

HOO S A C

Legacy Edition

FALL 2024





HOOSAC TODAY

FALL 2024

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADMASTER

Dean Foster



Happy Fall everyone! This is easily the prettiest time of year on campus. The hills are bursting with color, reds, oranges, and yellows signaling the end of the beginning of the school year. Students have settled in and the collaboration with faculty is solidly in place. As one season ends so begins another and with that change we start to reminisce about those who came before us.

We are fortunate at Hoosac School to have such an active alumni base. Whether it's alumni staying in touch with their classmates or former students connecting as mentors for current students, these connections speak to the strength of our community here at Hoosac. You are not just part of an alumni network; you're family.

This issue is dedicated to our legacy students, who share a unique multigenerational experience and demonstrate the profound impact Hoosac has on people and families. To share the experience of Hoosac with your child is a gift that will echo throughout their lives. Seeing legacy families at Reunion; swapping stories of the adventures they shared in their time here in the Valley of the Owl, is moving and often revealing. No matter the era, the common themes of Hoosac show through kindness, inclusion, and acceptance. All virtues that transcend the decades show exactly how important the traditions of the school are. Despite the obvious changes and improvements the core values of Hoosac always shine through.

This year has been productive thanks to the power of the entire Hoosac family. We've grown our campus with Gipson Hall, our new academic building, and we've expanded our class offerings, and experiences, including some exceptional field trips and extracurricular opportunities. Cyber-security, a college credit business program, and an enhanced focus on the performing arts, especially piano instruction and music in general, are areas of vast expansion. In short, we continue to make Hoosac School an experience to remember and the place you come home to.

Enjoy this trip down memory lane and as always, please check in and let us know how you are doing. We love to get your updates. Remember, we can't get in touch with you without proper addresses, so please drop us a line and make sure you get all the information on Hoosac as we continue to grow and improve!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DF", written over a horizontal line.

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A LOOK BACK
**BUILDING
 AN EMPIRE**
How Tibbits saved Clinton's Big Ditch

At the start of the 19th-century, New York Governor DeWitt Clinton, saw the Erie Canal as a way of preserving the security of the Union and as an “organ of communication” between the Hudson, Mississippi, and St. Lawrence river valleys and the Great Lakes. He correctly identified the enormous economic impact the canal would have on the state and New York City: “The city will, in the course of time, become the granary of world, the emporium of commerce, the seat of manufacturers, the focus of great moneyed operations, and the concentrating point of vast disposable and accumulating capitals...” Following its construction, New York City rose rapidly to its status as the primary seaport in the US, overtaking Boston.

Beginning in 1817, the 363-mile long, 40-foot wide, and four-foot deep canal representing an elevation change of 420 feet between Buffalo and Albany via 83 locks, took eight years to complete. However Clinton’s dream of a grand canal would not have been realized without the contributions and support of George Mortimer Tibbits Sr.

Then-Senator Tibbits had, for several years, invested privately in the Champlain Joint Stock Company, an entity designed to improve transportation between the Lake Champlain valley and the Hudson. In a letter to family member Benjamin Tibbits, George reflects on the initial financial struggles of individual investors in backing a project on such a large scale.

“The magnitude of these efforts discouraged all individual efforts,” said Tibbits. “Nothing short

of the power of the state, or the United States, seemed equal to the task... but the mode and manner in which the strength of government should be applied, became a subject of... great interest...” The federalist went on to write of his skepticism of the plan, despite its passage. “[I]t would be uncandid in me not to admit my decided opposition to the mode of finance adopted in the act of 19th June, 1812.”

That act authorized the Erie Canal commissioners, a body created by the NYS Legislature, to borrow a sum of \$5 million from the state to be vested in stock and sold, with those funds going toward the construction of the canal system. While Tibbits may have been apprehensive, historians agree, it was the senator from Troy who made its passage possible.

According to the Noble Whitford, the author behind the *History of the Canal System of the State of New York* (1906), Tibbits deserves significant credit for saving the act that funded the canal:

“The bill as first introduced specified that the State should borrow money for prosecuting the work, and directed commissioners of this fund to prepare a suitable plan of finance and present it to the ensuing Legislature. This proposition was not favorably received, but in its place was substituted an able plan of finance which had been carefully worked out by George Tibbits, a member of the joint committee and a Senator from Rensselaer county. This substitution of Tibbits’ plan was made by Wheeler Barnes, although the fact is not recorded in the *Assembly Journal*. This plan ‘was to establish a fund to be managed by commissioners, the income of which would raise money sufficient to complete the canal in twelve or fourteen years with seven millions of



dollars, and leave a sinking fund sufficient to redeem the debt to be created, at a period not far distant from their completion.' Thus it was that the State was indebted to Mr. Tibbitts' ability for a successful and durable plan of canal revenue."

A letter published in 1822 between the Honorable Robert Troup and US supreme court justice Henry Brockholst Livingston, showcases the senator's contribution to the canal effort: "[Tibbitts] drew up a plan of finance, establishing a distinct and permanent fund for the completion of both canals and pointed out various sources of revenue which was substantially the same with that afterward established by the legislature."

Two hundred years later and the Erie Canal is still a primary waterway for the state, used today by recreational boaters and water craft. It was widened, deepened, and electrified at the turn of the 20th century and the number of locks reduced to 34, with larger locks accommodating a steeper change in elevation.

The Erie Canal would have come about eventually, but Tibbitts' knowledge of the State Legislature combined with his ability to formulate and articulate a plan resulted in the Canal opening in 1825. It quickly generated enormous wealth for New York resulting in the state's nickname, the Empire State.



This fall, Hoosac's History Club toured Lock 36, constructed during the Tibbitts era and the modern lift Lock E-17 at Little Falls, New York, the lock handling the largest change in elevation along the Erie Canal. George Mortimer Tibbitts Sr. was the grandfather of Hoosac's founder, Rev. Dr. Edward Dudley Tibbitts.

A portrait of a man with short, dark hair, looking slightly to the left. He is wearing a black t-shirt with a tiger graphic. The tiger's face is white with black stripes, and its mane is rendered in a glowing blue and green pattern. The man is wearing a gold chain, a watch on his left wrist, and a ring on his right hand. He has a tattoo on his left forearm. The background is dark and out of focus.

CLASS OF 2006
SCOTTY
WANG

BRINGING FOLKLORE *to life*

We normally ask why someone chose Hoosac School, but in the case of **Po Yuan “Scotty” Wang ‘06**, who had grown up in Taiwan, his first trip to Hoosac was a set-up.

“It’s a funny story; my coming to Hoosac was, in fact, involuntary. I didn’t know that I was supposed to come here to study. I was deceived by my family into thinking it was just a trip, but this ‘trip’ turned out to be a one-way ticket.”

Scotty had for much of his life demonstrated a passion for art and design. His parents knew he would need to study art outside of his home-country.

“In Taiwan, art is not treated kindly, so staying there, I might not have been able to achieve my dreams. My mother told me that here, art would be treated with kindness and respect.”

His surprise about the nature of the trip quickly turned into surprise. “When I first saw Hoosac School, I was actually very surprised. The buildings looked very much like a magical academy, incredibly beautiful. Moreover, the air was very fresh, and living in such a natural environment provides a wonderful living and learning atmosphere.”

The biggest hurdle Scotty faced in attending school outside of his home country was the language barrier.

“I couldn’t even speak basic English, just like a mute. I was very uncomfortable and felt troubled and fearful. However, thanks to the mentors and students here who helped me grow, everyone was very kind to me, so I am very grateful to them,” he said. “I feel that because the school is small, everyone acts as if they are family; taking care of each other. I really liked the life there. Honestly, even now, I still remember it was hard to leave.”

For Scotty, living away from home wasn’t as much of a concern as it is for some students. He said a busy family life meant that he gained independence at an early age. And the warmth he felt at Hoosac was like a family away from his own family in Taiwan.

Following Hoosac, Scotty studied game design at the

Art Institute of California. “At the graduation ceremony, I received a medal,” he said. “I graduated successfully and then worked for Blizzard Entertainment for a year before returning to Taiwan to start my own business and create my dream brand.”

Following a life-long interest in toys and collectibles and his passion for sculpting, Scotty began turning virtual 3D concepts into tangible realities. “This journey has been extremely challenging, requiring the learning of highly specialized areas. I previously spent a long time in mainland China specifically to learn professional production techniques. Sofubi Vinyl is all about the spirit of craftsmanship, involving entirely handmade processes, making it quite troublesome to produce with many limitations,” Scotty explained. “My research is ongoing and has been focused on how to break through these limitations and create my own form of art. I have persevered in this path for 20 years. However, in truth, toys were just a stepping stone; what I have really created is a brand.”

Today, Scotty runs DemonCraft Art, a business dedicated to exploring the cultural significance of Yōkai, a class of supernatural entities and spirits in Japanese folklore. In that sense, the mission of DemonCraft is not just to move product, but to craft a tangible representative piece that may be enjoyed by collectors and toy-enthusiasts alike.

Asked about what advice he might have for current Hoosac students, Scotty replied, “Every decision is very important; once made, you must stick to it. You will definitely encounter unsatisfactory or difficult situations on the journey of life, but life is like a marathon, and the person who can endure to the end is the greatest winner. If I could go back to when I was 18, I would tell myself to believe in myself, you are the best, keep it up!”

You can learn more about Scotty Wang and DemonCraft at www.demoncraftart.com and find Scotty on Instagram at ‘demoncraftart.’

The HOOSAC *legacy*

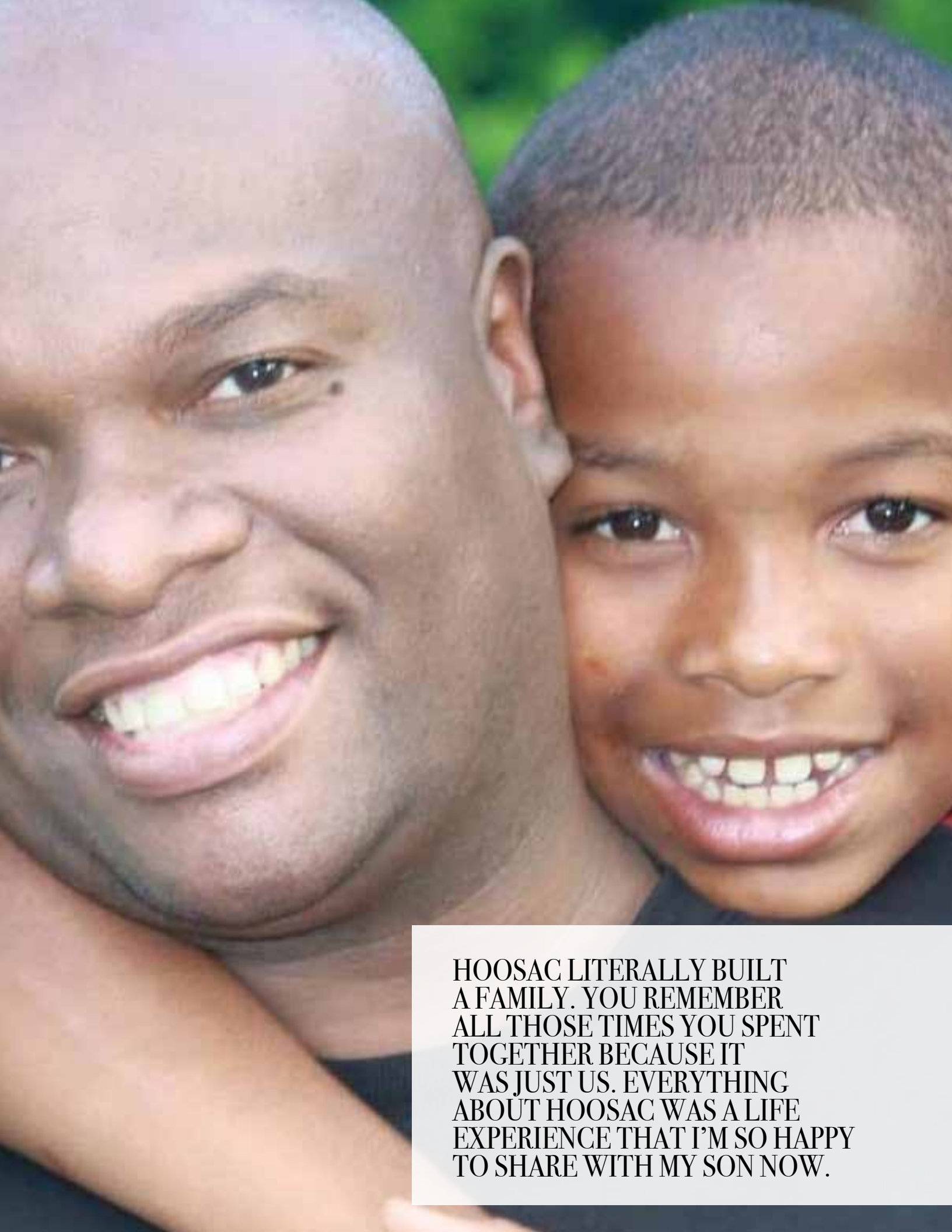
Rashid Rondon '93 found out about Hoosac School when his mother suggested boarding school. “I was attending a public high school in Jamaica, Queens at the time and my mother brought to my attention the opportunity to go away to school. She had me fill out five different applications. I remember seeing the photos of Hoosac’s campus and knowing it was the only one I really wanted to visit. We went up to the Hoosac campus and I knew this was immediately where I wanted to go.”

Starting as a fourth former, Rashid said it was exciting. “The only apprehension was going from a city kid to going into what felt like the wilderness,” he said. “I knew that I could adapt to pretty much anything. I knew I could make friends just by being myself. I enjoyed life, so trying new things and different experiences came easily for me.”

Right away Rashid made integral connections, “When I first got there, my first mentors were Leif and Chris Counter, the twins. Also, Kairi Frame. They were in Pitt Mason with me and took me under their wing.”

He said advice from Kairi stays with him to this day: “In the first few months, I was just winging it. I wasn’t doing all of my work properly and Kairi pulled me aside and said, ‘Look, you’re in a position that not many of us of color are in at this point. Look around. So you have to do better and work harder than anybody else because this is your opportunity. You’re taking this too lightly.





**HOOSAC LITERALLY BUILT
A FAMILY. YOU REMEMBER
ALL THOSE TIMES YOU SPENT
TOGETHER BECAUSE IT
WAS JUST US. EVERYTHING
ABOUT HOOSAC WAS A LIFE
EXPERIENCE THAT I'M SO HAPPY
TO SHARE WITH MY SON NOW.**



I've been here a couple of years and I've made the best out of every year possible.' And once we had that conversation in early October, my life changed completely."

Rashid said the faculty was also a huge factor in his success. "Father Clemmons- he was my advisor- he took us to soup kitchens, sometimes we'd go to his house and play croquet; some things I had never done before, so that was exciting. I can name everybody that was faculty there. Everybody stood out. There's not one faculty member that didn't mean something to me."

"The students that were alongside me, John Cahill, Justin Lovett, Susan Schoeninger, Paul Diaz, Neil Irwin, all of them; we're still friends and family. Hoosac literally built a family. Any time we find a way to meet up with each other, we do. You remember all those times you spent together because it was just us. It was an amazing experience. Everything about Hoosac was a life experience that I'm so happy to share with my son now."

Following Hoosac, Rashid attended Utica College of Syracuse University where he majored in child life

psychology. "I met great family and friends there as well. I was able to experience college life which is just an extension of what Hoosac was, which was excellent."

Rashid did not end up working specifically in the field of psychology, but instead put his talents as a communicator and natural leader along with some adaptability to work on studio sets in California. "I met a lot of famous people who were just so down to earth. It was a great experience moving out to California." Moving from stage, he began working with the Seminar Center in New York City, promoting authors.

The former prefect often relies on the skills he learned at Hoosac making others feel comfortable. He said he works well with youth because he matches the energy. "I never wanted to grow up. As a prefect, I just tried to be a friend to people."

That level of empathy would be extended unto himself following the tragic unfolding of events on September 8th, 2002. "I was judging a rap competition in Bridgeport CT. I was the third judge to make the final decision about who was going to win.

Unfortunately, the people who lost weren't very happy. I mean it was the difference between \$100 first place versus second place, but they weren't happy about the bragging rights because they didn't win. They challenged me and unfortunately, because they couldn't physically beat me up, they decided to shoot me."

The bullet pierced the back of Rashid's calf, shattering his shin bone. After multiple surgeries, the decision was made to amputate. "It was a tough experience to start. It was an experience that I would say changed me for the better. It made me a better person because it humbled me, it made me realize how strong you can be when you have to be. Again, it made me someone people can see and say, 'Wow, if he's still able to do that; to get up and move on with life, what can I accomplish as well.'"

Rashid said he has forgiven the person who shot him. "I don't hang on to that. It's a blessing that I'm still here. I now have children. Everything after that has been a blessing. I say to a lot of people I wouldn't ask for my leg back if it meant I wouldn't get to meet or interact with the people that I know today. It wouldn't be the same life after."

Today Rashid lives in Washington D.C. He struggles with infections in his leg, but is ever-focused on healing and encouraging others. His other focus is on his three sons, Rashid Jr., Tavion, and Rashim, the youngest of which is at Hoosac for his PG year.

Rashid said he received a call from the school headmaster, Dean Foster, one day telling him they had noticed Rashim's talent on the basketball court. "Dean said, 'What do you think about him coming to Hoosac next year for a PG year?'" There was no way I was going to turn it down." It was a quick yes for Rashim as well, who is eager to be part of his father's legacy at Hoosac.

"Thanks to Dean and the legacy program, they were able to help my son attend Hoosac."

Today, Rashid is taking writing classes and working on a memoir and podcast about his experience. He said he never once took his experience at Hoosac for granted. "I enjoyed every moment, every person. I didn't waste time there. I became the best possible student I can be, the best possible athlete I could be, the best possible person I could be, the best possible prefect I could be." He tells current students, including his son Rashim, to do the same: "Utilize exactly what you have in front of you and don't take it for granted. A lot of people will never experience what Hoosac life is like."





Nip Smith
Class of '74

Dave Finner
Headmaster



THE BOARDING SCHOOL *experience*

Philip “Nip” Smith ‘74 had already looked at five schools before finding Hoosac. “Hoosac was a good fit for me at the time. It was recommended to me, it ticked the boxes, and I ended up there.”

“I had seen a lot of schools at that point,” said Nip. “I’d seen some lovely campuses, but Hoosac was smaller and had a cozier feeling. Every school has its own appeal and Hoosac has its charms.”

When Nip arrived in 1970 for third form, the school was under the leadership of Donn Wright, then-Headmaster, and Ashton Crosby, Director of Admissions. “The two of them were a dynamic duo; they worked really well together and the school saw a tremendous amount of success under them. They brought in a lot of kids,” said Nip. “Donn was really good at raising money and Ashton could walk the walk and talk the talk. Ashton was poised; he knew how to deal with people; he was a polished, very nice guy. And Donn Wright was of that same caliber and the two of them worked magic there.”

Third form was a transformative year for Nip: “Living away from home was a major change. I was homesick for the first week or so and then after that, it was all fantastic. I had a wonderful roommate I’m still very close with to this day, so I’ve stayed in touch with a couple of my buddies there. The school was thriving; every bed was taken,” explained Nip. “The sixth form was tremendous and I had made the Varsity hockey team and those guys were good to me. I admired the guys in the classes ahead of me, it was nice to look up to them.”

Nip said the biggest lesson living away from home for the first time was that you had to rely on yourself. “Getting away from home and learning to fend for yourself; if you had a problem, you had

to figure it out. You didn’t go home to mom, have a nice dinner, and get tucked into bed.”

“It was so much fun having all the third formers in Pitt Mason because basically when you made friends those first few weeks, you realize you’re living with these guys and it was a blast,” said Nip. “You were free to do what you wanted after study hall. You could go back, goof around, listen to music, you always had friends and it was just a lot of fun. The overall boarding school experience fit my mold; it was exactly what I wanted.”

While he played other sports, Hockey was one of the more memorable experiences Nip enjoyed while at Hoosac. “We were very competitive; we played some very competitive teams, and it was the most fun year.” He said sports were just one more opportunity to be outdoors.

Nip’s tall frame made him the ideal beefeater for the school’s Boar’s Head and Yule Log. He was a beefeater all four years at Hoosac. “My senior year I was the head beefeater, which means I tapped my sword a couple of times. I was physically built to be a beefeater and I enjoyed it.”

He said people like Father Cannon made a difference in his experience at Hoosac: “Father Cannon was amazing. I was petrified of him. In retrospect, he was the real deal. He was the epitome of a Boarding School master who looked the part.” He said he wishes he had reached out to Father Cannon later as an adult, but did have the opportunity to stay in touch with other faculty, including Ashton Crosby.

“Ashton and I had some nice letter exchanges,” said Nip. “I had some ideas, so it was nice to have an adult relationship with these guys. They went from being your superiors to being a peer with

them and listening to what you have to say and thinking that maybe you added value and that delineation was gone.”

Following Hoosac, Nip attended New England College where he graduated in four years. “I had as good a time there as I did at Hoosac.” During his senior year, he participated in an internship with the First National Bank of Boston. “I actually moved to Boston, got an apartment, bought some suits, and went to work at 100 Federal Street for three and a half months. I enjoyed it immensely. I got full credit for college, went back to graduate, and then First National hired me full time.”

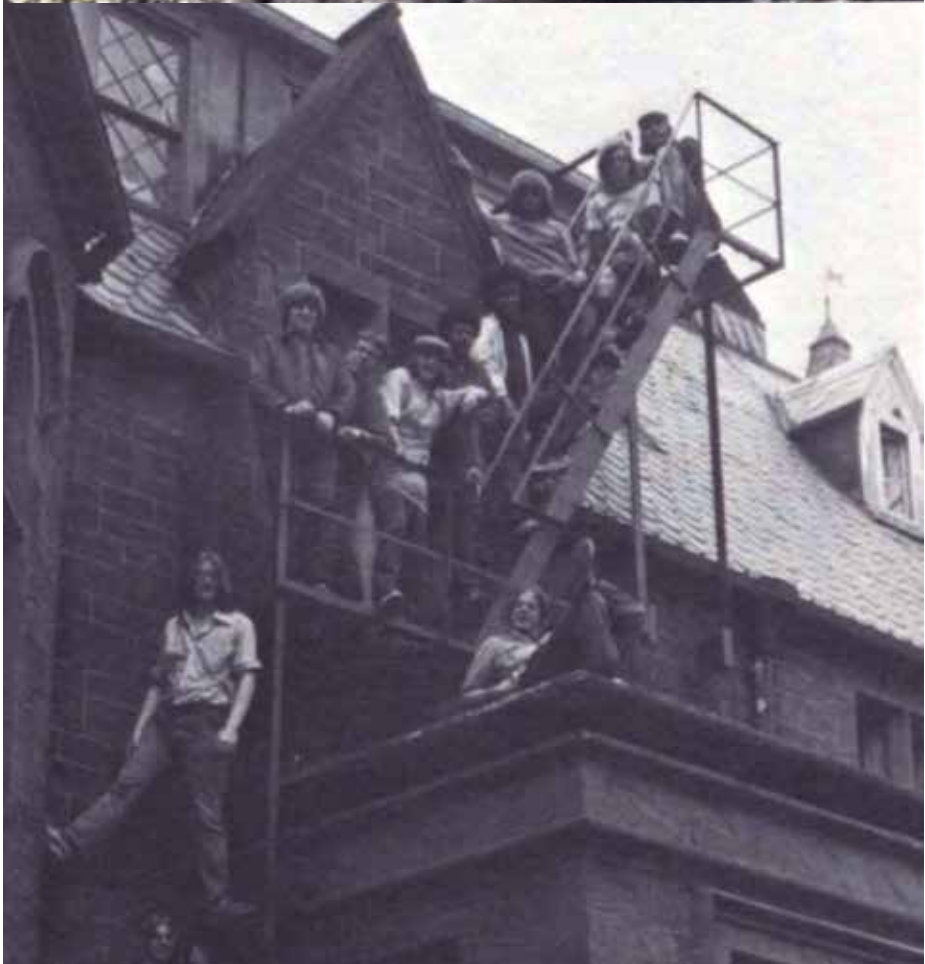
Nip said working with the bank was a little like Boarding School. “It was a bunch of recent college-graduated guys and gals. “We started the Bank of Boston Hockey Team. It was so funny because once a week you’d see a bunch of guys in suits walking into the bank with hockey bags.”

“I did that for six or seven years and then I got married.” Nip and his wife, actress Hilary Smith, were commuting between New York, where she worked and Boston, where Nip was still employed with the bank. “She was commuting back and forth, so we lived in Boston, but when she started getting busy, I relocated and started doing commercial real estate in Princeton, New Jersey; did that for a number of years and then matriculated back to banking. I joined our local community bank and went on the board which grew significantly. It’s now publicly traded and a sizable bank.”

Said Hoosac and the boarding school experience made him very comfortable wearing a tie: “A lot of doors opened for me, so I was very fortunate.”

Today, Nip manages property in New Jersey. He said he and Hilary raised their two children, sent them off to boarding school, and enjoyed watching them grow as individuals.

He said the change he saw in his own son when he sent him off to boarding school versus what he saw when he graduated was staggering. “Boarding school is a gift, so if one has the opportunity to do it, don’t miss it.”



I really enjoyed visiting Hoosac and seeing the great work you continue to do. I just sent you a donation for the annual fund. When I was flying up and remembering my time at the school it reminded me of a life lesson learned at the school-

As I was traveling to my 50th reunion at Hoosac I was reflecting on what I learned there, including some pretty big life lessons. Hoosac really made a huge positive impact in my view of life, work and study habits. It gave me the tools to succeed both socially and at work. But that isn't really what I want to talk about.

Sports! Growing up in the Midwest I was active and interested in the outdoors but never involved in team sports.



This was not something that my family did. I wasn't big, fast or coordinated enough that the team captains were clamoring for me.

I had been ice skating since childhood and was interested in hockey. I managed to somehow get on the Hoosac team but was certainly not in anyway at the top of the lineup. After lots of practice at the outdoor rink on campus we headed out to challenge another school. When I was finally put in during the last couple of minutes of the game, I was ready to be a star. I got a hold of the puck and my only focus was the goal.

Needless to say the puck was taken from me quickly. Mr

Dechame, our coach, came up to me afterwards and really did a great job of impressing on me that there was a whole team with me, to have a chance at scoring I needed to work together with them. That lesson stuck with me, helping to give me a real opportunity to score 20 years later.

So I graduated college, got married, moved to Florida, had a daughter and was running a successful business, when in 1983 had the opportunity to go free-diving for lobster in the Florida Keys. After several days it was apparent that the lobster were winning due to my poor fitness and lack of expertise at free-diving.

When I came back home from the Keys to West Palm Beach, I heard about a sport called underwater hockey. What a great way to get in shape to chase down those lobsters. So I joined the local club and started playing.

Underwater hockey is played in a 7' deep pool with mask, snorkel and fins and a 3 pound plastic coated lead puck that slides on the bottom of the pool. There are 6 players on each team in the water, either on the bottom moving the puck towards the opposition's goal or on the surface breathing. It is played around the world, being quite popular in Europe, South Africa, Australia and New

HAROLD OCHSTEIN '74

Zealand. There are a number of clubs scattered around the US, especially along the West Coast.

As you can imagine underwater hockey only works as a team sport. Half of your teammates are absent at any one time breathing on the surface. There is not an opportunity for verbal cues since your head's underwater. Anticipating where your teammates will be is critical to effectively moving the puck down court to score. So that long ago lesson from Mr. Dechame was critical to my success in the sport.

After playing at the club level in tournaments around the country for 15 years, I started preparing for the upcoming world championships happening in San Jose, CA in 1998. Even though I was still not the strongest or most coordinated player I was able to make the US Men's Masters team for the world championship, due mostly to my skill at being a team player. We took third place that year, the highest the US team had ranked up to that time in the sport. And yes, I did get to score that goal 24 years later. Thanks Mr. Dechame!



TO NEW BEGINNINGS

Before attending Hoosac, **Michael Stolting '60** and his brother, John Stolting '62, had attended a different boarding school in New York. The two spent much of their childhood at that school. Coming to Hoosac provided a positive learning environment.

“After having attended Greer School for six years prior to entering Hoosac, I was not at all worried about the Hoosac campus. It was beautiful as far as I was concerned,” said Michael. “I remember being impressed by the Tibbits mansion. My brother was housed in Tibbits and I was in a separate dormitory... I can’t recall the name.”

Though 64 years have passed since Michael graduated from Hoosac, some memories are still vivid: “I remember the Angelus bell and having to stop and stand still while it rang.”

Michael said he never worried about independence, after years of boarding school, but he was concerned with what followed. “I really still needed to find something about which I could be engaged enough to support myself after college.”

Eventually he was accepted at Georgetown University. “I promptly flunked out after the first semester. My only excuse is that I was very immature for my age (17) and I hated the fact that Georgetown had no girls!”

Instead of walking away entirely, he took a job as an elevator boy near his home in Manhattan and was later accepted by The College of Emporia in Kansas, where he majored in English Literature. “Unfortunately I flunked out again and that was really a bad year to lose one’s



exemption from the draft. Johnson had just ordered 500,000 troops to go to war that spring in Vietnam. Fortunately for me I didn't pass the physical."

Undefeated, Michael returned home to Manhattan and stayed with family while he looked for work. In the summer of 1965, he met a woman. "We dated, then lived together, and then moved back to East Strabourg, PA to make our upcoming wedding seem genteel, or at least respectable."

The two were married and eventually landed in Greenwich village. "My father died in the summer of 1967 and left my brother and I some money- not much- but enough to pay rent and buy groceries for the short term foreseeable future." Eventually, after trial and error, Michael found footing as a special education teacher, despite not yet having the credentials.

"I taught during the day for the four years it took for me to earn my clear credential as a special education teacher. At night I was at Cal State in Los Angeles earning that credential. I taught special education classes for 12 years until I retired in 2010."

Following retirement, Michael moved from southern California to Oregon. "I bought a condo and have continued my hobbies and passions up here in the great northwest." Those hobbies include hiking and photography. Michael said he also enjoys building models from kits. "I've recently gotten the N scale railroad bug. I have a layout I'm working on in my garage. I enjoy creating the landscapes and installing decoders in the locomotives."

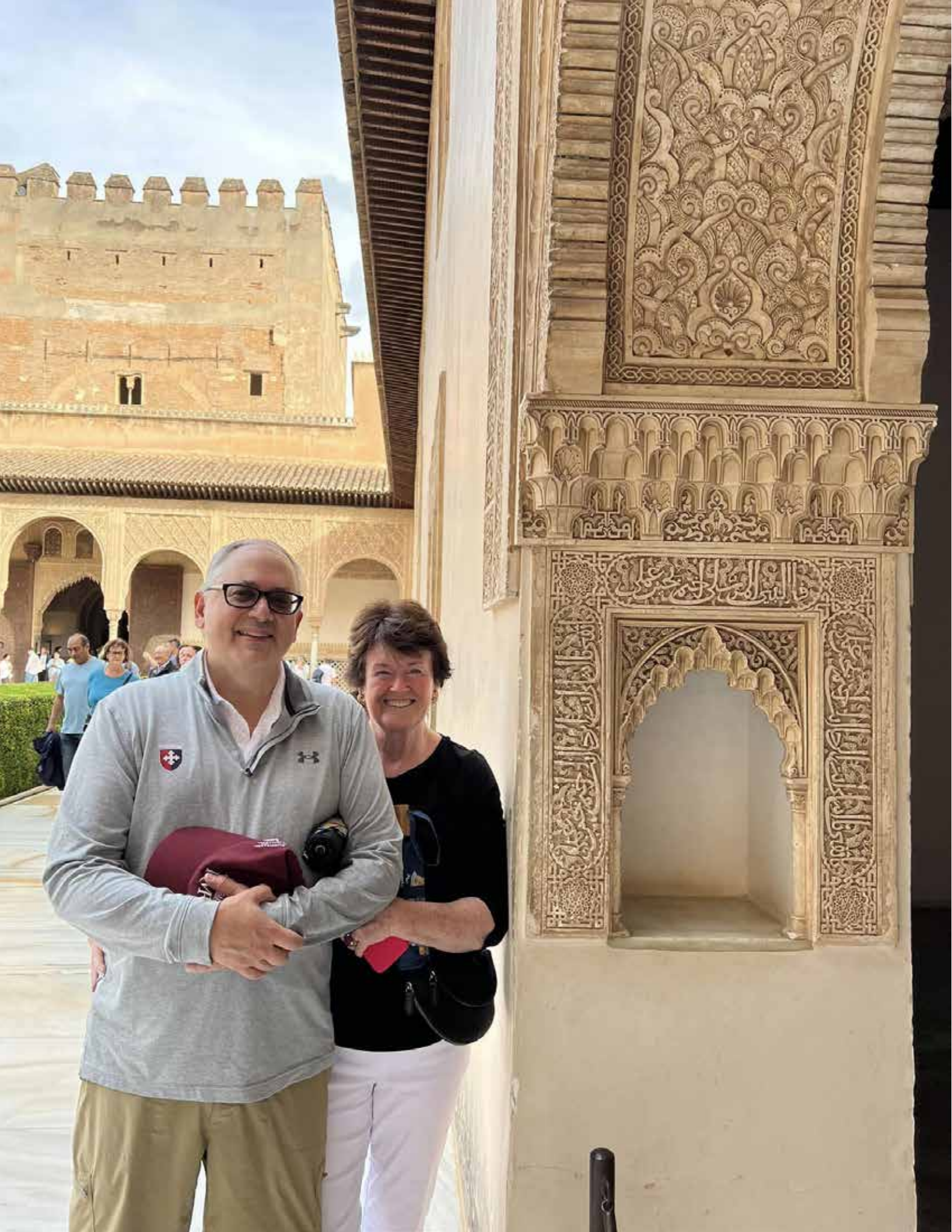
Michael's story illustrates that sometimes our dreams take a bit longer to find, but persistence and dedication are in every Hoosac graduate and eventually, result in a dream realized.

Michael's hobbies include landscape photography. This image is from his collection; a vantage point from the Dog Mountain Trail on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge.





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A SPIRIT OF H O P E *remains*

Christopher Cercone '82 grew up outside of Boston in Walpole, Massachusetts. He struggled with math and wasn't making high marks in some classes, so rather than go to college directly, Chris decided to follow up with a PG year at another school. "I called and spoke with the new Hoosac School headmaster, Sam Green, and met with him the next day," said Chris. "I drove the family Ford station wagon up Route 2 through Western Mass. and up to Hoosac's campus. It was a beautiful August evening when I was leaving, and I remember speaking with Sam just in front of Tibbits. I decided to go because I really needed to bring up my grades to get into a decent college."

"When I got there," Chris continued. "I only had one mission: To keep my mouth shut and get good grades." His low profile mission didn't last long. "The first night I was there they were serving fish. I remember Rick Taylor, the science teacher, was the master at the table. I was trying to be on my best behavior and I politely and quietly asked for the 'tahtah' sauce. The entire table stopped and looked at me, and Rick said: Say it again. I panicked because I figured I was away from the coast and these people didn't call it 'tahdah' sauce." Instead he replied, "Could you pass the fish sauce, please?" This time the entire table was enthralled to hear me in my unmitigated Boston accent. My plan of keeping a low profile was blown right there."

Chris said he appreciated the diverse student body. "I always liked to meet people from anywhere other than where I was from, so it pleased me to make acquaintances with kids my age from all over the world." He said he felt fortunate not to be the only post grad that year. "I lived in Pitt Mason at first, and then they figured it was better to put the PG's together, and I moved to the basement of Lewison House. I live there with Teddy Ewing from Northport, New York, which is out on Long Island, and a guy from Buenos Aires

Argentina, Norberto Jose Manuel Yves Eliot. He went by Jose. The fourth guy in the room was the bell ringer Noel. When I was in my mid-30s I learned Teddy had passed away from leukemia. Teddy had the uncanny ability to know what I was thinking and I knew what he was thinking, so I could never get away with the usual stuff with him. He was really bright and he beat me by one point on the knowledge test that they give and won whatever cup that was. I still stay in touch with Jose who splits his time between Barcelona and Buenos Aires."

Chris quickly found favor with the headmaster, Samuel Green, a New London, CT native. "Sam was the quintessential Connecticut Yankee," said Chris. "He dressed in a cross between Brooks Brothers and L.L. Bean; tweed jackets, silk ties, and those Maine hunting boots. He was a great influence on me. I learned much about human nature from him. Sam had a great ability in sizing up people."

Even the best students make mistakes. During dish duty, another student was squirting Chris with water and his verbal response was a bit colorful. "Just then, Sam came through the door; he looked at me with that cold steely look and I mumbled I'm sorry, and he put down his coffee cup and said, let's not hear that again in that clipped Connecticut Yankee accent that he had," said Chris. "The last thing I needed was to screw this thing up. It was still early in the year, so I took it upon myself to ask for some time alone with the headmaster in his office. I told him that really wasn't my character and he exploded into a hearty guffaw. I guess by coming to see him for such a minor infraction resonated with him, and before I knew it I was nominated as a prefect."

Following Hoosac School, Chris said his trajectory was less than orthodox. "I was admitted to Skidmore College in Saratoga, and did a year there before dropping out. Finances had gone awry, and I worked and various things. I

sold personal computers when they were just coming on the market, and from there I joined Paine Webber in Providence, Rhode Island. I joined at the wrong time because the great crash of 1987 happened two weeks after I started. I stayed in their financial services business and decided to finish my degree.” Still in good academic standing, Chris was able to obtain his BS from Harvard University. “I started on a masters in government at Harvard and realized I was getting the wrong degree. I was writing a thesis on the movement of money in international capital markets. The work focused on legal aspects of financial regulation, so I attended New England Law School in Boston.”

Chris has been practicing law for 15 years. “I was working on the foreign exchange trading desk at State Street Bank, and got hit with a large round of layoffs. In the course of looking for another position, I saw a job posting for an assistant attorney general in the financial services division. I knew the division chief, because he taught securities law in law school. I’ve been there two years now and I’m quite pleased to serve the people of the Commonwealth.”

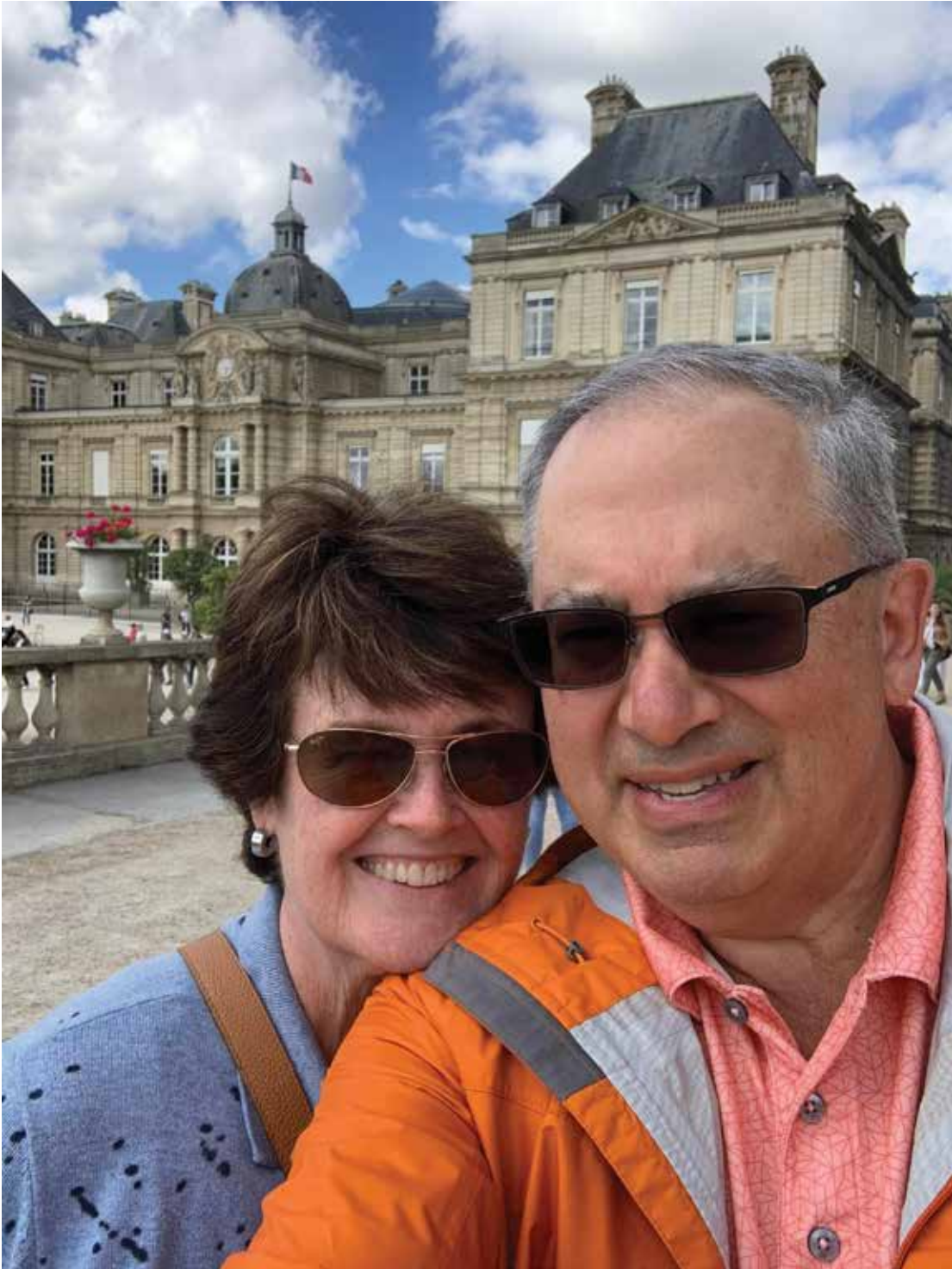


As far as advice for current Hoosac Students, Chris advises: “Focus on being the best person you can. Hoosac School is a unique place; a time and place for contemplation. I would also suggest that they focus on their own spirituality however they conceive of it,” he said. “As I grow older I am

more concerned with how we each contribute to our family, our friends, and our community, and indeed our nation. As the Buddha said, all we leave on this earth are the consequences of our actions.”

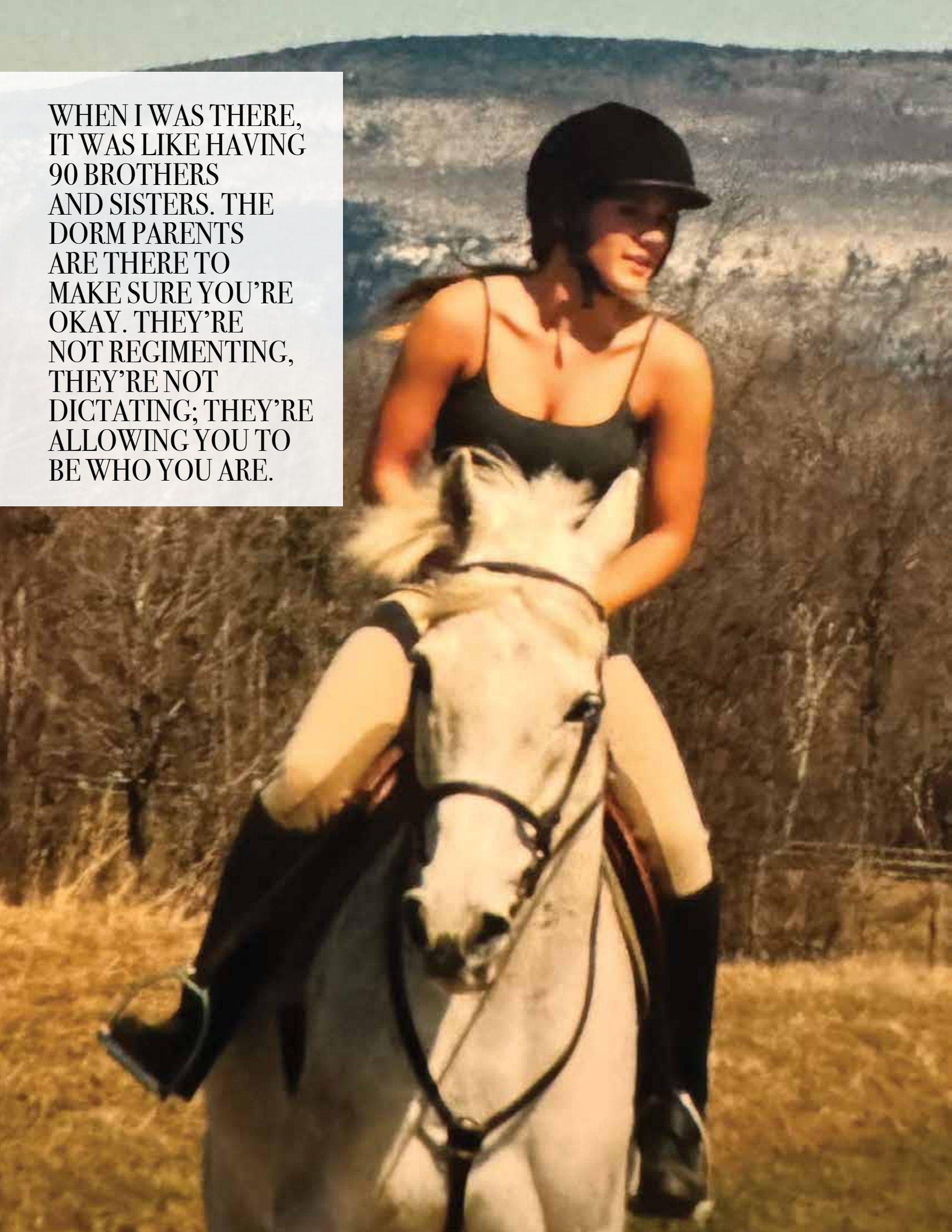
“One of the greatest orations I ever heard was on the steps of Tibbits for the 100th anniversary in 1989, Chris continued. “B. Niven Busch, who enjoyed a rich career in Hollywood, said that as we go into the maelstrom of human activity, we should pick something that is worthy of our being. Those words always resonated with me, and I’ve driven to improve myself which I think started at the Hoosac School.”

“The school, or any other human institution is really not about the venue itself; the school is really the collection of souls that inhabit the place while you’re there. So I really can’t go back to Hoosac. What it was and what it meant to me are long gone. There is the residual spirit that we hope remains as a gift that will cascade through time as so many others come in contact with our wonderful institution.”



Chris and spouse, Christine, enjoyed a European tour this fall.

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ALLOWING YOU TO
BE WHO YOU ARE.



Part of a GLOBAL *family*

Holly Funkhouser '02 said she's been coming to Hoosac since before she could walk. "I remember it from a very young age. I remember Mr. L and my grandmother and father taking me to Yule Log. It was there my whole life. It was always a part of me and when I made the decision to go to boarding school, I looked at equestrian schools, fancy schools, but I chose Hoosac."

While Hoosac School did not have a riding program at the time, the administration worked with Holly to arrange regular trips to the facility where her horse, Toby, was located, so she could still further develop as an equestrian. "Mr. Lomuscio made it possible; he helped me find transportation back and forth to where I kept my horse in Shaftsbury, VT. They let that be my sport one of the seasons. Mr. Burns would take me."

Holly said Hoosac is unique in the boarding school world. "When people hear about boarding school they think of the big gate and regiment, but I think we're lucky it's almost a hippie type of school. It's very laid back. Everybody knows everybody," she said. "When I was there, it was like having 90 brothers and sisters. The dorm parents are there to make sure you're okay. They're not regimenting, they're not dictating; they're

allowing you to be who you are. And they're taking every individual and letting them be them."

Having attended a public school and private school, Holly said Hoosac was a big change: "Hoosac was just different. We got to learn more of the stuff we wanted to learn."

Holly said Hoosac allowed certain freedoms that became the foundation for developing a strong foundation of independence. "Making choices on Wednesdays and Saturdays, when we had our half days; do I choose to go to the mall or do I choose to do laundry? Just to get to choose. It was great to be at a school that lets me do these kinds of things. You're responsible for doing your homework. There's a dorm parent, but it's still up to you. That you're responsible for yourself. Making sure that you get up and go to class on time so that Ross doesn't come and find you. There are people to guide you and make sure you're safe, but the rest is up to you."

The small student body was also beneficial. "When you go to public school it's very clicky," said Holly. "At Hoosac, there's an amazing blend of people from

around the world and you're all equals. The guy that would normally get picked on; you're now joking and laughing with him. It was an amazing dynamic."

Holly said one of her happiest memories came from that sense of community: "Lindsay Baldamor and I wrote an SNL skit. I don't know if it was talent night or theater or we just felt like doing it, but we made this skit and I just found it after 20-some years," laughed Holly. "It was like a cheerleading thing and we ran down into the auditorium yelling, 'Live from Hoosac, it's Saturday Night!' We were so proud of this because it started in the dorm room and we were just joking around. We just made up this thing and it became a thing and we were so proud."

Following Hoosac, Holly returned home to South Carolina and started waiting tables. In 2005, she started college at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, but after a year, she felt like she wanted to do something more. "It came down to going back to school or living life and I chose to live life. I went back to South Carolina, went back to waiting tables, worked at horse farms, riding race horses, and I came up to New Jersey and worked for my dad for three years and then applied for the Postal Service and I've been doing that for nine years and love it."

"I love the post office! I can walk in and have the best co-workers. We laugh for hours. We have fun and mess with each other," she said. "Then you get on the route; I listen to music and get that solitude that I like. You get your social hour, but you also get to be out on your own and make decisions, which correlates with Hoosac. You have friends, but you also have your own time."

"I've always found my independence and that started early because of Hoosac," continued Holly. "When a lot of kids are getting out of high school, they're still so dependent. Even when they start college, they have no idea what to do. When you have Hoosac, it teaches you responsibility, so when you get out in the world, you're already prepared for that. As far as just being an independent thinker and accepting the consequences and rewards of your own



WHAT WE HAVE IS SPECIAL AND REALLY NOBODY HAS WHAT WE HAVE. BE PART OF IT. COME TO THE REUNIONS. ENJOY IT BECAUSE WHEN YOU GRADUATE, IT'S STILL YOUR HOME. YOU COULD WALK IN 365 DAYS A YEAR AND YOU'RE STILL GOING TO BE WELCOME.



decisions - that carries into life and my job and a lot of parts of my life.”

Holly enjoys being a legacy student; especially around reunion time. “You have a bond with your parent that is special. Obviously, we were many years apart and he was a day student. I’d say Mr. L was a big thing we shared. He had the white jag when my dad was there and he had it when I was there. My dad, back then; his class would help work on that, and then you see Mr. L in that car and he gives you a ride to the dining hall, you feel like a million bucks. When we go there together, we walk around the campus and we’re able to talk.”

This year was the first time both Holly and her father, George Funkhouser III ‘71 stayed in the same dorm during Reunion. “We were both at Tibbits,” she said. “He was in the room next to me, so in the morning I would make it like when I was in school, and start playing music. I woke him up with music

like that, so it was fun.”

Mr. Burns was always amazing. Mr. Cochran, Mr. Martin, Mr. Buttonheim, Ms. Mac and I, she was my dorm parent. She made sure I was safe. Dean always. Ryan is Ryan. It’s hard to pick just one; it’s such a family. I have my close friends from when I was there. It was just good. We were a family.

As far as current students, enjoy this time because you’ll never have it again. What we have is special and really nobody has what we have. Be part of it. Come to the reunions. Enjoy it because when you graduate, it’s still your home. You could walk in 365 days a year and you’re still going to be welcome.

Life can be tough, so when you think about your memories there, make them some of the best memories that you have and carry them with you. And do come to the reunions because we have a blast!



Malcolm Roberts III '62 and his father, Malcolm Roberts II '36

a **LEGACY** *of service*

Col. Rev Malcolm Roberts III '62 said his experience at Hoosac School was transformative. The legacy alumnus, son of Malcolm Roberts II '36, recalled traveling by plane from Fort Knox, Kentucky to Albany, New York and then renting a car for his first visit to the school. "I spent my last two years at Hoosac School. I'm not sure what it was like for my parents, but I was delighted." He said he valued the freedom within reason. "When I was there, it was pretty much left up to me how things went, though we had good adult supervision. I think we built community through daily worship and also we had both a chorus and a choir. If you could sing, you were a member of the choir and if you couldn't, you were a member of the chorus, of which I was a member for two years," he laughed.

The friendships Malcolm made while at Hoosac have

stayed with him. "One of my best friends, who is also a graduate, George Wayne Butler; we're still friends to this day. We went to our 50th; hopefully we'll be at the Boar's Head and Yule Log this December," he said. "I think part of it was the friendship and camaraderie we had; especially between the fifth and sixth form. I think living in close proximity to each other is certainly the beginning of a military lifestyle, so I would say the live-in community that had a common bond; I was always a life-long Episcopalian, I did not believe at that point in time that I was going to go into the ministry, but I did know I needed to finish college. I finally graduated from Windham College, so I think it was the sense of community. Small community, but yet a powerful community, that led me to realize how important relationships are. And what it takes to make and keep relationships that you care about. And

to work on those you don't care about so much, because they're all important."

The faculty also made a significant impact. "The faculty was small. I will tell you that I probably figured out I needed to grow up when I was brought before Father Blake and Mr. Schneider because of an incident outside and they were going to expel me from school. They called my father and I warned the headmaster that if he expelled me, I would not be coming back and that's exactly what my father told them. So they kept me with some restrictions and so I started to learn how to behave. Those two years were about growing up."

"My French teacher was very, very good. I took French III. There were just two of us in the class; myself and John Stolting '62. He was an excellent student. I was trying to figure out what a student was. I had to take my French III exam over again because I did not do so well," said Malcolm. "I probably should have just had John take it for me, but it was an oral exam. So, it was a rocky road, but sometimes life is a rocky road and I look back and say if I can conquer those experiences while at Hoosac, then I guess I can succeed doing anything I want."

Malcolm also developed a close relationship with Coach Dickie. "During the summer of fifth and sixth form, I worked for Coach Dickie on the buildings and grounds. It was a growth experience for me. I think having a small class and a relationship with our instructors is something I always cherished."

Malcolm graduated from Hoosac and later Windham College. Then he made a deal with God. "If he could get me out of my parents house, I'd do anything he asked of me. He sent me to Hoosac, so I continued that vow. And in the Army, one of my callings was to be an Army chaplain, so I went to seminary and served three and a half years."

In 1967, Malcolm joined the Army and began training at Fort Knox. He left the active military in 1972 to attend Virginia Theological Seminary. Upon graduation from seminary, he

returned to Connecticut and while serving two churches also worked for the Admission Department at West Point. He returned to active duty in November 1978 and was assigned as an Assistant Brigade Chaplain, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and then as the 3rd Brigade Chaplain.

He completed the Chaplain Advanced Course in December 1982, eventually landing a job as the Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Chaplain Roberts was responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school plus overseeing the design, construction and move to the new

school in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Chaplain Robert's final assignment was as the Chief of the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care at Walter Reed.

Malcolm finally retired in January of 2004, after a total of 31 years of military service. He said of the experience, "The military can give you incredible skills and give you fantastic experiences that you can apply to civilian life. I think my vocation, or my calling, has worked out pretty well for me. I just followed my heartstrings."

Today, Malcolm and his spouse, Mary, have two children and seven grandchildren. He serves as Adjutant and Chaplain for American Legion Post 539 and as 2nd Vice President of the Coastal

Carolina Chapter of Military Officers Association of America. The couple resides in New Bern, North Carolina.

Malcolm's advice to Hoosac students is simple: "If you have a dream follow it. Never do anything that doesn't make you feel fulfilled. Follow your heart, follow your dream, follow your passion and be passionate about all you do."



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

TONY LU

Tony holds M.M. in Piano Performance from Austin Peay State University and B.A. degrees in Mathematics, History, and Music from Bennington College. He is an active faculty member at Sonata and Summer Sonata International Piano Camp in Bennington, Vermont, where he teaches classes in music history, theory, classical improvisation, musicianship, and piano literature, in addition to offering lessons and ensemble coaching to students of all ages and levels both in-person and online.

As an active performer, Tony has collaborated extensively in chamber music at venues such as Park–McCullough Historic House, Bennington Center for the Arts, Third Street Music School, and Lincoln Center in NYC. He has performed and given masterclasses across the US, from Hawaii to Florida. Tony’s research areas include classical keyboard improvisation pedagogy, piano solo and duet transcriptions of symphonic/chamber works, and 20th/21st-century neoclassical solo literature. He frequently performs his own transcriptions and improvises cadenzas during concerts.

Originally from China, Tony has been living in the US since the age of 16. He began teaching sections of middle school and high school math and music classes while in high school. He worked as a teacher’s assistant



at Bennington College, helping students with piano, accompanying, music theory, and composition projects. He also taught Social Studies and Chinese at the Village School of North Bennington. At Austin Peay Tony was the instructor for several undergraduate and graduate-level piano, music history/literature, and chamber music courses.

FUTURE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Rashim Rondon '25

My experience has been new and exciting. In my life I've been so used to being in a public school and having so many students in my classes that some of the students would be troublemakers. Here at Hoosac we have smaller classes and everyone has the same goal and that is to succeed. What I like most is having a basketball court in my dorm. The biggest lesson I've learned is being on time for everything is important.

After graduation I hope to be playing basketball in college or overseas if I can show my talents while playing here at Hoosac.

It feels great to be seen that way. I feel a good leader always has hopes for a positive outcome when making decisions. If I have good intentions, then other people will want to join in. If what I'm doing is negative, people wouldn't care to get behind me.

The most important quality is what my father always tells me: Be a good person. If everything I do starts with being a good person, the result will almost always turn out to be positive. If you treat people well, they will treat you well. And smile; a smile can change someone's day.

I don't think I know the answer yet about what it means to Be Hoosac. Every day I'm learning something new from someone new. Students, teachers, and coaches have all given me things to learn and think about. I'm just really happy to have the chance to be here and learn what that means. I might know the answer in a few more months.

My biggest influence is my dad. I text him every morning and every night. He encourages me daily and keeps me focused which is something I didn't have the opportunity to do at my old schools. As far as my influences at school, I just make sure that I learn from everyone as long as they are giving me good information.



**EVERY DAY
I'M LEARNING
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SOMEONE
NEW.**



Rev. Thomas Best '47 on a mile-long walk with his wife, Marion. Thomas stays in regular touch with the school and was a resident of old campus more than 77 years ago.



Congratulations to **Alex Demin '17** and Stef Belew on their recent engagement!



Anthony Kelly '15 and Grace Hernandez announced their engagement in October. Anthony recently advanced in his real estate career with Douglas Elliman Bayside Team.



Robert "Whit" Hager '24 with his mother, Susanna, during graduation week at Hoosac.



A product of the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL) Fast Track Program, **Damian Figueira '16** began officiating in the 2022-2023 season. Damian is now skating for the American Hockey League (AHL), Ontario Hockey League (OHL), and the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA).



Maya Bjorkstrand-Luna '21 was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society this spring. Maya is a student at the State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Morrisville.



Petar Djurdjevic '15 started his own business, PD Fitness Coaching, working as a fitness instructor and personal trainer in New York City.

'24



Zoe Richardson '24



'20

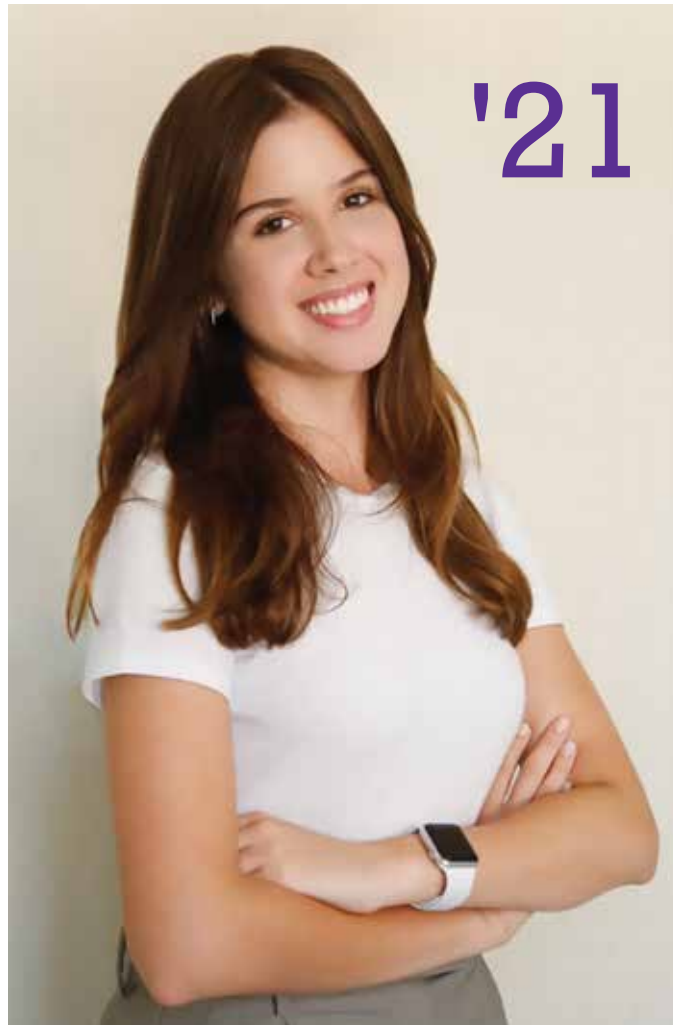
Aoki Taka '20 recently celebrated achieving his pilot's license.

'24



Hannah Richardson '24

'21



Sofia Gurgel '21 was accepted to UCLA Medical School. She is currently a student at the University of Pittsburgh where she is studying neuroscience.



Faculty members Virginia Gilroy and Patricia Gomes Carneiro took a group of adventurous Hoosac students to New York City in October.



The Hoosac Girls Soccer team participated in a Breast Cancer Awareness event at Washington Park in Albany in October.



The Hoosac Cross Country team was recognized during Chapel for an incredible performance at the Darrow meet. Headmaster Foster recognized six runners who finished in the top 10 and the overall first place win.

MEMORIALS



John “Jay” Fitts Maragon/73, 68, of Denver, Colorado, passed away peacefully on September 14, 2024. John was born on October 22, 1955, in Farmville, Virginia, the son of John Parker Maragon and Charlotte Dulin Fitts Cross. John graduated high school in 1973 from the Hoosac School in Hoosick, New York. He then went on to New England College in Henniker, New Hampshire where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration in 1977.

After graduating college, John relocated to Colorado and pursued many successful real estate and business ventures. His career in commercial real estate began in the late 1970s and continued up until his passing. A career spanning more than 40 years in the industry, John made a name for himself in commercial real estate sales, leasing and property management, and brokerage throughout Colorado.

In 1977, he began working for Heritage Financial Corporation, an Aurora, Colorado based multifamily and commercial developer. From 1979-1986 he worked in Denver as a retail specialist with the Grubb and Ellis Commercial Brokerage Company, then one of the nation’s largest commercial brokerage companies. Subsequently, John founded and headed the commercial brokerage operations for Real Core, Inc. in Denver. During the late 1980s when the Colorado real estate market was severely depressed, John distinguished himself by brokering one of the largest transactions in the state.

From 1990 to current, he, with his partner Alexander M. Groos, formed Buell & Company, providing commercial

brokerage, investment, and property management services where he built a reputation of professionalism, patience and sophistication. John was respected and revered not only for his business acumen and consequential success, but more importantly, for his fair-mindedness, impartiality, and thoughtfulness.

John loved the Colorado outdoors, including mountain biking and skiing with friends and family. He especially enjoyed ice hockey, and was quite an avid player, playing on his high school and college hockey teams as well as various Denver recreational teams. John was an enthusiastic fan of the University of Denver Pioneers Hockey team and enjoyed watching many live games. His appreciation of the arts led to his service as a board member of the CherryArts Board of Directors from 2014-2019. A lover of music, John maintained an extensive album/CD collection dating back to the 1960s. Furthermore, he was a passionate lover of animals, supporter of animal welfare, and most devoted to his cat “Weeze.”

Mostly, John will be remembered for his kindness, generosity and compassion – and of course, his dry wit which he was well known for at social gatherings, especially while playing Foosball with family and friends. Remaining to cherish John’s memory are Cheryl McEachran, his life partner; John Parker Maragon, his father (Judy); Charlotte Dulin Fitts Cross, his mother; MaryAnne Hill, his sister (Trafford); Virginia Cross Ruble, his sister (Michael); Irving Cross, his brother; and his nieces and nephews (Emma, Trafford, Nikki, Kiley, and Kevin).

A memorial service was held on October 25th. Memorial donations in John’s name may be directed to the Hoosac School.



Tom Cochran '66 grew up in Northampton with his beloved brothers Phil and Joe Cochran, his adopted brother Kosta Taralinkoff, and his parents David and Mary Cochran. He attended Hoosac School where he later became a beloved teacher and Dean of Students in 2007. Tom and his wife Meredith built many gardens together on the family farm in Hancock, where he worked so hard to keep the crabgrass from taking over.

He smelled like pine trees, hard work, gasoline, and old books. He had big strong arms and incredible hair, and was over 7 feet tall (we think). He was indescribably cool. He made us shriek and laugh until our sides hurt when he pretended to close his eyes and take his hands off his truck's steering wheel. He hated snow and he loved the blues. Animals were drawn to him because he was safe and trustworthy and kind. At night, he softly played guitar in the back room, surrounded by tiny important objects, pictures, and keepsakes strewn across his desk and on the walls. He built stone walls. He made us pancakes on Sunday morning and pizza on Sunday night. He let you make up words in scrabble so long as you could define them. He always did the dishes after dinner while listening to one of his hundreds of cassette tapes. Sometimes his guitar picking nails were fortified by bright colored nail polish. He nurtured our interests and encouraged us to be weird, but not too weird. He composed songs for us on his guitar.

He played guitar every day until arthritis made playing too painful. He could fix anything. Tom loved his 1948 8N Ford tractor and kept the farm perfectly mowed even while undergoing treatment for cancer. He was the strongest person we've known, enduring and overcoming incomprehensible health challenges, defying the expectations of almost every single one of his doctors. We don't think he always knew how to tell us he loved us, especially after he lost the use of his voice, but he always showed us.

Thomas Haynes Cochran died on March 12, 2024 surrounded by his children and his wife of 40 years. He leaves behind his wife Meredith, son Charles, daughter Hannah, brothers Joe and Kosta, and dogs Lulu, Harry, and Bessie. His family and his beloved dogs miss him beyond measure. He tried so hard to stay with us and we love him for that.





This past summer, Hoosac presented me with the opportunity to go to China and represent the school in a meeting with a school that we are partnering with. The headmaster's son, his friend, an alum, and I all made the journey out to meet with this school. During our time there we learned a lot. We went to museums and temples to learn about the history and culture of China. We stayed in Chengdu which is part of Sichuan.

On the day of the meeting we had a tour of the gorgeous campus of the Chengdu Foreign Language School Xinjin Campus. A group of students and a few of the administrators gave us the lovely tour. After the tour we had lunch with

the administrators. Once we finished the delicious lunch, we had the meeting with a different group of students. Before the meeting we all got to know each other and chatted about both schools. During the meeting we discussed various topics about our schools and how they are run. I feel that this experience was vital to forming a strong connection with the other school and showing them that we are worth partnering with.

Overall, I believe that this was a successful trip and incredibly irreplaceable experience. I thank Hoosac for its generosity in including me on this trip.

Miranda Lorenz '25

HOOSAC

GOOD FRIENDS

Experiences

This is **Peter Robinson** getting back to you with a more detailed story. I was in the class of 1968, but didn't graduate from Hoosac.

My year and a half at Hoosac was a great experience, although it didn't lead to your typical Hoosac success story. Success can be measured in many different ways.

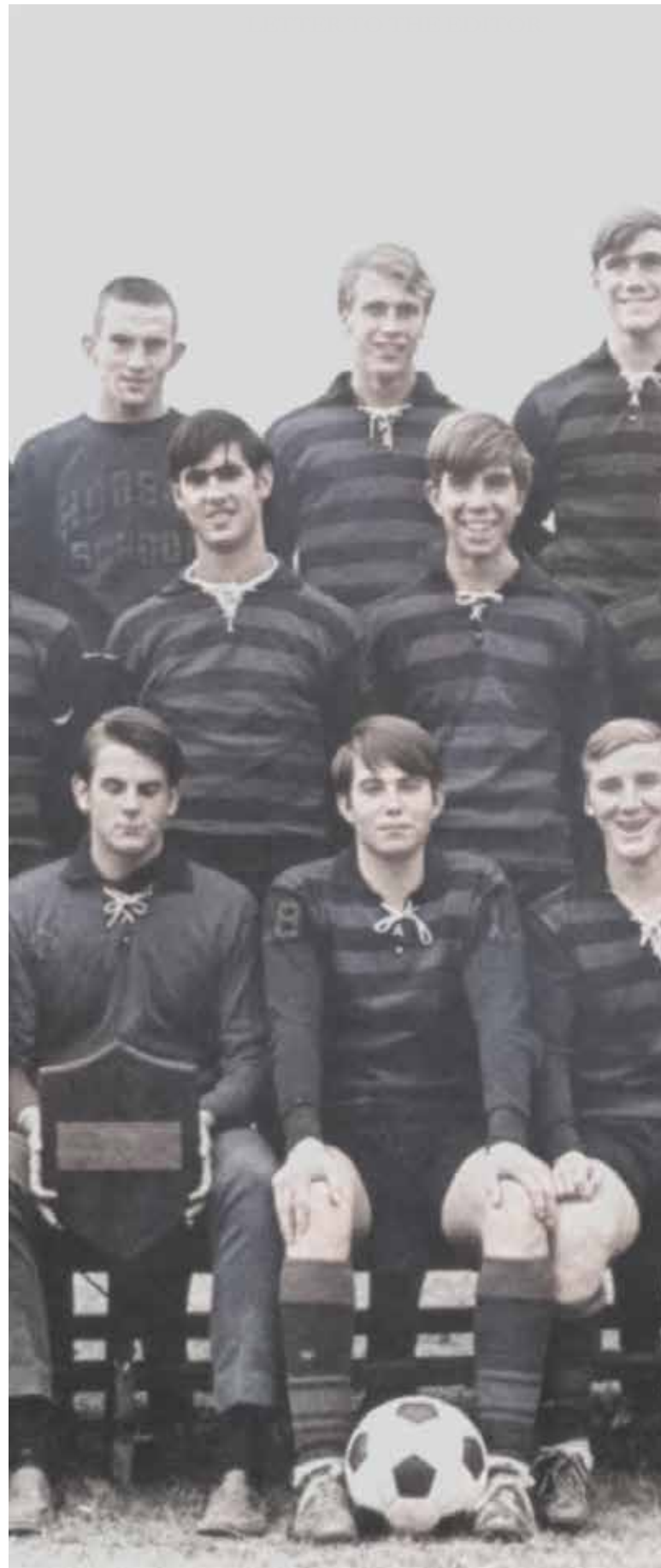
Following my 1968 graduation from Wilton High School in Wilton CT, I served in the Marines from September 1968 through September 1970. After that, I traveled around the country and ended up in the Flathead Valley of Montana. I attended Flathead Valley Community College and earned an Associate in Applied Arts degree.

For the next decade, I ventured into making a living as a potter. My wife and I purchased 10 acres in Bigfork, MT in 1974 and built our home. I married Pamela Lessels from Emma Willard who I met at a Hoosac School dance in 1967. She has been a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who has made our wonderful life possible. We've raised two children here in Bigfork and they have blessed us with five grandchildren.

During that time, I returned to FVCC and earned an Associate in Applied Science degree through the Forestry Technician program. That got me started on a 37 year career with the USDA Forest Service. I had various jobs with the Forest Service, but the bulk of my career was devoted to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and database management.

Since I was a small child, I've always been fascinated with the plants and animals of our natural world. Attending Hoosac exposed me to the environment and life of the Housatonic Valley. I've been incredibly blessed to spend most of my life in the Flathead Valley of Montana. Raising our family and exploring the mountains, valleys, waterways, forests, plants and animals has truly been a privilege!

I believe that Hoosac was just the very beginning of my continuing life long education. It taught me many lessons, gave me some great experiences and introduced me to many good friends.



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