



The Owllet

Hoosac School Source for Alumni News and Nonsense

An Obligation to Society Noblesse Oblige

HOW THIS PEGGY SUE GOT MARRIED ACTOR AND HOOSAC ALUM DISCOVERED MEANING IN GIVING BACK



Matthew McCormick getting head scratches from Sanatana.

Matthew McCormick '78 grew up in an owning-class family in Chicago. "My father believed strongly in something called noblesse oblige, or an obligation to society. If you didn't earn the money that you've got, then you have to give back to society. We have to give back and work for the betterment of society."

Matthew said he never knew his family had money, but he recognized something in the world around him that enriched his early boarding school experiences. Before Hoosac, Matthew attended St. Marks outside of Boston, where he realized he spent a lot of time socializing not with students, but with staff. "I hung with the help; all the people who were supporting the school in the background."

At Hoosac, Matthew found it refreshing that he was part of the supporting cast on campus. "I loved Hoosac because we didn't have janitors. We had one cook and we were the ones cleaning up the grounds and I loved that.

I loved being part of the crew, working in the kitchen, working the grounds. That was what really struck me about Hoosac. And that in itself embodied this whole other concept of giving back and being on the outside while knowing I had great advantages in life."

"The freedom that Hoosac gave us was personal freedom and a sense of not having to conform to a larger social paradigm."

Matthew said though a very serious student, he occasionally found trouble. "It was very common for us to break into the library to study. There were groups of us and we'd have Celestial Seasonings Morning Thunder tea

which is about 90 percent caffeine. We'd take it and boil the water in our rooms first, then take it over. We had great study sessions."

The study sessions met with good intentions with only one exception.

"One night we had this great idea to call the Hoosick Falls rescue squad and tell them someone had 'gone borneo' in the library to see what would happen. I was chosen as the one to make the call and, as expected, they came and pulled out all the stops. We were hiding somewhere, of course, but the next day at assembly, Mr. Beckford, the headmaster at the time, announced that if nobody came

forth to comp to this, then everybody would be on work duty when they are not studying or having classes; no sports, no theatre, no entertainment."

Matthew didn't want to see his fellow Hoosac classmates suffer, so he came forth and acknowledged his part in the stunt which meant he had to mop floors for two weeks

straight, but it left an impression. "It put things into perspective."

When Matthew wasn't in a midnight study session at the library, he was walking the grounds and performing in plays in the school's dining hall or running with fellow alum, Rob Grenko '78. "Rob was the only one with a driver's license. His dad was an artist in Hoosick Falls. He had a big yellow van and we would go into town all the time and knock around town. We'd go to a car dealership and test-drive cars."

Matthew said he loved being part of such a

Noblesse Oblige story continued on page 4

HOOSC ALUM PUBLISHES BOOK OF POETRY

Are you Listening?

Alonzo Whitehead '74 has released a collection of poetry through Pandemic Press Publishing, called *Are You Listening? Thoughts of a Traveling Soul*.

"I've been writing all my life, but really connected with my creative side at Hoosac," said Alonzo. "The friendships I developed came easily and all my new friends were very supportive of my efforts in becoming a poet."

Alonzo today resides in Seattle, WA with his wife Sarah, a teacher in early childhood development, but hailed originally from the south side of Chicago, where he won a scholarship that took him to a school in Woodstock, VT. That school wasn't a good fit for the aspiring writer but after a

meeting with Hoosac Headmaster of the day, Ashton Crosby, Alonzo said he was invited to transfer.

Alonzo credits the instructors and staff at Hoosac for "allowing students to grow into themselves in all opportunities" and said the experience shaped him as a writer.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, "Zo" frequented open mic events in Seattle. While participating in a radio show, Zo was introduced to Pandemic Press and as he put it, "the rest is history."

Are you Listening? was published in September and is available for purchase at LuLu.com (search *Are You Listening?*) Alonzo also shared a Tibbits ghost encounter featured in the fall edition of *Hoosac Today*.





Hoosac and a Calling

GUIDED BY FATHER WOOD INTO A LIFE OF MINISTRY

Rev. David Goodrich '55 felt a calling from a young age to enter into ministry. So, when a local priest suggested Hoosac as an option for his final two years of high school, there was no doubt in David's mind it was the right path. "It was quite an imposition on my folks. We were not affluent at all." David said tuition at the time was around \$1,400 and for comparison mentioned his first job out of school paid \$1/hr. He said he suspects the priest helped his family offset the cost of his education and David worked all summer long, donating his own wages to the cause.

However, when David went back to Hoosac, he wasn't sent up to the mansion on the hill. "I was down at this old building on the old campus. It was a bit of a culture shock. I thought what the heck have I gotten into." David spent just part of the year on old campus before he was moved into a dorm on the hill.

"There was an excitement about it, but obviously I was one of the new kids. Everyone else was already settled in and I had no idea what was going on." David said it took some time to overcome the fact that he had moved from a small hometown in Vermont where he knew everyone to a place where he didn't know anyone.

It was an experience shared by many who first time arrivals to boarding school and like many, David soon found his place among his peers and supportive faculty. "I used to always have a bible with me and I know I did a paper for one of the priests. He and I would have these discussions. I went over so many commentaries that were available." He added, "Hoosac for me wasn't about the academics, so much as the spiritual."

David shared one story about the pro-



David Goodrich plays the jester in the 1954 Yule Log performance at Tibbits

found gentleness of Father Wood's influence. "One of the guys and I had gone over to Hoosick Falls where we weren't supposed to be. I was 18 and of course in NY then you could buy beer and I think we snuck over for that. On the way home, we were hitchhiking and this car pulled over for us and it was Father Wood."

David said he and the other student knew they were in trouble. "But Father Wood never said a word. He didn't chew us out. We knew we had been bad." Yet the experience of that forgiving silence left an impression. David went on to play the jester in his final Yule Log performance and later became an ordained minister and has followed a path in faith his whole life.



GHOSTS OF THE "Crimson A Class"

A MYSTERIOUS LETTER REVEALS A REPENTANT SOUL

“This is a ghastly event that has haunted the Hoosac School faculty for a long, long time...”

The letter began, "This is a ghastly event that has haunted the Hoosac School faculty for a long, long time..." It goes on to say, "There are rumors that there is a ghost of Tibbits roaming Tibbits Hall. There is not one ghost, but numerous ghosts. Besides George Tibbits... or Edward... anyone who lived in Tibbits Hall possesses the spirit of Tibbits... Once you have slept in Tibbits Hall, you become part of the Tibbits family/ And yes, their spirits and memories return to haunt campus."

While this introduction lays down a foundation for the beginning of a good ghost story, the letter refers to a haunting of another, more serious sort.

"This story is about the 'Crimson

A Class' of the late 1960s," the author writes. "It is called the Crimson A Class because all of the seniors obtained straight As on their final exams; even the students who were failing the class."

"Seniors," the letter goes on, "had the privilege of living in Tibbits Hall. At this point I will reveal that the faculty office was also in Tibbits. The spirit machine was also in the faculty office."

[Editor's note: What the author refers to as a 'spirit box' is a copy machine. The machines, long before the author's time at Hoosac, were referred to as spirit duplicators for the alcohol used in the ditto-making process.]

"Late at night... the spirits of the Tibbits family would wander thru

the dark rooms... The faculty office was a favorite haunt. One late dark night, magical documents were found discarded in the faculty trash can. When the magical documents were held up to a mirror they would reveal the questions to the final exams."

The letter concludes, "Some of the students are no longer on this earth, but their spirits and the spirit machine still haunt the Hoosac School and faculty to this day."

Let this be a lesson to all of us that those things which bring us easy reward are sometimes lost in time's long and haunting shadow.

We appreciate the confession, Mr. Dover, er, or shall we say "JN?"





Can you help identify?



Early Hoosac Baseball Team. Can you help us identify the year?

WHEN THE 1918 FLU SWEPT HOOSAC

The following appeared in the Hoosac Thanksgiving Owl in 1918. It is a story honoring the service of Dr. Whitehead, who faithfully served both his country and the students at Hoosac during the flue pandemic of 1918.

had been exhausted and the dreaded disease of which he died had begun to lay fatal hold upon him. His wife was lying at the point of death and it was almost impossible to get proper nurses to look after her.

Dr. Ira Condict Whitehead, Jr., on Monday morning, October 28 at Hoosick Falls, New York, the soul of this brave and faithful physician passed away from this earth. So many words connected with work and sacrifice of the most sacred sort suggest themselves to one's mind when endeavoring to write a fitting memorial of Dr. Whitehead.

Through all of this awful ordeal, Dr. Whitehead never failed to show the most sublime patience and the most careful consideration and courteous attention to all to whom he ministered. At last, too ill to go further, he broke down utterly on Tuesday, October 22 and from that day onward the progress of the dread disease was most rapid. His funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, October 31, the Eve of All Saints' Day and owing to the health regulations of the town, consisted simply of the burial service at the grave in the Hoosick Rural Cemetery.

We recall especially that saying of Our Lord's which is connected with those who have made the supreme sacrifice in these eventful years: "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends."

The Rector of the school officiated and there was a gathering of friends besides the members of the immediate family. The coffin was covered with the Stars and Stripes and after the benediction, the bugler sounded "taps."

For Dr. Whitehead literally laid down his life in the performance of his duty. He had returned to this country after a year's service in the 42nd Field Ambulance, British Expeditionary Force, in France, and England, and was in a precarious condition of health with the terrible epidemic of influenza broke out in our neighborhood in the last week of September.

Nothing that we can say can fully express our feeling of admiration for Dr. Whitehead. For seven years he was our school physician and did faithful and excellent work for all who came under his care. Many were the serious problems presented for his consideration to which he never failed to give his best attention, meriting the commendation which one of our leading Troy physicians gave him when he told the Rector of the school that we had an excellent man as our school doctor. We are glad to be able to report that Mrs. Whitehead at our present writing, gives promise of a complete recovery from the dangerous illness.

His own wife was far from well at that time and with their family of three little children, they had just moved to Hoosick Falls to establish themselves in a new home. Dr. Whitehead gave himself with unselfish devotion to the care of his patients, amongst whom, the boys of Hoosac School were numbered. He kept up and out, going the rounds of his practice, long after his strength

Revisiting Old Campus

These old postcards from the beginning of the 20th century show old campus, made up of the old Red House Tavern building, re-purposed for the school in the late 1800s as well as its later additions.

The only building remaining from the original old campus quad is All Saints Church. Remnants of the old foundations of the other structures are still discoverable to those who wish to look for them.

A timeline for Old Campus

- 1864 First portion of All Saints Church building constructed.
- New tower added in memory of Amelia Cannon Tibbits, George Tibbits wife. This tower includes a bell cast in Germany in the year 1578 CE. Remaining bells cast in Italy, though age of those bells is unknown.
- 1889 Rev. Edward Dudley Tibbits establishes "All Saints Choir School" on the property, which became Hoosac school just a few years later.
- 1891 Red House Tavern is relocated from its original site on the west side of the Hoosic River to the old campus property, where it was converted to a dormitory.
- 1895 Common Room added.
- 1896 Squealery constructed.
- 1897 Kremlin constructed, converted to dormitory in 1905
- 1901 Willis Cottage remodeled and used as a dormitory.
- 1902 Library completed and Headmaster's Apartment added.
- 1903 Holly Dome erected.
- In 1904, a meeting house which stood near the ball-field off Hill Road was used as a gymnasium and assembly hall. The following year, it was converted to a school meeting house. In 1906, the building was moved onto the quad.
- The majority of these buildings were claimed by fire. Portions of remaining structures were re-purposed for use in the construction of new buildings at the site of the present-day campus.



Hoosick School, Hoosick, N. Y.



Trivia Question

Who was the only student to play the Yule Log jester two years in a row?

Email info@hoosac.org with your response.



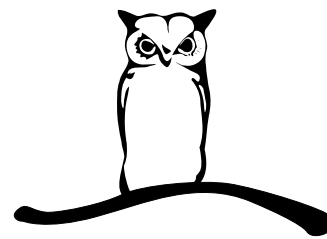
FOLLOWING IN HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS



Rich Montgomery '73

This fall we had the pleasure of hosting an old friend and former Senior Prefect, Rich Montgomery '73, along with his wife and son Owen. Rich's son Owen is applying for the 2022-23 academic year and hopes to become a member of the boys varsity ice hockey team as a goaltender.

After spending time reminiscing inside Tibbits Mansion with Headmaster Dean Foster, Rich and his family posed for a photo on the same steps where he can be found sitting in a separate picture from the 70s with fellow alums.



UPDATES FROM THE CLASS OF 1969

Don Cable is still working in security at the Meadowlands Sports Complex, where has been for the past 25 years.

Steve Darling retired from a career in Sales and is now working part-time driving a Master Coach bus, shuttling passengers between hotels and Disney World.

David Rudolph Deutl and his wife sold their house in Vermont and are enjoying retirement on their thirty-six foot trawler, Selah Way. Look for their story in the Spring edition of *Hoosac Today*.

Martin Hulick retired from his work as a designer in pharmaceutical packaging until his retirement. Retirement gave him time for his favorite hobby, racing cars. He resides in Warrington, PA.

David Marsh is in Nashville, TN enjoying retirement from his career as a consultant in the electronics industry and had been traveling overseas volunteering for disaster relief efforts until the pandemic forced he and his wife home for a spell.

James McCormick and his wife are enjoying retirement in Block Island, RI, where they keep busy as caretakers for some of the island's seasonal residents.

Alan Riga has been busy working with his wife renovating a family property in Bradenton, FL

Special thanks to Class of 1969 Agent, Tom Zissu for reaching out to his fellow alumni. If you wish to become a class agent, email info@hoosac.org.



Matthew McCormick (center) with his theatre troupe.

Noblesse Oblige story continued from Cover rural community. "My senior year, I did a work project on a farm up from Hoosac. I milked cows, shoveled manure, mowed, and baled hay." He said it was the kind of experience he might not have gotten anywhere else.

After Matthew's graduation in 1978, he spent a year working for activist, author, and presidential nominee Ralph Nader. The following year, he attended Beloit College where he studied psychology and theatre before moving on to work as a Community Service Worker serving disadvantaged youth with the Chicago Commons Association closer to home.

A few years following, Matthew found himself in California studying classical acting at the Drama Studio of London, located on the Berkeley campus and grew ever more interested in theatre. "After graduating from the Drama Studio, I began acting (and waiting tables, of course) in the Bay Area, including Shakespeare Santa Cruz, a summer festival mid-coast, and some film and theatre work around Los Angeles. I found myself specializing in Children's Theatre and Progressive theatre such as Pinter, Sam Shepard, and Eugene O'Neill. In Los Angeles, I played a tiny role as the Salt and Pepper Sous Chef In Howard the Duck and a background actor in Peggy Sue Got Married, which I scored because at the time I owned an unrestored 1959 Mercedes."

Matthew was encouraged to audition once his car had been accepted for use on set and was awarded a part in the blood donation scene of the film. He later fell in love, married, and had a daughter, which he describes as "my reason for living" and moved to Michigan, where he continues to teach and act.

Matthew describes himself as an empath, which he says helps him in the sense that he is able to "get right to an issue and help someone resolve it, rather than dilly-dallying around trying to determine the source of the discomfort." And while he says this makes him an intense personality, he said it also helps in his professional career. "I use it to great advantage to develop my stage character and to properly read the characters of actors with whom I share the boards."

When not acting in films or helping others, you'll find Matthew helping Hoosac as a Class Agent, continuing on his promise to give back.

You may reach Matthew with your class news or just to pass along a hello at mattmcco@gmail.com.

More News

Richard Modecki '99

After almost 10 years abroad in Osaka Japan, I returned to the US in 2014 (just in time for the Hoosac Reunion!)

I attended the full-time program at Georgetown Business School in Washington, DC and graduated in 2016.

I have been working as an executive search consultant since then in the tech industry at the largest firm in the industry called Korn Ferry.

My wife Claire and I welcomed our first child Amy last year and have since moved out of the city to semi-rural Great Falls, Virginia.

Michael Crowley '15

The parents of Michael Crowley '15 wrote in to share Michael is now a senior at West Chester University and a Business Management Candidate. He plays on the VP Hockey Team. Michael is also the owner of Your CBD Store in West Chester, PA.

John Connell '65

In addition to making a generous gift to Hoosac School this year, John shared news of his farm, Greenmont Farms in Underhill Center, VT.

Robert Newell '01 has been spending time in Pemaquid, ME helping his parents clear and landscape their property.



HOOSAC CLASS OF 1948



Mr. Hans Lopez '48 reached out to our Headmaster this summer. And fellow alum, **Mr. John Pattison '48** emailed us this photo of "Hansy" during a snowfall on the old Hoosac School grounds. We look forward to hearing more from these two as they represent an important part of Hoosac's historic old-campus narrative.

AN INFORMAL HOOSAC REUNION IN BEIJING



Wing Chiu "Michelle" Sze '20

Michelle (center) and fellow Hoosac graduates **Kuanlin "Frankie" Du '20** (left) and former senior prefect **Zhengjie "Zane" Liu '20** (right) got together for an informal reunion in Beijing this October.



Attila Pavuk '10 and Pavuk Nora were married in October.



Darren Calica '93 announced his engagement to Nancy Saccone this fall.



David Brassard '10 and partner welcomed their new little one, Harley Cooper Brassard, on October 15th. They live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.



Katie Harrington '07 married Nicholas Silverio on October 30th.

A BOAR'S HEAD & YULE LOG DOCUMENTARY FILM

Valley of the Owl

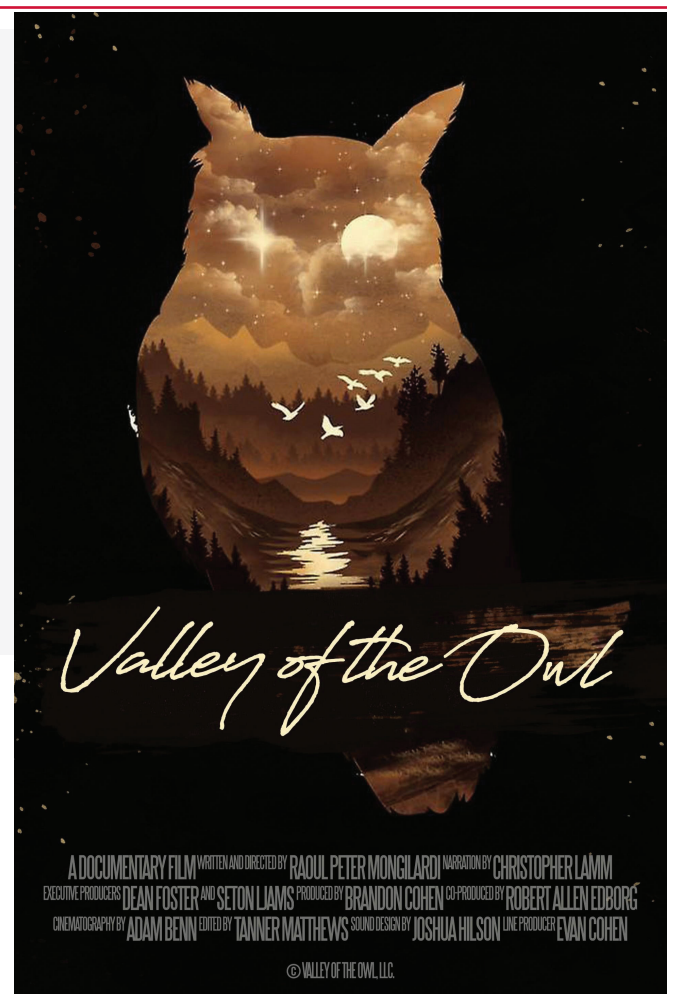
Alumnus Raoul Peter Mongilardi, award-nominated author and filmmaker, has just signed an option agreement with Imprint Entertainment, (producers of the Twilight franchise) for his project, M.I.A. Industry press releases will be forthcoming soon. Raoul has worked for Paramount television, Disney Imagineering, SONY Features, and produced two internationally distributed documentaries, The Changing Face of Autism, & The Walt Disney Concert Hall

Organ, (PBS) now on TUBI. OMRPM Productions and its producing partners released novels, ten features, cable and TV series, shorts, music videos, and charity events. Last year, they completed the documentary about Hoosac, Valley Of The Owl with Raoul and BACTalent Management partner, Brandon Cohen's NY and LA based team. We will be hosting on campus screenings of the documentary soon and announce where to find it upon distribution.



JOIN THE *Owl Society*

Gifts of \$1,000 or more include an exclusive Owl Society Membership. Contact our Institutional Advancement Director, Sherri Klein to learn more. sklein@hoosac.org • (518) 686-7331 ext. 304





How to Give

Name Hoosac in Your Will

Let us carry on your legacy by naming Hoosac School in your will as a full or partial beneficiary.

Retirement Assets or Real Estate

When they are no longer needed, a gift of remainder retirement assets or real estate builds a strong foundation for Hoosac.

Benefits

There is no immediate out of pocket cost to you and the contribution is exempt from federal estate tax.

Significant tax benefits. Consult your accountant or advisor to determine what is no longer needed into a legacy gift for Hoosac.

Be HOOSAC

“May we always continue to hold on to that true spirit of loyalty and devotion which shall enable us to keep alive every worthy tradition of the place.”

-Hoosac Founder, Rev. Edward Dudley Tibbits

Make Hoosac a Beneficiary

Make Hoosac a full or partial beneficiary to your life insurance policy.

Donate a Life Insurance Policy

If a life insurance policy no longer serves your family, consider insuring your school’s legacy by donating the policy to Hoosac.

It’s as simple as a phone call and you maintain control over the policy for its duration.

Claim an immediate tax deduction and peace of mind knowing Hoosac may access the cash value at transfer or in the future as needed.

Please call Headmaster Dean Foster with questions or to let us know about your bequest at (518) 686-7331, ext. 305.

What is a Beneficiary Designation Gift?

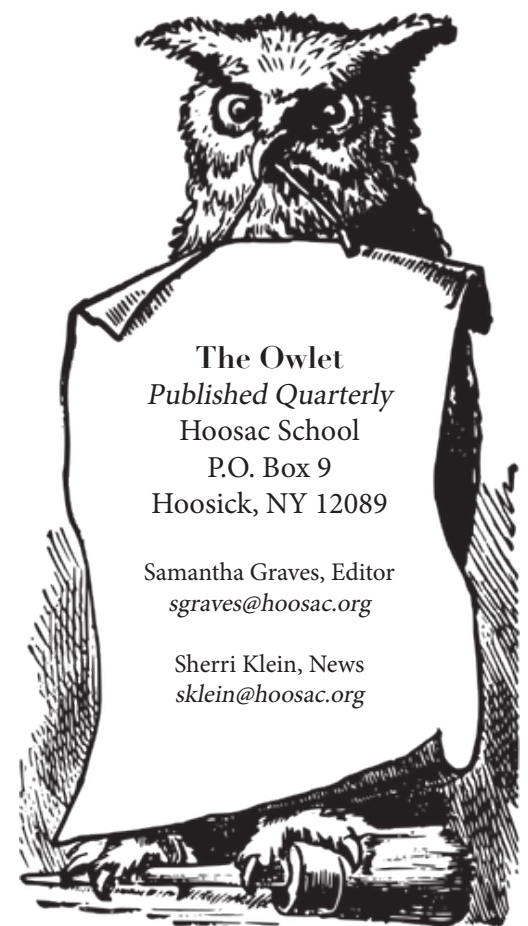


You can leave a gift for family in your will, trust, or life insurance policy, but did you know you can also leave a portion of these assets to charities, including non-profits like Hoosac School?

Beneficiary designations may be made with:

- Retirement accounts and plans
- Life insurance policies
- Checking or savings accounts
- Brokerage accounts
- Annuities

These gifts often have enormous tax-benefits as well. And they are flexible. You maintain control over your accounts, so you aren’t locked into anything, if your plans change.



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P.O. Box 9
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Samantha Graves, Editor
sgraves@hoosac.org

Sherri Klein, News
sklein@hoosac.org