

WINTER 2022

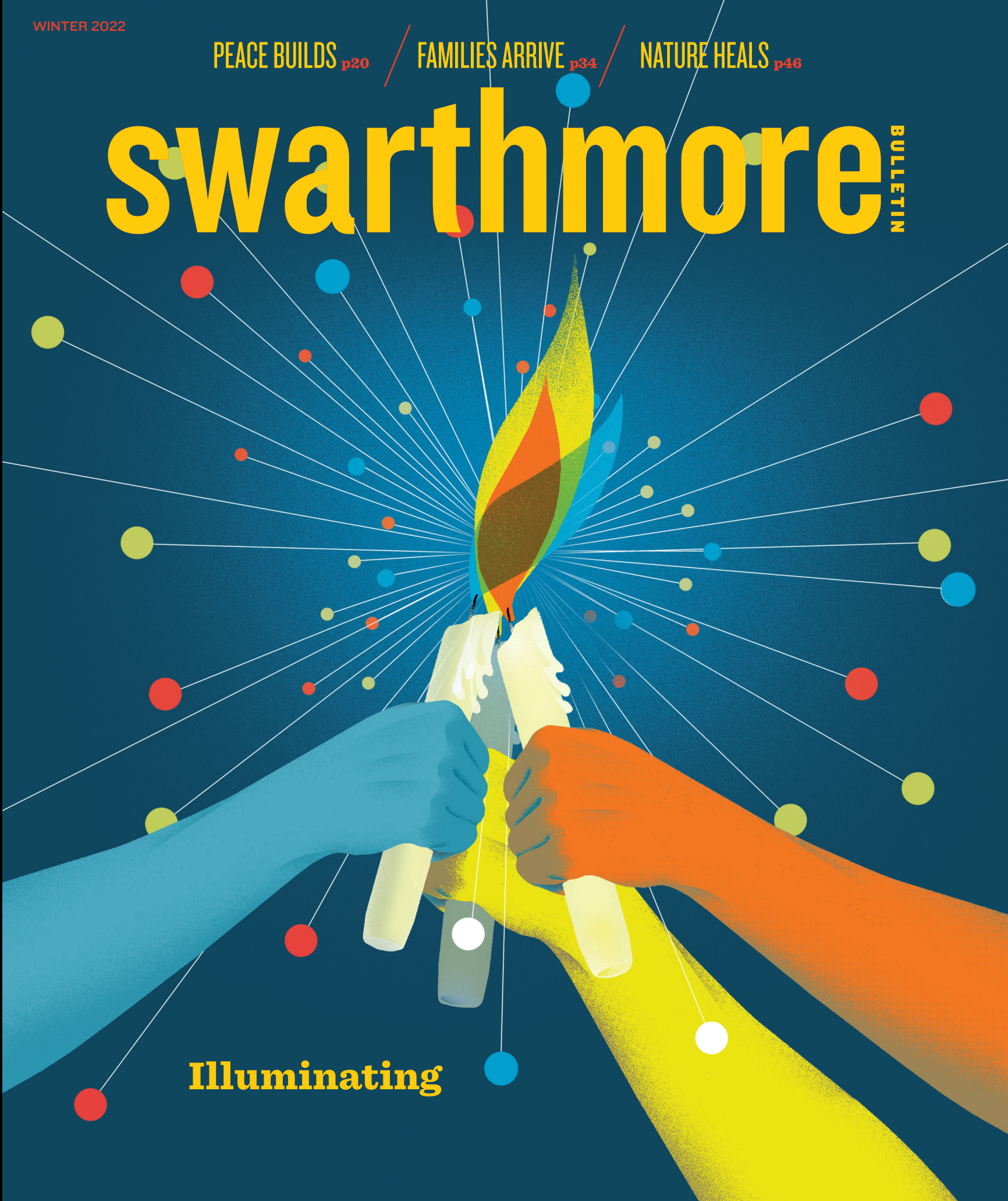
PEACE BUILDS p20

FAMILIES ARRIVE p34

NATURE HEALS p46

swarthmore

BULLETIN



Illuminating



LAURENCE KESTERSON

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The urgent work of advocating for immigrant families.

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► Philadelphia is home to a growing number of immigrant communities. Jonah Eaton '02 (left) is at work with other Swarthmoreans advocating for them as they navigate a new environment. At Philadelphia's Nationalities Service Center, Eaton heads the legal department and works with Deputy Director Steven Larín '97. The nonprofit is celebrating its 100th anniversary. (Story, pg. 34)

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ON THE COVER

"Therefore in the light wait, where the unity is."
— George Fox, a founder of Quakerism, 1656. Candle illustration by Brian Stauffer.

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► **TEACHER OF THE YEAR:** Whitney Nekoba Aragaki '08 was named 2022 Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year. (Story, pg. 15)

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EDITOR'S COLUMN

Force May Subdue, But Love Gains



LAURENCE KESTERSON

HOW HAVE GUNS become so deeply cast into the fabric of American life? There were an estimated 393.3 million civilian-held legal and illicit firearms in the U.S. in 2017, according to the Small Arms Survey. In 2019, more than 15,000 Americans were killed by guns, and in 2020, that number rose to 20,000. Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies and Sociology Lee Smithey and his students are working to understand this reality. “Gun violence is not a series of isolated incidents,” says Oliver Hicks ’22, one of Smithey’s

by
KATE CAMPBELL
Editor

students. “It’s a systemic problem of pandemic-level proportions.” Read more about this critical research and work in community activism in Elizabeth’s Slocum’s story “Partners in Peacebuilding” on pg. 20. As citizens, we should feel safe in a classroom, in a place of worship, leaving a football game, driving onto an on-ramp, unloading gifts from a

baby shower, or shopping at a grocery store. Instead, we live with the appalling weight that the possibility of violence caused by a gun could happen at any ordinary moment of the day — or, the more indescribable anguish, that we might lose a loved one to gun violence. The stories of this winter *Bulletin* highlight the responsibilities of citizenship, and of Swatties who heed the call to change seemingly intractable mechanisms and problems with a precise vision of what is just. In “The Long Path Home” and “A Way Out,” we meet Swarthmoreans advocating for those who are displaced and in search of better, safer lives. Learn how their own personal experiences helped shape the meaning of this urgent work. Envisioning a more peaceful society in 1693, Pennsylvania Quaker William Penn wrote, “A good end cannot sanctify evil means, nor must we ever do evil. ... Force may subdue, but Love gains.” We hope this issue shares with you the gains. ⑤

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE BULLETIN

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ON OUR RADAR

The Power of the Arts

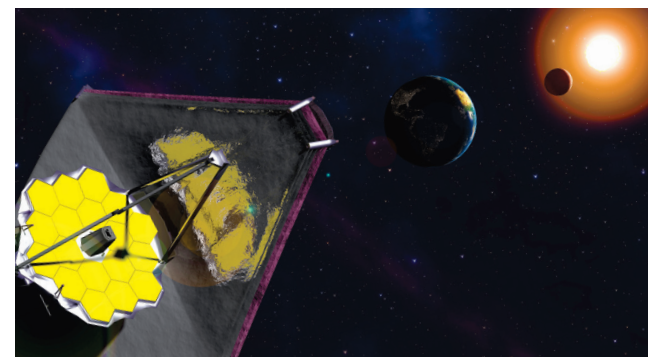
I am so thrilled and excited by the focused attention given in the Winter 2021 edition of the *Bulletin* to the power, energy, and beauty of the arts at the College. I write as a member of the Class of '61, which celebrated the growth of the arts at Swarthmore since our undergraduate days during our virtual 60th Reunion last June. We organized a faculty forum focused on the growth into the curriculum of the College. The faculty included Andrew Hauze '04 from Music, Sharon Friedler from Dance, Allen Kuharski from Theater, Randall Exon from Studio Arts, Patty White from Film & Media Studies, and Nat Anderson, director of the Creative Writing Program. Their forum was glorious, reflecting their love of the arts and their interrelatedness, with keen attention to the process and timing of their growth and their contributions to the cultural life of the campus community. It was splendid, and the voices expressing themselves in this edition of the *Bulletin* reflect and celebrate the power of the arts in all of our lives. Thank you!

— MAURICE ELDRIDGE '61, Swarthmore, Pa.

A HOPEFUL EYE

Your Spring 2021 issue this year is a particularly good one. I liked the article about Leonard Nakamura '69 a great deal. I'm also keeping a hopeful eye out for the launch of the extraordinary Webb Telescope. Best wishes to Swarthmore in these difficult times.

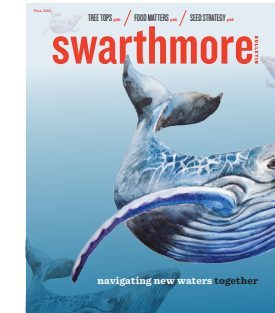
— SUSAN BARKER GUTTERMAN '59, New York, N.Y.



COURTESY OF NASA

► History was made on Dec. 25, 2021, when the James Webb Space Telescope successfully launched from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana. Read more about the telescope and about senior project scientist John Mather '68, H'94: bit.ly/JWSTMather

Unifying Theme



I did enjoy this issue (Fall 2021) of the *Bulletin* much more than usual because the alumni profiles had a unifying theme. It was especially memorable, of course, because the theme itself is the biggest challenge facing the world today.
— DIANA BAILEY HARRIS '64, Portland, Ore.

WRITE ON TIME

This issue (Fall 2021) is very timely in its subject matter, and it is of the same high quality of most of the recent issues.
— THELMA YOUNG CARROLL '64, Virginia Beach, Va.

STRUCK BY HYPOCRISY

I'm sure I'm not the only alum to be struck, and not in a good way, by the juxtaposition of the Fall 2021 *Swarthmore Bulletin* and Bill McKibben's op-ed in the Oct. 26 *New York Times*. I read them back-to-back this morning whilst waiting for the basement flood alarm to go off as this week's extreme weather event (the “bomb cyclone”) pummeled my area with yet more heavy rain.

It seems more than a little hypocritical for Swarthmore to tout the various ways in which individual graduates work hard to address climate change and care for a warming planet (which, power and more power to them!) when the College itself could also make a significant impact by divesting from fossil fuels.

If the Board of Managers' decision not to divest seemed nonsensical in 2015 (it did), then in 2021 it is vicious.

I don't need to reel off the list of climate disasters taking place around the world to make that point. As McKibben put it, with considerable understatement, Swarthmore should know better. Swarthmore should do better.

— JEANNE GARDNER GUTIERREZ '02, Wassaic, N.Y.

Editor's Note: In a November message to the campus community, President Smith detailed the College's recent efforts to reduce the effects of the climate crisis and provided additional information on how the College's endowment is invested. Read her update here: bit.ly/SwatClimate



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► “The last decades’ advances in violence prevention prove unequivocally that we do not have to live with the killing,” writes David Kennedy ’80, H’11.

COMMUNITY VOICES

DO YOU SEE, AMERICA?

by David Kennedy ’80, H’11

THE STREET SHRINE sat to the right as I came off the highway into Chester, not so long ago. You will find them all over the country, in the Black communities where America’s homicide dead are unconscionably concentrated. Photographs, flowers, “RIP” written on paper, spray-painted on streets and sidewalks and buildings. At my meeting later — with city officials and residents desperate about the violence and searching for solutions — I mentioned the shrine. “Was she there?” one of them asked. It was years old, they explained; still, most days, the murdered young man’s mother visited.

For the past three decades, my work has been focused on understanding violence, particularly gun violence. As a professor of criminal justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

in New York City and the director of the National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay, my intention has been first to act — to do something that works — and then beyond that help people who do not already care or understand why they should.

As a Swarthmore student, the reality of Chester barely scratched my consciousness. Though I spent time there, working with kids and tutoring, my outrage at the oppression of Black communities was reserved for South Africa. I organized on campus against apartheid, had refined opinions about the Sullivan Principles, argued with President Dorie Friend about divestment.

Oh, I was righteous.

But not the least bit righteous about Chester. I will always be ashamed about that.

America’s gun violence is concentrated in its Chesters, and neighborhoods like Chester in bigger cities across the country. Black men are about 6% of America and about half of its murdered. In 2019, Chester’s homicide rate was 53:100,000 — about three times that of Chicago. I didn’t know any of that when I was at the College, and — not knowing — didn’t care. I was too busy knowing and caring about South Africa.

Today’s Swarthmore students know better — and, clearly, they care. After years of prep work, coalition building, data gathering, and analysis, Professor Lee Smithey and students in his Gun Violence Prevention course have gone live with the Delaware County Homicide Database, making it easy to see this awful reality. (Story, pg. 20.) Their work grew out of Smithey’s teaching on international peace issues, with a realization that there were deadly serious problems very close to home. They, and the College community, should be proud that they have seen, and taken action, around this awful issue that is in plain sight, not even hiding there — an issue that so many of us do not see and around which we do not act.

I’m also happy to say that Chester itself has reason for hope. I have been back to Chester over and over since I began my work in violence prevention, always without any success in getting that work started.

But starting late in 2020, a team led by newly elected Delaware County District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer put its version of that work in place — and Chester homicides are down more than 60%.

The last decades’ advances in violence prevention prove unequivocally that we do not have to live with the killing. But first we must see it and take responsibility for doing something about it. All praise to Smithey, his students, and the College for seeing what most of us, most of the time, do not. ☺

STUDENTWISE: FOSTERING COLLABORATION

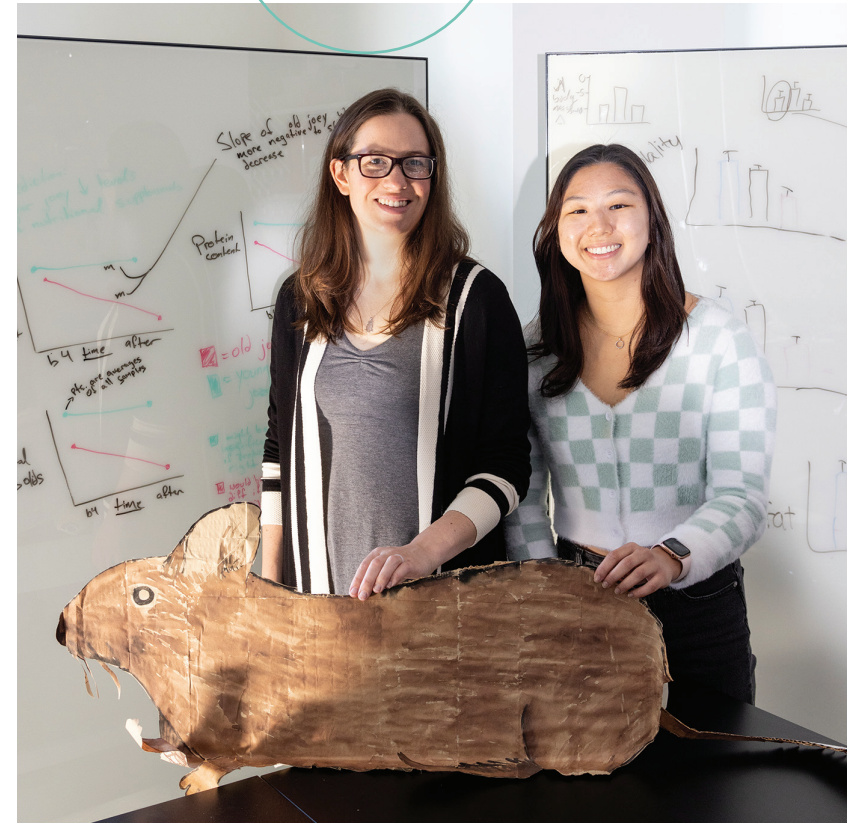
by Elizabeth Slocum

Daniela Kim ’23, a bioeducation special major from Weston, Fla., worked with Assistant Professor of Biology Carolyn Bauer last summer on a behavioral study of how fostering affects postnatal development of the degu (*Octodon degus*), a species of social rodent related to guinea pigs and chinchillas. The research team — which also included Krystle Boadi ’23, Sabrina Ellah ’24, and Kaja Arusha ’24 — videotaped the degus and engaged in animal husbandry to see if being fostered with siblings causes less stress than being fostered alone. ☺

Why degus?
Similar to humans, both female and male adult degus provide parental care, and they will readily accept fostered offspring.

Lab time:
The labmates spent about 350 hours total on the research. “But some days were very long, whereas others were short,” Bauer says. “When you’re working with live animals, you have to adapt your schedule to them!”

Providing support:
The research was sponsored by a Eugene M. Lang Summer Research Fellowship.



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► Assistant Professor of Biology Carolyn Bauer (left) and Daniela Kim ’23 with a cardboard model of a degu. In reality, degus are far smaller, about the size of a hamster.

What they did:
The team worked together to monitor animal weight and health, take biological samples, and record behavior. Kim focused on assessing anxiety-related behaviors via behavioral tests, while the other lab members analyzed maternal care, offspring play behavior, and development of the offspring’s endocrine stress response.

Major findings:
The team is still analyzing Kim’s behavioral videos, but Boadi’s research found that mothers provide less maternal care to fostered litters, and Arusha and Ellah discovered differences in weight gain and play behaviors between pups fostered by themselves vs. those fostered with their siblings.

Working collaboratively:
“I most enjoy the energy that Daniela and my other students bring to the project,” says Bauer. “Because the pandemic had prevented in-person research in summer 2020, we were all just so happy to be working together on an exciting project.”

Looking ahead:
“In the future, I hope to become an OB-GYN,” says Kim, “so I love learning about development and how it can be affected by different factors, such as stress.”

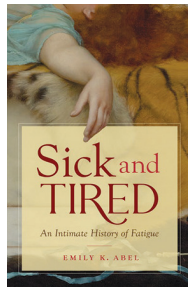
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HOT TYPE: New releases by Swarthmoreans

Emily Klein Abel '64

Sick and Tired: An Intimate History of Fatigue

UNC Press



Recent articles about various diseases conclude that fatigue has been underrecognized, underdiagnosed, and undertreated. As a result, we know little about

what it means to live with this condition, especially given its diverse symptoms and causes. Informed by her own experiences as a cancer survivor, Abel offers the first history of fatigue, elucidating how it has been ignored or misunderstood, not only by medical professionals but also by American society as a whole.

Jennie Boyd Bull '67

Learning to Weave: A Woman-Loving Life

Mountain River Press

Bull's memoir weaves a life from her Southern roots into liberating movements of the past century: the lesbian feminist activism of the 1970s in Baltimore, the growth of the LGBTQ-centered Metropolitan Community Churches at the height of AIDS deaths in the 1980s, life in the ashram of an Indian yogic spiritual tradition, and flowing in tai chi, which she teaches today. Her writing paints a vivid picture of each of these communities and her return to the mountains of western North Carolina.

Vytenis Babrauskas '68

Electrical Fires and Explosions

Fire Science Publishers

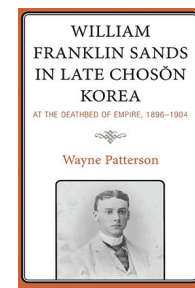
Electrical explosions have been researched much less than electrical

fires. Nonetheless, they are an important failure mode and can result in death, injury, or property damage. The first author to comprehensively survey the entire field of electrical explosions, Babrauskas reviews the research and the resulting standards, but also focuses on shortcomings and science misinterpretations of the current generation of industrial standards.

Wayne Patterson '68

William Franklin Sands in Late Choson Korea: At the Deathbed of Empire, 1896-1904

Rowman and Littlefield



As chief adviser to the Korean government in the early 1900s, William Franklin Sands attempted to persuade Emperor Kojong to undertake reforms and promote

neutrality to keep the country independent. In this book, Patterson argues that Sands was hampered by corrupt officials who had the ear of the emperor, by the Japanese and the Russians who competed for influence and who tried to replace Sands with their own advisers, and, ironically, by U.S. Minister Horace Allen, his former superior.

Lewis Pyenson '69

The Shock of Recognition: Motifs of Modern Art and Science

Brill

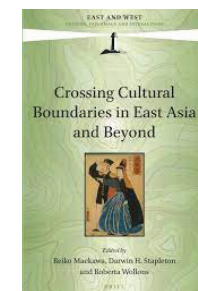
Using a method called historical complementarity, Pyenson identifies the motif of non-figurative abstraction in modern art and science, including in Picasso's and Einstein's educational environments. An emeritus history

professor, Pyenson also applies his method to intellectual life in Argentina, addressing its adoption of non-figurative art and nuclear physics in the mid-20th century, and its attention to landscape painting and the wonder of nature in the century's later years.

Darwin Stapleton '69, ed.

Crossing Cultural Boundaries in East Asia and Beyond

Brill



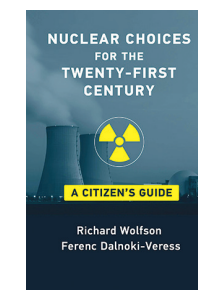
This volume, edited by Stapleton with Reiko Maekawa and Roberta Wollons, explores the personal complexities and ambiguities — and the successes and

failures — of crossing borders and boundaries. Focusing primarily on East Asia, the book attends to the intimate experiences of border crossers, whether they are traveling to an unfamiliar cultural location or encountering the “other” in local settings such as the classroom or the coffee shop.

Richard Wolfson '69

Nuclear Choices for the Twenty-First Century: A Citizen's Guide

MIT Press



Are you for nuclear power or against it? What's the basis of your opinion? Did you know a CT scan gives you some 2 millisieverts of radiation? Do you know how much a millisievert is? What is the point of a

bilateral Russia-U.S. nuclear weapons treaty in a multipolar world? This book, co-written by Wolfson and Ferenc Dalnoki-Veress, equips citizens to develop informed nuclear opinions, explaining the basics of nuclear technology and the controversies surrounding its use.

Joseph Horowitz '70

Dvorák's Prophecy and the Vexed Fate of Black Classical Music

Norton

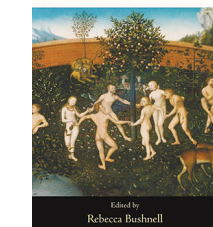
In 1893, the composer Antonin Dvorák prophesied a school of American classical music based on the searing melodies of Black music he had discovered since arriving in the U.S. But while Black music would be foundational for popular genres known the world over, it never gained a foothold in the concert hall. Challenging the standard narrative for American classical music, Horowitz looks back to literary figures to ponder how American music can connect with a “usable past.”

Rebecca Bushnell '74, ed.

The Marvels of the World: An Anthology of Nature Writing Before 1700

University of Pennsylvania Press

The Marvels of the World
An Anthology of Nature Writing
Before 1700



Long before the Romantics embraced nature, people in the West saw the human and nonhuman worlds as both intimately interdependent and violently

antagonistic. With its peerless selection of 98 original sources concerned with the natural world and humankind's place within it, *The Marvels of the World* offers a corrective to the still-prevalent tendency to dismiss premodern

attitudes toward nature as simple or univocal.

Carolyn Lesjak '85

The Afterlife of Enclosure: British Realism, Character, and the Commons

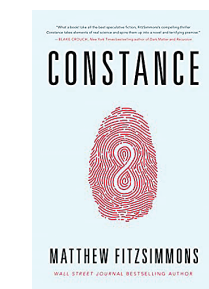
Stanford University Press

The enclosure of the commons, space once available for communal use, was not a singular event but an act of “slow violence” that transformed lands, labor, and basic concepts of public life leading into the 19th century. *The Afterlife of Enclosure* examines three canonical British writers — Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and Thomas Hardy — as narrators of this history, the long duration and diffuse effects of which required new literary forms to capture the lived experience of enclosure and its aftermath.

Matthew FitzSimmons '93

Constance

Thomas & Mercer



In this thriller set in the near future, human cloning is a reality. After a routine upload of her consciousness goes terribly wrong, young Constance D'Arcy wakes up 18

months later, her recent memories missing. Her “Original,” she's told, is dead. If that's true, then what does that make her? The secrets of Con's disorienting new life are buried deep, and so are those of why she died. Only one thing is certain: Con is being marked for murder. All over again.

Jeremy Weinstein '97

System Error: Where Big Tech Went Wrong and How We Can Reboot

Harper

A naive optimism about technology's liberating potential has given way to a dystopian obsession with biased

algorithms, surveillance capitalism, and job-displacing robots. Armed with an understanding of how technologists think and exercise their power, Weinstein and fellow Stanford professors Rob Reich and Mehran Sahami share their insights and solutions to help clarify what is happening, what is at stake, and what we can do to control technology instead of letting it control us.

Susan Roth '04 (writing as Rose Lerner)

The Wife in the Attic

Audible Originals



This Gothic thriller reinvents one of literature's most twisted love triangles. With devious sophistication, Lerner weaves a haunting tale full of secrets and

sharp edges. Will the governess's loyalties ultimately lie with the master of the house — or with the wife in the attic? Romantic and suspenseful, Lerner's latest novel is perfect for fans of *Jane Eyre*, *Rebecca*, and *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*.

Roman Shemakov '20

The Digital Transformation of Property in Greater China

World Scientific

The global trade war is not just a reordering of technology; it's a reordering of cities. One way for the U.S. to catch up, this book argues, is through public-private partnerships between Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C. — or to “copy” China. Co-written by Shemakov, Paul Schulte, and Dean Sun, *Digital Transformation* explores the people and companies blazing trails in China's “Internet of Everything” to transform the way we live, buy, and move.

The Bulletin receives numerous submissions of new publications from the talented Swarthmore community and can feature only a fraction of those submissions here. Please note that work represented in Hot Type does not necessarily reflect the views of the College.

NAVIGATION

THE VIEW FROM HERE

Reflecting on the lessons learned in 100 years of life

by Betty Glenn Webber '43



COURTESY OF PEGGY BISHOP

➤ One constant in Betty Glenn Webber '43's life has been family, including (with Webber, from left) granddaughters Liz Hayes and Angela Smith and daughter Peggy Bishop. Another constant? The historic 4711 cologne. "First offered by Peggy Bebie Thomson '43," she says, "it has provided consolation or celebration as needed."

ALONG WITH MANY of my 1943 classmates, I am reflecting on the milestone of my 100th birthday — and on the events and experiences that defined my life. I am astonished that I have somehow arrived here, and at the same time I acknowledge that this is increasingly common — 100 is the new 90.

My earliest sustained memories are of the impact the Great Depression had on our family: My Princeton-grad father was unemployed for seven years! My teens were a series of changing living arrangements, new schools, and overhanging clouds of insecurity, until the time came to attend college, without one cent of financial preparation. My four years were supported entirely by private loans and scholarships, the latter dependent on maintaining a B average — stressful for someone barely good enough but not brilliant. College life was hugely enriching, developing my self-identity, providing broad intellectual options, and, most memorably, acquiring incomparably rich friendships. Our Worth L Section's round-robin letter had a 25-year

postgrad life, and some of those connections have lasted to this day.

Halfway through our four years, we were at war, triggered by the attack of Pearl Harbor. Our male classmates were immediately faced with accelerated schedules through the summers, as well as the philosophical decision on conscientious objection to military service. It was a period of life-changing and mind-changing challenges that shaped our individual experiences of the war years.

Today's assumption that most women hope to be self-supporting began with the postwar expectation that women might opt for careers in addition to homemaking/motherhood. My contemporaries were divided, how evenly I don't know, with many a stay-at-home later employed happily but at less than a career level. I remember saying at a job interview that I was highly educated but not trained for

anything specific. The generation of those of us with uncommitted time contributed hugely to an era of volunteer support at innumerable venues, a habit and a preference that still look for an outlet at 100. My own contributions of a helping hand have been so rewarding that I've delighted to watch my daughter teach her girls to "help" in her own volunteer ventures.

The long view back for me recognizes the historic events like Pearl Harbor, the moon landing, and 9/11, as well as the movements over time confronting racism. Much was gained by the activism of the '60s, but so much more is still demanded. Current political paralysis stymies progress on so many fronts that it is difficult to find constructive optimism. We will not see what evolves but must have hope that divisiveness will give way to a more cooperative engagement in the world of our children and grandchildren. ❸

An English literature major at Swarthmore and a retired teacher's aide, Betty Glenn Webber '43 lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.

"I've delighted to watch my daughter teach her girls to 'help' in her own volunteer ventures."

SHARING SUCCESS AND STORIES OF SWARTHMORE

Common good



SHINING A LIGHT
Performance Associate Jeannine Osayande was honored for her work in equity and social justice.
+ CELEBRATE
bit.ly/JOsayande

EXPLORING RACE
Six faculty members reflect on courses supported by the President's Fund for Racial Justice.
+ ABSORB
bit.ly/SwatPFRJ

ADVANCING THE DIALOGUE
Visiting Professor James Felon discusses his scholarship on Native Nations.
+ ACKNOWLEDGE
bit.ly/FelonQA

SHARING NARRATIVES
A capstone project of the course Borders and Migration documents the experiences of immigrants in the U.S.
+ ENGAGE
bit.ly/MigrationSwat



JOHN MARTIN TOMLINSON '23

➤ Katherine Kohn '25 (9) celebrates a goal against Dickinson during Garnet Weekend. The field hockey team's 13 victories this season were the most since the Garnet reached the Centennial Conference Finals in 2000.

FIELD OF DREAMS

Bringing Their A-Game

by Roy Greim '14

DESPITE AN EXTENDED BREAK from competition during the pandemic, Swarthmore student-athletes did not lose a step: The field hockey, volleyball, and men's and women's soccer teams qualified for the Centennial Conference tournament, making it the first time in school history that all four programs reached the postseason in the same season. "Our team was able to build a positive team culture while accomplishing the goals we set in the beginning of the season," Head Field Hockey Coach Hannah Harris says. "We are so proud of the hard work and dedication the student-athletes give to the program." ❹

Top Notch



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► The College held a “topping-off” ceremony this fall as the final beam was placed atop the forthcoming Dining and Community Commons (DCC) building. The moment marked a key milestone in the DCC’s ongoing progress. Placing the final, tallest beam “is part of the sequence that will allow us to close the building in, and to move to the next stage of this project,” says Susan Smythe, senior project manager and ADA program coordinator. It is a time to celebrate the efforts of a dedicated construction crew, Smythe adds, and an act that symbolizes good fortune for those who will one day live and work in this space. “I found it both moving and inspiring, and everyone on the site was very excited,” she says. Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed this summer. See the beam: bit.ly/DCCbeam

Game On

by Holly Leber Simmons

SAM LEBRYK '17 AND STEVE SEKULA '17 first bonded over gaming — both video and trading-card — as roommates in the Dana Hall basement. “That was a great way for us to build our friendship at Swarthmore,” says Lebryk.

Sekula, the more serious player, introduced Lebryk to competitive gaming like Magic: The Gathering and Pokemon. “I made my own card games growing up,” he says.

After graduation, Sekula, a studio art major with minors in computer science and art history, decided to try his hand at designing a game. He came up with Gem Blenders, an expandable card game inspired by trading-card games like Yu-Gi-Oh! or the animated series *Avatar: The Last Airbender*. With Lebryk living in Miami and Sekula in Richboro, Pa., they stayed connected through online games. Lebryk was instrumental in helping Sekula test the early incarnations of Gem Blenders, and they soon decided to team up to move the effort forward.

“Without Sam’s support, creating Gem Blenders wouldn’t have gotten to where it is today,” Sekula says.

“Steve is more of the creative side; I’m more operational,” Lebryk says.

In Gem Blenders, 2-4 players each build a customized deck of cards and face off against each other. Through beta testing, Lebryk and Sekula found that Gem Blenders even appeals to people who are not familiar with trading-card or expandable card games. In November 2019, they launched a Kickstarter, raising just over \$8,600, with support from family, friends, and people they met doing demos.

The first inventory shipped in November 2020.

They also added David Wurtele '17 to the team. With a major in computer science and minors in linguistics and Japanese, Wurtele has been invaluable when it comes to coding.

Sekula and Lebryk have high hopes.

Once again roommates, the business partners live in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. They work day jobs — Sekula in a restaurant, Lebryk at an investment firm — but they treat Gem Blenders like a full-time job. “I want to build a community, expand the card game, and continue making cards,” says Sekula. “Then build the brand, maybe make a video game.”

“As Gem Blenders matures, there are different avenues available,” Lebryk says. “Because card games are such a big part of our friendship in general, that’s something I want to continue.”

“Swarthmore encourages entrepreneurship. You really do get a strong mix of coursework that challenges how you approach problems. That flexibility lends well to trying to do something on your own.”



CONVERSATION GAPS

DEEPENING TIES TO SWARTHMORE THROUGH THE STAGE

WHEN ZAINA DANA '21 applied to work as an assistant director with Pig Iron Theater Company, she had no idea how fortuitous it would prove to be.

The troupe, founded by three Swarthmore alumni, was reintroducing *Love Unpunished*, a hypnotic dance-theater piece about the moments just before the collapse of the World Trade Center, which was presented on campus this fall as part of the Cooper Series.

Dana, too, had created a piece, *Why Are You Killing Yourself?*, to explore how people view and talk about 9/11, but from her perspective as a Palestinian American college student. By chance, the play became a companion piece, but only after the creators reflected on its potential impact.



COURTESY OF PIG IRON THEATER COMPANY

► A hypnotic dance-theater piece, *Love Unpunished* explores the moments just before the World Trade Center collapse.

“I think at first we each thought, ‘Uhh oh — what if our pieces clash too much to live alongside each other?’” says Dan Rothenberg '95, director of *Love Unpunished* and artistic director for Pig Iron. “But I’m happy to report that we ended up sharing common starting points and arriving at different endpoints, with both of us, artists of different generations, wanting to

find a way to say things that aren’t said — to make room in the discourse for unexpected or even unnameable emotions.”

“Together, the two pieces manage to fill a few gaps in the conversations we have — or don’t have — about 9/11 and the wars and crimes that followed,” Dana says. **5**
— RYAN DOUGHERTY



LAURENCE KESTERSON

Aspire, Inspire

► Phil Weiser '90, Colorado’s attorney general, visited campus this fall to deliver the 2021 Constitution Day Lecture, “Our Aspirational Constitution.” The annual lecture, which features a prominent political scientist or legal scholar speaking about vital issues in American politics, is held in recognition of Sept. 17, 1787, the day when delegates signed the U.S. Constitution at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

CAMPUSQUICKLY



Influential Leader

President Valerie Smith was named one of *Philadelphia Business Journal's* 2021 Women of Distinction, an honor that recognizes the Philadelphia area's most influential female leaders. She



LAURENCE KESTERSON

also received the honor in 2017.

The program recognizes women in the community who are blazing a trail in

their respective businesses, are respected for accomplishments within their industries, give back to the community, and are sought out as respected advisers and mentors within their field of influence. Smith was one of the 30 honorees chosen from more than 160 nominations in the distinction's 26th year.

"I am motivated by the desire to see students, staff, and faculty members flourish, and the opportunity to advance the mission of the College to provide an outstanding liberal arts education and prepare students to serve the common good," Smith says. "As we undertake a College-wide strategic planning process to lay the groundwork for the next chapter in Swarthmore's history, I'm excited to develop programs and initiatives which will allow us to have an even greater positive impact on our community."

+ MORE: bit.ly/SmithDistinction

Committed to Diversity and Inclusion

For the fifth consecutive year, Swarthmore received the INSIGHT Into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award, recognizing colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

"The HEED Award not only allows Swarthmore to celebrate the College's achievements in diversity, equity, and inclusion, but it also reminds us that the work is never done," says Tiffany Thompson, interim associate dean of inclusive excellence. "An inclusive community means ongoing self-evaluations and improvements to truly make change."

INSIGHT recognized Swarthmore's undocumented-student policy, need-blind admissions, enrollment-fee waivers, and partnerships as examples of admissions policies and programs designed to recruit first-generation and traditionally underrepresented students.

+ MORE: bit.ly/SwatHEED



LAURENCE KESTERSON

Responding to Climate Change

A delegation of eight students, faculty, and staff members from Swarthmore joined more than 20,000 people in Glasgow, Scotland, in November for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26).



COURTESY OF KYRA HALL '22

➤ From left: Olivia Stoetzer '23, Tyler White '22, and Kyra Hall '22 at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

The College first received NGO-observer status in 2013 and has sent a delegation to each summit since. The student delegation prepared throughout the fall semester by taking a course titled UNFCCC COP and the International Climate Regime, taught by Associate Professor of Political Science and Program Coordinator for Global Studies Ayse Kaya and Melissa Tier '14, a Ph.D. candidate in environmental policy at the Princeton School of Public & International Affairs.

The UNFCCC is the U.N. entity tasked with coordinating the global response to climate change, with 197 member countries contributing to negotiations at the annual COP.

+ MORE: bit.ly/SwatCOP26



COMCAST

➤ David L. Cohen '77 was a political science, history, and economics major at Swarthmore.

DAVID L. COHEN '77 APPOINTED U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA

by Elizabeth Slocum

DAVID L. COHEN '77, a longtime executive at Comcast Corp., was ceremonially sworn in this fall as the next U.S. ambassador to Canada by Vice President Kamala Harris, after receiving bipartisan confirmation by the full Senate. Cohen's appointment, which was approved in a unanimous voice vote, was celebrated on both sides of the political aisle.

A political science, history, and economics major at Swarthmore, Cohen went on to attend law school at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating summa cum laude in 1981. He served as a partner and chairman at the law firm Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll in Philadelphia and as chief of staff to former Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell. In 2002, he joined the leadership team at Comcast, where he served as executive vice president and senior executive vice president. Cohen also served as Comcast's first chief diversity officer. Since early 2020, he has been a senior adviser to Comcast's CEO, Brian Roberts.

Cohen also maintains close ties to Swarthmore. He delivered the 2008 McCabe Lecture on "The Intersection of Politics, Business, and Public Policy," and he was a featured speaker at the inauguration of former President Rebecca Chopp in 2009. Cohen's wife, Rhonda Resnick Cohen '76, is a retired partner with Ballard Spahr and has been a member of Swarthmore's Board of Managers since 2010. A scholarship named for the couple was established in 2004 and is awarded annually to a Swarthmore student on the basis of academic merit and financial need.

"This is an extraordinary achievement for David, and a testament not only to his professional accomplishments, but also to his lifelong commitment to service," said President Valerie Smith. "We are incredibly proud to count David and Rhonda among our alumni, and we wish them and their entire family the best in this exciting new journey." 📍

THINKING, DESIGNING, AND BUILDING

MARIANNE MCKENNA '72, a founding partner at KPMB Architects in Toronto, was presented this fall with the Design Futures Council Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a design leader whose life and practice has meaningfully impacted the built



environment. An art history major at Swarthmore with a master's in architecture from Yale, McKenna is the first woman to receive the recognition.

The award was not the only honor recently bestowed upon McKenna: *Toronto Life* magazine also named McKenna to its list of 2021's most influential Torontonians, highlighting her leadership in revitalizing the city's oldest musical theater venue, Massey Hall. 📍

AT A CROSSROADS



Crossroads, the latest novel by Jonathan Franzen '81, H'05, was met with wide acclaim when it debuted in October, appearing on *The New York Times* best-seller list as well as on a number of year's-best roundups.

The first book in an expected trilogy, *Crossroads* is the story of a Midwestern family at a pivotal moment of moral crisis. "It's an electrifying examination of the irreducible complexities of an ethical life," writes *Washington Post* book critic Ron Charles. "With his ever-parsing style and his relentless calculation of the fractals of consciousness, Franzen makes a good claim to being the 21st century's Nathaniel Hawthorne." 📍

BEARING WATER

Tackling the problem of water access for the unhoused

by Elizabeth Redden '05

IN THE EARLY MONTHS of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nick Guerette '05 could often be found delivering water to handwashing stations he helped establish while working with the Berkeley Free Clinic, a self-described “radical, do-it-yourself health collective” with an outreach team that brings supplies directly to the city’s unhoused residents.

“Initially, the problem we were trying to solve was preventing the spread of COVID by allowing people to wash their hands in major encampments for folks living on the streets in Oakland and Berkeley,” says Guerette.

“But I met up with activists who had been working on the more general problem of water access for folks living in encampments,” he says. “There were certain spots where people could get access to public spigots or water fountains, but in most of the larger encampments, there was nothing like that.”

Once more resources became available, they shifted from just providing handwashing to providing larger quantities of bulk water to be used for all purposes.

Guerette, who studied computer science and engineering at Swarthmore, quit his programming job in March 2020 with plans to take a part-time, minimum-wage job helping the Free Clinic catch up on maintenance projects while also working part time at a bakery.

The bakery shut down, and Guerette found himself free to volunteer his time to design and maintain the

handwashing stations.

“I would start the day by getting the truck and going to the clinic and filling it up with water and adding chlorine, and then going around from one site to the next and refilling the handwashing stations and cleaning the dispensing end of the tube and the soap dispenser,” says Guerette, who also did any needed repairs. “When I wasn’t actively out delivering, I was thinking about ongoing problems and how to solve them.”

Guerette said the 10 original

handwashing stations were eventually replaced with five larger general-use water stations, and the project was taken up by a new nonprofit group. Guerette has resumed his career as a programmer.

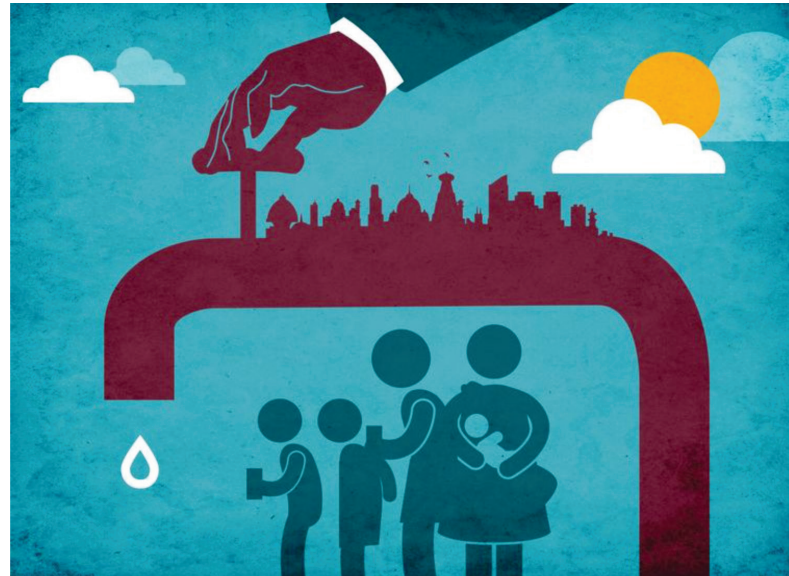
“I’m really glad I was able to do this whole project because it addressed a need that had been there for a long time,” Guerette says. “I remain frustrated and angry about the broader context this work is being done in. I wish we lived in a more compassionate society.”

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

► **KARA BLEDSOE '16** (right, in pink), an analyst with Ithaka S+R, returned to the College this fall to assist the Swarthmore Libraries in a visioning study, working to “build a vision for the future that complements the vibrant, passionate Swarthmore community,” she says. She engaged students in insightful conversations on how the libraries could support them. “When I was in their shoes, I received a great deal of support and care from the librarians and my peers,” Bledsoe says, “and though I could never repay that in full, I’m grateful for the chance to return this small fraction through my contributions to the visioning process.”



RODERICK WOLFSON



GROUNDDEE WORLD

Banding Together

CHILLY TEMPERATURES and working at night were all part of an exciting volunteer experience just miles away from Swarthmore’s campus. Students and staff members helped to band and measure northern saw-whet owls in November as part of an ongoing conservation effort by the Willistown Conservation Trust in Chester County, Pa.

“It was amazing,” says Gwendolyn Lam '24, president of Swarthmore’s Bird Club and a double major in biochemistry and applied math. Founded in 2015, the Bird Club is a student-run organization dedicated to the observation of birds both on and off campus. “We arrived as soon as they caught an owl, so we didn’t have to wait that long in the cold,” says Lam. “We learned a lot about the owls, local birds, bird-banding careers, banding process, and the volunteers and employees themselves. Owl banding is a super cool experience.”

Students also learned about how the owl data — including sex, weight, and age — are documented for research purposes. “The owls are given a unique identification band so that researchers will know who it is if it is ever caught again,” says Lizzy Atkinson '24, a biology major and chemistry minor and vice president of the Bird Club. “This data gives researchers insight into how owl populations are doing in terms of health and size.”

— KATE CAMPBELL



► Gwendolyn Lam '24 (top) and other members of Swarthmore’s Bird Club helped band and measure northern saw-whet owls at the Willistown Conservation Trust in Chester County, Pa.



LAURENCE KESTERSON

TOP TEACHER

WHITNEY NEKOBA ARAGAKI '08, a biology and environmental science teacher at Waiākea High School in Hilo, Hawaii, was named 2022 Hawai‘i State Teacher of the Year. The award, given annually to a classroom teacher selected from more than 13,000 educators, was presented to Aragaki by Gov. David Ige and Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi.

“This award affirms that my efforts in the field of education are moving in a positive direction, by those who

are knowledgeable about the profession,” Aragaki says.

A biology major at Swarthmore, Aragaki says she also found a home in educational studies with professors K. Ann Renninger and Lisa Smulyan '76. “The opportunities to learn and problematize pedagogy deepened my advocacy for educational equity and joyful liberation,” she says. “I take the lessons learned from my time at Swarthmore and apply them to engage and challenge my students to achieve and reinvest in their communities.”

IN TRIBUTE TO THREE FRIENDS

Swarthmore mourns the recent loss of three valued community members: two esteemed emeritus professors and a devoted member of the Public Safety staff.

Stephen Maurer '67, the Neil R. Grabois '57 Professor Emeritus in the Natural Sciences and Engineering, died Aug. 25. He was 75.

A mathematics major at Swarthmore, Maurer returned to the College as a faculty member in 1979 and taught classes at all levels for nearly 40 years, including calculus, linear algebra, statistics, and discrete mathematics, his specialty. Maurer also relished opportunities to serve his department and the larger campus community, serving as associate provost for information technology in 2000–03, and twice chairing the Mathematics Department, first for a year in the early 1990s and again from 2004 to 2011.



Stephen Maurer '67

“Steve was a born leader, one who brought energy and goodwill to any leadership role he held, and his dedication to teaching is legendary,” says Retired Professor of Mathematics and Statistics Deb Bergstrand. “I have such respect for him and his legacy as a dedicated colleague and all-around fine human being.”

Robinson Gill Hollister Jr., the Joseph Wharton Professor Emeritus of Economics, died Sept. 14. He was 86.

Hollister joined Swarthmore’s faculty in 1971 and for 44 years taught labor and social economics and econometrics, among other classes, to generations of students. In 1977, he co-founded the College’s public policy program, which for nearly 40 years provided students with internships and a senior thesis opportunity. But during a career devoted to the evaluation of public policies, Hollister is perhaps best

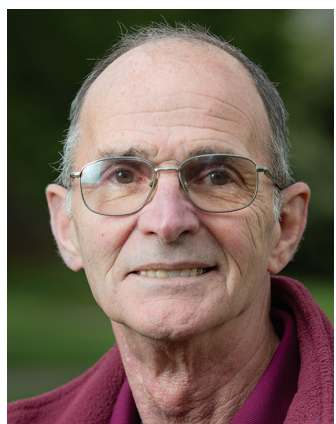


Robinson Hollister Jr.

always remember him for his brilliant mind, quick wit, and big heart. He provided a wonderful model of how to use expertise in economics to help people.”

Edward Picciotti, a longtime College shuttle bus driver, died Oct. 21. He was 71.

Picciotti came to Swarthmore in 2005 after retiring as a life member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 98, where he worked in communications.



Edward Picciotti

In addition to his 16 years in Public Safety, Picciotti drove vans for the Chester Children’s Chorus and the Swarthmore Summer Scholars Program. He had recently switched to day-shift shuttle driver before retiring in the fall.

“Ed was a great listener and loved interacting with our students,” says Public Safety Office Manager Mary Lou Lawless. “What I truly loved about Ed the most was his love for his family. You could see it in his face and feel it in his voice.”

+ **MORE:** bit.ly/SMaurer, bit.ly/RHollister, and bit.ly/EPicciotti

known for his pioneering use and advocacy of randomized control trials, considered the gold standard for estimating the causal impact of social policy innovations.

“Rob Hollister was an institution in the Swarthmore Economics Department,” says Professor and Chair of Economics Amanda Bayer. “His colleagues and students will

HISTORICAL QUEST



“I was a good listener,” says author Anne T. Lawrence '74, shown here at a signing of the book Lawrence started researching and writing when she was a Swarthmore student.

ANNE T. LAWRENCE '74 Hooked on Humanities

against a coalition of law enforcement officers, mine guards, and citizens. The battle ended when President Warren G. Harding called in Army troops.

“The union was crushed in 1921 and was not able to successfully organize southern West Virginia until 1933, when New Deal labor legislation was passed,” says Lawrence. “There’s an arc in the book from a defeat to a victory 12 years later.”

Lawrence, who retired as a professor of business at San José State University in California, recalls how she built trust with sources as a Swarthmore student.

“I am a small person, just 5 feet tall, and I don’t think I looked very threatening,” she says. “I was a good listener, and I would just sit with people. I was a smoker at the time, and I would offer my interview subjects a cigarette. We would often sit on the porch and smoke together.”

“I encountered a lot of evangelical Christianity in the area,” she adds. “I was sitting on one woman’s porch and she said, ‘Dear, have you been saved?’ I didn’t know what that meant. I said, ‘Saved?’”

And she said, ‘Yes, dear, have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior?’ I didn’t know what to say. I paused for a very long time, and I said, ‘Well, I’m a Quaker,’ which I was.

“She said, ‘We all quake before the Lord.’ And she started telling her story.”

MINE WARS

How good listening skills helped craft a book 50 years in the making

by Elizabeth Redden '05

AS A RISING SWARTHMORE senior, Anne T. Lawrence '74 jumped at the opportunity to move to West Virginia to collect oral histories from participants in the battles to unionize the coal mines.

“I had a small car, a Toyota Corona, I had a portable tape recorder, and I had little cassette tapes,” says Lawrence,

who took a leave from Swarthmore and her studies in history and sociology to “set about tracking down mostly elderly people who had participated themselves or had family members or friends who participated in several key historical events that had taken place in the 1920s and 1930s.”

Nearly 50 years after Lawrence started that journey, her interviews — which originally appeared in a National Endowment for the Humanities project report — have been published in a new book from West Virginia University Press, *On Dark and Bloody Ground: An Oral History of the West Virginia Mine Wars*. Many interviews focus on the 1921 Battle of Blair Mountain, an armed conflict between an estimated 10,000 coal miners and supporters

UPPING THE ANTE

ALL IN

Bringing skills learned at Swarthmore to the poker table

by Elizabeth Slocum

WHAT WERE THE ODDS that James Brady '07 would become a professional poker player?

Pretty low, if you had asked Brady in college. The Philadelphia resident started playing with friends as a student at Swarthmore “but was one of the worst players in the bunch,” he says. Through a little bit of luck and a lot of skill-building, however, Brady upped his game, enabling him to pursue poker full time.

“I enjoy the analytical aspect of poker, but also the social and psychologically demanding elements,” says Brady, who has won almost \$300,000 so far in his career. “Swarthmore allowed me to study a variety of subjects, and I get to bring different parts of my brain to the poker table depending on what the situation demands.”

That includes drawing on his two Swarthmore majors, economics and mathematics, in addition to his master’s in finance. Math and stats come into play at the basic level of the game, Brady says, as well as in game simulations that are used to calculate styles of play. Meanwhile, Brady uses his financial knowledge to guide his business and manage downside risk. “One of the main goals of professional players is to grow wealth over time, allowing one to play at gradually higher stakes,” he says. “This takes budgetary discipline and careful planning.”

It also takes practice, including reviewing and analyzing past rounds of play and heeding advice from top poker coaches, Brady says. A mid-level professional, Brady aspires to one day



COURTESY OF JAMES BRADY '07

► Poker is mostly about patience, says professional player James Brady '07. “In the short run, poker can have a large amount of luck,” he says, “but in the long run, luck is a small factor, with skill being 80–90% of what determines results.”

compete against the top names in poker, though he has already taken part in some memorable tournaments — even once sharing a table with actors Kelly Hu and Jason Alexander.

Last May, Brady headlined his own charity event, going head-to-head against fellow poker pro K.L. Cleeton to benefit Cure SMA, or spinal muscular atrophy, a rare genetic condition that both Brady and Cleeton have. Although Brady lost in the best-of-five tournament, the online event raised \$10,000 for the nonprofit.

The shift to virtual gameplay during the pandemic has taken a toll on Brady’s winnings, but it’s also given him time to work on his skills, which Brady says are now better than ever. He’s eager to return in person to the poker community, where

each player brings something unique to the game — just as students did at Swarthmore.

“Swarthmore exposed me to the smartest and most impressive people I have ever met and forever changed how I think and how I view intelligence,” he says. “It also taught me humility and to understand that you can succeed in attempts, not just results.”

JAMES BRADY '07 Poker Pro



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► “I took a lot from being around people whose backgrounds were very different from mine, and not assuming everyone sees the world like I do,” says joke writer Duncan Stevens '96.

THE WRITE STUFF

SURELY, HE JESTS

Finding the universal in the personal

by Ryan Dougherty

WHEN COLLEAGUES of Duncan Stevens '96 at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. first saw his jokes in *The Washington Post*, they couldn’t believe it — and neither could he.

“I would never think of a person I know only in a very dry, official context picking up a paper to read this humor contest in the back,” says Stevens, an appellate-litigation attorney in

Vienna, Va. “The worlds are so far apart.”

In the world of the *Post*’s The Style Invitational, however, Stevens’s humor is money in the bank. Last year, he had 138 jokes published — far more than any of the thousands of other entrants from around the world. Deadpan and middlebrow, Stevens’s style is rooted in word play. A favorite was his response to a *Cider House Rules* prompt: “Man, this is one awesome cider house!”

Stevens enjoyed crosswords and games as a child, but was mostly straitlaced through college. He joined an a cappella group that tagged playful intros onto songs and wrote an opinion column for *The Phoenix* that veered satirical. But the first time he wrote something “intentionally funny” was in law school, at Northwestern University, about the life of a J.D. student.

When Stevens started with the

DUNCAN STEVENS '96 Winning Writer

FDIC, in 2000, he became a fan of The Style Invitational contest. But he didn’t submit often and wasn’t published until 2012. Then, friends from his Episcopal church started pushing him to ramp up his moonlighting.

“I faced the moral authority of people who expected to see my name in the paper every week,” Stevens says with a laugh.

Before the pandemic, Stevens jotted thoughts on a legal pad during his long train commute, or while his kids played in the park. Now, working from home, he steals moments throughout the day to commit jokes to paper or his phone. Stevens’s writing process has changed, but not his motivation.

“It’s a competitive, spirited community of creative folks with fertile minds, and you want to show you can measure up,” says Stevens, who is also spurred on by classmates from Swarthmore and even his elementary school who follow his exploits online.

Reflecting on Swarthmore, Stevens is most grateful for meeting his wife, Rebekah Bundang '97, formerly an administrator and now a volunteer with the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia, who has a similar sense of humor. But also hugely impactful was how much more eclectic the College was than his boarding school.

“I took a lot from being around people whose backgrounds were very different from mine, and not assuming everyone sees the world like I do,” says Stevens.

That lesson connects, if indirectly, to his comedic style.

“Knowing your own limitations and your own mind is the only way to write in a way that can be appreciated by people who aren’t exactly like you.”

The background is a dark blue night sky filled with a network of white lines connecting various colored dots (red, yellow, white, blue, purple, black). A hand holding a lit torch is the central focus, with a vibrant rainbow trail extending from the bottom left towards the torch. The torch's flame is multi-colored, transitioning from yellow to orange to red to blue. The overall composition is dynamic and symbolic of hope and connection.

PARTNERS IN PEACEBUILDING

Swarthmore database tells a deeper
story of the effects of gun violence in
Delaware County

by Elizabeth Slocum

photos by Laurence Kesterson

B

BEHIND EVERY STATISTIC is a story.

Of a family searching for answers or justice. Of a community rallying for resources in response to senseless shootings. Of a loved one lost to gun violence.

Those stories often go unheard in the greater narrative of gun violence. As mass shootings and other high-profile crimes dominate headlines, community violence tends to get pushed aside as an unfortunate reality of American life.

A Swarthmore project is trying to alter that narrative. Launched this fall, the Delaware County Homicide Database (delcohomicides.swarthmore.edu) is an online dashboard and interactive map that tracks all violent deaths in Pennsylvania's fifth-most-populous county, the vast majority of which are firearm-related. Created by students under the guidance of Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies and Sociology Lee Smithey, the database aims to assist in the prevention of gun violence while painting a fuller picture of the effects of firearms.

The project is a peacebuilding effort in partnership with advocacy groups, Smithey says — developed in collaboration with members of the local community, and informed by their personal experiences.

“When I look at that map, I probably tend to see it as a sociologist first, and I start thinking about proximity to the interstate, the income level in these various neighborhoods, etc.,” says Smithey, who is also coordinator of Swarthmore's Peace & Conflict Studies Program. But residents of areas

where gun violence is pervasive, he says, “see a mosaic of stories and individuals and people, and they know that many of these homicide events are related to one another. It opened our eyes to how this information is going to tell a different story to different people.”

A SYSTEMIC PROBLEM

Shootings claimed the lives of more than 15,000 Americans in 2019, not including suicides, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit that tracks firearm casualties nationally; 2020 saw the highest number of firearm deaths in more than two decades, with nearly 20,000 fatalities, and 2021 was on pace to approach or exceed that figure.

In Delaware County, the Swarthmore database shows, 28 homicides were recorded in 2019, the most recent year for which local statistics are available. The map accompanying the data illuminates hot spots in lower income and more highly populated parts of the county, in line with trends for community gun violence nationwide.

For years, local anti-violence organizations have worked to draw attention to the issue, in hopes of advancing state gun legislation and bringing interventions to the areas that need it most. But data collection can be a challenge for the groups' volunteers, as they balance full-time jobs with their advocacy work. “It's really hard to go and ask for resources when you don't have the backup data,” says Jess Frankl of Delaware County United for Sensible Gun Policy, or Delco United, a legislation-focused advocacy group that partnered with Smithey and his students on the database project.

The dashboard has elevated the conversation. “It helps a group like ours to go to our elected representatives and say, look, you know there's a problem — the numbers do not lie,” says Frankl. “Here's where the problem is and here's who it's hitting and here's what you're not doing to fix it.”

The statistics also help proponents as they engage with members of their own communities — or with those who are against their cause, adds John Linder, who co-chaired Delco United with Frankl from 2018 to 2021. (The nonprofit, which was co-founded by Robin Lasersohn '88 and her husband, Terry Rumsey, became a chapter of the statewide organization CeaseFirePA early last year.)

“We have to get accurate data, share it with people from the community, and teach what it means,” says Linder, a professor at Delaware County Community College who served as mayor of Chester, Pa., from 2012 to 2016. “If we educate, we have a chance to eliminate. If we educate, we have a chance to motivate. If we bring to people's awareness what is bothering them, we've got the greatest chance of

▶ The Delaware County Homicide Database will help advocates like John Linder and Jess Frankl draw attention to the issue of gun violence, among both elected officials and community members. “If we bring to people's awareness what is bothering them,” says Linder, “we've got the greatest chance of them taking the medicine that is prescribed for them.”





► Professor of Peace & Conflict Studies and Sociology Lee Smithey allowed the personal experiences of gun-violence survivors to inform the design of the homicide database. “It opened our eyes to how this information is going to tell a different story to different people,” he says.

them taking the medicine that is prescribed for them.”

It might be surprising to discover that a database like Swarthmore’s didn’t already exist for Delaware County; with the amount of information available on the internet, it’s easy to assume that anti-violence groups had all the data. Smithey points out, however, that although limited statistics are readily attainable through law enforcement agencies, they are rarely presented in a way that’s easy for the public to process. By utilizing the College’s technological and scholarly resources, Swarthmore students served as research assistants for the local groups, supporting them in their advocacy.

“We tried our best to give our community partner organizations the most information they can possibly get in order to do their job better and make our communities safer,” says Oliver Hicks ’22, a political science and peace & conflict studies major from San Luis Obispo, Calif., who worked on the project. “Gun violence is not a series of isolated incidents. It’s a systemic problem of pandemic-level proportions.”

HUMANIZING THE VICTIMS

For the database, students downloaded homicide information from the Pennsylvania Uniform Crime-Reporting System and then cross-checked their findings against local news reports to glean further details about each case, such as the specific locations of the shootings. Dashboard users can search gun deaths in the county going back to 2005, while filtering by such demographics as victims’ age, sex, and race, and applying map overlays including median income per area.

The project drew inspiration from the work of photojournalist, activist, and educator Jim MacMillan, who launched a similar site tracking gun deaths in Philadelphia. A former journalist-in-residence with Swarthmore’s War News Radio and former manager for media and responsibility for the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility, MacMillan is the founding director of the Philadelphia Center for Gun Violence Reporting, which emphasizes the importance of including community voices

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING IS JUST IN OUR BLOOD

by Elizabeth Slocum

THE SANDY HOOK SHOOTINGS

profoundly affected Robin Lasersohn ’88.

A preschool teacher at the time of the 2012 massacre, which left 26 young children and educators dead at a school in Newtown, Conn., Lasersohn found herself wondering what she could have done in that situation to protect herself and her students.

Not willing to sit idly by, Lasersohn took a stand. With her husband, Terry Rumsey, she co-founded Delaware County United for Sensible Gun Policy, in hopes of effecting positive change at the legislative level.

“Terry and I had been concerned about gun policy and gun violence in the U.S. for many, many years,” says Lasersohn, a Media, Pa., resident who has been engaged in local activism since her days at Swarthmore, where she special-majored in education and social change. The pair attended the Million Mom March in 2000 and were tuned in to firearm issues, she says, but Sandy Hook truly mobilized the anti-gun-violence movement nationwide.

Launched in 2013, Delco United has pushed for bipartisan support of firearm legislation at the state and federal level, including universal background checks for gun purchases and bans on high-capacity ammunition magazines. It has also encouraged participants not to tiptoe around the issue of gun control or to be afraid to call out the NRA.

“When we first began organizing, a lot of folks on the gun-sense side of things were scared to be direct and bold in their demands,” Lasersohn says. “Through a lot of strategic planning and organizing, the



► Robin Lasersohn ’88 encourages advocates not to tiptoe around the issue of gun control. “When you overcome that fear and decide, I’m doing this out of principle, and I’m going to put myself out there,” she says, “you’re free to voice truth to power.”

people experienced their own collective power. We transformed that attitude into one of like, dammit, you’re going to start listening to the majority of the community here. We want some basic, commonsense solutions, and we’re not going to be fearful and back down.”

Once, Lasersohn says, during a unity walk of about 100 people from Chester to Media, Delco United was met by roughly 25 armed counterdemonstrators who tried to shout them down. Instead of engaging with them, Lasersohn and her group marched on by, singing “We Shall Overcome.”

“It was a transformative experience for a lot of people,” Lasersohn says. “When you overcome that fear and decide, ‘I’m doing this out of principle, and I’m going to put myself out there,’ you’re free to voice truth to power.” From that point on, she adds, the opposition group essentially faded away, as Delco United grew to more than 2,000 members.

Having accomplished their first-stage organizational goals with Delco United,

Lasersohn and Rumsey passed the leadership baton to Jess Frankl and John Linder in 2018. The move freed them up to focus more on other priorities, including Green Seeds, their grant-writing consultancy that supports organizations doing work that benefits the greater good. Among Lasersohn’s clients are the Swarthmore-backed Chester Children’s Chorus, as well as Historic Fair Hill, a Quaker nonprofit directed by Jean Murdock Warrington ’71.

Green Seeds “meets our need to have right livelihood, to feel like the way we earn a living is also helping to change and heal the world,” Lasersohn says. And it allows the couple to continue making change in the community, through open-space preservation advocacy, continued support for the anti-gun-violence movement, and other efforts close to their hearts. “I was not an activist before I came to Swarthmore, but I think I was itching to be one,” she says. “Community organizing is just in our blood.”

in the coverage of fatal shootings.

Smithy builds on this idea in his Gun Violence Prevention course, through which the homicide database was developed over five nonconsecutive semesters. As part of the course — which explores gun violence from the perspectives of public health, policy, law enforcement, prevention advocates, even gun enthusiasts — community partners and survivors of gun violence are frequent guest speakers, often sharing how they've been personally affected by firearms.

"For me, the course was really about humanizing both the living and, unfortunately, deceased victims of gun violence," says Aleina Dume '23, a sociology and educational studies major from Queens, N.Y., who took Gun Violence Prevention during last winter's January term; the course is being offered again in the fall. One particularly impactful speaker for Dume was Beverly Wright, a mother from Chester who lost her son, Emein, to gun violence in 2005. In response to that tragedy, Wright formed the group Women of Strength United for Change, which provides support for families suffering similar losses and works to advance gun policy to prevent future violence.

"Hearing her story, but also about her grassroots activism, really helped me remember that these are lives that we're entering into this database," Dume says. "We might not know this person's name, but that just speaks to how important the work is.

"As a person of color in this class, and as a woman, I think about how Black women and mothers are so often on the front lines of gun violence protests and advocacy. How can we make sure that the right voices are being uplifted?"

One way, advocates say, is simply to listen.

After consulting with community members like Wright, Smithy's students decided against using pinpoints for each death in the database, to avoid reducing each victim to a statistic. Instead, the information is presented as a heat map, with areas growing more saturated in color as the number of cases increases.

"Having those conversations is so important, and listening is way harder than talking," says Frankl, who is now on the board of CeaseFirePA while working for an insurance company. "For Lee to have the initiative to say, you know what, we think we know what we're doing here, but let's get an outside ear because these are the people really being affected, and to take that and find ways to change it — no matter how much work it might be from a tech standpoint — that was so important."

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Linder experienced firsthand the importance of listening during his term as Chester's mayor. While working to reduce the crime rate within Delaware County's only city, Linder made a practice of visiting every victim of gun violence in



➤ A rally held by CeaseFirePA in November drew dozens of advocates to the Delaware County Courthouse in Media, Pa. "Gun violence is not a series of isolated incidents," says Oliver Hicks '22, who attended the rally. "It's a systemic problem of pandemic-level proportions."



► “Once you start to view gun violence as entirely preventable, you find it impossible not to keep going,” says Jim MacMillan, founding director of the Philadelphia Center for Gun Violence Reporting, shown above working with Aaron Moser ’13 on campus in 2013.

JOURNALIST AND EDUCATOR JIM MACMILLAN WIDENS VIEW ON GUN VIOLENCE

by Ryan Dougherty

THE RISE OF GUN VIOLENCE throughout the pandemic dampened Jim MacMillan’s spirits, but not his hope.

“It’s discouraging, but it only reinforces the need to do the work,” says the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and educator. “Once you start to view gun violence as entirely preventable, you find it impossible not to keep going.”

Informing that view are MacMillan’s 40 years of covering gun violence. He was a photographer for 17 years with the *Philadelphia Daily News*, taking a leave in 2004–05 to cover the Iraq War for the Associated Press in Baghdad; he later served as an editor/producer of the Gun Crisis Reporting Project in Philadelphia. Between those moves, MacMillan made a stop at Swarthmore, where he was a journalist-in-residence with War News Radio and a manager for media and

responsibility for the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility.

As founding director of the Philadelphia Center for Gun Violence Reporting, MacMillan explores the hypothesis that changing the way that journalists and news organizations report on gun violence can prevent shootings and save lives. That effort is rooted in the concepts of solutions journalism, trauma journalism, and, as he learned from Professor Lee Smithey, peace journalism.

“There’s a pretty straight line from my experiences at Swarthmore to what I’m doing now,” says MacMillan, who has returned several times to Smithey’s classroom as a guest speaker.

Having collected and analyzed gun-violence data in Philadelphia, which he shared through a database in 2012, MacMillan delighted in the recent efforts

of Smithey and his students.

“We’re all basically flying blind without data,” MacMillan says, “and making it accessible to more people is an incredibly generous gift to the community.”

Swarthmore’s database could empower government, nonprofits, and individuals to take the collective action needed to prevent gun violence, he adds. But that’s only possible because of the deep community engagement fostered from the beginning of the project.

“Having the trust and confidence of community partners verifies that you’re doing it in a way that they think is valuable,” he says. “And it feels like the nature of this Swarthmore community that I know, its emphasis on community-building, is the secret sauce.”

the hospital. There, he communicated between doctors and family members and offered comfort to loved ones during times of extreme panic and grief. Half a decade later, Linder says, people still tell him how much the gesture meant.

“I at some point would know someone in their family — a parent or an uncle or aunt that I went to college with,” says Linder, who was born and raised in Chester and attended Widener University there. “Someone once asked me, ‘Why did you put yourself through that?’ I said, ‘I didn’t put myself through anything. I did what I thought was the responsible thing to do.’

“Even the quote-unquote bad guy, the drug dealer who was shooting — they belong to somebody. ... Something that I don’t think the young people realize when they’re engaged in it is that that shooting, that death, that’s final.” By connecting with people — whether they’re young people in Chester, students at Swarthmore, or opponents of gun legislation — Linder says he gains ground in the fight against firearms.

As a lifelong resident, Linder understands Chester’s current challenges, including a lack of jobs, poor educational opportunities, and a high crime rate. But he also sees signs of hope for the city that he loves, including a sharp drop in shootings reported last summer, attributed partly to the Chester Partnerships for Safe Neighborhoods, a community-engagement program launched by District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer.

What outsiders don’t always realize about Chester, Linder says, “is that most of the people there abhor gun violence. We think because it happens, people outside think everybody goes for that. Everybody doesn’t go for that.”

What residents want, he says, is a safe and quiet community where everyone can live without the fear of crime. As Linder often tells opponents of firearm legislation: “I don’t want your gun. What I want is your commitment

that we’re going to work together to stop people from taking our lives.”

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Swarthmore’s homicide database has the potential to help reduce gun violence by allowing advocates to monitor trends across the county. “We can see when it’s getting better, when it’s getting worse,” Frankl says. “We want to know what’s being done: Are the interventions that are being put in place actually working and getting to the people who need it?”

But it is also expected to be useful to trauma surgeons, public health workers, and local governments. Before the pandemic, Pennsylvania officials invited Smithey, Frankl, and Linder to Harrisburg to discuss tracking gun deaths on a statewide level. The hope is that Swarthmore’s project will inspire additional databases — created for other counties, perhaps by other colleges.

“It is just amazing how we have constantly run into leaders who want to talk about this,” Smithey says. “And it can be rewarding for students — many just took a class because they thought Gun Violence Prevention would be interesting, and then they realize we’re actually doing something that people say that they need.”

The database is also likely to evolve along with those needs. One idea is for the site to eventually include an “in memoriam” section, where loved ones could honor victims with photos and tributes. “The students are rightly interested in humanizing this data as much as possible,” Smithey says, “and so we imagine soliciting descriptions of victims by surviving family members, if they wish, in a totally voluntary way.”

That addition would only bolster the efforts of anti-gun-violence advocates, Frankl says. Never a numbers person, even during her time leading Delco United, Frankl instead felt drawn into action by the victims and survivors themselves, by their personal narratives of tragedy, perseverance, and triumph.

“It never stuck with me until I connected it to the lives being lost, until I had their stories, until I had the bigger picture of what was happening,” Frankl says. “And that’s what I love so much about how Lee did this. He didn’t rush it and say, I’m busy, I have other things to do, let’s get this up on a website. He did it with multiple classes and educated the students on the bigger scope of the problem. He brought in community members and got their point of view. It was done in the right way.”

DATABASE IN ACTION

Just six weeks after its launch, the Delaware County Homicide Database was already having a positive impact on community anti-violence groups.

“Making a Change Group Chester highlighted your map at a program pitch tonight for a new intervention initiative in Chester,” CeaseFirePA Organizing Manager Max Milkman wrote in an email to Professor Lee Smithey in December. Milkman leads the Delaware County Chapter of CeaseFirePA, Delco United. “They said your database was key to helping them understand where to invest resources.”



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► Coach Mame Fremah Bonsu '14 loves the freedom of skateboarding and the skill required to be great at the sport. She started her own company, Anansi Skatelite Inc.

DROPPING IN

Skateboarding led to reflection — and a new way of navigating work and life

by Roy Greim '14

HOW MANY PEOPLE can say they've met their childhood hero?

Skateboarding coach Mame Fremah Bonsu '14 fell in love with the sport thanks in no small part to the Tony Hawk Pro Skater video game franchise. Before videos were readily available online, devotees swapped VHS tapes of their favorite riders; Bonsu, a native of Lewiston, Maine, didn't have access to these videos but immersed herself in skateboarding via her Nintendo GameCube.

Fast-forward to last June, when Bonsu was working at Substance Skatepark in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she lives, and happened to meet — and then skate with — the legendary Tony Hawk.

"He randomly came in, and we had a session together," she says. "It was just super cool, because he's so down to earth. He was offering me skating tips, and I've been able to keep in contact with him, just asking about things."

For Bonsu, the line from skating as a childhood passion to a full-time profession has had its fair share of twists and turns.

After taking time away from skating in middle and high school, she returned to it at Swarthmore and spent her summers developing a feel for transition skating at her local skatepark in Maine. The term refers to using quarter-pipes, mini ramps, and half-pipes, says Bonsu. "Transition skating literally started with ditches, big gutters, and empty backyard pools," she says.

Postgraduation plans took Bonsu to New York City to work in advertising, and she mostly thought of skateboard coaching as a side hustle.

"It basically started when some kids asked me to help them in the park at the time, and the parents were watching, and then they came to give me money," Bonsu says. "Other parents said, 'Oh, can you teach my kid, too?' I gave two to five lessons on a weekend, and then I went back to work on Monday." Over time, Bonsu felt increasingly out of place in the corporate world and faced an identity crisis that pushed her out of the advertising sphere.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

REGULAR:

Left foot forward, right foot back (push foot).

GOOFY: Right foot forward, left foot back (push foot).

FAKIE: Roll backward in your normal stance.

SWITCH: Skate opposite to your normal stance (i.e. a regular skating goofy).

STREET SKATING: “Street, sidewalk, ledges, curbs, stairs, rails — skaters find spots around the city or skate these features that are built in skateparks,” says Bonsu. “A lot of technical tricks such as the kickflip are associated with the street category, but technically most of this can be brought to transition.”

“In many of the corporate environments I was in, I felt like authenticity and unapologetic display of your true self was discouraged,” she says. “I had to accept that I would always have to assume an outward appearance at odds with who I truly am in order to survive in the corporate world. I began to identify with my perceived disposability, and I often stopped feeling like a real person.”

Encouragement from her therapist and the changing circumstances of the pandemic — which Bonsu credits with providing “a whole new weight to re-examining life” — led her to pursue coaching as a full-time job.

She began her own company, Anansi Skatelite Inc., named in homage to a spider-like folktale character central to many West African people; Bonsu, who was born in the U.S. but spent part of her early life in Ghana, admires Anansi’s craftiness in outmaneuvering larger foes and wants to encourage her students to show the same creativity in solving their own problems. Anansi also serves as a reminder of her ties to Ghana, which she hopes to represent at the Olympics and help foster the growth of the emerging African skating scene.

“Things like the language, smell, air feel, city,

“SKATING HAS ALWAYS BROUGHT ME A SENSE OF FREEDOM IN DIFFICULT TIMES.”

— Mame Fremah
Bonsu ’14, who left
the corporate world to
pursue her passion

village, landscape, and religion of Ghana all hold traces in my body and psyche,” Bonsu says. “With each visit to my homeland, I feel more and more connected — connected to the land, the people, the culture, and the history. I also feel connected to its future, whatever that may hold.”

It’s fitting that Bonsu found her way back to skateboarding because of the central role it’s played in her life. Describing it as her “first form of therapy,” she says skateboarding has taught her how to navigate her anxieties, feel balanced in the world, and learn how to fall — both on the board and in her day-to-day life.

“I feel like there’s so much of my external world that overlaps with skateboarding,” she says. “For example, if I lean back too much on my board, I’ll wipe out. And if I think of all the other things that are in the past that I can’t control, that are behind me, that I’m leaning back on, it’ll cause me another kind of pain.”

Despite the taxing nature of the sport, Bonsu wants to skate as long as she can and hopes to remain involved even if she hangs up her board. In the meantime, she has big plans for herself, including pushing to increase the visibility of female skaters of color.

As a kid, she was largely surrounded by white, male skaters at her local park. “When you’re a minority in a particular community or culture, it can be easy to get into the mind frame of ‘How do I represent my people?’” she says. “As a Black woman, I have experienced — and also placed on my own shoulders — the responsibility of setting an example for ‘the rest of us,’ at my own expense, constricting how I moved forward. If you aren’t mindful, it can pull you away from the experience of being you.”

Much like her decision to leave the corporate world for skateboarding, Bonsu is motivated by her desire to represent herself on her own terms, to display her truth as authentically as possible.

“Skating has always brought me a sense of freedom in difficult times,” she says. “I want other Black, female skaters of any age to feel that same sense of liberation.”



► “In many of the corporate environments I was in, I felt like authenticity and unapologetic display of your true self was discouraged,” says Mame Fremah Bonsu ’14, pictured above at a New York City skatepark. “I had to accept that I would always have to assume an outward appearance at odds with who I truly am in order to survive in the corporate world.”

THE LONG PATH HOME

**The urgent work of advocating
for immigrant families**

by Heather Rigney Shumaker '91

DURING STEVEN
Larín '97's
childhood, El
Salvador filled the
news headlines.
Civil war. Fight

to stop communism. What he heard
watching the news, however, differed
from the talk at home.

"There are people at the other end
of those stories," Larín's parents
reminded him. "Families trying to just
live their lives."

As the family gathered around the
dinner table during the 1980s, they
spoke of friends who'd disappeared or



been killed. Today, the human stories are the focus of Larín's lifelong work with immigrants and refugees. Larín is deputy director of Nationalities Service Center, a Philadelphia-based nonprofit celebrating its 100th anniversary. As an attorney specializing in asylum cases and immigrant youth, he has worked directly with immigrant families for 20 years.

Larín's parents, both Salvadoran, fled the growing violence in their country, arriving in the U.S. in the 1970s with his brother, then 2. Larín was born in Los Angeles. His father found jobs as a carpenter and factory worker in the aerospace industry. His mother took assembly-line jobs.

They faced hardship — and sometimes mistreatment — but thrived with new opportunities and support from extended family.

By the time he reached high school, Larín knew he wanted to be an attorney to help immigrant families.

"You should pick a highly ranked school that meets 100% of financial need," Larín's guidance counselor said, while handing him a Swarthmore brochure that showcased a pretty campus, filled with trees. "Many people do school visits," says Larín, but for him, "it was based on the brochure."

"THE PEOPLE WHO INSPIRED ME WERE THE STUDENTS. WE ALL CAME TOGETHER. THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENS AT SWARTHMORE."

— Steven Larín '97

His first semester was exciting and a world away from everything he knew. But after going home for Christmas break, Larín didn't return to Swarthmore. His father's job was in danger from layoffs. At the time, Swarthmore's aid package included a family contribution they couldn't afford.

"I couldn't do that to my family," Larín says. Instead, he enrolled in Los Angeles Valley College. After a year and a half of community college and realizing there was something he needed to complete back East, Larín re-contacted Swarthmore, where he was welcomed back.

"I didn't speak up before," he says. "I didn't talk to the financial aid office or dean. I was shocked by how easy it was to come back."

When Larín returned to campus in 1994, he joined HOLA, the Latino student organization. California was not far from his mind. The state's Proposition 187 was threatening to cut off public schooling and health care for undocumented immigrants. Larín alerted fellow students to the issues with Prop 187.

Soon, student groups focused on civil liberties and homelessness grew interested. Together, they created the Coalition Against Xenophobia, which became a leader for organizing Prop

187 protests nationwide.

"The people who inspired me were the students," says Larín, who went on to earn his law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. "We all came together. That's how it happens at Swarthmore."

One exceptionally inspiring student was Elizabeth Green '97, who joined Larín in his activist work. "We've been married for 15 years now," he says. The dual-attorney couple live in Swarthmore.

"THE CHILDREN I'M WORKING WITH LOOK LIKE MY OWN CHILDREN."

Larín remembers an 8-year-old boy trying to rejoin his mother, who was living in the United States. "Guillermo" (not his real name) fled violence in El Salvador, traveling by foot, train, and bus with his older brother. Border patrol detained them on entry. Although Larín won Guillermo's asylum case, reuniting him with his mother, the two brothers were separated.

"Terrible, terrible things happened to that family," says Larín. "And on top of that, there's the impact and devastation of separation. Our focus is keeping families together."

Larín sees the big picture when it comes to reasons for immigration. Take the case of Guillermo. "He fled because a gang had taken over the neighborhood where he lives," says Larín. "Two big gangs there are 18th Street and MS-13. Those two gangs have origins in the streets of L.A."

As Larín explains, the U.S. deported large numbers of undocumented young men from California. These youths introduced U.S. gang culture to many places in Central America.

"There are real connections with U.S. history," says Larín, "and



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► "I was very much aware that people are forced to move," says Jonah Eaton '02, "and where they move to is not always a very receptive place."

GROUNDING IN GLOBAL POLITICS

by Heather Rigney Shumaker '91

STEVEN LARÍN '97 IS NOT THE ONLY SWATTIE working at Philadelphia's Nationalities Service Center. Jonah Eaton '02 heads the legal department and works side by side with Larín. Eaton joined the group as a staff attorney helping immigrants apply for U.S. asylum and currently oversees a team of 10 immigration attorneys.

The two colleagues had many of the same professors and credit Swarthmore for its thorough grounding in global politics. Eaton also draws on his Quaker heritage.

"I grew up in a Quaker, U.N. family," he says. His mother worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as a protection officer. "We lived in Pakistan at the time. She took me to a refugee camp on the Pakistan border when I was 9 years old." Those early experiences made a deep impression. "I was very much aware that people are forced to move, and where they move to is not always a very receptive place."

Swarthmore was a natural fit for Eaton. His father was a Hicksite Quaker and a Swarthmore alumnus, and the College nurtured his growing interest in humanitarian work. "The College attracts people interested in social justice," he says.

Eaton's specialty in asylum and refugee law is tough work, and not all of his clients' asylum cases are granted.

"You lose a lot," he says. "People get deported. Families get

separated." But Eaton believes everyone who seeks asylum deserves a chance to be heard. What's more, U.S. law requires it. He disapproves of the recent Biden administration response to Haitians seeking asylum at the U.S. border. "They are breaking the law when they deport these people," he says, "because there is a right to apply for asylum if you're in U.S. territory. Full stop."

Eaton doesn't worry about what has been labeled a "border crisis," calling it largely a political construction. Given the nation's size and wealth, he says, the U.S. can absorb large numbers of immigrants. "We could have just let all those people in," says Eaton. "We can take it." Besides, he says, most asylum seekers don't reach U.S. borders. "The vast majority of people who flee trouble end up in the country next door. They never make it to the United States."

For those who do come to the U.S., Eaton believes everyone deserves a fair hearing under law. A 2019 Pennsylvania State University study found that 77% of people in Pennsylvania detention centers are deported without counsel. He advocates for public defenders for immigrants. Immigration law is convoluted, he says, and his clients are often survivors of torture. "They fled here. Now they need protection."

Eaton is not surprised to be working with so many Swarthmoreans, including student interns and Emiliano Rodriguez '04, a union organizer with Unite Here.

"Swarthmore graduates go into nonprofits and change-making," Eaton says. Many days he finds himself in meetings with fellow alumni. "It's me and Steven and Emiliano," he says, all trying to "move the ball in a more just direction." 📍

“OUR FOCUS IS KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER.”

— Steven Larín '97

tremendous connection with U.S. foreign policy. People are fleeing real danger. As a country, we're responsible to provide refuge, especially if we're part of creating the situation.”

The Nationalities Services Center has been at the heart of this work for a century.

NSC's original mission was to help women learn English and gain naturalized citizenship. Clients were mostly Polish, Greek, German, or Armenian. The 1960s brought Cubans and Hungarians fleeing revolution, then many refugees from Southeast Asia. Today, NSC is a unique, one-stop hub for all low-income immigrants and refugees, serving more than 5,000 clients from 100 countries in 2020. New arrivals can find legal services, English-language classes, health care, job counseling, translators, and interpreters.

Larín notes the similarities between the sudden influx of Vietnamese refugees in 1975 and the mass arrival of Afghan refugees today. “There's been a tremendous outpouring of support,” Larín says of the 28,000 Afghan evacuees who have entered the U.S. through the Philadelphia airport. “Employers offering work, people offering temporary housing, others just wanting to welcome and greet them at the airport.”

“We consider ourselves an anti-poverty organization in addition to

an immigrants' rights organization,” he adds. “The issues that impact immigrants impact everybody in our community.”

In the future, Larín expects an influx of environmental refugees. The World Bank predicts 143 million climate migrants by 2050, people fleeing severe storms, droughts, and hurricanes. This displacement has already begun.

“Organizations like the Nationalities Service Center offer crucial aid to newly settled immigrant and refugee communities in the Philadelphia area and help uphold our reputation as the City of Brotherly Love,” says Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Osman Balkan.

Welcoming immigrants is simply the right thing to do — for humanitarian reasons, and for very real economic benefit, Larín says. “The focus now is trying to change the narrative around immigration,” he says. Immigration brings young workers to revitalize cities. Immigrants buy houses, pay taxes, and start businesses at a rate 80% higher than non-immigrants, according to a study from the MIT Sloan School of Management. Many essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic — from health care to food delivery — were immigrants. “They worked hard during this time to keep food in our stores and on our tables,” Larín notes.

He hopes for two things: lawful status for millions of undocumented people and an end to criminal treatment and detention centers. Despite daunting challenges, Larín imbues his daily work with heartfelt optimism. His team is solid. Jonah Eaton '02 directs NSC's legal services. Vivian Echeverría Quiroga, a onetime client, serves on the board while

pursuing a nursing degree.

“To see the tremendous joy when things work out well,” says Larín, “to see that story repeated over and over — we're just there for a moment in a person's life.”

A Path to Citizenship

JORGE AGUILAR '05 remembers the day his mother told him they were leaving Costa Rica for a new life in the United States. As a 7-year-old, his thoughts were mainly on the plane ride.

The full impact of living in the U.S. as undocumented immigrants didn't hit until later. Aguilar and his mother moved to the Bronx in New York City and shared housing with an immigrant family from China. “Six of us slept in the one-bedroom apartment,” says Aguilar. His mother found work as a seamstress in a garment factory.

The job involved long hours and little pay, but it was the only work she could find. She was a single mom, and deaf in one ear and nearly deaf in the other. As a girl in Costa Rica, she'd had no access to sign language or hearing aids. “Because of that, she had a third-grade education,” says Aguilar. “She was functionally illiterate.” He is amazed by his mother's courage.

His mother left for work early, so at age 8, Aguilar was boarding the city bus to school on his own, knowing little English. After school he waited for her at the local public library, which closed at 7 p.m. “In retrospect, it was frightening,” says Aguilar. “Mom's [job] was frequently raided by the

immigration police. Had they caught her, I would never have been picked up after school.” Aguilar learned English and soon became a baseball-playing, American kid.

They moved out on their own when he was 10. Aguilar saw kids playing outside their one-bedroom apartment. “I had no friends and I was lonely,” he says. “Baseball became my entry into a social life in the U.S.”

But things got tough in junior high. His school was riddled with violence, and Aguilar kept a straight-C profile to stay safe. His mother warned him to stay out of trouble.

“If you get in a fight, you'll get kicked out of the country,” she told him, explaining that the consequences for his friends would be different. Luckily, Student Sponsors Partners, a nonprofit program for at-risk youth, steered Aguilar to a new school. Thanks to his sponsor and mentor, Aguilar started attending St. Agnes Boys High School, an all-boys Catholic school in Manhattan. “Then my grades blossomed, once I was in a safe environment,” says Aguilar.

His mother remarried a U.S. citizen and then applied for legal status for her son. His application for residency was denied because the family's annual income failed to meet U.S. immigration income requirements. Aguilar was told to deport in 90 days. He was only 16 years old.

“I was on the cusp of being deported without my mom,” he says. At the time he was only a high school junior. “I cried to anyone who would listen.” Teachers and counselors were sympathetic, “but it was my baseball coach who offered up a solution,” he says. His coach introduced him to his father, a retired judge. They convinced a law firm to take his case pro bono and



► Jorge Aguilar '05 was 7 when he and his mother emigrated from Costa Rica. Today, he is a child psychiatrist in the Bronx. Aguilar says he found support at Swarthmore, especially through Amy Cheng Vollmer, the Isaac H. Clothier Jr. Professor of Biology. Top: Aguilar and his mom. Bottom: Aguilar and wife Caitlin Proper in the Scott Outdoor Amphitheater.



TORY RUST LLC

► “As the daughter of a Puerto Rican man and a Cuban woman, I feel fortunate to be doing this work,” says Lourdes Rosado ’85, president and general council of LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

A PLEA FOR EDUCATION AND EMPATHY

by Tara Smith

ONLY EDUCATION can dispel the darkness and lies that shroud immigrants in fear and keep our broken immigration system on lockdown.

Lourdes Rosado ’85, president and general counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF (Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund), says her own eyes were opened in Professor Ken Sharpe’s Latin American seminar, when she learned about the role the U.S. played in authoritarian regimes and weak democracies.

Rosado has spent decades fighting for social justice on a variety of fronts — from litigation and policy advocacy to

“Although the Supreme Court [DACA] case was a partial win, Congress was still unable to create a pathway to citizenship.”

— Lourdes Rosado ’85

community education and engagement. “It’s a very challenging time to be representing the Latino population of this country,” she says. “As the daughter of a Puerto Rican man and a Cuban woman, I feel fortunate to be doing this work.”

Rosado was chief of the Civil Rights Bureau at the New York State Attorney General’s Office when President Donald Trump enacted the Muslim travel ban in 2017. She and her colleagues leaped into action to combat this and other items, including the rescission of DACA, on his anti-immigration agenda.

“Although the Supreme Court case was a partial win,” she says, “Congress was still unable to create a pathway to citizenship.”

Though she breathed a sigh of relief when Trump was defeated, “we’re seeing threats from other areas, including state governors. And there’s still no pathway to citizenship. I’m baffled by the lack of empathy — especially by parents.”

Another injustice Rosado finds astounding is the lack of acknowledgment and provision for the vast numbers of immigrants, including undocumented people, who have been putting themselves at risk as essential workers, doing the work others won’t do, throughout the pandemic. “They need to be honored, not excluded from federal aid,” she says.

Rosado is proud of her organization’s work in assisting Latinx workers who were excluded from federal aid to apply to a New York state-created fund.

She sees hope for change coming out of the work that many public-interest law firms are doing, as well as from community organizing at the grassroots level and from individuals like Karina Ruiz, who approached U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona on a flight to inquire politely about her campaign promise to work on a pathway to citizenship.

“That was a very powerful moment,” Rosado says. “It’s only through that kind of pressure that change is going to come.”

Rosado, who was serving on Swarthmore’s Board of Managers when the vote was taken, is also proud that the College declared itself to be a sanctuary campus.

As in most struggles for justice, it’s not just about institutions. Swarthmoreans everywhere can bring the light of education and empathy to their communities. 🌟



COURTESY OF JORGE AGUILAR '05

► Aguilar and his mom, Denia Ching, at his swearing-in ceremony. As a still-undocumented high school senior, Aguilar applied to Swarthmore, which offered him a full scholarship. “They wanted to have students from a background like mine on campus,” he says.

halted the deportation orders.

As a still-undocumented high school senior, however, Aguilar’s options for higher education were limited. He couldn’t get a bank loan or federal financial aid. Would any college give him funding? He applied to 36 colleges, hoping one would offer private funding. His school supported him, paying for each \$40–\$60 application fee. “Of those 36 colleges, Swarthmore was the only one that offered me a full scholarship,” says Aguilar. “They understood my status.

They wanted to have students from a background like mine on campus.”

He met people from different backgrounds, played varsity sports, and served as class president. Still, it wasn’t easy.

“I struggled at Swarthmore because I never took an AP class and we didn’t speak English at home,” he says.

Amy Cheng Vollmer, the Isaac H. Clothier Jr. Professor of Biology, became Aguilar’s mentor, a relationship he credits with helping him survive the rigorous academics.

“I WAS ON THE CUSP OF BEING DEPORTED WITHOUT MY MOM. I CRIED TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN.”

— Jorge Aguilar ’05

“She didn’t judge my potential by my performance,” says Aguilar. “She judged my potential based on my passion and my determination.” Vollmer went on to co-found the Swarthmore Summer Scholars Program (S³P) to give students like Aguilar research opportunities.

Vollmer suggested he work as a research assistant before attempting graduate school. He did, taking night classes on the side.

By the time Aguilar graduated from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine with an M.D. in medicine and a Ph.D. in microbiology, he had his citizenship papers.

Today, Aguilar is a child psychiatrist. “I practice in the Bronx,” he says. “My patient population is almost entirely Black, Brown, and poor.” Psychiatry is still predominantly a white field, and Aguilar says it’s important to recruit providers who can relate to and fully understand their patients’ circumstances.

Mental health providers are in sky-high demand, especially for kids, due to the pandemic and national unrest. That stress is causing pathological anxiety and depression, says Aguilar: “These things don’t go unwitnessed by kids.”

According to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental health-related emergency room visits have increased 31% since the pandemic began, and suicide attempts by girls has increased 51%.

Aguilar worries poor families have less access and longer waiting times for mental health care.

No one benefits when immigrants struggle unnecessarily. Immigrant kids are “just as American as the other kids,” he says, and welcoming immigrants — the way Swarthmore did — is the right thing to do. 🌟



➤ Sandra Alexander '73 views a photo of her father, John Melvin Alexander, at the Greenwood Cultural Center in Tulsa, Okla. Both of Alexander's parents were survivors of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre.

A MATTER OF RESILIENCE

How a violent chapter in Tulsa shaped one family's path

by Sherry L. Howard

GROWING UP in Tulsa, Okla., Sandra Alexander '73 was surrounded by World Book encyclopedias and a family devoted to education.

As a girl, she fell in love with slide rules and regretted when they were replaced by calculators. She sat in on her brother's math tutoring lessons. Their mother, a certified substitute teacher, bought textbooks for home study and gave her children reading assignments.

"Mom made it perfectly clear to my older brother, Paul, and me that all of our schooling was in preparation to go to college," says Alexander, a pioneering Black lawyer in eastern Oklahoma. "She had definitive ideas about the education of her children. In retrospect, Paul and I have realized that we were sent to school, but we were also home-schooled."

Alexander's education included integrating Tulsa's Holland Hall, a prep school for children of elite, white families, before going to Swarthmore in 1969 on a full scholarship. Her mother, Marie — herself a college graduate, with a minor in education — was determined her children would be driven and self-reliant.

That fierce focus on education and achievement, Alexander now realizes, was built on a history of resilience born from tragedy. Her parents were survivors of the 1921 Tulsa race massacre, one of the most depraved acts of racial violence in U.S. history.

"Their childhood experience was the rebuilding of Tulsa," she says. "That must explain some of the choices they made in raising us."

Both of Alexander's parents were toddlers when a white mob looted the homes and businesses of Black families and burned them down in Tulsa's Greenwood neighborhood. An estimated 300 Black people were killed, hundreds more were injured, and thousands of families were left without homes or livelihoods.

Dubbed "Black Wall Street," Greenwood had been a physical symbol of Black prosperity, some 35 blocks of vibrant businesses, well-furnished homes, and both college-educated and impoverished people. The wave of destruction, which started on May 31, 1921, and lasted for 18 hours, was catastrophic, causing millions of dollars in property damage, in addition to the loss of financial legacies.

Neither side of Alexander's family sustained property damage in the massacre; her father, John, told the Tulsa Reparations Coalition that his father unlocked his doors, prayed to God to keep his house intact, and fled with his family before the mob approached. His own house spared, he later opened it up to those who were left with nothing. Despite the magnitude of the losses of life and way of life, within three months the community had begun to rebuild on its own. During the 1930s and 1940s, many of Greenwood's



COURTESY OF SANDRA ALEXANDER '73



MIKE SIMONS

➤ Alexander's parents — including her mother, Marie, shown above in a floral dress during college — raised their children on the legacy of Black Wall Street: that Blacks could create their own American dream and reach their full potential if unobstructed. "Their childhood experience was the rebuilding of Tulsa," Alexander says. "That must explain some of the choices they made in raising us."



COLLECTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE. GIFT OF THE FAMILIES OF ANITA WILLIAMS CHRISTOPHER AND DAVID OWEN WILLIAMS



COLLECTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE. GIFT OF CASSANDRA P. JOHNSON SMITH

► Top: North Greenwood Avenue in Tulsa, Okla., prior to the 1921 Tulsa race massacre. Bottom: On May 31 and June 1, 1921, mobs of white residents brutally attacked the African American community of Greenwood, colloquially known as “Black Wall Street,” in one of the deadliest racial massacres in U.S. history. Homes, businesses, and community structures including schools, churches, a hospital, and the library were looted and burned or otherwise destroyed. Exact statistics are unknown, but the violence left around 10,000 people homeless and as many as 300 people dead with many more missing or wounded.

“MY GRANDPARENTS MADE THE CONSCIOUS DECISION TO STAY AND RAISE MY PARENTS IN TULSA.”

— Sandra Alexander ’73

businesses and its vitality were restored. But over the decades, conversations about the massacre slowly slipped into the darkness like a shadow. Few people talked about it — in fact, Alexander’s grandfather never mentioned the riots to her father until later in life. Her parents instead focused on conveying Greenwood’s legacy of success to their children.

“What Black Wall Street is, is fertile ground,” Alexander says. “It showed that Black people can thrive. We are not dependent. It thrived without being dependent upon white people.”

Alexander’s family has its own history of empowerment. Her mother’s father was a carpenter who owned property. He made sure his only child, Alyce Marea, called Marie, attended college. She graduated with a chemistry degree and tested gunpowder for DuPont during World War II. Her father worked at the Post Office and spent his off days as a popular bartender and waiter at parties for area families and businesses.

When the local prep school, Holland Hall, decided to integrate, Alexander was selected to enroll. She felt no animosity there, but her mother had prepared her well for people who would judge her by her skin color and gender — like the white counselor at her former high school who implied that she wasn’t fit for college.

“She didn’t know anything about me,” Alexander says. “All she knew was I had colored skin and I was female. And that statement to me said, ‘When I look at you, I don’t see a prospective college student. ... Somebody who looks like you shouldn’t want to go to college.’”

Holland Hall, meanwhile, “saw a prospective college student, and Holland Hall expected me to want to go to college.”

In 1969, Alexander became the school’s first Black graduate. When she was accepted to Swarthmore, she was unaware of the sit-ins earlier that year demanding that the College admit more Black students. “My mere presence was the accomplishment of something that I didn’t even know somebody was trying to accomplish,” she says.

Growing up in Oklahoma made it hard for her to relate to the Black students she



COURTESY OF SANDRA ALEXANDER ’73

► Sandra Alexander ’73’s family focused on conveying a legacy of success. “What Black Wall Street is, is fertile ground,” says Alexander, a political science major at Swarthmore who went on to law school at the University of Tulsa.

met on campus, many of whom were from the East Coast. “Before I got to Swarthmore, I didn’t understand ghettos; I understood all-Black towns,” she says. “I didn’t know about or understand the Great Northern Migration; I understood the Trail of Tears and the Okie migration to California during the Dust Bowl.”

“They were talking about their life experiences, which were just foreign to me,” she says.

“Part of the dynamics at Swarthmore [was] that the Black students would sit together in the dining hall,” Alexander says. She initially joined them but struggled to connect. “Finally, I just asked myself a question: But for the color of my skin, would I know these people? When the answer was no, I got up and left.”

She retreated into avenues that enriched her experience, joining varsity sports and taking computer programming courses. She chose Russian literature and engineering as elective graduation requirements.

A political science major, Alexander graduated with the Class of 1973 and went on to law school at the University of Tulsa. After law school, she spent four years at the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C. Alexander returned to

practice law in Tulsa. However, she found herself pulled into civic service. In her professional life, she says, she accomplished what her family had taught her.

“My parents encouraged me to pursue the service approach, not to be hung up on making money,” she says. She was appointed to the boards of nonprofit institutions often as a way to help to integrate them, she says.

She’s most proud of her work on the Planned Parenthood affiliate, where she helped create a program to provide prenatal care for poor women who had been shunned by private obstetricians. These days, at age 70, she’s trying to take it easy, only accepting cases through clients and continuing her community service by working in her church.

The ongoing public discussion of the massacre that began in 2021 eased her burden of having to explain an experience that, although traumatic for earlier generations of her family, did not destroy or debilitate them.

“My grandparents made the conscious decision to stay and to raise my parents in Tulsa. My parents made the conscious decision to stay, and I’ve made the same conscious decision to stay,” she says. “That’s kind of a continuous chain of my family here.”

A WAY OUT

When chaos erupted in Afghanistan, this climbing group stepped up

by Elizabeth Redden '05



JEFF WITT

▶ A life spent climbing mountains prepared David Thoenen '68 for an unexpected turn of events this summer.

THOUGH HE HAS had his share of high-risk endeavors, David Thoenen '68 never expected to be involved in dangerous evacuation efforts from Afghanistan.

Thoenen, a mountaineering and climbing enthusiast who retired from a 35-year career at IBM, signed up in 2017 to volunteer for Ascend.

The nonprofit organization offers a mountaineering program designed to build leadership skills for Afghan girls and women ages 15 to 24.

"All sorts of great things were happening in line with the objectives of the program, and we were expanding and bringing in more young women," says Thoenen, who now serves as chair of Ascend's board. But in May 2021, the Taliban started to scoop up Afghanistan province by province, and by mid-August they had arrived in Kabul. On Aug. 31, the U.S. completed withdrawal of its troops, ending a 20-year war in Afghanistan.

"We moved from our initial objectives and programming to evacuation and resettlement," Thoenen says. "Particularly the young women who were leading the programming, but also others associated with the program, were obvious high-risk targets for the Taliban because of their role in pushing for women's empowerment.

"The girls and women in our program were terrified," Thoenen says. "They've never lived under the Taliban." They were fearful, "not only of the violence associated with the Taliban," he says, "but also the lifestyle they would have to have when the Taliban took over."

As of this fall, Ascend had evacuated more than 145 people from Afghanistan, including some family members of Ascend participants. Some of the girls and young women were evacuated by charter flight from Mazar-i-Sharif. Others fled over land through Pakistan, coordinated through a whirlwind of networking activity

with nongovernmental organizations and Ascend's contacts on the ground. "We had four women who had to crawl under barbed wire and walked two miles barefoot through the desert," Thoenen says.

A few were at the Kabul airport when suicide bombers attacked on Aug. 26, killing 183 people. "One of these girls entered the airport covered with blood and wore those same clothes until she reached the resettlement center several days later," Thoenen says. "Another one of our girls saw a little girl's leg blown off."

Thoenen says Ascend's focus is temporarily shifting to resettling the young women, many of whom ended up in camps in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

"We've got 18 resettled in Chile and about six or eight in Denmark so far and promises of visas elsewhere," he says. "That will be our focus through the end of the year, to make sure that everybody gets out of the camps and into an environment that will be nurturing and help them get where they need to go in the longer term."

Beth Jones '70, a former assistant secretary of state and ambassador to Kazakhstan, joined Ascend's board in July and also aided in the nonprofit's evacuation efforts. She was moved by Ascend and the girls she met online.

"I was really inspired by their enthusiasm for the training and the trips that they'd taken into the mountains and the camaraderie that they clearly enjoyed," she says. "It was just very affirming that this organization could do this kind of work in Afghanistan with so many girls."

▶ Rock and ice climbing with Ascend helps the young women to learn trust and how to overcome their fears.



© CAMILLE F. DUCHESNEAU/WISN

THE TALIBAN IN POWER

The Taliban is an ultraconservative group that took power in Afghanistan in the 1990s amid the chaotic civil war in the country. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the United States and its allies swept the Taliban from power. But the group recovered in sanctuaries in Pakistan and, by 2006, were an organized nationwide insurgency. Over a decade later, after a torturous exit strategy, the United States reached a deal with the Taliban and withdrew in 2021.

For many Americans, the conflict was a forgotten war. In August, it suddenly became visceral again when the Taliban launched a lightning offensive and captured Kabul. Foreigners and Afghans desperately fled from the airport, evoking scenes of Saigon in 1975. Some hope that a more moderate Taliban could emerge, given the dramatic changes in Afghanistan over the past two decades, including education and work opportunities for millions of Afghan girls and women.

However, the notion of a kinder and gentler Taliban may be wishful thinking. The Taliban regime is dominated by hard-liners, and progress on women's rights has been brutally shut down. The Afghan people — and the wider global community — are caught between a desire to protect hard-won gains and exhaustion from a seeming forever war.

— DOMINIC TIERNEY

A professor of political science at Swarthmore, Tierney is a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute and author of *The Right Way to Lose a War: America in an Age of Unwinnable Conflicts*.



CAMILLE FIDUCIA/CAMABAM

➤ Ascend is a nonprofit organization offering a mountaineering program aimed at building leadership skills for Afghan girls and women ages 15 to 24. A practice of hiking and exposure to nature and athletics help to build confidence.

Jones's first assignment as a Foreign Service officer was in Kabul in 1971–72. She traveled the country by Volkswagen Bug and motorcycle. “When I served in Afghanistan, it was very open, and we traveled all over the place and hiked around the mountains,” she said. “I knew how gorgeous it was — it is — and how much fun I was sure the girls had on some of their treks.”

Though Jones stepped down from Ascend's board in October, it was for a notable reason: She rejoined the State Department as coordinator for Afghan relocation efforts, overseeing the department's resettlement of Afghan individuals in the U.S.

“I hope to be involved in the future,” Jones says. “I feel as though I'm still involved inasmuch as I'm staying very involved in what's going on in Afghanistan now. That will be good background for later.”

The program is life-changing, says Habiba, an Ascend participant and intern. “Finding Ascend was like magic for me in my life,” says Habiba, 17. She spoke from Humanitarian City in Abu Dhabi, where she was waiting for her newborn brother's birth certificate to be issued so she could continue on to Denmark. Ascend had arranged for visas for Habiba and her family there.

In the remote province where she grew up, Habiba says, sports were

not really an option, certainly not for women. She'd never known anything like Ascend before.

“At first I was really afraid of rock and ice climbing; I could not trust anyone,” she says. “But I learned how to overcome my fears.”

“It was the best feeling,” she says of climbing. “Your mind is really calm. You're out of fear.”

Although Ascend does not intend to be in the refugee evacuation

and resettlement business forever, Thoenen says the nonprofit will continue helping to move the young women and to notify the local resettlement agencies to pick them up.

“Then we'll go back to our original mission,” he says, some of which will still take place in Afghanistan.

Ascend has already started working on redesigning the programming, Thoenen says, and is also exploring the idea of delivering it to girls in

refugee communities.

“The other option may be to restart our programming, pretty much as it existed in Afghanistan, but in a country where the environment and culture are similar.”

For young athletes like Habiba, the opportunity to find strength in nature is priceless. “You're just thinking about how to conquer this mountain or conquer this rock,” she says. “All you think about is that.”

JIM FABER



➤ As of this fall, Ascend had evacuated more than 145 people from Afghanistan, including family members of Ascend participants in some cases, says David Thoenen '68.

“Your mind is really calm. ... You're just thinking about how to conquer this mountain or conquer this rock.”

— Habiba, an Ascend participant



ALWAYS A BRIDE

The history of a painting of a 19th-century Quaker marriage ceremony

by Louise Lichtenberg Coffin '67

DESPITE the old maxim “Always a bridesmaid, never a bride,” a recently cleaned, repaired, and conserved painting has recorded an early 19th-century Quaker marriage ceremony for 125 years. Percy Bigland (1856–1926), in his day a sought-after English portraitist, completed *A Quaker Wedding, 1820* in 1896. It is not known why Bigland painted this work, which he originally titled *In the Presence of the Lord*, following two years of research and preparation.

During the painting’s showing in London’s Royal Academy, the name it is now known by became popular.

Anachronistic, in that the bride is shown dressed in white — a custom not followed until the mid-1800s — the painting nonetheless conveys the deep meaning and simplicity of a wedding in the manner of Friends. Set in the Friends Meetinghouse at Jordans, Buckinghamshire, the marriage represented did not actually take place. The models were relatives and friends of the artist, himself a Quaker, and included his brother-in-law as the groom and his wife as the woman with the bowed head sitting behind the bride, along with other “weighty” Friends.

After seeing a photograph, the painting so moved Isaac Hallowell Clothier, a Quaker philanthropist and co-founder of the erstwhile Philadelphia department store Strawbridge and Clothier, that he bought it directly from the artist. Clothier exhibited the painting in Philadelphia and at Swarthmore College, then hung it in his home,

Ballytore, in Wynnewood, Pa. After his death in 1921 and the death of his wife, Mary Clothier, in 1930, their daughter, Hannah Clothier Hull, inherited *A Quaker Wedding* and placed it in her home in Swarthmore, Pa.

Hannah Hull (1872–1958) graduated from Swarthmore in 1891. Married in 1898 to William Isaac Hull, a political science professor at the College, she devoted much of her energy to the peace movement and women’s suffrage, serving on a variety of national and international organizations. Her house on Walnut Lane still stands, and although now it is unclear just where the painting was hung, she welcomed Friends to come see it. When Hannah Hull died, *A Quaker Wedding* passed to Swarthmore College.

For many years, it graced the walls of the Board of Managers room in Bond Hall. Sadly, the original varnish grew degraded over time by smoke from a fireplace as well as from cigarettes,

► Percy Bigland (1856–1926) originally titled this work *In the Presence of the Lord* but later changed it to *A Quaker Wedding, 1820*.



LAURENCE KESTERSON

► A Swarthmore College arts committee hired conservator Fred Koszewnik to save the painting in 2019. Koszewnik used swabs, organic solvents, reversible film adhesive, synthetic varnish, and touch-up paint in the transformation. *A Quaker Wedding, 1820* measures a mighty 5 feet 5 inches wide by 6 feet 6 inches high. The figures are, therefore, nearly life-size.

discoloring the scene. Added to the soot and grime was abrasion caused by a too-earnest cleaning attempt. A puncture through the canvas seemed to seal its fate, and *A Quaker Wedding* was put in storage in 2009.

Early in 2019, a Swarthmore College arts committee composed of Friends Historical Library archivists Susanna Morikawa and Pat O'Donnell; Ruth Krakower of the Advancement Office; List Gallery Director Andrea Packard '85; Stacy Bomento of the Art Department; and the late Constance Hungerford, professor emerita of art history, engaged conservator Fred Koszewnik to save the painting. Koszewnik undertook this task in March 2019, working four days a week for five weeks. Cotton swabs, organic solvents, reversible film adhesive,

synthetic varnish, and touch-up paint were used in the transformation.

That semester, students in an art class exploring the ethical decisions made while conserving artwork were able to witness Koszewnik's treatment of *A Quaker Wedding*. All were especially surprised and gratified when the bride's dress, seemingly yellow, was revealed in all its original radiant luminescence.

The arts committee decided to make a long-term loan of the painting to Swarthmore Friends Meeting, located on Swarthmore's campus. Because of restrictions stemming from the pandemic, the painting was once again stored until last July when, at long last, it was installed by Atelier Fine Art Services of Philadelphia in Whittier Room of Whittier House, adjacent to

the Meetinghouse.

The move from the Art Department to Whittier House was facilitated by Jordan Landes, Friends Historical Library curator, and accomplished by Luis Alvarez and Bryan Carlton of the Events Office.

Typically, Percy Bigland's portraits vary in size from 15 by 18 inches to 37 by 50 inches. In contrast, surrounded by its original frame, *A Quaker Wedding, 1820* measures a mighty 5 feet 5 inches wide by 6 feet 6 inches high. The figures are, therefore, nearly life-size. The viewer feels, indeed, in the moment and, if religious, perhaps even "in the presence of the Lord." And the young woman in white, accompanied by the groom, worshipers, and guests, remains forever a bride. ⑤

A TREASURY OF ALUMNI-RELATED ITEMS

class notes

ALUMNI
EVENTS

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2022: ONE SWARTHMORE

May 27–29

All alumni are invited to join us on campus as we make up for lost time.

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

VIRTUAL REUNION EVENTS

February through May

Classes celebrating milestone reunions — those ending in 2 or 7 — will host virtual events leading up to Alumni Weekend, to break the ice and involve as many alumni as possible in the celebration.

VOLUNTEER WITH A SWARTHMORE AFFINITY GROUP

Swarthmore Alumni of Color, Swarthmore Black Alumni Network, and the Swarthmore LGBTQ+ Alumx Network are looking for alums to help us grow. Find out more about volunteer opportunities to assist in building our network by contacting Caitlin Halloran Edwards at challor2@swarthmore.edu.



LAURENCE KESTERSON

Michael Greenstone '91, the Milton Friedman Distinguished Service Professor in Economics at the University of Chicago, engages with students and guests in October at Garnet Weekend, during which he also delivered the 2021 McCabe Lecture, "The Global Energy Challenge." Watch it: bit.ly/McCabe2021

1943

Betty Glenn Webber
bettywebber22@yahoo.com

Unfortunately, the latest events for our class are the losses of two more of our members. **Mary Ann Myerscough Huber** died April 13. At the College, she earned a bachelor's and was involved in the Hamburg Show and mountaineering excursions. **Mary** attended Columbia University

and retired as an administrator at Macy's. **Hans Land** died May 29. He left Swarthmore for Yale, earned a law degree from Harvard, and had his own firm in D.C. Their families should be assured we share their sadness and fond memories.

When I receive news of '43ers, I research our *Halcyon* pages to verify my mental pictures of our old friends. I find it amazing to be spot-on so often; otherwise it's "OK, I remember now." Do you still have your yearbook?

I know we consider our lives short of newsworthy information to share, but our century marks are one of a kind; we'd like to hear how you marked yours.

1947

Marshall Schmidt
kinmarshal@aol.com

Like our classmates in the classes of '46 and '47, our family continues to grow with the addition of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Counting the number of descendants, six of them are Swarthmore alums, and we have a great-nephew in the Class of 2024.

The Class of '46 was unable to celebrate its 75th last year because of COVID-19, but perhaps someone from '46 and '47 will be there this year to lead the parade of classes. That would be great news to include in this column, so please let us know.

Cornelia "Kinnie" Clarke Schmidt '46 and I, **Marshall**, will celebrate wedding anniversary No. 75 this year. I have been recovering from a broken hip, and **Kinnie** has been coping with severe hearing loss, but otherwise we are well. We remain busy and involved with community activities, grateful that we weren't completely isolated during the past year.

We would like to identify the number of alums still alive in the classes of '46 and '47. The Alumni Office also would appreciate any information you have about deaths that have not been included in Their Light Lives On. We hope to hear from you.

1949

Marjorie Merwin Daggett
mmdaggett@verizon.net

Margaret "Peg" White Winters died Aug. 4; she had been living in a retirement community in Downingtown, Pa. We send our condolences to **Peg's** children, Matthew and Sally Winters Bowman, and to her grandchildren.

1951

Elisabeth "Liesje" Boessenkool Ketchel
lizketchel30@gmail.com

Diana Ginzburg Stein writes: "No interesting stuff to report. Still alive and kicking."

Jerry Pollack sends: "In June, five old friends visited [the late] **Arthur Mattuck** in his Brookline, Mass.,

apartment and had dinner with him, including **Lotte Lazarsfeld Bailyn**, **Don Blough**, **Lisa Steiner** '54, and I with wife Pat. **Arthur** had retired from his career-long teaching position at MIT, and he was working on the introduction for a new edition of Arnold Dresden's advanced calculus text. He was in frail health and, sadly, passed away Oct. 8."

From **Ruth Starrels Stern**: "I've been at a senior residence in Portland, Ore., for a year. We're still very restricted so social contact is limited, but there are abundant activities generated (by plan) by the very diverse community. I've learned to play a tenor recorder and have my own plant table, since digging isn't my thing anymore. I'm considering a Road Scholar program next spring; I hope others have used this opportunity as well."

Walter Blass, as usual, is traveling and has an interesting report: "Greetings from Lommel, Belgium. It's my last stop on a tour of Europe." In Switzerland, he visited Basel, Morges, Charmey, and Grindelwald, staying with former students and enjoying the diverse cultures they come from. He met with old friends from France, Hungary, and Germany; spent a weekend near Bordeaux, France; and then went to Eindhoven, Netherlands, with Iranian friends, which was followed by time with extended family that he skied with 30 years ago "and enjoying their offspring ages 3-10. We enjoyed wonderful food, cheese, wines, and great friendships."

Kathy Adams Kirn was knocked out in her driveway in Bexley, Ohio, and her car was stolen as she unloaded groceries one afternoon. The perpetrators "turned out to be two 15-year-olds — one girl and one boy. They tore my right pants leg off to get the car keys, then immediately turned the car over to three others outside Bexley. There have been a score of car thefts in Columbus by kids with guns, some as young as 11. I had amnesia until noon the following day and am still having balance problems. The girl was traced by fingerprints and ... will be tried as a 16-year-old adult as she has stolen several vehicles before mine. My car was only

recovered because it is diesel" — the thieves had put regular fuel in it, so it stopped running.

Dorothy Wynne Marschak last summer taught her first class with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in D.C. after taking peer-taught classes for many years. "The course was a close reading, from literary and historical perspectives of E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*. I'm still organizing programs (on Zoom) for the Woman's National Democratic Club, mainly for my series 'U.S. Role in the World' and 'Social Role of the Arts,' while dealing with multiple health problems. My Swarthmore book club is in its 10th year (I believe) and still going strong."

As for me, I'm still using my bike as transportation to the many meetings and activities here in my senior living village in Mount Dora, Fla. I don't ride outside it anymore as traffic seems to have picked up exponentially. I use my car when I visit my six guardian ad litem kids. It's such a gift to have contact with little children, since my own great-grands live too far to see very often. We were rehearsing for our fall variety show. For me that means line-dancing and a little comedy skit. I discovered in my late 80s that I love to make people laugh.

Sadly, we have lost two more classmates, **Joanne Godshall Wenner** and **Arthur Mattuck**. Their obituaries appear in Their Light Lives On.

Thanks for writing, and I wish all my wonderful classmates good health and joy.

1953

Carol Lange Davis
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In July and October, **Bob Fetter** went to Vermont to visit his brother, **Tom** '56. The second visit included his special friend, Jean Wilson. After that trip, **Bob** assembled near Boston with 54 family members for a memorial farewell to the younger

sister of **Tom's** wife, Susie. Susie's other sister, **Eleanor Hutcheson Epler**, her husband, Pim, and all three of their children came from Florida for the service. In October, **Eleanor** had a hip replacement and all went well, according to her daughter.

The College received word of the deaths of **Tom Gallagher**, **Bob Griest**, **Nancy Gibbons Walden**, and **Bob Grossman**. I had asked **Bob Fetter** and **Stanley Mills** if they remembered **Bob Griest** and **Tom Gallagher**. Neither one remembered **Tom**, but **Bob Fetter** said he and **Bob Griest** were co-captains of the Bearcats junior varsity football team. He said a picture of the team was included in our 50th Reunion yearbook.

Nancy joined us when many classmates traveled to Alaska — probably about 20 years ago. I barely knew **Nancy** at Swarthmore, but we shared a room for part of the Alaska trip and corresponded afterward.

Bob Fetter said **Nancy** frequently attended our class reunions and contributed at least one reunion write-up. I treasure a photo I have of her holding a cute husky puppy.

Stanley had many memories of **Bob Grossman**. **Stanley**, **Bob**, and the late **Sean Thompson** were close friends in college. A professor and practicing neurosurgeon at Methodist Hospital in Houston, **Bob** flew to visit **Sean** when **Sean** was dying. When the Grossmans were in town, **Stanley** and his wife would meet **Bob** and his wife for dinner in New York City. **Stanley** said for three years when wife Judy was ill, he was constantly in touch with **Bob** for advice on cancer doctors for her to see.

Nina Felber Streiffeld reported that her friend of 70 years, **Gail Macmahon Cornaro**, died Sept. 17 in Austria. "She was an outstanding student at Swarthmore and a shining light to the world ever since." Mother of six and wife of Christoph Cornaro, **Gail** graduated with honors and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the orchestra, and the Garnet Singers.

I would like to hear from more classmates. It is not easy to write a column when the news consists of obituaries. Please write or call me.

1954

Elizabeth Dun Colten
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Is 2022 a significant birthday year for you? We may be senior citizens, but we still want our voices heard. Cases in point: **Peter Sielman's** article "One Small Step for One Homeowner: A Large Potential for America" documents the contributions his family has made to fight climate change. **Peter** is at apsielman@comcast.net for further details. **Corinne Lyman's** letter to the *Delaware Gazette*, "Lasting Image of Former President," was published Aug. 25.

George and **Elsa Bennett Struble** '53 are thriving. She is active in their Unitarian church and the League of Women Voters. He, too, is an active church member (although he retired from painting and ladders when he hit 80), takes cello lessons, and has become a more active philatelist, winning several awards in stamp shows. **Dee Brock Partridge** blames COVID-19 for limited contacts outside her Vermont complex. She recommended pickleball. Any others? (I, **Liz**, have tried it, but confess I am not convinced.)

William D. Jones died July 3. A star athlete at Swarthmore, **Bill** became an avid and skilled golfer in retirement. He had a long, successful career in banking and financial service, retiring to Hilton Head, S.C., in 1995. **Bill** is survived by wife **Margery Paxson Jones** '56, three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Lucy Bunzi Mallan died Aug. 9. A beloved educator, economist, activist, and adventurer, **Lucy** is survived by three children and two grandchildren. Much of her work focused on economic justice for women. She will be remembered as an intrepid world traveler and for her independent nature.

Raymond Swain, husband of **Mary Wren Swain**, died Sept. 20. A Tufts graduate and member of Delta Upsilon, Raymond may be

remembered by some of you from his visits during our college days.

1955

Bernard Webb
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John '53 and **Joyce Bok Ambruster** moved from Tucson to Flagstaff, Ariz., three years ago to a retirement facility called The Peaks. "It's a lovely part of the state, with mountain views, tall pines, and the Grand Canyon close by," **Joyce** writes. "**John** turned 90, and his health is good, as is mine. Our daughter and husband are close by, as well as a granddaughter with four kids. We've always been 'news freaks' and still read two papers a day and multiple magazines, as well as public radio and serious television keeping us in touch."

Ron Decker and wife Anne moved to the Goodwin House retirement community in Falls Church, Va., near the home of daughter **Alice Decker Burke** '98 and family. Previously, they had an apartment overlooking Lake Michigan for 21 years. **Ron** had lived in Chicago since he finished law school in 1959. He and Anne looked forward to enjoying the cultural and historical attractions of the D.C. area and to meeting Swarthmore friends who live there.

Susan and **Paul Baumgarten** and their family were devastated by the loss last year of their elder son's wife, Jayne, after an illness of less than a year. Married 61 years, the Baumgartens have "been in the same house for over 50 years (now age-proofed) and self-quarantined. Three of our children live within driving distance, and the fourth with three of our eight grandkids visited from Toronto. One grandkid married, one in grad school, one in college, and the rest in grade or high school. Susan has continued her Torah study and Jewish history classes at our synagogue via Zoom. I had to quit tennis because of balance issues and general immobility but still sail

(my crew does the work) and play piano. I try to give up gracefully what I can no longer do. We read a lot, and I like watching sports. We don't intend to move to a retirement community or downsize. While travel is physically difficult, we still drive, get around, and don't have major health issues except for arthritis."

Sadly, I announce the passing of **Scott Cooper** of Irvington, N.Y., who graduated from Swarthmore with a degree in mechanical engineering and had a successful career in plastics. I remember **Scott** well as one of a tight-knit group of engineering buddies. He once sought me out in the meal line to reveal that I had done best in an exam, making me feel really good.

Also lost to our number are **Carolyn Wittman Gordon**, who lived in Sarasota, Fla., and Wilmington, Del., and loved to sing; **Paul Marcus**, who cared deeply about civil rights and registered voters in Mississippi in summer 1964; and **Ann Price Steele**, who was a varsity swimmer and, later in life, an animal advocate.

1956

Caro Luhrs
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The market value of our Class of 1956 Scholarship, which we set up at our 25th Reunion, was \$704,965 over the summer. It is awarded based on academic merit and financial need. Let's hope the value gets to \$1 million while a few of us are still around to rejoice.

Most of us are 86-88 years old and have reached the age where some of us first look for obituaries in Class Notes and Their Light Lives On (TLLO). The class secretaries report on deceased classmates' time at the College, personal interests, and family. The College writes TLLO, emphasizing accomplishments after Swarthmore. Because of a difference in deadlines, the Class

Notes occasionally fall one *Bulletin* behind TLLO. You will note this in two of the reports that follow.

We mourn the loss of **Carl Levin**, who died of lung cancer in Detroit on July 29. A political science major, he was active on Student Council and the Student Affairs Committee. **Carl** once said that these experiences were very important in his choosing to run for the U.S. Senate and being so successful in public office.

Our thoughts are with **Carl's** wife of 60 years, Barbara; daughters Kate, Laura, and Erica; six grandchildren; and brother Sander, a former Democratic congressman with whom **Carl** served simultaneously for more than three decades.

We were sad to learn of **Bob Barr's** death from cancer Oct. 7. He was one of the "adults" in our class — great at solving problems and easing tensions. Like **Carl**, **Bob** was a political science major and member of both Student Council and the Student Affairs Committee. He was also president of the Phi Psi fraternity. We are very proud that **Bob** came back to Swarthmore to play a major role in the College's administration, first as dean of men and later as dean of admissions.

Our deep sympathies are with **Bob's** wife of 60 years, Eleanor, sons Richard and Jeffrey, four grandsons, and brother David.

We were sad to learn of the death of **James Hormel** '55. In addition to his husband, **Michael Nguyen Hormel** '08, our sympathy is with **Jim's** former wife, **Alice Parker Meador**; their children Alison, Anne, Elizabeth "Diz," Jimmy, and Sarah; 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

1957

Minna Newman Nathanson
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Beth Lewis Kidder wrote that she has tried to remember who housed her Amherst student husband-to-be when he visited her at

Swarthmore. Was it the late **Steve King** or was it you?

Reinhart Wettmann, who was a special student on campus, emailed that he can't recall who the student was who drove with him from Philadelphia to Denver and Pikes Peak, Colo. Maybe that was you! **Reinhart** also noted that COVID-19 had not changed his life — winter skiing in the German Black Forest, summer in France, and travels to see grandchildren in Barcelona and London. The good thing about living in Europe, he said, is that he can reach all those places by car in one day.

Following a reunion of 30-some family members in her hometown of Tunkhannock, Pa., **Barbara Fasset Oski Beane** visited us at our Cape Cod, Mass., house bringing with her maple syrup that was part of a fundraising activity at her Wake Robin continuing-care retirement community in Shelburne, Vt. When she toured the place as a possible residence, she was greeted by the now-late **Mary Jane Gentry '53** who, along with late husband **Stokes '51**, was among the community's founding group of Vermonters.

Marty Fisher Laties, who died in May, spent the summer between sophomore and junior year in England, where she met husband Victor at the English premiere of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. The couple lived in Baltimore and upstate New York, where he was a psychology professor. As part of her activism in safeguarding separation of church and state, **Marty** published what her obituary described as "clear and cogent prose and ... wry cartoons." Her love of dance included decades of modern dance classes. She is survived by daughters Nancy and Claire, son Andrew, and seven grandchildren.

Sheila Brody died in September. First head of investment relations and then senior vice president at Enhance Financial Services, she was a role model and mentor for younger women in finance. A lifetime learner, she earned a master's in geography from Hunter College in New York in 2002. A single mother who raised sons Eric and Randy, **Sheila** is also survived

by five grandchildren.

Bruce Kennedy, who was an engineering major at Swarthmore while wife Clem attended Penn, died in August. An avid practitioner of "instant" photography, he also enjoyed Chinese cooking lessons with Clem and teaching his family to sail. **Bruce** was noted for his famed "10-minute jobs." He is survived by two sisters; children Robert, Mark, Kathryn, and Scott; and three grandchildren.

Please share any memories you have of **Marty, Sheila, or Bruce**.

1958

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Linda Howard Zonana
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We hope our classmates are feeling some relief from the domination of COVID-19 in our lives. And we hope more of you will be inspired — now that we are all old and wise — to contribute to this column. You may believe you have nothing to report, but classmates would be interested in your reflections on retirement, aging, current passions, travels, and time with family and friends.

Sadly, three more '58ers died in 2021: **Catherine Glennan Borchert**, Jan. 23; **Edwina Parker Furman**, March 26; and **Marilyn Hughes Johnson**, May 28. Perhaps those of you who knew them, or others who have died recently, would offer reflections on their lives.

1959

Miriam Repp Staloff
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Barbara Haddad Ryan, who set the world on fire with her brilliant mind and beautiful spirit, died Sept. 30 but lives on through the

lives she touched. She graduated with honors from Swarthmore and from Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. During her distinguished and respected career as a journalist for *The Denver Post* and *Rocky Mountain News*, she was known for her insightful op-eds. Later, **Barbara** was associate vice president of the College and, ultimately, joined the Phi Beta Kappa Society in D.C. She is survived by daughters Anne and Jennifer and granddaughter Cheralise.

1960

Jeanette Strasser Pfaff
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Andy van Dam was named a fellow of the Computer History Museum for a lifetime of contributions to computer graphics, hypertext, and education. "I remain a techno-optimist, but ... we must adopt a more tempered, systemic concern with socially responsible computing."

Mimi Siegmeister Koren's husband of 38 years, Joe Zelvin, died in July after a long illness. "I can't say anything more than that I miss him terribly but am reassured that his struggles to lead a fulfilling life, and the frustrations that entailed, are over," **Mimi** writes. Joe made himself an honorary member of the Class of '60 after coming to a reunion. He particularly enjoyed talking with our science and engineering classmates — his fields of interest and expertise.

Robert Gurfield received the Al Allen Downtown Leadership Award from the Downtown Fresno (Calif.) Partnership for bringing new commercial development to this depressed area.

Gordon Adams decided being outdoors was his preference. "So, I have been leading tours of the parks and natural areas in my urban watershed."

After six weeks in the hospital battling a flare-up of lung problems (added to his underlying cancer),

Peter Offenhartz was home and on the mend. He and **Barb Hopf Offenhartz '58** sold their house on Eagle Island, Maine, but planned to return as renters this summer.

Kay Senegas Gottsman writes: "My husband, Bob, was diagnosed with early stage dementia 12 years ago. He lives at home with 24/7 aides. Since the beginning, I've attended a dementia caregivers support group. A couple of years ago, I started a similar group that I facilitate twice a month on Zoom."

I had two late responses to the prompt "Say something about Swarthmore in six words." **Kate Killebrew '61**: "Saturday night movie, 7 or 9, Then study" and "Sunday morn, wood chop with Enders." From **Charles Jackson**: "Collection, Mary Lyon, Lafore, always hungry."

Last fall, **Catherine Pinkney Armington** asked via our listserv if we remembered singing with the Philadelphia Orchestra under conductor Eugene Ormandy. The response demonstrated how variable and possibly unreliable our memories are. We agreed that we sang; what and when was unclear. Fortunately, **Dave Horr** clarifies: "I was the College Chorus manager our junior and senior years. We were first invited to join the Bryn Mawr and Haverford choruses to sing with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1958. We sang Bach's Cantata No. 50, 'Nun ist das Heil.' Ormandy apparently liked our performance, so the Three College Chorus was invited in 1959 to sing Bach's *Magnificat*, and again in the spring of 1960 to sing Verdi's *Stabat Mater*. Associate Conductor William Smith prepared the choruses for all three performances."

Catherine's question also elicited some memories. **John Harbeson** says: "It was a fork in the road for me. I played violin in high school, but I decided I couldn't do both chorus and orchestra so gave up the latter." **Sara Bolyard Chase** recalls "wondering if I could get a part-time job ushering there." **Linda Habas Mantel** "went often to the Philadelphia Orchestra concerts; they had last-minute cheap tickets for students. A highlight performance was the U.S. premiere

of Shostakovich's final Symphony No. 11." **Johnny Palka** says: "It felt really amazing at the time." **Fred Breen** recalls: "Ormandy directed us to sing it in a more French style, not in the more staccato German style." **Joan Bond Sax** remembers, "It was thrilling," and **Anne Brownell Sloane** adds, "Glorious!" **Sue Willis Ruff** says: "As the kid who was told in first grade to just mouth the words in the Christmas program when everyone else was singing, I'm in awe." **Kay** says she is also tone-deaf, "so I never could sing or really 'hear' music like my friends."

1961

Pat Myers Westine
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As a result of our 60th Reunion Zoom get-togethers, a Class of 1961 Zoom connection was organized with **Bill Stell** in Calgary, Alberta, as Zoom-master, with the group including **Jon Van Til, Bonny Cochran, Randy Moore, Maurice Eldridge, Steve Davidson, Alan Kaplan**, and me. We welcome all '61ers to the once-a-month meetings around 3 p.m. ET. Email **Jon** at vantil39@gmail.com for instructions on how and when to sign in to stay up to date with classmates and talk about our lives and current affairs.

Maurice, our class president, is reaching the end of his terms as assistant clerk, both of Swarthmore Friends Meeting and the Pendle Hill board. He mentors a few seniors at the Chester Charter Scholars Academy (the former Chester Charter School of the Arts), which **Maurice** helped start and will graduate its fourth class from a school with an arts integrated curriculum. He lives in Swarthmore and said the College has the most students ever in its history, is dealing with space constraints, and has had to be focused on the pandemic with regular COVID-19 testing and a high vaccination percentage among

students, staff, and faculty with approved practices in full play. The campus itself is open to visitors, but the buildings were not when I wrote this in the fall. **Maurice** said the atmosphere was positive, and faculty and administrators were very busy.

Steve Vessey, Dave Fitchett, and **Randy** have a monthly Zoom meeting. They were Wharton-triple roommates their senior year with **Dave** as section proctor. **Dave** is a retired orthopedic surgeon in Albany, Ore.; **Steve** is a retired biology professor in Bowling Green, Ohio; and **Randy** is in his ninth and "penti-ultimate" year on the University of Hawaii Board of Regents and his third year as chair.

Bill retired from the University of Calgary faculty in June 2020 and closed his office and labs. He's still busy with "academic and scholarly things," continuing to mentor former and current students, including some who weren't "his," and working as scientific adviser to junior eye researchers in Wenzhou, China, and Singapore, mainly helping them shape up their manuscripts for publication. He started singing with a community chorus, the Big Rock Singers. "It's definitely *not* rock music."

Dick and **Mary Sargent Coles '62** moved to Longmont, Colo., to be closer to their daughter and her family. **Dick** was fine until several unrelated health issues hit him simultaneously. He went from hospital to nursing home/rehab center, and when everything was finally diagnosed and under control, he was moved to a long-term skilled nursing center to build up his strength so he can move back home eventually. He loves getting phone calls; for a telephone number, email **Mary** at marymo41@yahoo.com. Mail should be sent to their daughter's address: 517 Little Fox Court, Longmont, CO 80504.

The class sends its sympathy to the family of **Janet Jones**, who died in September at Collington retirement community in Mitchellville, Md. She earned a Ph.D. from Caltech and taught at numerous universities, ending her career as director of the National Science Foundation's chemistry division. She married the now-late

Chris Cobb in 2010 as soon as it was legal in D.C., where they lived, and together they started the Comis Foundation, which enhances the lives of children and youth. I remember **Janet** attending several of our reunions, and her obituary said that "the measures of success most important to her were the success of her students and the results of her work to increase opportunities for women in the physical sciences." She is survived by her son and daughter, three stepdaughters and their families, and two grandsons.

I appreciate any and all updates from classmates and look forward to sharing them in future columns.

1962

Evelyn Edson
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From **Sue Ehrlich Martin**: "I am still biking, playing tennis, and doing pottery (though sales are slow). I just got back from my high school's 60th reunion. My grandson, Jacob, will be finishing his bachelor's in music production this semester from the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and my granddaughter, Rose, just started her freshman year in the engineering school at the University of Washington, Seattle. Husband Malcolm works full time at the National Institutes of Health in the search for the elusive HIV vaccine as well as exploring the COVID-19 virus in monkeys to better understand how it affects various body systems."

Nancy Kramer Bickel was rummaging through her boxes and found some College treasures and wondered who would remember: the *Auk*, humor and cartoons; the *Grouse* or the *Ruffed Grouse*, discussion and debate of college issues; *Penny Puffin* or *Tupenny Puffin*, poems; *Roc*, essays, stories, and poems; **Ted Nelson '59's** various screeds; and the *Phoenix* columns in tiny type. "I've been prompted to this search because I've been a member of a memoirs

writing group for years and decided, after turning 80, I'd better write down my memories while I still can. Are some of you writing? Clearing boxes to save your children that chore? Any advice?"

Dan Headrick, whose first wife, **Rita Koplowitz Headrick '64**, died in 1988, is married to Kate Ezra, who was a curator at the Metropolitan Museum of New York, then an art history professor in Chicago. "In 2008, she got a job as a curator at the Yale University Art Gallery, so I retired from Roosevelt University, and we moved to New Haven, Conn., where we still live.

"**Rita's** and my three children are all grown up. Isabelle decided in her mid-50s to go back to school and is doing research for a history Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. Juliet, 50, lives in Brooklyn in a Jewish Orthodox community. Matthew, 48, is a professor of physics at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. Isabelle has two sons: Zel, a grad student in geophysics at UC-San Diego, and Avi, an undergrad at Oberlin College in Ohio. Matthew has 10-year-old twins, Misha and Rita.

"What have I been up to since I retired? Well, typical Swarthmore grad that I am, I write books. One of them, a college history textbook called *The Earth and Its Peoples*, has more than made up for the low salary I earned as a professor. The most recent, *Humans Versus Nature: A Global Environmental History*, is my best and about to come out in German. Other than that, I walk slowly, I sleep a lot, and I need hearing aids."

Dan, Sue, and Nancy's energy and enthusiasm help balance the obituaries that are the remainder of this column. First, **Linda Fulton McKay** died of bladder cancer June 11 at her home in Lawrence, Kan. An economics major at Swarthmore, she earned a master's in biochemistry at the University of Kansas in 1992. She then went to work for Genentech, a biotechnology company. Her obituary noted "she was in her element at the start of the computer age." She got involved in civic and educational causes in Lawrence and took up painting. In 2003, three of her works

were accepted into the Kansas Watercolor Society's annual juried show in Wichita. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Douglas, and their two children.

Second, **Bennett Weaver** died July 14 in Oak Park, Ill. He came to Swarthmore as a cellist on a music scholarship. After a year, he returned to Gainesville, Fla., and received a physics degree at the University of Florida. He worked in the actuarial department of CNA Insurance, and later moved to Harris Bank as an analyst. He loved computers and was a founding member of the Association of Personal Computer Users. His friends remembered him as a fount of knowledge ("a real Renaissance man") as well as a person always willing to help others. He is survived by ex-wife Donna and two daughters. Our condolences to these grieving families.

1963

Diana Judd Stevens
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Atala Perry Toy and I enjoyed two 80th birthday celebrations. One was with our Crosslands neighbors who had October birthdays, and one with **Paul Stevens '65**, **Kathy Stevens '89**, **Steve Toy '89** and wife Colleen, and Brian Toy and significant other Betsy. Celebrating her 80th with cousins at a small lake in northeastern Ohio was a treat for **Cay Hall Roberts**. A highlight of **Beth Welfling King's** 80th year was spending a long weekend at Lansdowne Resort, Va., commemorating 73 years of friendship with three childhood friends. **John Cratsley** celebrated his 80th under a big tent followed by a walk in nearby woods, an outdoor Mexican dinner, and a visit from an ice cream truck. **Carl Jockusch's** was celebrated in July by his siblings who came to **Carl's** home in Urbana, Ill. In August, **Elizabeth Northrop Jockusch '64** and **Carl** had another celebration with their three children and their

families in Gulf Shores, Ala. In October, **Peggy Anderson** was preparing to celebrate her 80th. In November, in recognition of his 80th, **Ed Ayres** ran in America's oldest and largest ultramarathon foot race, the JFK 50 Mile. **Ed** wrote about the importance of we "seniors" doing everything in our power to save our troubled planet and to pass along our wisdom to children and grandchildren.

Janet Oestreich Bernstein hoped to celebrate her 80th with family in November. Once the vaccine was available, she stopped sewing masks and started sewing scrub caps for nurses in Oregon. Harry and **Monica Pannwitt Bradsher** survived Hurricane Ida due, in part, to the generator they installed several years ago. **Monica** wrote that many in Louisiana are feeling the reality of climate change while fearing the move from fossil fuel. Oil and natural gas are Louisiana's leading economic sectors. The state has ample solar power and wind farms in the gulf, neither of which is popular.

Gidget and **Ted Nyquist's** Scandinavian trip was postponed twice. **Ted** did travel to Washington state to photograph eagles. He flies for Angel Flights West and tends to his Arizona garden where he grows cacti and succulents. Another gardener, Claire Thurman, is thrilled that Fair Haven Meander, the garden she and her late husband, **John**, created, will be on the Scott Arboretum Garden Day tour May 15. **Polly Glennan Watts** stays busy walking, swimming, singing, going to concerts, and baking cookies. Her youngest granddaughter is a Swarthmore sophomore and member of the tennis team.

Bruce Leimsidor is back in Venice, Italy, with his partner after more than a year in Paris due to COVID-19 restrictions. In the fall, he taught a couple of courses on immigration and international relations at Ca'Foscari, the main state university in Venice, and he hopes to spend a few weeks teaching in Iraq and Israel in 2022. Since restaurants were closed because of COVID, **Bruce** followed a diet, cooked at home, and shed some pounds. **Mike** and **Eugenia Margosian Becker** moved to a

senior living community in Bend, Ore. They managed to downsize from 2,200 to 900 square feet. The main adjustment has been having set times for meals.

Carl and **Holly Humphrey Taylor** took their first trip in almost two years to Pagosa Springs, Colo., with a group of friends from their Atlanta days. They have been to the symphony in person and were hoping that their chorale rehearsals would continue in person (masked). **Jane Jonas Srivastava** lives a small and rich life, rarely traveling more than a half-hour from home. Within that radius, she can hike, walk with friends, do tai chi, read, contemplate, and watch human and nonhuman life in all its vicissitudes.

October update from **Kathie Kertesz**: She is in a wheelchair, unable to walk by herself or use her right arm. Her therapists said she is making progress and should be over "this" in six months to a year. **Kathie** focuses on the positive and imagines herself flying like hummingbirds and walking again.

Beth Welfling King wrote about the many projects she has to do, like sorting through 40 years of photographs. Let us know what your projects are.

1965

Kiki Skagen Munshi
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Sally Warren had four photos in an exhibition in the local Uzès, France, museum in May. The most interesting part, she said, was listening to two schoolchildren discuss one of her photos.

Lucia Norton Woodruff writes: "My most vivid recent memory is of the indescribable joy of going to the very first rehearsal of our small two years."

Niki Giloane Sebastian, an outreach facilitator and trainer with New Mexico Caregiver Coalition, writes: "I am helping them implement grants from

the National Domestic Workers Alliance to teach a program called We Make History, and the Community Care Corps to assess needs and stress levels of family-member caregivers. My husband works at Los Alamos National Lab, about two hours from our home, and stays there during the week, giving me an interesting balance of togetherness and alone time. I continue to learn details of his Cameroonian culture, grateful for my own early years growing up outside the United States, which make it easier for us to 'meet in the middle.'" **Niki** and her husband also are "hosting" a United World College-matched student from Morocco, another chance, she says, to explore a different culture.

Walt Pinkus keeps "referring back to a wisecrack I came upon last spring: 'I just had my COVID test. The results are that I'm 95% feral and unlikely to be able to reintegrate into polite society.' This past year, I stepped back into being president of our community Computer & Technology Club. My term ends Sept. 30. Working out how to do programming via Zoom, instead of in person, has been quite a ride."

As what **Vivian Ling** called the "silver lining of the pandemic," she was invited by the European Chinese Language Teachers Association to represent their American counterpart (Chinese Language Teachers Association) and deliver a keynote address at their biannual meeting, in Lisbon, Portugal, in late October. "This may sound very exciting until you realize that the meeting will be by Zoom. I really would like to see Portugal, though."

Josef Joffe is teaching international politics and political theory at the Johns Hopkins School of International Studies in D.C. "I'm back to the roots of a rigorous education at Swarthmore, lecturing on the thought of Ken Waltz, one of the greatest, and Thucydides, Machiavelli, and Hobbes." In another field of endeavor, **Dave Wright's** wife, Zo, is still beating him at golf. "We did go to Maui and played the famous Kapalua courses — and I lost both days." **Barron's** named **Dave** one of

ALUMNI COUNCIL NEWS

The spring semester is a busy time for the Alumni Council. We caught up with two members to learn more about them and what they love about the Council.



Twan Claiborne '07
Tell us about yourself and what drew you to the Alumni Council.
"Originally from Seattle, by way of Lake Providence, La., I currently live in Harlem and teach at a Quaker independent school

for students with disabilities in Brooklyn. I joined the Alumni Council to reconnect with the Swarthmore community and contribute my knowledge to the historical Swarthmore quilt."

What has most surprised you about the Council?

"I can't say that I'm surprised by this — rather I'm proud of the commitment that the Council has in being a resource to all facets of the communities that need it."

What final words would you want to share with alums?

"Swarthmore is a complicated place. I encourage alums to find ways to connect back. Their knowledge and voice are needed to give a full picture of the Swarthmore experience, and you can never anticipate who will benefit from your story."

alumni@swarthmore.edu



Maria P. Mello '08
Tell us about yourself and what drew you to the Alumni Council.
"Originally from Fortaleza, Brazil, I currently live in New York City where I am a professor of special education at St. John's

University. I teach teachers of students with disabilities and research transition to adulthood for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I joined the Council to engage and reconnect with the Swarthmore community."

What Alumni Council initiatives are you most excited about?

"There are so many like SwatTalks and sustainability. However, I am most excited about supporting the Lang Opportunity Scholars. It has been incredible to hear about their amazing projects. Being able to contribute back to the Swarthmore students and community has been deeply meaningful."

What has surprised you most?

"Not really a surprise, but I have met some pretty amazing alumni."

1966

Jill Robinson Grubb
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At our 45th Reunion, **Phil '65** and **Pam Corbett Hoffer** shared their experience with the onset of Alzheimer's, facing it with love and humor. We watched them put out a wishing bell and piñatas for passersby, share a dog with another family, and report that **Phil** wanted to know if gorgonzola was

a fish. Today they have continuing in-home care, offering a range of services. **Pam** has planned a retreat for **Phil** in a memory center so she can have **Anne Mills** for a "retreat" in her home. **Phil** agreed when **Pam** said, "Do this for me." Self-care is critical. She also recommended getting rid of big houses that require too much maintenance.

Anne lost husband Jim Hanbury in August. She said it's strange to be alone and not be a caregiver, but **Anne's** focusing on building a new life that will include volunteer activities and the retreat with **Pam**.

Jody Williams said she's "emotionally OK in the widow department," mostly grateful for her time and adventures with Dave. She's organizing files and keeping on top of the world's great problems, finding a new faith community, and learning to say no.

When staying at the Inn at Swarthmore in September, **Liz Kutchai** and new partner Bill, who lost his wife more than a year ago, had dinner with **Bill Belanger** and companion Lynne, the best friend of his wife who died in June. **Liz** enjoyed staying on what should be called the **Sarah Van Keuren** floor of the Inn, as it was decorated with her nature prints.

Experiencing a different kind of change, **John Robinson** is at peace — leaving behind his former angry, authoritarian personality engendered by his parents' oppressive Quakerism — having found the compassion and empathy of that faith in his later years. Meanwhile, he is happy that his two daughters, three grandkids, and wife of 41 years are healthy and happy.

A dedicated reader, **Stephen Bennett** recommended *Evil Geniuses* by Kurt Andersen, which lays out how the right won control of our economy and our country. **Steve** read *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride, because Obama loved it — so did **Steve** — and *Thunderstruck* by Erik Larson, a nonfiction account of Marconi's wireless telegraphy and catching a murderer.

Thompson Webb completed an *Anthology of 31 Influential Poems in the Life of My Spirit*. This

was a creative way to reflect on friendships, losses, and bright moments, including the 59th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis, which *The Fog of War* showed how close we were to nuclear war.

Worn out by her roommate's tragedy freshman year, **Judith Graybeal Eagle** went to Germany junior year. She remembered a time when **Nancy Basehore Loomis** drove from a distant town to save **Judy** from a difficult spot. This year **Judy** met **Josh Green '92**, who'd had an equally tough freshman year, carried on, and is lieutenant governor running for governor of Hawaii.

Thinking back to his involvement in the civil rights movement, **Tony Loeb** remembered hitchhiking to Stanton, Tenn., with **Dulany Ogden Bennett**. They stayed with the Boyds, a Black family of sharecroppers, and learned to chop cotton, wear protective face coverings, and drink enough water. "Mr. Boyd" had **Tony** drive his truck, as it was dangerous to be seen with a white woman (**Dulany**). The sheriff stopped them and asked the identities of everyone. Despite threats, they were allowed to drive on. After picketing against segregated facilities in Cambridge, Md., **Tony** was jailed. Other inmates were surprised he was there for fighting for the civil rights of others. The judge fined him \$0.01.

Janet Chozen Bays loved Swarthmore for having so much in one place: caving, rappelling off the railroad bridge, folk dancing, chorus, basketball, Freshman Serenade, silent Quaker meetings, canoeing on the Crum, biology field trips, and people excited about learning.

1967

Donald Marritz
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Jennie Boyd Bull (pg. 6) released *Learning to Weave: A Woman-Loving Life*, a series of essays

with a cover that is a napkin she wove. The book is the fruit of her work in the Great Smokies Writing Program, which she entered when she retired to the South Toe River Valley in western North Carolina. This memoir traces her life from her Southern roots to "some of the liberating movements of the past century: antiwar activism while at Swarthmore; the lesbian feminist separatism of the 1970s in Baltimore; the growth of the LGBTQ-centered metropolitan community churches at the height of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s; and life in the ashram of a fascinating and rich Indian bhakti yoga and Indian spiritual tradition. I paint a vivid picture of each of these communities and my return to the mountains of western North Carolina, where I teach tai chi."

Like many of us, **Larry Arnstein** is still amazed and enthralled by his grandchildren. He is also sure that we recall his performance in *Everyman* in the Crum Meadow, when he played the nonspeaking role of either Kith or Kin in which he "was required to cavort, which I did well, before Everyman was confronted by Death."

Phyllis Teitelbaum reports: "During COVID, husband Tony Lunn and I have discovered that we have a special skill: organizing and hosting Zoom celebrations. To date, we have done my and Tony's 75th birthdays and a dear friend's 80th birthday celebration, complete with photos of the celebrant from childhood through adulthood; Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's events; and two Beatles parties. We've had as many as 65 Zoom participants, from Denmark, England, Canada, Sri Lanka, and all over the United States."

Steve Hamilton has news about **Peter Katzenstein**, who is the Walter S. Carpenter Jr. Professor of International Studies at the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies and professor of government at Cornell University. In April 2020, **Peter** was named the recipient of the 26th Johan Skytte Prize in Political Science — "considered the Nobel Prize for political science" — for his work. **Peter** said it "recognizes work that I have done in many different fields

of political science over almost half a century. That feels even more satisfying than winning a prize for a particular piece of scholarship."

After being partners since 2004, civil union participants in 2011, and married in 2013, **Mark Sherkow** and husband Bob Hostettler are finally living together under one roof in a Chicago condo. **Mark's** chorus "is back rehearsing in person after a year of rehearsals and two concerts on Zoom."

Janet Munnecke Madden is grateful that her family has remained healthy during the pandemic, but now "at last, fully vaccinated, we are able to share our first indoor meals, relishing this simple pleasure." Her five grandchildren, along with a new great-grandson, "are a constant delight. Grandson Patrick is a professional rugby player with the San Diego Legion, and we watch their weekly games. My health continues to be a challenge as the MS progresses, so I'm lucky to have an incredibly supportive husband and first-rate medical care."

I am sorry to report the death of **Steve Maurer** (pg. 16) in August. He had a distinguished academic career, including teaching at Swarthmore for 36 years and at MathPath, a camp for middle schoolers who love math. By formal contract and personal philosophy, he and wife Fran Stier shared parenting their two sons. **Steve** was the first faculty member to take parental leave, even before the law sanctioned it. The College report of **Steve's** death is at bit.ly/SMaurer.

Poll: Who thinks we should have a formal 55th Reunion? Please let me know at dmarritz@gmail.com. I for one vote "aye."

1968

Kate Bode Darlington
katedarlington@gmail.com

The year 2021 was another *annus covidensis*, as **Chris Miller** puts it, and also *annus* 75th birthday for most of us. None of you sent

me a picture of your cake ablaze with 75 candles, so when my 75th occurs, I'll rise to the challenge, fire extinguisher within reach.

Chris wrote from his "marginally winterized cottage near the tip of Cape Cod, where the off-season population density is low and the pathogen-free wind off the bay unceasing. **Robin Feuer Miller '69** spends time and digital frustration Zoom-chairing her department at Brandeis, providing me with a daily mix of *schadenfreude* and self-congratulation for having had the prescience to retire just before the pandemic hit. I spend my time reading randomly, as I never could do when actively professing at Brandeis, and trying to play the piano — demonstrating that new synapse formation at age 75 is a whole lot slower than it was at 12."

Farther north is **Dick Gregor**, who lives with his wife on a farm near Maine's shoreline. Across the street are his daughter and son-in-law in the cottage that he designed and built for them. **Dick** raises chickens, does Zoom play readings, and hosts Airbnb tourists.

Ren Brown runs a gallery in Bodega Bay, Calif., with a focus on contemporary Japanese prints as well as fine ceramics. With his late husband, an artist, he created the business and beautiful gardens behind the store. "Being self-employed, living near the ocean, having gardens, and being involved with the arts — what could be a better life?"

Chris King's Asian brush paintings are on display at a doctor's office in Ojai, Calif., where he and **Chitra Yang King** live. **Chris** also wrote a book of short stories. **Chitra** is editing her 430-page memoir and connected with a classmate from her convent school in New Delhi. When in Berkeley, Calif., the couple hobnob with **Pat Tolins Coffin**, **Chitra's** former roommate, and **Pat's** husband, **Peter '71**.

Frank and **Vera Grant Brown '70** bought a house three blocks from Swarthmore, where they can be part-time lawyers and also attend events, athletic and otherwise, and "connect with our amazing student-athletes and their families." Additionally, Swarthmore has put some of **Frank's** WSRN broadcasts

of football games (done with **Mike Halpern**) and basketball games on the Swarthmore Athletics website.

Stan Baker works part time as a psychotherapist specializing in children and families, including play therapy, attachment trauma, and autism spectrum. He and his husband celebrated 28 years of life partnership and 11 years of marriage. **Stan** has a new title, "The Venerable" replacing "The Reverend," having been named by the Episcopal Church as the archdeacon for diaconal formation for the Diocese of Vermont.

On the other side of the world, **David Thoenen** (pg. 46) works with the Ascend program, empowering Afghan girls with mountaineering-based leadership training. In August, **David** received a one-line message from the executive director: "The Taliban are in Kabul." **David** adds: "Our international team worked around the clock getting our girls and volunteers out of the Taliban's hands and resettled across the planet. It was both traumatic and rewarding. The team managed the escape of over 60 of their highest risk people from Afghanistan," with the next-riskiest 50 in the queue as of September.

In his September SwatTalk (bit.ly/MatherSwatTalk), **John Mather** described how NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, which launched in December, would be able to see the first galaxies from nearly 13.8 billion years ago, certain moons around Jupiter and Saturn, as well as exoplanets, where there might be — or might have been — life.

After **Libby Leavelle Bennett** died May 9, a group of classmates gathered by Zoom to share memories and, in following meetings, other reminiscences. **Dick** hosted the meeting, and **Stan**, **Bob Bartkus**, **Sam Brackeen**, **Ren**, **Donna Fischer**, **Emily Albrink Hartigan**, **Hal Kwalwasser**, **Carol Jean McKnight**, **John Seidenfeld**, **Carol Shloss**, **Sue Knotted Walton**, **Julie Biddle Zimmerman**, and **Kim Tingley '67** participated. Write to dickgregor@gmail.com about future Zooms with classmates.

Classmates who attended our 50th Reunion agree that it was a huge success. Plan to get together

for our 55th Reunion in May 2023 and contribute your reunion ideas to me to make our 55th awesome!

1969

Jeffrey Hart
hartj@indiana.edu

Andy Weinstein died Oct. 3, and Rabbi **Dan Nussbaum** attended the funeral in person. Several classmates, including **Belle Brett**, **Ellen Schall**, and **Paul Peelle**, attended by Zoom.

Mark Alexander and his wife live in Alameda, Calif., "to be near our grandkids and to avoid allergy season in L.A. The kids have migrated to Portland, Ore., to buy more affordable homes there. We will be following them, either with another studio apartment, living with them, or parked with our RV in their driveways. We are still in big demand as babysitters for Emerson, 4, and Avi, 1. Our other daughter is planning on a child and future babysitting from us."

Joan Goldhammer Hart joined the board of the Textile Arts Council of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. **Jeff Ruda** is an active member and past president of the San Francisco Ceramic Circle, also affiliated with the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. **Ellen** joined the board of the New York Women's Foundation, which invests in women-led, innovative, and bold community-based solutions that promote the economic security, safety, and health of the most overlooked women. **Randall Larrimore** continues his work as chair of the Chesapeake Conservancy's board.

Alan Feldman retired in 2015 from his education career. He has been married to Carol Seitichik long enough to have a 44-year-old daughter who lives with her Israeli husband and two daughters in Tel Aviv. **Alan** and **Carol** are frequent visitors to Tel Aviv and were especially happy when their Israeli family could visit this past summer. Since his retirement, **Alan** has

been active in peace efforts in the Middle East, with J Street and as a board member of American Friends of Combatants for Peace.

Nancy Bekavac became the board chair of the American University in Kosovo (AUK), where she has been active since 2012. AUK is an independent, underfunded but ambitious English-language, four-year college in Pristina, Kosovo. If you have ever wanted to spend time in the heart of the Balkans and have some interest in helping, feel free to contact **Nancy**.

Glen Castore and **Barb Zaveruha '70** continue to curate 73 acres of restored prairie and native woodland near Northfield, Minn. **Glen** is on the board of supervisors (fourth term) for Bridgewater Township, dealing with everything from gravel-road maintenance to the intricacies of zoning. He also serves on the Joint Powers Board for the Northfield Area Fire and Rescue Service, trying to keep an excellent volunteer service from being damaged by city politicians and administrators. **Barb** makes and sells pottery, with a customer base that was voracious after the famine of the pandemic. Her apprentice of four years has progressed to journeyman status, making excellent pieces, firing them in the wood-fired kiln, and selling alongside **Barb**.

John McDowell has finally retired and is professor emeritus at Indiana University, Bloomington. He also has a new book, co-edited with three colleagues, *Performing Diverse Environmentalisms: Expressive Culture and Ecological Change*. Its blurb promises that "readers from across the humanities will find novel points of departure in confronting ecocidal inequalities and all-hands-on-deck challenges to collective survival."

Nancy Hope Wilson is the author of a number of children's books including *Bringing Nettie Back*, *The Reason for Janey*, *A Nose for Trouble*, *Helen and the Hudson Hornet*, *Becoming Felix*, *Old People*, *Frogs*, and *Albert*, *Flapjack Waltzes*, and *Mountain Pose*.

Peter Seixas is self-publishing his memoir, *To Lay Aside Dreams*, which has sat on the shelf for a decade. His cancer has progressed

through much of his body but was not yet putting much of a crimp in his daily activities.

Judith Lorick has been living in Panama City, Panama, "and I love it more every day." She is still coaching, all virtually now, and started volunteering at a home for girls. "Although life here is almost 'normal,' jazz clubs have been slow to reopen, so I haven't yet made contacts in the music world."

1971

Bob Abrahams
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The past couple of years have been "interesting," and we don't know how 2022 will go. So let's see what classmates have been up to.

Steve Melov and husband **Al Goddard** continue to enjoy time at their home on North Carolina's Outer Banks and their apartment in Richmond, Va. While wearing a Swarthmore T-shirt, **Steve** was asked by a woman if she could look more closely at the shirt. After a couple of seconds, she chuckled and said, "I thought it said *Smartmouth* College." He said that laughter in troubling times definitely made his day.

After 46 years in D.C., **Barbara Atkin** and husband John Hornbeck moved to Hyde Park in Chicago. "We have a condo near our son and his wife, both on the faculty of the University of Chicago. We can see our grandchildren almost daily. As enchanting as I am finding their conversations, I'm looking forward to meeting adults. I can be reached at Barbara.Atkin@gmail.com."

David and **Bonnie Gregory Inouye '69** hosted **Jack Mayberry** and **Francesca Kress** at their cabin at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Colorado and showed them some of the local hiking trails and **David's** study sites. "It was fun to meet their daughter and her family, too," **David** writes. "I was also helping a Swarthmore undergrad this summer on her project on moth pollination. (She

saw a mountain lion one night while observing moths.)”

The College is planning on-campus activities, beginning May 26, for alumni celebrating their 50th Reunion this year or who celebrated their 50th during the past two years, which are the classes of 1972, 1971, and 1970. What will our class do? Watch for more information.

For this and other online connections, go to swarthmore71.org for links to our new website and the Class of 71 Facebook page.

1974

Randall Grometstein
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I wrote this on the type of perfect fall day that inspired Cheryl Wheeler’s song “When Fall Comes to New England.” I’m glad to report that many of us continue to find much to be thankful for.

Pete Jaquette is grateful for excellent medical care. He and wife Andrea celebrated his retirement in May by driving to the East Coast for a reunion gig with the Narwhals. Unfortunately, **Pete** needed emergency surgery as they paused in Santa Fe, N.M. The Narwhals had to find another keyboardist. **Pete** successfully recuperated, and he and Andrea continued to their summer place in Maine.

Jeff Frankel drove son **Evan** ’25 to Swarthmore in August.

Nan Cinnater writes: “Without formal education in library science, but many years as a bookseller and lots of in-service training, I became the lead librarian at the Provincetown [Mass.] Public Library in 2016. We wrapped up our fifth book festival Sept. 19 — three days of conversations, interviews, and readings with distinguished authors. I was particularly happy to invite another Swarthmorean, **Maya Shanbhag Lang** ’00, who published a memoir of her mother called *What We Carry*. We also featured Robert Jones Jr., whose novel *The Prophets* was short-

listed for the National Book Award, as well as 16 other wonderful writers. I’ve lived in Provincetown for 32 years with my partner, Diane Johnson. In July I got to see my old roommate, **Yvonne Healy**, whose daughter got married on Cape Cod, Mass. I can’t wait to visit **Yvonne** and husband Robin in Colorado.”

Kate Buttolph says: “The pandemic hasn’t slowed the pace of land conservation, nor access to fun places to hike, walk, or kayak in the Adirondacks or western Massachusetts. I have been working on a large partnership land-conservation transaction with another land trust and two state agencies and a town. All together, we will conserve over 600 acres. Also, I’m spending lots of time with two grandsons, ages 6 and 10, or with old family records that need preserving or tossing. I found Susan Orlean again and read *The Library Book*. Looking forward to **Jonathan Franzen** ’81’s new book. I would love to see anyone passing through or visiting western Massachusetts.”

Patty Gilles Winpenny is in her fifth year as a high school learning-support teacher at a small international school in Singapore. “I’ve been marooned here due to pandemic travel restrictions. I count days by consecutive Korean lessons, almost 600 now, Chinese review, and card games at the beach with Russian friends. I moved in March to an apartment just five minutes from Palawan Beach. Son Tristan is an organic-certified commercial beekeeper on the Big Island, Hawaii. His wife and my grandchildren (11 and 7) have home-based teaching and learning Zoom fatigue. Son Patrick works in Pasadena, Calif., as a software engineer, and his Russian wife has received her U.S. citizenship. I’m hoping to visit home in Vermont in 2022.”

K Wertheimer muses: “Despite the intensity of public words and deeds, personal events loom largest: the birth of our first granddaughter at the beginning of lockdowns (we had expected to be there and couldn’t); time — face-to-face again — with my father, **Michael Wertheimer** ’47, who is 94 and finally acting

over 70, and a tiny but gratifying niche as a constructor of double-croscic puzzles, thanks to doublecroscic.com. Part-time work as a project manager keeps me feeling somewhat contributory toward the good of society. Daily suburban walks make the weather ever interesting, and other small pleasures abound, such as books both new and familiar, and a windowsill bird feeder. Life goes on; I’m glad, and that’s about it.”

Jean-Marie Clarke writes: “At this point in my life, having reached my 70th year, I would only like to share my favorite quote. It comes from a letter by **Mark Vonnegut** ’69 to his father, author Kurt Vonnegut: ‘We are here to help us through this thing, whatever it is.’”

1975

Sam Agger
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Suzanne Benack writes: “I’ve been doing some of those milestones that mark the phase of life we’re all in. I retired from Union College [Schenectady, N.Y.], teaching my last class the day before the college closed for COVID, so I never had to learn online teaching, then cared for my mom up to her death a year ago. I’m spending my first years of retirement doing long-deferred maintenance and improvement on my house. Even with COVID, I love being retired — as I loved my job when I was doing it.”

In September, **Perry Chapman** retired after 39 years in the University of Delaware’s Department of Art History, published her first issue as editor in chief of the *Journal of Historians of Netherlandish Art* (jhna.org), and had a glorious vacation in New England, where she spent time with **John Samuelson** on Cape Cod and with **Maud Anderson** and **Laura Giles** in Tamworth, N.H.

Dave Gold was anticipating the birth of his fifth grandchild in January.

Kip Davis shares: “The opera X,

The Life and Times of Malcolm X that I co-wrote with my brother, Anthony, and my cousin, Thulani, is being remounted between the spring of 2022 and the fall of 2023, starting with the Michigan Opera Theater in Detroit and ending with the Metropolitan Opera in New York. There are additional stops in Seattle and Omaha, Neb. Anthony is the composer, Thulani is the librettist, and I wrote the story.” The opera had its premiere in 1986 at the New York City Opera.

Anita Cava writes: “The virtual reunion sparked connections with folks I had not been in touch with for decades. **Tura Campanella Cook** and I have read and virtually discussed Wilkerson’s *Caste* and related topics. **Mark Pattis** and delightful wife Lisa have treated me to lovely outdoor dinners on visits to Asheville, N.C., and several others made the time to have long catch-up calls. I’m grateful for these lifelong friendships.”

Steve Stutman’s son is working on a master’s at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, “and wants to build manufacturing robots in space. My daughter attends a local high school, is studying bee behavior, and wants to build a high-altitude balloon project. My wife and I celebrated 21 years of marriage this year, and she is looking at doing some NGO stuff. I’m getting back to applying simple robots to ocean and hospital tasks. COVID has interfered with our dim sum expeditions.”

1976

Fran Brokaw
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This is my, **Fran Brokaw**’s, final column as your class secretary, but never fear — elections for class officers are on the way. With no further ado, here is the news.

Marilyn Vedder has retired. “This last year-and-a-half of being a psychologist in private practice was difficult. I feel like I’m on an extended summer vacation. I

visited **Katherine Theodore** ’77 in Maine my first week away from the computer, and my sister **Amy Vedder** ’73 and brother-in-law **Bill Weber** ’72 in the Adirondacks at peak leaf time. Also, I have been spending lots of time at my partner Hank’s beach house. Today, I was on the boogie board with his three grandkids — not bad for mid-October in North Carolina. I haven’t figured out my next steps, but in the meantime I’m having fun.”

Teresa Nicholas and **Gerry Heflerich** report **Teresa**’s third book, *The Mama Chronicles*, a sort-of companion piece to her first book, *Buryin’ Daddy*, has been published. The new book is a memoir of her mother, who grew up as a sharecropper in the Mississippi Delta, as well as a meditation on their relationship and on such themes as family, home, and memory. **Gerry**’s next book, due out in April, is a historical detective novel — a first for him — set during Theodore Roosevelt’s tenure as NYC police commissioner and featuring a historic heat wave, a presidential election, blackmail, and, of course, murder.

Bruce Leinberger is “blessed with good friends, loving grandchildren, and a 43-year marriage.” **Jed Brickner** retired after 39 years as a partner at Latham & Watkins, where he was an employee-benefits attorney and served in various management roles. He also got married: “Third time’s the charm!” His child **E.K. Brickner** ’22 (they/them) is a Swarthmore senior. **Liz Owens Dean** and husband John are up to five grandchildren. She can barely resist gushing about how much they love being grandparents. She does music copy work, specializing in Hebrew chant. When this work dried up during the pandemic, she built a dollhouse and furniture in her basement. Check it out on Instagram (littlenora.s.dollhouse).

Marty Spaninger checks in: “Having thought I may have been retired by default during the pandemic, I am happily engaged again producing a four-hour film for Netflix about a legendary basketball player (to be named when the film is officially announced). I just returned from

a quick trip to Italy — first a food and wine tour with Swarthmore Professor Hansjakob Werlen in Tuscany and then a stay with the daughter of Swarthmore Professor Thompson Bradley in Venice. Husband **Bob Mueller** ’68 will be staying in Italy another week. In November, we’ll be co-hosting a long-weekend seminar with a group of Swatties and yet another Swarthmore professor — Phil Weinstein on Martha’s Vineyard, where he has retired. This year we’re reading *Moby Dick* (past years, we read **Jonathan Franzen** ’81, Toni Morrison, Faulkner, and Virginia Wolff).”

Kelly Tillery and wife Jennifer Evanson Hassel split time between Lancaster, Pa., and Cape May, N.J. **Kelly** works in intellectual property litigation at Troutman Pepper and is writing a play about Lincoln, Grant, and Frederick Douglass. Jennifer is retired from law and nursing and is writing a book. As for me, I, **Fran**, left medicine almost seven years ago, and I love retirement and the spaciousness it brings. Both of my children are on the East Coast: my son and his wife in Ithaca, N.Y., and my daughter, son-in-law Desmond, and their son, Sebastian, in Fredericksburg, Va. It has been fun and rewarding to serve you as class secretary. If any of you venture north to New Hampshire, please call or email me. Meanwhile, 2026 is coming along soon; I hope to see you then as we celebrate 50 years since our graduation. Walk in the Light!

1977

Terri-Jean Pyer
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I was happy to hear from **Katherine Harper**, who said that the pandemic pushed her forward to fully retire from executive coaching. “I’m happily doing a small amount of pro bono coaching, along with lots of getting outside locally while international travel is on hold.

Pre-pandemic, I was featured in award-winning educational videos and a documentary on trailblazing women engineers. Their purpose is to inspire young women to consider engineering as a career. These National Science Foundation-sponsored videos are a great resource for educators and STEM camp or club leaders and are free to use (clarkson.edu/inspire). I’m still grateful for my liberal arts/engineering education.”

Irisita Azary has been in Heidelberg, Germany, with husband **Roger Lee** ’78 and two sons since 2015. For the November 2020 U.S. election, she developed an international get-out-the-vote campaign through Democrats Abroad that inspired hundreds of volunteers to send tens of thousands of hand-colored postcards to U.S. citizens living in 85 countries. Retiring from the University of Missouri in June 2021 — 35 years to the day after he started — **Mark Milanick** shared reflections on his research and teaching career. During his first two decades, he mostly did National Institutes of Health-funded research on red blood cell membrane transport, along with a modest amount of teaching medical and graduate students. He catalyzed what may be the only ongoing collaboration between a fisheries and wildlife biologist and a nurse; they are published in the area of stress physiology. For the last 15 years, his focus changed to teaching undergraduates, mentoring teaching assistants, and developing life science general-education courses with such irresistible titles as Bodily Fluids and their Function; Toxins — the Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful; Filtering Fact From Fiction in TV Medical and Crime Dramas; and, the students’ favorite, the Science of Sex, Drugs, and Rock ‘n’ Roll.

While **Mark** and his wife of 37 years, Margaret Fairgrieve, relished the time they spent in Columbia, Mo., raising their son (who is now off to graduate school), they have relocated to Missoula, Mont. If you find your way to Missoula, **Mark** may share his talent for making balance sculptures of wood and

rocks. (I would have liked to see one that he sold at a juried art show called “Pure Idiotic Table of Elemental Human Types.”)

Your classmates would love to hear from you, too.

1978

Donna Caliendo Devlin
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It is with great sadness that I report the deaths of two classmates. **Eedy Nicholson** died July 16. She retired in 2015 as an attorney for the Department of Social Services of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. A member of the Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury, Mass., **Eedy** traveled internationally with its choir. Those of us who sang with **Eedy** in the College’s Chorus remember her wonderful voice, which she also shared with the College’s Gospel Choir, remaining active with that organization.

David Raymond died Sept. 12. He worked in business-security sales for ADT and for Stanley Black & Decker. A Haddonfield, N.J., resident, he served as a referee for youth football and basketball programs, as a boxing ring announcer at Philadelphia’s Blue Horizon venue, and as an official summer swim announcer (and board president) for Tavistock Hills Swimming Club in Haddonfield. **Dave** leaves behind wife Nancy and daughter **Hayley** ’18.

Our condolences to these wonderful classmates who shared so much with their communities and enriched the lives of so many.

1980

Rich Slattery writes: “Sheila Casey and I married Oct. 9 in Alexandria, Va., where we live. Swarthmoreans

in attendance were my cross-country teammates **Jim Rupert** '79, **George O'Hanlon** '79, **Steve Daniels** '81, and **Steve Cangemi** '83, and classmates **Ira Gitlin** and **Eric** and **Jodie Landes Corngold**. Sheila works in the State Department's European Bureau, while I will mark 30 years with Amtrak in December, where I am in the Government Affairs Department."

Rick Rogers is an adjunct instructor with Salem State's Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Educational Leadership program in Massachusetts. "I teach a course each semester and supervise practicums. During my interview with co-director **Megin Hammond Charner-Laird** '97, I mentioned Swarthmore's impact on me; she shared that she, too, was an alum. I'm impressed with the way **Megin** and her co-director have reshaped this program and feel like I've found a good fit to do this work." **Rick** has also done work to support principals, which was featured in *Education Week* (bit.ly/3ilheBf).

1981

Karen Oliver
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Luisa D'Amato has spent her life in daily newspapers. After graduating from Swarthmore, where she was a writer and editor at *The Phoenix*, she earned a master's at the Columbia University School of Journalism. From there **Luisa** worked at newspapers in Canada, writing news, features, occasional investigative stories, columns, and editorials. She is the local columnist and Sunday editor at the *Waterloo Region Record* in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario. She believes passionately in local news and its role in sustaining a strong and democratic community. **Luisa** has two children, Vienna D'Amato Hall, a singer-songwriter who creates spaces for feminist musicians, and Tony D'Amato Stortz, an outreach worker who

assists people struggling with homelessness and addiction.

John Fischer reports from Hyde Park, N.Y.: "We're back fully in person at the Culinary Institute of America, and, thankfully, vaccination is required for all." Also, the sake brewery less than a mile from campus was being worked on again.

Elaine O'Connell Jordan has a new job as the assistant kitchen manager for the Lord's Table, a soup kitchen in Gaithersburg, Md. They were serving hot meals again after closing for COVID-19. **Elaine** will supervise the teams of volunteers who do most of the cooking.

Lisa Lee has a brand-new job in a brand-new city, Greensboro, N.C. "I'm now director of alumni and parent engagement at Guilford College — a small liberal arts college founded by Quakers."

In March, **Doug Miron** became Teen Court coordinator for Carteret County, N.C., where he lives, as one of his "retirement" jobs. Previously, he was the volunteer judge. **Doug** says the program "diverts young people out of the 'school-to-prison pipeline' into a more personalized setting where they are 'judged by their peers.' I train teen volunteers to serve as jurors, prosecutor, clerk, bailiff, defense attorney, etc., and we have hearings once or twice a month, working in principles of restorative justice."

Jim Pasterczyk wanted me to include something about our authors. **Jonathan Franzen** has a new novel out (pg. 13); **Alan Gordon** is "always writing something." When pushed for his *own* news, he sent a long note about cycling during the pandemic, restoring his bikes, and looking for flatter territory since all trips are uphill on the ride home. For fun he is doing legal analysis of gun-rights decisions and editing/proofing for climbing publications.

Valerie Royce Cornell let us know that **Robert Simon** died Aug. 28 in Amsterdam, after an illness. He arrived as a freshman midyear — from Brooklyn, age 25. **Robert** and **Sue** visited Swarthmore and studied art history and philosophy at Swarthmore, did graduate work in art history at Harvard, and moved to Paris and then

Amsterdam, appreciating biking everywhere, the classical music scene, and the cafes; typically, he'd meet partner Anna Bolten at one cafe or another. He variously wrote, taught, and made things and was a popular teacher of media studies at the Hogeschool van Amsterdam (University of Applied Sciences), so much so that nobody complained that he taught only in English. His own visual work, which he began to exhibit more of in recent years, combined paint and photography.

Among **Robert's** many enthusiasms were dogs — his own, dogs he encountered on the street that he would photograph, and dogs in antiquity. An ongoing project drew on philosophy, literature, and art to explore the intersection of animal and human consciousness.

Valerie and **Robert** became friends after Swarthmore. "It was striking to me how he remembered former classmates and friends with continuing interest and fondness. I'll miss him."

William "Beau" Weston '82 says wife **Susan Perkins Weston** has been a civic-duty star in Kentucky as "policy leader for the Prichard Committee, our statewide education reform leader (her day job); redistricting expert for the League of Women Voters; leader of our Indivisible chapter; and de-facto public health reporter on COVID in our county."

1983

John Bowe
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For many of us, 2021 is a big year — hitting 60 can feel like a shock. **Suellen Heath Riffkin** hosted **Ellen Singer** and **Sue Kost** at Long Beach Island, N.J., "to celebrate the big 6-0 by kayaking, catboat sailing, playing pickleball, and biking around the island." **Ellen** and **Sue** visited Swarthmore and toured the new science building, named in honor of **Ellen's** mom, **Maxine Frank Singer** '52. Earlier in the year, **Suellen** marked off

visiting her 49th state, Alaska. Alabama, you are next.

Maria Simson got together with Parrish 4th freshman hallmates **Diane Wilder**, **Anna Orgera**, and **Sara Tjossem** for a 60th-birthday celebration. **Maria** (under the name Maria Vale) finished her five-novel series about shape-shifters that use their human forms to protect the land and the wolf pack. Next up: an urban fantasy trilogy.

Martha Reed, **Regina Hanlon Barletta**, **Don Twomey**, and **John Bowe** gathered for a vaccinated celebration of their 60th in June at **Don's** house in Boston. It was awesome how conversations picked right up without missing a beat or feeling as if they'd been distanced.

Bill Green briefly got out of his "pandemic crouch" over the summer, inviting his MIT chemical engineering students to a backyard party. Later he attended a backyard party in Swarthmore to celebrate birthdays missed during the pandemic, including those for **Don Cheetham** '73, **Melissa Shaner** '93, **Ken Laughlin** '82, **Amanda Cheetham Green** '85, and **Steve** '97 and **Elizabeth Green Larin** '97. **Bill** was teaching in person again at MIT, where he co-authored a journal paper with **Victoria Barber** '13.

Deb Winer was excited that the theater world was coming back and about her "projects that include a Broadway-bound musical and an upcoming radio play podcast series about middle-aged women superheroes." Pandemic habits include video calls with **Ellen Argyros** and **Carolyn Morgan Hayden**, and seven-mile walks in NYC. **Deb** insisted I add that "she misses **John** something fierce" (to make me blush?).

Dan Glessner, **Dan Werther**, and **Gary** '82 and **Dianna Hannigan Glessner** '82 gathered at **Jerry Miller's** house in Nantucket, Mass. **Dan** ran into several students on the island sporting Swarthmore gear.

Shoshana Kerewsky teaches honors college classes at the University of Oregon, Eugene, and looked forward to her memoir, *Cancer, Kintsugi, Camino*, being released.

Diane Wilder released her first poetry collection, *Leap Thirty*. She'll surely sign them at our reunion in 2023. She enjoys occasional weekends with two grandchildren, ages 11 and 16.

Betsy Dodd Buckheit's interests are varied — gravel biking, running, quilting, bookbinding, furniture refinishing, a black Lab puppy, and the frustrations of Northfield, Minn., city politics. And "in the Swarthmore spirit of lifelong learning, I am looking to start bird hunting."

Beth Varcoc (re)launched both 20-something daughters to NYC this summer, is thrilled to have a reliable, forgiving mare for trail riding, enjoys grantwriting for a small nonprofit, and loves hearing about the campus from her husband, Roderick Wolfson, an architect in Swat's facilities planning office.

Wendy Hoben retired from her unintended 19-year career as an adult-literacy teacher — in part to join her partner on trips. "I'm also starting to volunteer as a literacy coach, doing what I used to do, only for free now. It's great not having to fill out timesheets or haggle with an incompetent school district."

Greg Davidson and **Tamah Kushner** started a weekly gathering with neighbors on their driveway the first week of lockdown, and it was still going strong. Vaccines have enabled them to travel to see their grandchild, son of Polly Edelstein and **Arik Davidson** '11. **Greg** said goodbye to the James Webb Space Telescope, as it was shipped from Redondo Beach, Calif. Early on, **Greg** served as a program manager. **Tamah** loves her job as executive director of their synagogue — except during High Holy Days.

Leslie Johnson Nielsen says: "No retirements yet, but we may be identifying our 'glide paths.' I've reduced to 80%, so I have time to be with my parents and our kids." **Leslie** welcomed her first grandchild Oct. 17. Vaccinated, they expected to be able to do more soon with less anxiety.

From me, **John**, we finished our first placement of a foster child, a then 21-month-old, energetic

toddler. It was satisfying seeing her grow and learn to walk and talk. At the same time, we're a bit worn out.

1984

Karen Linnea Searle
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Helena Weiss Schotland was starting as associate pulmonary division chief for clinical affairs and director of pulmonary physiology at Mount Sinai Hospital and was "so looking forward to being back in New York."

Lots of news from **Keith Cornell**. "I now consider myself a recovering lawyer. After practicing for 30 years, in 2017 I ran for a state judgeship, won the Democratic primary and then the general election, and took office in January 2018. I serve as the Rockland County [N.Y.] Surrogate Court Judge overseeing wills, trusts, and guardianships. In addition, I am cross-assigned to family court and handle child-custody disputes, child-neglect and abuse cases, and adoptions, among other cases. Pre-COVID, I had occasion to have **Lori Douglas** come before me on a surrogate court matter.

"Now for the interesting stuff: We were thrilled several years ago when son **Skyler** '21 was admitted to Swarthmore. He graduated as an engineering major last May on a rainy day, not unlike our 1984 graduation day. The ceremony was on Mertz Field to allow for social distancing, and there was a jumbotron set up so we could see the speakers. Our newly minted Swarthmore engineer spent the summer throwing pottery and is due to move to Burlington, Vt. He has been hired by a startup working on an emerging technology involving the remote charging of batteries. The company seems to be full of super-smart engineers, so he'll fit right in.

"As an added bonus, **Skyler** will be living within walking distance of his older brother, Robin, and his wife. I was thrilled to perform

their wedding in August in our backyard. We had a very small gathering, including my mother, **Harriet Donow Cornell** '54, and my sisters, **Kendall Cornell** '86 and **Valerie Cornell** '81. My wife, Carrie, is a public-health professional but also paints and has participated in **Jessie Winer's** Zoom classes.

"With our children and new daughter-in-law in Vermont, we and our two dogs, Bella and Charlie, are thinking about spending more time there, so I have a regular practice of searching Zillow for the right place to raise goats, alpacas, and a donkey or two. We will be sure to have a spare room or, at least, a tent space for old Swarthmore friends to help with milking."

It's been a quiet fall here in Southern California, for which I am grateful. My younger son, **Powell Sheagren** '22, is back on campus again for his senior year. My older son, Calder, is in Toronto, pursuing a graduate degree in medical physics, and we are hoping to visit him now that the borders are open again. I, too, have been enjoying **Jessie's** monthly art classes, sponsored by the Central Park Conservancy. She does a masterful job of making the class accessible and enjoyable for novices and experienced artists alike. It's also a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Central Park through your computer screen. If any of you would like to join, contact me and I'll be happy to forward your request to **Jessie**.

1985

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We hope this finds you happy, healthy, and as unstressed as the world allows. We just got bits of news this time, so we hope you're enjoying a bit of vaccinated freedom.

Matt Roach "just started the

prereqs for a nursing program here in Maryland — exciting new opportunities. I hope all are well and are finding happiness."

Susan Poser and husband **Steve DiMugno** have departed the University of Illinois–Chicago for New York. **Susan** became president of Hofstra University on Aug. 1, and **Steve** left academia to lead a drug-discovery effort at Ratio Therapeutics.

I, **Tim**, am also doing a reboot, with one new hip as I write, and two by the time you read this. Although I've been assured this doesn't really require new boots.

David Pike "had the distinct pleasure of dropping off **Philip Pike-Acosta** '25 at Willets, exactly 40 years after our own arrival." **David's** new book, *Cold War Culture in the 1960s and 1980s: The Bunkered Decades*, contains much material that happened during our Swarthmore years.

Ian Aberbach and wife Beth have joined the empty-nester community. Son **Adin** '25 entered Swarthmore, and daughter Raya is a senior at Boston Conservatory at Berklee.

And last, **Dave Landes** and wife Pam are enjoying retired life in the Adirondacks, where hiking is a favored activity. "We love the escape from the Virginia heat and humidity." Their two eldest kids have started working, and the youngest is cooking up a storm at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. **Dave's** sister Jordan is curator for Swarthmore's Friends Historical Library.

1986

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Karen Leidy Gerstel
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Jacqueline Lowey "had a great reunion for **Michele Grodberg** '83's birthday with **Carol Savary**, **Marty** and **Bettina Garcia-Alegre Welsh** '84, **Deb Stern** '84, **Rebecca**

Alexander, and **Alex Bowie** '84. I switched careers and am selling real estate in East Hampton [N.Y.]. I'm still married with two great, grown children."

Rikki Abzug "was able to take my first sabbatical in 14 years during the deep pandemic. I couldn't travel anywhere, but I was able to do research while avoiding virtual teaching. My older daughter is an artist in Philadelphia, and my younger is doing social media for Vermont's Department of Parks and Rec. I keep trying to make the world a better place one undergraduate business student at a time. I was particularly lucky to catch **Dave Allgeier** and **Steve Salovitch** '85 traveling through northern New Jersey, after we were all vaccinated."

The American Heart Association named **Donald Lloyd-Jones** as its president for 2021–22.

Aaron Weissblum is "semi-retired in Maine, growing weed, and making games and art."

Alexander Gavis shares: "After almost 25 years working in legal in financial services in Boston, I am scheduled to 'retire' in December and move on to other pursuits, including spending time with family, teaching at a local law school, and learning new things. My two kids are doing well, with one in NYC and one in Chicago. I hope to see more Swat friends in 2022."

Pedro Gregorio "got married Labor Day weekend to Cookie Driscoll, a Renaissance woman from Pennsylvania who I met on my way to the Swat reunion in 2016. I started calling her a Renaissance woman on the day we met because it seemed like there was nothing she hadn't done in her life in Arizona and Pennsylvania. When I retire in a couple of years, I'll move to her horse farm near Gettysburg, Pa., to start our next chapter. For now, I'll continue enjoying the Pennsylvania Turnpike's curves between Ohio and Breezewood, Pa., in the Alfa Romeo on my regular 1,000-mile drives."

As for myself, I, **Jessica**, continue to live in Hawaii with my husband, two kids, and two cats. I'm looking forward to traveling and socializing when the pandemic is over. I'm always happy to see Swarthmore

classmates, so be sure to contact me if you come my way.

1987

Sarah Wilson
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As the lockdown lifted in much of the country, classmates were coming to terms with their empty nests — for real — as their progeny returned to school.

Jack Dougherty and **Elizabeth Rose** wrote that they dealt with this phenomenon by building a minivan camper and taking it on the road to visit **Sonke Johnsen** '88's farm in Hillsborough, N.C., and to tour a goat farm with **Magdalen Lindeberg** '88 in Ithaca, N.Y. Check out their video and design ideas at JackBikes.org.

Another former Mary Lyon freshman, **Adam Schuman**, shares that upon becoming an empty nester a couple of years ago, "I moved to Manhattan and am thrilled to see the resilience and resurgence of the city. My daughter is a college junior and flourishing. I'm continuing to enjoy the practice of law, including in the emerging cryptoworld."

Ellen Mallory sends greetings from Orono, Maine, home to the University of Maine, where

she works as a professor and extension specialist of sustainable agriculture. "It makes me feel old to say it, but it's also where my husband and I raised three daughters. We're enjoying watching them launch into the world and having more time for our own more modest adventures, like canoe camping, bike packing, cross-country skiing, and backyard 'homesteading.'"

Katy Stokes is another alum who bid farewell to her adult children who have returned to their in-person studies. We spent a very enjoyable couple of days catching up in her delightful Long Island, N.Y., retreat with my 2.5-year-old foster son.

Never one to let any sort of adversity slow his roll, **Gehan Talwate** says: "Lockdown in London was boring, but I managed to lift the spirits on my street (quite literally) by organizing a socially distanced street cocktail party every Sunday evening.

On the business front, I tried to enliven our weekly Zoom meetings by inviting Swat friends to talk about what they do. A big thank you to **Reid Neureiter**, **Laurie Laird**, **Josh King**, and **Gary Fuges**, who educated and entertained my colleagues. I did see **Pierre Cesbron** '88 in person in Paris. **Keara Connolly** is back in London after being locked down in Belize."

Mike Sjaastad writes: "After living in the San Francisco Bay area for 34 years (I moved to Berkeley

for graduate school right after graduating from Swat), our family has moved to Lake Oswego, Ore. My wife is a veterinarian, and we sold the pet hospital we owned and operated in Silicon Valley for 20 years, allowing us to relocate closer to family. We loved the Bay Area and have many close connections there (including with **Tom Goodman** and **Gary**, along with other Swatties), but with the web and tech booms, life there has changed a lot. For example, I worked at a startup in a business park next door to the young company Google when they only had 100 employees.

"In Lake Oswego, we are enjoying an active outdoor life and living through the dramatic change of seasons. Our son, Miles, has started high school, and my wife Julie is considering a second career in veterinary acupuncture. I'm still working in biotech."

1990

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As I, **Tracey**, write from my home office, I'm still working 100%



UNITING AMERICA KYLE ANDERSON '89

Kyle Anderson '89 was named senior vice president at America250, the nationwide commemoration of America's 250th anniversary in 2026 led by the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. A political science major at Swarthmore, Kyle joins America250 from the Congressional Black Caucus, where he was executive director.

"I'm thrilled to join this talented and inspired team and look forward to helping shape this effort as we bring on national partners, programs, and initiatives designed to engage and unite all Americans," Kyle says. "I'm also really excited about the chance to embrace and lift up the diverse stories and experiences that help define the American experience."

remotely at least until January. I do miss the office camaraderie but not the commute. I know many of you are similarly situated, and I hope you are staying well.

During the summer and after our last submission, **Martin Hunt** reported on his recent adventures and travels. He said his family had returned from Madrid, visiting family, and he launched a new venture-capital fund called Swanlaab USA Ventures. He also celebrated a one-year-delayed 25th wedding anniversary with a river cruise down the Danube.

Deby VanLenten Jagielow had a roomie reunion with **Michelle Hines** while she visited her son at University of Connecticut in Mansfield. Their families enjoyed a lovely fall New England day and ice cream at the UConn Dairy Bar.

I, **Tracey**, am connected with **Emily McHugh** via Facebook, and she shares: "I have picked up a new pastime that I have been wanting to do — bhangra dancing with my favorite online teachers of Bhangra Empire. It is so much fun, great exercise, and really boosts energy. I invite you to check out my dances on my fledgling YouTube channel (just type in "Emily McHugh"), where I also highlight my Super Charge Sunday program featuring entrepreneurs and their journeys. I also spend a lot of time sharing lessons on entrepreneurship via workshops based on my book, *The Little Girl's Guide to Entrepreneurship*. One of my favorites was training local Girl Scouts on how they could increase sales of their cookies. Most importantly, I would like to share encouragement that no matter how difficult these times are, it is important to take time to do something that inspires you, lifts your spirits, and makes you smile. Bhangra definitely does that for me."

Finally, **Abiona "Abby" Berkeley Cathcart** shared her great professional achievement. Effective July 1, **Abby** was interim senior associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion for Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine.

We hope to hear from more of you next time.

1992

Libby Starling
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Steve Bruner and his family moved in summer 2020 to southern Vermont, where he works for Alterra Mountain Co., managing day-to-day operations of Stratton Mountain Resort's cross-country ski and snowshoe center. Wife Leah, on sabbatical from Amherst College, is writing a book. Their kids attend the Stratton Mountain School, feeding their passion for Nordic ski racing and endurance sports. **Steve** misses early-pandemic Zoom hangouts organized by **Chris Tipper**. He hopes that he gets to see many classmates at our 30th Reunion.

Otherwise, unless my email ate an update (this is not unheard of, and if so, I apologize), the rest of you are busy leading our middle-aged lives. Random Facebook browsing suggests that there may be other news to report (A wedding? A job transition? You know who you are.), but sharing them would unmask my stalker tendencies and probably fail the *Bulletin's* fact-checker. See you at the 30th Reunion in May!

1993

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As of this writing, yours truly, **Noah**, was anxiously looking forward to the possibility of in-person trick-or-treating (Zoom trick-or-treating was much less effective). Here are some updates

from your favorite class — the one that graduated after *Nevermind* but before *In Utero*.

Scott Kane retired as a captain in the Navy Medical Corps after 22 years as an adult, child, and adolescent psychiatrist. He deployed three times, to Indonesia, Iraq, and Kuwait, and his last position was as director of mental health for the Naval Medical Center San Diego, where he was responsible for the mental health of more than 100,000 service members and their families.

Jeff Moray made it to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, where he was involved in some sort of financial goings-on that we vaguely understand.

A review of the new science fiction novel *Constance* by **Matthew FitzSimmons** (pg. 7) appeared in the Aug. 25 issue of *The New York Times* under the title "Cloning Error Fuels A Murder Mystery," subtitled "**Matthew FitzSimmons's** romp of a science-fiction thriller tackles existential questions." *Constance* is his sixth published novel; his earlier ones are part of the Gibson Vaughn series of thrillers. **Matthew** majored in psychology at Swarthmore, but took classes in directing and performance theory and was very active in the Drama Board. He lives in D.C., where he taught English and theater in a private high school for more than a decade. Swarthmore Professor Allen Kuharski notes, "A little late for summer beach reading, but worth checking out."

Matt Clausen reported from D.C. that he joined the Inter-American Foundation as the agency's new public-private partnership specialist. "I will be responsible for leading the IAF's efforts to identify, develop, implement, and manage partnerships with private companies, foundations, academia, and other institutions to bring greater technical and financial resources to bear to achieve IAF's grassroots development goals."

Ryan Roderick has made a return to in-person teaching of international students at West Chester University. So far, the return to commuting may cut

into daily pandemic afternoon walks, and teaching in shorts and bare feet will be missed. **Roddy** also joined your humble class secretaries, so if you've been holding off on sending notes until we got someone with a sense of humor on board, now's your chance!

1995

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We start off with great news from **Maggie Gold Seelig**, who was nominated and accepted into the Young Presidents Organization Metro New York Chapter. She founded and is the CEO of MGS Group Real Estate, a boutique residential brokerage firm with a main office in Boston and a presence in NYC. She's helped several Swatties in their real estate purchases and sales.

In the literary world, **Rodrigo Dobry** wrote the book *If I Were a Snowflake*, available on Amazon. "The text, written over several years, is metered and rhymed. This project was very much a labor of love." As a true collaborative Swarthmore project, the cover was painted by the multitasking **Alyssa Apsel**.

A number of classmates have been abroad, including **Suzanna Brauer**, who received a second Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation Grant in Health and Environmental Sciences and traveled with her family to teach and conduct research at the University of Eastern Finland from March to July.

Christina Richards, husband Larry, and children Dorothy, IO, and John, 6, weathered COVID-19 in Germany; they moved there in 2019. She's an associate professor in integrative biology at the University of South Florida and received funding for a four-year project under the Make Our Planet Great Again program. It includes public outreach and has organized

weekly seminars, videos on YouTube, and a large conference. To get more details, follow **Christina** on Twitter, @ecolepig.

In Portland, Ore., with her partner since April 2020, **Tania Lihatsch** has been an end-of-life doula for more than three years and also volunteers with hospice and with End of Life Choices Oregon. “I’ve helped folks with nonmedical death care, advanced directives, funerals and memorial services, legacy projects, and navigating change and grief. Most importantly, I help identify opportunities to prevent suffering; there are incredible opportunities for healing and growth even in our last days.” **Tania’s** website is betterdeaths.com.

Time has been flying for **Cristina Pérez**, who is celebrating her 25th year of teaching English, Spanish, and French at Friends’ Central School. “So much for all the premed courses I took at Swat.” She’s thrilled to be back at school in person and is joined by her seventh-grade daughter, Maria Sofía. **Cristina** lives in East Falls in northwest Philadelphia.

Last, **Sally Chin** has been diligently recording our class notes for more than 25 years, and she’s ready to pass on the class secretary baton. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with **Sally** on the notes, so I’ll miss my co-secretary. Please join me in thanking **Sally** for her great service to Swarthmore and our class.

Since multiple class secretaries improve the frequency, diversity, and quality of our notes, I’d love to have other classmates lend their voices. If you might be interested or have any questions, please reach out to me or to Class Notes Editor Heidi Hormel (hhormel@swarthmore.edu). As always, we look forward to sharing your news.

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2022: One Swarthmore

Save the date!
May 27–29

swarthmore.edu/
alumniweekend

1996

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Welcome from our newest class secretary, **Colleen Bartley**. We celebrated our 25th Reunion with a special virtual series of events, and it was great to see those who were able to participate. Recordings of the Parlor Talks are available by emailing swatalum96@gmail.com. Special thanks to **Chris Marin**, **Christian Henry**, and **Kathleen Lawton-Trask** for co-organizing.

I, **Colleen**, continue to survive life in London, working as an improvisational dance artist, editor, social justice advocate, and community organizer.

Curtis Trimble and **Maria Alejandra Gonzalez** drove to D.C. to meet up with **Chris** for a music festival. **Sam Voolich** was supposed to join them but couldn’t make it. The next day **Andy Feldman**, **Chris**, and **Curtis** watched football and drank beer at an outdoor, German-style garden. **Curtis** adds: “I launched an investment advisory business within the private-equity firm I joined last year. **Andy** and I shared a few thoughts on startup experiences as he struck out on his own with an evidence-based policy consultancy. I’m looking forward to Family Weekend at Bryn Mawr, where Sofia, our oldest daughter, started her second year.”

Ben Bryson received the Georgia Library Association Presidential Commendation for outstanding service to the organization in 2021. This year marks his third and final year serving as the association’s treasurer.

Will Craig is launching a startup focused on the large-scale

recentering of advance-care planning, death education, and design of the final phase of life. In lieu of a fourth biological child, **Laurie Gerber** is gestating lauriegerber.com.

Jacqueline Morais Easley is working on a novel and can’t believe she has two daughters in college: one at American University and the other at UCLA. Her son is in eighth grade. “We enjoy watching movies, going out to eat, and cheering him on at his basketball games.”

Rebecca Winthrop reports: “COVID has been really hard on the boys, but after a year and a half, they are back at school. I love working from home. I’m still at the Brookings Institution doing a big project on how schools can work better with families, so I have been busy sharing the insights with the educational global conference circuit.”

Kate Ellsworth works in Boston as an acupuncturist, hikes with her dog, and is trying (and mostly failing so far) to enjoy empty nesting while her kiddo spends 11th grade in Spain.

Sabrina Moyle publishes humorous children’s books focused on positivity, potty humor, and social-emotional learning, and is working on a children’s animated series with the Jim Henson Co. and Nickelodeon, which should be out sometime in the next decade. The greeting card and letterpress business continues to go strong. Pandemic highlights included Facetimeing with Professor Emerita T. Kaori Kitao and Zoom Christmas caroling with fellow Anon a cappella members **Laura Christian**, **Nazanin Moghbeli**, **Sita Frederick** ’97, and **Kanade Shinkai** ’95.

Matt Robison is in Amherst, Mass., with his wife and three kids. He hosts a radio show on WKXX 103.9 FM (NHTalkRadio.com) and a podcast (*Beyond Politics with Paul Hodes and Matt Robison*). “I’ve been fortunate to have incredible guests — members of Congress, scientists, authors, and even the country’s top UFO video debunker. I interview Swarthmore alums whenever I can and have hosted **Victor Pineiro**

’00, **Jamie Stiehm** ’82, **Michael Morton** ’97, and several others.” Also, anyone in New Hampshire can catch him on the *Capitol Close Up* podcast.

Jonathan Evans attempted to write from the “island of Kittoria, but realized his wife was right, he has been playing too much Animal Crossing with his two daughters. He then attempted to write from Seattle, but his two pups ate that letter. So an electronic message was sent instead. Having survived wildfires, local bridges shutting down, and an anarchy zone, he’s surprised at how much he still loves Seattle. In his professional world, he enjoys making users happy for a startup that’s focused on innovation.”

Here’s looking forward to our next dance party on campus. Our Facebook group is Swarthmore College Class of 1996.

1997

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As I mentioned in my last column, I’m beginning to work on a time-consuming project and am looking for someone to share gathering alumni-related material and writing our class notes. If you are interested, please get in touch.

This past July, Bet Tzedek Legal Services in L.A. announced a slate of new board members, including **Jason Linder**. These directors will provide strategic direction for Bet Tzedek’s mission to build stability and hope for communities experiencing structural disparities and exploitation. **Jason** is a seasoned trial lawyer and former senior federal prosecutor. He also serves as vice chair of the American Bar Association’s White Collar Crime Committee and treasurer of the International Bar Association’s Business Crime Committee.

Ben Henwood, associate professor of social work at USC, has long been recognized in

health and housing research, specifically homelessness. “My clinical days are behind me, but I am happy to be teaching the next generation of social workers who can hopefully win this battle to end homelessness. (Part of my day job is to serve as the national co-lead for the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare’s Grand Challenge to End Homelessness.)” He and wife Heather were enjoying their three children and new puppy. He caught up with **Franklin Rubinstein** and **Gilbert Mireles** ’96 and also saw **Dave Sturtevant** ’96 while at conferences in D.C. He sometimes catches up with **Ben “Bugsy” Seigel** ’96 and **Tom Hooper** ’96.

Kate Walker lives in Brooklyn and relishes her work as a content and media producer at the American Museum of Natural History. “I’ll have several video pieces in our *Sharks* exhibition that opens in December.”

Erik Henriksen lives in St. Louis with his family, including two children, ages 7 and almost 4. “My lab’s work is centered around the physics of atomically thin materials or, perhaps, the physics of electrons confined to two dimensions — and the materials happen to be the 2D platforms that imbue the electrons with an astonishing array of properties. From the early days of graphene, there are now hundreds of materials we can pull apart with Scotch tape (literally) to get monolayers, bilayers, etc. We make tiny devices out of these. Right now, we’re trying to directly measure the fractal structure of Hofstadter’s butterfly using sheets of graphene on insulating boron nitride — moiré patterns appear, imbuing the electronic structure with a truly fractal set of energy levels ... or so people claim. Consequences of this likely behavior have been seen, but no one has yet actually observed the fractal spectrum. We’re aiming to do that. St. Louis is great — great zoo, symphony, parks, child-friendly. St. Louis and Missouri certainly have their issues, but at the same time it’s been great to see local activism spread to and impact the rest of the United States.”

Jerahme Posner resides near Philadelphia with his wife and three children, working in the emergency room at Lankenau Medical Center in Wynnewood, Pa. “Our family loves traveling. This year, despite the pandemic, we have traveled to Mexico, Cape Cod, and France twice.”

In his 10th year teaching physical and environmental science online with Oregon Charter Academy, **Shawn Bundy** serves as the United Soccer Coaches High School Girls All-American chairman. His side project is building a sauna in his backyard to stave off the wet, cold Portland winter.

Megin Charner-Laird is an assistant professor at Salem State University in Massachusetts, specializing in childhood education and care. **Megin’s** research looks at teachers’ experiences of policy enactment and school-based professional learning and how teacher leadership is enacted in school settings.

Also in Massachusetts, **Molly Jacobs** is vice president for environmental education and outreach at Manomet Inc., a conservation organization focused on migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere. “This job is the culmination of a big career shift. I left my tenured faculty position in 2017 to focus on environmental education, and I’m thrilled to be back in New England living close to family and working for a cause I’m passionate about.” She lives with wife Lisa and daughter Greta, 8, and catches birds in mist nets.

As always, please send me updates; I’d love to hear from you.

1998

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After a tumultuous year-and-a-half, our classmates are reconnecting and moving forward

with eyes on the future, but also taking time to toast the past.

Amita Sudhir “survived 18 months as an emergency physician in a pandemic. I initially hoped to change the course of the pandemic by writing about it in Slate, and for a brief nine months had a prolific essay-writing side job before I gave up. Under the constant strain of caring for sick people who got that way by refusing a safe vaccine, plus an overcrowded ER and nursing shortages, I sometimes struggle to tolerate a job I once loved. I continue to work as residency director and will have seen three classes of residents through the pandemic. That cultivation of the next generation keeps me from being entirely cynical. My kids are 9 and 13, and my house is 129. I met up with **Rani Shankar** and her kids at the Central Park Zoo.”

Katie Auld Aron works at a small startup in Cambridge, Mass., developing cell-therapy treatments for cancer. This new job has delayed her ability to finish the virtual choir video of Grapevine alumni, which **Katie** hoped to post by the end of the year.

Amy Albert wrote an upbeat letter from New Jersey. Haven Community Adolescent Respite Center “is 5 years old, and we just got our first federal grant. My son is almost 10, a future chemist, and a genuinely good person, and his father makes me happy. I’m grateful to have a community of friends who have helped me live out my dream of creating a nonprofit for youth in conflict with their families, including the oh-so-awesome **Jordan Hay** and the ever-creative **Dan Gallant**.”

Shirley Salmeron Dugan and her family weathered COVID-19 in New York by “vaccinating the entire family, taking up new hobbies, and adopting a dog. Our English bulldog, Juggy, brings a lot of laughs and male energy to our household. I am grateful to have all three daughters back in school full time, although we have one each in elementary, middle, and high school,” so it’s a lot of juggling and a lot of driving.

Last year at the height of the strictest lockdowns and stay-

at-home orders in NYC, **Larry McDowell** escaped temporarily to a new vacation home in Ulster County, N.Y., which “made endless Zoom meetings and remote school somewhat less insanity-inducing for them and Idris, 7, and Eudora, 3.” Autumn brought the family back to Brooklyn for the much-appreciated return to in-person school, but most weekends they hike the beautiful trails in the Shawangunk Mountains. In September, **Larry** had a coffee date with **Nick Kourtidis**, who was in New York for work.

Charity Miller had a mini-reunion in May with **Liz Farley**, **Courtney Clark Metakis**, **Elin Lisska Christensen** ’97, **Hanan Hussein Knoll** ’97, and Doris, who married **Richard Choe** ’96. “We managed to pull off a ladies’ weekend in New Jersey in a hotel suite with windows open and masks. We laughed and maybe shed a few tears, but nothing like amazing friends to help you heal after the world turned upside down.”

Kelli Tennent Griffis wrote from California, where she was enjoying sunny weather, working at the Pacific Ridge School in Carlsbad, and spending lots of time outdoors. Since she got new “cyborg” hearing aids, **Kelli** is “happy to be rediscovering how much of the world she couldn’t hear for the last 20 years or so.”

I, **Rachel**, spent time with **Cat Laine** in Rhode Island in October after a two-year hiatus of (in-person) visits. We celebrated her husband’s birthday, and then they drove me to Massachusetts for my brother’s much-postponed wedding. The same weekend, I got a surprise visit from **Vincent Jones**, who was swinging through D.C. on a layover, en route to Miami, and came by for breakfast. **Vincent** is spending time on cruise ships, scuba diving, and other aquatic adventures. He was looking forward to celebrating **Tirian Mink’s** wedding in Mexico City in November. He co-chairs the board of a grassroots organizing group in South Los Angeles and is board secretary of a large foundation/fiscal sponsor of 501(c)4 organizations around the country.

1999

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Ashwin Rao was promoted to full professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Washington. He still serves as program director of the UW sports medicine fellowship and as a UW Husky athletics team physician, in his 13th year in that role. **Ashwin** has stepped down as a team physician for the Seattle Seahawks, feeling like 12 years, two Super Bowls, 10 playoff trips, and one Super Bowl ring were enough.

Josh Knox got a second try at a Southwest road trip in June after his plans for 2020 had to be COVID-19-canceled. With four weeks off from work, he flew with wife Brita Dempsey and daughter Caliandra Dempsey Knox to San Francisco and rented a camper van. "Yosemite, Sequoia, Zion, and the Grand Canyon national parks were highlights, but astronomy at Great Basin, slot canyons at Capitol Reef, and hoodoos at Bryce Canyon were also amazing. The showers were still closed in most parks; luckily, our van had showering options. Caliandra, 11, insisted on climbing both Yosemite Falls and Angel's Landing — together we pulled it off."

Ben Goldsmith was on Wondery Media's podcast *Suspect* about the murder of Arpana Jinaga in Redmond, Wash., in 2008 and **Ben's** nine-year defense of Emanuel Fair, who was charged with the murder. I, **Melissa**, have been listening to the podcast; it's terrific.

Daniel Laurison received a Carnegie Fellowship.

Tobie Barton is spending a year in Edinburgh with her husband, who is a linguist specializing in endangered languages like Scottish Gaelic. Their two daughters have settled nicely into the daily routine of tea and treats. The family is excited to travel throughout Europe and eke out as much adventure as

COVID will allow. **Tobie** continues to develop health guidance for Head Start from afar.

After almost 20 years in the D.C. area, **Andrew Mast** and his family relocated to Chicagoland. "Suburban life has been an adjustment, but on net, it's been positive for us — particularly the kids."

Sarah Cross, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota's Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Women's Health, led the obstetrical COVID-19 response for her 13-hospital health system and even had her own "pandemic baby," Sophie, who joined Zach, 3.5, and Margot, 5.5. The family also got a pandemic puppy. **Sarah** has given more than 30 lectures and interviews on COVID-19 in pregnancy, most recently focusing on the vaccine. She has been interviewed by *National Geographic*, *Forbes*, and *Newsweek* and had an opinion piece in the *Washington Post*.

Michal Zadara spent winter 2020–21 at home in Warsaw, Poland. "In February, I directed an adaptation of Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk's novel *Flights at Teatr Powszechny* here. We actually began work on the adaptation at Swarthmore, with **Emma Morgan-Bennett '20** and students **Zivia Lichtenberg '23**, **Nadia Malaya '22**, and **Shail Modi '22**." **Michal** saw **Jim Harker** in Berlin, adding, "We have been in touch and are planning future academic/artistic projects together."

As of April, **Tyler Wigg Stevenson** was associate priest at St. Paul's Bloor Street, a large Anglican church in downtown Toronto. "The pandemic has made transitions strange, but all the more so in church ministry, where interpersonal interaction is at the core. It's been an adventure and learning curve, but I am enjoying myself and am grateful that we are slowly reopening to in-person gatherings." **Tyler** also submitted his Ph.D. dissertation, "Saecular: The Ancient Word That Became the Modern World," in August and expected to defend it by year's end.

Stacey Bearden was thankful that son Glen was in person for second

grade after being in remote school. "After meeting at our 20th Reunion and becoming friends, my son and **Maria Krisch's** son have enjoyed virtual playdates from across the country." **Stacey** runs her own compensation-consulting business. "It provides work-life balance. I took the summer off," but was still parenting full time.

2000

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As we've been navigating the pandemic, we're inspired to hear from classmates making big and small moves and starting adventures.

Will Untereker and his family (Wakana, Billy, and Noa) moved from Tokyo to Minneapolis in summer 2020 for a work assignment. **Will** said they were enjoying life in the frozen north, despite COVID-19 complicating the family's first experience living in America. As the pandemic winds down, he hopes some peripatetic Swatties will pass through and visit.

Daniel Littlewood made a big move from New York to his hometown of Portland, Ore. He was enjoying looking out the back window at trees in Forest Park, one of the largest urban parks in the U.S.

Karen Lloyd, an associate professor of microbiology at the University of Tennessee, writes: "My husband and I are taking our daughters (ages 7 and 11) to Iceland over fall break to see the hot springs that I've been studying for microbial ecology. The 11-year-old recently recovered from COVID-19 because our schools did not have a mask mandate. We are very mad about this, but we're pleased that a federal judge has required us to be masked."

Jess Watson started as the

executive director of earthday365, an environmental nonprofit in St. Louis, about a week before the pandemic hit. "In spite of the craziness, I'm still loving it and the daily walking commute through an arboretum." She also co-founded Hidden Alley Ranch Housing Cooperative, which includes co-housing, a community garden and orchard, and a chicken co-op.

After spending over a decade as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, **Jessica Sonnenschein Lonergan** joined Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati as counsel in their New York office. The firm provides legal services to technology, life sciences, and growth enterprises worldwide.

Jo-Anne Surriel shares: "I left my career in private equity at the end of 2019 and started my own wellness and spirituality practice, Energetic Well. I also blog about parenting, activism, wellness, and multilingualism at MakeTheWorldMama.com."

2003

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Patty Park sold her second book and debut young-adult novel, *Imposter Syndrome and Other Confessions of Alejandra Kim*, which will be published in spring 2023. She is an assistant professor of creative writing at American University and super-commutes between D.C. and NYC.

Lucy Lang was appointed New York state inspector general, overseeing investigations into corruption, fraud, criminal activity, and conflicts of interest in state government.

Veronica Herrera and **Ben Wiles** had Santiago Octavio Benjamin Wiles on May 1. His brother and sister were happy to have a baby in the house. The family is in Los Angeles, where **Veronica** is tenured at UCLA and **Ben** continues his

EMINENT ENGINEER
CHARLES "C.J." RILEY '01

Charles "C.J." Riley '01, a civil engineering professor at the Oregon Institute of Technology, was named the 2021 Oregon Section Government Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The award recognizes engineers for their achievements, mentorship, and service, among other areas.

"It's humbling and reassuring that I've found my calling and my place and I have the great opportunity to do good work with good people for the public good," C.J. says. "I was the ASCE student chapter co-president my senior year at Swarthmore. It was a very small club but was also one of those vital seeds that grew into a big part of my professional life. I have Dr. Faruq Siddiqui, who recently retired from teaching at Swarthmore, to thank for pointing me down this path. It has been so incredibly fulfilling."

venture-finance legal practice.

President Joe Biden and the Democratic National Committee chairman nominated community organizer **Anna Perng** to serve as a DNC member-at-large, appointed to the Credentials Committee. **Anna** advocates for the inclusion and full participation of historically excluded communities. She also has joined the Biden-Harris administration as special assistant in the Administration for Community Living at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

William Tran was promoted at ViacomCBS to senior vice president of business and legal affairs, production risk.

John Anderson and wife Karen Travers were excited their children were back in school in person, although they are still getting used to this new whirlwind of after-school activities. **John** helps structure the World Bank's financing of COVID-19 vaccine purchases by poorer countries.

Abram Falk celebrated his 40th birthday in NYC with **Mike Kim**. Earlier in the summer, **Abram** and wife **E.B. Fortier Falk** had a mini-reunion with **Mike**, **Don Nguyen** and **Marilee Serrania**, **Dave Collins**, and **James Zvokel '04** at Little Island in NYC.

Danielle Masor Stember is in NYC as a neurologist at the Department of Veterans Affairs. She has three

boys, Jacob, Ben, and Emanuel.

John Fort loves teaching at historic Chaffey High School in Ontario, Calif. Daughter Amelie's first year at Carleton College was going great.

Todd Gillette and wife Laura had mostly settled into their first (non-rented) home in Columbia, Md., after moving in July; Skyler Jourdan Gillette arrived Sept. 19 weighing in at 6 pounds 9 ounces. In true Swarthmore fashion, the couple were learning a ton while struggling to get enough sleep.

2004

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The Class of 2004 continues to welcome babies. In July, **Kara Passmore Kinikin** and husband Jason had daughter Harriet. **Sarah Hilding** and husband Dan had son Winthrop in April. Their 2-year-old, Caroline, was "mostly" thrilled to be a big sister. **Sarah** is relieved to no longer be practicing medicine pregnant during a pandemic.

New feline family members

included Cinnamon and Winston, who were a boon to the emotional health of **Krista Gigone**, **Eric Shang**, and their kids during the ups and downs of COVID-19.

After many years in New York, **Carla Greenberg** moved in August to Philadelphia with husband Ben and son Miles, 4.5. The family has settled in Queen Village and would love to hear from Swatties nearby.

Along with brothers **Evan '01** and Michael, **Andrew Gregory** is working on his first animated project, an addition to the Takeo Ischi Cinematic Universe. In November, **Andrew** released his first solo album in 10 years, *Sketched Twice*. He and **Evan** are taking over as hosts of the podcast *Punch Up the Jam*. You can find them both on Spotify or wherever else you like to listen to things.

Mark Hanis reports that NPR covered Inclusive America's efforts to make the U.S. government more accommodating of people with disabilities.

Edwin and **Meg Woodworth Nam '03** live in Mexico City. **Edwin Way** teaches high school in Baton Rouge, La. Both **Edwins** would love to connect with any Swatties in their respective areas.

We, **Rebecca Rogers** and **Danny Loss**, met up with **Kirsten Vannice** over the summer and talked about vaccines as our kids romped around a playground.

2005

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I, **Emilano Rodriguez**, am stepping in briefly to cover for **Jessica**. She is a pediatric surgeon at the Children's Hospital New Orleans, and when I read the news of late in Nola, I offered to help.

Arthur "Ace" Chalmers settled in Sacramento, Calif., complete with a house, yard, dog, and a couple of fruit trees. He started a second job in the exciting field of psychedelic medicine and finally felt like he's hitting his Swattie potential to change the world. He caught up with **Jorge Aguilar** after seeing him featured in "Humans of New York." **An Bui** spent the last year leading marketing acquisition in First Republic Bank's lending and innovation lab. She and her spouse settled into a new home in San Francisco's Noe Valley and have seen a few Swatties.

The '05er formerly known as **Carmen Barron** has a marriage announcement. **Carmen Jean Bailey** and Caitlin Daley tied the knot Oct. 15 in a ceremony at the Inn at Woodloch, Hawley, Pa., and are happily settled in South Philadelphia.

Lindsay Brin moved to Ottawa, Ontario, with her husband and their twin-pandemic-toddlers in tow. They'd love to meet up with any other local Swatties.

Jesse Young renovated and built the cabinets for his kitchen in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. He also made a video with **Kirk Ellison**, **Brandon Luzar**, and **Scott Birney** for Professor Faruq Siddiqui's retirement.

In my own professional news, last summer I, **Emilano**, was elected secretary treasurer of Unite Here Local 274, the Philadelphia union of hotel and food service workers that I've spent the last 14 years working for as an organizer.

On to birth announcements: **Erin Dwyer-Frazier** and husband Steve Almeida welcomed daughter Grace

Almeida in June. Their sister-in-law served as their gestational carrier, and it was the greatest gift anyone could give — even at 2 a.m. Appropriately, some of the first people the baby met were **Katie Berry** and **Dan McCarthy** upon her arrival at her home in Massachusetts.

Olivia Toro and husband Mike Swigert had first child Roxy in September. They live with their two cats off H Street in D.C. Mike and **Olivia** work for the Aspen Institute (on different teams); they met while they both worked for D.C. public schools in 2008.

Jonathan Fombonne and **Lauren Stadler** '06 had Sidney Lise Stadler Fombonne on Aug. 11 in Houston. She joined brother Ozzie and sister Freya.

James Golden and Allison Berliner had Rory Golden Berliner on April 15 in San Francisco. Rory's brother, Theo, was 2. As for some personality details, Rory successfully crawled for the first time to grab a colorful TV remote, just like his brother did.

And, finally, a correction from the spring 2021 Class Notes. It was reported that **Blair Haxel** was a trader in permaculture. Although I'm sure a permaculture derivative will exist sooner or later, **Blair** works as a futures trader and is also exploring a hobby interest in permaculture in Burlington, Vt.

2007

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Joely and **Rohan Merriman-Parikh** '09 had Aakash Ashé Merriman-Parikh on Sept. 23. Aakash is happy, and so are they.

Samantha Graffeo Gardner and her family welcomed Shepard Gardner in mid-September. They've purchased their first home and are looking forward to their first winter back in Colorado, where **Samantha** practices pediatric dentistry. The family enjoyed a visit from Aunt **Paige Gentry**, and they invite

Swattie friends to visit if they're in the area.

Twan Claiborne celebrated their 10th anniversary in NYC, living in the same quaint Harlem abode with **Alyosha "Yoshi" Johnson** '08 and their sister Nika Knight. Additionally, **Twan** entered their 10th year of teaching, working at a special-education independent private Quaker school in Brooklyn Heights. Fun fact: The school is named for **Mary Stone McDowell**, Class of 1896, and a handful of Swatties work there, including **Bon Kaplan** '92. Since New York's reopening, **Twan's** drag persona, Kenya Keepup, has been lighting up stages and street corners. She might even audition for *RuPaul's Drag Race* Season 30. If you're in NYC, check out the show. (Kenya may also make an appearance at reunion.)

Peter and **Stephanie Koskovich Holm** live in the Bay Area with daughter Everly, 8. **Peter** works for Dropbox, and **Stephanie** works at the California Environmental Protection Agency and UC–San Francisco, having just finished an epidemiology Ph.D. this spring. When they aren't shuttling Evie to activities, they enjoy good food, reading, and skiing.

Juliet Braslow and **Carlos Villafuerte** '08 spent six months in a small family bubble in California with toddler Orion. They have enjoyed time with grandparents, running in the backyard, and finding ways to answer or reframe the endless questions a 3-year-old can ask. **Juliet** began a new position with the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok (telecommuting, for now) to support countries in the region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

James Kalafus spends his days developing software for Thomson Reuters, tending his indoor greenhouse, shaping his dogs' behavior for the seventh year, singing, and dancing. He loses sleep over the impact of information systems on reality testing and human relationships. He finds hope in the same. Look for **James** on social media, @TheKalafus.

Jonathan Ference-Burke and family relocated to the Milwaukee area, taking advantage of the pandemic to reassess priorities and focus more on family. **Jonathan** has been enjoying the many projects that a 110-year-old house offers, including casual electrical work, battling basement spiders, attempting to cultivate dogwoods and birches, and preparing for the Wisconsin winter. Rose, 5, and TJ, 3, loved being close to their schools and to their grandparents.

2008

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Meredith Leich made a snap decision in March 2020 to spend the pandemic in Boston. Seven hours later, she was on a mostly empty plane out of O'Hare to her parents' home. Over the summer, she drove with **John Boonstra** '07 back to Chicago to retrieve her possessions, and they had the pleasure of socially distant greetings with a handful of Swatties on their way there and back. **Meredith** has been (un)fortunate to keep teaching on Zoom — which zaps her brain — as an adjunct at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Loyola University Chicago. Her paintings are at meredithwatercolors.com.

Nick Forrest developed serious adult acne during quarantine, but he also reconnected (virtually) with his favorite people in the world: **Shane Breitenstein**, **Stephanie Duncan Karp**, and **Elizabeth "Bizzy" Hemphill**.

Linda Huang has had chronic knee, shoulder, and neck pain from sitting for all of 2020. She has worked for the same publishing company for over a decade designing book covers. Occasionally, she is asked by *The New York Times* to illustrate optimistic topics such as the collapse of our political system. She also designed the book jacket

for **Qian Julie Wang** '09's memoir, *Beautiful Country*.

After the Upright Citizens Brigade closed its New York theater at the start of the pandemic, **Madalyn Baldanzi** branched out on her own to teach independent pilot-writing classes. It's been going well, even though she misses her in-person community of fellow comedy writers. She's been filling the hours she would normally spend visiting family and friends with her new pandemic hobby: bird watching, with highlights of the year including a yellow-billed cuckoo in Brooklyn Bridge Park and magnolia warblers on Governor's Island.

Stephanie Hsu entered the ninth year of her love-hate relationship with her role as a nonprofit executive director. She is energized by working and making music with young people and being part of a team of artists and educators committed to antiracism and youth power. She is exhausted by the code-switching and cultural straddling involved in going from a donor meeting to facilitating a session with young folks about microaggressions to trying to push the envelope in board conversations around equity beyond tokenism. After some initial resistance, a decade of living in Yakima, Wash., has turned **Stephanie** into a Pacific Northwest stereotype who camps, hikes, gardens, worm-composts, and wears socks with sandals.

Over the pandemic, **Andrea Pien** connected with **Susannah Bien-Gund** and **Anna Ghublikian** over Zoom and separately organized in their respective chapters of Resource Generation. They created a virtual giving circle for Swatties to move money to the National Bail Fund. If anyone wants to talk about redistributing wealth or using privilege for good, reach out.

Andrea moved to Collingswood, N.J., and sometimes goes on walks with her dog, Gus, and **Susannah** and her baby, Yunfeng. Gus receives mail from **Evelyn Lai's** dog, Marshmellow, who lives in Austin, Texas. On the internet, **Andrea** plays Dominion with **Xiaoxia Zhuang** '10. In other internet fun, **Andrea** saw **Stephanie Hsu** on a webinar, and the two had

a personal and public conversation, after not seeing each other in over 10 years.

Meg Perry married Dustin Kingsmill in D.C. in March and started as an environmental facilitator, mediator, and planner with SWCA Environmental Consultants. She and Dustin relocated to Durham, N.C.

Katie Bates Weir and husband Alec had son James Alexander in July 2020. He and brother Henry brought the couple joy in such a dark year.

In 2018, **Bizzy** moved to rural New Mexico. While working at a sex toy and lingerie store in a town of 6,000, she tried to open a restaurant with partner Shane Duke when the seller of the restaurant building threatened to sue them and stole their car, which they retrieved after he crashed it into an Allstate insurance office. They moved to Las Vegas, N.M., and worked at a haunted former Harvey House, where **Bizzy** was called "señorita" by multiple elderly cowboys who may have been ghosts. They now live in Albuquerque with dogs Gertie and Box. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to the podcast *Dear So and So* by **Steph Duncan Karp**.

2010

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I'm delighted to offer you this tour of the 2010 alumni class, one of the most desirable properties in our inventory. Notice all the natural light, high-end finishes, and de-colonial style.

The first thing you notice as you walk in, obviously, is the **David Burgy**. He has been working in NYC climate adaptation for nine years, but finally found time to write in to announce his wedding. His husband, Alex, while not a Swattie, "appreciates the joy of life that Swatties have" — credit to wedding guests **Bradley Fong**, **Carl Shapiro**, and **Donald Burgy** '76. Another

statement piece you can't miss is first-time writer **Helen Hougen**, who completed her urology residency in Portland, Ore., and moved to Miami for a urologic oncology fellowship. She and husband Gary reported having to transition "from hiking boots to flip-flops, IPAs to tequila cocktails, and hiking up mountains to taking long walks on South Beach."

Of course the 2010 alumni class comes with all the standard amenities: a **Melissa Cruz**, psychotherapist for students at Sarah Lawrence College; a weatherized **Seth Green**, still hiking the Appalachian Trail, and the understated **G Patrick**, doctoring in the Philadelphia area and hoping to join a wound-care practice. The **Noah Lang** is still in good condition, and reported both "doing various things" and that he "likes and works in the moving picture industry." Finally, step out in the foyer and observe this state-of-the-art **Simone Fried**. She attended the first anniversary of **Madeleine Laupheimer** and Jonathan Turner in Waltham, Mass., along with **Helen Stott**, **Nia Gipson**, and **Ariel Horowitz** and **Garth Griffin** '09.

This class has undergone some beautiful upgrades. **Rachel Bell-Munger** (of the Minnesota attorney general's office) and husband Chris had baby Lucy Elizabeth in August, while **Tobias** '11 and **Erin Scanlon Resch** (third-year pediatric oncology fellow at Johns Hopkins) added baby Nora in May. In August, **Stephanie Appiah** and her husband welcomed Hudson Cash Appiah Jacoby in Detroit, while in Portland, Ore., **Mattie Gregor MacDonald** and husband Ian reported the birth of little Buddy MacDonald, renowned smiler at reading time. Philadelphia-based trauma therapist **Anne Miller-Uueda** added a second upgrade in the form of baby Wesley Wheeler Miller-Uueda, who was so excited to get into the world that he beat his doula by 10 minutes. That doula, of course, was **Cecelia Osowski** '15, who herself reported that she was married in September to Kris Williamson. The officiants were **Hana Lehmann** '13 and **Wes Willison** '12; in attendance were **Greg Loring-Albright** and **Omari Faakye**, and on

the livestream were **Katie Becker Poinen** and **Erik Smith**, joining at 4 a.m. from Tokyo. **Cecelia** lives in Souderton, Pa., and is one of the most energy-efficient doulas on the market.

If you're wondering about all the white, that's due to all the weddings. On an August night in Milwaukee, **Julissa Ventura** married Jose Pablo Flores, with **Oscar Guzman**, **Maryanne Tomazic** '09, **Libby Murphy** '09, and **Stefanie Wong** '07 among the guests. Then, shortly after receiving an MBA from Northwestern Kellogg, **Jessa Deutsch Kamerow** married Anna in September and moved with puppy Puffin back to Berkeley, Calif., where **Jessa** is a principal at Boston Consulting Group's San Francisco office. We know Puffin will enjoy the modern aesthetic of this doggy door.

Finally, if you're wondering about the theme of this column, your faithful chronicler and Missoula, Mont., Arabic teacher is renovating the house he bought with his wife. He can now operate a jackhammer, post-hole auger, and the most dangerous of saws, but still doesn't have a plumber. If you know or are one — or if you have notes about this up-and-coming 2010 class — please contact theworkzone@gmail.com.

2011

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Sneha Shrestha is a mom to two girls and started Yoma (which means "dear mother" in Newari), a parenting platform for expecting, new, and experienced moms in Nepal. **Sneha** is also looking to cater to a wider community of Swarthmore moms. She's at shrestha.sneha@gmail.com.

After paying off her student debt last year, **Samantha Griggs** took

time off to hike and travel in the U.S. and has decided to move to the West Coast. She planned to drive across the country, making many stops along the way until she arrived in Portland, Ore., by the beginning of 2022. In October, **Kathryn Stockbower** visited her former Swarthmore adviser and bio professor Rachel Merz in the San Juan Islands, Wash., and toured the Friday Harbor Marine Lab. **Aaron Zimmerman** and **Logan Osgood-Jacobs** had son Asa in July. **Trevor Rizzolo** moved to San Francisco and works on circuits, enjoying work-from-home while it lasted. **Finn Black** got their registered nurse license and was pursuing a master's in advanced public health nursing at UC–San Francisco. **Finn** also works in street medicine and public health on both sides of the Bay.

On Oct. 2, **Emily Evans** and **Jeffrey Lazarus** '10 were married on a ranch in Ukiah, Calif., with **Caitlin Adams**, **Sara Forster** and **Max Wilson** '10, **Phoebe Hansen** '12, and **Maddie Williams** '12 in attendance. **Emily** and **Jeff** knew each other in college and reconnected at business school.

Sophia Uddin, husband **Gabriel Riccio**, and their cockatiel, Willow, relocated to Baltimore. **Sophia** graduated from the University of Chicago Medical Scientist Training Program and is a first-year otolaryngology resident at the University of Maryland. **Gabriel's** latest book of King Crimson transcriptions has been reprinted (musiccores.bandcamp.com). **Kevin Kim** works at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum as a researcher coordinating a project documenting Asian Pacific American foodways in the D.C. region. **Eva McKend** joined CNN as a national politics reporter. She appears on air, writes stories for CNN digital, and covered the Virginia governor's race. **Nell Bang-Jensen** moved to Mount Airy in Philadelphia and enjoys occasionally running into Swatties. She gave birth to daughter Orla in June. **Nell** is the artistic director of Theatre Horizon in Norristown, Pa. **Shameika Black** was finishing her first year as a joint MDiv/MA

student at Palmer Theological Seminary at Eastern University in Wayne Pa. **Niki Machac** lives in Brooklyn and is an OB-GYN at Jamaica Hospital in Queens. **Morgan Langley** works in the league office of Major League Soccer and lives in NYC with wife Claudia and dog Cacique. **Ruby Bhattacharya** works in the Office of Admissions at Barnard College of Columbia University, where she was promoted to director of recruitment and selection.

Nina Pelaez started a low-residency poetry MFA program at Bennington College in Vermont and works at the Williams College Museum of Art in Williamstown, Mass., as curator of programs and interpretation. **Josh Abel** and **Debbie Nguyen** reside in suburban Massachusetts with their two pet rabbits, who require more care than they could ever imagine. **Josh** is an economic consultant at Analysis Group. In December, **Debbie** became executive director of Alray Scholars, a nonprofit that supports students returning to college after taking time off by providing financial assistance and mentorship.

2012

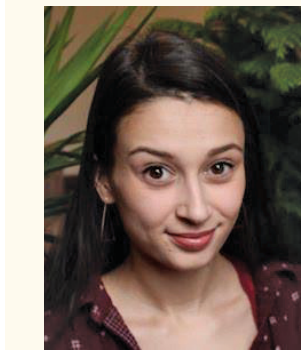
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After being deprived of what's most important in life — the people you hold dearest — I hope 2021 gave you the profound gift of time with them.

Fabian Castro is doing brand consulting, although he is also "investigating the potential of Web3 for anyone who wants to discuss." He moves between Brooklyn and Mexico City regularly. "I'm looking forward to seeing how old everyone looks at the 10-year reunion."

William Campbell is "continually shocked" to be the father of a baby boy named Seppi (short for Joseph).

Pierre Dyer finished an MBA at the London Business School,



LUMINOUS LINGUIST CASEY FERRARA '14

Casey Ferrara '14, a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago with a focus on cognition, gesture, and sign language analysis, is the 2021 recipient of the Victoria A. Fromkin Memorial Prize for Student Excellence in Phonology, presented by the Linguistic Society of America (LSA). The prize is awarded for outstanding scholarship in phonology by a graduate student.

"Casey Ferrara's work on sign languages recognizes that meaning is encoded in form," the LSA says, "and instead of stating that fact and then skirting around it to other matters, she hones in on it, indeed, revels in it — bringing sign phonology into the waters of phonetics made murky by semantics."

moved to D.C. to work in the hospitality industry, and is an associate director of real estate at Sonder and coaches a youth soccer team.

Stephanie Beebe lives in Baltimore with her boyfriend and dog Tigger, and she researches investments for T. Rowe Price. She "awakened to the truth that her life and her energy is completely her own, and she hopes others can experience the same."

Hannah "Alex" Younger is an adjunct professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she teaches in Craft and Material Studies and freshman Art Foundations. "I love it but college students are scary." She chose an apartment with ledges to please her cat.

Zach Weiner and **Lisa Shang** had a "frankly surprising amount of substantive updates." **Lisa** is a data scientist at Under Armour; **Zach** got his certified financial planner designation, and "perfect dog Pretzel" turned 3. **Zach** and **Lisa** attended the weddings of **Zach Schmidt**, **Iggy Rodriguez**, **Kat Montemurro** '13, and **Rory McTear** '13 and **Sam Bennett** '13.

Zack Wiener, on the other hand, is a chaplain in a psychiatric hospital and a self-described "rabbi who gleefully avoids pulpit work." He lives with his boyfriend in Chicago.

Julian Leland Bell and **Avery Davis Bell** are in Atlanta, where **Julian** does advanced research and development at UPS, and **Avery**

is doing a postdoc in the lab of **Annalise Paaby** '00 on a National Science Foundation fellowship. The couple have a baby named Asa, who is alternately an "absolute dream" and a "tiny demon."

Jonathan Martin is at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colo., but he is now a researcher III there instead of a postdoc. He married Xiaofei Pu on Dec. 28, 2020.

Jennifer Yi, who is a fully licensed clinical psychologist, works at the Durham (N.C.) Veterans Affairs Medical Center with veterans with substance-use disorders and PTSD.

Dante Fuoco is doing a poetry MFA at Virginia Tech. He bikes by cows, sheep, horses, ducks, and geese on his way to class. **Andrew Cheng** began a postdoc at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia.

2013

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Congratulations are in order for classmates who welcomed new family members. **Lisa Sendrow** and her husband had a future Swattie in October, while **Eugenia Tietz-Sokoloskaya** had her second baby,

Alexei, in June, noting: "Life is now chaos." **Joshua Satre** is a research analyst at ACLED in Frederick, Md., and he and wife Morgan had Ezekiel Joshua Satre in September; he shares a birthday with Nora, 2.

Across the country, our peers continue to advance in their academic and career journeys. **Miriam Goldstein** became a fully licensed clinical psychologist, working as an adult and adolescent therapist. After eight years in Ann Arbor, Mich., **Miriam** was preparing to move with her partner two hours west to Grand Rapids. **Miriam** shared that leaving a city she called home and loved was scary and exciting. **Joanna Venator** earned an economics Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, started a one-year postdoc at University of Rochester in New York, and will be an assistant professor next year at Boston College. Also on the East Coast, **Mariam Vonderheide** completed a dental residency program, specializing in prosthodontics, at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx in July and joined two dental practices in Brooklyn.

Max Nesterak lives in Minneapolis, where he is deputy editor of the nonprofit news outlet *Minnesota Reformer*. **Alejandro Sills** keeps himself healthy with his exercise regimen and work-from-home job. He was helping his mother, who suffered a broken arm from a fall over the summer,

and hoped that he'd soon resume charity work with Habitat for Humanity ReStore and rejoin a marathon-training club. **David Hill** and his wife purchased a house (once owned by **Cathy Wilkerson** '66) in Brooklyn in June, and **David** hit the five-year mark at Weil, Gotshal & Manges. Turning his new house into a home, **David** and his wife got a miniature poodle puppy dubbed Hudson Hill.

Wishing everyone health, happiness, and healing in the coming year.

2014

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As the leaves changed, 2014 alumni were undergoing many changes in their lives. **Lisa Bao** and **Aidan Shackleton** celebrated their wedding, which was postponed by a year due to COVID-19. They were wed in a summer ceremony in Northern California's Santa Cruz mountains with many Swatties in attendance.

Anthony Collard bought a house in Brewerytown, Philadelphia. He works at Siemens Healthineers and was promoted to senior digital marketing manager, North America. **Robert Fain**, in his final year of medical school at Brown University, was applying for residency in internal medicine. He also worked at the health center on Block Island, New Shoreham, R.I., and used his free time to explore and surf.

Casey Ferrara was awarded the Linguistic Society of America's Victoria Fromkin Prize for Student Excellence in Psychology. **Hannah Grunwald** and **Robin Carpenter** lead exciting lives in Boston.

Hannah started her postdoctoral fellowship working with cave fish or penguins at Harvard. **Robin** dominated the cycling circuit last summer and became the first American ever to win a stage at the Tour of Britain. He continues to ride with Rally Cycling. Most

importantly, their cats and COVID puppy continue to thrive.

Stephanie Lechich successfully defended her dissertation for a clinical psychology Ph.D. at Long Island University in Brooklyn. Her project was titled "The Impact of Perfectionism on Well-Being: Shame in Perfectionism's Influence on Emotion Regulation." She was completing her internship at North Central Bronx Hospital.

Lastly, **Eleanor Pratt** and **Pat Walsh** live in Chicago, where **Pat** is in his fourth year of his mathematics Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois. **Eleanor** works for the Urban Institute, studying social policies that affect low-income families. They had baby Monroe in July and have experienced so much joy and sleep deprivation since.

The author is now halfway through a general surgery residency at York Hospital in York, Pa. She will be secluded in the trauma ICU for the next three months and mentally prepared for the rotation with a week's vacation hiking Sedona, Ariz., and then a visit to New Orleans. She also loves to receive Swat alum updates at any time throughout the year.

2015

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A strong opening sentence is like the following updates from the Class of 2015: exciting, intriguing, and absolutely essential.

Ariel Parker married **Aaron Jackson** '16 in March in Baltimore. She was finishing a Ph.D. in the biology department at Johns Hopkins University and hoped to defend by the summer. **Anirban Ganguly** was in his second year at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. Meanwhile, **Sabrina Singh** temporarily relocated to sunny

Singapore with a U.S. law firm.

Patrick Ross is a speechwriter at West Wing Writers in D.C. but was working remotely from Palo Alto, Calif. He spent the summer on a road trip around Britain's best craft-gin distilleries. After about a decade of writing with **Patrick** on various projects, **Kimaya Diggs** is also a speechwriter at West Wing Writers. She's working on her solo album and writing a lot about grief. **Kiera James** finished clinical psychology Ph.D. and moved from Seattle to Pittsburgh with puppy Rainie to complete a postdoc at the University of Pittsburgh.

Julian Randall moved back to Chicago in 2020, and has been busy working on his debut middle-grade novel, *Pilar Ramirez and the Escape from Zafa*, due out March 1. It's available for preorder. He was also included as a contributor in the No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller *Black Boy Joy*.

Kate Wiseman pivoted in education and works as a theater-teaching artist and writes curriculum. She's thrilled to be back on the stage, being silly for applause. On the other side of Chicago, **Julia Murphy** was in her final stretch of medical school and continued to seek out new food spots. When **Julia** is not eating, or even when she is, she is reading fun books.

Lauren Barlow and **Daniel Feist-Alexandrov** have settled into Cambridge, Mass., and grad-school life. Since arriving from Chicago and Switzerland, respectively, the reunited pals have begun to explore the lobster-roll scene. **Daniel** has flourished as the unofficial social chair of his cohort, and after a pandemic-long hiatus (out of respect for her neighbors), **Lauren** has returned to tap dancing, at a local studio.

Finally, your secretaries may have been a little too goofy last time around. After writing that **Nate Cheek** received his Ph.D. (a true fact), we wrote a joke about **Abigail Frank** also having a Ph.D., with **Ph.D.** standing for phenomenal dancer, in her case. This joke was reworded by the copy editor to: **Abigail** "also has a Ph.D. and is a phenomenal dancer." Though it's objectively hilarious that this

happened, we dutifully clarify that **Abigail** does not actually have a Ph.D. At **Nate's** urging, however, we're leaving the "phenomenal dancer" part uncorrected. In the copy editor's defense, this situation is much funnier than our original joke.

2017

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George Abraham's book of poetry, *Birthright*, won the George Ellenbogen Poetry Award from the Arab American National Museum. They also left their bioengineering Ph.D. at Harvard to do an MFA and master's program in poetry at Northwestern. **George** is rooming with **Deflin Buyco**, who's starting a biology Ph.D. at Northwestern.

Meg Barlet (formerly Bost) and **Isaac Barlet** (formerly Little) got married in Colorado and changed their names together. **Dan Asplin**, **Chris Grasperger**, and **Laina Chin** '16 were in the wedding party.

Peter Daniels graduated from Harvard Law School, moved to Oregon, and started clerking for the Oregon Supreme Court. He is also training for his first 50-mile ultramarathon. **Amelia Estrada** is in her second year of the M.A./Ph.D. program in theater and performance studies at Tufts University. She was writing her master's thesis on the first women's pair to represent Team Mexico in acrobatic gymnastics and how the "bling" aesthetics of the sport reflect identity.

Ashley Hong started a master of public policy program at Harvard Kennedy School this fall. **Charles Kacir** started a physics Ph.D. program at UNC-Chapel Hill in August. He lives in Durham with **Gracie Farle**, who is mostly excited to be teaching her second year of high school biology in person.

Nikki Miller is leading talent

acquisition at the tech company Correlation One. Their mission is to bring in underrepresented voices to the field of data science. They also host hackathons and software-engineering competitions. Bringing diversity, equity, and inclusion hiring practices to the world of tech has been truly transformational for **Nikki. Joon Park** started the second year of a computer science Ph.D. at Stanford.

Jerry Qin migrated from SoCal to NYC. He has been growing a strong fig jam collection and starting to experiment with making hot sauce while doing some data science on the side. Reach out to him for dinner parties and movie gatherings in Brooklyn or Manhattan.

2018

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Let's take a moment to see what some of us have done in 2021.

Some have found new friends: **Emma Suen-Lewis** adopted a cat, Smokey, who is busy terrorizing her other cat, Toasty, and making vroom-vroom noises when he runs around.

Some of us have begun new adventures (metaphorically and physically). **Cal Dobbs** took a sabbatical from teaching to hike the nearly 7,000-mile Great Western Loop trail that includes the Continental Divide Trail (CDT), Pacific Crest and Northwest trails, Arizona Trail, and other connecting trails — a route only a few people have completed. At the time of this submission, **Cal** was a few hundred miles from completing the CDT and on track to make history as the first trans nonbinary person to complete the Triple Crown of hiking (Arizona, Pacific Crest, and Continental Divide trails). They are using their hikes to raise funds for the Trevor Project, which provides support

and resources to LGBTQ+ youth.

Over the course of the pandemic, **Wesley Han** decided to take their work as an actor more seriously. At the beginning of 2021, they signed with a new talent agency and management company and have since booked work with actors like Natasha Lyonne, Aubrey Plaza, and Rachel Weisz. **Matt Palmer** is a product analyst at AllTrails and moved to Utah in October.

Some of us have finished graduate school. **Emily Olivencia-Audet** earned a law degree in May from UCLA. In September, she started as a fellow with the Social Justice Legal Foundation in L.A. Husband **Matt Olivencia-Audet** started as a software engineer in July at Google's Venice Beach, Calif., location. **John Calia** graduated from law school and lives in the Bay Area with **Margaret Luo '16**.

Some of us are on our way to finishing graduate school. **Amber Sheth** lives in Madison, Wis., where she finished her third year of medical school and began a master's in public health this fall. **Bobby Zipp** was finishing grad school in computer science, got a job at an ed-tech startup, and was working on a nonprofit program to support people impacted by QAnon conspiracy theories. He also started jogging again for the first time in nine months after hip surgery. **Bobby** saw **Isabel Sacks '15** in person at their joint housewarming and birthday party in September.

2019

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Lan Ngo had an exciting summer jam-packed with mosquito bites, "heavy-arse luggage," kayaking, and outdoor activities. As part of her travels, in Madison, Wis., she saw **Laela Ezra**, who had acquired a dog, a girlfriend, a condo, and a

therapist, in that order.

Moving west, we have **Saadq Garba** who moved to Los Angeles, where the smog is wild but the weather is beautiful. Speaking of the complex relationships between human and nature, **Sarah Parks** expanded her gardening exploits. She planted several ferns, sedges, and astilbes under the trees in the parking lot in a battle of wits and stamina that will surely go down in gardening history. **Irene Tang** is raising two ducks in her backyard named Pungsi and Clumsi.

Perhaps raising ducks is a similar experience to life-coaching **Sebastian Mintah**, which **Eriko Shrestha** has been up to. This must be over Zoom, as **Eriko** moved to Kathmandu, Nepal, where she can't find any Swatties. **Sebastian**, on the other hand, is firmly in Philadelphia, trying to do many things to varying degrees of success, including wing chun, basketball, cooking, and persuading others to watch *Dragon Ball*. **Pascha Hokama**, also in Philadelphia, was left with **Sebastian's** days-old CoLeSLaw, which sat in her fridge for quite some time.

Speaking of antiquities, **Angela Wang** is at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, finishing her master's capstone, "Interpreting Greco-Roman Antiquities in Museums."

Jada Smack, on the other hand, is "this" close to considering grad school again, a feeling I'm sure many of us are familiar with. NYC Swatties, hit him up.

In close proximity to New York, we have **Kyle Richmond-Crosset** in New Haven, Conn., in a house that is experiencing a flood of tax-related mail for Grantas Cosmetics LLC, a mysterious and poorly named beauty company.

Amal Sagal and **Celine Anderson** have not been experiencing a flood of mail, but have been binge-watching *Seinfeld* and have no plans to stop.

I, **Dorcas Tang**, have also been watching things and people on screens with **Celine**, as part of our monthly film club. For the month's theme, sensual breads, I nominated *The Passion of the Christ*. (Interpret that how you will.)

2020

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Seasons change, and so do we. Well, except **Sagnik Gayen's** Catan beat-down of **Oliver Steinglass** continues, and no one can prove otherwise.

Brandon Shi got a dog. If you want to see a picture, reach out to **Brandon**, who will happily oblige.

Sophie Nasrallah got a job this summer as a research technician at Cornell, studying agricultural techniques that combat climate change. Yale 360 wrote an article about **Sophie's** lab's work titled "How Adding Rock Dust to Soil Can Help Get Carbon Into the Ground" (tinyurl.com/3sdxsxy).

Emma Morgan-Bennett is in London for her second year of the Marshall Scholarship. She loves the city and all the people she's been working with on films and projects. This summer she worked for the London Design Festival and the BFI London Film Festival, where her highlight of the week was accidentally standing next to Jay-Z on the red carpet for *The Harder They Fall*. (No, she didn't say anything to him since all she could do was gasp, but his bodyguard laughed at her as he nudged her out of the way.) If anyone visits or moves to London, don't be a stranger.

Mehra den Braven embraced change and moved to Philadelphia to support the city's efforts to house people coming home from incarceration. Thankfully, no mice were harmed or unknowingly transported in the move from California (big win).

Some other classmates also experienced big wins this season. **Laura Wagner** and **Abby Diebold** finally went to Six Flags. It was awesome.

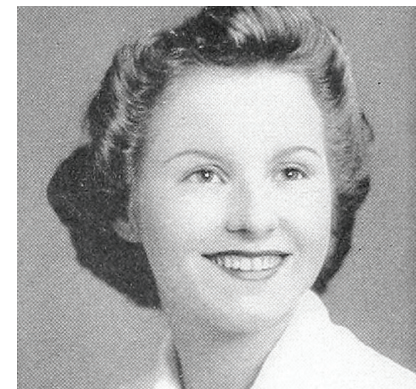
We look forward to hearing from everyone.



LAURENCE KESTERSON

their light lives on

our friends will never be forgotten



Constance Spink Fleming '43

A longtime teacher in Jenkintown, Pa., Connie died Sept. 20, 2021.

An English literature major, she earned a master's in elementary education from Temple University. Connie was a member of the Studio Art Group and College Dancers at Swarthmore and served as class secretary and vice president.

Janet Locke Genest '45

Janet, a retired elementary school teacher and mother of three, died Sept. 9, 2020.

Janet graduated with a psychology degree from Swarthmore, where she was a member of the Chorus, the *Phoenix*, and the synchronized swimming team. In 1968, she earned a certificate in elementary education from California State University Stanislaus in Turlock.

Joseph Lichtenberg NV

Joseph, a psychoanalyst and Navy veteran of World War II, died May 19, 2021.

Joseph earned a medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and had a private psychoanalytic practice for 55 years, during which he wrote numerous chapters, articles, and books, including *Psychoanalysis and Motivation*. He was clinical director of the Sheppard

Pratt Psychiatric Hospital in Baltimore, where he also taught; he also created and served as editor-in-chief of the *Psychoanalytic Inquiry* journal, co-founded the Institute of Contemporary Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, and taught at a number of higher education institutions.

Peter Dodge '48

Peter, a longtime sociologist at the University of New Hampshire in Durham who enjoyed participating in the Newburyport (Mass.) Choral Society, died Nov. 7, 2021.

An Army veteran, having served from 1945 to 1946, Peter graduated with high honors in history from Swarthmore, where he worked for the *Phoenix* and later served as class agent. After completing a Fulbright scholarship in Belgium, Peter earned a master's and a Ph.D. in social sciences from Harvard University before joining the faculty of the University of New Hampshire,



Arden Fish Pierce '49

Arden, who opened her home to one and all, died Sept. 20, 2021.

A math major at Swarthmore, Arden later attended Stanford University and became a physical therapist, working for 20 years at El Camino Hospital and then for the Visiting Nurses Association. She ran a folk-dance campout with husband Hiram, was a member of the Palo Alto (Calif.) Friends Meeting, and was a donor and volunteer with Planned Parenthood.

where he retired as an associate professor emeritus of sociology.

Margaret White Winters '49

A watercolorist with a sense of humor and impeccable style, Peg died Aug. 4, 2021.

Peg graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College, studying French and philosophy, and developing her artistry in watercolor painting. She worked at Lippincott Inc. as a typist and later opened Kennett Square, Pa.'s Brush & Pallet, a frame shop and art gallery.

Boyd Asplundh '50

Boyd, a father of seven and retired executive with his family's tree business, died Jan. 14, 2021.

Boyd earned an engineering degree from Swarthmore and was a member of Alumni Council, Tau Beta Pi honor society, and the varsity football team. After receiving a law degree from the

University of Pennsylvania, he worked for Asplundh Tree Expert Co., based in Willow Grove, Pa., retiring as senior vice president and secretary.

Renee Stoetznner Fuller '51

Renee, who was known for developing the "ball-stick-bird" reading method, died Jan. 2, 2019.

Born in Germany, Renee attended Swarthmore before ultimately graduating from Hunter College; she then earned a master's from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from New York University. Renee was a research scientist before becoming chief of psychological services at the Rosewood Hospital Center in Owings Mills, Md. However, she was perhaps best known for authoring several books on methods to foster reading for those with dyslexia and other learning disabilities, as well as for founding Ball-Stick-Bird Publications.

William Van Stone '51

A retired psychiatrist and music enthusiast who played saxophone and bassoon and sang in many choruses, Bill died Sept. 22, 2021.

Bill earned a bachelor's in chemistry at Swarthmore, where he was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, the wrestling and tennis teams, the orchestra, the *Phoenix*, and the radio station. After receiving his medical degree from Cornell University, he practiced as a psychiatrist with the Veterans Administration and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joanne Godshall Wenner '51

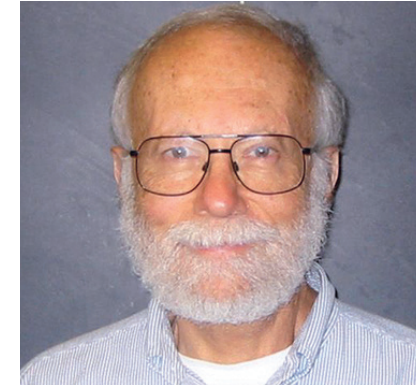
Joanne, a daughter and granddaughter of Swarthmore alumni, died Sept. 26, 2021.

Joanne attended Swarthmore and had a love of flowers and the arts, participating in watercolor and oil painting, ceramics, and flower arranging, and singing with the Worthington (Ohio) Songsters. She also loved watching old movies and playing bridge, solitaire, and crazy eights.

Anne Maurice Braham '52

Anne, who was committed to children in difficult circumstances, died in October 2021.

Anne earned a bachelor's degree in psychology with honors from Swarthmore and a master's in social work from Bryn Mawr College before becoming founder and CEO of the World of Golf, which she built into a successful business in New York City.



Arthur Mattuck '51

Arthur, an emeritus professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an avid gardener at the Fenway Victory Gardens in Boston, died Oct. 8, 2021.

Specializing in algebraic geometry, Arthur earned a Ph.D. from Princeton University before joining the MIT faculty in 1958; he retired in 2010. He was the author of the textbook *Introduction to Analysis* and a talented musician and master of languages.

After leaving the golf-retailing world, Anne moved to Stowe, Vt., where she was a social worker and a guardian ad litem for the family court, all of which she undertook as a volunteer.

Joseph Carroll '53

Joe, a scholar, athlete, musician, pilot, and founder of Mount Nittany Vineyard and Winery in Pennsylvania, died Nov. 4, 2021.

After earning his bachelor's in mechanical engineering, Joe received a master's and doctorate from Indiana University Bloomington and became an associate professor at Pennsylvania State University; he worked at the Pennsylvania Transportation and Traffic Safety Center before returning to teaching, retiring as a professor emeritus in 1992. A civic-minded man, Joe was a soccer coach, school board member, township supervisor, and community activist, in addition to being a Navy veteran of the Korean War.

Gail Macmahon Cornaro '53

Gail, who lived in Austria, Italy, and Italy, died Sept. 17, 2021.

Gail earned a bachelor's in history with high honors and Phi Beta Kappa, and was a member of the College Choir and Orchestra. A homemaker, Gail had six children and was married to Christoph Cornaro, a retired Austrian ambassador and former special student at Swarthmore.

Rosalind Reydel Esakof '53

Rosalind, a biology major and devoted mother of three, died Feb. 12, 2021.

A lifelong resident of Forest Hills, N.Y., Rosalind also served as president of Forest Hills Gardens Corp. Her loved ones note that she was a "beautiful woman inside and out, who showed kindness and compassion to everyone she met."

Thomas Gallagher '53

Thomas, a lifelong student of literature, music, art, religion, food, and wine, died Aug. 13, 2021.

Thomas attended the University of Chicago and Swarthmore before entering the Navy in 1952, after which he went to medical school. In 1970, Thomas joined the faculty of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, retiring in 1999 after a career of research, teaching students, and working with patients and fellow physicians.

Robert Griest Jr. '53

Robert, a Navy veteran and 20-year military reservist, died Jan. 29, 2021.

After Swarthmore, Robert earned a master's in mechanical engineering and an MBA, both from the University of Southern California, and he used his engineering skills at Honeywell Inc. and for Alliant Tech's Marine Systems Division in San Diego. An enthusiast of bridge, crossword puzzles, and golf, Robert also enjoyed many trips to Yosemite and Mammoth Lakes, Calif., with his family.

William Reid '53

Bill, a pathologist and varsity swimmer at the College, died Oct. 18, 2021.

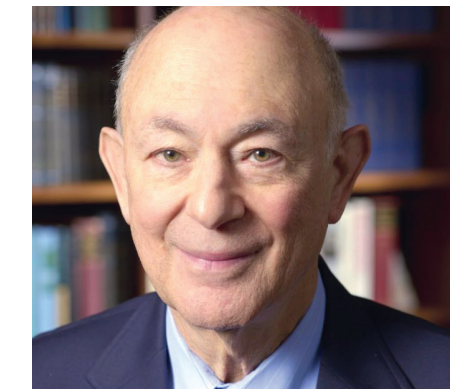
With a medical degree from the

University of Pennsylvania, Bill had a distinguished career in the field of pathology, where he published breakthrough research in the treatment of hemophilia. Bill also had a passion for life, with interests in classical music, antiques, shells, tennis, coins, reading, and traveling.

Nancy Gibbons Walden '53

Nancy, a music lover who performed as well as managed her church's concert series, died Sept. 16, 2020.

A mathematics major at Swarthmore,



Robert Grossman '53

Robert, who performed 8,000 surgeries and was one of two neurosurgeons who treated the fatally shot President John F. Kennedy, died Oct. 7, 2021.

After completing his education and residency, Robert began a medical career from which he never retired, with positions that included professor of neurological surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, founder and director of the Neurological Institute at Houston Methodist Hospital, and founder of the North American Clinical Trials Network for spinal cord injury. Robert also was chair of the American Board of Neurological Surgeons, president of the Society of Neurological Surgeons, and recipient of many honors, including the Cushing Medal and the Albert and Ellen Grass Foundation Prize and Medal.

faculty & staff

George Anderson, a chemistry professor and research scientist, died Oct. 8, 2021. He was 87.

Brenda Foreman, a retired housekeeper, died Oct. 24, 2021. She was 72.

Lila Gleitman, who began her academic career as an assistant professor at the College, died Aug. 8, 2021. She was 92.

Robinson Hollister Jr., the Joseph Wharton Professor Emeritus of Economics, who taught at Swarthmore for 44 years, died Sept. 14, 2021. He was 86.

Ruth Ann Moffett, a secretary at Swarthmore, died Aug. 8, 2021. She was 79.

Edward Picciotti, a longtime Public Safety shuttle driver, died Oct. 21, 2021. He was 71.

Susan Stern, an instructor of modern dance, died Oct. 18, 2021. She was 97.



Lucy Bunzl Mallan '54

Lucy, an economics pioneer whose work focused on economic justice for women, died Aug. 9, 2021.

Lucy earned an economics Ph.D. from Northwestern University and worked at the Commission on Railroad Retirement, the Brookings Institution, and the Social Security Administration. She later became interested in using computers in education and earned a master's in computer science at age 53.

Nancy worked at General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y., before eventually marrying, moving to Niskayuna, N.Y., and raising a family. In 1983, she completed an MBA at Union College, after which she held a few jobs, including as a tax preparer specializing in retired clergy, before she herself retired.

Arthur Bodin '54

Art, a psychologist, avid photographer, musician, and composer who took great pleasure in telling jokes and stories, died Oct. 15, 2021.

After receiving a biology degree from Swarthmore, Art earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and, with wife Miriam, moved to Palo Alto, Calif., in 1965; he was a clinical psychologist at the Mental Research Institute and had a practice in couples and family systems/therapy until he retired in 2015. In addition, Art taught, conducted research, published widely, and held positions of leadership in various professional organizations, while also helping to found the California School of Professional Psychology.

Anne Schick Chappelka '55

Anne, a social worker focused on children, died Sept. 10, 2021.

Anne earned a master's degree in social work from Bryn Mawr College in 1971 and became a preschool-teaching director and trainer for the Head Start program in Chattanooga, Tenn.; she later worked as a home-based child

welfare caseworker and then as a child abuse and neglect outreach program team member at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. An active participant of community activities, Anne also served on the board of the Perry County (Pa.) Literacy Council.

Scott Cooper '55

Scott, an engineer, Army veteran, and award-winning photographer who encouraged his children to question everything, died July 31, 2021.

Scott's degree in mechanical engineering from Swarthmore led to a career in the plastics industry; he was an executive with several major manufacturers, including Mearl Corp. of Peekskill, N.Y., from which he retired as vice president. Scott loved photography and received many awards for his art, including a grand prize in *Gourmet* magazine's annual photography contest.

Rhea Mendoza Gendzier '55

Rhea, a psychologist who worked on the *Phoenix* while at Swarthmore, died Oct. 31, 2021.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Swarthmore, Rhea earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Harvard University, and then worked as an experimental psychologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and several Boston hospitals. She was an avid gardener, reader, and tennis player and an excellent and adventurous cook who enjoyed hosting celebrations at her home in Lexington, Mass.

Steven Phillips '55

Steve, a professor emeritus at Temple University, died Sept. 18, 2021.

Steve earned a biology degree at the College and a medical degree from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia before joining the anatomy faculty at Temple. Among other activities at Swarthmore, Steve was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, the varsity cross-country team, and the College Chorus/Garnet Singers, and he was one-half of a Quaker matchbox marriage to Elizabeth Harlow Phillips '53, who died in 2018.

Sheila Brody '57

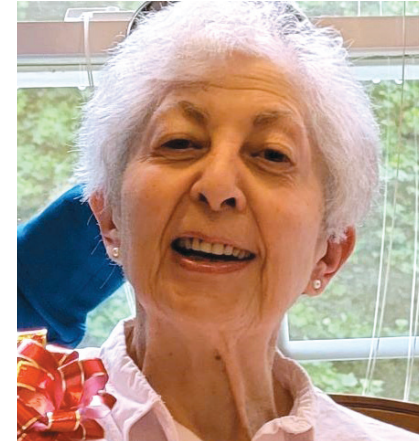
A role model and mentor for younger women in financial services and a



Robert Barr Jr. '56

Bob, who devoted more than 30 years of his professional life to the College, retiring as dean emeritus of admissions, died Oct. 7, 2021.

Bob joined Swarthmore after graduation as assistant dean of admissions, serving until 1962, when he was appointed dean of men. After brief stops at Chatham College and Dickinson College, he returned to Swarthmore, retiring in 1996. At Alumni Weekend 2021, Bob received the Joseph B. Shane '25 Alumni Service Award, recognizing his support of the Chester Children's Chorus, the Scott Arboretum, and the Swarthmore Fund, and his numerous volunteer contributions.



Barbara Haddad Ryan '59

Barbara, a journalist who broke glass ceilings and was known as "a Wonder Woman Watch Dog" of public policy, died Sept. 30, 2021.

Barbara graduated with honors from Swarthmore and earned a master's in journalism from Columbia University before starting her career at *The Denver Post* and *Rocky Mountain News*. Later, she was Swarthmore's associate vice president of external affairs and head of the Alumni Office.

devoted single mother to two sons, Sheila died Sept. 8, 2021.

After earning her bachelor's degree, Sheila worked at Merrill Lynch before joining Enhance Financial Services Group Inc. as head of investor relations; she retired in 1998 as a senior vice president. A lifelong learner, Sheila returned to graduate school and earned a master's in geography in 2002 from Hunter College in New York, taking classes offered by Swarthmore in the years that followed.

Bruce Kennedy '57

Bruce, a native of upstate New York who became a devoted fan of the Boston Celtics and Red Sox, died Aug. 2, 2021.

After earning an engineering degree at Swarthmore, Bruce and wife Clem lived in Washington, D.C.; Syracuse, N.Y.; Weisbaden, Germany; Melbourne, Fla.; and Champaign, Ill., before finally moving in 1967 to Acton, Mass., where he joined Polaroid as a design engineer. An avid reader and traveler, Bruce also taught his family to sail and enjoyed hosting friends at his beloved home in Waquoit, Mass., on Cape Cod.

Linda Walton Doede '59

Linda, who once served as Hamden (Conn.) Community Ambassador in Poland and who had a love for learning and travel, died Aug. 3, 2021.

Settling in Lake Forest, Ill., after graduation and marriage, Linda dedicated herself to raising three children and volunteering with

organizations such as the Chicago Botanic Garden, where she eventually became a full-time volunteer coordinator. Linda earned an MBA from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management in 1985, retiring from the garden in 2002 after a stroke.

Janet Jones '61

A leading researcher and professor of analytical chemistry who increased opportunities for women in science, Janet died Sept. 21, 2021.

After Swarthmore, Janet earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology and served on the faculties of Colorado State University, the University at Buffalo, and North Carolina State University. In 1994, she was named director of the Chemistry Division at the National Science Foundation, from which she retired in 2001. The next year, Janet



and her husband established the Comis Foundation, which is committed to improving the education of young children and youth.

Ellen Gower '62

Ellen, a neuroscientist who loved the Maine coast and had a passion for philosophy, literature, and art, died Oct. 15, 2021.

Ellen earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, established her own laboratory researching neuroanatomy and memory, and was affiliated with the Boston University School of Medicine, Tufts University, and the Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center. She was active in Boston's musical community, singing in the King's Chapel Choir, and playing the viola and serving as Orchestra Committee Chair of the Harvard Musical Association.

Thomas Wick '63

Thomas, an investment banker and one-half of a Quaker matchbox marriage to the now-late Barbara Diebold Wick '64, died Nov. 12, 2021.

An economics major at Swarthmore, Thomas went on to receive an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago. A father of three, Thomas "loved Swarthmore, his time there, playing on the tennis team, studying mathematics and then economics, and meeting my mother there — in Saturday morning German class," daughter Cynthia Wick '88 wrote in a tribute.

Gilbert Harman '60

Gil, a professor emeritus of philosophy at Princeton University, died Nov. 13, 2021.

After earning a Ph.D. in philosophy from Harvard University, Gil joined the faculty of Princeton, where he was well-known across a range of areas, including moral philosophy, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, and epistemology. His first book, *Thought*, is widely cited, with selections frequently reprinted.



Samuel Davis '80

Sam, a longtime youth football coach who once mentored NFL player and Los Angeles Rams assistant coach Tory Woodbury, died Aug. 11, 2021.

A member of the Swarthmore Gospel Choir, Sam was a former sportswriter for the *Winston-Salem Journal* and a former sports editor of *The Chronicle* in North Carolina. Sam also published a weekly online newspaper that highlighted area youth and high school sports.

Andrew Cook '67

Andy, a 12th-generation doctor and a farmer who loved the outdoors, the ocean, and sailing, died Sept. 29, 2021.

A history major, Andy earned a medical degree from Yale University and a master's in education from Harvard University, followed by residencies in psychiatry. He worked in mental health centers, hospitals, and private practice in Maine before becoming medical director of Maine's Children's Behavioral Health, retiring in 2009; in 2021, he was recognized by the Maine Medical Association for 50 years of service. He and wife Jaki also owned a cattle farm on Woodward Point in Brunswick, Maine, and later passed it on to the Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Lawrence Gordon '67

Larry, the "Johnny Applesseed" of shape-note singing who helped to start a food co-op and cannery, died Nov. 9, 2021.

At Swarthmore, Larry was active in Students for a Democratic Society; he later joined the New Hamburger Commune in Plainfield, Vt., and formed the Word of Mouth Chorus, which toured the South and recorded an album. Larry was a high school music teacher, and in 1988, after taking a group of students to a sacred harp convention, he created Village Harmony and its summer camps, which were held all over the world.

Stephen Maurer '67

Steve, the Neil R. Grabois '57 Professor Emeritus in the Natural Sciences

and Engineering, who served on Swarthmore's faculty for 38 years, died Aug. 25, 2021.

Read more about Steve on pg. 16.

Andrew Weinstein '69

Andy, a biology major at Swarthmore who was a member of Sigma Xi, played football, and captained the tennis team, died Oct. 3, 2021.

Andy earned a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, completed a pediatric allergy fellowship, and trained in family therapy. Certified by multiple medical and professional boards, Andy had a 35-year career as a practicing allergist with Asthma & Allergy Care of Delaware; he also wrote 30 articles, was president of the Pennsylvania Allergy Association, and was a member of numerous professional associations, enjoying free time sailing on his boat, *Melinda Lu*.

Joyce Olum-Galaski '70

Joyce, a rabbi for Congregation Ahavas Achim in Westfield, Mass., died Nov. 14, 2021.

Joyce earned a German degree at Swarthmore and a master's in education from the University of

Massachusetts, Amherst, before deciding to pursue the rabbinate and attending the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Wyncote, Pa. A committed advocate for justice, Joyce worked with Interns for Peace in Jerusalem, took on a leading role in Jews Against Genocide in Bosnia, helped to found T'ruah: the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and worked with the Physicians for Social Responsibility campaign for nuclear disarmament, "Back from the Brink."

David Raymond '78

Dave, an official announcer in boxing rings and at swim meets, died Sept. 12, 2021.

A member of the Players Club in Swarthmore, Dave started his career in legal publishing sales at Real Estate Data Inc. before joining publishers Matthew Bender and West Group; he later changed careers to business security sales and worked with ADT and Stanley Black & Decker. Affectionately known as "Big Dave" because of his larger-than-life personality, he played high school and collegiate football and basketball and ran track, while as an adult he was a referee for youth football and basketball programs in South Jersey.

Robert Simon '81

Robert, a teacher and artist, died Aug. 28, 2021.

After Swarthmore, Robert completed graduate study in art history at Harvard University, then lived and worked in Paris and Amsterdam, teaching visual and media studies at the Hogeschool van Amsterdam. Known for his directness and the quality of his attention, Robert exhibited photography and wrote on subjects ranging from Cézanne to Staffordshire bull terriers.

Submit an obituary

To report the death of an alum, email obituaries@swarthmore.edu. Please provide the class year (if known), the date of death, and a short biography or link to a published obituary.

Newspaper obituaries may also be mailed to Swarthmore College Bulletin, 500 College Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081.

looking back



LAURENCE KESTERSON

Although foot warmers were practical items, the carved initials and hearts on this one indicate it was likely a gift for a woman with the initials H.G.

A CENTURY AND A HALF AGO, long before down jackets and Gore-Tex boots, keeping warm was difficult. Now, as students don their heavy coats, the Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore is showcasing an old-fashioned alternative to modern winter gear.

The FHL, which celebrated its 150th anniversary this fall, is displaying a collection of soapstone and wooden foot warmers. Although the popularity of such foot warmers declined by the end of the 19th century, these items served an essential purpose in their time.

Archivist Celia Caust-Ellenbogen '09 shared details about the FHL

display, including a soapstone foot warmer from Lansdowne, Pa., and a wooden foot warmer from New York. Caust-Ellenbogen noted that "there is nothing distinctly 'Quaker' about either," although both belonged to Quaker families. In fact, similar items have been documented in most parts of the world. How did these footwarmers function, and how would they have been used?

"Soapstone would have been warmed in the fire," Caust-Ellenbogen says. These foot warmers were used in parlors or on carriage rides and might have been wrapped and placed at the foot of one's bed to keep it warm.

Wooden foot warmers were perforated for ventilation. Inside, a small tin bowl enclosed a coal that generated heat. People balanced their feet on top with a blanket covering their legs to trap the warmth.

While foot warmers were practical items, Caust-Ellenbogen shared the unexpectedly sentimental origins of one item in the library collection. The carved initials and hearts on this foot warmer indicate that it was likely a gift for a woman with the initials H.G. During a cold winter, such a toasty token would surely have been appreciated. ❸

— EMMA NOVAK '22

REGULA WILLI



► The COVID-19 pandemic has made the experiences of immigrants more difficult, says Dorit Sallis '86.

SEEKING REFUGE

People unable to survive in their home countries take massive risks — leaving home in the hopes of a better life in Europe

by Tara Smith

SINCE 2015, thousands of migrants from the Middle East and Africa have sought refuge and work in Europe. Many of those who survive their harrowing journeys are unable to find employment and end up living on the streets. Appalled by their suffering, Dorit Sallis '86 set up the Twin Star Project to provide migrants with the support they need to find sustainable employment and become financially independent.

How do you connect with migrants who need help?

We support Afghan refugees in Switzerland, where I live, but most of our migrants are based in Italy. I meet them on the streets of big Italian cities where they're usually begging.

I tell them about the program and give them my number. Not all of them call me. We start building relationships with those who reach out and learn about their needs so we can begin supporting them. Our approach is unbureaucratic, fast, and customized to the specific needs of each migrant.

The aim is to alleviate the immediate stresses of poverty so that they can start planning for the next phase — finding a job and being able to support themselves and their families.

My experience has been uniformly positive. These migrants have risked everything to find safety and work in Europe. They're ordinary people either born in impoverished and corrupt countries where it's impossible for them to feed their children or else unwitting victims of war.

The Twin Star Project attempts to remedy this by investing in their lives, helping them to achieve financial self-sufficiency and a viable future.

What does the Twin Star Project do?

The first part of Twin Star's two-vector approach is to get people off the streets and meet their basic living needs. As an NGO, we fund all our work through individual contributions

and grants. Twin Star pays for housing, provides a monthly allowance, organizes language and skills training, and helps with other issues such as legal and medical support. We call this the halfway-house phase. In a second phase, we focus on helping them find work. In Italy, this can be challenging because of an insular market that is hard for migrants to penetrate. In such cases, we invest in micro-enterprises set up and run by migrants. This can be a grocery for African foodstuffs and toiletries, a small tailoring shop, or a hairdressing business run out of a migrant's house.

How is your approach distinctive from other NGOs?

We create opportunities for migrants ready to return to their countries of origin by funding house construction and providing startup capital for micro-enterprises there — for example, a farm where vegetables are cultivated in polytunnels or a small neighborhood grocery.

Many organizations address one piece of the problem rather than taking a holistic approach. Our vision is not just to keep migrants alive, but to create a fundamental change in their lives that solves their economic problems once and for all.

All our migrants experienced trauma from their journey to Europe. The West Africans are loaded into open vans for a perilous desert crossing through the Sahara. When they reach Libya, they're subject to terrible abuse — arbitrary imprisonment, kidnapping, financial extortion, enslavement, rape, and murder.

Those who survive are packed into inflatable dinghies with some water and a compass for the Mediterranean crossing. At least half the boats capsize. Those who do arrive in "the promised land" of Europe find only more suffering. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this worse. ☹

+ FIND OUT MORE: twinstarproject.com



LIGHT, LAUGHTER, AND COMMUNITY

Diwali sparkled at Swarthmore this fall. The global festival of lights is one of the major holidays celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists, notably Newar Buddhists.





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"I am forever grateful for the priceless gifts that Swarthmore has provided — an unparalleled education, a strong sense of social responsibility, and the most incredible friends I could ever have hoped for — and so I try to give back however I can, to share some of these gifts with other alums and members of our community. ... Swarthmore really is the gift that keeps on giving!"
— BoHee Yoon '01, Alumni Council president

Give back like BoHee by volunteering with Swarthmore.
Explore ways to get involved at swarthmore.edu/alumnivolunteers.