradition, she was active in the League of Women Voters and ran (unsuccessfully) for state rep. Survived by three sons and three grandchildren, she will be missed by many lifelong friends.

## 1955

**Sally Schneckenburger Rumbaugh**  
srumbaugh@san.rr.com

**Gloria Chomiak Atamanenko** died in 2017. We send our sincere condolences to her family.

Anne and **Ron Decker** took a lovely voyage on the *Queen Mary 2* from New York to England. This was **Ron's** second voyage to England on the Cunard Line, the first being in 1953 when he went to Keele University for his junior year. Also on that journey was **Don Sutherland** '53, now deceased, on his way to Oxford with a Rhodes Scholarship. Then, **Paul Marcus** came to the dock to see **Ron** and **Don** off. **Ron** and Anne plan more cruises because **Ron's** walking problems make land tours difficult. They live in a Chicago apartment but are considering moving to the D.C. area to be near family. **Ron** still takes beautiful photographs.

Having survived an auto crash after a truck ran a red light, **Punky** and **Anne Chandler Fristrom** '54 continue their activities at their retirement home, **Anne** arranging a musical program on Mondays, and **Punky**—who received an award for having attended 47 consecutive California Association of Teachers of English conventions—teaching a poetry class monthly.

**John** '53 and **Joyce Bok Ambruster** moved from Tucson to

Flagstaff, Ariz., to be near family, including four great-grandchildren. **Joyce** says the move has "added a new dimension to our lives." They are in an assisted living facility called The Peaks, in a lovely apartment surrounded by tall pines and mountain views. "Health holding up, but we do move more slowly. Maybe it's the altitude of 7,000 feet ... or could it be age?"

**Hank Bode's** travels are now "U.S. domestic. We plan to continue our annual migration to Cape Cod in June. (More specifically, Mashpee, Mass.)"

**George Hartzell** retired from surgery in 2001, had an eight-year stint as a substitute teacher, then retrained and has done primary care a few days a week since 2010. He and his wife still live in their home near Allentown, Pa.

**Felix Carrady** and his wife took a month's trip to China in September, first to places new to him, then to his old hometown, Shanghai, which had changed so much that he could not find his old house or the prison camp. They planned to catch a ship in Singapore this March and travel to Southampton, England, on a 37-day journey with stops in Colombo, Sri Lanka; Salalah, Oman; Aqaba, Jordan; the Suez Canal; and then many European locales, including Italy.

**Tom Preston** and his wife moved into a retirement home, "which will take care of us, whatever, whenever."

**Carol Elkins** still has "a super time writing plays." Three were produced at the Tucson (Ariz.) Fringe Festival. **Richard Burtis** and his wife have lived and worked for more than 50 years in Brattleboro, Vt., "a lovely, interesting part of New England [where] two rivers converge." He retired from internal medicine in 2015 and also worked for World Learning and School for International Training, helping to ensure international students had the appropriate immunizations and access to local medical care.

**Bill** and **Phyllis Klock Dominick** '57 continue their traditional,

joyous family reunions.

In 2014, **Paul Berry** and his wife sold their Palo Alto, Calif., home and moved to a co-housing community near Mountain View. They have many children and grandchildren: "One does math for Lyft, one for Google, one is a poet and social worker, one campaigns for recycling, and the granddaughter who graduated from college in Tokyo is studying to be a chef in Ireland."

Besides working around the house because of his wife's health problems, **Bill Shepard** managed some academic work, including an article about the story of the blind men and the elephant, and stayed in touch with local Muslims.

Finally, a happy note, from **Larry Handley**: "My life has suddenly taken a turn for the better! When my wife, Jebba, died in April 2015, I resigned myself to a solitary existence." Then came a condolence letter from the woman he had dated freshman year, until the distance between Swarthmore and her Cornell strangled the romance. After that letter, they were pen pals until her husband died, then met and quickly became the "very happy couple" who have been together for three years.

Because my energy is waning, I have decided this will be my last column. It has been a privilege and delight to interact with the many generous people who took the trouble to write over the years. I am grateful to the editors who have supported me and to all of you who have given me this opportunity. It's time for someone else to have the fun.

## 1956

**Caro Luhrs**  
celuhrs@verizon.net

A nice e-letter from **Phil Hawes** brings us up to date on his

fascinating adventures. **Phil** left us after two years and became an architect. He was part of the core team that designed, engineered, and built Biosphere 2.

A year ago, **Phil** taught a three-month undergraduate "immersion" Eco Village Design-Build course at the Maharishi University of Management in Fairfield, Iowa. Students were required to produce an urban design module for 75–100 people that could be repeated in multiple variations and culminate in an economically and ecologically sustainable community of 5,000 inhabitants (i.e. an eco-village).

**Phil** now lives in Nara Visa, N.M., "a defunct town of 65 people" adjacent to the Llano Estacado or "Staked Plains" of Texas, named by Coronado around 1540. **Phil's** mother homesteaded there 110 years ago. Twenty-five of the 65 residents are over 75, so "grave-digging is the only growth industry." It reminds **Phil** of his ranching experience in the remote Kimberley area of the Australian Outback. That's another fantastic story! **Phil** welcomes phone calls (806-410-9393) and visits from old friends.

Artist **Mary Lou Jones Toal's** holiday cards are always so beautiful. This year, her painting was of brightly colored little houses in Shaftesbury, England. **France Jularid Pruitt** had a wonderful time last fall in Huron, S.D., where she lectured on her book *Resilience and Compassion: Surviving the Holocaust*. She spoke to 300 adults and 1,800 students from seven school districts.

**Sally Pattullo McGarry** visited Iceland last year with stops in the Faroe and Shetland islands, Edinburgh, and London. **Gretchen Mann Handwerker**, **Audrey Penn**, **France Jularid Pruitt**, and I met up with her for a little reunion when she came through D.C. last fall.

**Bob Wallace** enjoyed interviewing two Swarthmore graduate physicians for a gynecologic fellowship at NYU, where he is professor of gynecologic oncology. **Patti** and **David Steinmuller** took two big trips from their home in Bozeman, Mont., last year. The first was Overseas Adventure Travel's "Back Roads of Iberia" tour from Lisbon to Madrid. The second was

Several Garnet Sage classes are in need of secretaries.  
Interested? Email [classnotes@swarthmore.edu](mailto:classnotes@swarthmore.edu).

a 64-passenger “UnCruise” from Sitka to Juneau, Alaska, via the Inside Passage. Each day they stopped for kayaking and skiff trips in the surrounding waters.

Sadly, **James Anderson**, a Swarthmore resident, died Jan. 6. In several ways, **Jim** was the most unique member of our class: He was our oldest classmate by 10 years or more; he fought in World War II and Korea; and he was our only classmate with a spouse and children—we were still children ourselves! Please see “Their Light Lives On” to remember **Jim** and other departed friends and the happy times we had with them.

## 1958

**Vera Lundy Jones**  
549 East Ave.  
Bay Head, NJ 08742  
verajonesbayhead@comcast.net

In February, my two daughters and I will have visited friends in Arizona, where they have moved from Princeton, N.J., as we did years ago. I wish they didn't live so far away so we could get together more often, but it's great fun to see them—well worth the trip.

Please send me news about you. Your classmates enjoy hearing your news and keeping in touch.

## 1959

**Miriam Repp Staloff**  
staloff@verizon.net

**Edward Keenan** wrote a delightful note: “Although retired, I'm considering getting a job so I'd work less. This year I wrote a book, *Eliminating the Universe: Logical Properties of Natural Language*, gave a month of lectures at Paris Diderot University, and then, with my wife, went to Antananarivo, Madagascar, and gave a paper

at the International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics. Exhausting but fun.

“More exciting, however, was reading *The Heart Healers* by **James Forrester**, easily the most gripping book I've read in 20 years. **Jim** was director of cardiology at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, a program consistently rated Best in the West by *U.S. News & World Report*. **Jim** himself was a major player in the development of heart disease treatment and the second-ever recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American College of Cardiology. **Jim** and I roomed together his first year of medical school in Philadelphia, and as someone who has lived off his pacemaker for 15 years, I find it ironically touching to be personally indebted to the historical development that **Jim** was among the leaders in. Who would have guessed back then (when ‘pacers’ didn't even exist)?”

**Susan Barker Gutterman** made a very good point: After being widowed four years ago, she became aware of the importance of contact with her Swarthmore classmates. She, in turn, maintains a relationship with a classmate who is very ill, and she takes pleasure in providing relief to another. “Recently, I saw this sort of idea referred to as ‘social infrastructure,’ an interesting term for it.”

## 1960

**Jeanette Strasser Pfaff**  
jfolk2@mac.com

**Peter Faber** “finally decided to retire. The last month has been something of an emotional thing. I spoke at several tax conferences, and they have been honoring me and making a big deal out of my career. Some of the testimonials were a bit over the top, but over the years people have said enough bad things about me that I do not deserve, to balance these nice things that I do not deserve. One

comment was that, like the old EF Hutton ads, ‘when **Peter** speaks, people listen.’ When this was read at the party, wife **Joan [Schuster Faber]** could not resist saying, ‘Not everyone listens.’”

**Michael Westgate** '61 writes: “The South Harwich Meetinghouse on Cape Cod, dating to 1836, has been beautifully restored at the hands of **Sara Bolyard Chase**. ‘It wouldn't have happened without **Sara**,’ says the meetinghouse board president.” **Sara**'s analytical work on the historic paints and finishes of the church was made “actual” by architectural details made by daughter **Lee Noel Chase** '90.

About three years ago, **Will Fairley** “went up to the College (that's what they call it here in Swarthmore, where I happily live) to hear Charles Murray, the author and social commentator. He spoke on his book *Coming Apart* at the Friends Meeting House. As he was about to be introduced, maybe half of the audience of mostly students stood up and began chanting loudly; they continued for some 20 minutes. During this time, Murray stood at the podium. No one intervened. At the close of this demonstration, the standers filed out and Murray spoke. I have just finished the bestseller by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt, *The Coddling of the American Mind*, in which they discuss such speaker disruptions. The event seems a long way from 1960.”

**Joan Stadler Martin** “retired from creating the Adopt-A-Stream program at the Huron River Watershed Council in 2011. I had loved the work and the people, but wanted to quit while I was ahead. It was good timing because my husband developed a serious bone infection the next year that took six months to heal. Since then, I have developed several volunteer activities, mostly with the county courts, first as a mediator and subsequently assisting in the Circle process, which enables people to resolve a conflict while retaining a good relationship. The Circle is a safe place to speak authentically; the results are impressive. This is done in the Peacemaking Court, as part of the restorative justice efforts we have in Michigan.”

Here is an amusing exchange in response to one of our former “topics”:

**Linda Habas Mantel**: “I brought with me to Parrish 4th West a portable Victrola and records (which I still have, with my Swarthmore name label) and a clock radio (which I also still have). That's probably all the electronic gear I had. I don't remember thinking about TV very much. Of course, I had an immersion coil to make hot water for tea, so **Kay** and I could have our Constant Comment and Pecan Sandies in the evening.”

**Kay Senegas Gottesman**: “Although I certainly remember our evening ritual of tea and Sandies, I never thought about how you/ we heated the water. I don't know whether I had any ‘electronic gear,’ but if I did, I don't know how it got there. I did not have access to a car, so I guess I took all my clothes down with me on the train. Since **Mimi** was my roommate the last three years, maybe she knows whether whatever stuff we had was hers or mine.”

**Mimi Siegmeister Koren**: “**Kay** pays me a great compliment by thinking I remember what was mine and what was hers. I didn't respond to **Jeanette**'s original request because ‘electronic’ to me means computer-type stuff. We had ‘electric’ equipment: I brought a record player, probably a radio (though I don't remember listening to one). No one had her own phone; we relied on the dorm phone for rare incoming calls.”

**Elise Landau** just had her 80th birthday. “Whether it is an accomplishment or luck to have reached the four-score mark, for me it was special. In fact, I would say it was the high point of my life. That sounds odd, but it's not an exaggeration. Thanks to my sister and my son, who persuaded me to agree to a family get-together and a party, I can't remember another weekend that was so joyful. I could go on at length about all the reasons, but I'll just say that I feel grateful to have been able to celebrate with my family, neighbors, and friends, including three Swarthmore classmates. The glow will fade, but the memories

will last.”

Many of us turned 80 recently ... or are about to. Please send me your reactions to this milestone.

## 1961

**Pat Myers Westine**  
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This is being written in early January, so happy and healthy 2019 to all!

**Barbara Hall Partee** was awarded an honorary doctorate in 2018 by the University of Amsterdam (her sixth; the first was from Swarthmore in '89) and was elected a corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. She was awarded the British Academy's Neil and Saras Smith Medal for linguistics for her leading contributions to the study of semantics, syntax, and pragmatics; the award was given the same day as her fellowship induction. She gives Swarthmore full “gratitude for giving [her] the freedom and encouragement to explore subjects she loved most—math, philosophy, and Russian, among which she didn't see any connection at the time, but which turned out to be great preparation for a field that did not exist ... she was well-prepared to help get off the ground.”

This fall, **Claire Faust Stephens McMurray** was influential in getting National Space Society chapters from four continents to join an assembly call in India at a World Space Week event. It took all day due to the global time differences and was a first-of-its-kind event. Grandson Stephen graduates in May with a computer master's and a job in Austin, Texas; granddaughter Meg has one year left of high school.

*Holiday cards and letters*: **Louise Todd Taylor**'s family in North Carolina had some health issues but seemed to be improving by year's end. Emily and **Bob Rowley**'s card from Connecticut featured a photo with **Bob** surrounded by three generations of his girls,

including his first great-grandchild, Ruby Grace, born fittingly on Mother's Day. **Jean Geil**'s letter from her Hawaiian home spoke of disasters, including a false incoming-missile alert, volcanic eruptions, and a hurricane. Her older brother died in early 2018, and she is compiling reminiscences in a memorial booklet for his family.

**Marilyn Emerson Lanctot** has a new knee, finished a king-size quilt, went to six bluegrass festivals where her husband played, and watched her husband and son play and sing on a Delaware River cruise, raising money for the Solebury Township (Pa.) Historical Society. **Sheila Maginniss Bell** visited Portugal with Scott Arboretum, touring gardens in Lisbon, Sintra, and the Douro Valley, with stops at both a winery and a cork farm. She still works with Scott Arboretum, Art Goes to School, the Swarthmore Senior Citizens Association, the Aging in Place committee, and Heeding God's Call to End Violence; sings in two choirs; and is on church committees.

**Hugh Martin** and family sent a video for the holidays called “Going the Distance,” showing shots of vacations taken in the past 20 years and speaking of the family developing great relationships while being challenged by weather, temperature differences, climbing difficulties, and the realities of life. **Sandra Dixon** wrote of finding the perfect retirement job: working 1–2 days a week at a psychiatric urgent care clinic, free to all, seeing walk-ins and those brought by law enforcement. The goal is to connect the clients with longer-term care, as soon as possible. The clinic professionals set up counseling and addiction-treatment appointments, help with transportation, and even supply emergency food. **Sandy** spends time with granddaughter Scarlet, attended a summer music camp, and works with an emergency team encouraging neighbors to stock supplies in case of a disaster. Her yard is a Certified Backyard Habitat with no invasive plants and with native plants in 40 percent of the plantable area.

The weather and predators limited

some of **Pat Clark Kenschaft**'s garden's output last year. She and Fred visited her children in Virginia and Massachusetts during the year. **Pat** is co-chair of the Peace and Service Committee of her Quaker meeting and secretary of the Cornucopia Network of New Jersey.

**David Henderson** died Dec. 20 of injuries suffered when he was struck by a car in a pedestrian crosswalk in Bethany Beach, Del. With a Ph.D. in geometric topology from the University of Wisconsin, **Dave** spent two years at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., and retired as a mathematics professor after 46 years at Cornell. **Dave**'s first wife was **Beverly Burt West** of our class, with whom he had two children, **Keith Henderson** '84 and **Rebecca Henderson Wynne** '86. **Dave** wrote several books and was working on the fourth edition of *Experiencing Geometry on Plane and Sphere* with wife Daina Taimina, a retired adjunct math professor at Cornell. The class sends its sympathy to the Henderson family. Please share your memories of **David** with me to be included in the next column.

My thanks to all who stay in touch.

## 1962

**Evelyn Edson**  
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It was a pleasure to see that **David Gelber** '63 was awarded an honorary degree at the 2017 Commencement. **Dave** and I worked together on *The Phoenix* for several years. I have an especially vivid memory of a project we were doing, a study of the social and economic dynamics of Swarthmore Borough, and **Dave**, leaning forward to address a society lady we were interviewing. “What we want to know, ma'am,” quoth he, “is: Who is the power elite?” I'm sure his interviewing skills have become

more polished over the years. Congratulations, **Dave**!

The tireless **Maggy Reno Hurchalla** is in court, fighting the good fight against a “vengeful billionaire” in Martin County, Fla. Allied with her are an impressive collection of environmental and First Amendment groups. Read all about it, and consider making a donation, at slappmaggy.com.

**John Solodar** was honored with the St. Louis Audubon Society's Lifetime Achievement Award. **John** served for 15 years on the society's Board of Directors. Among his recent accomplishments was reorganizing the group's finances, pulling them out of a morass created by neglect after he left the board. He was also credited with leading and coordinating many birding field trips. In University City, Mo., he joined the Green Practices Commission, of which he is now chair. Its job is to vet ideas for environmental sustainability before presenting them to the city government. “Somewhere,” says **John**, “I seem to have developed the skill of knowing how to run meetings and making sure that everyone has a say without allowing the meeting to drag on forever.”

**Judy Markham Hughes** retired from teaching in UC–San Diego's history department, as of spring 2016, but still runs a small psychoanalytic practice. In her recently released ninth book, *Witnessing the Holocaust: Six Literary Testimonies*, **Judy** draws extensively on the works of Victor Klemperer, Ruth Kluger, Michal Glowinski, Primo Levi, Imre Kertesz, and Bela Zsolt. “The book conveys the specificity and concreteness of the persecution of the Jews from the beginning of the Third Reich until its very end. It thus secures a place for narratives by those who experienced the Holocaust in person.”

Faithful New York correspondent **Cynthia Norris Graae** recommends **Peter Biskind**'s new book, *The Sky is Falling: How Vampires, Zombies, Androids, and Superheroes Made America Great for Extremism*. **Cynthia** quotes from a blurb by **Victor Navasky** '54 that **Peter** has “made the persuasive and highly

readable case on why and how our 'extremist' popular culture has given us our most unrepresentational president ever." Adds **Cynthia**: "Peter is brilliant, and Swarthmore should invite him to speak."

*Accessing the Healing Power of the Vagus Nerve: Self-Help Exercises for Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, and Autism* by **Stanley Rosenberg** is now out from North Atlantic Books. **Stanley** still lives in Denmark, but moved from Silkeborg to Copenhagen to be closer to his son.

**Susan Goodman Jolles** keeps trying to retire as harpist for the Metropolitan Opera, but the Met persists in calling her back. I always look for her at the MetLive broadcasts in Charlottesville, Va. My husband, sister, nieces, and I are faithful attenders.

**Walter Carter** had a knee replacement, which seems to have been successful. For those who remember **Walter** and me sword-fighting with our canes at the 55th Reunion, you can hope that we will be cane-free at the next event.

If you have ever looked longingly at the Swarthmore-sponsored tours of exotic places, I have a report from **Caroline Hodges Persell**, who went on the Iceland trip in March 2018 with her sister Nancy. "It was fascinating, geologically and sociologically. We saw and did so much in the first two days that it felt like we had been there two weeks. The group was interesting and fun, the guides excellent, and we did get to see some Northern Lights."

At our age (here, I speak for myself), sometimes memories are more engaging than our current lives. I recalled recently taking a group of Chester kids trick-or-treating on Halloween 1960. We stopped at the Democratic Party headquarters where the kids gleefully collected "Kennedy for President" buttons. Then we stopped at a house where we were greeted at the door by a lady with "Nixon" spelled out in rhinestones on a brooch on her bosom. The kids were chanting "All the way with JFK." The lady smiled indulgently and said, "You can see who I am supporting," but gave them handfuls of candy anyway.

You will notice that this class column now appears at six-month intervals instead of four times a year. This schedule makes it a little easier to fill it up, but still I count on you for all the news. Write to me.

## 1963

**Diana Judd Stevens**  
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In her annual letter, **Alice Handsaker Kidder** reported **Dave '62** is on a team researching the history of First Church Cambridge, Mass., related to its complicity with slavery. He is also working on planning a public remembrance project to awaken folks to this history. **Alice** helps Clergy and Laity for Affordable Housing organize small-scale home repairs in urban Boston and is co-director of Solutions at Work. In May, **Bill Steelman** retired from active ministry. He writes a monthly email reflection on biblical and theological issues, reads extensively, and walks daily. Linda retired from the Nantucket Historical Association and is exploring volunteer opportunities.

In 2018, **Jeannette Jones Gallagher** expanded her piano repertoire, tended to Neil's care after his rotator cuff surgery, arranged canine playdates for Maribel, and, with Neil and Maribel, took a "Drive-Drive-Hug-Eat-Drive" vacation to visit family and friends in Pennsylvania. **Gidget** and **Ted Nyquist** moved to Cave Creek, Ariz., as they prefer Arizona's weather, taxes, and politics to suburban Chicago's. In 2018, they celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary with their five daughters and their spouses. **Ted** and **Gidget** sky- and scuba-dive. **Ted** continues to photograph and volunteers with Flights for Life, which means he picks up blood platelets in Phoenix and flies them to Arizona cities.

**Bob Putnam's** retirement last April featured a day of symposia and celebratory dinner. He is completing his "last, last" book.

In 2018, **Bob** and wife **Rosemary Werner Putnam '62** attended the Swarthmore graduation of grandson **Gabriel Perez-Putnam '18**. The **Putnams** also traveled to the Upper Amazon, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, China, Korea, and Japan. They have a home in Jaffrey, N.H., and downsized to a Cambridge, Mass., flat.

**Rad** and **Sandy Hutchison Smith** converted a room, once home to **Rad's** model trains, to a home gym so they can exercise regularly. The **Smiths** enjoy classical music through live concerts and **Rad's** extensive CD collection, and continue with Osher Lifelong Learning classes at the University of Michigan. After traveling to the Galapagos, **Sandy** said it would be great if the U.S. were half as tuned in to conservation as the islands.

**Nancy Hall Colburn Farrell** reports her multiple myeloma is stably suppressed. During the eight months she and Jack live in Boulder, Colo., they participate in a World Affairs discussion group. In both Fort Myers, Fla., and Boulder, they enjoy Silver Sneakers exercise classes. **Nancy** continues with piano and attended a piano camp in Estes Park, Colo. **Jane Jonas Srivastava's** 2018 travels included an Alaska cruise with her two grandsons and their parents; dance camp in Idaho; wilderness camping in British Columbia's Chilcotin area; and a three-week trip to Vienna, Krakow, Czech Republic, and Slovakia. In between travels, **Jane** dances, hikes, snowshoes, swims, does tai chi, and volunteers for the opera, the Rogue Folk Club, and other groups.

A late report on **Ellen Perchonock's** 75th birthday party, where people of all ages danced to her favorite '60s and '70s music. The dance floor was filled with everyone singing along to "Satisfaction" and "All You Need Is Love." The Dutch knew all the English words. **Dan Menaker** wracked his brain and provided the following news: Son Will is founding member of the cult-hit humor podcast *Chapo Trap House*; daughter Lizi is a therapist; wife Katherine is head of the New York chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America; and **Dan**

teaches with Billy Collins, Meg Wolitzer, and Matthew Klam in SUNY-Stony Brook's MFA program while dealing successfully with Mr. R. Thrytus. **Anne Howells** visited **Janet Oestreich Bernstein** in Eugene, Ore., and then drove up the foggy, rainy Oregon coast to Cannon Beach.

**Kelly Ann Lister** attended Garnet Weekend 2018 and talked with several parents, enjoyed the tailgate party and the Haverford/Swarthmore volleyball game, and met with the *Bulletin* staff. She generally agrees with what the Trump administration is doing, especially its pro-life agenda. **Kelly Ann** is concerned about its views concerning transgender persons, such as herself, and worries about their job security.

At her new home in Amherst, Mass., **Barbara Perkins Tinker** has Swarthmorean company from all stages of her life, including First Day school, second grade, and college. She enjoys visits from **Dorothy Earley Weitzman**, continues trio playing, and has a lively intellectual life.

**John Cratsley** wrote that since Holly retired from her architecture practice, they have had a travel explosion: Alaska with homestays sponsored by four Unitarian Universalist congregations; Laos and Vietnam where **John** taught mediation; and Road Scholar trips, the Duoro River in Portugal and Iceland. From Trinity, Fla., **Polly Glennan Watts** reported she has organized a singing group, joined a chorus that does concerts at nursing and skilled living facilities, visited St. Thomas, and enjoys seeing granddaughter Abby on her new horse.

Keep the news coming!

## 1964

**Diana Bailey Harris**  
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**John Warner Jr.** of Mullica Hill, N.J., died Feb. 10, 2018. The notice provided no information on his

recent activities.

**Peter Setlow** wrote in late June that he's "still doing research on bacterial spores, 50 years now this August. My wife, Barbara, retired from research with me but still comes in now and then." Their oldest grandchild is off to college this fall, although he decided Swarthmore was too small for him. **Peter** is happy there are still three grandchildren to go. Their son and daughter work at the University of Florida, but **Peter** and Barbara have no plans to leave Connecticut.

**Sallie Blocksom Johnson** wrote in July that she has moved to a senior residence, with "mixed feelings—no cooking, no driving, no mowing of the grass—yet I'm still close to my dear son, Dion, and his companion, Kristy, who just returned from Portugal." Sally's now "editing a long saga many years in the writing. It's set in California over 150 years ago, an interesting time before statehood and the Gold Rush. I've loved the research and am sad to finish it—in an odd way."

Reuters reported Aug. 9 that "a 2-1 decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Seattle overturned former EPA administrator Scott Pruitt's March 2017 denial of a petition by environmental groups to halt the use of chlorpyrifos on food crops such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Judge **Jed Rakoff**, writing for the appeals court, directed the EPA to ban chlorpyrifos within 60 days, saying the agency failed to counteract "scientific evidence that its residue on food causes neurodevelopmental damage to children."

**Bennett Lorber** was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Teacher Award by the Association of American Medical Colleges in November. The award provides national recognition for outstanding contributions to medical education made by gifted teachers.

**Sue Zinn Eisinger** "volunteered at the polls in November, a 17-hour day—not sure how many more of those I have in me."

**Michael Gross** reports that wife **Mary "Rickie" Snyder Gross's** "dementia symptoms, subtle at our 50th, are more obvious now, but she's still her same bright self and

willing to argue any point that does not require recent memory. And I, of course, am becoming more of a caregiver and learning the skills and attitude this requires. We have plenty of help at home and two days of senior day care. We have not moved and do not plan to. Our joys are our local environment, family, and friends."

**Mike Meeropol** attended the conference celebrating 50 years' existence of the Union for Radical Political Economics (URPE), at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. He enjoyed getting together with old friends, including **Heidi Hartmann '67**, **Frank Ackerman '67**, **Michael Reich '66**, **Gerald Epstein '73**, and **Patrick Bond '83**. **Mike's** article "How URPE helped this 'tenured radical' thrive in a non-radical economics department," which noted that "when you live long enough, people are surprisingly interested in what you did decades ago," was published in a special issue of the *Review of Radical Political Economics*. He hopes to make it to our 55th Reunion.

We learned in early December that Midwest Academy would be presenting its inaugural **Paul Booth** Labor Leadership Award at the 2018 Midwest Academy Awards in D.C. The honor went to the courageous, inspiring membership of the West Virginia Education Association and the AFT-West Virginia, for their leadership in sparking the "Red for Ed" Movement in their state and others.

**Neil Lee Kruger** broke her long silence to report that she and Chuck "are back in the States after 51 years. Hard to believe. Left to keep our tax money, what little there was of it, from going to support the Vietnam War." Now they find "the creative and political activity here at Kendal at Longwood breathtaking and contagious. Eight miles out in the ocean south of Ireland on an island with a population of 120—when all were at home—began to feel not where we wanted to/should spend our later years. It would be fun to visit Swarthmore while classmates are there."

Perfect timing—our upcoming 55th would be a great time to

get reacquainted. **Meg Hodgkin Lippert** and her committee—**Bernie Banet**, **Sue Zinn Eisinger**, **Ellen Faber Wright**, **Amy Stone**, **Lydia Razran Stone**, and I, **Diana Bailey Harris**—have crafted what we believe will be an engaging series of discussions for the event, May 31–June 2.

## 1965

**Kiki Skagen Munshi**  
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By the time you see this, the weather will be warmer, but as I write, it's winter. We had a couple of inches of snow (yes, snow) on New Year's Eve here in San Diego County. With the *whole world* coming up the next day to see the white stuff, traffic backed up 7 miles from the town stop sign. **Julie Bunce Elfving**, in Kansas, had snow earlier. "There was lots of wind creating blizzard conditions and even the symphony canceled—the first time I remember that ever happening."

Helping **Tom Wolf '68** with his new book, *The Nightingale's Sonata* (to appear in June), about his grandmother, the famous violinist Lea Luboshutz, **Peter Bloom** noticed that a portrait of Lea's brother Pierre Luboshutz was made by an artist named Yvonne Dogeureau Skagen. Knowing no other Skagens, he asked if I knew anything about that woman. I contacted cousin Olav in Oslo, the family genealogist, and my great-great-in-law turned out to have had artistic connections with the Luboshutz family in Paris.

**Dick** and **Gay Sise Grossman** "enjoy living close to our friends and neighbors and working outside on our beautiful land" at Heartwood Cohousing in Colorado. Major 2018 trips included driving to Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, and visiting NYC to sing at Carnegie Hall with the Durango Choral Society and other choruses. "On two longer trips, we spent a few days in London before Ruth and **Walt Pinkus** spent much

boarding a Viking cruise ship that took us up Scotland's coast, then over to the north tip of Norway and down the west coast." In Bergen, they visited with Norwegian friends they had met in 1963, and in Oslo stayed with a Servas host, the city's chief forester. The second major journey was to Africa to visit Cape Town and for **Gay** to attend the International Conference on Family Planning in Kigali, Rwanda.

**George Thoma** is retiring after 44 years at NIH. **David Pao** is "doing well in semi-retirement," working at a retirement community and at a Veterans Administration clinic in Horsham, Pa., and sometimes in Philly. **David's** "infrastructure needs a little tuning," as he recently got over a pinched nerve and is recuperating with his right knee. He still plays slow senior doubles tennis. **Vivian Ling**, in D.C., is being a "passionate grandmother," helping to raise another generation. Read her Q&A in the winter *Bulletin*: [bit.ly/VivianLing](http://bit.ly/VivianLing).

**Ann Erickson** sings in her tiny Episcopal mission in California, St. Andrews in the Redwoods, with two other people and a faithful guitarist, and has experimented with music in the Creative Writing Lab to see how CD playing affected writing. "We ended up both crying and laughing (especially laughing!)." **John** and **Judy Johnson Thoms** "have joined the Unforgettables Chorus, for people with dementia and their caregivers. It's fabulous." Their first concert was at St. Peter's Church in NYC's Citicorp building.

**Peter Meyer**, one of my best correspondents (hint ...), writes: "I am still buried in the mass of art, objects, designs, sketches, books, and swatches of cloth my parents accumulated over 63 years' residence in their place in Manhattan. ... Remarkable how many things people valued in the past that have no value today." Selling the apartment has allowed **Peter** "to bid on a smaller, less costly, and more convenient one ... so we'll have a two-bed, two-bath pied-à-terre in 'Midtown East' to complement our home in New Hope, Pa. (Visitors welcome in both.)"

Ruth and **Walt Pinkus** spent much

of the year traveling, with some plans affected by the terrible fires in Northern California. After a year full of travel, Meg and **Earl Tarble** are settling into life in New Mexico, enjoying several trips and shows with the Albuquerque Newcomers Club. "**Earl** is still active as assistant treasurer of St. Chad's Episcopal, and Meg is involved in the Order of the Daughters of the King. She also attends the Albuquerque Modern Quilt Guild and is learning a lot."

**Leonard Barkan** still teaches in several departments at Princeton. He recently finished a new book, *Reading for the Food*, "about the ways in which eating and drinking weave their way into all the operations of high culture—poetry, painting, philosophy, music, statercraft, etc.—from antiquity to the Renaissance. My spouse, Nick Barberio, and I continue to spend delightful quality time in Berlin, in addition to which we have relocated ourselves from one part of Manhattan to another, and we're very much enjoying being equidistant from Lincoln Center, Fairway, Central Park, and an express stop on the IRT."

## 1966

**Jill Robinson Grubb**  
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Yes, the government is shut down (or it was in January), but we also have the most representative House of Representatives ever. Furthermore, we've heard from **Mackie Nafe Chase** for the first time since she left Swarthmore early, married Dick Chase, moved to Vancouver, and had three children. For Christmas, Dick's 85th birthday, **Mackie** prepared family feasts for vegetarian, gluten-free, and carnivorous tastes. She's mostly retired from the University of British Columbia's Continuing Studies, and has enjoyed walks on the Via Francigena between Canterbury and Rome. **Mackie** captures the drama of daily living

beautifully in her much longer letter. Please post your entries on [swarthmore66.com](mailto:swarthmore66.com).

**David Clark's** *Designing an Internet* showed up in *The New York Review of Books*. The "an" is important as the book is about internets that might have been, not just the one we have.

**John Perdue** retired from market research two years ago. He is catching up on his reading and spending time with his six grandchildren in Nashville, Tenn.

**John and Paula Lawrence Wehmiller '67** announced the arrival of granddaughter Wesley Elisabeth to son Abe and Libby Wehmiller.

**Meg Sprague Oravetz** is taking her 11-year-old granddaughter to see the Dior show at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. A reunion with her husband's family added joy to her year.

**Roger North**, whose band Freak Mountain Ramblers was inducted into the Oregon Music Hall of Fame, plays in another band with son Tye, 45, a bass player. They live with Tye's son Charlie, 15, in "the bullpen," so called because Tye runs triathlons, Charlie runs cross country and track, and **Roger** plays tennis competitively on a senior circuit.

**Marcia Quade Barnett** and family are still skiing, mountain biking, backpacking, enjoying grandchildren, and volunteering to keep development in Squaw Valley, Calif., in check.

**Rod '67 and Dorothy Woods Chronister** explored the state's natural wonders while visiting their granddaughter at the University of Arizona.

Despite a difficult recovery from chronic fatigue syndrome and a mold biotoxin illness, **Rachel Folsom** finds happiness in her daughter's success: Lizzie Folsom Moll, master's degree in hand, is now an associate planner for Seattle.

**John M. Robinson** was called back to manage the Montgomery Park Foundation, attends political discussions and poker games, and needs time to work on his HO train set.

**Catherine Young Kapp** helps protect the local immigrant/refugee

community, volunteers with an elementary school art program, and laughed when her golden retriever jumped on the obedience instructor, then bolted from the ring after a bunch of ducks.

Still making furniture, **Bill Belanger** is also treasurer of three Quaker meetings and teaches boating safety for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. His wife is fully recovered from her stroke and back playing tennis.

**Barbara Alden-Bosc** has lived in France for 20 years. She still corresponds with **Rita Baab Collie**, who recently lost her husband. Maybe both could come to the next reunion.

**Steve Penrose**, whose wife died in 2011, traveled with family to Ireland and Italy. In Dallas, **Steve** is a Court Appointed Special Advocate, helping abused and neglected kids. The Dallas Zoo, Dallas Opera, and Magdalen House (a shelter for women recovering from alcohol abuse) have benefited from his volunteering. **Steve** also enjoys visits with **Jack Hooke, Ross Ogden**, and the family of **Eric Jacobs**.

**Ross Ogden** had both sons and his grandkids to help him put up the tree over the holidays. He's consulting with the Red Cross's Biomedical Services division on workforce engagement issues.

**Gareth Jenkins** is the "fixit guy and general dogbody" at the National Institute of Flamenco in Albuquerque, N.M. He plans to attend this year's reunion, May 31–June 2, as do at least 10 others.

**Linda Lynes Groetzinger**, following her own advice to be active for positive improvement, works on behalf of immigrants.

**Pat Lykens Hankins** had a pottery show while her husband replaced breakaway walls under their beach house after Hurricane Michael.

**Kathy Klemperer** gave piano lessons to grandchildren, volunteered at a library, knitted a hat, worked on zoning revision, and practiced tai chi with her husband.

In China, **Sandra Moore Faber** spoke about the Earth Futures Institute, then spent Christmas with family.

**Jim Garrett** was a criminal prosecutor in Philly, married

wife Melanie 47 years ago, sent both kids to Swarthmore, retired to Pagosa Springs, Colo., won a press association award for his newspaper work, retired, and returned to practicing law. **Jim** reconnected with **Stuart Youngner**. Both lament our political landscape but enjoyed touring Native American cultural sites and pondering civilization's demise.

**Andy Daubenspeck** shared **Pam Corbett Hoffer's** wish with his Monday-night men's group: "Hope you are all still standing, even if wobbling. This decade feels like living in a bowling alley as a pin, taking hits from the big ball coming down the alley, and trying to prop up a couple of pins while keeping my eye on the ball."

## 1967

**Donald Marritz**  
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The Class of '67 Scholarship recipient, **Alice Dong '19**, has been very busy. On top of regular coursework, she was the pianist for Swarthmore's Wind Ensemble, played with the Fetter Chamber Music Program, and took private lessons funded by the Freeman Scholarship. She also is an Intermediate Microeconomics TA and a Cornell Library desk assistant. She is on track to graduate a year early and will return to Tortoise Investment Management, where she worked last summer. Let this also be a subtle push to consider a donation to our class scholarship fund. The goal is to reach about \$2 million to give a full scholarship to a student each year.

**Judy Bartella** still teaches ceramics at George School. "Who knew that a field trip to a pottery in second grade would send me on this journey? Grateful to **Anita Wyzanski [Robboy]**, fellow fine arts major, for taking me over to the Swarthmore studio to learn to 'turn' a pot just a few years ago."

**Howie Brown** is the "unpaid executive director of the Rhode Island Coalition for Israel ([ricoalitionforisrael.org](http://ricoalitionforisrael.org)), a grassroots Christian/Jewish action nonprofit that supports Israel, the Jewish people, and traditional Judeo-Christian values. We fight the boycott-divestment-sanctions movement at the local level in Rhode Island. I feel blessed to have the time and energy to do the work."

**Bob Cooter** and **Blair Dean** celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2018. **Bob** writes: "Two of our three children live nearby. I've been a professor at Berkeley since 1975. I live in a house overlooking San Francisco Bay, bicycle to work, do research, and dine with my family. I also founded a successful internet business. I have written books on law and economics, and I travel a lot to lecture. I am content to have gotten more than I deserved in life. I am old now, and the things I remember best never really happened."

**Eric Nelson** died Oct. 24. His career took him to Africa and Asia before he and his family settled down in Maryland. As a dedicated

developmental economist, his passion was to improve the working and living conditions of people in postconflict countries. After retirement, he and wife Chony visited more than 60 national parks and walked the 1,500-kilometer Camino de Santiago. **Andy Faber** called **Eric** "a great and loyal friend [who] will be greatly missed" by his friends and family.

**Tom Laqueur** retired after 45 years at Berkeley. "In a way this changes little: I keep my office for three years; I still teach; I still write and fret about writing. But retirement feels like more of a moment that I would have anticipated and will take some getting used to." His recent book came out in French translation and made it into Le Bon Marché's window. He made vast quantities of cider from apples from his own orchard, bought a still, and converted some into 35 liters of calvados, now resting comfortably in a French oak barrel.

**Karen Seashore** and husband Dan Bratton escaped the Minneapolis winter to enjoy time with their daughter and youngest granddaughter in Boulder, Colo.

"It's all good, and makes me think that I will be able to endure retirement—once I get the last eight doctoral students to hurry up."

**Jane Lang** had a good 2018, including traveling to see family, "the powerful experience of a civil rights tour, the Sun Valley Writers' Conference, and a lazy summer week on Block Island. If I freeze the frame of this serene moment," she writes, "I enjoy the fact that all 24 of my children, stepchildren, and grandchildren are healthy, employed, or in school as age-appropriate. This alone lifts me up—how lucky and grateful I am! As to the world around us, despite some dark days and ominous signs, I feel that our institutions of government, with the mighty help of the press and a surge of voters, are working. At the risk of being a Pollyanna, I believe we will ultimately muddle through, but I admit I don't know what that will look like." In the meantime, she reads, blogs ([langfollow.com](http://langfollow.com)), oversees the Eugene M. Lang Foundation, sees lots of plays, continues on the boards of Swarthmore and the Atlas

Performing Arts Center (which she founded), and helps see family through life's inevitable blips. She tries to minimize complaints about inaccessible hotel rooms, overzealous TSA agents, treacherous brick sidewalks on Capitol Hill, and crosstown traffic in Manhattan. "My wish is that none of our classmates will have any more weighty cares."

## 1968

**Kate Bode Darlington**  
katedarlington@gmail.com

The alchemy of our 50th Reunion last June continues as we connect with one another and discover how much we share. In July, **Hal Kwalwasser** invited Northern California classmates to a mini-reunion. Some swam in the pool. Everyone talked. And talked. And talked. Attending were **Caroline Acker, Craig Benham, Ren Brown, Stephanie Brown, Robin Darr**

## ALUMNI COUNCIL NEWS

Council members were on campus in full force in October for a festive Garnet Homecoming and Family Weekend, hosting a successful Career Networking Dinner and a delicious study break with a cupcake truck near Parrish Hall.

Alumni Council's annual Career Networking Dinner included Council members and current students, as it has in the past, but October's dinner also included esteemed alumni and members of other volunteer groups, such as the Alumni of Color Steering Committee, Connection Chairs, the Council on Presidential Initiatives, Garnet Club Advancement Council, LGBTQ+ Steering Committee, and the Swarthmore Black Alumni Network Executive Committee. Students who attended this Career Networking Dinner had access to more diverse professionals, and many connections were made.

Our thanks to the students who joined us, and to the members of the volunteer groups who gave their time and advice. We look forward to continuing this new, more-inclusive tradition at the 2019 Career Networking Dinner!

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



Janet Erlick '88 and Chase Smith '22 engaged in conversation in October during Alumni Council's Career Networking Dinner.

**Masciocchi, Lynn Etheredge, Peter Gutterman, Julian Lopez-Morillas, Julie Tower, Chloe O'Gara '70**, plus several spouses. **Hal** says: "It felt just like the reunion in lots of ways. By the end of the day, we were all promising each other to do it again. And we will."

**Sam Brackeen** appreciates "the fantastic work that was done by the 50th committee. I was surprised and pleased to interact with classmates such as **John Seidenfeld**, with whom I had limited or no previous contact." Now **Sam** and **John** have a weekly phone call for spiritual study and sharing.

**Jay Kaplan** is thankful to have reconnected with many classmates at the reunion, including **George Gill** and **Sue Knottter Walton**, "with whom my wife and I later spent time. These were deeply moving visits, cemented by the sharing of recipes for barbecued chicken, oven-roasted salmon, and granola (along with too-many-to-count dark 'n' stormys)."

What a nice surprise to hear from **Joya Tanaka Konishi** and **Bill Riddle**. **Joya** writes from Japan that she and her husband rebuilt their house on the same property, as is the Japanese custom, "among our same old trees, which shows appreciation to our ancestors who originally made this garden." **Joya** is taking a Shakespeare course in which "I am able to integrate a lot of my [lifetime] experiences and bits of knowledge. ... I might as well tell you, too, that for about 16 years I have been dancing the Hawaiian hula. ... You can dance hula even in old age."

**Bill Riddle**, who transferred to Pomona our junior year, wants to reconnect with classmates: "After all, we are all traveling down the same path together." **Bill's** a retired social worker near Seattle whose interests include discussing universal questions, mindfulness, and working out. Check out his profile on [swarthmore68.com](mailto:swarthmore68.com).

Classmates who are still going strong include **Jane Prichard Gaskell**, who is consulting for international schools and climbed to the Tiger's Nest Buddhist temple on a steep cliff 3,000 feet above a Bhutan valley. **Susan Almy** was re-elected to the New Hampshire

Legislature and will again chair the Ways and Means Committee. **Vyto Babrauskas** does forensic fire consulting and is finishing a book, *Electrical Fires and Explosions* (movie rights undetermined as yet). **John Mather** is "working on an exciting new idea to see little Earths way out there: a giant starshade 100 meters across, to cast a shadow of a star on a ground-based telescope, to let us see the little planets near the star." He invites people interested in visiting NASA to contact him.

**Chris Miller**, a Brandeis biochemistry professor and department chair, has "decided to hang up my pipettes and retire next September. The time seems right ... I have not yet descended to the inexorable state of totally useless professor haunting the department by rights of tenure alone. I've started trying to put some order into those accumulated notes, letters, infuriated rebuttals to manuscript-rejections, and thermodynamics handouts that I'll be keeping from the dumpster's maw."

At our 50th, some classmates decided to reconnect with the activism of our Swarthmore years. Many worked on 2018 midterm campaigns: I knocked on doors in Texas; **Sam Brackeen** did far more than that for his Pennsylvania congressional candidate; **Robert "Bud" Roper** campaigned in California, as did **Glenna Giveans** and **Dan Botsford** in New Hampshire, **Bob Bartkus** in New Jersey, **Nancy Bennett** in Rhode Island, **Florence Daly Mini** in Pennsylvania, and no doubt other classmates.

**Hal Kwalwasser** worked on voter protection in Florida for a month before the election and afterward during the recount. He helped recruit an army of people to work in shifts overseeing the machine

## THE BCC IS TURNING 50!

What does the Black Cultural Center mean to you?  
[bulletin@swarthmore.edu](mailto:bulletin@swarthmore.edu)

count, then the hand count. For 24 hours per day, "volunteers (of both parties) sat with election workers deciding which of the ballots that the machines had failed to read needed to go to the board of canvassers to decide 'voter intent.' There were those of us at each table arguing to the board about what the answer to that question should be. ... It was one of those exercises in America that gives you faith in America."

Thank you, **Bronwyn Hurd Echols**, the only classmate to write an entire villanelle after I threw in the sponge on using the villanelle form to request class notes. Check out **Bronwyn's** clever poem at [swarthmore68.com](mailto:swarthmore68.com).

Ready for more connection? We are invited to join the Class of '69 at their 50th Reunion in June. See you there?

# 1970

**Margaret Nordstrom**  
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It seems impossible that it's only a little over a year until our 50th Reunion. Our class agents will probably gather during this year's Alumni Weekend to discuss the activities we should organize at our 50th, with the goal of attracting as many classmates as possible. If you will be on campus that weekend and would like to participate in this discussion, please let me know. We'd love to hear about your interests.

Since there is a three-month time lag between my deadline for Class Notes and when you actually get to read them, some news may be outdated. Please know that when I get time-sensitive information, I post it on our class Facebook page as soon as I receive it. My next Class Notes deadline is June 24. It would be good to hear from you.

I retired from the State of New Jersey in August, and while it's nice to have more time to do fun stuff instead of being in a pressure cooker, I feel an urgent need to

be employed at least part time. Hopefully, by the time you read this, I will have a new position. Even though working in government can have nightmare-like qualities, it is incredibly interesting work and you never run out of things to do.

*Sad news:* **Mary Cornish** writes: "It is with a heavy heart and disbelief that I report that our always healthy, fun-loving, exuberant, and totally loving classmate **Bob Di Prete** passed from this world of stomach cancer after a month's notice. Luckily, **Bob** had his lovely wife, Kathy, and daughter Mary with him when he made his final departure.

"Everyone who knew him would tell you that **Bob** was one of the funniest men alive. Kindness itself, **Bob** nonetheless possessed a rapier wit and brilliantly acerbic writing skill that made us laugh for 50 years or more. The world is less without him. He will be missed by those who loved him or even just knew his gentle spirit and soft touch."

**Mary** added that there would be a memorial service in March in Oregon, and that she, **Eliot Grossman**, and **Russ Benghiat** would probably attend. **Mary** also expressed interest in doing something in remembrance of **Bob** at our 50th Reunion.

# 1972

**Nan Waksman Schanbacher**  
[nanschanbacher@comcast.net](mailto:nanschanbacher@comcast.net)

**Jonathan Betz-Zall** retired for the second time from Highline College, "closing out the most successful phase of his career." He's active in social and environmental justice causes through University Friends Meeting, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Northwest Intentional Communities Association, and the Nakani Native Program, which he helped create ([nakani.org](http://nakani.org)). He enjoys Zumba and may lead his own class soon.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to **Arlene Dannenberg Bowes** and

brother **Andrew '74**, whose father, **Arthur Dannenberg Jr '44**, died peacefully at home in June. He was 94 and a retired professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. **Arlene**, a dentist, teaches part time at Penn Dental Medicine.

**Ben Chitty** is "a librarian at Queens College of the City University of New York, active in the teachers union, and a Vietnam veteran against the now-endless war." He and wife Priscilla Murolo published the second edition of their book *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: An Illustrated History of Labor in the United States*.

**Charles Grassie** is "alive and perhaps retired completely but that never seems to last." He "spent some time in Haiti providing medical care" and is thinking about traveling.

**Mark Gromko** says, in retirement, his main amusement has been photography, which has taken him to the Yukon, national parks in Wyoming and Colorado, Tanzania, and the Grand Canyon. At Christmas, son **Duncan '07** and wife **Aurora Munoz '10** traveled from Germany to join the family celebration.

**Nancy Noble Holland** conducts her church choir, including the premiere of a work by one of her members, a film composer. **Nancy** and husband **Jim '71** "enjoyed going to the August Swarthmore Alumni gathering on Martha's Vineyard, where we were delighted to reconnect with **Nan Waksman Schanbacher** [mutual, **Nancy!**] and to hear President Valerie Smith's update on campus events."

**Lorna Kohler** has magical childhood memories of dancing in the party scene of the San Francisco Ballet *Nutcracker*. Nowadays, she has an annual gig playing English horn in eight *Nutcracker* performances at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts. **Lorna** shared memories of helping to hand-build her parents' house (designed by her father). Sadly, it burned down in 2017. In the 2018 fires, **Lorna** writes, "my family was lucky to get out alive."

**Marianne McKenna's** architectural practice is thriving

in new quarters "with spectacular 360-degree views of Toronto." Recent projects were completed at Princeton, Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, and Yale's Adams Center for Musical Arts. "I feel quite lucky to be alive and well, have kids launched, and have great opportunities flowing in."

Last fall, **John Lubar** went to China for three weeks. He brought *China: A Short Cultural History* from Professor Yuan Tsing's spring 1970 course and read all 700 pages, "noting the sophomoric comments [he] had written in the margins."

Rosalyn and **Bill Prindle** retired from horse farming after two intense years, doubling down on their day jobs. **Bill** is a full-time environmental consultant at ICF. The race for a sustainable planet continues, and **Bill**, ICF, and a host of others are not about to quit. Retirement? What retirement?

Last year, Hawaii residents **Laurie Tompkins** and husband Larry Yager weathered volcanic eruptions, lava flows, an earthquake, and a hurricane. Fortunately, "except for very minor damage and occasional days of dirty, ash-filled air, we and our neighbors are fine. ... Now, if we could just persuade the tourists to come back, for the sake of our economy." **Laurie** and Larry travel off-island frequently and continue to practice their art glasswork.

Your secretary, **Nan Waksman Schanbacher**, spent summer 2018 changing diapers and mixing formula for her utterly spectacular grandson and discovered that taking care of babies is a great deal more exhausting than she remembered! On the plus side: So much time together is a very special gift **Nan** hopes to experience every summer.

# 1974

**Randall Grometstein**  
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Your news suggests that happiness really is a U-shaped curve, and

we are on the upswing. The lives we are engaged in are ordinary enough, but we are experiencing them from a place of peace and acceptance.

**Patricia Heidtmann Disharoon** proudly announces the birth of grandchild Daniela in October. **Pat** is a primary care internist and medical director for a drug treatment center. "With seven grandchildren, work, Girl Scouts, and Sunday school, we keep busy!"

From Germany, **Jean-Marie Clarke** is "half-retired": "I am working steadily, doggedly, toward publication with a view to capitalizing on work done in this life. The same obsessions: being human; linking head, heart, and hand; and of course, Rembrandt. Watching America drift away from Europe and itself."

**Davia Temin** is "still trying to make a dent." Her crisis, reputation, and CEO leadership coaching business is doing a lot around #MeToo, including representing at least 12 aspects of the issue—boards, leaders, accusers, and accused. "Hard to define best practices that are fact-based, thorough, fair, and independent, but that is our goal: listen to accusers, but accused are innocent until proven guilty." See a recent profile in Bloomberg ([bit.ly/DaviaMeToo](http://bit.ly/DaviaMeToo)).

From **Deborah Johnson** in Silverado, Calif.: "My longtime partner, John Olson, and I were married the Sunday before Christmas at his mother's assisted living center. It was a wonderful way to start the holidays, with our families gathered to celebrate our commitment. Hard to believe that I married for the first time at age 66. I'm retiring from my consulting work and winding down my nonprofit caring for children in Kenya. Looking forward to spending more time at our beach home near Ensenada, Mexico."

**Kate Buttolph** "turned 65 in 2018 and ran races for exercise and fun (think Bolder Boulder IOK) until September, then began real exercise to stay limber enough to chase, lift, and sit on the floor with two grandsons, 4 and 7. Still working on land conservation and closed on 12 transactions with Mass Audubon in western

Massachusetts. Finding new drinkable craft beers, along with great places to hike and birdwatch, although work's parking area is great for seeing hawks and eagles up close. Vermont is still a destination, and I make regular pilgrimages to N.J. to see friends."

**Len Roseman** is back West with **Liz Taylor '75**: "Living in the Bay Area in Walnut Creek and taking care of my 99-year-old dad. We're glad to be here again, close to family, friends, and our recently married daughter, Rebecca, who works for the startup Dandelion Chocolate. We're also closer to our permanent home in Flagstaff, Ariz.—no more twice-a-year, 2,000-mile drives for **Liz** from the East Coast! I work for a credit card startup in SF (how Silicon Valley!). **Liz** invests time and money improving food systems in Arizona. She serves on nonprofit boards and a state ag advisory council, and runs our hyperlocal food investment business in Flagstaff."

**John Whyte** writes: "After serving as Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute's director for more than 25 years, I stepped down in August after we recruited a new director. I will soon officially transition to emeritus status, initially working about 60 percent time on remaining research projects and playing it by ear to decide how completely to retire. Tom still composes music, and we look forward to traveling more. Our kids are both grown, with Jesse at Penn law and Max making music in LA."

**Neil Heskell** has an offer that's hard to refuse. "We rehabbed a motel, The Island View Cottages. Great venue for R&R, family reunions, and weddings on the beautiful Indian River in Sebastian, Fla. Take a virtual tour at [islandviewsebastian.com](http://islandviewsebastian.com). A portion of the profits go to Haiti Clinic, so you can do good while on vacation."

Since 2017, **Alex Aleinikoff** has been University Professor and director of the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility at The New School. He also hosts a podcast on U.S. immigration policy, *Tempest Tossed*.

**Dave Hoyt** is a competition law officer for Canada's Competition



Bureau but is “starting to transition to retirement and part-time work as a mediator. I also contribute as chair or secretary of a Community Advisory Committee on Mental Health, Democrats Abroad Canada (Vancouver chapter), and a local Kiwanis Club.”

**Dave** plans to attend our reunion, May 31–June 2, which will please organizer **Rosanne Boldman**

**McTyre**, who writes: “Once again I am organizing our class reunion, our 45th! Hard to believe, but when I look at my own family—three children, eldest almost 40, and three grandkids—I feel that while time has flown, we have all accomplished much. Please save the date and spread the word. It will be fun—I promise!”

“Setting a course for Swarthmore reunion, Captain.” “Make it so, Mr. Sulu!”

## 1976

**Fran Brokaw**  
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Hello, classmates! First, fantastic news: The Class of 1976 Scholarship is now permanently endowed! Your generous contributions help today’s students. Extra kudos to **Maurice Kerins**, who did most of the heavy lifting. Thanks, **Maurice!**

It was wonderful to receive missives from folks who haven’t been in touch much. **Yosef (Jody) Branse**, who lives in Israel, writes: “A visit to my mother in October afforded an opportunity to fulfill a long-deferred dream: to stroll around Swarthmore with my wife. We flew to Philadelphia and arrived on campus after a brief cab ride. Despite the unseasonable heat, we spent several pleasant hours roaming the grounds after a 40-year absence, enjoying sights both familiar and novel, as I reminisced, tried to recollect buildings’ names, and took numerous photographs.

“At one point, we stopped by a room in Bond Hall, identified by

a sign as ‘Beit Midrash’ (Jewish study hall), and through a window could see a small class in session. The teacher spotted us, visibly observant Jews, and graciously invited us inside. She was **Helen Plotkin** ’77. We took the opportunity to rest and, at the end of her study group, to eat our lunch and enjoy a conversation with **Helen**.

“Toward evening, we walked down Magill Walk and bought souvenirs at the Swarthmore Campus & Community Store. Our pilgrimage concluded with a train ride back to the airport and a return flight numbered, coincidentally, 1864—a notable year in Swarthmore history. My wife was sufficiently impressed by the visit to comment, ‘Now I understand why you’ve been so eager to get back there.’”

**Tom Quinn** writes: “I left the East Coast for Seattle in 1976 to attend the University of Washington (Ph.D. in fisheries, 1981) and then moved to Vancouver Island, Canada, for four years of postdoctoral work. I returned to UW to teach in January 1986 and, other than professional leave and travel, have been here ever since, studying fish. My research is on the behavior, ecology, evolution, and conservation of salmon and trout, and their ecosystems. I wrote a book on the subject in 2005, and the new edition came out in 2018. I teach a variety of classes and conduct field work in the Puget Sound area and Alaska. Bears and all that sort of thing!”

**Adam (Huan Kee) Chan** and his wife migrated to Australia, where they built a small house near the foothills in the quiet Adelaide suburb of Athelstone. “Every morning we go for a 5K walk in the park or up the hill. Life is very relaxed and laid-back.” Twice a year, they head north to Townsville to care for their two grandchildren during school holidays, while their parents work as geriatricians in Townsville Hospital. Occasionally, they return to Malaysia to visit relatives and friends and enjoy Penang’s hawker food. **Adam** welcomes contact with Swarthmore mates!

**Bruce Robertson** taught his last classes at UC–Santa Barbara and

will retire in June. Before that will be an opening of a major Carl Jung exhibition, as UCSB’s art museum, of which **Bruce** is director, is the Jung Foundation’s American venue for the launch of a book on the psychologist’s artwork. Then **Bruce** will start traveling—hope we see you at the reunion in 2021, **Bruce!**

**Jeff Bush** lives in Boise, Idaho, having moved postretirement three years ago. He and wife Laurel have been together for four years and got married last year. They still own a condo in Juneau, Alaska, where they stay during frequent visits to children and grandchildren. They travel a lot but manage to spend enough time in Boise to maintain a substantial vegetable garden and focus on their golf games.

**David Vanderbilt** has been on Rutgers’s physics faculty for more than 25 years, teaching and researching in computational materials theory. **David** published his first book, a monograph for graduate and advanced undergraduate physics students. He lives with his wife of 38 years, Roslyn, and has two grown daughters. No thoughts of retirement yet!

As for me, **Fran Brokaw**, the highlight of my year was my daughter’s wedding in November. It was in Birmingham, Ala., and I took advantage of the location to travel to Montgomery to visit the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum. It was incredibly moving and encouraged me to continue anti-racism work at home in New Hampshire.

Best wishes to all of you, near and far!

## 1978

**Donna Caliendo Devlin**  
dmcdevlin@aol.com

**Edward Strickler** has retirement in sight from the University of Virginia School of Medicine; so does husband James, who works in city government. **Ed** was first author of several chapters in

*Diversity and Inclusion in Quality Patient Care*, a compendium of cases and discussions supporting conflict management in health care workplaces. He also presented on the topic of community trauma from racist violence at the American Public Health Association’s 2018 meeting. **Ed** has begun resigning from community leadership and supportive roles but continues commitments to dialogue on difficult topics, improving quality of life for rural Virginians, and accessibility and affordability of LGBTQ health care.

**Bob Tench** traveled to Europe in the fall for both business and pleasure. In September, he visited Rome, where he presented a technical paper on fiber amplifiers at the 2018 European Conference on Optical Communication. In November, he went to Paris, where he sat on the jury for the (successful!) thesis defense of a recent Ph.D. student at Telecom ParisTech. “On a tour of Notre Dame, we ran into a roadblock by SWAT police armed with submachine guns, and we could see black smoke rising in the distance from the recent riots. Thank goodness that was as close as we came to the disturbances!”

I am sorry to report the Nov. 3 death of **Alison Wong Noto**. After Swarthmore, **Alison** earned master’s degrees in graphic design from the Rochester Institute of Technology and in architecture from Yale; she was an architect in New York and Philly before moving to Barrington, R.I. **Alison** and husband **Richard Noto** ’77 raised two daughters. Our condolences to **Rich**, Katherine, and Patricia on this sad loss.

## 1980

**Martin Fleisher**  
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I got a nice, long email from **Joy Hulse Wyatt**, which I am reprinting more or less in full:

“After a multidecade career in

human resources, I completed a master of social work in May 2018. I worked full time and added elder care to my plate for five years, helping my mother on the West Coast until she died at 95. While engaged in supporting her, I had a lightbulb moment: I wanted to work with individuals and their families who were approaching and adapting to end of life.

“I attended Fordham University in Manhattan where I could complete a degree with internships in three years (and continue my 15-year career at Franklin Templeton Investments for half of it). I was a palliative care fellow at Fordham and gained social work experience with dialysis and hospice patients.

“A licensing exam followed graduation, and I surprised my family and myself by taking and passing the exam a month earlier than planned. I am now a licensed social worker with Calvary Hospital working at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, where I support families with individuals who are making the transition from acute to comfort care.

“A few things to note about this journey: Grad school was not on my radar for decades following Swarthmore, but when it finally occurred to me, I didn’t really stop to think about how good or bad an idea it was. I just did it (twice), and the personal fulfillment that came as a result is indescribable. It was work, for sure, but studying—reading, writing, testing—made much more sense to me after so many years of working because I had goals and objectives to wrap my academic work around. And while I was finishing my studies, my offspring were, too. They graduated from Yale in 2017 (Kat) and 2018 (Nat). We had a lot of celebrating to do.

“I just got the new job I wanted, where I wanted, in a new career at age 60. While I was feeling as if I was aging out of my prior career, I entered this one with my new employer telling me, ‘We hired you because of your broad experience, perspective, and, frankly, your maturity.’”

As you know, it’s hard to avoid writing about **Anne Schuchat**, but she won the highly prestigious

John P. Utz Leadership Award, presented by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. She gave a great speech following a terrific introduction by Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

I participated in a nice mini-reunion in August with **Doug Perkins**, **Tom Long** and **Melanie Wentz**, **Eric** and **Jodie Landes Corngold**, **Alex Hoffinger** ’81, **Charlie McGovern**, and **Jenny Snyder Zito** (along with many spouses and children). We had a great time in Vermont and are beginning to look forward to our (gasp) 40th Reunion.

## 1982

**David Chapman**  
dchapman29@gmail.com

**Gretchen Edwalds-Gilbert** is a Fulbright Scholar in Poland for 2018–19, working at the University of Warsaw Institute for Genetics and Biotechnology. “It should be a great year of research with some graduate teaching, and a big change from my six years as associate dean of faculty at Scripps College.” An interesting note: Allen Kuharski, a Swarthmore theater professor, just finished a Fulbright in Warsaw, and **Gretchen** is renting the apartment he rented. “He has been a great connection for easing the transition. I’m still happily married to Gary Gilbert (Haverford ’82), a religious studies professor at Claremont McKenna College. Our son Jacob graduated from Haverford in 2012, but his thesis adviser was at Swarthmore (astrophysics) and he did all his theater work at Swarthmore—including working with Allen Kuharski (small world). Our younger son, Mark, graduated from the University of Puget Sound in 2017 (computer science), got married last summer, and lives in the Bay Area.”

**Bettina Welz** happily reports: “My third (and last) child [**Joshua**

### GARNET SNAPSHOT



From left: **Phil Joson** ’82, former assistant coach **Tom Korn**, and **David Chapman** ’82 reunited in October as the 1982–85 men’s lacrosse teams entered the Garnet Athletics Hall of Fame.

**Geselowitz** ’21] is a sophomore at Swarthmore. I never would have predicted that I would have three children attend my alma mater, but I’m happy that all got/are getting a great education and college experience. My sense is that the essential spirit of Swarthmore endures.” **Bettina** is a psychiatrist at Penn State’s Psychological Clinic, where Ph.D. students get their therapy training. “It’s a great job!”

**Michael Selby** says “G’day”: “I have been back in Australia since 1988 and have a journalist daughter, 24, and a son, 22, in real estate. I was in advertising for many years and in 2003 started a web-based business, AustralianMuscleCarSales.com.au. We sell old classic cars, which has always been my passion. I’m married to a physiotherapist, and we live in beautiful Sydney. Come say ‘hello’ if you are in the area.”

**Molly Ierulli** is “living in Providence, R.I., teaching part time at Brown. My daughter is in college in Rome. Anyone local is welcome to look me up!”

**Rob Robinson** writes: “After leaving Sidley Austin LLP (where I’d been a partner in the structured finance practice since 2002) earlier in the year, I began as general counsel of Nearwater Capital the week

after Thanksgiving. Nearwater provides financing to securitization transactions’ sponsors of their risk-retention interests; it’s a direct outgrowth of the Dodd-Frank ‘skin-in-the-game’ requirements and similar laws that apply in the EU and other jurisdictions. The company started transacting in 2017, is growing quickly in its original business line, and is likely to expand into other securitization-related domains in 2019. I’m thrilled to be head of the legal function and part of the management team. Our offices are in the Seagram Building on Park Avenue and 52nd Street in NYC, a walking commute away from my home. (I occasionally run into **Robert Ottenstein** and **Steve Kargman**, both of whom live nearby.)”

Some good news from **Anne Bauman Wightman**: “I recently got back from the annual New Year’s gathering of a bunch of classmates and families. We’ve gathered every year since graduation, with the group fluctuating depending on availability, family growth, and life happenings. This year, we were 14: **Tom Sgouros**, **Celia Gelfman**, **Lydia Gelfman Sgouros**, **Margaret Gillespie**, **Jason Greenberg**, **Jacob Greenberg** ’16, **Sophia Greenberg**, **Alan Dixon**, **Alison Simon**, **Lisa “Hershey” Hirschkop**, **Leigh**

Peake, **Anne Bauman Wightman**, **Evelyn Wightman** '16, and Leslie Wightman. We enjoyed one another's company, assembled a 2,000-piece jigsaw puzzle, completed the *NYTimes* mega-crossword puzzle, cooked yummy food (including a not-quite-failed attempt at making cheese—it was cheese-like, it just wasn't mozzarella), took walks, and 'sparklered' in the new year. And of course, we overindulged in ice cream from Toscanini's (20 pints carefully packed in a cooler with dry ice just for the occasion)."

Along with the men's lacrosse teams from 1983 to 1985, the 1982 team was inducted into the College's Garnet Athletics Hall of Fame (or in my case the "Hall of Worked Really Hard, but ..."), whose ceremony I attended in October. There were too many old friends and teammates at the induction to list them all, but it was great to see, in particular, **Scott Jordan**, **Bart Robins**, and **Phil Joson**, old teammates and roommates all.

## 1984

**Karen Linnea Searle**  
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Greetings! I hope you all have our 35th Reunion on your calendar—May 31–June 2. Our reunion committee is working hard to put together an engaging weekend. More info will come via email and through our "Swarthmore College Class of '84" Facebook group.

Lots of news this round. **John Mackay** was the co-principal investigator and commercialization lead on an NSF grant that transformed a university-developed software tool into a startup company that analyzes social media to predict actions on contentious issues, such as the Brexit vote. **John** previously launched technologies that turned into an IPO, were licensed to General Motors, were tested on the International Space Station,

and were championed by the U.S. Navy as a national R&D success story. **John** works, teaches, and runs a technology development consulting business in Dayton, Ohio.

**Neil Fisher** and wife Meryl spent three wonderful weeks in Chile visiting their son, who was studying abroad. **Neil** finished his term on the board of The Children's Room, serving grieving children and their families, and he and Meryl started a new project, the Library Initiative for Teens and Tweens, dedicated to supporting and enhancing teen library programs in underresourced Massachusetts communities. He still sees area Swarthmore friends and hopes to see more at our reunion.

**Ethan Landis** was featured in an August *Washington Post* article on rooftop decks. The decks he and his firm designed look amazing and make us long for spring!

**Jocelyn Roberts Davis** has a new book, *The Art of Quiet Influence*, coming out in May. It combines classic wisdom of the East (India, China, Japan, and the Islamic world) with modern-day research, practices, and stories. Look for it wherever fine books are sold!

Fellow Southern Californian **Chris DeMoulin** writes: "Been living in Malibu more than five years now, very grateful to have survived the fires with nothing but a lot of smoke and ash to clean up, when so many of our friends and neighbors were not so lucky. Surreal to see 50 burned homes from your patio. Daughter Olivia graduated with a dance BFA from CU–Boulder and now dances at Disneyland. Son Ethan is a sophomore at Santa Monica College, focused more on his burgeoning skateboarding career than school at the moment, as befits a 19-year-old. I stepped back from work in 2016 after my trade show company was sold, and am now running a small company that owns the L.A. Comic Con and preparing a couple of new ventures to launch in 2019. But most sunsets find Monica and me as near the beach as we can manage."

**Tim Pfaff** published his first

novel, *The Pfaffenhoffen Project*, about an American writer who traces his family history back to a small French village. Informed of their parents' "unfinished business," the writer and his siblings seize upon the notion of a reunion to celebrate their parents and discover their heritage. What they find surprises and amazes them. Find the book on iTunes or Amazon, or learn more at [timpfaff.com](http://timpfaff.com).

**Gwyneth Jones Cote** had lots to share: "After being retired for a year, I'm back in the game! I received a phone call a few days after we dropped our youngest off at college. The recruiter mentioned the organization, the Urban Land Institute (ULI), as well as the recently hired global CEO. He was a guy I worked with when I first graduated from Wharton, and had really trusted and learned a lot from. I went for interviews and landed the job as ULI's president–Americas. I have never worked for a nonprofit, so this is a new experience. Our mission? Providing leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. We are a member-driven organization that is making a difference in key initiatives such as affordable housing and housing for the "missing middle," sustainability, resilience for areas routinely damaged by flooding, etc.

Meanwhile, **Jack** '20 is an honors economics junior at Swarthmore. Cynthia, a freshman, loves the University of Denver, and Qianxu, a double major in communications and anthropology, is very happy at Wake Forest. She joins our family for most holidays, and our extended family simply sees her as another 'Cote kid.'

"I hope to see many people back on campus for our 35th Reunion. If you want to help, please email me at [gwynethjocote@gmail.com](mailto:gwynethjocote@gmail.com). We need local classmates to assist with buying beverages and snacks. We also need folks who could set up space and put out drinks and food. Thanks in advance!"

Please send news (note the new email address above). I look forward to seeing you on campus in May!

## 1986

**Jessica Russo Perez-Mesa**  
[jessicaperezmesa@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicaperezmesa@yahoo.com)

**Karen Leidy Gerstel**  
[kgerstel@msn.com](mailto:kgerstel@msn.com)

**Kwai Kong's** wife, Maeda, died last May, "ending our 33-year marriage in a way none of us expected. She lived courageously. Together we raised six children: a doctor, a social worker, a med student, two in college, and one in high school. Two sons-in-law and now a beautiful granddaughter. I view May 2018 as the start of the second half of my adult life. Still positive, hopeful, and continuing to do good for the world."

**Utz McKnight** has worked as chair for five years to build the University of Alabama's Department of Gender and Race. **Keith Reeves** '88 visited from Swarthmore, where he's political science chair. "He gave an exceptionally interesting talk on prisons and student engagement," **Utz** writes. "I also enjoyed hosting Swarthmore students to give them a taste of the work we do."

**Maija Bell Samei**, in Chapel Hill, N.C., is working on another book of translation from Chinese, while maintaining a minor editorial position with the *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture*. She happily reconnected with Durham resident **Felix Asiedu**.

**Norman Wright**, chief of operations at Optum/United Healthgroup, joined Twin Cities YMCA's board. "The mission, well beyond gym and swim, is compelling and inspiring—building healthy spirit, mind, and body."

After 11 years at Tesla, **Kurt Kelty** was recruited to Plenty by daughter Emy, who leads their growing operations. "I now get to witness Emy's leadership in action. Our other daughter is a fantastic elementary school teacher and yoga instructor. Life is good!"

**Murray Scheel** lives in D.C. with partner Brian and is an attorney at Whitman-Walker focusing on LGBT



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► "We naturally tend to feel satisfaction when we understand why something works," says mathematician Annie Fetter '88.

## A NUMBERS GAME

### She wants kids to savor learning math

by **Kate Campbell**

GLIDING FROM TABLE TO TABLE in the Underhill Music and Dance Library, Annie Fetter '88 was an animated coach—asking a motivational question here, encouraging a new approach there. Her work as a math specialist for the Chester Children's Chorus last summer was especially rewarding: She simply wants everyone to love math as much as she does.

"It's a master clarifier that helps us make sense of the world," says the bass player who majored in math and music.

But the problem is a lot of people do math without completely understanding it.

"People see math and music as these things that some people are good at, or some superpower they just have," she says. "In fact, both are systems that can be learned and understood."

Fetter is a founding member of

Math Forum, which started in 1992 at Swarthmore through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. Though the online math community dissolved in 2017, she continues to consult and speak at schools and conferences nationwide.

"I'm focused on helping teachers incorporate more sense-making opportunities in their classrooms," she says, "so that math becomes something students think about and understand—rather than something they finish as quickly as possible."

These days, she is working on two NSF grants for STEM education; doing independent work with schools, districts, and state organizations; and leading sessions at regional and national conferences. Since 2015, she's also volunteered at Math On-a-Stick, an area at the Minnesota State Fair featuring geometric tile games, a

pattern machine, and other interactive exercises.

The unconventional approach of such programs helps children notice and talk about numbers and shapes in their everyday world, Fetter says. "It's composed of activities that may well lead to mathematical thinking," she says, "but there are very few tasks that have an answer, or even an end point."

So, how does *not* having an answer help people learn to appreciate math?

"Kids persevere to build designs and patterns that they thought of," she says, "often making them more mathematical as they play."

The wonder they display dragging their finger across a sand-covered turntable and making a spiral or a more complex design is a sign they are connecting with the discipline. That fun will spontaneously lead to deeper questions of why and how—and reduce the fear of not knowing an answer.

Asking students to notice and wonder when approaching a problem is a method Fetter helped to formalize.

"I'm the 'Notice and Wonder' person," says Fetter. "This makes me famous in a really small universe." Fetter's fairly well-known in the Swarthmore universe, too, coming from a long line of alumni including father Tom '56, uncle, Bob '53 (who won the 2018 Joseph Shane Alumni Service Award), grandfather Frank, Class of 1920 (pg. 10), and about a half-dozen others.

"While I wasn't *pressured* to come to Swarthmore," she says, "I know that my grandfather was thrilled."

Swarthmore's innovative environment informed Fetter's whole approach to teaching. After graduating, she received a grant to work for Gene Klotz, the Albert and Edna Pownall Buffington Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, developing workbooks and computer-animated videotapes for teaching 3-D geometry. "It's safe to say that while I would probably be a math teacher with or without Swarthmore," she says, "I definitely wouldn't be the educator I am without being part of that forward-looking community." 6

elder law. He caught up with new Foggy Bottom neighbor **Michael North** '87 and had a sighting of **Carin Ruff** '87 and **Andy Podolsky** '88 at a *Lion in Winter* reading at the Folger. "We restrained ourselves, albeit with difficulty, from whispering the lines."

**Judd Liebman** runs Kaplan International's North America English language operations. "While the current political climate is not ideal, I'm still excited (even after almost 20 years) about working with international language education and cultural exchange programs." He, **Kathy Seidl** '88, and their twins, I4, live in Lexington, Mass.

Auto industry veteran **Pedro Gregorio** (bit.ly/PedroGregorio) is often asked about self-driving cars. "I've finally driven a Tesla Model 3 with Autopilot, so I can say that I've glimpsed the future." Its system combines adaptive cruise control and lane assist into a true autopilot system—"It will even change lanes when you use the turn signal." The only concession: Every 45 seconds you have to touch the steering wheel. Though it's impressive, **Pedro** isn't completely sold: "If I have autopilot, I want to go to sleep and wake up at the end of my trip. I'm sure we won't have to wait too many years before *The Jetsons* becomes a reality."

**Karen Schultz Paige**'s youngest child, **Jenny** '22, is a Swarthmore freshman! "It was so neat to visit in August—I look forward to more trips. We have interesting conversations about old and new experiences. My eldest, Eric, is graduating from Grinnell College with an economics degree and has a computer coding job lined up at Nationwide Insurance." **Karen** is a program manager in Los Alamos National Laboratory's weapons program; she enjoys her job and its role in protecting the nation. She welcomes visitors to beautiful New Mexico.

**Marian Staats** is an Oakton Community College English professor. "Last year's trek with students from Chicagoland to Yellowstone on an NEH grant was successful, and we look forward to presenting at the Association for the Study of Literature and

the Environment in June, as well as taking another group camping this summer!" She also performs with the Chicago Master Singers and had a solo in Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.

**Ed Gooding** has a new job with VIAVI Solutions and travels frequently to Santa Rosa, Calif. He writes:

*I spend my free time ritin pomez  
Happy as 2 garden nomez  
Dont need no more pills or booze  
Since I found my poetry muze*  
Thanks, **Ed**. And, no, it's not too silly to share.

**Bruce Han** joined a Singapore-based real estate private equity fund but is considering moving to Hawaii to teach school in 2020. "After 17 years in Hong Kong, my karma with that dynamic island is finally ending." His elder daughter, a BU student, is in Paris this spending; his younger daughter enjoys Pratt. Wife Ellen teaches Korean to *haoles* (Hawaiian for Caucasian foreigners) at multinational companies.

I, **Jessica**, was laid off last February and enjoyed eight months off. I'm now the Hawaii rep for a small biotech firm promoting a new tardive dyskinesia therapy to psychiatrists and neurologists. I have dinner plans with **Jeff** and **Karen Leidy Gerstel**, who are in town on business. It's always great to see Swatties!

I'm very sorry to report that we lost two classmates recently: **Alex Namour** and **Martha Loukides Walker**. Our condolences to their families.

## 1988

**Mallory Easter Polk**  
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Greetings! This go-round, I had the pleasure of hearing from a couple of classmates I haven't heard from much (or ever) in the past.

**Brad Mittman** writes: "I live in Aliso Viejo, Calif., and really love it. My 23-year-old son, Andre, is in his last year at the U.S.

Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs." **Brad** is semi-retired from internal medicine and stills runs his medical education company, Frontrunners (gofrontrunners.com). As a creative outlet, **Brad** sings online with the Smule app and has uploaded more than 700 videos to his YouTube channel.

What **Brad** really enjoys about this, besides the breadth of genres, is that it's an extra way to express himself, and it seems to inspire other users to express themselves similarly! Check him out at bit.ly/BradYouTube. **Brad** adds: "I'm single now, and looking to be married soon." So if you know anyone nice, send them **Brad**'s way.

**Teresa Scott** and husband **Fred Joseph** are very excited that their elder son, **Caleb Scott-Joseph** '23, was admitted to Swarthmore! He plans to study astrophysics and philosophy. "Crazy to think he could meet his future spouse this fall!" **Teresa** writes. Hearty congratulations to the **Scott-Josephs**!

I encourage you to reach out to me with the details and news of your life. I love hearing from my fellow '88ers! Till next time.

## 1990

**Jim Sailer**  
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**Phil Weiser** is now Colorado's attorney general! **Phil**'s elections demonstrate the importance of every single person voting—in the primary, he won with 50.4 percent of the vote, and in the general election, he won with 51.6 percent. Such close races! **Phil** ran a positive, issues-focused campaign (with the slogan "Stronger, Fairer, Weiser"), focusing on the environment, health care, and the importance of state attorneys general in fighting excesses of the federal government; he took office in January. Many congratulations to **Phil** and his family on a well-deserved victory!

Continuing with the good news:

**Tom Dee** was appointed Stanford's Barnet Family Professor of Education. **Tom** is a nationally recognized expert on school accountability and reform, teacher effectiveness, and education finance. He and **Sara Ranck** live in Northern California with their children. Congrats, **Tom**!

**Bill Martin** was named president and CEO of BlackThorn Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company focusing on neurobehavioral disorders like Parkinson's disease. **Bill**, who was previously chief scientific officer, has had a long career in pharmaceutical R&D, with positions at Merck and Theravance Biopharma before helping to found BlackThorn. Congrats, **Bill**!

**Danielle Moss Lee** is the new CEO of Oliver Scholars, which prepares high-achieving black and Latino students from underserved NYC communities for success at independent schools and colleges. **Danielle** also gave a thoughtful, passionate TEDTalk at TEDWomen 2018. Way to go, **Danielle**!

**Michele Sachar** is a Swarthmore mom! Son **Jordan Rothschild** '22 is a first-year, living in Willets just as his mother did freshman year. **Michele** and husband **Brad Rothschild** live in NYC with daughters Talia, a 10th-grader, and Mia, a seventh-grader. **Michele** is director of strategic research and insights at the consultancy Grail Insights, where she has worked for two years. **Brad** is the director of a new documentary, *Tree Man*. **Michele** had a "fabulous get-together" in NYC this fall with **Anne-Marie Bairstow**, **Nancy Bacon**, and **Margaret George** to celebrate birthday milestones. She also connected with **Diane Tucker** '91, whom **Michele** hadn't seen since graduation!

**Jonathan Hugg** was named co-chair of the Financial Services Litigation Practice Group at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP in Philly. Congrats, **Jonathan**! His practice concentrates on commercial and appellate litigation, primarily financial institution, real estate, regulatory enforcement, and municipal matters.

Our condolences to **Karen Pulis** and husband **Scott**, each of whom

lost parents in 2017. **Karen** is a manager on State Street Bank's finance training team. Married for 12 years, she and **Scott** love to travel and vacationed in Hawaii last July for a boat tour of the Nāpali Coast, a helicopter ride, and a private tour of Coco Palms estate.

**Barbara West** was on a writing retreat last summer when she discovered a turkey attacking her Prius (seeing its own reflection in the car doors and pecking it). She filmed the encounter, including her gentle effort to shoo the turkey away from its fixation on its own image, and then turned the piece into a short film (bit.ly/BarbaraTurkey), narrated by **Barbara** with her own poetry. "It all ties back into Buddhism—I feel lucky to have that practice as an ongoing support."

**Lisa Streisfeld** has lived in the Denver area for the past 20 years. "I work in the Colorado Department of Transportation's RoadX Program, which is focused on accelerating technology for improved safety and mobility. We developed a public-private partnership to deploy the first commercial freight delivery with an autonomous truck, which drove more than 100 miles from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs. Skiing, hiking, and biking take up most of my spare time."

I, **Jim**, had lunch with **Caitlin Guthel** and husband **Doug** in Manhattan in December. **Caitlin** has a new short story, "Say It Was Me," in *Enizagam*, a literary journal housed at the Oakland School for the Arts. Way to go! **Caitlin**'s "day job" is as a Maine Medical Center research coordinator, with a focus on conducting qualitative studies and developing health communications.

I'm proud to report that the FDA approved the Population Council's newest product, Anovera, a one-year contraceptive vaginal system, for distribution in the U.S. I have directed the Anovera project at Pop Council for several years now, and it was immensely gratifying to see the approval. More important, women will have another contraceptive option to choose from when it reaches the market this year. (We are working on male contraception, too!)

## 1992

**Libby Starling**  
libbystarling@comcast.net

Apologies for skipping our last class notes, but there was no news to report! We are all busy in middle age, whether we're raising kids, advancing a career, changing the world, or simply living out our joys and sorrows.

Kudos, first, to our newly elected and re-elected officials! Congratulations to **Josh Green**, who is now Hawaii's lieutenant governor—and our highest-ranking elected official. And congrats to **Marion Greene**, who won a second term as a Hennepin County (Minn.) commissioner, representing parts of Minneapolis and its suburbs. (Perhaps a "green" name helps in our election campaigns?)

Congrats to **Michael Costonis**, who left Accenture after 26 years to be CNA Financial's chief operating officer. With this job change, he is spending more time in Chicago, allowing him to catch up with **Jason Dubner**.

Congrats to **Christina Proenza-Coles**, whose new book, *American Founders: How People of African Descent Established Freedom in the New World*, came out in March. "I studied at Swarthmore under Kathryn Morgan, whose influence was the bedrock that propelled me to teach African Diaspora history at Virginia State University," **Christina** writes. "While I was teaching, I continually came across examples of African-descended men and women who made major contributions to history and fundamentally altered my understanding of the founding of the Americas. *American Founders* documents black men and women as key protagonists in the story of American democracy."

**Rob Stevens** is an associate professor in Rochester Institute of Technology's mechanical engineering department, where he runs the Sustainable Energy Lab. In the fall, **Rob** and another

faculty member took RIT student teams to Haiti to help local women develop sustainable businesses. Meanwhile, **Katja van Brabant Stevens** reported the world premiere of **Brent Askari**'s new play, *Hard Cell*, in Rochester, N.Y. **Brent** is part of the ensemble Mad Horse Theatre in Portland, Maine, and will be onstage at Portland Stage Company once *Hard Cell* closes.

Keep up the good work, folks, and be sure to reach out if your travels bring you to the Twin Cities!

## 1994

**Kevin Babitz**  
kevinbabitz@gmail.com

Greetings from Montgomery County, Md., home of Brett Kavanaugh, who has never been to either Old Club or Olde Club.

**Tina Shepardson** is the new head of the religious studies department at the University of Tennessee—Knoxville, where she is the Lindsay Young Professor of Early Christianity and a close colleague of **Jacob Latham** '97. She is excited that her second book, *Controlling Contested Places* (UC Press, 2014), will be released in paperback this spring.

**Alexandra Grant** is an artist in LA, although she does projects all over the world, including recently Guatemala City, Mexico City, and Paris. Check out her work at alexandragrant.com or on Instagram, @grantalexandra. She writes: "I can't help but see that values I learned at Swarthmore and a culture of philanthropy are at the heart of my grantLOVE project, which helps raise money for artists' projects and arts nonprofits through the sale of limited editions of my LOVE artwork—which you can check out at grantlove.com."

"Also, after many years of collaborating together on artists' books—we published *Ode to Happiness* in 2011 and *Shadows* in 2016—Keanu Reeves and I started a small artist book publishing

company, X Artists' Books (xartistsbooks.com), as featured in the *NYT T Magazine* last year (bit.ly/XArtists)."

**Katie Bowman Grisbacher** "returned to higher education on the advancement staff at Lebanon Valley College—wonderful to be back on a college campus! My husband, John, and I enjoy country living with our four teenagers in Lititz, Pa."

As for me, **Kevin**, the federal government shutdown is giving me a chance to focus on our upcoming 25th Reunion. I trust that you are similarly deep in preparation and speculation. Will those guys who stated that epic Sharples food fight be there? What does the prankster crowd have in store for us? Is WSRN bringing in the Gin Blossoms for a concert in the Amphitheater? Will there be a surprise appearance by Al Bloom or Andy Karich? Only one way to find out!

## 1996

**Gerardo Aquino**  
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**Melissa Clark**  
melissa.a.clark@gmail.com

**Katy Yanda** returned to school for an occupational therapy master's at the University of New Mexico. She works in maternal and child public health and will focus on pediatric early intervention when she graduates. **Katy** lives in Santa Fe with husband **Chris Norris** and children **Nessa**, 10, and **Silvan**, 7. They invite any and all to visit. **Andrea Gibbons** published her first book, *City of Segregation: 100 Years of Struggle for Housing in Los Angeles*. She is a research and teaching fellow at the University of Salford School of Health and Society in England. Check out some of **Andrea**'s work at writingcities.com.

**Chris Marin** spent New Year's traveling with his wife and kids in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

"We spelunked, toured, and hiked the Appalachian Trail (which isn't far with three kids!)." He works at Microsoft while wife Liz oversees son Nicholas's physical and occupational therapy.

Wishing everyone continued success this year!

# 1998

**Rachel Breitman**  
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**Shirley Salmeron Dugan**  
shirleysalmeron@yahoo.com

I, **Rachel**, saw a number of classmates this fall in D.C. **Larry McDowell** came to visit, and I got to meet his husband, baby Eudora, and son Idris. **Herrin Hopper** hosted a dinner party, and Silver Spring, Md.-based **Elizabeth Weber Handwerker** came, too. **Larry** also caught up the next day with D.C.-based doula **Marialuz Castro Johnson**.

**Giridhar Srinivasan** lives near D.C. with wife Maya and two young kids. He runs a support group for dads at his son's private preschool, focused on being a more effective parent.

In December, I got a quick NYC getaway with **Cat Laine** and **Tamala Montgomery**. We saw **Shirley Salmeron Dugan** and **Kara Herzog Ross**, as well as my former middle school student and current children's book author **Emma Otheguy** '09 and her husband, economics professor **Timothy Roeper** '07.

**Cat** lives in a loft she and her husband refurbished in Woonsocket, R.I. She is a program coordinator at the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities and runs her own business, Painted Foot, photographing business executives, rock bands, children, and artistic portraits.

**Shirley** lives in Westchester, N.Y., and manages business development for a Chicago-based software company. She spends weekends at swim meets or doing Girl Scouts and community service

projects with her three daughters.

**Tamala** lives in the Philly suburbs, and between raising son Aaron, 1, with husband Ambrose, is a teacher of English language learners in a Philadelphia public school.

**Kara** is a White Plains (N.Y.) High School librarian and has three daughters. Her husband is a dean at a Bronx middle school.

**Dan Gallant**, the executive director of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, wrote three op-eds for *The Wall Street Journal* about social media policy for nonprofits. He will head north to Alberta to guest-teach a course in spoken word performance at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Brooklyn-based **Margaret Hutchins Silver** teaches seventh-grade humanities at Bank Street School for Children. She recently saw her former student **Ada Okun** '11. **Margaret's** husband, **Josh Silver** '97, teaches seventh-grade history and English at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School, running a Model U.N. group and working on an American history master's online. Son David is a seventh-grader and daughter Hannah a second-grader.

**Matt Neal** works in education reform in Texas, and was involved in the Beto for Senate campaign. He volunteers at the San Antonio bus station with a group assisting asylum-seekers the government drops off there daily. "The resilience of the refugee families is a constant inspiration and a humbling reminder of what really matters."

**Kelli Tennent Griffis** left behind the D.C. grind in July for the sunny skies of La Jolla, Calif. She isn't missing Northern Virginia winters one bit, and takes advantage of the balmy nights to host Zumba, salsa, and hip-hop dance parties.

After finishing an MFA in 2016, **Maurisa Thompson** is teaching at a project-based learning school in San Francisco. Her creative writing was published in an anthology, *The City Is Still Speaking*, and she is hard at work on a YA novel about social justice.

In Santa Cruz, Calif., **Sibley Verbeck Simon** is developing plans for small studios for homeless people that also include security and physical and mental health services. He also cultivates rare

mammals of unusual sizes.

New to the California coastal scene is **Solimar Salas-Rodriguez**. After living in Puerto Rico for 20 years, she accepted a position last March as director for museum content and programming at Long Beach's Museum of Latin American Art. She looks forward to road trips and reconnecting with Swatties.

Seattle-based sports medicine doctor **Leslie Yen** has been learning daring new sports like stand-up paddleboarding and skateboarding, while also chasing after daughters Lily and Skye. They all have matching zebra pajamas, which makes husband John feel left out.

**Jude Uzonwanne** was sad to miss the reunion in June. He left Florida last year for Singapore to be a principal at IQVIA Asia Pacific, working on corporate development, private equity, sovereign wealth, and brand management for consumer health, life science, and health care companies.

And welcome to our new class kiddos. **Kim Nelson Tener** had daughter Nelly in early 2018, who at 5 months was one of the youngest guests at our reunion. She, husband Max, son Bobby, and Nelly live in Long Island, where **Kim** is a partner at a small law firm. **Jen Weiss Handler**, husband Adam, and daughter Josie welcomed baby Danielle Max right after Christmas. **Jen** works at the Atlanta office of the San Francisco-based software company Pivotal.

# 2000

**Michaela DeSoucey**  
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**Emily Shu**  
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Happy 40th to many of us! **Jon Temin** shared a birthday update from the road this winter: "**Steve Dawson** and I are in hour 12 of driving through a snowstorm from Asheville, N.C., to Washington, D.C., having gotten together (along with our wives) for a weekend of

concerts to celebrate." **Jon** lives in D.C. with his wife and two kids, and **Steve** and his wife live in London.

**Dana Liu** moved to Palo Alto, Calif., with her family, including kids Alistair and Giselle. **Margaret Parker Stafford** lives in San Francisco with her husband and daughters Caroline and Rebecca. She has her dream job on faculty of San Francisco General Hospital's family medicine residency program. "I've also been doing local advocacy with health professional and interfaith groups to support our communities in their struggles with law enforcement violence and deportation."

Also in the Bay Area, **Eva Allan** is teaching at UC-Berkeley while organizing an art-based relationship between the UCSF medical school and the de Young Museum. **Eva** is "just keeping it real with small kids—a lice-eradication program, potty training, stomach bugs, magic formula and perpetual motion experiments, creative language acquisition, first ballet recital, and ongoing conversations about synesthesia, gender fluidity, and social justice."

**Alison Young** was named co-director of citizen science at the California Academy of Sciences. She is a founder and lead organizer of the City Nature Challenge, which is in its fourth year and happening in more than 120 cities worldwide in April. "My partner of nine years, Ivan Veraja, and I got married in November. It was a fun and festive (and slightly cold!) weekend in Yosemite. **Neil DiMaio** officiated, and **Emily Shu** and **Sarah Archer** attended. We live in Sonoma, so if any Swatties are in the area for wine-tasting, look us up!"

**Beth Bonacci** lives on a western South Dakota ranch with her husband, kids Wesley and Emmy, dogs, cats, and chickens. She is a freelance writer and produces a monthly segment for South Dakota Public Broadcasting, *Little Pasture on the Prairie*. **Beth** also released her third album under stage name Eliza Blue. **Bre Holt** visited in autumn, and "**Alicia Googins** is going to visit this spring and will be the first of what we hope are many 'writers-in-residence.'"

**Karen Lloyd** received tenure in



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► "If I trust the simple humanity of that process," says Sam Dingman '04, "there's always some alchemical moment that I never could've predicted, and suddenly we have our story."

## TRUST THE STORY

### He finds gems in family lore and beyond

by Alexandra Sastre '05

**SAM DINGMAN** '04'S PATH since Swarthmore has had some eclectic twists and turns—but then again, don't all good stories?

He had spent his Swarthmore days channeling his creative energy into comedy, as a member of the improv troupe Vertigo-go and producer of his own sketch comedy show on WSRN.

"When I graduated," he recalls, "I promised myself I'd spend two years trying to be an actor in New York, and I knew I'd need a day job to keep me afloat. So I spent two years as a bellman at a luxury hotel in lower Manhattan and then a few months as a taxi driver."

After being "nearly obliterated by a speeding Jeep Wrangler," he decided it was time for a change. Next up was an accidental seven-year sojourn through

the tech industry, with three years spent at the music streaming service LimeWire and four at Google.

As his professional life evolved, so did his creative journey. Dingman began to mine stories from his time as a bellman and taxi driver, writing his own performance pieces and experimenting with podcasting, then a new medium. Inspired by this storytelling mode, Dingman joined the team at WNYC's *On the Media* and eventually moved to the premium podcast network Panoply. There, he produced Karina Longworth's hit series on classic Hollywood, *You Must Remember This*, and produced and hosted his own show, *Family Ghosts*.

*Family Ghosts* tackles those secrets hiding in dark corners that haunt and define our family legacies. Its first

season brought together true tales of secret uncles, jewel thieves, and suspected arson. At once intimate and tragic, these stories are rooted in the notion that every family is somehow haunted, no matter how friendly the ghost. (The podcast was picked up for Seasons 2 and 3, Dingman says, but will have a new home, set to be revealed in May.)

*Family Ghosts* has its own specter, too, though one more poignant than terrifying. Dingman recalls an acting class he took with Lee Devin, now a theater professor emeritus.

"One of the first things he said to us was, 'All great drama begins with the family,'" he says.

That declaration would spark an ongoing interest in how the familial becomes legend, and how the truth can be more astounding than fiction.

"I was always curious about what it would be like to try and capture that same dramatic vibrance in nonfiction," Dingman says, "where you can't write the perfect ending or script the perfect line in the same way you might in a film or a play."

But unlike a scripted narrative, true stories are harder to wrangle. Producing an episode of a podcast like *Family Ghosts* requires a delicate balance between listening and responding, of letting the story slowly unspool.

"My favorite part of the work is the exhilaration of sitting down for the first interview," he says, "having only a gut instinct that it's going to become something special and having to trust that I can find the path."

This gut instinct, this trust, is driven by something Dingman calls the "Hairbrush Factor."

"Does this podcast feel like something a person has spent hours dreaming about getting to do, sitting alone in their bedroom, talking into their hairbrush like it was a microphone?" he asks. "If the answer is yes, I think there's probably a great podcast in there." 🎧

microbiology at the University of Tennessee. She's been doing fun field work in Costa Rica, Panama, and Svalbard. **Sarah Scheckter** moved with husband Matt Farmer back to Philly, where she is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Bryn Mawr and he is a Haverford classics professor. Keep an eye out for **Samantha Johnson's** new EP, *Flights and Landings*, this spring (samtwigg.net). **Samantha** is a therapist and mentor at a large secondary school in the U.K.

In January 2018, **Miriam Freedman** welcomed baby Ezra, who will soon be able to chase after brother Noam, 4. **Liz Blair** and **David Plante** welcomed Tilden Josephine, a smiley baby who loves laughing at the antics of brothers Michael and Nathaniel. **Liz** is an assistant professor of educational foundations at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and **Dave** is an assistant professor of psychiatry and medical director of the Wisconsin Institute for Sleep and Consciousness at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Across the country, **Uche Eneanya** finished medical school and purchased a medical practice (Comprehensive Pain Solutions of New Jersey) in 2016. The practice is doing very well. He also purchased a new home with wife Kia and kids Kylie and Christian in Philly. **Victor Piñeiro** and wife Evelyn welcomed Julian Daniel in August. "Every once in a while, we walk through Queens's parks with **Kevin Schlottmann** and his kids. In a surreal and random note, I've designed two games for Hasbro. One, Awkward Hugs, is available everywhere that sells games. The next is a card game, due out next fall." **Victor** is also writing his first novel and is SVP of social media at creative agency Big Spaceship.

**Amilcar Maceo Priestley** stayed true to his Brooklyn roots, residing there with his wife and son. He is an attorney and director of the Afrolatin@ Project, an international social justice organization and digital archive of Afrolatinx oral histories. **Amilcar** and his wife are co-directors of the Afro-Latino Festival NYC, the only music/cultural festival and conference celebrating Afrolatinx in North

America, now entering its seventh year. Newlywed **Juan Mejía** is also in NYC, with wife Sarah and daughter Lucia. "I work at Human Pictures, a film production company founded with two childhood friends. We are working with the Equal Justice Initiative on a series of short films on racial justice, an upcoming series on the struggle for rights and the U.S. Constitution, and a feature documentary on Black Lives Matter across Colombia and the U.S."

We are saddened to share that **George Balgobin** died in February after a long illness. **George** had been working on a sociology dissertation at Northwestern, from which he also earned a J.D. We send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, including his partner, Melissa.

## 2002

**Tanyaporn Wansom**  
swarthmore2002@gmail.com

**Olga Rostapshova** started a new position as executive director of the University of Chicago's Energy and Environment Lab, which works with government agencies to design, evaluate, and help scale programs and policies. She would love to connect with Swatties working in energy and environment. **Jonathan Stancato** has continued to develop Inside Voice (bit.ly/JStancato), his mind-body approach to voice and song, and has become Yelp's top-rated voice teacher in NYC!

**Fabienne François Keck** and husband Todd are settling into their new home in Milton, Mass. She would love to connect with others in the Boston area. **Andrew Alderete** moved to Boulder, Colo., and started a consulting company producing film concert entertainment worldwide, such as Harry Potter in Concert, Gladiator, and Godfather Live. After a short stint in Indian health care, **Sonia Mariano** is back in Gisborne, New Zealand, as an ER doc.

**Ben Park** works for the VA in

Minnesota and welcomed third child Jubilee Park in 2017. **Cris** and **Danielle Harris Ortiz** welcomed son Emiliano in October. He joins sisters Alaina, 8, and Briseis, 2, and brother Dominic, 5. **Renee Witten** and husband Paul, in Yarmouth, Maine, welcomed daughter Neri in October, joining sister Noa. **Renee** starts as a psychiatrist embedded in primary care and OB/GYN practices in Portland, Maine, after maternity leave.

**Corey Mark** married Merrian Brooks on Nov. 10 at the Newton White Mansion in Prince George's County, Md. The event, which celebrated African heritage, was dubbed "Music Marries Medicine" and was attended by **Ayanna Butler '03**. **Corey** moved from his long-time home in Philly to join Merrian, a doctor, in Gaborone, Botswana, where he continues to perform and teach music.

Furthering the Swarthmore connection, Merrian and **Corey** visited me, **Tanyaporn Wansom**, during their January honeymoon in Bangkok. I recently left my job with the U.S. Military HIV Research Program to join a Bangkok-based NGO, Dreamlopmnts, as director of HIV and hepatitis research and advocacy.

I always enjoy hearing from you! If you are not getting my call for class notes, please email me to be added to the list.

## 2004

**Rebecca Rogers**  
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**Danny Loss**  
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Our class updates are summed up as "careers, children, activism"—with many people doing all three!

**Mark Hanis** co-founded Progressive Shopper, which received coverage in *Forbes* (bit.ly/PSForbes), *The Washington Post* (bit.ly/PSWaPo) ... and the *Bulletin* (pg. 14).

**Greg Lok's** emotional intelligence

and voice analysis startup Ambient Analytics raised \$1.1 million in pre-seed funding.

**Jake Beckman** had an opening reception in October at University of the Arts for a gallery exhibition of recent sculpture as well as a public art project.

**Micah White** is UCLA's Activist-in-Residence for winter 2019 and has, with wife **Chiara Ricciardone '05**, started the online Activist Graduate School.

**Morgan Simon** became a *Forbes* contributor writing about money and social justice. Check her out online.

**Heather Sternsheim's** "big update is that we moved to Chapel Hill, N.C.! I'm now associate director of academics for MBA@UNC (UNC's online MBA program). Also, somehow, I have a 1-year-old—time flies!"

**Nick Lum** and his BeeLine Reader were honored at the U.N. Solutions Summit, which recognizes 10 entrepreneurs globally for their work related to the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals.

**Audrey Dorélien** and husband Jason Kerwin welcomed daughter Naomi Dorélien Kerwin in March. The couple are both assistant professors at the University of Minnesota—**Audrey** at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and Jason in the Department of Applied Economics. If there are other Swatties in the Twin Cities, **Audrey** would love to connect.

**Elinore Kaufman** and **Maria Alvarez** "have a new team member—Esperanza, born Nov. 20, making Maggie a very proud big sister. We are also excited to be back in Philly—**Elinore** finished general surgery residency and is doing a critical care and trauma surgery fellowship at Penn. And after a decade in cosmetology, **Maria** is back in school, also at Penn, to become a middle school science teacher."

After 11 years in Brooklyn, **Kathy Liu** boldly moved to Manhattan over the holidays to be closer to work, which is still going well.

**Rachel Block** updates us on the past few years: "**Patrick Connolly '01** and I got hitched in 2010. To our surprise, we both ended up going to law school soon after that. After

hitting the books in Hyde Park at UChicago (yes, we also both went to the same law school), we kept heading west and are now practicing—at different firms!—in Seattle. In 2018, we welcomed son Akiva. I was thrilled to introduce him to **Marc Boucai**, who passed through Seattle last summer on his way to settling down in California. We have stayed connected to Swarthmore by participating in the lively local alumni book club (though I must confess that since the baby arrived, I've been listening to the audiobook versions, which feels a bit like cheating)."

**Dan Chamberlain** and wife Emily welcomed daughter Ava Rose on Aug. 13.

**Rebecca Ennen**, who wins the prize for connecting with the most Swatties in the past year, writes: "My partner, Ari, and I spent a quiet Christmas with our 2.5-year-old, Misha, and neighbors **Matt Rubin Blumin**, partner Jessie, and their child, Amira, 4; and an eventful New Year's weekend in Philly with **Ester Bloom** and **Ben Galynker '03** and kids Lara, 6, and Jules, 3, hosted by **Ross Hoffman**, spouse Elsa, and kids Beatrice, 3, and Ambrose, 1. Our gang also connected with **Angela Fleury '06**, **Anna Headley '03**, **Dan Consiglio '03**, and **Liza Henty-Clark '03**, but we missed many other West Philly pals. We admired the podcasting exploits of **Sam Dingman**, **Khadajah White**, and **Morgan Simon**, contemplated the sectarian origins of Swarthmore, and toasted the unsung legacy of 'Fighting Quaker'



### SPOTLIGHT ON ... ADAM BISNO '06

Adam Bisno '06, a writer-editor at the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, D.C., received the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize for research on "Hotel Berlin: The Politics of Commercial Hospitality in the German Metropolis, 1875-1945."

"Having written a dissertation I'm proud of would have been reward enough," Bisno says. "But to have my work recognized by the very people whose work inspired and instructed me in my own intellectual development—that's a great feeling."

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

Smedley Butler."

Congrats to everyone on the accomplishments. We look forward to seeing you at our (gulp!) 15th Reunion!

## 2006

**Wee Chua**  
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Hope 2019 is off to a great start! I'm excited to share the wonderful celebrations that closed 2018.

FUSE Fellow **Patrice Berry** is doing great work in Oakland, Calif., ensuring college affordability by addressing systemic barriers that prevent access to aid.

**Matt Meltzer** married Jennie Rossano in December, followed by a honeymoon in Hawaii.

**Ana Chiu** and David Palsgrove celebrated their wedding in August, with **Kenan Jaffe** co-officiating, **James Madden** in the wedding party, and other Swatties filling the dance floor.

**Martyna Pospieszalska** and husband Rich welcomed first child Ewalina on Dec. 18.

**Reena Nadler** and **Jacob Ross '05** welcomed son Benjamin Andrew Ross (future '41? Hey, it could happen) on Dec. 29. All three are doing great.

**Caroline Carlson's** fifth novel for young readers, *The Door at the End of the World*, will be published

by HarperCollins in April. **Caroline** and **Zach Pezzementi '05** live in Pittsburgh and have loved catching up with Swatties coming through town.

**Adam Bisno** won the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize for research on "Hotel Berlin: The Politics of Commercial Hospitality in the German Metropolis, 1875-1945." It is a deeply researched and elegantly written exploration of the institution of the grand hotel in Berlin during 70 tumultuous years of German history. Congrats!

**Billy '05** and **Anisha Chandra Schwarz** are in transition in Seattle, where **Anisha** is finishing a neuromuscular neurology fellowship and looking for her first actual job. She frequently runs into neurosurgery resident **John Ross Williams** around the hospital. **Billy** is finishing his second year of felony defense work. Son Narayan Chandra Schwarz started preschool and has strong opinions. Let them know if you are in the area!

## 2008

**Mark Dlugash**  
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*New York, N.Y.:* Having spent the past five years in London, **Kyle White** and his wife moved back to NYC in November. Although

they miss friends and the travel in England, they look forward to a new adventure in the States.

**Anna Mello** is in NYC after 10 years of living abroad. She is a fifth-grade science teacher at the all-girls Chapin School on the Upper East Side; she also teaches robotics. During free time, she hangs out with twin sister **Maria Mello**, who also coincidentally moved to New York in 2018.

**Rita Kamani-Renedo** works at the International High School at Prospect Heights, where she teaches humanities to immigrant newcomers. This year, she is also teaching in CUNY Hunter's bilingual education department.

**Scott Storm** started an education Ph.D. at NYU and was recently honored by the National Council of Teachers of English for his teacher research. While excited to be a student again, **Scott** also still teaches and chairs the English department at Harvest Collegiate High School—the NYC public school he co-founded seven years ago. **Scott** lives in Brooklyn with husband **Patrick Hart '06** and loves hosting role-playing murder-mystery parties with **Alex Benn**, **Annie Burke Benn**, **Zachary Weintraub '06**, **Kenan Jaffe '06**, **Beth Krone '09**, and **Liz Upshur '07**. **Rahul D'Silva** started as head of talent for Function of Beauty, an NYC-based personalized shampoo startup. He's slowly building a community in Harlem, where he lives, but he still doesn't have a dog.

*Working life:* **Yusha Hu** sold her company, Local Bushel, a marketplace and distribution company that sold farm-transparent food to restaurants, and looks forward to exploring new opportunities.

**Camila Harrigan-Labarca** started a new position at Creative Associates International, a USAID implementer, and is now a financial analyst supporting six development projects with their financial pipelines.

**Cristina Schrum-Herrera** left her law firm job and started a new position at the California Labor Commissioner's Office, representing workers who are retaliated against for exercising

their rights under the Labor Code. She spends lots of time cooking new dishes and playing with daughter Nina, 2, and enjoys hearing her tell her they are best friends. She is moving to Sacramento this spring and hopes to make cool friends there. Recommendations welcome.

**Matthew Armstead** finished an MFA with Pig Iron Theatre Company and enjoys the daily dance between Philly's theater and activism worlds.

**Jennessa Calvo-Friedman** has a new role at the ACLU as a National Legal Department staff attorney.

*Celebrations:* **Madalyn Baldanzi**, who lives in Brooklyn and teaches sketch comedy at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, got married in September to Daire McKenna. **Alyssa Work**, **Alex Friedman** '09, **Meredith Leich**, **Marina Tempelman** '10, **Mairin Odle**, **Nicco Aeed** '10, and **Emily Walz** attended the ceremony in **Madalyn's** hometown of Morristown, N.J.

**Sarah Burford** and **Nate Allen** were overjoyed to welcome daughter Raisa Allen-Burford in July. She is a budding gourmand and good at reminding her parents who's boss. In D.C., **Sarah** manages the Media Arts grant program at the National Endowment for the Arts. **Nate** finished an international relations doctorate at Johns Hopkins in June, and is a policy adviser at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

And finally, before the 2018 midterm elections, **George Dahl** created Measured Politics (measuredpolitics.org), a small organization to help donors more effectively engage in political activism while supporting Democrats challenging Republican incumbents in state legislative races. With consulting help from **Ella Foster-Molina** '07, Measured Politics is collecting data for a randomized controlled trial on the effect of campaign contributions on candidate vote shares, along with two other studies designed to inform donors and activists. They have big plans for November's Mississippi legislature elections, and the team would love to hear from interested Swatties.

# 2010

**Brendan Work**  
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And lo! Nigh upon their reunion, in the ninth year of alumnity, the Swarthmorites of twenty and ten did multiply throughout the world, and such was the sum of their deeds:

Verily **Urooj Khan** did take leave of her corporate job to join the Bronx Defenders as in the Criminal Defense Practice, and withal she did make abundant posts on Instagram to show the people the pottery she did craft. **Urooj** resided in the land of Brooklyn, wherein abided **Linnet Davis-Stermitz** '12, **Chris Sawyer**, **Will Treece** '11, and **Tiffany Liao**, and so too did **Urooj** create a Google Hangouts book club with **Neena Cherayil** '11 of Philly and **Chris Roney** of D.C. and of it she proclaimed, "It is great."

The mighty Swarthmorite warrior **Brigette Davis** joined battle against the forces of sin, for she continued studying the impact of racism on health as a second-year population health sciences Ph.D. student, with a focus on social epidemiology, at the Harvard School of Public Health. She joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Health Policy Research Scholars program, and behold! She was "pretty excited" about a publication coming out called *Racism and Health: Evidence and Needed Research*.

Plentiful were the deeds of **Justin diFeliciantonio**, who increased the local high school tennis team in victories and whose wisdoms races. With consulting help from **Ella Foster-Molina** '07, Measured Politics is collecting data for a randomized controlled trial on the effect of campaign contributions on candidate vote shares, along with two other studies designed to inform donors and activists. They have big plans for November's Mississippi legislature elections, and the team would love to hear from interested Swatties.

It was foretold that **Nicole Singer**, who was an elementary art teacher, should dwell within a house, and indeed she did close upon one in Easthampton, Mass. And by her merit she was named this year's recipient of the Carrie

## SPOTLIGHT ON ... 2019 FULBRIGHT STUDENTS

Swarthmore is again among the top producers of U.S. Fulbright scholars and students—a recognition it's held for more than 10 years—with nine recent alumni receiving the honor with the College's backing.

This year, **Nikhil Chopra** '18, **Joseph DeBrine** '18, **Mariah Everett** '18, **Madeleine Feldman** '17, **Liliana Frankel** '18, **Griffin Kammerer** '18, **Alice Liu** '18, **Bridget Scott** '18, and **Susan Whaley** '18 received grants through Swarthmore's sponsorship, while a 10th alum, **Pendle Marshall-Hallmark** '14, was honored as an "at-large" candidate.

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



Nordlund Award for Pre-K-12 Feminist Pedagogy from the Women's Caucus of the National Art Education Association, and so it shall be that she shall bring forth a short presentation about feminist, gender-inclusive, queer-affirming pedagogy and advocacy in elementary art teaching at the NAEA conference in Boston.

The Swarthmorites were fruitful upon the Earth and prodigious in their make. **Hannah Epstein** begat daughter Adina in June, and **Anne Miller-Uueda** begat Declan Avo Miller-Uueda on the nine and twentieth day of November. Indeed, her labor was supported by the doula **Cecelia Osowski** '15, who thereupon did attend the birth of **Omari Faakye's** second child, Solomon, on the selfsame day. And yea! **Cecelia** was an amazing doula.

And there were in that day sojourners among the tribe of twenty and ten, those whose footsteps marked the land. **Colin Schimmelfing** checked out the largest cave in the world in Vietnam, ate amazing food in China with **Andrew Stromme** '12, and volunteered in Austin, Texas, for the Democratic Party, whereupon he moved to Prospect Heights in Brooklyn to manage an engineering team at Flatiron Health. And **Colin** had dominion over many things, for he was righteous. So, too, among the travelers was **Seth Green**, who labored a moon's duration with his company Code Ocean in Tel Aviv.

Abundant were the weddings

among the tribe of twenty and ten, for they were kind and loving people, and it was very good. **Helen Hougen** was married in Portland, Ore., and within the caravan of guests was **Caitlin O'Neil**, who spake in the tongue of Portugal and practiced the art of capoeira and oft cast herself upon the prison budget of California. In Scott Amphitheater, **Max Wilson** did wed his bride, **Sara Forster** '11, before a multitudinous host of Swarthmorites from the tribe of twenty and eleven, the tribe of 1981, and **Keith Blaha** and **Jeffrey Lazarus** withal. Glorious was the dancing and merriment, and thereafter **Max** and **Sara** betook themselves by means of a single car journey to Santa Barbara, Calif., where **Max** became an assistant professor of quantitative and systems biology at UCSB, and both surfed a modest surfing.

And other Swarthmorites did prosper in the nation, and they were called: **Stephanie Appiah**, who worked for Jack Entertainment in Detroit; **Ashley Miniet**, in her final year of an Emory pediatric residency; and **G Patrick**, who did append to his name the letters M and D upon completing his preliminary year in general surgery at Pittsburgh's Allegheny General Hospital. Yet suddenly woe did betide **G**, for he had been deceived by the television series *Grey's Anatomy* about the amount of promiscuity in the field, and four hours of sleep a night did not

suffice him, and he was aggrieved.

Overflowing was the majesty of the Swarthmorites of twenty and ten, but few indeed were those who wrote in with updates, and thus it was that the notes were short and the scribe was cast into a vexation. He may yet be summoned at [theworkzone@gmail.com](mailto:theworkzone@gmail.com).

# 2012

**Maia Gerlinger**  
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Happy New Year, 2012! I accidentally saved this document as "class notes winter 2018." A lot of people I know, and a lot of people in these notes, have either made huge life changes this past year or are on the cusp of doing so. Wishing you the best! Also, if you're like, "Ugh, not me. Same ol', same ol'," don't worry—you're doing a great job, as well. You do you, man. Here are your notes!

*California:* **Tania Doles** now lives in the Bay Area, where she looks forward to reconnecting with Swatties—something that was lacking in Maine, although she misses the state "from the bottom of her heart." **Adam Bortner** is a resident physician at Family Health Centers of San Diego. "California really is as lovely as all our Californian classmates made it seem," he muses, traitorously. **Melissa Frick** begins a radiation oncology residency at Stanford in July. **Miyuki Baker** is in the research fellowship year of a performance studies Ph.D. at UC-Berkeley, considering spiritual social justice work in East Oakland, and training to be a life coach. **Joseph O'Hara** lives in San Francisco and works for JUUL. (Aren't **Miyuki** and **Joseph** together, like, California in a nutshell?) **Arsean Maqami** is WeWork's director of construction; he launched and is managing general contracting entities in California, Washington, Texas, and Colorado.

*Pennsylvania:* **Taylor Loughson**

née **Wuerker** married Cait Prendergast on Nov. 17. "Loughson" is a combination of **Taylor's** and **Cait's** mothers' maiden names, which is very cool. **Zack Wiener** officiated **Josh Glickenhau** and **Tori Barber** '13's wedding, where, he says, it was "really a cherished honor to make **Tori** and **Josh** snort-cry during the ceremony." **Margret Lenfest** finishes Penn vet school in May and will specialize in "canine sports medicine," which to me conjures up adorable images of doggies in jerseys. **Alexander Burka** finally finished a Ph.D. at Penn and now works at a robotics startup. Contact him "if you want to know about local folk dancing or be talked out of starting a Ph.D. program," he writes, interestingly, for someone who actually finished his. **Timothy Brevart** got married after Thanksgiving and honeymooned in Australia, where he got punched by a mama wallaby for trying to feed her baby. "Feel free to leave that out (or add that in)," he writes, confusingly. **Tim** has been a Nasdaq software developer for two years. **Andrew Cheng** is teaching two courses in Swat's linguistics department this spring, after which he will return to UC-Berkeley to finish his dissertation. **Tayarisha Poe** made her directorial debut at the Sundance Film Festival with the drama *Selah and the Spades*.

*Chicago:* **Hannah "Alex" Younger** is the program coordinator for Columbia College Chicago's arts access partnership with a public high school. "I do not know how well it's going. I'm teaching a sculpture class and have discovered that the only way for teenagers to not mistake me for another teenager is to wear giant heels every day, so now they just think I'm very fancy. Also, my roommate turned our apartment into a gallery, so I regularly come home to the entire space rearranged and I live in constant fear of running into a painting."

*New England:* **Benjamin Lipton** and **Julia Cooper** were ("finally?" **Ben** writes) married in October. **David D'Annunzio**, **Nick Felt** '13, **David D'Annunzio**, **Nick Felt** '13, **Rose Pozos-Brewer** '15, **Andrew Stromme**, **Philip Chodrow**, **Rose Morris-Wright** '13, **Katie Gonzalez**,

**Adriana Popa Aldgate**, **Oliver Lipton** '18, and **Joelle Moreno** '84 were there. **Julia** and **Ben** live in Lawrence, Mass., where **Julia** is doing a family medicine residency, and **Ben** works for GRIMM, a cybersecurity company. "Number of cats in the house steadily growing," he concludes—ominously? Joyfully? Hard to tell. **Maddie Williams** wrote to say that her first-year plant from Swarthmore is still alive, which honestly might be the most impressive class note I've ever received. Game over.

*D.C./Baltimore:* **Sara Blanco** is training young women to run for political office with the nonpartisan organization Running Start. **Zachary Weiner** writes: "**Lisa Shang** and I were visited on Christmas Eve by nondenominational Santa Claus who brought with him (or her?) an 8-week-old puppy. Her name is Pretzel; we adopted her from Operation Paws for Homes, and she loves socks, her squirrel toy, and waking up at 3 a.m. to pee on the floor. Her ancestry is in question, and we have neither submitted her information to 23andMe nor, relatedly, received any further clarification." He adds: "(You are released to use any of the above in the write-up without feeling bad.)" As I am an entire week late sending in these notes (sorry, *Bulletin*!), I think I will!

Thanks, **Zach!**  
*New York/New Jersey:* **Maxwell Brossman** is about a year out from being a "head doctor somewhere" (unsure what that means). He's also the medical director for a medical marijuana company. He writes, reassuringly, "I tried (and failed) to qualify for the golf U.S. Open this year. I'm still married." **Amelia Possanza** works in publishing and lives in Brooklyn with **Marief Freyre** '15 and their cat, whom I have met and who is a very good girl. **Callie Feingold** is a production coordinator at CNN, working with a team of documentary producers. She also lives in Brooklyn, like literally everyone I know. **Natalia Cote-Muñoz** works at the Council of Foreign Relations, where there are two other Swatties, **Liz Economy**

'84 and **Lorand Laskai** '13. **Tasha Lewis** had a show at Philly's Magic Gardens.

*North Carolina:* **Jennifer Yi** is finishing a Ph.D. and will defend her dissertation by the beginning of summer. She also fosters dogs, avidly, and has an Instagram to prove it.

*Abroad:* **Pierre Dyer** is doing an MBA at London Business School. **William Campbell** married Edie Constable in July; he lives in Singapore, where he misses things from the USA. I, **Maia Gerlinger**, live in Paris, where I am doing a comparative literature master's at the Sorbonne.

# 2014

**Brone Lobichusky**  
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This spring finds classmates, once again, making great strides in their careers, serving as inspiring humanitarians, and having fun across the world.

Starting abroad, **Emily Lau** made a big move to northern England, where she is pursuing a master's in computer science with speech and language processing at the University of Sheffield. She regularly ventures to London to visit her boyfriend.

On the West Coast, **Natalie Campen** is a third-year student at USC's Keck School of Medicine and is completing her psychiatry and surgery rotations this spring. **Leah Lee** joined the UC-Berkeley's Department of Integrative Biology as a graduate student. In September, **Harrison Tasoff** started as a science writer at UC-Santa Barbara. **Akunna Uka** sends greetings from sunny LA, where she teaches middle and high school speech and debate and history, and has also completed half of her coursework for a master's of education from UCLA. When not at school (or school), she canoes, camps, or catches up with family.

**Pendle Marshall-Hallmark**

finished working at a Colombian human-rights NGO last summer and moved from Bogotá to Mexico City, where she is taking MBA classes and learning about Latin American social entrepreneurship.

**Paul Cato** and **Danielle Charette** are toiling away at Ph.D.s at UChicago's Committee on Social Thought. In the fall, **Paul** was invited to Susquehanna University to guest-teach a course on James Baldwin, speak about his experiences as a black, disabled student at predominately white institutions, and discuss inclusivity with the college president. In January, he began work on his dissertation proposal—hoping to study theories of love found in the work of black authors and thinkers. Meanwhile, **Danielle** co-edits the *Tocqueville 21* blog on contemporary democracy.

**Corey Carmichael** married **Fritz Eyerer** '12 in Maine in August. Many Swatties attended, along with the Screw Your Roommate lobster costume that started their romance. The couple moved to Burlington, Vt., and would love to connect with area Swatties.

Several classmates have made their home in NYC, including **Rebecca Anuru** (formerly Rebecca Ahmad). She recently celebrated the second anniversary of choosing her forever last name, which means “filled with light.” **Rebecca** returned to her hometown of the Bronx in September and, shortly after, started her dream job as program specialist for the Coordinated Children's Services Initiative at Vibrant Emotional Health, working to improve mental health services' access and coordination for youth throughout New York's five boroughs. This year, she hopes to expand her agency, Anuru Rising Consulting, to assist organizations in their support of urban youths, while also offering herself rest and TLC. **Alison Ryland** moved to NYC in the fall to work on a master's in applied statistics for the social sciences at Columbia. **Mihika Srivastava** made the big move from Harlem to Brooklyn in August, after completing a master's in international affairs at Columbia. She is a writer and

communications strategist at the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, an organization that supports grassroots human rights and LGBTQ organizations worldwide. Aside from that, you can find **Mihika** indulging in millennial clichés like becoming a mother to far too many plants and baking away all her problems. **Heidy Wang** is preparing for a pediatrics residency following her graduation from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

In nearby Philly, **Ashley Gochoco** and **Aaron Moser** '13 reside with their miniature dachshund puppy, Daisy. They wed in the Berkshires on a sunny day last June. By the bride's side were maid of honor **Stephanie Lechich** and bridesmaid **Alexandra Werth**. **Charlton Otte** '13 and **Craig Pentrack** were enthusiastic groomsmen. **Jillian Ma** purchased a home in Philly and looks forward to hosting reunions. She is in her third year of teaching math and coaching robotics at an area Quaker school. Last summer, she traveled to Croatia with **Caitlin Sequira** and **Rebecca Teng**. She even appeared in a Buzzfeed video in LA, thanks to **Kendell Byrd** '17!

Your secretary, **Brone**, is in her last semester at Temple's Lewis Katz School of Medicine and patiently waiting to learn her residency fate. The fall and winter were spent traveling for general surgery interviews, taking up running at the insistence of her golden retriever, and planning postgraduation vacations.

# 2016

**Z.L. Zhou**  
zzlzhou@gmail.com

**Stephanie Kestelman**  
stephaniekestelman@gmail.com

California-based **Aneesa Andrabi** started working in LA Mayor Eric Garcetti's office on the Great Streets Initiative team.

**Rachel Berger** is an administrative assistant at

Juvenile Law Center. Last year, she participated in the Bread & Roses Gender Justice Giving Project, which raised money for Philly-area grassroots organizations.

**Jesse Bossingham** started med school at UNC—Chapel Hill.

**Michelle Johnson** is an outreach program coordinator at UPenn's MindCORE while pursuing a master of social work.

**Deborah Krieger** interviewed David Sedaris last summer after the release of his book *Calypso*.

**Rainie Oet** (who recently changed their name from Jacob) is finishing a poetry MFA at Syracuse, graduating in May. **Rainie** has two books of poetry under contract: *Inside Ball Lightning* will be published by Southeast Missouri University Press in 2020, and *Glorious Veils of Diane* will be published by Carnegie Mellon University Press in 2021.

**Claudia Lo** lives in Oakland, Calif., and is a design researcher on Wikipedia's Anti-Harassment Tools team, researching how awful people are to each other.

**Laura Rigell**, a former RE-volv Solar Ambassador, is now the solar manager at the Philadelphia Energy Authority. She and her team won a \$1.25 million grant from the Department of Energy. **Michaela Shuchman** produced and starred in *Behold Her*, a play exploring female Jewish beauty, as part of Philly's 2018 Fringe Festival.

**Kelly Smemo** is pursuing a master's in higher education in Boston, where she hangs out with **Ravenna Thielstrom** whenever possible. She's also formed a deep cat-sitting partnership with **Tess Amram** '15. Her podcast endeavors with eternal partner in crime **Richard Monari** have only grown in scope and absurdity as they now host two shows every other week. Last summer, she road-tripped

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through Canada with **Elaine Zhou** and was a counselor at Magic Wizard camp on Swarthmore's campus with **Leonie Cohen**, **Emma Puranen** '18, and **Nathan Graf**.

**Bennett Thompson** is in the final year of natural resources master's at the University of New Hampshire, where he studies soil biogeochemistry in agriculture—or, in other words, looks for ways for farmers to get the most out of healthy soil. He's happy to have attended Alumni Weekend last year and to have seen various Swatties across the country.

**RJ Tischler** lives in West Philly and is the debate coordinator for ASAP/After School Activities Partnerships. His band put out an EP in October.

**PJ Trainor** officially finished a master's in applied mathematics at Johns Hopkins. He still works at the Applied Physics Lab and lives in Baltimore, where he sees **Luke Barbano** '18. He also spends a lot of time in Boston and visits some Swatties there.

**Jonathan White** and **Heather Zhou** moved to LA, where **Jonathan** started a bioengineering Ph.D. at Caltech and **Heather** started a statistics Ph.D. at UCLA. They celebrated their first wedding anniversary just after starting classes.

Last year, **Elaine Zhou** finished an education master's, left her teaching job in Kentucky, and embarked on that aforementioned epic road trip with **Kelly Smemo**. For the remainder of the summer, **Elaine** visited East Coast Swatties, including **Annie Tvetenstrand**, **Joe Boninger**, **Abby Holtzman**, and **Sarah Geselowitz**. She now teaches English in Sevilla, Spain, and has no plans to leave!

# 2018

*Editor's note:* Your class needs a scribe! If you're interested in becoming 2018's class secretary, please contact Class Notes Editor Elizabeth Slocum at classnotes@swarthmore.edu.



# their light lives on

our friends will never be forgotten

expanded tributes at [bulletin.swarthmore.edu](http://bulletin.swarthmore.edu)

## Charles Nuttle '35

Charles, a World War II Army veteran, avid tennis player, and devoted golfer—who even once landed a hole in one—died Jan. 11, 2019.

A lifelong New York Yankees fan, Chuck held season tickets for years and had seen all the greats play, including Babe Ruth. In 2001, Chuck married the love of his life, Charlotte, whom he had dated when they were in their 20s. They met again by accident while visiting their mothers at a hospital, rekindled their friendship, and were married on Valentine's Day when they were in their 60s.

## Thomas Findley '42

A research chemist who held 64 patents, including one for epoxy, Thomas died Nov. 1, 2018.

Opposed to materialism, Tom traveled the world in a self-made canoe, driven by the motto “Affluence is the disease, poverty is the cure.” He settled

in Canada, where he lived for 30 years in a cabin with no electricity or running water, using solar panels to power his computer.

## Jane Hand Bonthron '43

An English major, proud Navy veteran and devoted volunteer who also enjoyed playing bridge and golf, Jane died Dec. 15, 2018.

“My mother loved Swarthmore and was an ardent supporter of the College,” daughter Susan Jane Bonthron '70 wrote in a tribute. “When she graduated as an English major in 1943, she had no definite career plans but knew she didn't want to end up at Katy Gibbs as a secretary, so she marched right down to the enlistment office in Philadelphia and signed up for Naval Officers Training School. When asked if she would sign up as a seaman if she wasn't accepted in officers training, she announced, ‘No, that would be a waste of my education!’ She later wondered



## Lucinda White Lohr '43

Lucinda, who exuded energy and made friends everywhere she went, died Nov. 5, 2018.

The widow of Freeman Lohr '43, Cindy loved opera and was devoted to the American Friends Service Committee, League of Women Voters, and Citizens' Climate Lobby, among other causes.



**Arthur Dannenberg Jr. '44**

Arthur, a medical researcher, physician, and expert in the pathogenesis of pulmonary tuberculosis, died June 15, 2018.

Known to friends as Ark or Art—and to his children as Lord Macrophage—Arthur spent most of his professional career at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in Baltimore. He published extensively, taught enthusiastically, and lectured internationally.

“Trace the path of an inhaled particle through the airway,” his daughters’ beaus were ordered. His love of running, swimming, and a good question lasted his entire life.

how she had the audacity to answer this way.”

**Hilda Knier Findley '43**

A distinguished mathematics teacher at the high school and university level, Hilda died Dec. 6, 2018.

Strong, generous, and always there for her family and friends, Hilda was also a master gardener who encouraged her loved ones to reach their full empowered potential. Wrote her loved ones: “She told her daughters, using the language of the times, ‘A true lady can do anything she wants to do and still remain a lady.’”

**Edward Babbott '44**

Edward, a lifelong educator and environmentalist who possessed the

gift of magic, died Jan. 15, 2019.

Ed earned an Ed.D. from New York University and found a calling as a high school director of guidance. An active member of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, for which he served a term as president, Ed also loved fly-fishing, photography, needlepoint, the New York Giants, Shakespeare, crafting poetic rhyming toasts, and traveling.

“But what friends may not know,” his loved ones wrote, “is that Ed was a magician of the highest order. ... His magic was infectious, making cups half-full to overflowing; transforming loneliness to connection; in sum, you left an encounter with Ed feeling as though you genuinely mattered.”

**Frances Wallin Shaw '44**

Frances, a psychology major who credited her Quaker education for her lifelong devotion to helping others, died Dec. 22, 2018.

A social worker for preschool children, a dedicated volunteer furthering the causes of human services and environmental responsibility, and a loving mother of four, Frannie focused her considerable gifts on making the world a better place for all.

**Joan Anderson Hannay '45**

Joan, a homemaker and one-half of a matchbox marriage to the late Bruce Hannay '42, died Jan. 17, 2019.

Joan’s Swarthmore connections also included daughter Robin Hannay Nelson '67, son-in-law Jeremiah Nelson '65, and grandson Lorrin Nelson '00.

**Katharine Hill Ostrander '46**

A dedicated social worker who studied history and philosophy at Swarthmore, Katharine died Jan. 17, 2019.

Katy earned a master of social work from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and later founded the Department of Social Work at Salve Regina College in Newport, R.I. When the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center in Newport was struggling, she took the helm and ensured its survival. A passionate, wide-ranging reader, Katy was also a life member of the Jane Austen Society of North America.

**Nancy Grace Roman '46, H'76**

Nancy Grace, a trailblazing astronomer whose scientific impact was so great that she was credited as “the mother of the Hubble telescope,” died Dec. 25, 2018.

Read more, pg. 77.

**Robert Segal '46**

Robert, a longtime internist at New York’s Mount Sinai Medical Center who served as a Navy physician in World War II, died Aug. 2, 2018.

A founding member of Mount Sinai’s Department of Endocrinology, Robert loved taking care of patients and studying thyroid disease.

**Floyd Hower Jr. NV**

“Bud,” a retired Navy commander beloved for his optimism as well as his skill at pingpong, died Jan. 3, 2018.

**Clayton Wright NV**

Clayton, who served in World War II and ultimately transferred from



**Mary Lou Dutton Wolfe '46**

Mary Lou, an avid gardener and librarian for the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, died Jan. 2, 2019.

A mother of five, Mary Lou was also a feature writer for *Green Scene* magazine, for which she enjoyed interviewing and photographing local gardeners. A Kendal at Longwood resident, she loved walking in the woods with her beloved dachshund.



**Calvin Kaiser '47**

Calvin, a Navy veteran who spent his career in the hand tool and hardware industries, retiring from what is now Stanley Black and Decker in 1988, died Dec. 5, 2018.

An avid golfer and former adjunct professor of marketing, Calvin also served his community in many ways, including as a Little League coach, Board of Education member, and deacon at First Church of Christ, Congregational in Farmington, Conn.

Swarthmore to Ohio State, died Nov. 13, 2018.

Building an impressive career at Ohio Power/AEP, “Bill” also devoted himself to community service and even lived and worked in Pakistan for two years to help develop a functional electrical distribution system there.

**Susanne Bradley Bush-Wilcox '47**

A chemistry major at Swarthmore and a resident of Santa Fe, N.M., Susanne died Feb. 26, 2018.

**Demaris Affleck Carrell '47**

Demaris, who with husband Jephtha '45 helped establish Kendal at Oberlin in Ohio and the Ninde Scholars Program, died Nov. 19, 2018.

A professional volunteer once named one of Dayton, Ohio’s “Top 10 Women,” Demmie had also done testing for special education students, been a ghost-speechwriter for an Ohio governor and an assistant to the director of the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, and worked for both Swarthmore and Oberlin colleges.

As her loved ones wrote: “Demmie had a gruff exterior, a great sense of humor, and was known for nudging young folks (her own kids, grandkids, and others) about their life plans, encouraging them to aspire to learn more and do more and helping to connect them to new opportunities.”

**Betty-Lou Monett Hess '47**

Betty-Lou, a onetime Stephen Minister at First Presbyterian Church in

Deerfield, Ill., died Jan. 21, 2014.

Betty enjoyed traveling and loved her family, especially her three grandchildren.

**Lada Hulka Young '47**

Lada, an information systems analyst who worked at Princeton and Sunoco, died Nov. 17, 2018.

A chemistry and economics major, Lada was also a U.S. delegation representative while at Swarthmore, traveling to Czechoslovakia. As a news correspondent in the 1960s, Lada wrote articles about political issues and Prague.

“She was a brilliant woman who was a superhero to her family and friends,” her loved ones wrote. “Elegant and proper in everything she did—from the way she spoke to how she dressed—she led those in her life by not only the spoken word, but by example, as well.”



**Janet MacLellan Clark '48**

Janet, a beloved wife and mother active in community service, died Nov. 24, 2018.

An accomplished gardener who had a greenhouse in her home for a time, Janet also loved tennis, Labrador retrievers, reading, oil painting, bridge, and needlework. In fact, she made quilts for each of her grandchildren when they were born.

**Whitney Stearns '48**

Whitney, an engineering major who served in the Navy during World War II, died Dec. 5, 2018.

Passionate all his life about sailing Penobscot Bay, Maine, Whit worked in sales management for 40 years and as a volunteer mediator for 25.

**Theodore Bromwell '49**

Theodore, former chairman of the Swarthmore Print Club, who went on to sell cameras as owner of Bromwell Marketing, died Nov. 17, 2018.

A “diminutive semi-genius,” friends wrote in the 1949 *Halcyon*, “no matter what, Ted’ll be good at it.”

**Sarah Wood Fell '49**

Sarah, an active Quaker and librarian in Bucks County, Pa., died Jan. 22, 2019.

An avid world traveler, Sally completed graduate studies at the Drexel School of Library Science and served as a clerical librarian for the United Nations.

Sally also volunteered for the American Red Cross, working with the

**Philip Gilbert '48**

Philip, an inspirational Quaker light who was predeceased by his matchbox wife, Alice Higley Gilbert '48, died Nov. 28, 2018.

Beloved for the way he lived every aspect of his life to help others, Phil was devoted to serving the Religious Society of Friends on the national and local levels, including acting as honorary curator of Friends Historical Library and an advocate and ally for Swarthmore College.





**Margaret Thomson Colgan '49**

Margaret, the first woman to serve as president of the Rochester Academy of Medicine in New York, died April 7, 2018.

A distinguished pediatrician, educator, and administrator, Meg loved art history, skiing, and spending time with her family. “Her indomitable spirit infused everything she attempted,” wrote her loved ones. “She exuded confidence, had an infectious laugh, and a generous spirit.”

blood division for more than 40 years.

**Deborah Welles Hardy '49**

Deborah, who attended Swarthmore for two years before transferring to Stanford, died Oct. 23, 2018.

An internationally respected academic and longtime professor of history at the University of Wyoming, Deborah spoke four languages, was a gifted pianist and gourmet cook, and inspired all who knew her with her strength, wisdom, and laughter.

**William Schweikle '49**

A NASA engineer and Florida resident, William died Oct. 9, 2017.

A member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, William loved to farm, garden, and spend time with his family.

**William T. Battin '50**

William, a professor who was instrumental in starting Binghamton

University’s environmental studies department, died Jan. 30, 2019.

William earned a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, majoring in zoology with a minor in physiological chemistry, and taught at Wesleyan University, Simpson College, and Harpur College (now Binghamton University), retiring as a distinguished professor in biology and environmental studies. Among his interests were reading, art, music, opera, gardening, and dining out in a wide range of cuisine.

**Laurence Stabler Jr. '50**

Laurence, an engineering major known to friends as Jan or Larry, died Jan. 5, 2019.

A Quaker who joined the Merchant Marine in World War II, Jan later had several careers—as a building contractor, in industrial and residential real estate, and manufacturing communication equipment. He loved art and music—especially opera, bagpipes, and Ragtime—and was a member of the Barnacle Busters dive club in Gainesville, Fla. A skilled craftsman, Jan could build anything with wood, metal, and stone.

**John Yntema '51**

An engineer and Merchant Marine veteran who lived for many years in the U.S. Virgin Islands, John died Jan. 18, 2019.

John designed and built the family house outside Frederiksted, St. Croix, and worked numerous jobs over his 33



years there: hardware sales manager, bicycle servicer, Mobil Oil distributor, commercial trap fisherman, and environmental specialist with the VI. Bureau of Fish and Wildlife. John even discovered a new species of scorpion that was named after him: *Heteronebo yntemai*.

“His legacy to his children,” loved ones wrote, “was an abiding belief in kindness, honesty, fairness, and a curiosity and respect for the natural world.”

**Nancy Pawell Norris '52**

Nancy, a lifelong learner and traveler brimming with exuberance, wit, and charm, died Dec. 2, 2018.

“She served as devoted caregiver for her mother, sister Patricia, and husband Marsh, but her favorite career was grandma extraordinaire,” her loved ones wrote.

“She attended Little League and soccer games, ballet recitals, track meets, film festivals and plays, christenings, graduations across state lines, and was blessed to share in the lives of Sam, Corey, Geoff, Jane, Audrie, Gemma, Morgan, Oliver, and great-granddaughter Addy.”

**Marlee Turner '54**

Marlee, who ultimately received a bachelor’s degree from Stanford, died Nov. 28, 2018.

Quaker-raised and a mother of three, Marlee co-founded a public relations consulting firm and later became an owner of Northern Pines

**Gloria Chomiak Atamanenko '55**

A social worker and lifelong activist and volunteer who nourished people around her with love, generosity, and a caring, joyful spirit, Gloria died Oct. 12, 2017.

A lover of nature, literature, and thoughtful discussion, Gloria “will be remembered as a bright, shining light,” her loved ones wrote, “and a fierce but compassionate advocate for those less fortunate, in the various communities where she lived and worked.”



**David Henderson '61**

A beloved Cornell University professor emeritus of mathematics, David died Dec. 20, 2018.

An influential educator and author of multiple textbooks, David also spearheaded countless workshops and initiatives to help elementary students and secondary-school teachers learn math in creative, active ways. “He was an outstanding mathematician, but also a great educator and an inspiring person to work with,” a colleague said.

Health Resort and Bed and Breakfast in Raymond, Maine. Active in Rotary and the League of Women Voters, she also enjoyed canoeing, swimming, working crossword puzzles, and reading, and had traveled to 49 of the 50 states.

“Marlee always looked for the positive in every encounter,” loved ones wrote. “Although she enjoyed a good argument, she never held a grudge, and looked ahead to a better future.”

**James Anderson '56**

A Bronze Star recipient whose Swarthmore studies were interrupted by two wars, James died Jan. 6, 2019.

Jim entered Swarthmore in 1943, but was drafted into World War II late that year. He returned home in 1945 and joined the Pennsylvania National Guard, which called him up as a reserve engineering officer in 1950 as war raged in Korea. During a detour through Pittsburgh, his sister Lois set him up on a blind date with Elizabeth “Betsy” Wright; 11 days later, they were married and bound for Seattle, where Jim would sail for Korea to join an engineering battalion.

Back stateside, Jim and Betsy welcomed son Sam '82 in 1953, then quickly moved to Swarthmore for Jim to pursue an engineering degree. Two more children followed during Jim’s time as a student, with a fourth born after graduation.

Jim founded a business importing European construction materials, and served as president of the 95th Division Association for a number of years, often

speaking publicly about his own—and others’—experiences of war.

**John Seaman '56**

John, an eclectic New York-based photographer and writer, died Feb. 5, 2019.

Following the 2012 release of John’s self-published memoir, *Bloody But Unbowed*, the *Phoenix* wrote: “A self-proclaimed atheist, Naturist, nude photographer, recovering schizophrenic and Swarthmore graduate, Seaman and his memoir expose a psyche riddled with the could-be contents of an impossible work of fiction.”

**Harriet Nerlove Mischel '58**

Harriet, one of the first women to be awarded a clinical psychology Ph.D. from Harvard rather than Radcliffe, died Sept. 13, 2018.

At Swarthmore, Harriet worked with pioneering social psychologist Solomon Asch on children’s development of understanding of metaphor. She was a faculty member in Stanford’s psychology department for more than 15 years before moving to New York, where she started a clinical therapist practice and joined the faculty of New York Presbyterian Hospital.

**Rasaba Sudarkasa-Kyasa '66**

Rasaba, a Michigan resident who went by Delmer Scudder at Swarthmore, died May 5, 2018.

**Sarah Graetz Gagnon '69**

Sarah, a homesteading ecologist with a

Ph.D. from Cornell, died Dec. 16, 2018.

Sally was the first technical editor for the Ecological Society of America, a position she held for 25 years. A devoted member of her Catholic church, Sally and husband Joel helped others prepare for marriage—a great way, they found, to reinforce their own. Sally also believed strongly in “walking gently” on the earth, minimizing her carbon footprint, and appreciating simple pleasures, like homegrown food and community.

**Bryan Butler '71**

An IBM employee and respected leader in patent law, who taught courses at Lincoln Law School and authored a treatise on patent damages, Bryan died Oct. 1, 2018.

With an exuberance, wit, curiosity, and generosity admired by loved ones,



**Candace Putter '69**

A social worker who advocated tirelessly for the vulnerable, Candace died Sept. 11, 2016.

As a Stoneleigh Fellow from 2008 to 2011, Candace established the Pennsylvania Academic and Career Technical Training Alliance, a coalition of juvenile justice facilities voluntarily committed to improving education and training services for youths in their care. The coalition operates within Pennsylvania’s Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services and has more than 50 affiliates across the state.



**Thomas Morrison III '75**

Thomas, one of the founders of the Black Student Union at Swarthmore, died Dec. 13, 2018.

Building an impressive career that included roles as a Wall Street brokerage firm vice president; city manager for Plainfield, N.J.; and director of finance for the city of Hartford, Conn., Thomas also loved to play golf and was especially proud of his family, including his father's legacy as a Tuskegee Airman.

Bryan delved deeply into interests including photography, sailing, skiing, scuba, tennis, golf, history, philosophy, theater, and music.

**Peter Cook '71**

Peter, a lawyer, savvy investor, and financial strategist, died Jan. 12, 2019.

An avid photographer and ocean lover who grew up sailing the waters of Frenchman Bay, Maine, Peter also enjoyed traveling with his second wife, Thea Duell '72, before she and Peter both developed terminal illnesses in 2014; Thea died last June.

"He will be remembered," loved ones wrote of Peter, "for his kindness, sense of humor, way with words, and the ever present twinkle in his green eyes."

**John Palmer '71**

John, a Florida resident who majored in history at Swarthmore and worked in the insurance industry, died Dec. 19, 2018.

**Julius Nicholas '73**

Julius, an electronic engineer, family man, and Army veteran of Korea and Vietnam, died Jan. 10, 2019.

A staff writer for many years at the *Delaware County Daily Times*, Julius also taught computer classes and was a transportation provider for the Chester County (Pa.) Housing Authority.

Self-taught in many areas of the arts and sciences, he was often contracted for his services as a singer, composer, portrait artist, photographer, painter, and computer technician.

**Lewis Shuster '77**

Lewis, an influential director of more than a dozen life sciences companies, died Dec. 13, 2018.

"Lew was a tremendously thoughtful and insightful board member," his colleagues at Principia Biopharma Inc. wrote, "but more importantly, he was a kind and generous individual who brought a great deal of passion and energy to our industry and to the pursuit of our mission."



**Martha Loukides Walker '86**

Martha, a mother of three and a social worker with a passion for helping the underserved, died Jan. 24, 2019.

A longtime elder at Bethel Christian Church in Bristol, Conn., where her husband, Chris Walker '79, is a pastor, Martha also enjoyed gardening, hiking, and canoeing.

**Alison Wong Noto '78**

A former New York and Philadelphia architect and a Rhode Island garden club president, Alison died Nov. 3, 2018.

Devoted to her daughters, her matchbox husband, Richard Noto '77, and her dogs, Alison had a self-effacing manner that belied how talented, intelligent, strong, funny, and caring she was—which only made her loved ones treasure her more.

**Alexandre Michel Namour '86**

Alexandre, a New York Police Department sheriff and one-half of a matchbox marriage to Leah Schanzer Namour '92, died Feb. 3, 2019.

**Bryan Berg '97**

An economics major at Swarthmore and a Florida resident, Bryan died Jan. 25, 2018.

**Emre Eren '99**

Emre, a Swarthmore sociology & anthropology graduate who lived in Istanbul, died March 4, 2018.

**George Balgobin '00**

George, a sociology Ph.D. student at Northwestern, where he also earned a law degree, died Jan. 30, 2019.

A passionate defender of human rights, and a lover of music and cooking, George had been writing a dissertation that blended ideas about criminal law with political socialization theory. "As a searcher for those ideas and truths that substantiate personal values," loved ones wrote, "George had an open mind and heart and was always willing to re-examine his beliefs in the light of life experiences."

**Wonju Kim '02**

Wonju, a research laboratory technician at the University of Minnesota, where he received a degree in economics, died Nov. 4, 2013.

An accomplished musician, excelling at classical violin, jazz saxophone, and piano, Wonju also enjoyed gardening and Bible study.

**Marcus Barnette '09**

A sociology & anthropology major at Swarthmore, Marcus died in April 2018.

# looking back



NASA / COURTESY FRIENDS HISTORICAL LIBRARY

WHEN ASTRONOMER Nancy Grace Roman '46, H'76 died Dec. 25, her pioneering spirit and scientific legacy were memorialized across the globe. One of the first female executives at NASA, Roman was instrumental in the development of the Hubble Space Telescope.

"We were always questioning," she said. Lego even created a Women of NASA collection featuring Roman.

In *The Meaning of Swarthmore*, Roman said the greatest gift she received from Swarthmore was the

ability and eagerness to learn new things. "The College gave me a good background in the fundamentals of my field that permitted me to understand problems, techniques, and instruments well outside my research experience," she said. "I am the only person I know who did not have any English courses in college, but writing seminar papers was a great learning experience. I think my biggest asset in my NASA job was the ability to speak and write easily and well."



LAURENCE KESTERSON

# GREAT EXPLORATIONS

by Kate Campbell

**KENNETH E. SHARPE**, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Political Science, retires this spring after teaching political philosophy, practical ethics, Latin American politics, and foreign policy for more than 40 years. Surrounded by books and artifacts, he discussed his life and Swarthmore.

### How do you feel about leaving?

It's very difficult—this is a dream job. How can one not love teaching students who are so committed to learning and inquiry and so compassionate? They really want to understand and then transfer that knowledge to the world. I've never had a dull moment in terms of teaching. The students were always teaching me by the questions they asked—for me that's always made

teaching a process of social engagement and collaboration, not a one-way street. Swarthmore enabled me to teach and research in a broad range of fields, and the students helped me puzzle things out. I couldn't have done what I did without the support to explore, or without the reflectiveness and probing minds and open hearts of the students and my colleagues. My 45 years as a teacher here have also been 45 years as a student. It has been quite wonderful for me.

### What have been among your favorite research topics?

The topics that captured my imagination and concern over the years have changed. Theoretical concerns about the balance between human agency and structural determination—how to create the spaces for positive human action and wise decision-making—have been another. A third has been substantive concerns about things like when and how the misuse of political and economic power is successfully challenged, the erosion of democracy and the rise of authoritarianism, the

causes and alternatives of irrational government policies that have led to foreign interventions and to the war on drugs.

### How has communicating across cultures enriched your experiences?

I've loved doing field work and research on every project I have done and relished the active deliberation and reflection with the colleagues and students I've worked with, and become friends with. Each topic has taken me down unexpected trails—through coffee fields in the highlands of the Dominican Republic, on foot and on mule; across the manufacturing floor of automotive plants; into executive suites and prosecutors' offices; and into legislative and bureaucratic offices in Washington, Mexico City, and Central America. Whether it's talking to farmers or interviewing Contra attack survivors in Nicaragua, or talking to policymakers and politicians and Salvadoran guerrillas, or shadowing doctors in a palliative care unit, I've had to teach myself how to talk to nonacademics and learn from them. Quite often I found that solving one problem forced another onto my research agenda.

### What were some pivotal moments in your career?

Studying peasant organizing and consciousness-raising in the Dominican Republic led me to explore the international political economies of coffee and automobile manufacturing. Studying U.S. drug war policy in Latin America led me to shift my focus to the politics that sustained a drug war in America by turning a public health problem into a criminal problem and wreaking havoc, while being destined, inevitably, to fail. Forty years ago, I never would have imagined my current focus on practical wisdom—how the major institutions we work in can be designed to corrode or encourage the judgment and virtue we need to flourish. These research experiences, as frustrating as they have often been, have also been deeply moving and powerful learning experiences. ⑤

LAURENCE KESTERSON



▼  
**MOMENT IN TIME**  
On campus Jan. 23,  
students held a candlelight vigil  
for those who have suffered  
while promoting equity  
and inclusion.



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Just ask these lifelong friends profiled on pg. 42

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