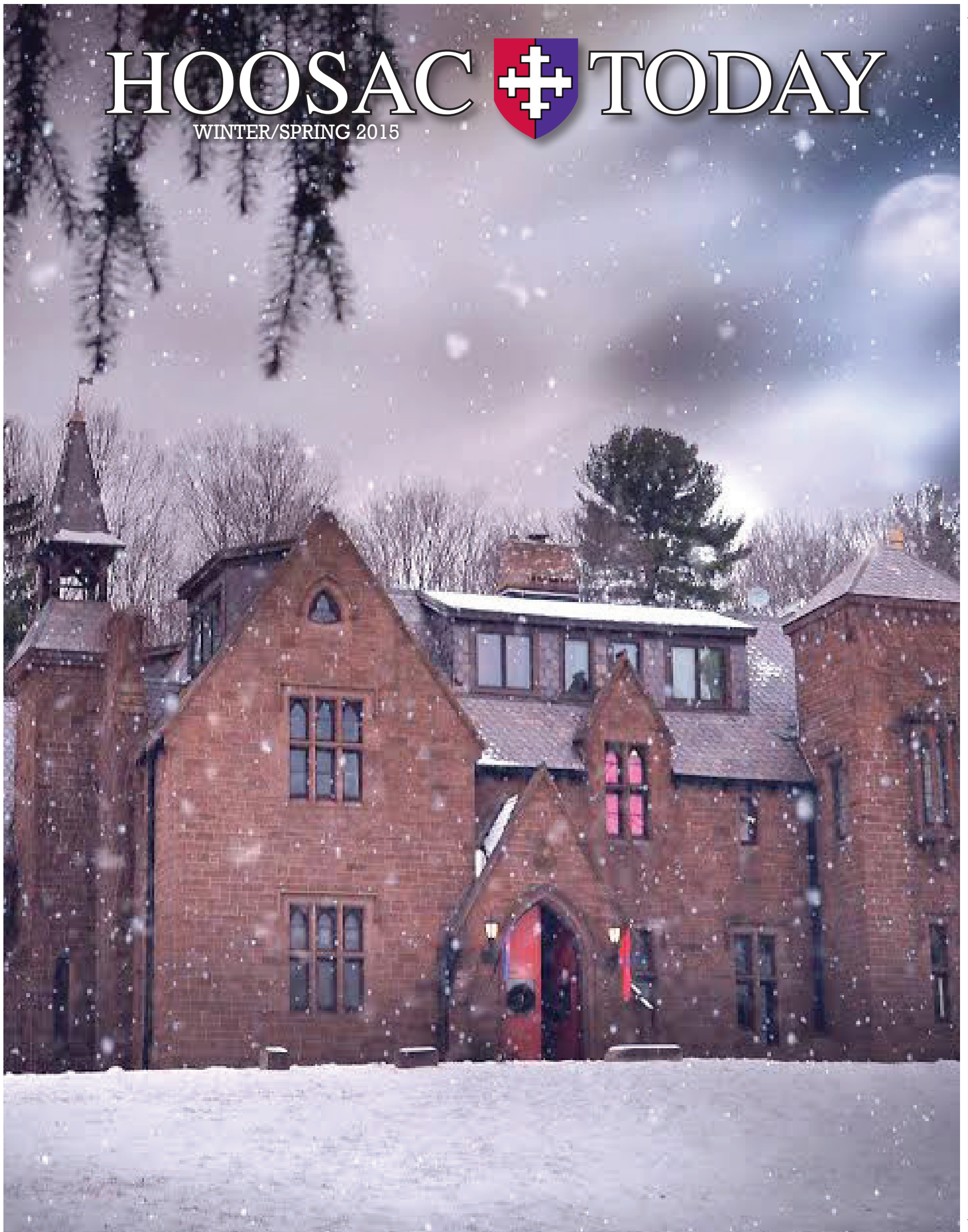


# HOOSAC TODAY

WINTER/SPRING 2015



# HOOSAC TODAY

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## A Message from Dean Foster, Head of School

Hoosac Helps is the moniker that we use to describe the community service component of every student’s experience here at Hoosac School. On the face of it, the combination of words seems to be a very straightforward statement. While grammatically this may be true, within the Hoosac School culture it has much more significance.

Too often the phrase “community service” is used as a buzz word, or euphemistically used to describe the efforts that students and faculty put forth towards projects and people outside the immediate school community, with the sole intention of garnering publicity or a better transcript for college.

While recognition and praise are often the results of the good works our students do, it is not the reason that they organize, plan, and participate in acts of kindness and good will.

Hoosac students and faculty learn early on that they, as individuals, will gain an appreciation for what they have from helping others. They also learn that the impact that they have on those in need, regardless of any accolades they may get in return for actions, is the true reward.

In this issue of Hoosac Today you will read about Hoosac students and alums who are out in the world helping others and making a difference for all the right



reasons. I know that the root of their generosity is seated in their experiences here at Hoosac. As students they not only learned by doing, but by witnessing the generosity of the alums, Trustees, parents, and friends of the school.

Seeing those groups donate not just financially to the school, but with good works and participation in ongoing projects, they realize that charity is much more than writing a check, it is committing oneself to helping a person, school, or group with a sincere emotional investment. I am confident that just as you continue to support Hoosac, so too will this current group of students as they move on into the world.



*The very first thing that faculty members do at the start of each academic year is go out into the community and help make the greater Hoosick area better. This year they cleaned up around the welcome sign, which had become overgrown with weeds.*

## The Man Who Helped Save Hoosac

By Sherri C. Klein

“Without Donn, Hoosac would have gone down the drain. He came in my junior year in 1966 after Fr. Blake resigned. First thing Donn did was create a budget to put the school on a sound financial footing. That was the year Hoosac went from the old school to the new one of today. Then, when Hoosac again fell on hard times, thanks to those trustees who made it possible, he again helped save Hoosac” writes Jim Millar ‘68 after learning of Donn’s death on January 10, 2015.

In 1984, when Donn returned to the school he “loved best” to serve as Headmaster, the then-Chairman of the Board of Trustees wrote to constituents that “Donn Wright doubled the

*“He was a real gentleman, and an upright guy; he will be missed.”*  
-Charlie Smallman ‘73

school’s physical facilities, enrollment, and faculty.”

A graduate of The Lawrenceville School & Trinity College, with graduate study at NYU and General Theological Seminary, Donn had gained great experience as a Navy veteran, head of schools, consultant to 26 independent schools, trustee of NAES, council for NYSAIS and four independent schools – not to mention his involvement in his home state of Maine, serving the Humane Society, United Way, two state boards, and the Maine

Maritime Museums.

In 1987, Donn expanded the circulation of the school newsletter and revised its title to *Hoosac Today*. That same year, a “Half Million Bequest” was made to the school by the estate of Dana B. Wotkyns ‘18, \$10,000 of which provided for scholarship endowment. By 1988, a 1.4M building program projected completion of a new gymnasium and pool. By Spring of 1990, Phase I (the gymnasium dedicated to Coach Harry H. Dickie) had been completed. Donn Wright became Rector. Phase II (the pool) required \$300k additional funds – it was completed in 1993.

Donn continued to write for *Hoosac Today*, handle development, and live on campus as Rector, officially retiring in 1997. During that time his “Owl Tales” column began, showing Donn’s love for telling a story. Every Owl Tale was preceded by his disclaimer “The stories in this column may sometimes be absolutely true.” Donn wrote of the history of the school, of its leaders and alumni, and of the ghost of LeGrand Tibbits, whose footsteps could be heard (but never found) at the old campus, and who was seen in a dark cloak climbing the hill behind Whitcomb Hall (*Hoosac Today*, Spring 1998). Donn’s story of the bell tower appeared in the Fall issue – a story he knew well, as Donn himself sketched its design of 6’x6’ wooden beams “topped by



Donn Wright

a wooden crosslet.” After 1999, alumni and some former faculty became the tellers of “Owl Tales” – the column enduring until 2008.

At the Bleeze Banquet this year, retired Director of Studies, Bob Burns, honored Donn Wright by doing what Donn loved to do – tell stories. One was a tale of the Bleeze Banquet in 1989 – the school’s 100th Anniversary. Donn had asked a retired chemical engineer to speak. As a final prank the Jester had closed the damper in the fireplace. The fire started to burn the Yule Log greens. Dinner was served and the hall filled with acrid smoke. The speaker took the podium

– for nearly an hour. “The next day” Bob recalls, “Donn had me in his office and said ‘Bob, if I ever tell you I am going to invite a chemical engineer to give a speech, I want you to get a hammer and hit me in the head.’ That is however, a story, and as Owl Tales go “the stories in this column may sometimes be absolutely true.”

*“...when Donn and Barbara came down to the Florida Keys for a visit, Mr. Wright and I had a conversation while snorkeling that I have kept and will never forget. That’s what I will carry.*

- Nelson Espeland ‘91

# Remembering Donn Wright

by William R. Forstchen, Hoosac Faculty Member, Spring 1988

There are some people in our lives, that on the day you hear they have passed away, it is nearly impossible to imagine the world without them. Donn Wright is one of them. A man who projected such an infectious vigor for life, who inspired so many to embrace and enjoy life, whose laughter would always trigger a grin from all nearby. . . it is difficult to imagine not hearing that laugh ever again.

Thirty five years ago I was a young, rather overworked, out-of-his-league resident dean/admissions director/development director at a struggling boarding school near Waterville, Maine. (One of the great things about working at small boarding schools is that your resume has a lot of cool titles by the time you move on!) I suggested we needed a consultant for development, the board agreed and several weeks later Donn walked into my office. Thus started a friendship that spanned the decades. Sailing, of course came into our conversation early on. Next thing I knew I was out on the Gulf of Maine with Donn with many an adventure ahead. I'll share but one:

We had made a run to Damiscove Island, slipping into a narrow bay to anchor for the night. A fine dinner of lobster and scotch, (lots of scotch) and listening to the maritime weather there was a report of a nor-easter coming up the coast later on the next day. No real sweat, we'd be safely back to the beautiful harbor below his house at the mouth of the Kennebec long before it hit. Wrong!

We awoke to 12-15 foot seas just outside our sheltered bay, with us in a 31 foot boat. I'll never forget that wall of icy green water breaking over the bow as we ran close hauled, cleared the leeward side of the island and suddenly faced the full fury of the storm. At one point Donn's favorite hat blew off and he announced he had to come about to retrieve his hat. My best New Jersey vocabulary was exploding out of me regarding his hat, as bug-eyed I watched those waves towering over us, crashing down, him yelling at me to lean over the leeward rail and snatch the hat as we raced by and if I failed he'd come about and do it again. What a wild ride! I will confess after several hours I

got into the whole experience and as we approached safe haven I even shouted let's stay out awhile longer. The look he gave me was sufficient answer, he was darn near as scared as I was! We made harbor, anchored, rowed to shore where Barbara was waiting, two strong drinks in hand. The moment I was on dry land, that's when it hit me. I was too frightened before to get sick. The darn land was surging up and down, back and forth, and seconds later I tossed up everything eaten the night before. And I could hear Donn laughing as Barbara led me to the porch where I laid for an hour, moaning and cursing, and Donn laughing that wonderful rolling laugh.

As I remember Donn, I could share many a fun story, but feel it appropriate at a moment like this to share another side of my friendship. A true definition of a friend is someone who is there for you when darkness closes in on your life. Such a moment hit me after knowing Donn for ten years. Let's just say it was a divorce that blindsided me after reluctantly leaving Maine some months earlier to move closer to my soon-to-be-ex's family in Florida. I was a complete wreck, feeling as if my life had disintegrated. On Christmas Day of that year, Donn and Barbara were driving to their winter home in Florida and I would learn later on that Donn said to Barbara that he had "a bad feeling that something is wrong with Bill." Remember, this is Christmas Day and they simply want to get to their home. Instead he diverted their journey, drove to where he thought I lived, recognized my car in the driveway and walked in. . .to find me a complete wreck. It was as if a guardian angel appeared in my doorway. In fact he was my guardian angel that day.

He and Barbara wound up driving me two hundred miles to my parent's home and would not leave my side until he knew I was safe and okay. Shortly thereafter he called and all but ordered me to come up to Hoosac, and teach a few courses for the spring semester, giving me an anchor line, introducing me to a community of new friends and nearly every night across that dark spring, I was down at his home on campus, Donn patiently listening and



*Donn and Barbara Wright*

helping me talk things out. Over and over there was the reassurance that life would again become filled with happiness and purpose. He was right. A year later I was on my way to full-time graduate studies at Purdue University which would lead to a long overdue Ph.D. in history, a new life, a tenure position at a wonderful college, a moribund writing career suddenly shifting into best seller status, a new marriage and the blessings of a wonderful daughter. I owe Donn for all of that.

Men and women like Donn, who work in education are like gardeners. They labor to till the fields of other people's lives, plant seeds, both with students and the teachers they are mentoring, and little do they realize how many rich harvests are left in their wake when their time comes at last to leave us. My life has been a rich one indeed thanks to Donn Wright.

It has been hard to write this, a few moments here and there of pausing, remembering, wishing I had spent far more time with him during his decline. I hope he knows just how grateful I am for all that he did for me and so many others. Thinking about him in the days since I learned of his passing there has been a recurring vision of him now. His legs and body again strong and vigorous, hand resting on a tiller of his boat, sailboat heeled over in a stiff breeze (for if heaven is indeed heaven surely there is sailing up there!) and carrying on that heavenly breeze, the sound of laughter, that deep chuckling laugh of Donn Wright.

Thank you Donn for the blessing of your friendship.

## Class Agent Highlights

It's easy to tell from Class Agent Frank Bulkley's emails, that even though he is a very busy man, he sets time aside to try to contact members of the Classes of '52 and '53. Class Notes tell that story! But Frank also lets us know which of his classmates he left messages for, or was unable to reach or locate. This too is very important for Hoosac to know, because we can then use our own search engines to help him find those alumni. Thank you Frank!

Class Agent P.J. Lepage '12 is well known for spreading enthusiasm in general, but also for getting together with his classmates, many of whom he played hockey with and who made the trip to meet up at the 125th reunion (and yes, play in the first alumni hockey game). Via Facebook, P.J. frequently sends in updates and pics to Nancy LaPorte. Thank you P.J.!



*Frank Bulkley's graduation photo*

P.J. writes, "The friends that I have made at Hoosac will be my friends for life. Now that we have moved all over the world to continue our lives, it is tough to see each other. This summer, during the alumni reunion, was the perfect way to get back together with everyone and live the prep school life again for the weekend. It was so much fun to be reunited with friends and former teachers and play hockey once again with them. We are already planning to go again to the next alumni reunion and are very excited for it."

A big Thank You to all our Class Agents. Your alumni connections keep the wheel turning for Hoosac!



*Class Agent, P.J. Lepage (back, center) and members of the class of 2012 celebrate on their graduation day.*

*If you would like  
to  
volunteer  
as a class agent  
for your class,  
please email  
Nancy LaPorte  
at Hoosac at  
info@hoosac.org  
or call the school  
at  
518-686-7331.*

# Alumni News

**'36-'41 Class Agent, Francis H. Whitcomb '41,** 2278 Centebar Rd., South Albany, West Glover, VT 05875

**'47-'48 Class Agents, Needed.**

**'50-'51 Class Agent, The Very Rev. Raymond D. Brown '51,** 6162 Lazy Man Gulch, Helena, MT 59601. Email: [ray003@aol.com](mailto:ray003@aol.com)

**'52 Class Agent, Needed.**

**'53-'54 Class Agent, Franklin W. Bulkley '53,** 1150 Freddie Ct., Reno, NV 89503. Email: [frankandsal@gmail.com](mailto:frankandsal@gmail.com)

**Frank** wrote in February to share classmate news, and some of his own as well:

**Frank** is serving as President of his Homeowners Association and is up to his elbows facilitating the change. He and his wife, Sal, their two dogs and their tiny trailer (pulled behind a Lexus), were in Southern California for a month of R&R.

**Frank** touched base with **Michael Vacarelli '52** in February. **Mr. Vacarelli** says, "When at Hoosac he lived in Valhalla with Fr. Dunkerly presiding. He attended Hoosac to further his education with his father's wish that he become maybe a doctor. There were a good number of older students, veterans of WW II. 'A three year course in Latin was condensed into six months'. **Michael** went on to a sixty-year career in the printing

business. Currently, and with considerable trepidation, he is considering a fourth back surgery. One of his fondest memories is of going to the "Mansion" after it had been closed up for a considerable time. There were still carriages in the Carriage House. There also was a false panel in a second floor study next to the fireplace. It opened to stairs in the basement. He had attended Albany Academy and when hearing that in 1952 Hoosac (32 students) had whipped Albany Academy (800 Students) in soccer, he was amazed. He was even more amazed when told that Hoosac had to play with 10 men after **Andy Olmsted '53** was ejected from the game for unnecessary roughness.

**Huc Hauser '52** writes, "Our region, i.e. Hoosick, Bennington, and surrounding hills & valleys were only mildly impacted by storm Juno. For us it was just a good old fashioned snowstorm. We got perhaps 4 to 5 inches on the level, more in drifts due to high winds. Most of us did our share of snow blower wrestling and snow shovel aerobics. Some had the local plow jockey do their work and tear up their lawns, but we need the exercise in the spring anyhow to restore the turf. Plastic snow stakes at the edge of your lawn make nice targets for the plow. Metal stakes make a nice PLING when they're hit, kinda makes the plow driver smile. If you wave at the plow guy and smile as he goes by you get a wave

in return. If you shake a fist at him, start praying; he has more friends than you have. Cold weather has some genuine advantages. Below zero many bug species don't survive. Waaay below zero many little old ladies don't venture out on the roads at all, making most truck drivers happy. Waaay below zero also makes for good ice fishing since the ice is safer. Reminds me of an ice storm we had several years ago. It was really bad and utility crews from all over came up to northern New England to help out. A crew from Alabama was helping a Vermont crew on a power line along a lakefront. There were ice fishermen with their little shacks out on the ice. One of the Alabama crew quietly spoke to a Vermonter and said (in all sincerity): 'You know, we have outhouses in Alabama too, but we don't put 'em out on the ice.' **Huc** and **Pat** live in Bennington, VT.

**Andy Olmsted '53** still misses the "old school." He has two grandchildren. He has had his fourth total loss vehicle accident. This time, for the first time, he was at fault. Icy road, the shoulder looked like the road. It wasn't. He's fine.

**Martin "Kerry" Payne '53** lost his wife earlier this year. Many people attended her memorial service in Washington state and Alabama where they had lived for many years. He just returned from two weeks in Puerto Rico.

**Hank Coolidge '53** has suffered a vision damage stroke in his 'northwest quadrant.' More annoying than debilitating. While he didn't say it, it is clear that he thinks that "getting older is not for sissies!"

Phyllis Whitfield, wife of **Henry "Hank" Whitfield '54**, wrote in January. "It is with great sadness that I write to you. After a lengthy battle with cancer, **Henry "Hank" Whitfield** passed away, very peacefully, at home, on November 29, 2014. His last wish was granted with all five of our daughters and their families being home for Thanksgiving. **Hank** enjoyed his time at Hoosac and always maintained a soft spot in his heart for the school."

**'55-'56 Class Agent, Charles Rexford '60,** P.O. Box 697, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

**'57-'58 Class Agent, Paul Rodia '58,** 30 Applegate Lane, Woodbury, CT 06798.

Hoosac received notice in January that **Edward McBride '57** passed away in 2013. He retired from Peerless-Mohawk Distributors, Albany, NY, after 18 years as one of their lead salesmen. **Ed** owned and operated *Brother Ed's* restaurant in the 1970's. He and his wife, Anne, lived in Goshen, NY.

**'59 Class Agent, William Comer,** 5650 Eden Roc Lane, Atlanta, GA 30342. Email: [bill@comermachinery.com](mailto:bill@comermachinery.com)

**'60 Class Agent, The Rev. Dr. Timothy Parsons**, 12 Oak Ave., Norway, ME 04268. Email: [timothy-prsns@yahoo.com](mailto:timothy-prsns@yahoo.com)

**Dr. David Joseph Hall** passed away in October of 2014. He lived in Charlottesville, VA with his wife of 52 years, Nancy. He was a geophysicist and an accomplished professor. A scattering of **Dr. Hall's** ashes and a eulogy is planned on the Blue Ridge one year from his death.

**'61 Class Agent, Arthur Rodia**, 207 Grassy Hill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06799. Email: [ac23rodia@charter.net](mailto:ac23rodia@charter.net)

**'62 Class Agent, The Rev. Malcolm Roberts III**, 520 Taberna Way, New Bern, NC 28562. Email: [mroberts12@hotmail.com](mailto:mroberts12@hotmail.com)

**'63-'64 Class Agent, Theodore Juraschek '64**, 100 Eastbury, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Email: [theo\\_jurascheck@msn.com](mailto:theo_jurascheck@msn.com)

**John Koier '63** was in touch with **John Millar '64** in January. He says, "I am retired, but do a lot of volunteer stuff in our community. Calvary Episcopal Church: Senior Warden (for many years); Jericho Underhill Land Trust: Land Stewardship Chair; Rock Point School: Board President; Jericho Farmer's Market: Board President; Running our own Growing Possibilities Farm (veggie stand and Underhill Farmer's Market); Clambering up local mountains with John Connell. I am thinking of stepping out of some of these activities as

my wife (Barbie) thinks I'm over committed. She's right, of course! Hope you are well and I remember you from my Hoosac days. Sometimes I feel a lack of connection as I was only a day student and lacked the whole community experience. Hoosac was good to me." **John** and **Barbie** live in Underhill, VT.

**'65 Class Agent, Scott von Stein**, 45 Rancho Dr., Tiburon, CA 94920. Email: [wsvs@comcast.net](mailto:wsvs@comcast.net)

**'66 Class Agent, Lance Roepe**, P.O. Box 111796, Campbell, CA 95011. 207-326-2024. 408-879-9126

**'67-'68 Class Agent, James W. Millar '68**, 160 Upper Troy Rd., Fitzwilliam, NH 03447. 603-585-6444. Email: [jim.millar@us.schunk.com](mailto:jim.millar@us.schunk.com)

**'69-'70 Class Agents, Needed.**

**Jeff Bolza '70** wrote, "After the Board meeting (in NYC), **Steve Kohn '69** and I headed on a mission, and that mission was to find our friend, **Gil Case '69**. On our way to Florida, we took the back roads of Virginia and tracked down our buddy who I have not seen in 46 years - yes, **Gil Case**. **Gil** was extremely popular, a jock, and even liked by Donn D.! In the cold, we met up with **Gil** in a very country area of Clifton Gorge, Virginia. **Gil** told us when he graduated from Hoosac, he went to junior college in Massachusetts outside of Boston, which did not work out. He then joined the Navy and retired after



*John '63 and Barbie Koier*



*Steve Kohn '69, Gil Case '69, Jeff Bolza '70*



*The Rev. Malcolm Roberts III '62, Retired U. S. Army*

20 years. After the Navy, he received his undergraduate degree from Connecticut, and his Masters at Hartford. He is a sub-teacher in the 5th grade. **Gil** told us he follows every move of Hoosac and reads everything he receives. He was my Big Buddy Owl, when I was an underclassmen assigned by Donn D. - this means I was protected! **Gil** said to me, 'If any one creates any issues for you, call me and I will take care of it!'

**'71 Class Agent, John T. Ober**, 731 Silver Run Valley Rd., Westminster, MD 21158. Email: [jtwober@gmail.com](mailto:jtwober@gmail.com)

**'72 Class Agent, David Hoy**, 2-101st St., Stone Harbor, NJ 08247.

An excerpt taken from **Seven Mile Times.com** - <http://www.sevenmiletimes.com>

'**David Hoy's** first job in his family's five-and-dime store required a lot of hot air. 'I remember they sat me in the back and I blew up rafts,' Hoy says. 'I was about 14.'



Kevin McGuire '73 as Northumberland in Shakespeare Theatre Company production of Henry IV, Part 1. Photo by Scott Suchman.

Hoy's 5 & 10 is just a couple of blocks from Stone Harbor's beach, so you can imagine he blew up quite a few flotation devices.

Hoy, grandson of store founder Bernard Joseph Hoy, soon graduated to an even more glamorous job: taking care of the store's extensive pet collection. 'We had hamsters and birds,' Hoy says, not to mention fish, chicks and bunnies at Easter - and even a monkey. 'It was mainly dealing with their poop.'

Hoy has come a long way since then - he now operates the four Hoy stores. The only live animals sold in Hoy's these days are hermit crabs, which don't require a whole lot of cleanup."

**'73 Class Agent, Richard Montgomery**, 154 Samara Dr., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702. Email: [rmontgomery211@gmail.com](mailto:rmontgomery211@gmail.com)

**'74 Class Agent, Philip Smith III**, P.O. Box 944, Far Hills, NJ 07931. Email: [phillarym-gmt@aol.com](mailto:phillarym-gmt@aol.com)

**'75 Class Agent, Seton Ijams**, 311 E. 71st St., Apt. 5H, New York, NY 10021. Email: [sijams@aol.com](mailto:sijams@aol.com)

**'76 Class Agent, Craig Kanner**, 17 Gage Rd., Brewster, NY 10509

**'77-'78 Class Agent, Matthew McCormick '78**, 743 Lincoln Rd., Otsego, MI 49078

**'79 Class Agent, needed**

**'80 Class Agent, Fred Wright**, 659 Ridgehill Dr., Orange Park, FL 32065

**'81 Class Agent, Michael Rider**, 3 Nob Way, Lowell, MA 01852

**'82 Class Agent, Dr. J. Toby Mordkoff**, 11 Wildberry Ct. NE, Iowa City, IO 52240

**'83 Class Agent, Lizzette Hayes Winters**, 2044 Alycia Way, Pleasant View, TN 37146. Email: [LHlights@aol.com](mailto:LHlights@aol.com)

**'84 Class Agent, Wanda Wrzenski Williams**, 4900 Mystic Oak Dr., Browns Summit, NC 27214. [wkawilliams@juno.com](mailto:wkawilliams@juno.com)

**'85 Class Agent, Austin P. McGrath III**, Park Ave., Cohoes, NY 12047. Email: [grandgablesiding@nycap.rr.com](mailto:grandgablesiding@nycap.rr.com)

**Kathy Barnard Carroll** wrote in January. "I am living in Ridgefield, CT, and I run the *Jesse Lee Day School*. I have been married to my husband, John, for 25 years. We have three daughters, Morgan, Madison & McKenzie. Morgan is a student at St. Lawrence University, and her sister, Madison, will be following in her footsteps and will attend there next year."

**'86 Class Agent, Bryan T. Green**, 287 Grindstone Creek Dr., Clarkesville, GA 30523. 706-754-4093. Email: [bgreen@hhmin.org](mailto:bgreen@hhmin.org)

**'87 Class Agent, Needed**



David Hoy '72 at Hoy's 5 & 10





*Kathy Barnard Carroll '85*



*The Tarburtons: Marbie (Parshall) '88, Andy, Abbi and Kylie.*



*Kendell Klein Munzer '92 and son, Hayden*

**'88 Class Agent, Marbie Parshall Tarburton**, 4493 Cedarwood Dr., York, PA 17402. 717-751-6861. Email: *marbis@aol.com*

**'89 Class Agent, Janet Stiegman Fellows**, 2360 Brace Rd., Canandaigua, NY 14424. 716-394-7211. Email: *janetjfellows@yahoo.com*

**'90 Class Agent, Kevin A. Backus**, 23323 Liberty St., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080. Email: *captkevin@mrmuskiecharacters.com*

**'91 Class Agent, Karl A. Sessler, Jr.**, 4517 Foxcroft Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32309

**'92 Class Agent, Kendell Klein Munzer**, P.O. Box 171, Garrison, NY 10524

**'93 Class Agent, Kristin Norton Anderson**, 172 Todt Hill Rd., Staten Island, NY 10314

**Rashid Rondon** wrote, "I live in Nassau, NY. I have just started an after-school program in Albany at The Albany United Methodist Society, where I also help

run a food pantry. I intend to start more programs there."

**'94 Class Agent, Jaime Campbell Hudak**, 358 Broadway, Ste. 201, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Email: *jchudak@criteriuminc.com*

**'95 Class Agent, Crystal Allen**, 4068 South Washington, Englewood, CO 80113. Email: *all4cailin2000@gmail.com*

**'96 Class Agent, Nick Johnson**, 9 Broadview Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804

**'97 Class Agent, Carlos "Cheech" Quinones**, 1269 Bonheur Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146

**'98 Class Agent, Jeff Urquhart**, P.O. Box 926, Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896. Email: *yugecin79@gmail.com*

**'99 Class Agent, Kelly Price-Bayliffe**, 4092 Ashton Club Dr., Lake Wales, FL 33859 Email: *info@tastour.co.uk*

**Kelly** writes on Facebook, "Life is good. London is amazing - can't believe it's been 10 years. Say Hi, I'd love to hear from you!!"



*Rashid Rondon '93 and his sons, Rashid and Rashim*

**'00 Class Agent, Christine Donovan Dobson**, Email: *ilovegrorns@yahoo.com*

“Making people at ease is one reason **Tara Sherry-Torres** founded Cafe Con Leche, a company that hosts events bringing together members of Pittsburgh’s Latino community, as well as those who want to learn more about their heritage through food, music, dance, and art. She came to Pittsburgh from Brooklyn in 2008, to study for her graduate degree in social work at the University of Pittsburgh and decided to stay and, in turn, promote Latino culture.”

**'01 Class Agent, Jontia Jones**, P.O. Box 319, Selkirk, NY 12158

**'02 Class Agent, Lea Taubinger**, 416 Ocean Ave. #3 Melbourne Beach, FL 32901. Email: *lea\_taubinger@hotmail.com*

In January, **Melanie Zylinski '06** updated us about herself and her siblings, **Michael '02** and **Stephen '09**, all of whom graduated from Hoosac. She writes, “**Michael** is married and living with his wife, Kim, and daughter, Corrine, in Pittsburgh, PA. They are expecting another daughter at end of May.”

**'03 Class Agent, Needed.**

**Nicholas Docyk** attended the reception in New York City in February. **Nick** wrote Headmaster Foster, “I joined the United States Navy in 2007 and received an Honorable Discharge in 2012. My awards: Purple Heart; Navy and Marine Corps with a Bronze V

Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; NATO Medal; Navy Pistol Expert Medal. My certificates are: Special Operations Combat Medic; Hospital Corpsman Basic; Field Medical Training Battalion Course; Basic Reconnaissance Course; Jump School.” **Nick** and his wife, Fantina, live in Ballston Spa, NY.

**'04 Class Agent, Whitney Kelly**, P.O. Box 9, Hoosick, NY 12089. Email: *whitneyvkv5985@aol.com*

**Ailish Ryan Hazen** and her husband, Mike, welcomed their first child on Sept. 2, 2014. Caroline Ryan Hazen was 6 lbs., 14 oz. **Ailish** and her family live in Hoosick Falls, NY.

**'05 Class Agent, Laurel Del Rosario**, 193 Church St., Hoosick Falls, NY 12090. Email: *laureldelro2@hotmail.com*

**'06 Class Agent, Amanda Fleming**, 2514 London St., Los Angeles, CA 90026. Email: *amandamary.fleming@gmail.com*

**Melanie Zylinski** lives in Arlington Vermont and manages “Pendleton” in Manchester, VT. She has a six-year-old son, Nicholas, who is in first grade. Her email address is *canuckmama08@yahoo.com*.

**'07 Class Agent, Blake Boyer**, 13 Bassett St., Taunton, MA 02780. Email: *hoosachockey1@yahoo.com*



Tara Sherry-Torres '00



Kelly Price-Bayliffe '99



Michael '02, Melanie '06, and Stephen Zylinski '09



Ethan Clifford '14 with Geoff Tabor '14

**'08-'09 Class Agents, Needed.**

Stephen Zy-  
linski lives in Eugene, Ore-  
gon with a few of his friends.

**'10 Class Agent Jed  
Jones**, 428 Schen-  
kar Rd., Pownal, VT  
05261. 802-823-5074

**'11 Class Agent, Needed**

**'12 Class Agents, Pat-  
rick (P.J.) Lepage**,  
214 Grassy Lake Rd.,  
Whitefish Ontario, Canada  
POM 3E0. Email: [pj\\_ryde@  
hotmail.com](mailto:pj_ryde@hotmail.com)

**ZiQi (Jessica) Gao**, Penn  
State Harrisburg, 11 Ken-  
wood Bldg., Middletown, PA  
17057. Email: [zqg5045@  
psu.edu](mailto:zqg5045@psu.edu)

**Kelsey Tabor**, 320 Pine  
Cobble Rd., Williamstown,  
MA 01267

**Kelsey** is spending a se-  
mester abroad at the Univer-  
sity of Technology in Syd-  
ney, Australia. She has been  
a media and public relations  
intern at the University of  
Miami athletic department.

**'13 Class Agent, Needed**

**'14 Class Agent, Needed  
Ethan Clifford '14**

won the first ever Lyn-  
don State College Student  
Leadership Conference Case  
Study Competition for his  
examination of leadership in  
organizations.



The Hoosac Boys Hockey team traveled to Brunswick School in January. While they didn't win the game (respectable 4-1 loss), they did have the support of some loyal alums. Dan Hannon '74, George deMenocal '74, John Millar '64, Steve Kohn '69, Nip Smith '74, and Al Meyer '74, all made sure that boys on the ice had some inspiration by cheering them on throughout the game.



*Richard J. (Dick) Phair '43*

Hoosac friend, William Marvin (son of Keith Marvin '43, and brother of Dwight Marvin '74), visited Dick Phair '43 in Canaan, CT recently. They reminisced about Hoosac over lunch. Bill says that Dick is the "same Dick we all know and love!"

Also visiting Dick in March from Hoosac were Headmaster Dean Foster and Ross Thomson '94 as seen below.



# “You Can’t Go Home Again”

by Walter Seager ‘56

Thomas Wolfe was only partly correct. The title of his novel told us that *You Can’t Go Home Again*.

In 1955 and 1956 my “home” was Hoosac School. My father was being transferred to Morocco and, not being proficient in Arabic, French, nor Spanish, accompanying my father and mother would leave me without school to attend in my final year of secondary school.

We mentioned the situation to our pastor, The Rev. Harold Sedgwick of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., and he referred us to his friend The Rev. Meredith B. Wood, Headmaster of Hoosac School. I arrived in mid-October, slightly late for my senior year. To my surprise I suffered virtually no homesickness. Father Wood, the students, faculty, and staff made me feel right at home.

Physically, Hoosac was far different than it was shortly before my arrival, as the old campus had burned to the ground, and the new campus, at that time, consisted of Tibbits Mansion, the chapel, a barn, and a couple of modest dorms for underclassmen. All the seniors were housed in Tibbits and all our classes were held therein.

I doubt that anyone who has not experienced life as a student at Hoosac can fully understand the school’s perfection. Over the years, students have experienced many headmasters and rectors. The only headmaster I experienced as a Hoosac student was The Rev. Meredith Wood - Father Wood to us. He was the heart and soul of the school. There was not a single student who did not love that remarkable man. He accepted each of us as we were. He counseled us on a personal basis and when he counseled us individually, we felt that we were his only person of interest. Good students, mediocre students, and those academically struggling received equal interest and attention from Father Wood.

And truly he was our Father. To this day, 60 years after my graduation, he is, I believe, still a spiritual Father to all the alumni who experienced life with Fa-

ther Wood. Perhaps my experience with Father Wood is best exemplified by his parting words to me. In our yearbook, the yearbook staff half-jokingly rated their classmates on topics such as most pessimistic, neatest, and most gullible. I was rated as laziest. At our graduation ceremony Father Wood confidentially told me that many people confuse laziness with efficiency. It took away the mild sting of my rating. And as I went forward in my life, I perhaps was not always the first to get up in the morning but I made a point of ALWAYS being on time or ahead of time in all my appointments and other obligations.

At the request of Headmaster Dean Foster, I have been working on a History of Hoosac School, hopefully to be completed by the end of this school year. My personal experience with Headmasters and Rectors is limited to Father Wood and, more recently with Headmaster Dean Foster since I have come to know him, as my grandson, Michael Seager, is now a student at Hoosac. In doing research for the book, I have discovered something that is truly remarkable to me. From its beginning to the present day, Hoosac School has been blessed by having exactly the perfect Headmaster or Rector that the times and conditions required. The founder drew on his family’s history to create an historical and spiritual background

for the school that has lasted throughout the years. Others have overcome financial difficulties. Still others have successfully dealt with drastic drops in enrollment during periods such as the great depression. Others with the destruction of the original campus and its rebuilding around the Tibbits Mansion, bringing us to today with Headmaster Dean Foster expanding the student body to include a treasured wealth of foreign students and an expansion and rehabilitation of the campus. The reason for this perfect growth of Hoosac for all these years? Deus Regit.

As I wrote at the beginning of this article, “Thomas Wolfe was only partly correct. The title of his novel told us that *You Can’t Go Home Again*.” Why? I graduated from Hoosac School in 1956. I never went back until 2014 – 58 years later, when my wife and I took our grandson for a pre-enrollment tour of Hoosac. Wolfe was correct in that physically, Hoosac was unrecognizable, except for the Tibbits Mansion and the chapel. But Wolfe was also wrong. The spirit of my Hoosac home and family was unchanged. Despite my neglect of Hoosac for 58 years, in returning I felt like the prodigal son. (“Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. So they began to celebrate.”)



L. to r.: Geraldine Seager, Michael Matthew Seager ‘17, Walt Seager ‘56, and Headmaster, Dean Foster

# A Yule Log Mini-Term With Col. Louis Watt

*an interview with Director of Studies, Claudia Stulz*

Holding regular classes during the 10 class days just prior to the Boar's Head Pageant performance has always been a challenge. It's a very busy time, with rehearsals and costuming oft requiring a student's presence during the class day. Having all this happen in the evenings precludes homework and tutoring from faculty, and places extra travel on day-student parents, thus discouraging day student participation.

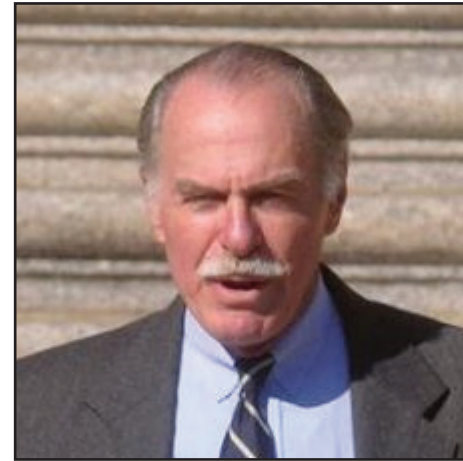
This year the problem was solved by installing a Yule Log Mini-Term during those two weeks. To add some creative fun to the Yule Log experience, Ms. Elacqua offered two art seminars: illustrating Yule Log Songs and creating illuminations of the medieval period. Louis Watt, a visiting professor from Penn State, offered two seminars: poetry writing and aerodynamics. Time was also made available for students to seek extra one-on-one help from their teachers to improve their grades.

Professor Watt teaches seminars for freshmen engineers at Penn State U, sits on various boards, maintains a farm in Hoosick, and writes the occasional poem. He so enjoyed doing the seminars at Hoosac during the Yule Log mini-term that he signed up to come back for Trimester 2, to offer aeronautics as a science elective for students

who have an interest in engineering.

Louis Watt, Colonel USMC (retired), was raised on Pine Valley Road in Hoosick, New York and attended public schools in Hoosick and Hoosick Falls, NY. He received an ROTC scholarship to Tufts University where he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a commission in the Marine Corps. He later earned a master's degree in management at George Washington University. His twenty-six year Marine Corps career included nineteen months of combat flying in four aircraft models, five years as a test pilot, and various other flying and management assignments. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (twenty-nine awards) and Legion of Merit (two awards). Since leaving the Marine Corps, Lewis cofounded an engineering company which is now part of Sikorsky Aircraft Company. Lewis lives in State College, Pennsylvania with his wife, Judith. He travels between Penn State and Hoosac each week to teach seminars.

We are delighted to be able to offer our students an opportunity to be introduced to the world of engineering (yes - poetry writing too) by such an interesting man and accomplished educator.



*Col. Louis Watt*



*Col. Louis Watt and students in his seminar in Blake Science Center*

## **Sonnet Nine** *by Professor Watt*

**Why did these four lads sign  
up for my class?  
How well this worked even I  
am amazed.  
Four seemed to bring us to  
critical mass.  
Four teenage lads, heads down,  
writing unfazed.  
We read lots of Service and  
Frost, of course;  
Some cowboy rhymes, Billy  
Collins fine poems.  
Even classic Greek about the  
Troy Horse!  
And Deacon's Masterpiece by  
O.W. Homes.  
But mostly we wrote, heads  
down and thinking.  
Counting syllables on fingers  
and thumbs.  
Scanning alphabet for rhymes  
and linking,  
Hoping rhyming gods would  
throw us a crumb.  
There is Josh and there's Bran-  
don, and Maxx and there's  
Brett.  
You should wager on these  
lads; you'll win the bet**

## ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT

This year, thirty-two Hoosac students are enrolled in Honors or Advancement Placement courses. Nineteen students are enrolled in an Advanced Placement class: AP Chemistry, AP Literature & Composition, AP European History, and AP Calculus BC. The curriculum of an AP course is approved by College Board, the company that owns the AP brand and creates the AP exam. Some colleges award college credit if a student passes the AP exam with a high enough grade. In addition, sixteen students (three of these are also in an AP class) are enrolled in Honors classes: English II, PreCalculus, and U.S. History, which is now registered as an AP course. Taking an AP or Honors course positively weighs a college application.

According to the Director of College Counseling, Tom Kurland, (Hoosac class of '94), Hoosac School is now familiar with the specifics of the audit process, (thanks largely to faculty member and AP Coordinator, Kraig Odabashian) and is in a position to offer more AP courses. Also planned is to rename and register some already established courses as AP offerings. In those, extra instruction and work will be required for those students in the class who will be taking the AP exam. This plan will allow a competitive selection of AP courses, while furthering Hoosac's mission to work closely with students to tailor the educational experience on an individual basis. Looking forward to Fall 2015, Hoosac is in a better position to build its AP program.

- SCK



L. to r.: Julia Kopala '16, (back) Nolan Porcelli '15, Jake Ratelle '15, and Taylor Schnoop '17

## THE REV. MEREDITH B. WOOD FOUNDATION

A two-time recipient of The Rev. Meredith B. Wood Foundation Scholarship, Ian Richter '10 returned to Hoosac this year as part-time faculty, his primary task to develop lab protocols to meet AP Chemistry requirements. Ian also filled in as substitute teacher. In Trimester III he will also teach a class in Computer Programming. "I am very appreciative of the support I received from the Father Wood scholarship" Ian states with a quiet smile. "My time here at Hoosac prepared me for success in college and to eventually reach my goal of going to med school." Starting in August of 2015, Ian will begin medical school at Des Moines University.

Established in 1999 by alumni who had been students of the well-loved and respected Father Wood, The Rev. Meredith B. Wood Scholarship is awarded each year to a Hoosac student who embodies the qualities that Fr. Wood instilled in his students: outstanding character, perseverance, and deep respect for mankind. Gifts to support the Fr. Wood scholarship fund have been described as "the gift that keeps on giving" as so demonstrated by Ian.

- SCK



Ian Richter '10 at work in the Blake Science Center lab.



## HOOSAC NEW YORK CITY RECEPTION & OWL DINNER

by Susan Schoeninger '94

Our 125th year of revelry continued on February 27th with our New York City Alumni gathering at the Princeton Club, hosted by Headmaster Dean Foster and Susan Schoeninger, Director of Development. Hoosac Alums arrived in large numbers to catch up with fellow classmates and friends from class years that spanned '55 to '09. It was a memorable night, filled with laughter and fun for all who attended. We appreciate all who came to support our school and hope you will make it an annual gathering! Be sure to check out our Facebook page for photos and updates. The details for our spring Alumni gathering are being finalized - consider gathering a group of some classmates to attend if you missed our NYC gathering! It is the support and generosity of our alums that make Hoosac possible!

After our reception, attending Owl Society members moved to a private dining room at the Princeton Club to be honored by the school for their contributions of \$1,000 or more with a three-course, seated dinner. Owl members were toasted and thanked with Owl pins for their generous contributions. We were pleased to add another Owl to the dinner for a donation made that night! If you are interested in becoming a distinguished member of the Owl Society, please contact Susan Schoeninger, Director of Development at [susan@hoosac.org](mailto:susan@hoosac.org) for more information.

Hoosac School's Owl Society was created in the summer of 2011. Newly installed Headmaster Dean Foster was, among his many tasks, creating a much stronger Annual Fund organization, and his staff and volunteers were busy seeking new ideas and strategies we might adopt for our own use. An idea which proved to be almost universal among schools and colleges was a leadership gift club which awarded special recognition and honor to donors who gave at the \$1,000 level and up. We learned that such clubs not only generated important sums of money, but also generated valuable advice and counsel. The main organizational problem was selecting a name which would be appreciated by the members and would relate to traditions of the school.

Luckily, Hoosac did not suffer this impediment! Our trusty Owl offered tradition, beauty, and a reminder of our "ancient" beginnings, our beautiful surroundings of the natural world, and perhaps a bit of mystery well suited to a new and important asset for Hoosac School. However, a surprise was in store for us! It seems everyone has his or her favorite breed of owl and there are many breeds. Many questioned why don't we choose a Great Horned or a Smokey or a Screech and on and on. We have a Barred Owl, very much a native of Hoosac (and Hoosick) as attested by the ornithology experts. In fact, we are told the first Dutch settlers saw the birds and asked their name from local Native Americans. Their reply was a deep throated "Hoosac" and so we became the "Valley of the Owls" and our names became forever linked.

May generous supporters continue to be as numerous as our owls. We honor and appreciate them!

- Glenn W. Boynton



*The 2015 Owl Society dinner at the Princeton Club*

## A STEM LAB

### Tailored for Hoosac

Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) refers to a project-based cross-curriculum program that integrates use of STEM skills. This wave in education strongly relates to a surge of occupations in computer and mathematics, architecture and engineering, physical and life sciences, as well as in STEM related training/sales/manufacturing of scientific products.

Hoosac must respond to this need. While building new space is planned for the future, a major retrofit of the existing science classrooms is needed now. Science faculty member Kurt Colling notes that, "A new layout will increase lab safety and facilitate teacher/

student interaction. This change, along with equipment updates, is necessary to accomplish the AP Chemistry curriculum."

An anonymous lead gift, along with a strong second gift, has allowed Hoosac to take the first steps to build its STEM program. This will be applied to retrofit the existing classrooms. Your help is needed to purchase scientific equipment and STEM modules for the classroom. If you have interest in supporting STEM at Hoosac, please contact Headmaster Dean Foster.

*Mr. Mather works with students in the lab.*



## GOOD WORKS CONTINUE

*by Axel Barora '13*

Every year from April 7 to April 14, people from every part of Rwanda gather together to remember our lost ones. With tremendous help from classmates in Africa who now study abroad in different countries around the world, I made a video for the 20th commemoration of the Rwandan genocide in 2014. I asked each of them to record a short video sending a message to people who lost their loved ones in the 1994 Tutsi Genocide, and to inform the rest of the world about genocide in general. I edited the video, posted it on Facebook and Youtube, and people shared it. I also sent a copy to the community back in Rwanda. They were impressed and during the week of commemoration showed the video on the big screen to 60,000 people at Stadium Amahoro. It was also aired on Rwanda national TV and was shown at a conference of immigration lawyers at Canisius College Science Hall. One of the organizers (my aunt) asked to show it to guests. I was more than pleased to share it.

In February, a friend of mine invited me to ROSS awards. ROSS stands for "Republic Of South Sudan." It was nominated for best video of the year. It was an exciting moment. The show wasn't mainly focused on Awarding Artists. I actually received the award during the Miss South Sudan 2014 Beauty Pageant. As you may know there's genocide going on in South Sudan.

Without a doubt, this experience encouraged me and made me believe more in my dreams. Last year I started a foundation called "Glow Foundation" consisting of about 20 young people. Our focus this year is to run a campaign and sell T-shirts online to commemorate Rwandans in USA. Part of the proceeds will go to Orphans that Genocide left behind, and part will help the foundation grow and prepare for future projects. At the end of the fund drive I want to send a little reward to people who helped, such as "medals" and a letter thanking them.

Hoosac really built my confidence in all sorts of aspects and I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for all the support. I'm planning to visit Hoosac in future. I had a great experience and I appreciate it a lot.



*Axel Barora '13*

*While at Hoosac, Axel ran the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients fund drive. You can view the 20th Commemoration Genocide in Rwanda, Kwibuka Worldwide. (Dynasty RNM) at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjJo\\_r8\\_30](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjJo_r8_30)*



## All Saints Day

A day to remember all those who came before

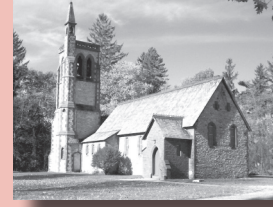
Every year since the founding of Hoosac School, this day has been marked by a service at All Saints Church, still standing and in use on the site of the old campus. Every year songs of faith are sung, a clergyman delivers a sermon and leads our prayers, students read and assist the service, and the Headmaster reads the names of all those who came before.

This year the church was filled to capacity as the service coincided with Hoosac's 125th Founder's Day celebration. Sitting there were many of Hoosac's young and old, forever bonded by the part of life's journey spent here. We heard Father Ed (Hoosac's chaplain) speak of how each student carries somewhat of a founder's role and of how the support and commitment of past, present, and future students has brought our school to its current strength. The Headmaster read the names of those of the Hoosac community who have passed on. And then an alumnus stood. He had composed a poem:

### What is this list of Names that Shall Be Spoken?

by Dr. Clive Bridgham '68

You will be there, I shall be there  
All who have passed through the door  
Remembered/Not remembered  
Now just a sound heard/not heard by unmoved  
minds.



Maybe a tear dropped into the musky, dusty, dusk light, room?

No, brilliant sunshine shall greet me as it did once  
as I bounded out the door after chapel after class,  
Eager to get back on with life.

Abundant youth full of mind/body/spirit  
soaring well oiled almost still brand new  
(not yet tarnished by age)  
that patina of youth taken  
totally for granted.

We meet here today to remember  
as we shall be remembered  
(Use not yet pushing up the flowers)  
These names shall be spoken less frequently.  
These names shall be spoken maybe never again.

But do not leave in sorrow  
Leave in gladness that you are leaving  
Learn your lessons well  
Go out into the world in peace

But remember – your name shall be spoken here.

## NEW EAGLE AMONGST THE OWLS

by Anita Wilson

Congratulations to Will Clifford, class of 2017, on his latest achievement of earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Will has been in Scouting officially since the age of seven, but before then he attended many meetings and functions with his brother, Ethan, class of 2014, and also an Eagle Scout.

The process for earning this rank is much like an intense job interview, requiring credentials, letters of recommendation, and an application. The scout must also write a statement of personal ambitions and prepare a leadership project proposal for Council approval. The application follows a culmination of merit badges and service projects. The minimum number of completed merit badges is 21, only ten

of those being of the scout's choosing.

The rank of Eagle Scout is an excellent accomplishment to have on a resume. It opens many doors because the process shows leadership, responsibility, and an impressive set of learned life skills. It is also a demonstration of community and family teamwork; Will credits his success especially to his mother, who has been totally supportive of him and his brother for the work involved in reaching this goal.

Although Eagle Scouts are in a brotherhood for life, the opportunity to continue advancement in scouting will end at the age of 18. Will has further chances to earn additional awards with Palms of Bronze, Gold, and Silver until then. We have no doubt he will make

more strides with his dedicated work ethic and ambitions.

Another Eagle Scout currently at Hoosac is faculty member, Tyler Mather.



Ethan '14 and Will '17

# Basketball



# Winter Sports

2015



# Hockey

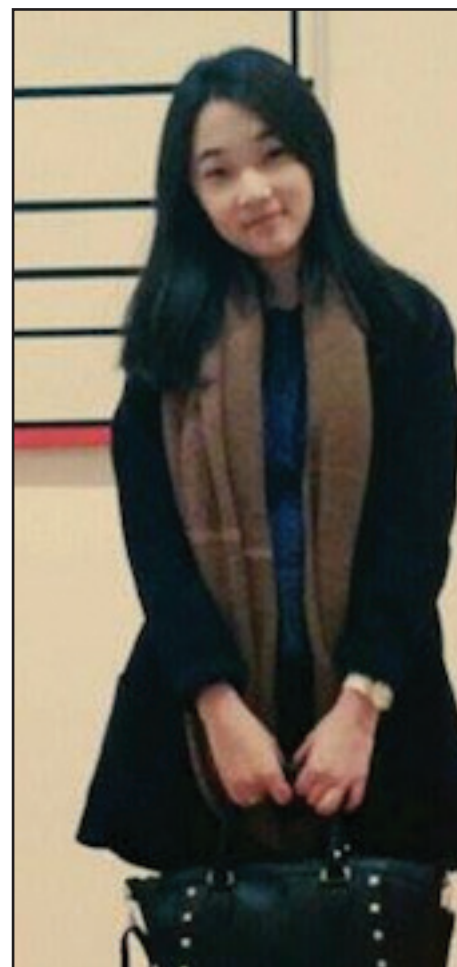
## What Hoosac Gave Me

by SeungBee Yang '14

Having gone to an American high-school is a huge different experience for international students. Going to Hoosac School for three years made my high school life very special. At Hoosac, everything was a new experience; dormitory life, work jobs, sports and Yule Log. I had to learn ways to cope with a new place, new rules, and new people which eventually became great memories. When students with different cultural backgrounds come to Hoosac, they face differences and understand by sharing their moments with others in Hoosac. Among many other new things, I particularly found special that I played basketball for the first time in my life. In Asian countries, girls do not normally play basketball as much as girls in Western culture. I experienced a piece of Western culture and opened my eyes to accept those differences by learning to play basketball with great coaches and friends. Now I am a huge fan of basketball. In terms of academic development, I would like to emphasize that things I have learned at Hoosac are great assets and gave me

a solid foundation for my college life. Learning Calculus-1 material in Hoosac gave me a huge advantage in succeeding in the first semester Calculus course in my college.

I was also able to understand others by communicating and doing activities together with people I met in Hoosac. I believe communicating with people was the real opportunity to experience differences; listening to their opinions, speaking out my opinion and putting myself into their shoes. Sometimes I was frustrated that things did not work for me but I always had someone to hear me out. Faculty and friends at Hoosac are not just faculty and friends. For me they are family and great helpers, and I am grateful that I had those people in my turbulent high school years. I had gratitude for a little piece of happiness back then such as taking a school bus to go to Walmart after school, going to the gym to watch basketball games, having a barbeque all together in May and performing in the Yule Log in winter. Back then, I never knew that I would ever miss these episodes, but now that I am



*Sandy in her first year of college at SUNY Geneseo.*



*Sandy and McCullough dormmates in chapel at Hoosac.*

living in the bigger, more competitive society of college, I miss the brightness my friends and I had and cherish the moments when we were always together in a small and quiet high school surrounded by the beautiful scenery of four seasons.

Not only had I unforgettable memories, I also became more mature with lessons and advice I obtained at Hoosac. With all the struggles, disruptions, and discouragement that happened in my high school life, I overcame them and became stronger in mind. One mysterious thing about Hoosac life is that, you will never know how valuable your time in Hoosac is until you leave and settle down in another life. You will never find out that you will cherish the times in Hoosac until you get out of Hoosac.

## Sports and Hoosac

by George P. "Skip" Clayton II '59

The years keep passing me by and I think to myself, what, it's been 58 years since my Dad and I visited Hoosac School on June 12th, 1956. We met with Father Wood. It was 270 miles from Philadelphia to Hoosac. The worst part after the interview was wondering whether I was going to be accepted, but the letter finally arrived stating that I was.

I played on the 1957 Basketball Team and we tied for the league championship in our final game of the year. Baseball was my favorite sport to play - we had an outstanding team and went 7-1-1. In fact, Father Wood said that in his 16 years at Hoosac, that was the school's best team. That was good enough for me. We even played an exhibition game against a semi-pro team from Hoosick Falls. We lost the game, 6-0, but we weren't embarrassed by a long shot.

Father Wood resigned and I hated to see him go. I never heard a person say anything bad about him .

My final two years at Hoosac were under Dr. Cooley. We won the 1958 Taconic Conference Championship and the league's first post-season tournament in my junior year. I also coached the JV Basketball team my last two years at Hoosac. In my senior year. I was elected the Senior Prefect but my biggest moment came when Coach Dickie came to me and asked me to be the playing coach of the 1959 baseball team. He wanted to start building up a Track Team. We had a good team, going 8-5-1 and won the Taconic Conference against a tough schedule of bigger schools. At the end of the year, I had to give all my players their letters and that was a real privilege to do.

I graduated on June 13, 1959 and wondered where three great years went. I made many friends, some of which I still have today. I have seen the school grow and I hope it continues to get bigger and better, which I know it will.

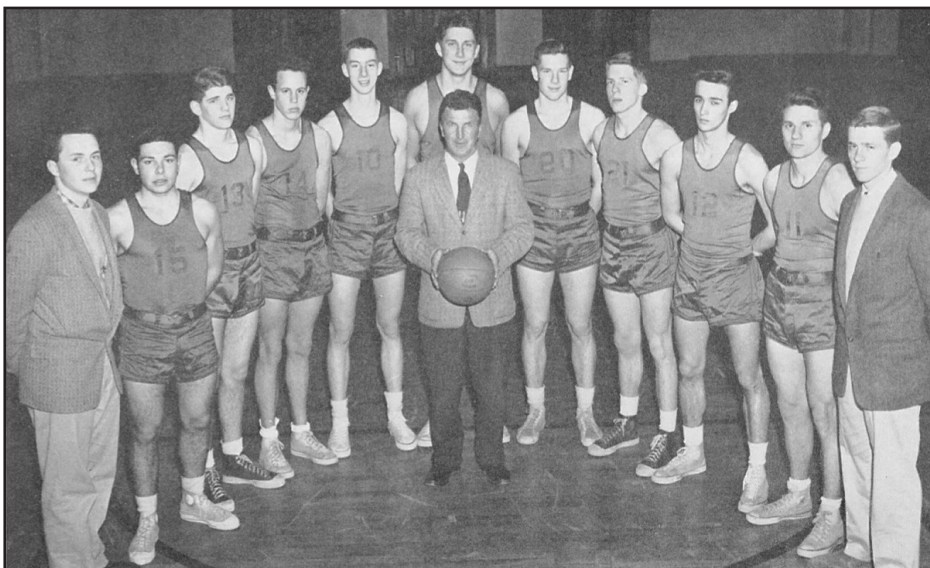


The quote below is from a 2013 article, "A profile of Skip Clayton" by Craig Miller

"A fixture in Bucks County with his auto racing-themed show, appropriately titled "Racing Wrap" which airs every Monday at 5 p.m., Skip Clayton takes a seat in the desk opposite the studio board in the cozy, blue-walled studio known as WBCB 1490AM."



2015 Varsity team members in action



1958 Varsity Basketball - Kingsley, Ass't. Mgr., Rodia, Battin, Hogg, Bohn, Yerburch, Reeder, Comer, Allen, Captain, Clayton, Loftus, Mgr., Coach Dickie in front.

## Reflections

by Chris Metzger '67

It's interesting to reflect on my education at Hoosac now that I'm in my later years, or as it has been designated "Golden Years" though one needs to delicately brush off the dust and tarnish in hopes to find any gold.

Presently in my "retirement" I have taken on continuing my education and sharing some of the results. I have a small computer business and occasionally give free computer studies workshops at the local library. Also I do estate dispersal consulting and online sales.

My Hoosac experience has instilled within me the interest of education, particularly research. I have found that true learning is similar to experiencing a good day's work.

On that a side note: I have a pastime of researching and practicing string figures. Most people recall string figures being no more than a children's game called Cats Cradle. However, in the British Museum there is a collection of thousands of string figures that have been used to study the migration of cultures of the past around the world. Anthropologists, mathematicians, and other science-oriented folk study these string figures. String figures are thought to possibly be a pre-language communication. Look up ISFA.org for more info. A fascinating corner of our world.

Also I wish to express my deep heart-felt appreciation for a recent addition; the new Hoosac alumni veteran plaque outside the dining hall. Having served in Vietnam aboard a hospital ship I am very aware of the prices that have been paid.

One of my duties was to film the wounded coming aboard by helicopter during a furious battle time called the Tet Offensive. We had just received the latest technological advancement - an Ampex video recorder with a three-inch magnetic tape. It was at this time I wondered if any of those I was filming were my classmates. I was 19 years old

and always looking for someone I knew. Some of those listed on this plaque are not here to read their names. It makes me remember to pay my solemn respects to fellow veteran classmates - some alive, some dead.

One experience at this age I wish to share. It was when this hospital ship was anchored at Hong Kong in 1968. Hong Kong was a Free Port meaning that any country was allowed to drop anchor there. I had two days leave out of the six days we would be in port. My shipmates and I were given our paychecks and went ashore clothed in our Navy dress blues, ready for what fun and adventures we might have. So I had to convert my paycheck into Chinese Yen. I took the Star ferry from Hong Kong to Kowloon where I went into a large bank. I had to stand in line because there were many people including sailors from all over

the world who were about my age. Directly in front of me was a Russian sailor, and a few people further there was a Red Chinese sailor, a Korean sailor, and then Japanese, Australian sailor, and so forth. How strange this was to me, coming from a war-torn area and soon to return. It seemed to just add to the shock. It was just a year previous that I was standing at Hoosac receiving my graduation diploma.

I still have on my bookshelf my theology/philosophy textbook from Father Blake's teaching. It is titled *Edge of Wisdom*. How and why this teaching was given then I did not know. Now after these years of contemplation of past experiences I am beginning to understand. Perhaps it has something to do with alchemy...changing lead into gold.

Deus Regit



# Hoosac Gives Back

by Julia Kopala '16

Last winter, Min Du '15, one of this year's Senior Prefects, hosted an auction in Hoosac's Dining Hall to raise proceeds for Heifer International (a non-profit organization striving to end world hunger and poverty). That auction was a huge success thanks to an enormous amount of involvement from students and \$3,172 was sent to support Heifer Int'l.

Realizing that many Hoosac students are interested in helping others, this year Min Du organized the brand new "Hoosac Gives Back Charity Committee." The committee's goal is to increase awareness among the students and faculty, and ultimately raise proceeds that will go directly to charities in need. Now in full swing, four fundraisers/awareness days have been carried out. A popular fundraising strategy here at Hoosac is to offer students and faculty a "dress down day" in exchange for a donation.

In October, the committee welcomed parent Carrie Cahill (mother of Logan Cahill '18) to introduce a remarkable organization to the school: The Angel Names Association (ANA), founded in 2001 by Michelle and George Mosca after they experienced the stillbirth of their first born son. This tragedy pushed them to start raising awareness and support for families affected by the death of a child. ANA's mission statement is as follows: "The Angel Names Association is a nonprofit, charitable organization dedicated to assisting families of stillborn children through programs designed to provide financial assistance for end-of-life expenses, counseling services, and funding for stillbirth research." Mrs. Cahill shared her involvement with Angel Names during morning chapel. The following day students and faculty who wished to donate were allowed to wear casual



L. to r.: Eric LeBlanc '16, Jordan Elwood '15, Brett McHale '15, Will Kennedy '18, Min Du '15, Julia Kopala '16, and Morgan McLenithan '15

dress and \$580 was raised for Angel Names.

The committee organized an awareness day on September 30th for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). LLS is dedicated to finding cures for blood cancers and providing support to patients and their families. To raise awareness, all students were allowed to dress semi-casually, as long as they wore a white shirt with a lime green ribbon. The ribbons represent the blood cancer cause. A sea of students

wearing white shirts and lime green specks swarmed the dining hall at lunch. It gave such a feeling of satisfaction to the committee, knowing how interested and involved the students and faculty were. The emphasis was on raising awareness, but \$111 still came in that day. Faculty member Whitney Kelly '04 was ecstatic about the response. Her sister, Emma, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma a few days before her college graduation in 2010. Emma's cancer came back three times, but she is now in the recovery stage and has been cancer-free for a year. The cause not forgotten, Min Du and the Hoosac Gives Back Charity Committee hosted its second school-wide auction on January 23rd – this time raising an astonishing \$3,373! \$1,000 of which was given to The Meredith B. Wood Foundation. The remaining has been sent to to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's School Youth Program.



Students and faculty supporting LLS

# Outstanding Leadership: Min Du '15

by Kraig Odabashian

With quiet, steady manner, Min Du was able to mobilize the school community for two consecutive years to care and give of themselves to noble causes, such as to charity. Truly a citizen of the world and respected by all, Min Du taught us much about working toward a better society. Painting her portrait in words is beautifully done by Kraig Odabashian, her teacher of ESL and AP English Literature:



Min Du

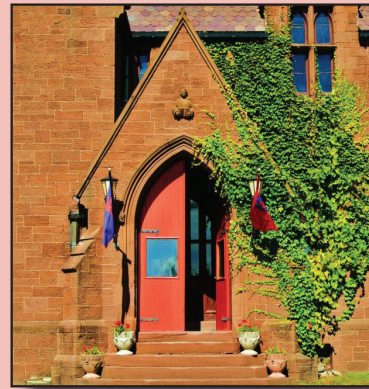
From the very start, Min was eager to learn and demanded more challenging work. Min took on difficult extra-curricular reading assignments. I frequently found her reading classics like *The Great Gatsby* and *Pride and Prejudice* in her free time, or in casual settings like the dining hall. Because of Min's discipline and abilities, I invited her to join my AP English Literature and Composition class. This was quite a leap, since Min had never taken a non-ESL English class. Min's performance on the writing assignments was exemplary. In addition to her academic accomplishments, Min is a very strong leader on campus. After matriculating at Hoosac just last year, she quickly rose to the position of Senior Prefect by virtue of her impressive social skills, community organizing, and general compassion and concern for others. Min has been invaluable in defusing situations in her dormitory

that might have otherwise led to conflict. On more than one occasion, I have noticed Min reaching out to, and befriending, peers who are struggling with boarding school life in one way or another. She shuns cliques and other forms of unkind and exclusionary behavior. In short, she makes everyone around her feel comfortable and valuable to the community.

Min Du has truly been one of the best students Hoosac has had in many years, and we will all be sad to see her graduate at the conclusion of the academic year. She has a strength of character that is truly beyond her years.



## Giving to Hoosac



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Deus Regit



### Front Cover:

Tibbits Mansion  
Photographer: Vanessa Lewis

### Photography in this issue:

Photographs in this issue were taken by Audra Foster, Carolyn Elacqua, Vanessa Lewis, Sherri Klein, and from sources on the internet.

### Back Cover:

Barred owl on campus in the winter



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Hoosac had a visitor for the Boar's Head & Yule Log in December. This barred owl was noticed outside the Dining Hall listening to rehearsals. Welcome Mr. Bubo!

**Deus Regit**