



The Owllet

Hoosac School's Source for Alumni News and Nonsense

“Just Keep Swimming”

Shadaysia Walton '16

Shadaysia Walton '16 knew she wasn't ready for college, but she was also interested in continuing her education. Hoosac presented an opportunity for a post-graduate year that would be the change she needed for a successful transition into college.

“My grandmother, with an eighth grade education, raised my sister, cousin, and me and she knew how important school was and sent us every day. School became my safe place.”

Shadaysia challenged herself early on, taking high school grade level courses during middle school and involving herself in sports. “That experience taught me There is no ‘I’ in TEAM. Following middle school, I put on a uniform and traveled from Albany every day to attend Catholic Central High School in Troy. I graduated in three years, bowled and swam at the Varsity level and was the captain of my team.”

However, grades and success in high school weren't enough to provide the confidence Shadaysia needed for college. “I knew I just wasn't ready to go away yet for college. My mentors and I felt like a PG year at a prep school would help me grow and really see what I could handle academically and socially. We looked at schools throughout New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut and discovered Hoosac in late fall of 2014,” said Shadaysia. “I instantly knew it was the school for me. It felt like home and it was close to home. It also helped that I am a huge Harry Potter fan. Hoosac felt a



lot like Hogwarts.”

Hoosac was similar to other high schools Shadaysia had attended, but with the added responsibility of self-discipline. “I had to do everything on my own: Get up, get dressed, down to breakfast, and then to class. Looking back, it was more like a college than a high school.”

Shadaysia said she was helped tremendously by Nurse Klein. “She was very kind to me. There were times I struggled, when I didn't want to go to class, when I was missing home,”

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“Just Keep Swimming” continued from Cover

she said “I would stop by her office and she and I would talk. She encouraged me and helped me see what I was capable of. At Hoosac, she was my biggest cheerleader. There were other teachers who used their love of what they were teaching to help me see that I could follow my dreams, no matter where they take you and to make sure you love what you are doing, so that you can be happy.”

“It’s no secret that I was a wild child when I arrived at Hoosac (just ask Mr. Ryan). I knew when I came to Hoosac on scholarship that I might be asked to help out on a team or two. As it turns out, I ended up playing three seasons and four sports for Hoosac. One day I even traveled with the soccer team as a substitute goalie.”

Shadaysia’s favorite sport was volleyball, so when she was asked to become a member of the basketball team, she greeted the challenge. “I never really played organized basketball, but loved to watch it in person and on TV. Frankly, I have a pretty good basketball IQ. I understood the rules, how to run plays and help my team learn. What I didn’t have was the temperament to get banged around on the court and on top of that, other teams knew it.

I learned that there are people like Mr. Ryan who stuck with me and publicly recognized my accomplishments as the team’s MVP. I played organized sports throughout my entire grade school career and was only able to achieve recognition at Hoosac and for a sport I never played before.”

Shadaysia says she credits many for helping her get through her post-grad year. “It wasn’t until college

that I was able to see how my experience at Hoosac School prepared me for the next leg of my journey. Some of my new friends and roommates would say things to me like ‘You’re so smart,’ I would think, ‘No, but yes.’ I know how to wake up on time, manage my calendar, and have fun as well as participate in activities that interest me. All things that came together during my time at Hoosac.”

Now an alum, Shadaysia wants current students to know:

“Always follow your dreams and never give up. Believe in yourself no matter how hard it gets. Keep moving forward and pushing yourself because it will pay off in the long run. As Dory tells Marlin in *Finding Nemo*, ‘...keep on swimming...’”

Following Hoosac, Shadaysia attended SUNY Cobleskill to study canine animal science. She had hoped to train K-9 police dogs, but found the career path was not what she had expected and instead worked for a kennel, where she ended up in management.

“About a year ago, in the middle of the COVID crisis, I decided to pursue an EMT certification. While working and studying, I drove part-time for Mohawk Ambulance. I earned my NYS EMT Certification in March of this year and decided to pivot toward a full time career in the health field. I am still at Mohawk part time but am now a Surgical Assistant in Great Oaks Oral Surgery and Dental Implants here in Albany. I love everything I’m currently doing and am excited to learn new things every day.”

In the future, Shadaysia sees herself in a warmer climate. “After all, my grandmother was born in Mississippi.

I still see myself in the medical field, understanding that I will need to pursue additional education to advance in areas that excite me whether additional certifications, degrees, and maybe even an advanced degree.”

In the meantime, Shadaysia says it’s hard to admit just how important a role Hoosac School played in her life, “I do know it was an experience that helped me grow and get to where I am today and know that I can keep on swimming.”



Today, Shadaysia is a certified EMT



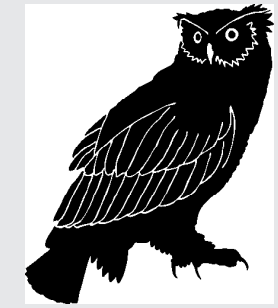
Jayde DuKette ‘18 graduated from SUNY Canton and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in US Army this past May. She earned her degree in health care management.

Thank you for joining us for Reunion Weekend!

Classes of 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1978, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1996, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 were represented!

Together at last!

Andre Tambolas ‘99 joined us for Hoosac School Reunion Weekend and shared this photo of graduation day



ALUMNI NEWS IN BRIEF

Charlie Holt ‘22 made his next goal in Ice Hockey and signed with the New England Wolves EHL Juniors Team out of Laconia, NH.

Matthew Martin ‘10 graduated from Kings University in Edmonton, Alberta with a degree in education. He is teaching sports medicine, history, and French and coaches the school hockey team.

John Conway ‘18 of Clinton, NY, graduated this spring from SUNY Potsdam with a B.A. in History.



Jongwoo Kim ‘09 founded a new company called Joys. Joys mainly provides artificial intelligent chatbot services aid in online community environments. Kim has filed 20 AI patents.



REUNION 2022!



Above Cedric Flounory '68, Trustee Ann "Marbie" Tarburton '88, and Jade Barrett '78. Below Hoosac Father and Daughter duo George '71 and Holly Funkhouser '02



The Bell Tower was officially dedicated during Reunion Weekend 2022. The new post & beam bell tower was constructed with timber harvested from the woods of Hoosac and created by Asa Clark '01 with design aid from students and faculty



'At last!'

Keith Marvin, left, who has written for several newspapers during the past 50 years, receives his high school diploma at the Hoosac School in Hoosick from Donn Wright, rector at Hoosac School. The Menands resident received a certificate of graduation from the Hoosac School in 1943 but never formally received a diploma. A member of the editorial staff of the Record Newspapers in Troy, he also wrote for the Troy *Sunday Observer* and the former *Knickerbocker News*. He also wrote for the Berkshire *Eagle* of Pittsfield and the Bennington *Banner*, the North Adams *Transcript* and Hoosick Falls *Standard Press*. He is an automobile historian and has written several books.



The Marvin family has a long history with Hoosac. Keith Marvin, pictured left, was a 1943 graduate who received an honorary diploma later in life from Hoosac. Keith's father served on the Board of Directors for the school and his son Dwight Marvin is a 1974 graduate and his brother William serves currently on the School's Board of Directors.



1970s Class

Classes of 1971 and 1972 celebrated their 50th during Reunion Weekend.

Row 1: Steve Heinzerling '72, George Funkhouser '71

Row 2: Ed Mitchell '73, Richard Mount '70, E. Mike Howard '71, Dave Huffman '71, Roy Langworthy '71

Row 2 & 1/2: Bill Russell '71

Row 3: Ben Ford, John Ober '71

Row 4: Tim Campbell '72, Al Meyer '74, Jim Hellier '71

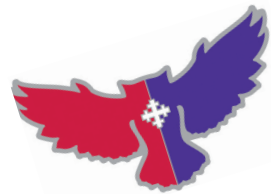
Row 5: Former faculty Rick Hartt



The newest Owl, Rowan Harper Hoff, was born April 16th to Coach Joshua and School Nurse Christina Hoff



Petar Djurdjevic '15 successfully completed a Masters from Southern Nazarene University in May



OWL SOCIETY MEMBERS WILL NOW RECEIVE THIS LIMITED EDITION PIN WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTION OF \$1,000 OR MORE IN SUPPORT OF HOOSAC!



SCAN ME



Sherri Klein does a little jig with Tina White '96 during Reunion Weekend

Many thanks to the dedicated **Hoosac Class Agents** who joined us for Reunion Weekend!

- Ted Juraschek '64
- John Ober '71
- Steve Heinzerling '72
- Seton Ijams '75
- Marbie Parshall Tarburton '88
- Kendall Klein Munzer '92
- Tina Vaccarella White '96
- Blake Boyer '07
- Jedidiah Jones '10
- Emily Levin '17
- Selin Oncul '19



Faculty member Ms. Patricia Gomes Carneiro hosts nights dedicated to the food, music, and dance of each culture represented by Hoosac School. Above, students celebrate Italian Night. Below, students represent the Dominican Republic and Slavic countries.



HOOSAC TODAY



Art and literary faculty enjoy a spring round of golf on the lawn.



History Club students discovered 18th century food preparation, including churning butter with Ms. Graves. Students made and salted the butter to accompany an early New England boiled pudding.