

HOOOSAC

A close-up photograph of a female tennis player with curly hair, wearing a white tank top with black horizontal stripes and a patterned headband. She is looking off to the side with a focused expression. The background is blurred, showing spectators in a stadium setting.

SPRING 2023

HOOSAC TODAY

SPRING 2023



ABOUT THE COVER

Kinsley-Marissa O'Garrow is a 1996 graduate of Hoosac School. In addition to her talents playing professional lacrosse with the US National Team, she is a world-traveller and has a background in broadcast journalism. Read her inspirational story on *page 24* of this issue.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADMASTER

Dean Foster

Writing this introduction is always an interesting time for me. In front of me, I have the rough draft of the magazine and all of the stories are fresh in my mind. The tone or theme of the issue should set me on an easy course, but instead, I find myself easily distracted by the memories that I share with many of the alumni in the articles.

The connectedness that I feel for nearly everyone featured is a direct result of, on the face of it, the amount of time that I have been here at Hoosac, nearly 30 years. However, I have known people who have spent decades at other institutions, schools, or places of work, who will openly admit that they know very little of the people that they have shared the years with.

What is the difference? Simply speaking, Hoosac is the difference.

At Hoosac, everyone shares experiences and traditions that transcend modern fashion or cultural shifts. No matter the year or the decade or the political climate, Hoosac remains true to itself and its roots. From opening day orientation, to the introduction of the Prefects to the first formal dinner; all are actions that bring the community together as one. Founder's Day, the Boar's Head and Yule Log Pageant, Bleeze Banquet, Asado Day, the Mission service, and lastly, Prize Day; each are celebrations that bind us together. These moments, combined with the experiences of daily classes, sports, dormitory life, and private life, create memories that remain for a lifetime.



By sharing these experiences in this publication we are able to reconnect with the bonds between students, alums, faculty, staff, and Trustees and it is these bonds that will help Hoosac continue to thrive. We can see where we were and what we have become and what role Hoosac played in that journey. So, as you read the stories, take a moment and reminisce about your time at Hoosac and be glad that you can share this bond knowing that others are doing the exact same thing and that you are connected through Hoosac.



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Climb Every Mountain

*STANTON "TONY" AND CYNDY
HALL '57 RECENTLY COMPLETED
VERMONT'S LONG TRAIL...*

(FOR THE FIFTH TIME)

On October 29th of this past year, we completed our fifth end to end journey on Vermont's Long Trail. This famous trail covers over 273 miles of Vermont's most rugged and beautiful scenery. We tackle this in day hikes, taking two cars, parking one at each end of the section to be trekked. Some people have wondered why we keep hiking the Long Trail rather than exploring other trails. The most important reason is that we are native Vermonters. Hiking end to end enables us to experience the variety and beauty of the state's landscape not only on the trail but on our drives to trail-heads. We enjoy noticing changes; fallen trees that create new vistas, raging brooks that scrub boulders clean or cause trail relocations, and new bridges to carry us over rushing water. We hike throughout the year except when the snow is deep, so over the years we've seen each section in different seasons. A cool green section of the trail in summer can be transformed into a blazing orange, yellow and red tapestry in the fall or a silent bleak landscape in cold and cloudy November. In the winter there's the

fun of taking our small plastic sled with us when we hike south from route 108 to the top of Mansfield so we can slide down Profanity to Taft Lodge and on down to the ski trails. In these hectic times, when everything out there tells us to go faster, get rid of the old, try something new, we are rejuvenated by our quiet time on the trail revisiting familiar shelters, rocky challenges, and favorite lunch spots.

Whether it's a quick hello or a short conversation, the people we meet enhance the trail experience. Late last fall a group of young women came straggling into Tillitson Shelter where we had stopped for a snack break. It had rained for several days and in many places the trail was a brook. Rock hopping helped for a while, but it was clear the girls had resorted to just sloshing through the water and mud. The last girl hobbled in five minutes later. She gingerly removed her boots and socks revealing raw red toes. We were pleased to give her a pair of soft dry socks; socks that were given to me when I retired from elementary school teaching. It seemed so fitting to pass on the gift to someone who was so close to meeting her goal, which was also our goal. They told us they met as campers at Keewadin Camp on Lake Dunmore. Having finished college and summer jobs they decided to have one last grand adventure; hike the Long Trail. It was clear that the weeks on the trail had been challenging but satisfying and they looked forward to hot showers and pizza with friends who were picking them up the next day.

On our hike north from 108 we had two interesting encounters. First, just beyond Whiteface Shelter, we met three women hiking south. One of them had lost her camera and we said we'd look for it. Soon we saw a group of young people ahead of us; more eyes to look for the camera. We caught up to them, told them about the camera and asked where they were from. They were UVM students hiking the loop from Beaver Meadow and didn't know they were headed for the Lamoille River. Reluctantly, but thankful, they headed back up Whiteface with instructions to take a right at the shelter and hike to Chilcoat Trail. We forgot about the camera until there it was, right in the middle of the trail with not a dent or a scratch in it. A happy phone call when we got home and the next day an exchange of one camera for one bottle of wine!

Despite the many hours we have spent on the trail we have seen few "exciting" animals. However, last November we saw clear bear prints in the new dusting of snow as we hiked on Skylight Pond Trail, and I questioned what I would do if I saw a bear. The bear had followed the trail for some distance and then veered off to the north and

I relaxed. The prints appeared again as we headed north on the LT (had it taken a short cut?) but disappeared as we ascended Bread Loaf. Last summer I thought I saw a small dog coming toward me, only to realize it was a porcupine. It stood on its hind legs, peered at me, then turned away, swung around, and came closer and stood up again as if it couldn't decide whether I was a threat or not. After several more times checking me out it slowly lumbered off to the side of the trail. On another day, near Griffith Lake, we heard a flock of Robins making a lot of noise. Suddenly a larger bird, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, swooped down. As it flew off, we could clearly see a Robin dangling from its talons; a stark reminder that death can come quickly in nature.

We appreciate the Long Trail crews and volunteers. We particularly enjoyed meeting some of the foreign young people who join in to keep the trails in decent shape. I walked away wondering if American youth are willing to live in the "wilderness", volunteering their time to do hard physical labor all day in all kinds of weather. We also met a VYCC crew moving large rocks to improve a wet spot. They seemed pleased with their work and eager to talk with us. We started supporting VYCC many years ago because of the positive influence this opportunity has had on so many youths. Many times, we observed freshly dug water bars, new blazes, or vegetation trimming. We have noticed an increase in rock steps that are so helpful on the steep slopes. While hiking several of the southern sections we started wondering how much boardwalk there is in all. Perhaps we'll record that on our sixth end to end.

And finally, it's impossible to think back on the 273 miles without mentioning nature. Hiking in July meant the songbirds filled our ears with music and hearts with joy. By mid-August, the woods were so quiet except for the woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees, robins, and a few black throated green warblers. Our eyes feasted on rich moss-covered carpets, twisted trees making wonderful art and magical creatures, beautifully crafted stone structures at White Rocks and of course, spectacular fall foliage. Hiking north of Stratton Mt. I felt like I was walking through a golden yellow tunnel. The sun back lit the hobble bush leaves growing close to the trail and light filtered through the yellow leaves of the taller trees. It was truly impressive making me feel so light and peaceful. Moving through nature is surely one of the most restorative opportunities of life.

Continued on next page...

From the easy-going southern part of the state to the more rugged and challenging northern section, the Long Trail is one string of enticing and rejuvenating countryside. With one knee just recovering from surgery, it had to be restorative to hike the trail. Not only did my knee improve but also my overall physical and mental condition. It would be hard now not to have weekly hiking a part of my normal routine. My wife Cyndy and I started our day hikes in earnest around 2000.

The most remote section of the trail certainly had to be Glastonbury. Born in Bennington, I was aware of the area but had never hiked that section. This hike wound up being our last major foray to complete the end to end. Fall in Vermont was wet with some clear sunny intervals. The day we drove from our home in Burlington to Bennington we experienced more clouds. As Equinox appeared from route 7, we could see the beginnings of snowfall. By the time we parked our car in Stamford at County Road, a full-blown snowstorm was beginning. With six inches of snow on the trail and without our gators, we plunged into the woods. The surface snow was not so much a problem as the three inches or more of water underneath. Within the hour, our boots were wet, and we were in for a hike of more than four hours of miserable conditions. Despite being wet, our feet remained warm, we were impressed by the surrounding beauty of the forest beginning to put itself to bed for the winter. Bennington finally appeared in the clearing mist and although I couldn't see the Old Colgate Estate, I could easily pick out the more obvious landmarks such as the Monument. The steep stairs to route 9 were a great finale to a long day's hike but not particularly challenging. I guess that knee is restored after all!

Memorable moments on the LT occur when you least expect it. Rounding a corner at Tillotson on Lockwood Pond an explosion of water, twigs and earth jolted us from the steady routine of the trail. We had scared up a Moose and her calf, both of which immediately leapt to a small field on the opposite side. We stared at each other for a good 20 minutes before continuing. What a wonder it is to be able to still see such magnificent creatures in the wild and still know we are part of the tapestry of nature.

It can be disconcerting at times to walk in the wild. On the way back from Molly Stark's Balcony, while retracing our steps, we discovered that a bobcat had been stalking us for about a mile and luckily meandered off the trail before it reached us. That is one confrontation I was pleased to avoid. The other is the black bear, well known for being less aggressive but still unpredictable. I never have liked snakes and mercifully we saw none but the harmless garter. In a plot on the snow near Bread Loaf, we saw a lovely fantail



impression of wings and splatters of blood. The mouse never knew what hit it and the hawk ate well that day. At another transition between a clearing and the woods, we were startled when a hawk swooped down right in front of us to catch a rabbit. The rabbit won and scampered off unharmed. Passing a white pine, we heard a high-pitched screech and found ourselves looking straight at a Saw-Whet Owl perched on the branches. Its only movement was a turn of the head following us as we walked away amidst the chatter of chickadees.

Cyndy and I are geology and floral aficionados. We were hooked by my brother-in-law who has been helping the State map all the geology of Vermont., His presence, as a Geology professor, on some hikes is invaluable and exciting. On our own, we are hard pressed to go into much detail about formations we see, but we enjoy identifying the age of structures, folds, and rock classifications. The folds always remind me of tilled corn in the rolling hills. Mt Mansfield in the North has especially interesting glacial marks as do many of the mountains on the LT. The rock is older in the South where glacial material peeled off the top layers, exposing the older beneath upon which we now walk. Solid as the granite hills of Vermont has new meaning to the end to end.

Thank you, Tony Hall '57

A Letter in the Archive

“My years at Hoosac, ah, my dear John Sterrett, what a rich, wonderful time they were; far more important in shaping me as a person and a novelist than anything that came later in the educational process (even Princeton with its greater excitement and wider opportunities). There was also the joy of being a rascal... the wild dormitory pranks... soap fights, tormenting of the dorm masters of course and such stereotype cruelties... brewing cider into applejack in corked and wired jars that sometimes over-fermented and exploded in the pre-dawn hours... but mixed with it all the discipline of good teaching and a highly liveable but well-enforced routine.

I was in the class of 1920, I believe, and in those days we lived of course in the sprawling shingled barracks which made a quadrangle behind the lovely stone chapel that is still standing. In the early eighties, I took my wife Sue to see it. It was an afternoon in the fall, with night coming on. I'd known the wooden buildings had burned down-but never how or when- but a light was burning somewhere in the chapel. We tried to go inside, but the doors were locked. With ghostly effect, organ music suddenly pealed inside. I suppose someone was practicing in there.

Memories, yes indeed... the hikes along a winding trail up to the Rector's summer place at Grafton... you could wear your legs out on that hill... the football and baseball

games with Albany Academy in which we were always the underdogs, but doggies that had teeth. And a very significant memory for me, a certain day when Max de Schauensee, then editor of *The Owl*, came into the lower school dorm and explained that he wanted printable contributions in prose or verse from the second and third formers. I thought, What the heck, I'd give it a shot, and I wrote a poem three quatrains in the best Lord Tennyson idiom. I called it "The Wind."

I had something there, I could feel it. Margaret Mitchell had the same hunch years later when she got the same noun into a title. By Gosh, *The Owl* ran my poem. My peers congratulated me. Oh, what a lovely sight it was, my words there on that page, my name there. I'd written something.

My life changed from that moment on. No issue of *The Owl* after that hit its eager public without one or usually several literary works by someone named Busch-Briton Niven, Jr., as I was known in those days. I was started...and less than seven years later, simultaneously, on the staff of *Time*, and a few blocks away, *The New Yorker*. I'd discovered that I could keep on doing what I'd learned at *The Owl* and get paid for it... and love it.

I loved Hoosac. I still love it. Were I rich enough, I would endow *The Owl* in perpetuity. Perhaps someday I will. Meanwhile, from one of the older of the "old boys," a blessing and a full dress *salute*.

Sincerely, Niven Busch
Hoosac Graduating Class of 1920



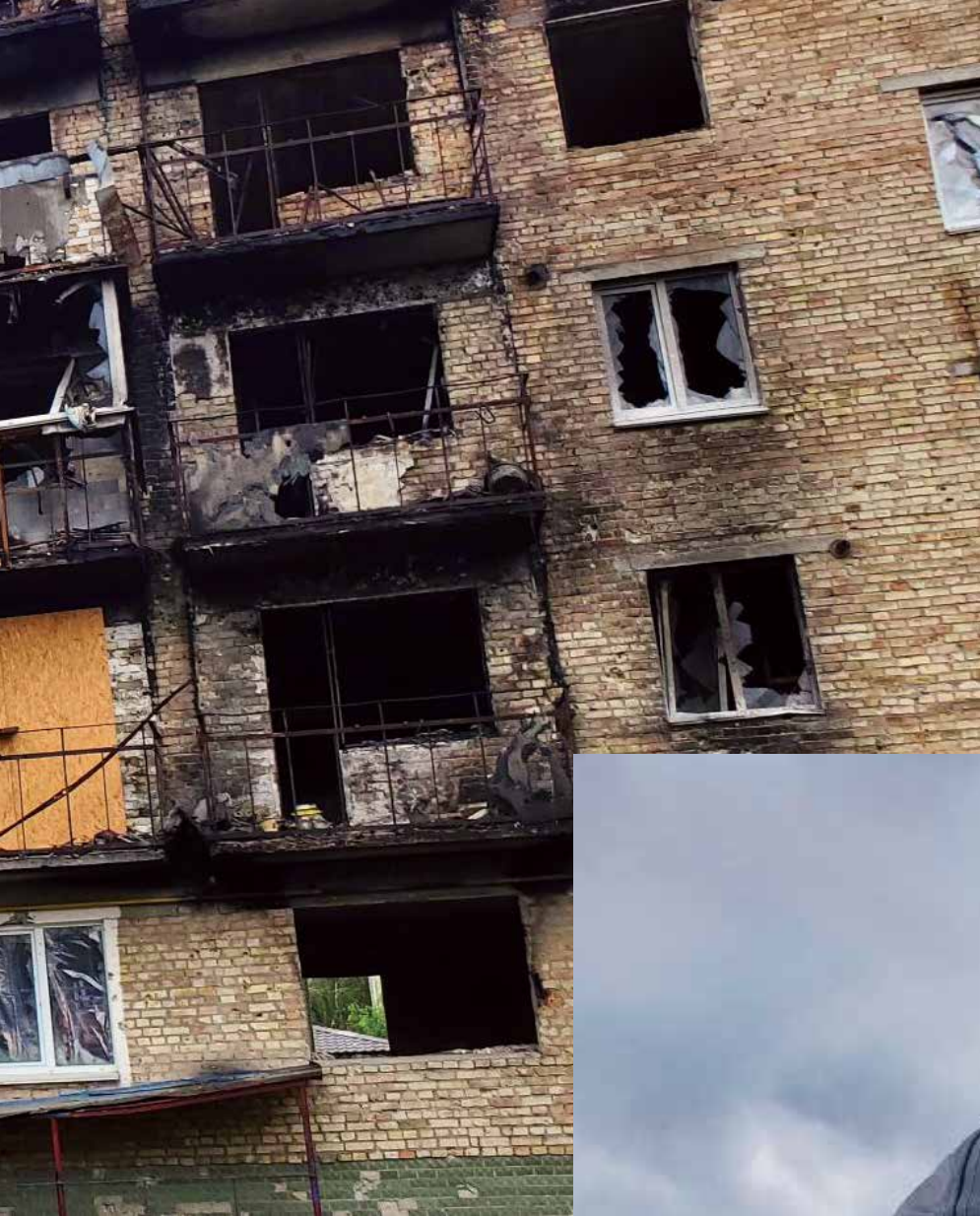


When Malik Moroz '04 learned Russia would soon be invading Ukraine, he knew he couldn't leave his grandmother. The Hoosac graduate stayed behind while others fled the capitol city of Kyiv and faced shelling and other artillery fire to protect the family and country he loves.

Hope.

Malik came to the United States to attend a boarding school in California. He said the climate and architecture felt too far removed from anything familiar so he began looking in New England for a new school.

“I wanted a change. I like New York and New England because they resemble Europe. I was looking at New York, at Massachusetts, at New Hampshire.” He said Hoosac resembled the kind of boarding school he had seen in American films. “You have the chapel, the discipline, the attire and I really liked the architecture.”



Malik said support from countries, including the United States, has proven pivotal



FOR US IN UKRAINE, THIS IS WHAT YOU HAD IN 1776. YOU KNOW, YOU HAD YOUR FOUNDING FATHERS, YOU HAD YOUR HEROES, YOU HAD YOUR MOMENT. THIS IS OUR MOMENT. WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR INDEPENDENCE.

When he first saw campus, faculty warned him it's much quieter than anything he had experienced out west. "Once I got into the lifestyle of Hoosac, it's quite dynamic; it's quite interesting."

Malik quickly made friends and became known to those close with him as the "Ukraine Train." He quickly made friends and made it his focus to meet people from across many cultures. "I met people from different countries, and," he laughed, "thanks to Hoosac, I know how to speak to Canadians. They're different from Americans! I like that experience of getting to know Canadians."

"The biggest influence was this physics teacher from Harvard. I really liked his class. I liked that he tried to keep things simple and start from simple. First, make it simple before making it complex. I liked that approach; if you have something that is hard, break it apart, study the different pieces and then put it together. This helped when I started to study information technology."

A soccer player while at Hoosac, Malik said Coach Ryan was another big influence. "He was our varsity soccer coach and he also was in charge of non-competitive sports like basketball

and flag football. He motivated us to always stay positive no matter how hard things got. He would say that negativity piles up like a mountain of dirt that will only drag you down. He also said that you have to work via pain, no matter how hard it is mentally or physically, you just have to keep on moving because this is how winning is done. As the saying goes, 'no pain no gain.'"

Following Hoosac, Malik attended Boston University. While he is now an IT specialist, at the time he was focused on finance and economics. A financial crisis in Ukraine had him exploring other career options. "I was looking and thinking about broadening my knowledge and understanding and looking for new opportunities. So I began studying IT, In the beginning, I was learning database management and SQL. Then I began to pursue becoming a data analyst and broadening my understanding of the different languages like Python, a little bit of Java, and how to work with BI tools and integrations."

His decision to move into the IT field allowed him to secure a position with the prestigious American company, Mirantis. "Mirantis is close to San Francisco and provides private and



Malik examines artillery left behind following the invasion

public cloud services. It's one of the leading companies.”

The move would also prove a lifeline during the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

“During the invasion, I could work remotely. I didn't get Skylink; I had my cell phone and I could connect to my cell phone. In the first few days of war I was trying to work with all of the sounds, but once the invasion dragged into the second week and we lost electricity, I had to stop. I think they also had blocked the mobile network. They tried to isolate us from the

rest of the world.”

Aide organizations soon helped restore power. “We've received an enormous amount of help. During the occupation, the food kept on coming. When we lost electricity, the generators came in. And shelters through winter from foreign donations.”

At present, Malik is taking care of his grandmother and remaining in his building that is pocked by artillery fire. “At the moment it's martial law being imposed by the president. You can't leave the country; there's a curfew, so you have to be home by



11PM.” Despite the enormous challenges he is facing, Malik felt proud and optimistic about the future.

“For us in Ukraine, this is what you had in 1776. You know, you had your founding fathers, you had your heroes, you had your moment. This is our moment. We’re fighting for our independence. Ninety percent of the population is looking for a democratic path toward the European Union.”

Inklings of an invasion from American and Ukrainian intelligence gave his family time to relocate. His younger brother, mother, and other family have moved to Poland and Germany for safety.

“My company was insisting on me leaving for Poland, but I was confident in my country,” said Malik. “I’m going to stay. I’m staying here and taking care of my grandmother. She’s 88 years old. It was too hard for her to move. It was very problematic when the Russians came in because there was no water, no electricity; there was shelling and the complex we live in was hit by missiles twice. We have been hit by machine guns by armored vehicles. If they see you, they shoot at you.”

“We had a lot of people coming in and out and they have bullet holes in their cars.” Malik said it didn’t matter who was in the cars: “Kids, families; they would shoot at them.”

The start of the invasion looked like an organized attempt. “They were marching in their units and going quickly for Kyiv. Once they realized it wasn’t going to be that quick, their movements slowed down.” Today,

Malik says he mostly sees conscripts and it’s changed the dynamic substantially.

“The first flow you could see those guys were in good shape, organized, maybe they were the contractual army,” he explained. “But then you start seeing the younger guys that were scared and they looted and they were looting in a very strange fashion. They would kind of be afraid of what they were doing, like they realized it was bad and they seemed sorry about what they were doing, but kept on doing it. They knew it was wrong. You could see it in their eyes. But they were hungry. They wanted to eat. They didn’t think it would take that long, so after a few weeks, they were running low on supplies, so they needed to stock up.”

“I was so proud of my people,” Malik beamed. “When the war started I was surprised by how calm everyone was. There was so much team spirit in everyone I saw. The stores kept on open. Some would get shelled, but their main duty was to give out as many items as they could. If someone didn’t have enough milk or water, they would give it out for free; they would deliver it. We all would chip in. I was a delivery boy. I was taking the groceries and delivering them to people who had disabilities. It was very organized. We all tried to help each other. We all understood this was a difficult situation but there was zero panic. We were supporting each other. You had people cooking on the street and then giving it out to people who needed food. It’s a big city, but it felt like a small community during the war. We were all like brothers.



“I enjoyed how people connected. We all understand we are Ukrainians and we have to help each other. We all believed [Russian forces] will leave one day so we believed that we have to keep on going no matter how it gets and help each other and stay strong.

“I’m looking forward to spring. We had a very not fun winter, but I’m looking forward to the spring counter offensive. We’re very high on morale right now.”

As for any messages Malik would like to pass along to Americans, “The United States military are the most dedicated and the people who are hardest for Ukraine. They’re so supportive. Our international legion; we have Americans, people from Australia, people from Canada. Keep on supporting Ukraine. I know there’s fatigue, but it’s important to understand the people here; they’re fighting for their freedom, but they’re also fighting for European democratic values.”

For students at Hoosac, Malik reminds us of what it means to BE Hoosac: “Be somebody who is friendly to people, who helps his peers, who is goal-minded, who likes to learn new things and get things done.”

He added, “It’s good to have a good network; to get good friends. Peers, they help you. Just like here, when you have good friends around you, they help you get through hard times. You can always be a strong man, but outside help is helpful. When you get down, they lift you up. We get a lot of things done and better when we work as a team. It’s good to understand how to be a socially intelligent person and not to be afraid to try new things.”

***WE WERE
SUPPORTING EACH
OTHER. YOU HAD
PEOPLE COOKING
ON THE STREET AND
THEN GIVING IT OUT
TO PEOPLE WHO
NEEDED FOOD. IT’S
A BIG CITY, BUT IT
FELT LIKE A SMALL
COMMUNITY DURING
THE WAR. WE WERE
ALL LIKE BROTHERS.***



I HOPE ALL THE FACULTY STAYS AS AWESOME AS THEY'VE BEEN. I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING HOOSAC INSTAGRAM AND I SEE A LOT OF GREAT ATHLETES! HOW OUTSTANDING! KEEP UP THE WORK.





Seung Bee Yang '14

Hi Hoosac!

I recently graduated with a Master's Degree in International Commerce from Korea University.

Through two years of learning, I wrote a thesis about institutional investors' perceptions on ESG values as the significance of ESG management has been widely discussed in the investment field recently. I wanted to highlight such a trend to amplify more ESG contributions in the financial sector because I believe we should pay more attention to the causal effects of the environment in our daily lives.

Anyhow, after my last semester ended, I left for the airport which took me all the way to Heathrow in

London, then to Sao Paulo, Brazil; a trip that took about 48 hours.

This trip was not part of my studies, but merely a compensation to myself for two years of hustling.

Five countries I've visited and an infinite number of awe-inspiring views include Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru. I'm still going through a jetlag!

I hope all the faculty stays as awesome as they've been. I've been following Hoosac Instagram and I see a lot of great athletes! How outstanding! Keep up the work.

P.S. Here are some of the photos I took while in the trip! (El Calafate-Argentina, Iguazu Falls-Brazil, Uyuni Salt Desert-Bolivia, in order) Hope you enjoy too!



Creatively Innovative

Yaqin Jin '13 first heard about Hoosac School while attending an international school admissions fair in Shanghai. "That was my first time meeting Mr. Foster," said the student many of her classmates knew as "Alice."

Yaqin said she chose Hoosac because she learned several of the teachers graduated from elite colleges and because the campus was in an idealistic setting in northern New York. "I was also impressed with the size and the student count," said Yaqin. "I had received other offers from bigger-sized schools, but the teacher-to-student ratio is more significant than Hoosac School. Hoosac's inclusivity also stood out to me."

Arriving in the United States, Yaqin faced what many English as a Second Language (ESL) students face. "Language and culture were a big challenge. The language courses in school have greatly helped my language-learning, even more adequate than the tutor schools I found outside of the school. Hoosac created an excellent language environment. That and the teachers' encouragement of international students helped me overcome these cultural difficulties."

Yaqin said she began exploring her love of photography while at Hoosac. "I took art and photography classes with some excellent teachers and became the school photographer. My dorm parents were also very supportive and gave me many recommendations regarding my interest. Working at the school newspaper and yearbook also taught me a lot. All of this inspired me to become a photo major while in college and developed my career by getting a publishing degree at New York University."

Not only did Yaqin find direction from Hoosac in finding her passion, the

support she received went beyond that. "Ms. Kelly and Ms. Roemischer were great dorm parents. Ms. Kelly was like a friend to all the students and Ms. Roemischer was like our mom," shared Yaqin. "I went to the college that Ms. Roemischer went to for my B.F.A. It really shows how much Hoosac helped and impacted me in terms of my future career."

"Mr. Foster also put in a lot of effort into our lives. He listened to students and helped us in all aspects. No matter whether school related or personal, even years later; he still cares about the students."

Yaqin said Dr. Robichaud was also a favorite. "He made math class fun and easy. He was young and passionate about teaching. Anyone who has met him can tell how much he loves his job."

When it comes to naming those who had a major influence on her, Yaqin said, "I really can name all the teachers in Hoosac School. Even the staff working in the school were the nicest people I have ever met since I immigrated to the United States."

Following Hoosac, Yaqin attended the Rochester Institute of Technology for their photo program. "It's one of the best photo schools in the U.S. and I graduated with honors. Hoosac School played the most significant factor in my decision on careers, colleges, and graduate school. Because the teachers in Hoosac are alumni of many elite institutions, they are great referrals and the key to good colleges. I got my publishing degree from N.Y.U. with a concentration in digital media because of my experience in the school newspaper and yearbook."

Yaqin began freelancing as a photographer following graduation from RIT. "I worked closely with jewelry designers at the time.





Images by Yaqin Jin

Some of the work was issued in magazines and nominated in photo contests. And luckily enough, I had my photos displayed in some galleries in N.Y.C. and built connections with many artists in the city.”

During the pandemic Yaqin graduated with her Masters and soon became a managing assistant at a beauty company in New Jersey. “I was in charge of photo shoots, content creation, social media management, and talent sourcing. Later in 2022, I started my photo studio. It was a small business in Dumbo, mostly doing portraits and creative photo shoots. What I find most satisfying is catching the

business is in the real estate industry and my parents wanted me to try new things out in this field. I passed the New York State real estate agent exam and worked in a small rental company for a short period, and now I have started investing in rental properties. I was taking this opportunity as a side project in my career but now I’m seriously considering it as a full-time career. It’s an entirely new world and I am learning a lot.”

When it comes to advice for current Hoosac students Yaqin said, “Always go to teachers for advice. They’ve been through the same and have seen so much because of their job. I was very shy in



best moments in someone’s life. While I was at Hoosac, a teacher once told me that I had eyes for beautiful moments. Honestly, it has impacted me so much.”

Yaqin said the move from working for a company to working for herself was a big shift, but, she said, “I’m glad I got to experience both.”

“I had a career change towards the end of 2022. My family’s

school. Although teachers in Hoosac encouraged me so much and helped build my confidence, I hesitated to ask for more support. School is the best source for you. College is completely different from high school, with big classes and less attention to individual students. Cherish the resources you have access to in high school now because it benefits your future.” She added, “Also, keep in touch with schoolmates and high school teachers.”



Josh Mobley '87 knew from the beginning he wanted to work with sound and while at Hoosac, a supportive cook and the dining hall piano put him on the right track. Today, he's earning a living doing what he loves.

MAKING MUSIC

When his parents took him on a tour of boarding schools, he said Hoosac caught his attention immediately. "I was supposed to go to Darrow, but I got to Hoosac and it's where I wanted to go. If I was going to pick one, I wasn't going to bother with looking at any of the other places."

Coming from Maryland, Josh said the biggest challenge with coming to a small boarding school in Upstate New York was that you couldn't go home. "It was a massive change. I was 14. It was quite shocking in the beginning, but I adapted very quickly. Made some friends and I was okay."

Making friends not only with his fellow classmates, but also with faculty helped him transition into a more independent lifestyle.

"My roommate, Byong Man Kim, had a strong personality and I looked up to him. I got into the flow of things and it was okay from there."

Soon Josh discovered he could slip away into the dining hall in his freetime to play the piano. "I just went there every day. That was like my sanctuary. I played before that, but you know, I had time in boarding school and just being able to be left alone. Also, a person who was like my rock there was Mary, in the kitchen. She took a shine to me and I felt like I could really lean on her. I played every day. Probably an hour or an hour and a half a day. She encouraged me. She was really good for me."

"I was working out songs; writing songs and I would have three songs done by the time my parents came to visit each quarter," said Josh. "So I was writing 12 songs a year. I don't know if they

were that good; I've forgotten all of them over time, but it kept me going for sure."

Josh knew from that point on, music was something he would be doing the rest of his life. "I just had to be good enough to get there."

The music faculty at Hoosac helped Josh find footing. "There was this one music teacher; he was the one who helped me get my first synthesizer. He was the one that kept talking with my parents about which one to get. Boy, I got that thing and I didn't leave my room for probably six months. I think that was my sophomore year. I was just in my room all the time just fascinated by sound. And the sounds that this thing would make. My teacher had one that was just a little bit better and I would go down and play his, too."

Following Hoosac, Josh attended a community college for a year and half, but didn't feel it was the right direction for him. "I didn't enjoy it. I didn't like theory and I just wanted to get out there and be in a band and learn from the ground up. And that's what I did." Josh began playing with a number of bands and later moved to New York City where he joined a funk band that changed his life. "I learned about timing, playing with others; a whole laundry list."

It was then Josh realized that while he enjoyed playing out, his real passion was the behind-the-scenes sound crafting. Back in Baltimore, he started getting song-writing gigs and eventually landed a job with Lighthouse Studios. "I was really interested in multimedia, so I started doing all their multimedia soundtracks. I did that for a couple of years and then I moved into a recording studio in 2000."

By 2002, Josh was writing for television and film. "I was plastered all over MTV; all kinds of shows and trailers and even some film. In 2005, I got invited out to LA to start working directly on the score for this show called, "Wanted." When you're scoring a show, you're writing directly to picture. That was very exciting and incredibly demanding. You get there at 10 in the morning and do not leave until 2AM or 3AM just to write 30 minutes."

Caught between the success of his career in LA and a desire to be nearer to his son, Josh left the west coast and moved to Pittsburgh. The timing of the move was pivotal. "I realized with the internet that I could do this from anywhere."

Working with sound was no longer confined to music. "I started doing sound design for phone apps. I had no idea what I was doing, but people seemed to like it and I was known for sound design in that arena. The apps started hitting No. 1 on the app store. It was a crazy time. When you get a notification that you missed a call or those user interface sounds; I make those. It's brand identity for the ear."

Today Josh is creating music not with instruments, but utilizing sound. "I've written over a thousand songs. I'm able to take a song and remove the bass or the drums; any instrument, change the melody of the recording. I'm taking sound and making a collage out of it. What comes out is music."

Josh Mobley's list of accomplishments extends decades and includes Quinten Terrantino's use of a remix featuring Iggy Pop and the Stooges for the Hateful Eight film trailers, a remix of VooDoo Child for the Hendrick's estate, and sound design for Ellen's HeadsUp! online game.

"Being able to have a real living making music and being creative as a means to make money - that's a hard thing to do," said Josh. "The one thing that I've learned from all of this is that you have to treat it like a marathon. If you have talent and you keep at it, like a marathon, eventually you'll win. Other people drop off. I kept going because I wanted it more than anything. I wanted to be creative as a career. There's a lot of sacrifice, but I never gave up and eventually I'm still getting paid to do it."

Today Josh is the proprietor of Josh Mobley Music. He credits



Josh in his dorm room crafting sounds on a synthesizer

his time at Hoosac for some of his success. "Hoosac was an isolated place where I could be myself; express myself as a human being. Being able to play in the dining hall for all those years was huge for me. I don't know that I would have had that opportunity at another school." He had this advice for new students: "When I first got there I wanted to go home immediately. I gave it a few days, made some friends, and being able to connect with people made all the difference in the world. That's what you gotta do. If you can do that, you'll be alright."

For more information on Josh and his work, visit www.joshmobley.com

This, too, shall pass

Dr. David Townsend '80 knew he was in trouble. Following the death of his mother while he was still in middle school, David found himself spiraling into a state of despair concluding in a drug problem by high school that landed him at the bottom of his class of 1,000. "I was suffering from a troubling dependence on alcohol," said David. Having attended private school once previously, David somehow had the foresight to realize he needed more direction. He pleaded with his father to send him again. "To this day, I don't know how I had the maturity and foresight to see that I needed to change my environment. Together, we discovered Hoosac."

Hoosac afforded David a much needed change of environment. "At Hoosac, I learned I could be happy and productive without drugs and alcohol." David's introduction to Hoosac included a meeting with Alfred Murray, a man with a "take no prisoners attitude."

"Mr. Murray was a fascinating man, a good man. He was essential to my success at Hoosac. He was also a terror on Dudley Duty. Mr. Murray treated me like an adult though I did not deserve it and from the first day I met him I always felt he was my advocate. Like any good adult example and teacher, even on the tour that first day at Hoosac, he made me feel that I was in control. Mr. Murray made me feel I was the one choosing my path and controlling my own behavior. Even though this belief is an adolescent myth; it was very important to me at the time not to see the scaffolding and support he was providing."

When asked whether David had had much exposure to other cultures, he replied, "Not really. I had a very insulated upbringing. One of the greatest benefits at Hoosac during my time there was the many students from Iran. It was a difficult time for relations between our countries, but it was fantastic to get to know and be friends with so many Persian teenagers. I am still friends, albeit on Facebook, with many of the Iranian students from Hoosac. There were several students from Bermuda, and I maintained a friendship with Moira-Jean Thompson years after we graduated Hoosac. I also have wonderful memories of visiting Michael Rodriguez in the Bronx. It was so much fun for someone who had never been above the Upper West Side in Manhattan."



*DON'T MAKE
PERMANENT
DECISIONS
ABOUT SHORT-
TERM TEENAGE
PROBLEMS.*

Following Hoosac, David attended Alfred University for a few years. “When my son was born I was 24, His birth really straightened me out. Especially when I got full custody of him a few years later. I became an adult and let the lessons I learned at Hoosac color my life like spilled ink.”

David did later finish school, earning an MFA, an MA, and a PhD in behavioral neuroscience.

“For the past several decades I have worked primarily as a college researcher and professor.

“My research involves infants and the majority of my adult life has been spent helping disabled (especially autistic) children. I have always had an affinity for infants and toddlers; they seemed to bring out the best in me and I the best in them. It’s important to note that I first developed or noticed this superpower with Karl Nielsen’s toddler daughter, Carrie.”

“Karl’s probably the best teacher and example I had as a youth and his intelligence and perseverance have continued to provide me with hope and strength moving forward after Hoosac. Mr. Nielsen got me involved in performance by giving me the leads in several productions during my tenure at Hoosac; a passion which I maintain to this day. Without Karl, I don’t know if I would have read classics by Thoreau, Emerson, and Shakespeare and developed my passion for literature (my library spans my entire house and life),” said David.

Mr. Nielsen even turned Saturday detentions into learning experiences. “Mr. Nielsen turned me into an expert wood chopper. I have always been amazed he trusted me with an ax. Most importantly though, Karls’ dedication, patience, and love for his daughters, both biological and through marriage, informs and influences my enjoyment and dedication as a single parent to my children over the last several decades.”

Today, David blends his love for research with his desire to remain close with his family. “For the last five years I lived a block

away from my son to be a nanny for my two grandchildren. This was the best life outcome I could ever have imagined. Last year my daughter-in-law decided to become a stay at home mom and since then I have moved back east where all my family resides and spend about four months a year with my grandchildren. I continue to work on articles with a research colleague at the University of Connecticut. I also review texts and nonfiction books.”

David was also inspired by other faculty. “I have fond memories of Mrs. Towne. She used to give me the key to the book room downstairs and allow me borrow books to read that were not currently in the curriculum (this is how I discovered Hesse and Hemingway). Additionally, though I did not have

her for any classes, my senior year was the first year Grace McGonigal taught at Hoosac. During my junior year I lived in a house with two other students and Mr. John Gane. I recall that John had designed the library at the school. Mr. Gane taught me so much about personal responsibility; that eventually, after a few rough years after I graduated Hoosac, has become the bedrock of my adult life.”

Hoosac remained force for good in David’s life. “The pervasive impact the school had on me took about five to seven years to kick in. Hoosac taught me how to be a good student and to expect academic success. That lesson was incredibly valuable as a single parent of a

gifted child and served me well when I started night school, attending for nine years to get my BA.” He continued on, receiving his doctorate in behavioral neuroscience.

David’s experience with youth makes him an excellent source for advice for current students. For those new and returning students, he had this to say: “This too shall pass and don’t make permanent decisions about short-term teenage problems. It’s a hard lesson for teens to learn, or it was for me. Finally, it’s never too late to have a happy childhood.



Above *David reads to his grandchildren*

In 2008, **Kinsley-Marissa O'Garrow '96** retired from professional Lacrosse. She had been one of only 18 selected to try out that year and was one of two who didn't make the team. Kinsley said it was a moment, like many in her life, that initially felt like a big negative, but in hindsight it was a pivotal moment that led to some important growth.

"It's been a theme in my life always looking at the negative instead of the positive," said Kinsley, "and that's how it always was even when I was told I was going to Hoosac. I saw it as a negative instead of seeing the positive. I think, especially for young women, we tend to see things in the negative, and reflecting back on my life, everything I thought was a negative really was a positive."

The lesson began one summer while Kinsley was making up credits during summer school at Hoosac prior to her senior year. "I remember pulling up and thinking *Where am I?* I'm from Long Island and I'm not a city girl, but I'm a super urban girl. And you pull up to Hoosac and you're like this is like a farm," Kinsley laughed. "Majorly outside of my comfort zone, but super pretty."

"I remember seeing Tibbits and going up that long driveway and thinking this is so beautiful. That summer class was great and then my mom told me I would be going there for the next year and I'll be honest, I didn't want to go. I was at that age where I was very rebellious and I wound up going there, but the crazy thing is someone from my hometown also went there and once I found that out, I was like, okay, I can do this."

That negative was the first to blossom into a positive. Hoosac didn't have a Lacrosse team, but that didn't stop Kinsley from exploring other sports. "I'm super athletic. Not being able to play lacrosse at Hoosac was a positive because I became diversified in other sports and more confident in my athletic abilities."

During her senior year, Kinsley received the call she'd been waiting for. "I remember Chip Cunningham told me my mom called and I spoke to my mom on the payphone and she was like Jenny Graap from George Mason wants to talk to you. I wound up getting a scholarship. She didn't care that I wasn't playing at Hoosac, she just wanted me as an athlete."

A year away at boarding school made the recruiting trip that followed that much easier. "I went on a recruiting trip to George Mason and then also on to Old Dominion and James Madison," said Kinsley. "It was a wild experience being at boarding school and then taking off to go to college. It was weird because all of the other kids were like 'this is my first time away from home...' and I was like I've been at boarding school for the last six or seven months; this is nothing. And that's really what I appreciated about being at Hoosac; it really prepared me for college."

"Making that transition from high school to college was like a

TEAM PLAYER

**HOOSAC IN
MANY WAYS
SAVED MY
LIFE.**



gap year with independence. It was exactly what I needed.”

Following Hoosac, Kinsley studied communications with the goal of going into broadcast journalism, but at the same time, her lacrosse career began to take off. “From college I went on to join the US National Team and then competed all over the world and then I went to coach at University of Denver and then Pepperdine and kind of steered away from my career goal of being an online news talent to a lacrosse coach and professional athlete,” she said.

“That consumed much of my life until the World Cup



of 2008.” It was during try-outs for the 2008 team that Kinsley ran up against some serious competition. “We made it all the way down to 18 and they only took 16, so I was one of two and instead of being like, ‘Wow, I was one of two;’ I was like *I was one of two who didn’t make it*. But now I realize being cut from the World Cup helped me realize I’m so much more talented than just a lacrosse pick. But it’s a hard narrative to overcome.”

A natural business leader, Kinsley went into sales and business development. However, during Covid, she transitioned into sales full time. “I had to figure out how to navigate and a friend of mine opened up doing sales and they had me come work for them. I’m actually really good at sales. I sell health and life insurance. I’m beginning to realize that while I still have dreams of working as a broadcaster or being part of a professional sports team,” but for now Kinsley said she prefers to flow, taking what comes her way and allows her the most freedom. “It’s where the universe took me. I float and set up roots and then venture off again. Next step is overseas. I would love to move to Spain or Portugal. I studied there in college. I like the warm weather.”

While at Hoosac, Kinsley said her biggest influences were Tina White, Noelle Mastrangelo, Matthew Rostolder, Mr. Foster, Chip, and Mr. Lomuscio. “To this day, we all keep in contact.”

“I definitely have some fond memories I will take away with me. One of them is the Abode. It was this place we had created; far back there. I remember that being a pivotal moment - we’re in the woods by ourselves and whatever happens there happens there. We would call it the Abode and Abode means home. It was my first taste of independence. Having that outlet for ourselves was an eye-opening experience,” explained Kinsley.

For Kinsley, Hoosac came at a pivotal point in her life. “Hoosac in many ways saved my life. I was on a path of self-destruction. It made me grow up and I’m extremely grateful for it. I’ve been so independent since then. I’ve traveled the world by myself. That experience of being independent comes from being sent away when I was 16 years old and having that boarding school experience.”

She says for her, BE HOOSAC, means: “Be who I am. Be authentic. Stand in my own power and it’s okay to be me. It’s okay to be you. The owl represents the Who and anytime I say that something resonates, ‘You, you.’ *It’s okay to be you.*”

Kinsley paused for a moment, “I didn’t think I was going to get emotional. It was such a great time. It was a great experience. Anyone who is apprehensive about sending their kids to boarding school, or if you’re scared about going; just embrace that moment because it might be the best years of your life. For me, it really was. They were some of the best years of my life.”

All of us at Hoosac wish Kinsley many adventurous years ahead.

Hoosac made me grow up and I'm extremely grateful for it. I've been so independent since then. I've traveled the world by myself. That experience of being independent comes from being sent away when I was 16 years old and having that boarding school experience.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Katie Jones '15

In 2013, I joined the Hoosac Family, as a student starting my Junior year. I was excited to enter a new school closer to home as a day student and learn on the beautiful campus. Unfortunately though, at the beginning of my first year at Hoosac tragedy struck and I lost my Father. Thankfully, friends, teachers, staff, the Headmaster, and the rest of the Hoosac Family, made me feel like I was home with all the support and love, and to this day I am very grateful. In 2015 I graduated and went off to New England College.

In 2021, I found myself back in these walls, back home. A dorm parent, a teacher, a coach, and anything else that I could do to help. Teaching subjects including Criminal Justice, Corrections, and Creative Writing all things that I had studied in college or being a Corrections Officer in a jail. During my second year of teaching at Hoosac 2022-2023 I was pondering ideas for a club, after talking to my family and following up with some coworkers I decided to bring back to life the Newspaper club along with the Student Edition of the *Owlet*.

In January of 2023, we had our first meeting of the Newspaper Club where four students joined and we discussed our ideas for the Newspaper going out on February 1st. By the next meeting, we had welcomed 4 additional students interested in journalism. In our first issue of February 2023, we covered sports, a faculty spotlight interview with Mr. McDonough, a great comic, an Opinion piece on the World Cup for Soccer, a crossword puzzle to learn more about the current Faculty, School updates, other clubs, and even some suggestions on Television programs and Movies to



watch. All these ideas were formulated in our meeting where students were allowed to share ideas on what they wanted to write and follow up with them on it weeks after to make sure it was all complete and ready for print on the 1st of the month.

The following edition of the newspaper as we gained more individuals to work on it went smoother in some ways, with more ideas and more hands pitching in. Along with our old ideas for the previous paper, we added, a new spotlight on Mr. Sussman with a focus on the new Gipson Hall building for Hoosac, we thought it was a good idea to write suggestions to help with stress at the end of the trimester finals, winter sports, a look at Black history month, a fitness challenge, as we all know Hoosac has a lot of red doors so we made a scavenger hunt to find out how many there are on campus, ideas for travel during spring break, and a booklist. The *Owlet* was very popular and all the copies around campus were picked up. In our last meeting before spring break the club had grown to 11 students in the club. All in all, I can't wait to see what the rest of this year brings for the Newspaper, I hope you check it out and give your feedback!

WELCOME TO HOOSAC!

Mr. Gary Contessa

This spring we welcome Gary Contessa to Hoosac's Advancement Team. Known for his storied career in horse-racing, Gary is equally great with people and brings a unique and gentle approach to Hoosac. His career began after leaving a life in finance to pursue a dream of working with race horses. He studied under two Hall of Fame trainers, Laz Barrera and Frank Martin, until striking out on his own in 1985, and has won numerous awards during the course of his career.

Today, Gary is the President of the Exceller Fund, a racehorse rescue and rehabilitation organization based in Lexington, KY. He has served on the Board of Directors of Captain, a non-profit in Colonie, NY

serving families and children in crisis. He also served on the Board of Directors for the New York Horsemen's Association and Mid-Atlantic Horsemen's Association.

Gary is married to Jennifer, and father to Vincent, Joseph, Carlo, Elizabeth, Raymond, and Kamriya. A gifted speaker and communicator, we are excited to welcome Mr. Gary Contessa to our Advancement Team.



Please joining us in welcoming Gary gcontessa@hoosac.org

FUTURE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Kenneth "Trey" Thompkins '23

A GOOD LEADER IS SOMEONE WHO IS OUTGOING AND NOT AFRAID TO GET OUTSIDE OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE.



My Experience at Hoosac has been full of great moments and challenges. What I like most about Hoosac is the people that I've met. I've been able to meet people from all over the world and have met some of my best friends in the three years I've been here. I've learned a lot here however the biggest thing I've learned is time management. Being away from home and having to be responsible for my own academics and balancing my athletics on my own has taught me to not procrastinate and to manage my time wisely.

After I graduate this year I will be attending John Carroll University in Ohio as well as playing hockey there.

To me what makes a good leader is someone who is outgoing and not afraid to get outside of their comfort zone. They are helpful to anyone and everyone no matter what and are willing to step up when needed to get something done or to stand up for someone.

To me good qualities in a person are that they are helpful to everyone, kind to others, hardworking, have goals for themselves, and want to see those they care about succeed just as much as they want to succeed personally.

I think to be Hoosac means to be hardworking, kind, and helpful, and outgoing for others.

In my three years at Hoosac my biggest influence has definitely been Mr. Conor Jordan. He's more than just my strength and conditioning coach. He's been a role model for me since the day I stepped foot on campus as a sophomore and has always cared about me more as a person and has never viewed me or any of the other athletes he works with as just athletes. He's been there to build me up when I've felt down and the first person to congratulate me when I'm successful. I'm definitely a better person now than I was when I came to Hoosac as a sophomore and I owe a lot of thanks to Mr. Jordan for that.

Hoosac News Today



Min "Miranda" Du '15

"After graduating from Hoosac, I attended at University of California Davis for my BS degree in economics. After that I have been working for my family business in California since I graduated from college. In about five months, I will be moving to east coast for my MBA degree at University of Chicago. Super excited about being back to east coast again."

Federico Adilardi '21

"I'm currently in Rome where I'm studying business administration and economics (a BA entirely taught in English). At the same time, I am working with College Life Italia (the agency that connected me with Hoosac School) to recruit and support student-athletes. I actually met Mr. Grant during a showcase in Milan organized by us. As of right now, there are currently two Italian student-athletes coming from Italy next year. Hopefully there will be more coming during these few weeks."



The Hoosac prefect panels dating back to the early 1900s were returned to their place in Tibbits Hall this spring after careful refurbishing.

Parents asked; Hoosac delivered on this practice Hockey rink located beside the gymnasium. Students can now practice year-round on synthetic ice!





Welcome New Owls!



Hoosac is raising money to support a new 3D printing suite. This project includes two new printers to replace our current, obsolete one, the associated software, curriculum and training.

Clubs are underway, including Fly Fishing Club, which has become enormously popular since it began last year.



Holden James Espinoza he was born March 6, 2023 to **Tanner Stanton '17** and her partner Anthony Espinoza. Said Tanner: "He is the happiest baby ever. He's already growing very fast and is very strong. He's very easy going and luckily only cries when he is hungry. We are very lucky and so in love parenting life has been amazing."



To share your good news, please email info@hoosac.org and we'll include you in the next issue.

In Memory

Stephen "Big Bopper" Grochowski '60 passed away peacefully at Oakhill Nursing Home on December 8th. He was born on Jan 23rd, 1942 in Boston to the late Stanley and Margaret (Fuchs) Grochowski.

Beloved father of Sherri and her husband, Dana Goodnow of Middleboro; Christopher Grochowski and life partner, Pamela Sullivan of Hilo, HI. Treasured Grandfather of Joshua Payne and his wife, Leah; Miranda Guidetti and her husband, John; Sasha and Sara Grochowski. Adored Great Grandfather of Maverick Guidetti. Former husband of Linda (Viator) Grochowski of Middleboro, MA. Cousin of Francis Robinson and Elinor Walsh. Longtime friend of Walter of Quincy and Brad of Weymouth.

Stephen grew up in Rhode Island until attending the Hoosac Boarding School in Hoosick, New York where he played soccer and hockey. He met several people who remained close throughout his life. Coach Dickey was a positive influence, and they remained in touch. Tim Parsons and Mark Yarborough (deceased) were lifelong friends wherever they were in the world.

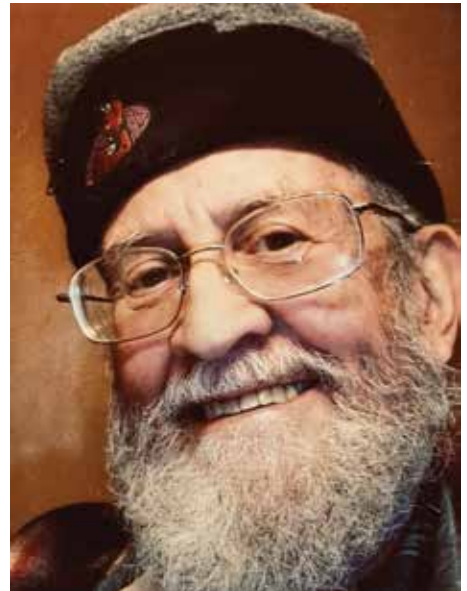
Jack of all trades; starting off as a sign painter with his father while he attended Northeastern University attaining his Masters degree. His love of the outdoors was the result of skiing, hiking and adventuring with his father growing up. This inspired him to travel cross-country through the United States, Canada, and Mexico with his former wife, Linda for an entire year in their Ford pickup towing a sixteen foot camper. Also traveling to England and Wales to meet up with their children who were serving in the military in Europe.

A man with many interests; he took his children along for the adventures of rock climbing, camping, hiking, and canoeing.

Stephen loved passionately and was adored by most. His kindness and silliness drew people in. He was fiercely independent and a lifelong adventurer. His zest for life and great love of the outdoors contributed to his natural ability for capturing moments in his photography and art for much of the second half of his life. He also loved to read and listen to music. Oh the stories he could tell you of places he'd been and the people he'd met! Always encouraging people to travel, and try new things. He expressed his love through his generous listening and giving. His sense of humor was infectious and helped to get you through any moment.

He spent his last moments enjoying his visits from his Great-Grandson Maverick Guidetti who he was overjoyed to have met.

Treasured, endeared, near to our heart, precious, cherished you will always be.



James B Gravitt '68, age 73, of Stuart, Florida and York Harbor, Maine passed away suddenly on November 21st. He graduated from Hoosac School in Hoosick, New York in 1968. He earned an associate degree from Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He was in the Army and served from 1969 to 1972. His rank was RA-MP. He served in Korea, and was a dog trainer and MP during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion Post 0062 in Stuart, Florida.

Jim was born in Los Angeles, California on July 20, 1949, son of the late Bruce and Louise (Steen) Gravitt. He leaves his wife Sharon (Tyska) Sullivan and three stepsons, Nolan, Nicholas, and Kyle. He leaves his brother Steven Gravitt from Troy, New York.

Jim retired as an electrician from the New York State Department of Civil Service in Albany, NY. He won an award for his poetry which he enjoyed writing. He enjoyed traveling. Jim and his wife Sharon had many wonderful trips together. He loved his German Shepards, and leaves his beloved German Shepard, Star.



Peter Suydam Hendrickson '60, age 81, of Babylon, New York passed away on Monday, February 20, 2023. Known as "Champ" while at Hoosac, Peter was active in Rifle Club, soccer, hockey, tennis, and drama.

Herbert Elkinton '74, age 66, of Little Compton, passed away unexpectedly at his residence on Wednesday, June 22nd, 2022.

Born in New York, New York, a son of the late Herbert, Sr. and Elizabeth (McNeill) Handy, he spent his youth in New Jersey and lived in Long Island and Vermont before moving to Little Compton.

Herb attended The Hoosac School in Hoosick, NY and Roger Williams College in Bristol, RI. He was an Arborist and the owner of Highbush Nursery in Little Compton prior to his retirement and for many years worked as a snowplow driver in the winters. He was a longtime member of Ducks Unlimited and a lover of animals and the outdoors. You always knew when you were in the same building as Herb as his belly laugh would announce him to everyone around.

He is survived by one son, Nicholas Elkinton and his wife Joanna of Weymouth, MA; two sisters, Lora MacFall and her husband Douglas of Little Compton and Elizabeth Barr and her husband Dr. Charles Barr of Louisville, KY; former spouses, Hope Sterling and Christine Hudson as well as five nieces and nephews.



Thomas Immermann '55 of Salinas, California passed away on October 29th, 2022. While at Hoosac, Tom, an Antonian, served on the Owl Board as the Events and Art Editor, he participated in the Liturgical Choir, in Glee Club, and in soccer, basketball, and baseball. Tom was the high scorer for the 1955 soccer team. According to his yearbook, "Tom was the school's 'Lord of Risrule' in everyday life. He keeps everyone laughing with his unending series of impersonations and his many hilarious dialects from morning to night. Tom is one of those distinguished, immortal Field House Boys."



Huc Hauser '52 died on the 8th of December, 2022 at the age of 88. Born in Hamburg, Germany, he came to this country as a young child. He was a 1952 graduate of the Hoosac School in Hoosick, NY, enlisting in the United States Navy directly thereafter. He served in Atlantic Fleet destroyers and submarines. In 1955 he married the former Patricia Linde of Arlington, VT. Following Navy service, he attended and graduated from Brown University in 1960. His working career was primarily in the defense industry, specializing in undersea warfare with several defense contractors. In his later years, after raising their family, he and Pat returned to Vermont where he worked for Northern Lights Cable Company in North Bennington and Hemmings Motor News in Bennington, retiring in 2009. His wife Pat passed away in July, 2018. He is survived by a daughter Kristan Renish of Bennington, a son Peter Hauser of Petersburg, TN and two grandchildren.



According to Huc's yearbook, he was an Antonian and a true Hoosacian of the "way back type." He was a prefect, served on Owl Board as a co-editor, was part of the student council, dance committee, and the drama club.

William Worthington Parshall II '59, a former Hoosac School Trustee, passed away at home on November 12th, 2022. Bill was born June 1, 1941 to the late William and Lillian (Barrow) Parshall in Pittsburgh, Pa.

After attending Hoosac School in Hoosick, NY and graduating from St. Paul's School in Concord, NH., Bill graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges with a degree in Math and Psychology. While Bill was at Hobart he was a brother of the Sigma Phi Society.

Bill worked for Tasty Baking Company and retired as Director of Production in 1996 after 30 years.

As a member of St. James' Episcopal Church in Collegeville, Pa., he spent many years on the Vestry serving at various times as treasurer and Rector's Warden. When in Chestertown, Md. Bill attended Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

We have many things to thank Bill for: his love, commitment to family, generosity of time, talent and treasure, travel, skiing, love of nature, love and respect for boating, and the value Bill put on education which was exemplified by his service as a trustee for the Hoosac School for over 30 years.

Bill was preceded in death by Ann Gray V. Parshall, wife of 40 years, and William Parshall III, who died in infancy.

He is survived by his wife Faith Conant Parshall and daughters Lee Roberts (David) of St Inigoes, Md., and Ann Marble Tarburton (Andy) of York, Pa.; grandchildren: Todd, Madeline, Kylie and Abigail; a sister, Patricia (Norman) Berger and his brother, David (Jane) Parshall.

A memorial service was held at St. James' Episcopal Church in Collegeville, Pa. on Saturday, December 10, 2022. Interment at the church cemetery immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your charity of choice in memory of William Parshall.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace. Amen.

May almighty God bless us with his peace and strength, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



William B. Oshei '65, a retired executive vice president of Fibron Products Inc., died on December 18th, 2022. He was 75 years old. Billy was the beloved son of the late Robert Chittenden Oshei and Mary Elizabeth Bayliss. He was preceded in death by brothers Robert C. Jr., John C. Oshei and James B. Oshei. He was grandnephew of John R. Oishei, the founder of Buffalo's Trico Products.

Born in Buffalo, Mr. Oshei attended Elmwood Franklin School, Nichols School, preparatory school at Ridley College, St. Catharines, Ontario and the Hoosac School, Hoosick Falls. Oshei earned his BA of Business Administration from Mitchell College in New London, CT.

Upon graduation, Oshei worked for his family's business, Fibron Products, a former Buffalo manufacturer of laminated wood for the cutlery and hardware industries. Attaining the position of Executive Vice President, Oshei sold millions of knife handles to top US manufactures that included W.R. Case, Camillus Cutlery, Buck Knives and Western Cutlery. Following the business's closure in 2003, Oshei became North American Marketing Manager for German knife manufacture Zweibrüder Sperber. Oshei was a divisional chairman of the Western New York United Way campaign in 1980.

He was a former member and past board member of the Buffalo Club.

An experienced Lake Ontario sailor, Oshei was well known in both the United States and Canada waters at the helm of his sailboat "d' Artagnan." He was a past member of the Buffalo Yacht Club, Youngstown Yacht Club, Bertie Boating Club and Port Dalhousie Yacht Club.

Oshei was an avid fan of the New York Yankees, Toronto Maple Leafs and FC Bayern München football club. He frequently traveled to Boppard, Germany to enjoy his favorite soccer team and the camaraderie found amongst its fans, many who became close friends.

Oshei owned the Golden Swan Tavern at 437 Ellicott Street until 2010. At his bowery-style bar, Oshei took pride in catering to all who walked through its doors. Oshei also operated Dropik's Tavern, 254 Memorial Drive in East Buffalo.

In 2008, Artvoice cited the Golden Swan as having "the best jukebox in Buffalo." Editor Geoff Kelly wrote, "The Golden Swan on Ellicott Street has several eccentricities to recommend it as a watering hole, not least of which is the owner, a true Buffalo character. The real gem of the place is the jukebox, stocked with a jazz collection the likes of which you won't hear anywhere else. If you show an interest, the owner will play you track after mind-blowing track while you sip the coldest bottle of beer in town."

He is survived by his sister Mary E.B. "Memo" Oshei; daughter Kimberly Hyde Binasz (Martin) and grandchildren Katharine and Theodore.





LaDette R. Cross III '61 "John," "Jack," or "Butch," of Queensbury and Bolton Landing passed away peacefully in his sleep, on May 31, 2022, at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany after a long illness. John was blessed to live a fulfilling life and be surrounded by his loving family.

John was born in Syracuse, NY on March 10, 1943. He is predeceased by his adopted parents: LaDette R. Cross II and wife, Beatrice. He grew up in Syracuse and Utica until he came to live with his supportive foster parents, Donald and Marilyn Higley of Glens Falls. Also predeceased by his sister, Ruth; brother in law, Jack Donahue; and his nephew, Michael Murphy all from Syracuse.

He joined the United States Army in August of 1962, where he was stationed in Fort Benning, GA. While in the military, he married Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Lamb on March 13, 1965. Once married they resided in Fort Benning until his honorable discharge and then they both returned to settle in Bolton Landing. In 1978, they moved their family to Queensbury where they lived for many years.

John worked for General Electric in the Film Department of the Fort Edward plant until his retirement. He spent 10 years driving a school bus for Queensbury School and then in 2007, he was an iconic part of the TreePaad Family until 2019. He was known by staff and guests alike as the TreePaad Grandpa, and made everyone feel welcome with his amazing smile and outgoing personality.

John was a father figure not only to his own children, but also to many, many children in Warren/Washington County over the 38 years of being foster parent with his wife Beth. He was also very community minded and spent several years volunteering with the Bolton Fire & Rescue Squad, Kiwanis Club, Queensbury Central Fire Department and West Glens Falls Emergency Squad. Many will miss him for his big hugs, his life lessons, and most of all his warm presence.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary (Beth); and his children: Patricia M. (Lee) Garrand, James J. Cross, Donald A. (Paula) Cross, Scott A. (Adrienne) Cross all of Queensbury and Cejay J. (Debbie) Cross of Amsterdam; his loving grandchildren: Ashlea (Jay) Miller of Connecticut, Dylan Garrand (Courtney) of Granville, Abigayle Garrand (Jeff), Brandon Cross (Jacey), Connor Cross (Adrienne) all of Queensbury, Cody Cross (McKenna) of Hudson Falls, Mackenzie Cross (Brian) of South Carolina, Andrew Cross (Melanie) and Caleb Cross both of Queensbury, and Chano J. Cross of Amsterdam; his beloved great-grandchildren: Alice and Harvey Miller of Connecticut, Sadie Garrand of Granville; and the great-granddaughter he did not get to meet, Wesley Shae of South Carolina. He is also survived by his foster siblings: Carol Benante (Bob) of Lake George, Gary (Susan) Higley, Robert (Lori) Higley both of Queensbury; his adopted sister, Joan Donohue of Syracuse; and his many nieces and nephews, which he adored.



The Gipson Family Legacy

A growing school requires foresight. With record number of students enrolled this and last year, Hoosac is responding to the need for a additional classroom space with a new academic building that will house six new classrooms, a state of the art cybersecurity lab, a new art studio, multimedia lab, and a nursing suite.

Gipson Hall will be completed later this fall and is named for the Gipson family who have a long history with Hoosac. Gipson brothers Henry Clay '27, Allen H. '28, and Donald Livingston '32, attended Hoosac and descedents are honoring them with a significant gift making this project possible.

The Gipson Brothers each went on to lead successful lives and epitomize what it means to BE HOOSAC. For more information about this important project or to contribute a gift in support of Gipson Hall, please visit: [hoosac.org/giving/gipson-hall](https://www.hoosac.org/giving/gipson-hall)



John Reed, Class of 1968 Returns for BHYL

AFTER 57 YEARS, HE
STILL REMEMBERED
THE WORDS

"We had an absolutely marvelous time at both the reception and the Boar's Head and Yule Log Pageant! The cast did a wonderful job, and the show really brought back great memories of Hoosac for me! I sang with the chorus for many of the songs, including "Caput apri de faro, redens laudes domino..." and, of course the Hoosac alma mater, "Deus Regit." Many seated around us were surprised I still remembered the words, but that is reflective of the very positive impact Hoosac School had for me. Hoosac saved my life."



Above left John Reed '68 poses with his spouse, Penny, and daughter, Jay, along with BHYL Beefeaters. *Above* Hoosac's Director of Advancement poses with John at Tibbits Hall before the start of the annual pageant.



Left The first graduating class of Hoosac School.

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The campaign for Gipson Hall



*Allen H. '28 (above)
and Henry Clay
'27(right) Gipson.
Both Gipsons
graduated along with
their brother, Donald
L. Gipson '32 from
Hoosac School.*



See page 38 to learn more!



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