

# HOOSAC



SPRING 2022

# **HOOSAC TODAY** *SPRING 2022*



## ***ABOUT THE COVER***

**Ling Sun '22** has garnered attention as an up-and-coming artist with her work in multiple mediums, including watercolor and oil. Her work was showcased this spring at the Bennington Museum.



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"Hoosac can assist in developing the right kind of young people for the future. The times are very critical, yet if we can take our daily work in stride, we shall find ourselves ready, when the call comes, to lead our nation through hard times. By doing our daily tasks effectively, we shall be preparing ourselves for tomorrow's tasks, and next year's, and those of ten years from now."

-Rev. Meredith B. Wood, 1950

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADMASTER

*Dean Foster*

Last summer I stopped by to see a good friend and Hoosac alum on the coast of Maine. He was kind enough to take me for a boat ride through the islands off the coast and shared with me some stories about his experience of life on the water. Having grown up on an island myself I was intrigued.

He had spent a summer working as a lobster fisherman in his youth. While doing so, he lived on one of the isolated islands, rising before dawn and toiling away the morning bringing up the succulent sea creatures that so many of us enjoy. It sounded like a Jack London meets Hemingway coming-of-age story.

It got me thinking about all that makes up our development as humans, citizens, and family members. What really defines us, what shapes us, what makes us who we are. Obviously, a large part of who we are is the result of our upbringing and familial relationships. Those that care for us from birth until we are old enough to care for ourselves shape our personalities and instill within us a basic moral compass. However, once the transition from child to young adult starts to take shape, what then takes over? Who then, takes up this mantle and continues a young adult's development, for many reading this, it was Hoosac.

It is easy to say "school" at first, but school limits the description to academic matters. Hoosac is so much more than a school.

As we get confirmations for this year's All-School Reunion, we continue to receive commentary from alum about how going to Hoosac set an upward trajectory for their life. The formative years that were spent at Hoosac were exactly that, formative. Attending Hoosac prepared them for the many challenges that life would offer. The good experiences, as well as the tough ones, gave each alum an opportunity to learn and grow. As we gather together on June 10, 11, and 12th, many of you will have a chance to relive those opportunities offered to you as students. You will be able to look back with an adult's lens and see the moments that were most important for you.

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Reserve your spot!

# 2022 REUNION SCHEDULE



## Friday, June 10th

- Noon - 5PM** *Reunion Registration* Registration will take place at Tibbits. All alum and guests are asked to register first and then proceed to their assigned dormitory. Please submit any special dorm assignments and roommate requests in advance by emailing us at [edavis@hoosac.org](mailto:edavis@hoosac.org).
- 5 - 6:30 PM** *Pre-BBQ Reception* A reception of beer and wine will precede the BBQ. Light appetizers and hors' d'oeuvres will be hand-passed for all to enjoy.
- 6:30 - 8 PM** *BBQ* A wonderful outdoor meal based on all the special meals that we celebrate throughout the year here at Hoosac, Boar's Head & Yule Log, Bleeze Banquet, and ASADO Day will be represented. Anyone with dietary restrictions is asked to contact the school in advance to ensure accommodations. The entire weekend will be nut-free.
- 8 - Midnight** *Red and Purple Party* Come on out and rock your A & G colors. The team with the most points at the end of the weekend wins the Reunion Cup and bragging rights until the next reunion. There will be competitions and silly games all led by DG Dudley Tibbits, aka Blake Boyer '07.
- 10PM** *Fireworks* Athletic fields

## Saturday, June 11th

- 7 - 9 AM** *Breakfast* For you late risers there will be coffee and continental breakfast throughout the morning, but to take advantage of the waffle and omelet station, you need to be there between 7 and 9AM. To-go bags will also be available for those golfing in the morning. Enjoy the complimentary mimosa and bloody mary station. The Owlet club will also be starting at 8AM, so if you want the little ones to have some time to explore with our onsite babysitters, you can drop them off and go have some fun.
- 8:40 AM** *Golf Tournament* departure
- 9 AM** *Bubo Cup* Legend has it that whichever team wins the Bubo Cup will win the Guilford Cup the next year. Each foursome will be divided into Antonian & Graftonian and will compete against the whole field for overall low score, partners will play best ball. Please be sure and sign up in advance as tee times are limited. There is a suggested donation of \$50.00 per player.

**9-11 AM Fun and Games!**

- *Open Tennis* Enjoy Hoosac's new NCAA rubberized courts and get warmed up for the afternoon A & G Hoosac Open.
- *Corn Hole* Boards will be available for people to practice for the afternoon tournament. Mr. Foster welcomes all challengers!
- *Open Pickleball* Try your hand at this up-and-coming sport. If there is enough interest there will be a tournament in the afternoon.
- *Hoosac History Lesson* Take a moment and listen as Hoosac Historian Samantha Graves shares her knowledge and curious findings about Hoosac and the Tibbits family.
- *Hoosac Art* demonstration by world-renowned sculptor Gary Sussman.

**11 AM Planned Giving** Discover the many ways you can give to Hoosac. There are many creative ways to give to Hoosac that don't require a large upfront cost to you. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss if you've wanted to make Hoosac part of your legacy, but didn't think it was possible.

**11:30 AM Bell Tower Dedication** Join us as we celebrate the raising of a new bell tower in honor of long-time Headmaster, faculty, and Trustee Richard Lomuscio. Headmaster Lomuscio passed away in February of 2021, but his legacy lives on. The new post & beam bell tower was constructed with timber harvested from the woods of Hoosac and created by Asa Clark '01.

**Noon Lunch**

**12:30 PM State of the School Address** Headmaster Dean Foster will discuss all that has been happening at Hoosac and share the goals of the school for the future.

**1 PM** Hockey departure  
Hoosac History Lesson  
Hoosac Tennis & Pickle Ball A & G Tournament  
Corn Hole Tournament



**2 PM** Hockey Game

**5 - 6:30 PM Class Year Reception** 10, 20, 30, 40, 50th. Each decade will have its own table to gather and mingle. Prizes for most attendees, farthest traveled, and many other fun facts.

**7 PM Formal Dinner** Relive the days of old with a formal dinner, served just like when you were at Hoosac!

**8:30 PM Valley of the Owl Screening** The much-anticipated screening of the Valley of the Owl documentary written and created by alum and Hollywood producer, director, writer, and actor Raoul Mongilardi. Journey through the history of Hoosac and celebrate all that is the Valley of the Owl through the lens of the Jester. This film is only available through this one showing and this is the one event of the weekend you do not want to miss.

**10 PM Bonfire at the Gazebo** Relax and reminisce as the weekend draws to a close and old memories are rekindled join new ones made.

**Sunday, June 12th**

**9 AM Chapel** Prayers for the Dearly Departed.

**11 AM Departure** To-Go Lunches available for pick-up at the dining hall.





*CHRISTOPHER  
STEVENSON '71,  
TODAY AN  
ARCHAEOLOGIST,  
NO LONGER WEARS  
TIES, BUT SAID  
THE DISCIPLINED  
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LEARNED AT HOOSAC  
IS SOMETHING HE  
RELIES ON TO THIS  
DAY.*

# *Discovering the Story*

**Christopher Stevenson** <sup>71</sup> had what he called an “absurd teenage logic.” His father, an Episcopal minister, saw Hoosac as an opportunity to embrace Chris’s talents, while also helping to instill a disciplined routine in his son. “He definitely realized the benefit of a good core education and how that start conditioned my future. In retrospect, it was the daily discipline that had the most impact on me, but,” he added, “I don’t wear ties anymore unless someone is getting married or dies.”

Like ties and discipline, memories and experiences and the people Chris met while at Hoosac stayed with him. He said Richard Lomuscio stood out in particular.

“He suggested that we do some ‘existential driving’ in his sports car which meant not using the brakes,” Chris laughed. “That never happened, but I found that phrase amusing and have used the term now and then throughout my life.”

While Chris felt his teenage logic stayed with him into college, that existential drive into college presented an opportunity that steered him in the pursuit of archeology.

“At the end of my sophomore year at Marquette, my father sent me to Israel as the theology department was involved in Biblical Archeology.” The trip wasn’t without its share of excitement. “I believe it was in Athens where we had to deplane from the El Al flight and all the luggage was set out on the runway to inspect for a bomb.”

Safely at Caesarea in Israel, Chris’s group was divided into teams. “Our team was sent to a structure interpreted as ‘the library.’ The soil deposits were less than a foot deep and we uncovered a well-preserved mosaic made of thousands of little stones.” The mosaic, made by human hands, had been covered for more than a millennia. “I forget what the pattern was, but it set the hook for me becoming an archaeologist,” he said.

“After the library I excavated a deep stone well (never again) and worked on the ‘esplanade,’ or main passage, where we found a burial site and ancient clay oil lamps. Great stuff.”

After receiving his Bachelors at Marquette University,

Chris transferred to Pennsylvania State where he received his MA and later a PhD in anthropology. His dissertation took him to one of the most remote islands on earth.

## **An Easter Island Discovery**

Chris’s PhD work took him to Easter Island where he studied prehistoric agricultural practices. It was work that led him to an important insight about viewing the world with more than one lens.

“One day in 1995, I was taking a tour of Easter Island (Rapa Nui) with Sergio Rapu (soon to be island’s governor) and we were high up at the Ranu Raraku statue quarry overlooking the south coast. Sergio, himself, was an archaeologist trained in Hawaii and of Rapa Nui descent, so I asked him where the agricultural fields were. And on this very stony landscape he pointed to a small place about a kilometer distant where the rocks seemed to be in a line.

“Actually it was the French explorer La Perouse who in 1774 made a comment about rocks being in agricultural fields but we did not give that much credence as we all knew that to farm the rocks had to be removed for plants to grow (arrogant Western thinking).

“One day we were doing an excavation and we placed a test unit off the cleared site area in a rock area as we were on a grid and doing systematic coverage. I was expecting nothing but after a while my crew was finding soft soil spots and eventually pits beneath the rocks. As it turned out, these had been planting pits for taro or yam.

“Excavations at other sites kept turning up many small pits with nothing in them and it soon became clear that gardens were located underneath rock distributions since they retained moisture in the dry summers and protected the plants from wind. With that realization, it became clear that half of the island was an agricultural field and that we had been walking through gardens for 10 years without knowing it!”

Chris said being isolated in another culture was a great experience, but before long “island fever” set in.

“Easter Island was quite remote in the early 1980s and





*Continued from page 7*

it was hard at times to get food, there was one hour of pre-recorded TV a day, and a phone call was a major deal. For entertainment, I would go to the airport to meet the bi-weekly plane (with the rest of the town).”

### **Research Fuels Discovery**

Following his doctorate, Chris began working as a Senior Research Archaeologist with New Mexico State University’s Department of Anthropology. It was here he began researching the obsidian hydration dating method in order to determine the age of ancient lithic tools. This research led to important insights into the diffusion of water in natural glass at the molecular level and improvements for utilizing obsidian hydration as a reliable dating method. In 2021, Chris’s reporting on this subject appeared in the prestigious *Journal of Archaeological Science Reports*.

Today, Chris is an associate professor with the School of World Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. He said while he didn’t like teaching during his graduate school days, things began to change later when he realized he had a story to share.

“After a long time in archeology (and many projects later), I felt that there was a message to get across and that message is what is it like to be an archaeologist and do research into past societies. Now in the introductory and advanced classes, I tell this story and try to inspire others to do the same.”

Digging deeper into any subject reveals so much. And sometimes an incredible discovery awaits just beneath the surface.



*Samantha Graves*

# Connecting & Past & Present

Last fall, our family made the 900-mile trek to northern Michigan to visit family we hadn't seen since prior to the pandemic. I was struck by how often Hoosac was echoed in various sites along the way. From the meandering Mohawk River and paralleling Erie Canal to a Michigan county bordering metro Detroit.

On our way out to the Great Lakes State, we passed Tibbits Avenue in Troy and over Green Island along the Hudson, known previously as Tibbits Island. The various lochs along the Erie Canal reminded me of just how integral George Mortimer Tibbits was in the development of the canal system. As a member of the NYS Senate, George promoted and authorized the construction of the Erie Canal. The Tibbits name is synonymous with land, progress, philanthropy, and ingenuity. And of course, with the founding of Hoosac School.

Far away in Michigan I was surprised by another Hoosac connection as we passed the sign for Macomb County. This Michigan county was named for General Alexander Macomb, a gallant and celebrated veteran of the War of 1812. Alexander was the nephew of Ann Macomb Pfister Bennett.

What does that have to do with Hoosac School? The school is on land once owned by Col. Franz Pfister, a famous cartographer and loyalist who fought and lost his life in the Battle of Bennington. (See his story in our Spring 2021 issue of *Hoosac Today*).

Col. Franz Pfister married Ann Macomb in 1770 and the couple lived on the land granted to them for Pfister's honorable service during the Seven Years' War. Following Pfister's death, the Americans confiscated the property, forcing Ann to flee with her father to Michigan. There, the family gained prominence and later fought alongside the Americans during the War of 1812.

Sometimes a legacy is written on paper; at other times it appears in the lineage of names and stories of place. And it's a reminder of just how far-reaching our actions can be. So let us go forth and BE Hoosac in all we do. Let your legacy unfold.





*PHOTOGRAPHY OFFERS BOTH CREATIVE FREEDOM AND CONTROL OF MY WORK. WHO OR WHAT I CHOOSE TO FOCUS ON AS A SUBJECT, WHAT I OMIT FROM A PHOTO - BOTH ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT AND ULTIMATELY BECOME WHAT I'M TRYING TO NARRATE IN THE PHOTO.*



# An Authentic Life

Following a tragic car accident that claimed the life of her mother, **Lindsay Baldomar '02** was placed in the care of adults that limited her growth potential while her father worked tirelessly a few hundred miles away in Manhattan. In an effort to help her succeed, her father reached out to an independent academic consultant who recommended a smaller student-to-teacher ratio.

“I must have been about 14 years old when I first learned about Hoosac School,” said Lindsay. “I barely passed the grade that I was in that year. My teachers didn’t have the time or the patience to explain it to me and I didn’t receive assistance in homework.”

However, moving to a small boarding school in Upstate New York meant leaving everything familiar. “It was overwhelming and daunting. It wasn’t someplace I was accustomed to being - especially without my family. It’s easy to be ready for change, but the process of making change requires a lot of discomfort and vulnerability.”

It didn’t take long for Lindsay to find her place at Hoosac. “When I met the faculty and the students there, any feelings of being overwhelmed quickly dissipated. The faculty was so welcoming, and as time continued on, they proved to be dedicated to helping me and other students succeed.”

Lindsay said Hoosac helped her gain a sense of independence. “There’s no greater test of your own autonomy when you’re a young adult and your parent (or guardian) drops you off at a boarding school several hundred miles away, with expectations to thrive both academically and socially. Sure, we had our dorm parents, but when you were asked to do your homework at night, we didn’t have someone standing over us and telling us what we had to do. We learned a great deal of responsibility, discipline, and time management on our own in the first few days there.”

Lindsay said she developed an appreciation for politics and history while at Hoosac. This combined with her love of writing led her to reading political speeches. “I would often listen to and even read political speeches - both past and current. I became enamored with the way words were put together and when you combined them being spoken by one of the most powerful individuals in the world - it was an intoxicating combination.”

While she did not become a speech-writer, Lindsay found



*Lindsay prefers to work behind the scenes. Being behind the lens allows her to capture those special, unposed moments. Photos by Lindsay Baldomar*



**EACH PERSON  
IS DIFFERENT  
AND BRINGS  
SOMETHING  
UNIQUE TO  
PHOTOGRAPH.  
ALLOWING  
THEM TO BE  
CANDID IN  
THE MOMENT  
IS ESSENTIAL.**

*Photo used with permission from Lindsay Baldomar*



the practice of reading and writing speeches helped her develop her communication skills. “There’s so many different ways I’ve incorporated speech writing into my everyday life; but the most profound of them is removing filler words. It’s probably one of my biggest challenges when speaking because when we talk to someone and pause, we tend to use filler words such as: um, er, like... It’s only common that we do that as we’re talking because we’re constantly moving from idea to idea. I know I did that a lot because it helped give me time to think of what I was going to say next. Fillers in speech writing are somewhat tricky, because you wouldn’t readily recognize them as being filler words. As an audience, we’re listening to the speech and not reading it. It’s all about being concise.”

Similar to her love of speech writing, the behind-the-scenes career appealed to her. While there were limits with what she could include in a speech, photography freed her from that.

“Photography allowed me both creative freedom and control over my work. Who or what I choose to focus on as a subject, what I omit from a photo, and ultimately what I’m trying to narrate in the photo. I think that our lives are governed by so much control, that having that creative freedom has become essential to me.”

In choosing her subjects, Lindsay said the process is complicated. “Each person is different and brings something unique to photograph. Allowing them to be candid in the moment is essential. Sometimes I will get ready to take a picture, and then I think they feel that they have to perform in front of the camera with a pose or a smile, but it’s not really them being in the moment. When someone poses for me, I will take some photos of them, but it often translates on screen as being very contrived.”

Authenticity is important to Lindsay, whether it’s in what she’s trying to communicate in words or her photos. She said it is also echoed in what it means to be her to “Be Hoosac.”

“I love Hoosac’s ability to give back to the community. My own giving back to the community might not always involve a monetary value; but is illustrated through my work in politics, volunteer work, and in my support of various causes.”

She said Hoosac remains an important part of who she is. “Hoosac was more than a school; we were family.”

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We were  
family.

# The power of tradition.

The Tibbits family has long been celebrated for their innovation, philanthropy, and various political and military accomplishments. For current and former students of Hoosac, Edward Dudley Tibbits stands out among the rest. As the school's founder, Rev. Tibbits believed in four foundational principles that would support a student not only academically, but socially, spiritually, and athletically as well.

Education had long been an issue supported by the Tibbits family, as is evidenced by the neatly crafted schoolhouse the family had built for the children living on surrounding tenement farms. Rev. Tibbits had received a combination of private tutoring and a boarding school education at a time when free and public schools were still developing in the United States. This combined with Rev. Tibbits' travels to Europe likely inspired his founding principles.

Edward Dudley Tibbits was born in Troy, NY to John and Amelia Tibbits in July of 1859. Though he spent much of his early life in Troy and New York City, his family enjoyed summers on the Tibbits estate in Hoosick, New York. The young Edward had every privilege afforded him, yet continued as had many Tibbits men and women before him, to exhibit enormous compassion and humility.

Edward graduated in 1881 from Williams College, then went on to attend the General Theological Seminary in New York City. He was ordained on October 10th, 1885 at All Saints Church in Hoosick, where he served as deacon. During this period, Edward made an effort to travel the world, spending time in both Egypt and the Holy Land while completing coursework at Oxford University in England. In 1886 and 1890 respectively, Rev. Tibbits established church missions at Boyntonville and Raymerton.

Upon returning to Hoosick, Rev. Tibbits was ordained as a priest and appointed rector to All Saints Parish. There, on land he had inherited from his father, he established a small co-ed choir school in 1889 that would a few years later become Hoosac School, a preparatory boarding school for boys.

The Reverend Tibbits was a beloved fixture at Hoosac. He imagined a school which combined the attributes he admired from his time at Williams College in Massachusetts and the education he received at St. Paul's Preparatory School in New Hampshire. He honored these two institutions at Hoosac with Hoosac's colors of purple (Williams) and red (St. Paul's).

Rev. Tibbits believed in the importance of honoring tradition, including the Boar's Head & Yule Log annual pageant. According to Rev. Tibbits' obituary, "the idea had been made familiar to Dr. Tibbits as a boy, through tales of his maternal grandparents, who followed a similar custom in the Colonial days."

In a 1903 Easter celebration speech Rev. Tibbits gave before the school, he stressed the importance of such traditions:

"One of the strongest features in the life of any institution is in the observance of time-honored customs, and the true spirit



of such occasions finds its best expression in music. The hymns and songs sung at such times linger in the memory and never lose their charm.”

In 1908, a new addition to the faculty at Hoosac would elevate this time-honored tradition of the Boar’s Head event. Musical Director Frank Butcher hailed from England, where he was an organ player and composer. He wrote many musical pieces for the Hoosac Boar’s Head & Yule Log that we know and love today and remained a beloved fixture for many years.

It was Rev. Tibbit’s love of the BH&YL tradition that was highlighted by a beautiful story recently shared with our school in the form of a letter. The letter was written by Class of 1974 Dwight Marvin’s father, Keith. Keith is a 1943 graduate of Hoosac and served on the school’s Board. He shared this beautiful story about an encounter his mother and father had with Rev. Tibbits in during the 1924 performance of the Boar’s Head & Yule Log celebration.

The 1924 performance of the Boar’s Head & Yule Log was the only performance that the late rector, Edward Dudley Tibbits, ever missed. He’d been lamed by a heart attack and was at that time a patient in Troy’s Samaritan Hospital. And as chances were, my late dad, felled by ptomaine, was in the next room...

My father had seen the Hoosac pageant since 1897, when he was an undergraduate at Williams, and my mother had seen it since the year of their marriage in 1909, so Christmas wasn’t Christmas without their attendance... My mother was visiting dad in the hospital a day or two after the performance and he said he’d like to hear the music and mother, who knew every verse of every carol, gave dad the complete performance.

The only fly in the ointment was the presence of Dr Tibbits’ brother, the late Senator LeGrand Cannon Tibbits, who blew into the room and demanded that mother cease her singing.

“It is bothering my brother in the next room,” said Sen. Tibbits. Mother, who knew the senator, went on singing and the senator went for the superintendent of the hospital to have mother evicted. The superintendent, who also knew the senator, arrived at dad’s room just as mother finished the Hoosac School Ode.

LeGrand was wild. Dad was satisfied and so was mother and I don’t doubt the superintendent was waiting for some privacy to



*Rev. Edward Dudley Tibbits in the 1920s*



*A classroom view at Hoosac School's old campus sometime around 1900*

*MAY WE ALWAYS  
CONTINUE TO HOLD  
ON TO WHAT TRUE  
SPIRIT OF LOYALTY  
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OF THE PLACE.*

have a good laugh.

On the way out, however, mother stopped in to wish Dr. Tibbits a Merry Christmas and found him weeping. He had heard her singing to dad.

"Marian," he said. "I was feeling sorry for myself because I'd lost this year's Yule Log celebration. The first one ever. And then I heard you singing to Dwight and I realized that I hadn't missed the performance at all."

It had meant a great deal to the Rector. And it meant a great deal to mother. (Me? I was five months old.)

Mother left Dr. Tibbits' room and LeGrand was sitting in a chair in the corridor.

"Merry Christmas, Senator," called mother.

"Hmph!" answered LeGrand.

Sometime that following spring, mother and four friends were en route to a luncheon trip in Bennington and as they reached the old covered bridge, they encountered LeGrand Tibbits emerging from that structure with his big dog.

Mother stopped the car. "Yoo-hoo," she sang out playfully. "Good afternoon, Senator Tibbits."

The senator approached the car and gave mother and her companions a quizzical look. "Let's see," he ventured. "It's Mrs. Pike."

"Oh, come now, Senator," answered mother. "You remember me, Mrs. Marvin- Mrs. Dwight Marvin of Troy. Don't you recall our delightful meeting last December at the hospital?" And of course he did not.

"To be sure," Said Legrand. "Now, you ladies must come up for a luncheon with Mrs. LeGrand (he called her this) and me." And despite their protests all four of them went and had a great afternoon. They never did get to Bennington.

Rev. Tibbits himself addressed the importance of tradition in remarks made during an Easter celebration at Hoosac in 1903: "We derive much of what is helpful in the traditions of our own school. We have, however, enough of them, in each case, which possesses a peculiar stamp and which marks them as our own inheritance. May we always continue to hold on to what true spirit of loyalty and devotion which shall enable us to keep alive every worthy tradition of the place."

While working to improve Hoosac, Rev. Tibbits received an honorary doctorate in Theological History from Oxford University. He also received the honorary Doctor of Divinity title from his alma mater. Following his death in 1930, he was interred beneath the floor of All Saints Parish in Hoosick. In his will, he continued his legacy of support of Hoosac through protective covenants to allow it to continue to operate under the direction of the Board of Trustees and his brother, Legrand Tibbits.

In this issue of Hoosac Today, we honor the dedication of our founder in his elevation of education toward something more closely resembling a community; one which fosters development of the whole student.





*Prefect Ezra Gale '22 poses with Headmaster Dean Foster holding the jersey donated by Jade Barrett '78. Photo by Lucy Tengelisch '22*

**Geoffrey Jade Barrett '78** mailed a Hoosac Hockey jersey signed by Michael "Lefty" Curran to be displayed on campus. Lefty was an American Hockey Hall of Fame inductee and a Silver Medal Goalie for the USA at the 1972 Sapporo Winter Olympic Games.

Geoffrey enjoyed the company of faculty as well as students. He said Grandy Granell, Mrs. Cannon, and Joseph Standard would play bridge, a game Geoffrey had an affinity for already at a young age.

Said Geoffrey: "There are six mind sports. Bridge is the only one that doesn't have a computer program that can beat a bridge player. Bridge is a game that has more

variations than feet to the nearest star."

He said Granny and some of the other faculty recognized he had something within him that was unique.

"Granny was one of my greatest advocates - In faculty meetings, I always heard everything. There was a question of whether I was lazy, irresponsible, too cerebral, there was no clear grasp on what I was. Granny would say she didn't know what my story was; all she knew was that I could solve problems that other people couldn't even conceive and that I should be allowed to be left alone."

Today Geoffrey is one of the top bridge players in the world.



Here for You Because of You



*HOOSAC MADE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
SEEM FAR MORE  
REWARDING. A LOT  
LESS LIKE WORK  
AND MORE LIKE AN  
ADVENTURE.*

**Nicholas Houran '06**, like many middle-aught students, felt like stepping on to Hoosac's campus was something like a Harry Potter movie. "I had high hopes I'd witness a wizard! My first impression was that Hoosac was pretty magical."

For Nicholas, the small teacher to student ratio coupled with the enormous diversity of the small campus allowed him to flourish. "I really found myself and gained a massive amount of personal independence. Of course, this wasn't like any regular school I'd ever encountered before. It was more like a college campus that required you to motivate yourself and implement skills that you normally wouldn't acquire until later in life," said Nicholas. "I'm very thankful for that. Being an Owl led to me contemplating all of the possibilities that are available in our lives as long as we're willing to go after them and be persistent. After all, to quote Atticus Finch's character in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, "What good are wings, without the courage to fly?"

A self-professed "small town boy" from neighboring Cambridge, Nicholas said the change from a larger public school with very little diversity to a small private school with students from around the world changed him in a multitude of ways.

"Almost every person I met, teachers and fellow students alike, inspired me," he said. "It was amazing to interact with people with different cultural backgrounds and learn about what their lives were like back home. It made me realize that even though we were born worlds apart, and unique in our own ways, we were still basically all the same. We all share the same joys and struggles in life regardless of where we were raised. It was an honor to meet each individual collectively."

Prior to attending Hoosac, Nicholas struggled with self-confidence. "I constantly thought I needed to impress people. Hoosac truly taught me to just be myself." He added the diversity on campus taught him "we are all unique in our own ways and there are always people out there that will accept us no matter what our social status or interests are." It's a lesson that has stayed with him

Our lives are all about perspective. Always counter the negatives with a positive. Worry less, appreciate all that you do have, and live more! As for finding your feet, you always will. Slow down, don't panic, and direct your focus on what truly makes you happy in life. In the end, that's what matters most.





through many new challenges.

Nicholas describes himself as a caring individual; someone who looks out after others. He said he was raised by a good family with the tools he needed in life, but Hoosac, he said, shaped who he became. “Hoosac taught me to be relentless in going after what makes me happy. Nothing specific was forced on me at Hoosac like it was at public school. They allowed me to focus on and learn what actually interested me. Which just made high school seem far more rewarding. A lot less like work and more like an adventure.”

“Public school for me never seemed rewarding or relevant. Hoosac changed that right away. It really opened my eyes to seeing opportunities all around me.”

Following Hoosac, Nicholas attended SUNY Cobleskill with the goal of some day opening a business. He noticed again a difference between Hoosac and traditional educational systems. “They weren’t so much teaching me how to be an entrepreneur which I knew I was destined to be, but were more so molding me to work for already established companies. I wouldn’t find happiness working for a big corporation. I still learned a lot from college, but that was another big realization.”

Post college, Nicholas joined the Air Force as Aircrew Life Support personnel. “What an amazing and eye-opening experience that was. I’d recommend joining any branch of the military to anyone. You’ll never cherish this world more than after serving in the armed forces.”

Later, Nicholas began working toward his dream of opening his own business. “I started managing a restaurant/bar at the Hilton Hotel in Jacksonville, NC and learned about how to properly manage a successful business first hand.”

From there, Nicholas met his fiancé and the two decided to follow another opportunity in Ohio. “I was offered a position with Atlanticus. I couldn’t pass it up and shortly after we were moving to Raleigh, NC to start a new adventure. In less than a year, I was quickly promoted to territory manager in Ohio and we were off to continue the same journey in a new state.”

Hoosac and the military had both shown Nicholas that in every new situation, there will be people who overlap your interests. “We are all alike in one way or another. It made me more comfortable with the transition.”

While happy in his new role, Nicholas knew his dream was still waiting for him back home. As a

young man in Cambridge, he had frequented a local deli owned by a friend’s family.

“The deli had been closed for well over a decade, but we often reminisced about bringing it back to life. Some time later, I got the call from his father asking if I wanted to buy the property. I had been saving money for years, so I took my life savings and jumped at the opportunity.”

Today, a local staple is back in operation. Nicholas reopened West End Deli Works this past winter.

“As strenuous as owning a business is, especially in the current world that we live in, we’re really starting to find our footing. Cambridge has been unbelievably supportive and I could never collectively thank them enough. Hence our slogan: Here for you, because of you!”

Nicholas suggests students remember, “If you want it, it’s there; go get it!” He said he also hopes students remember to enjoy life. “Our lives are all about perspective. Always counter the negatives with a positive. Worry less, appreciate all that you do have, and live, and direct your focus on what truly makes you happy in life.

In the end, that’s what matters most..”

# Finding Independence & Community



I remember pulling up to campus during my summer visit and just being in awe. Coming down Route 7 surrounded by the beautiful scenery and pulling into campus. First seeing the athletic facility to my left, then driving up the road through campus, finally reaching Tibbits Hall.

When I first arrived at Hoosac at the beginning of the school year, I remember feeling a little overwhelmed and somewhat intimidated being in this new environment, not really knowing anyone and it being the first time I was away from home. This didn't last long as the Hoosac community welcomed me with open arms and made it for such an easy transition. My friends and school quickly become my second family.

I remember having the sense of independence very quickly. Living on campus gives you a great deal of independence while being guided and supported by teachers and staff. You are made to feel that you are part of a community and you also hold certain responsibilities towards the school community. Whether it be maintaining good grades, showing up to chapel on time or simply doing volunteer work (to name a few), this certainly gives you a feeling of independence.

You are held accountable and at the same time fully supported whether it be by your dorm parent, teachers or staff. The open door policy and dedication of all makes it for a great environment to nurture and develop your sense of independence.

I believe that being held accountable and encouraged to give 120 percent regardless of your ability sets the ground work to a successful life. One of my strengths I believe was

nurtured and develop while being at Hoosac was the ability to adapt and be flexible to any situation or challenges that may present itself.

Today I am married to my wife Marina and I'm a proud father of two young boys, Ilias and Antoni. I started my career in Finance in 2006 working for a firm in Woodland Hills California. I am currently a senior manager working in commercial banking for RBC Royal Bank of Canada where I have been working for the last 13 years.

I still enjoy playing hockey and still get on the ice once or twice a week. I now have the joy of bringing my eldest son to the rink every weekend as he started playing as well and is already in love with the sport.

My advice for current students would be to slow down. We live in a very high-pace and competitive society and often feel the pressure to have certain objectives be accelerated whether it be with family, career, or personal wealth. You hear it often, that life passes by very quickly and let me tell you, it really does! It doesn't feel like it was that long ago I was in your shoes enjoying Friday night dinners with all my friends. The reality is that almost 20 years have passed since then.

Be true to yourself and try and find what makes you happy. Don't get caught in a routine, being uncomfortable just gives you the opportunity to excel and develop new skill sets. Take the time to enjoy every moment, be present and most importantly be kind!

Regards,

**Alex Oustapassidis '04**



# THE ORIGIN & PRECAUTION OF MORAL HAZARD & ADVERSE SELECTION

By Yuxi "James" Qian '22



## Information Asymmetry

To understand the theory of adverse selection and moral hazard, we need to first understand Information Asymmetry, also known as asymmetric information, which was proposed by American economists Joseph Stiglitz, George Akerlof, and Michael Spence in 1970, and among them, Spence was awarded the 2001 Economics Nobel Prize because of his great contribution to the theory. In microeconomics, most theories are based on the assumptions of "total rationality," where both consumers and manufacturers are rational, profit-oriented people who seek to maximize their benefits/utility, and "complete information," where both consumers and manufacturers have free and rapid access to comprehensive market information. However, the "total rationality" and "complete information" are assumptions based on ideal conditions, which are almost impossible to meet in real situations. In the theory of information asymmetry, economists point out that in a market economy, the communication of information is incomplete and insufficient, because it is basically impossible for buyers and sellers in the market to fully possess each other's information, and this information asymmetry must make the rational information owner, driven by the maximization of benefits/utilities, respond to seek their own greater benefit/utility, while the benefits/utilities of the other party are damaged.

## Overview of moral hazard and adverse selection

Moral Hazard refers to the phenomenon that, under the condition of information asymmetry, the subject who is responsible but does not bear the full cost of his economic actions will tend to act against others while maximizing his own benefits/utilities. Adverse Selection refers to the phenomenon that the market price decreases so that inferior products drive out superior ones, and thus the average quality of products traded in the market decreases. This is caused by information asymmetry of both parties and the maximization of benefit/utility. It follows that both moral hazard and adverse selection are the result of maximizing the interest/

utility of the information owner under information asymmetry. The main difference is that moral hazard is caused by information asymmetry of endogenous variables, while adverse selection is caused by information asymmetry of exogenous variables.

## The Origin of Moral Hazard

Moral hazard was introduced by the famous development economist McKinnon and others in the 1980s, and its most typical example is the moral hazard caused by the asymmetric information between the policyholder and the insurance company. In daily life, the economic cost of an individual's behavior will be fully taken by himself, but an incomplete or flawed contract will make the policyholder (the information possessor) not bear all the costs of the behavior (the insurance company bears some of the costs) and tend to maximize the benefits/utility. The policyholder will reach an agreement with the insurance company, resulting in a loss to the insurance company. For instance, when driving on a highway, the cost to the driver of accelerating may be the increased risk of tire blowout and windshield shattering, and because of the greater cost and the tendency of the individual to maximize benefit/utility, the driver will choose to slow down to the affordable range of driving risk. However, when a driver purchases a product of tire blowout and windshield shattering from an insurance company, most of the risk is assumed by the insurance company so that the cost of driving faster for the driver (insured) is significantly reduced. The individual tends to maximize benefit/utility, so the driver may speed up often, resulting in a much higher chance of tire blowout and windshield shattering. This kind of information asymmetry exposes the insurance company to risk and loss because the insurance company is unable to effectively and fully identify the intend of insured. Incomplete or flawed contracts leave the insured's post-insured behavior entirely up to his or her moral constraints, which have no uniform standards and restrictions on moral consequences, hence the name moral hazard.

## The Origin of Adverse Selection

The theory of adverse selection was developed by George Akerlof, chief professor of economics at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1970 in his paper *The Market for "Lemons": Quality Uncertainty and the Market Mechanisms*. In American slang, lemons are commonly known as substandard products. The paper reveals what seems to be a simple but actually profound economic truth with a case in point. In the used car market, the seller knows the real quality of the car, but the buyer does not. As the seller (the information possessor) seeks to maximize the profit/utility, he will gain more profits through the information asymmetry in the transaction, making the buyer suffer losses. In short, the seller sells seconds at best quality prices. However, in reality, though the communication of information is not sufficient and complete, it is not completely missing. A rational buyer can use limited data to figure out the average quality of the used car market and come up with his or her expected price, or some buyers can simply lower their expectations of quality and make a lower bid to maximize their benefit/utility. When most buyers are willing to pay only moderate or lower prices, sellers of good cars will gradually be expelled from the market, and buyers will continue to lower their expected prices, causing sellers of good cars to be further squeezed out of the market. The final corollary of this hypothesis is that adverse selection eventually leads to market failure, with prices and sales below the equilibrium point and social welfare regressive. In extreme cases, it leads to the collapse of the market.

## Effective precautions for moral hazard of employees and users

Moral hazard cannot be eradicated because morality is a unique human attribute, but managers can reduce moral hazard by improving the mechanism. First, managers can create a good environment to reduce moral hazard by establishing a people-oriented concept. Create an atmosphere of adequate communication, shared information, fairness and commitment to improve the sense of identity and belonging of employees and users, and increase their material and spiritual satisfaction, so that moral risks can be reduced. Secondly, managers improving the management and supervision mechanism for employees and users to reduce moral hazard. In addition, establish incentive mechanisms to reward employees and users who comply with ethical principles so that the opportunity cost of moral hazard can be increased, thus improving their behavior through incentive models and reducing moral hazard. After all, the economic behaviors caused by moral hazard are costly, and the moral hazard can be reduced by improving the system so that the cost of the information possessor increases if he gains benefits by violating the morality.

## Effective precautions for adverse selection in the market

Today, the traditional business market is changing to a more liquid and free e-commerce market. In traditional commerce markets, economists have proposed such solutions as "judging quality by price", "creating and disseminating signals", and "establishing quality conformity standards". However, due to changes in market characteristics, some of the traditional precautions for adverse

selection are no longer applicable to e-commerce markets. In the e-commerce market, economists have proposed more radical and innovative countermeasures. First, trustworthy network intermediaries as notaries and mediators can reduce product quality uncertainty to protect the rights of buyers and other sellers, and the liquidity and lower costs of trustworthy networks can be used to make the dissemination of notarial information more complete. Second, buyers can search on the Internet through trusted websites to find suitable sellers without lowering their standards, and sellers can be matched to their appropriate buyers more quickly through the Internet instead of being squeezed out of the market due to the dropped average price under adverse selection. Additionally, in some monopolistic competitive markets in the e-commerce economy, the phenomenon of information overload is very serious, and attention becomes a scarce resource. To deal with this situation, it becomes especially important to build reputation to improve user stickiness. When reputation is gradually established in the market, the uncertainty of online product quality starts to decrease, and the adverse selection in the market will gradually decrease as well.

## Summary and reflection about moral hazard and adverse selection

From the above discussion, it is clear that information asymmetry exists in the market and cannot be completely eliminated, thus moral hazard and adverse selection cannot be completely avoided. Moral hazard due to information asymmetry of endogenous variables and adverse selection due to information asymmetry of exogenous variables may lead to market failures and diminished social welfare. Therefore, it is necessary to standardize the mechanism and reconcile buyers and sellers through trusted managers or intermediaries to effectively reduce the moral hazard and adverse selection.

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# Father Yost

The Roman triumph was a civil and religious ceremony in ancient Rome, held to celebrate a military victory. The general would wait with his army outside the city until the senate had voted him a triumph, after which the general would enter the city with his troops, his face painted red in imitation of the god Jupiter. There was no higher human glory. But the soldiers who followed the procession would sing obscene songs insulting their general in order to avert divine jealousy. In the case of Julius Caesar's Gallic triumph, the historian Suetonius records some such verses that are not suitable for a family magazine! But what is interesting is that the meter of these songs, a meter regarded by the ancients as suitable for comic or vulgar use, was taken up by the sixth century poet and bishop of Poitiers, Venantius Fortunatus, for "Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle" and "The royal banners forward go," two solemn hymns that are used in the liturgy of Good Friday.

*Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle;  
sing the ending of the fray.  
Now above the cross, the trophy,  
sound the loud triumphant lay.  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
as a victim won the day.*

The idea is that the tree of the cross is the trophy, like the battlefield tree upon which victorious soldiers hung the spoils (mainly armor) looted from their defeated enemies. This echoes Saint Paul when he writes in his Letter to the Colossians (2:14-15):

*Having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands;  
this he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the principalities and  
powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.*

What looks to the world like defeat is in fact victory. Fortunatus transforms the idea and the frivolous songs of the earthly Roman triumph into an expression of exuberant joy at the greatest triumph of all, Christ's victory over death through the cross.

*The royal banners forward go,  
the cross shines forth in mystic glow,  
where he, through whom our flesh was made,  
in that same flesh our ransom paid.*

The foundation of Hoosac as an Episcopal School is not simply about inculcating ethics; although that is indeed an important element, it can be had elsewhere. A Christian worldview is uniquely sacramental in that it sees not just beyond things of this world, but through things of this world, to things that are eternal. Seeking faithfully to know and to follow the will of God is to know that there is nothing in this life that cannot be ultimately for our good and that in every seeming defeat, through every cross, there shines the triumph of the Resurrection.

*Fulfilled is all that David told  
in sure prophetic song of old.  
That God the nations' king should be  
and reign in triumph from the tree.*



Like many students, **Janet Stiegman '89** struggled in the traditional school environment, where she was lost in a large group of peers without the support network she needed. "Classes were not suited for various levels of learning, class sizes were large, and I was getting lost in the sea of students' and failing miserably," she said of the struggle. "We got called to the guidance office one day where we all sat for a meeting." The guidance counselor suggested a different format and something in his suggestion spurred a memory in Janet's grandfather, a Williams College graduate who remembered something about a small school he had often passed on his way to school.

"He knew Hoosac would be just the place," said Janet. "I remember pulling into the campus and driving up to Tibbits. My heart was racing, but when we walked through the front doors and met Mr. Donn Wright, then-Headmaster, his smile put my nerves at ease."

Janet said Wright put her mind at ease as he described the four foundational pillars of Hoosac and its many long-standing traditions. "He beamed with such pride as he spoke of the staff," she said. "We toured the school and it was then I knew this would become my second home; a fresh start where I could take on some of life's lessons."

As a student, Janet quickly discovered the small campus meant you see the same faces every day. "You could be learning about the impact of some historic event on the present day during the day from a teacher and having an in-depth discussion on the same topic that night while sledding down the Pitt Mason Hill with that same teacher laughing hysterically. You become family."

Lessons learned from faculty, staff, and students have stayed with Janet. "Everyone had something to share that has stayed with me throughout my life. One line I still utter to my own children from time to time came from Mrs. Wright. I was clearing the head table one evening and asked her if she was 'done with her dishes.' She looked at me and whispered, 'Meat is done; people are finished.' Mr. Burns was also an inspiration. He taught me never to be afraid to ask questions, even the ones I was afraid to ask. And Mrs. Cash taught me to have faith in my creativity. She helped inspire me to step

*Never Settle*





*"Flowers," a photo by Janet Stiegman. Janet is now a professional photographer who continues to pay it forward with her work; a practice she learned while at Hoosac School*

out of my comfort zone with my art and challenged me to look at art through many lenses. Mr. Lomuscio took the time to explain a storyline in Shakespeare so everyone could not just understand it, but feel like you were part of it. Hoosac is truly a family... each person playing a role and inspiring another to have confidence in themselves and in others.”

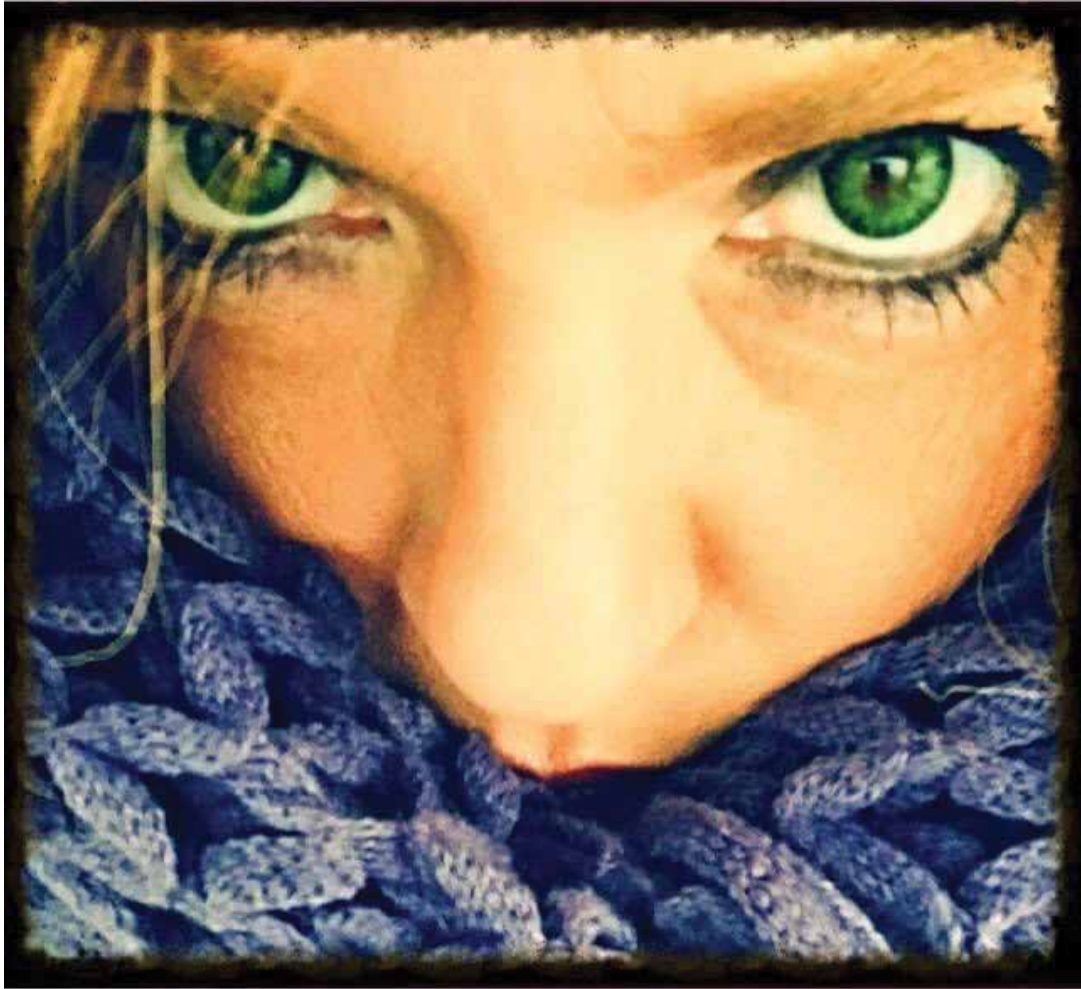
“I came to Hoosac not really knowing what to expect aside from the fact of feeling welcomed into the family. When I arrived at Hoosac, I had to repeat my 9th grade year. It was an embarrassment and something that I obviously was not proud of. I had trouble taking tests and later discovered tracking issues while reading. Hoosac was not a judgment zone for a student in need of help; it was a school where you could feel comfortable while getting assistance,” said Janet. “I repeated my freshman year with such amazing help from the staff and other students. They all showed me that I was not alone, everyone has their strengths and weaknesses and it is how we use them to assist one another to overcome them that makes us stronger. It is that lesson that I draw on in my professional and personal life daily, assisting others to become their best selves,” she added.

“My Freshman year was a year of ‘getting my feet wet’ and learning the routine, the schedule, the rules and the honor code. I made many friends with both staff and students and felt at home right away. My sophomore and junior year were years of growth for me. Gaining confidence in myself and trying new things. Though I’m not good at sports, I can truly say I tried and I went on some amazing adventures to Cancun, Mexico, and Puerto Rico,” said Janet. “By the time I was looking at colleges, I realized how far I had come. Hoosac showed me that I can have faith in myself to succeed.”

When Janet graduated from Hoosac, she still had something left unfinished. “We copied my acceptance letter, my diploma from Hoosac, and the Headmasters Award I had received, and went in to the public school guidance counselors office, where I had asked for a meeting. When we met with the counselor, I showed him the documents and said, ‘You should never encourage a student to settle. Help them strive to be their best.’”

Janet went on to graduate from Wells College in Aurora,





*Photos used with permission from Janet Stiegman*

New York and is today a mother to three daughters while running a successful photography business. She's also employed with the US Veterans Affairs Administration. "This is a job that is very near and dear to my heart as I have had many relatives serve and I am honored to be assisting Veterans on a daily basis to live their best lives."

Janet's business, 19 Photography, focuses on weddings, baby showers, and family shoots, but also senior photos for schools. If someone cannot afford a senior photo, she waives her fees. It's part of what it means to her to Be Hoosac.

"I ask only that they go out and do a nice deed for someone else. I think every senior should be able to feel beautiful and take pride in their photo. It's their red carpet moment!"

Janet's kindness demonstrates the importance of a strong foundation that focuses on Rev. Tibbits four pillars of education: Academic, spiritual, social, and athletic. Giving students like Janet a solid start allowed her to pay it forward.

"The lessons learned and experiences I had while at Hoosac have given me the faith in myself to strive to be the change I wish to see in the world. I wish the world to be a place where one is not afraid to ask a question, one is not ashamed due to failures, and one is not fearful of taking a leap of faith. I wish for it to be a place where questions are asked so everyone can be understood. I wish for a place where no one feels ashamed of failures, but instead sees them as lessons learned. I wish it to be a place where everyone has that self confidence to take leaps of faith. I wish to pay it forward with those lessons and many more to others; to spread some of the Hoosac family joy to others."

*AFTER HOOSAC,  
I WENT TO THE  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
GUIDANCE  
OFFICE, WHERE  
I ASKED FOR A  
MEETING. WHEN  
WE MET WITH  
THE COUNSELOR,  
I TOLD HIM, 'YOU  
SHOULD NEVER  
ENCOURAGE A  
STUDENT TO  
SETTLE; HELP  
THEM STRIVE TO  
BE THEIR BEST.'*

# *Hoosac Alums Bring Joy to Their Vermont Community*



*John Koier (left) and John Connell (right)*

**John Koier ‘63** and **John Connell ‘65** lived just a few miles from each other, but neither knew of their shared connection to Hoosac School. It was by coincidence that John Koier’s wife was taking piano lessons from the same piano instructor teaching John Connell. Eventually the piano teacher realized the connection and introduced the two alums, who have been fast friends now for the better part of a decade.

The two alumni got together for a conference call with Hoosac’s development office in January. “We have a story,” they said. During the pandemic, when the mood of the nation was somber, the duo decided to download and modify a design for a birdhouse. Upon realizing it was fairly easy to replicate, they made, painted, and displayed several in front of the local post office with a “Please Take One” sign. To date, more than 50 birdhouses have found new homes and brought joy in an otherwise challenging time and truly represents what it means to Be Hoosac.

“Hoosac means a lot,” said Koier. “You couldn’t hide there.” The small class sizes and faculty-to-student ratio meant students like Koier and Connell received the attention they needed to succeed in school and in life. “I ended up voted ‘Most Improved Student’ at Hoosac, which really speaks to that,” Koier added.

Connell said Hoosac is always with them. “We even conclude our emails ‘-DR’ for the school’s motto, *Deus Regit.*”



*John Connell at work: adding the finishing touches to a birdhouse.*



FUTURE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  
NATALIE HAWI '23

Technology is the future and the future is technology. I had never thought that I would want to pursue a career in the field of technology until I thought of the mind-boggling ideas and how I might come up with technological solutions to change Africa. To change the world.

Technology has created solutions in medicine, engineering, education, food industries among other areas. It is a field to be respected.

To gain knowledge is to understand and to apply understanding to action is to change the dynamic. To change the way people view certain aspects of life. Create new things and avail more improvements to the earth. The global village. An evolving society. Data science is one of the many courses that brings out a person's ideas and challenges one's mind to always be a step ahead.

After I graduate from Hoosac, I plan to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and tap into my creativity. It is my greatest dream to be exposed to ideas that create lasting change. A first step towards greatness.

I specifically plan to focus on machine learning and software programming. To be a black lady in this field, I cannot help but be ambitious and excited to tackle technology in this way. Perfecting my skills and catering to future advancement.

The demand for data science is expected to rise. I am excited to be part of a new trend in this century as technology gets better and research becomes more advanced. In this new world we do not only use technology; we live it.



*Future Data Scientist Natalie Hawi '23*

# *In Memory*

On July 5, 2021 **Walter H.T. Seager '56** of New Market, MD. beloved husband of the late Geraldine M. Seager (1938-2020); loving father of W. Jonathan Seager and Michael I. Seager, passed away. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Walter and Geraldine built their dream cabin in West Virginia. Loved spending as much time as possible there. Walter built his company and provided for his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be missed by all.

A memorial gathering took place last July. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested memorial contributions can be made in Walter's name to Hoosac School.



Alumnus, Sportscaster, and Author **George "Skip" Clayton '59** passed away last December. Skip had a diverse and rich history in broadcasting. Skip got his first job in radio in 1962 as a copy boy, working for WRCV, an NBC affiliate station. He later went on to become the sports director at WRCP and finally covered sports for the ABC Radio Network for close to 40 years. Skip was the author of five books, mostly on the topic of Philadelphia baseball.

Like many of our current students, Skip was very active in the Hoosac Community. He acted as Team Manager for the varsity soccer team. In 1957, Clayton helped lead Hoosac basketball to their third straight Taconic Conference Championship and was selected to the All-Star team. He also coached the JV basketball team until 1959.

Skip played baseball from 1957 until 1959, and started at first base all three seasons. Most impressively, Skip was a Player/Coach for the 1959 team which also went on to win the Taconic Conference Championship.

On Saturday, March 26, 2022 friends and family celebrated the life of **Stephen Denny Sargent '66**, an American patriot and Christian gentleman. Steve was born August 5, 1947 in New York, NY and died February 12, 2022 in Gardiner, Maine. He was the son of the late Rebecca P. Jackson and James Cunningham Sargent of New York and Charlottesville, Virginia. He is survived by a younger brother, two sisters, two daughters and a son.

Educated at The Buckley School in New York he later attended Taft School and graduated from Hoosac School (Hoosick, NY) in 1966. Shortly thereafter he enlisted in the U.S. Army, graduated Officer Candidate School and shipped out to fight in Vietnam with the Army Rangers as he felt was his duty. Upon his return he attended the University of Cincinnati and in those years discovered his love of theater and entertainment.

He welcomed friends and family into his heart and home at every opportunity. His career began in Cincinnati as a manager, and later partner, in Yesterday's Saloon and then owner of The Millcroft Inn. His love of people and food led to a career of culinary adventures in locales such as Montauk, NY, Galveston, Texas, Palm Beach and Tampa, Florida. His unbounded creativity and endless optimism drove him to several later entrepreneurial ventures and eventually to retirement in Blue Hill, Maine.

Above all he loved spending time at his family "camp" on a lake near Dedham, Maine and often regaled friends with tales of life in the woods. In his final days he was planning a riparian celebration for his 75th birthday with all of his friends and family. His remains will be scattered there as his final resting place.



**Andrew Olmsted '52** died on November 24th, 2021. According to fellow alumni Frank Bulkley, Andy will be remembered in Hoosac lore for his ferocious play in the Albany Academy (800 students) soccer game capping the '53-'53 season. It earned him a red card late in the game and he was ejected. Nonetheless, Hoosac (with only 32 students) went on to win the game. Andy, who had to be drafted, was playing his first ever soccer game!







Remember thy servants,  
O Lord, according to the  
favor which thou bearest unto  
thy people; and grant that,  
increasing in knowledge and  
love of thee, they may go from  
strength to strength in the  
life of perfect service in thy  
heavenly kingdom; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Frederick Yoshinobu Endo '45** entered Hoosac School under very unique circumstances in 1944. A child of the second World War whose family was of Japanese descent, Fred along with his parents and siblings were living in a relocation camp more than a thousand miles from home. It was a period of grave mistrust; one that saw the forced movement of more than a hundred thousand Japanese Americans from their west coast homes inland to relocation centers made up of tar paper dwellings in camps ringed with barbed wire and guard towers.

Fred and his family were moved to Heart Mountain in Wyoming, where he became acquainted with an Episcopal priest, the Reverend Daisuke Kitagawa. Rev. Kitagawa, himself interred, became a passionate advocate for those within the camps and later authored several books on the topic of racial injustice.

As the war ran down, students like Fred had greater opportunities to leave the camps for school. Rev. Kitagawa, like many of the teachers within the camp, saw something special in Fred. When he requested a transfer to a small boarding school in Upstate New York, Kitagawa and others wrote compassionate pleas for his release and several letters of recommendation for his admittance to Hoosac.

Father Meredith B. Wood welcomed the young man, providing financial support and an environment free from the prejudice he had encountered previously. In the fall of 1944, Fred entered the sixth form. A natural leader, he was appointed to the student council on Founder's Day and participated in debate and within the Graftonian and "H" Clubs. He was both the Head Torch Bearer and Jack Finney in the Mummies' Play during the Boar's Head & Yule Log Pageant and he participated in football, fencing, and baseball during his time at Hoosac.

While only at Hoosac for one year, the school and Father Wood left a lasting impression. Fred's niece, Trina Kiyasu said Hoosac provided her uncle with "an educational base that carried him throughout his life."

Frederick Y. Endo was born in Kent, Washington on June 28th, 1927 and passed away at age 94 at his home in Kawaguchi, Japan. He left a significant bequest to Hoosac School that will benefit students for years to come.

**Andrew John Smith '71** of Mishawaka, Indiana passed away peacefully with his wife and daughter by his side at 11:09 pm on Thanksgiving Day, November 25th. He was born to Leonard Bishopp Smith and Ruth Utter Smith on October 21, 1952, in Kingsville, Texas.

Andy graduated from Brighton High School (New York) in 1970 and completed a preparatory year at the Hoosac School (New York) in 1971. He then attended and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in education in 1977. While at Indiana, Andy loved being with his friends, having fun and being the Village Inn Pizza Parlor chug-a-lug champion two years in a row more so than attending classes. After four years in college his mother told him that his fifth year “was on him”.

During Andy’s time at Indiana University, he met the love of his life, Kathryn (Kathy) Ann Chavis, while building a homecoming display in front of McNutt Quad. It took him four months to ask her on a date but once he reeled her in with his wit and charm the rest was history. Andy and Kathy were married at Westminster Presbyterian Church in South Bend, Indiana on September 10, 1977. They moved to Dayton, Ohio and had their only child, Holly, on December 10, 1981.

Andy worked in sales for Campbell’s Soup Company, Armor Dial and Batesville Casket Company, but his favorite profession was being a teacher at Horizon Elementary School in the Penn Harris Madison School Corporation. He had a 19 year teaching career where he touched countless lives. He shared his love of Spongebob Squarepants and rarely giving homework, which made him one of the most favorite teachers at the school. He retired from teaching in 2013.

Andy had a very upbeat personality and positive outlook on life. His family was always his number one priority. He loved spending time with his granddaughters’ playing games on the iPad and reading Dr. Seuss books. Andy also enjoyed McDonalds where he spent countless hours solving the world’s problems with his breakfast group of retirees. He fought the good fight battling heart issues for 32 years, Andy can now rest peacefully in the arms of Jesus Christ our Savior with his two favorite golden retrievers, Morgan and Murphy.





**Paula Moore Tabor**, a beautiful and ever-vibrant spirit, passed away peacefully at the age of 67 on Saturday, October 23, 2021. She was born on July 26, 1954 in Cincinnati, Ohio, as the daughter of Richard Moore and Anna Jeanne Bankhead Moore.

Paula carried a light that warmed every room, an energy that lifted all spirits, and a love that stretched far and wide. She was the beloved wife of Geoffrey Thomas Tabor, the dear mother of Anna Kelsey Tabor and Geoffrey Trenton Tabor.

Among many significant contributions during her career, Hoosac School was fortunate to know Paula, who served as a tireless consultant for Advancement, as well as alumni, parent and special events, and international student recruitment. Paula also served as Chair of the Fundraising Committee for the Hoosac School Parents Association.

Paula's children are Hoosac alumni.

**Frederick "Rick" Driscoll**, Hoosac School Trustee and the former Director of Admissions, passed away this past January 30th. He was 86 years old.

Rick was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, the son of John Fiske Driscoll of St. Paul and Helen Russell Locke of Watertown, Massachusetts. With a great love for athletics and the outdoors, Rick enjoyed an active early life. He graduated from St. Paul Academy, where he was captain of his school's hockey team. He received his undergraduate degree from Williams College, class of '58, where he majored in English and played hockey, football, and track. He is survived by his wife of 49 years Genevieve "Jeanne" Driscoll; his brother, Andrew Driscoll and many close family members and friends.



Jill Atkins called to share the news that **Reid Atkins '67** passed away in November. Jill shared that Reid always spoke fondly of Hoosac School.

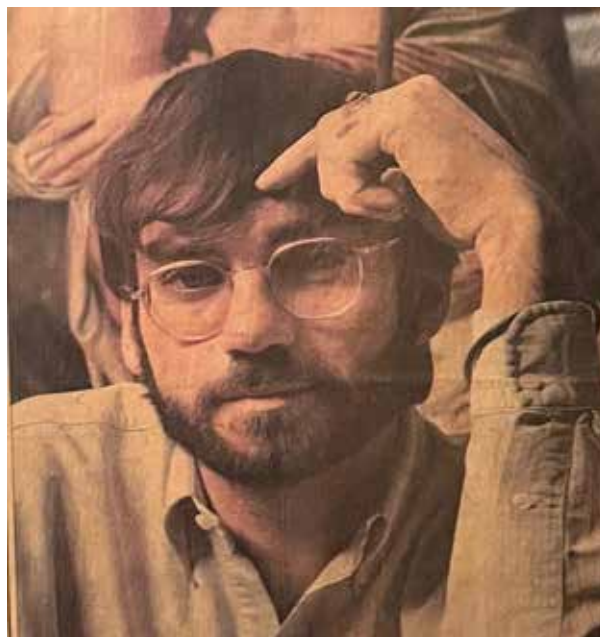


**David Malcolm Shaw '72** of Omaha, NE passed away peacefully on February 7, 2022, after a prolonged illness surrounded by family and close friends. Born October 19, 1954, in New York City, NY to Hugh Shaw and Gertrude Willimann, he grew up in New York, Connecticut and spent every summer on the coast of Maine in Yarmouth sailing, exploring the rocky shores and enjoying family gatherings. As a child, he attended the Hoosac School and Hackley School in New York. He attended college at Eisenhower College in NY and later transferred to Hartwick College in NY where he graduated. David also spent some time at the Royal Academy in London, England.

David was a true artist, entrepreneur, philosopher, intellect and storyteller. His brilliance and perspective would captivate any audience, big or small, that would listen to his words and wisdom. He was thought-provoking, up for a challenging debate and nurtured spirituality and Catholicism. David taught at North Yarmouth Academy in Yarmouth, Maine and later moved to Kansas, where he taught at St. Mary's Academy for years, enriching the lives of students on art, history and religion.

After his time in Kansas, he moved to Omaha, NE in 1988, where he and his business partners owned a profound Antiques and Fine Art business and resided and called home for the remainder of his life. He was a staple in the Omaha community, a creative spirit, fearless and free of judgment. He would encourage us all to think differently, question, and communicate with unique intelligence that he would share with anyone that would listen.

A Catholic Funeral Mass took place at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Omaha on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.



I remember antique hunting with David at the shop in Hoosick, he also showed me how to dig up antique bottles in the woods. I had to laugh when he told me that he'd taken to teaching. There was a time at Hoosac when we were both taking a history class. There was a big midterm exam coming up and the night before David decided to do a review of the material in a Tibbits classroom. He got up in front of the board and did such a good job in reviewing the material that I aced the test.

*-Steve Heinzerling*

David always dressed like a teacher from some English boarding school. I remember a dry, and witty sense of humor. Very smart.

*-Michael Bontecou*

I remember David well. Always had a grey flannel suit on and a pocket watch; of course stowed in the watch pocket of the vest and wire rimmed glasses making him seem like a dapper banker!

*-Sloan D.*



Mr. Van Bomel (second from left behind the tractor) seen here standing beside of Mr. Richard Lomuscio

# *HONORING THEIR LEGACY*



Mr. Roepe (third right in back row) poses with the chess club during his final year at Hoosac.

**Lance B. Roepe '66** passed away in December of 2020. **Peter Van Bomel '70** passed away in January of last year. Both men left behind numerous friends and family and are dearly missed within the Hoosac Community.

This issue, we are choosing to highlight the enormous contributions Lance and

Peter made to Hoosac with their legacy gifts. We celebrate their generosity and the far-reaching impact that these gifts have for current and future Owls.

Both Lance and Peter made a difference while at Hoosac; and now they are forever be part of a legacy of giving that continues through today and into the future.

# Make Hoosac part of *your* Legacy



Hoosac graduates know what it means to **Be Hoosac**. It isn't something taught in a textbook; it's something that comes from shared experience. In short, **Be Hoosac** means something a little different for each of us. It's inspiring others, rising above doubt, it's nurturing volunteerism in yourself and others, it's finding yourself and helping others do the same.

The **Be Hoosac** we share in common is that part we carry forward in the spirit of optimism and generosity. Your legacy is a gift to future generations.

Protect the long-standing traditions and culture of Hoosac and make Hoosac School a partial beneficiary to your assets, estate, will, or life insurance policy and make Hoosac forever part of your legacy.

## **Be Hoosac in all you do.**

For more information on how to benefit Hoosac with a legacy gift, please contact Headmaster Dean Foster at (518) 686-7331 or email [headmaster@hoosac.org](mailto:headmaster@hoosac.org).





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# ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND!

Join us this June 10th through the 12th for our Alumni Reunion Weekend in the Valley of the Owl. Greet old friends, meet former and new faculty, and join our Board of Trustees in showcasing our progress over the past few years. We look forward to seeing you!



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V  
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