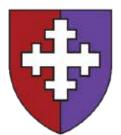


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HOOSAC TODAY

SPRING 2024



"The core values I learned at Hoosac have remained with me all my life — respect we impart to others, the desire to be the best in everything we do, and above all showing kindness and acceptance to all those with whom we come in contact."

Lynwood Bronson '51

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ABOUT THE COVER

The cover of this issue of *Hoosac Today* celebrates the triumphs and dedication of the Hoosac Tennis Team. Between wins, the team travelled to Florida over spring break to play tournaments, practice, and observe college tournaments at the largest tennis center in the United States, the USTA National Campus in Orlando.

Photo and cover design by Gabriella Franco

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADMASTER

Dear Alumni, Families, and Friends,

Greetings from the Valley of the Owl!

I hope this issue of *Hoosac Today* finds you well and stirs within you, memories of your time at Hoosac. Within these pages, you'll find stories, updates, and highlights about our alumni, the school, and current students. It is full of great accounts of time well spent at Hoosac.

As you dive into the pages of this issue, I invite you to reminisce about your own experiences and celebrate the achievements of fellow alumni. From career milestones to personal triumphs, this magazine encapsulates the spirit of everyone in the greater Hoosac community.

But that's not all! Alongside enjoying the magazine, I urge you to mark your calendars for what promises to be our best and biggest reunion ever! Scheduled for June 14th,15th, and 16th, this event will be a fantastic opportunity to reunite with old friends, forge new connections, and relive cherished moments.

The Class of 74 will be celebrating their 50th this year and are planning an event for the ages. If you have any inclination to come back and visit Hoosac, this will be the event to attend. There will be a class participation contest as well as awards for the alumni who have traveled the farthest, the oldest alum, and the alum with the most school spirit. Prizes will be presented on both Friday and Saturday. Even if you can only make it for one day, it will be well worth it.

Register immediately to ensure you don't miss out on this unforgettable gathering. Just scan the QR code below and you will be taken to the Reunion page where you can learn about all the great events, see who already registered, and sign up yourself. Reserve your spot today and be part of the excitement as we come together to celebrate all things Hoosac!

Join us for a reunion filled with laughter, nostalgia, and the joy of reconnecting with your Hoosac family. We look forward to welcoming you back with open arms!

C SCON ME

Sincerely,



MANAGING EDITOR

Ms. Samantha Graves-Brownell HOOSAC HEADMASTER

Mr. Dean Foster

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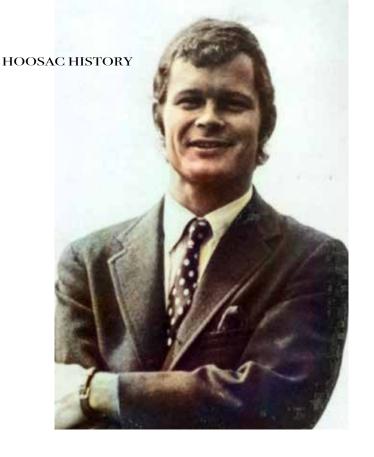
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A LOOK BACK AT ASHTON CROSBY A HOOSAC HEADMASTER

Having spent the past four years interviewing people for Hoosac's alumni magazine, I have noticed certain names come up frequently. Alumni have long credited Father Wood and former Headmaster Richard Lomuscio with their successes at Hoosac and beyond, but another name shares in this credit and that name is Ashton Crosby.

In 1967, H. Ashton Crosby began his career with Hoosac School as the Director of Admissions where he also taught English and ran the drama department. Just a few years later, Crosby became the 7th headmaster of the school, taking over for Donn Wright. Hoosac Today spoke with several alumni from the Crosby era, including those who benefited from his decision to be more inclusive of women.

Maureen Thompson Phillips '73 was 16 when she was interviewed as one of the first girls admitted to Hoosac School. She said Crosby's decision to admit girl students impacted her significantly. "For that I will be forever thankful. I will always remember my year there as very foundational and pivotal to my autobiography."

Hoosac School Trustee William Marvin, whose family has generational ties to Hoosac School, remembers Crosby fondly, "One of his greatest gifts was his singular focus, and to make you feel like you were the only person in the room. An interested person is always an interesting person. I always looked forward to my trips to campus because of him."

Kevin McGuire '76 said it was the personal interest Crosby showed to students that made him effective as an educator. "I have so many wonderful memories of Ashton," said Kevin. "They began at Hoosac in 1974 and continued. Ashton

auditioned for my Monday night acting class in New York in 2007 and was a wonderful addition. Needless to say, it was interesting teaching the person who had taught me so much."

Kevin credits Crosby with teaching him several life lessons including hard work and to keep his mind open, that the world is full of possibilities. He said Crosby taught him not to be afraid to use his voice, to believe in himself, to express opinions and ask for what you want, and most importantly, to believe in himself. "You can be and do whatever you want and whomever you want. Start now; don't wait," said Kevin.

"[Ashton] encouraged me to be successful and fulfill my potential. No one in my life outside of my parents had ever done that! I am forever grateful to him." Kevin was one of several alumni who mentioned Crosby's support of their work long after Hoosac. "He also came to every thing I did!! When he came to see Les Miserables in New York we went to Joe Allen's after... Joe was there and Ashton put his arm around my shoulders and as I remember said, 'This is Kevin McGuire, one of my Hoosac boys. I just saw him play Jean Valjean and I couldn't be prouder.'"

Spoon Dickey '74 said he was chosen for Crosby's production of Bertolt Brecht's "The Caucasian Chalk Circle."

It was just as the school year ended in 1973," said Spoon. An outdoor stage built by students showcased Hoosac actors alongside local professionals. The show drew audiences from all over the surrounding community, and Ash's sure hand in casting and directing made stars of us all."

"After Donn Wright passed the baton and Crosby became the Headmaster, there was a distinct wind shift on campus," said Robert Russell '71. "It was leaning in a more personal way. That Christmas break, following a great Boars Head celebration, Ashton asked if I would help him by driving his car, a VW camper, to NYC as we were both heading there. I said yes and off we went the following morning. Only a few miles down Route 22, I realized the fuel level gauge was bouncing around depending on how smooth the surface of the road was. Well, he said, 'If we fill it we should make it.' That was classic Ashton Crosby."

Alonzo Whitehead '74 said he owes his adult life to Ashton Crosby. "When I was 13, I won an ABC (A Better Chance) Scholarship to the Woodstock Country School in Vermont. I left the South Side of Chicago and spent my freshman year there." Then a sudden turn of events left Zo in an unfortunate predicament. He had been accused of a crime he hadn't committed and until the actual perpetrator of that offense confessed, his scholarship and the opportunities that came with it, were revoked.

After an official apology on behalf of the Governor of Vermont, Zo was informed his scholarship would be reinstated. "I was put in touch with Hoosac School and invited by Ash for a face-to-face interview. When I met him and told him everything. Ash looked at me for a moment, lowered his head, and when he looked up at me he stood, held out hand and said 'Welcome to Hoosac! It will be our honor to have you as part of our student body.' I cried."

Current Headmaster Dean Foster, described his predecessor as follows: "Ashton embodied the essence of a true gentleman scholar, a renaissance man if you will. As a Marine, he had the strength and fortitude to lead others; in academia, he had the knowledge to effectively mentor adolescents here at Hoosac. His legacy lives on in the arts and theater programs here at Hoosac and in the memories of all that knew him."

An accepting and kind-hearted leader of Hoosac School, Ashton Crosby breathed life into the drama department, directing and sometimes writing plays for students to perform. Outside of Hoosac, Ashton had an accomplished career as a thespian, performing at the Williamstown Theatre Festival at the Adams Memorial Theatre Main Stage at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. He played a Cook in Bertolt Brecht's play, "The Caucasian Chalk Circle," Crrok Finger Jake in Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's play, "The Three Penny Opera," Starkey's son in Joseph Heller's play, "We Bombed In New Haven," the Tragedian in Tom Stoppard's play classic, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," a Captain in Sam Shepard's play, "Operation Sidewinder," and Cis Farrington in Sir Arthur Wing Pineros' play, "The Magistrate."

Additionally, Crosby acted on screen until his death

in 2015. His roles include the following screen appearances: Other Madnesses (Man on the bus), Flesh for the Beast (Professor Wheatley), Dear Lucas (Professor Pete), My Crazy Love (Old Salt Sammy), Made to Order (Strange Cart Man), Sell Yourself (Blasterz Man), Drifting Mind (Jake), Lysistrata (Official), Rat Meat Chief (Mr. Gershon), College Humor Originals (Baskerville Old Face, Clarence, and a guard), Deadly Devotion (Dr. Terrell), Vengeance (a priest), Bomb Fetish (Doctor Steamlowski), Huck Finn and the Five Boons (Mark Twain), Blood Kisses (Mr. Martino), Is Anyone Listening? (elderly man), City of Dreams (bum), Celebrity Chost Stories (multiple ghosts), Sarina's Song (George Harrington), Celebrity Close Calls (Dr. Charles Sweet), Sheol Express (the conductor), Wind Jammers (Sea Dog), Conversations with Gerald (Gerald), The Electroscheme (Linnaeus), A Hollywood Love Story (himself, as an Irish Landlord), DeSiCiTi (Mr. Hayburn), Aware (the old man), Tick Tock (antique store owner), The Last Tape (Gene's father), Community Service (Mr. Cummings), The Capitalist (Mr. Baker), Running in Place (Earl), The Exiles (Professor Mifflin), and Live a Little (Mr. Long).

According to Crosby, "Thomas Wolfe was wrong: You can go home again. I've been doing so for almost fifty years."



CLASS OF 1974 ASHTON CROSBY promises to keep JAN HADWEN HUBBELL



I first met Ashton Crosby as he sat across from me behind his massive desk in Tibbits Hall, an elegant diminutive man punctuated by a bow-tie in the school colors. Having driven eight miles from Bennington, Vermont at the urging of my parents, who had challenged me that if I could get the Headmaster of Hoosac to meet with me, and then convince him to admit me, they would let me attend.

Here I was, 16 years old, making my case to Ashton: would he consider taking in the first girl at this traditional all-boys prep school? He had been headmaster only two years!

At my public school several teachers were there merely avoiding the Vietnam draft, including my English teacher. Each day he would distribute Reader's Digest, tell us to read a story and take the test at the back while he put his feet on the desk and read a novel.

I wanted a real English class, teachers who cared and fellows who loved learning as much as I did.

Ashton's eyes twinkled as I relayed these details. He leveled with me that admissions had fallen off and maybe the time had come to cast a wider net. The trustees might go for it. At that time the Third Form had only 8 students. But what he really wanted to know once we got along in the conversation was: Could I act?

Then and there, the magic words. Unbeknownst to me, I was engaged in a discussion with a Shakespearean actor, who like me, saw that drama stirred the imagination and the emotions deeply and was as intertwined with literature and creativity as was the study of English.

"We have many roles that need a female lead," he said.
"The boys aren't too keen on wigs and dresses."

We shook hands and a connection that lasted well beyond my Hoosac years began. "I'll take it to the trustees," he said.

I heard back from him sooner than expected. And I was the first girl admitted to Hoosac.

Several weeks later, I found myself in his office again,



Jan Hadwen Hubbell was the first female admitted to Hoosac School. Today she is a screenwriter and runs Jan Hadwen Hubbell Productions, LLC in Aspen, CO

but with an air of defeat as I said, "My parents will only let me come if my little sister can be a student here too."

He didn't blink, folded his hands, and said he'd be delighted. Brooke Hadwen was the second girl to enter Hoosac.

Ashton's love of theater and his directing skills are legendary, but he was a fabulous Latin teacher too. It didn't hurt that he put his performance talents to work in the classroom.

A finer more devoted headmaster you couldn't have asked for. The 1969 Owl was dedicated to him when he was director of admissions. In it the students mentioned how he "Could sing, could dance, fence, write poetry, and play the dulcimer. He single-handedly engaged a large number of boys in a program of dramatics that would be the envy of any institution. No one finds his office door locked—no soul-searching hour is too late."

Everything about this Renaissance man turned out to be true. While I was still a senior, he introduced me to a small theater company formed out of Williams College, from where he had graduated. I toured with them during Christmas and summer and shared the stage with David Strathairn (who later became a well-known Hollywood actor and was nominated for an Academy Award).

Upon graduating, Ashton encouraged my leading man, Spoon Dickey, and me to join the Green Mountain Guild, a summer stock theater company in Vermont. He ushered us into adult life and the world after Hoosac. Even though an English major in college, it was because of Ashton's inspiration and passion that I followed my love of drama there and well into my adult years, culminating with two roles led by Broadway directors at my hometown's community theater just outside of New York City.

I saw Ashton last at our class's fortieth reunion. He was so happy to talk to me about his pursuit of bringing Mark Twain to life at theaters around New York. He embodied that role, but it was to be his last, for he was taken at a young age by today's standards.

In 1971 as he took the helm as Hoosac's seventh headmaster he had admirable goals for the school. He wanted to make it world-class, he said. The introduction in the Owl to welcome the new headmaster ended with, "he had many promises to keep {to Hoosac}. And he kept every one.



CLASS OF 1990 ABILITY to be OMAN FRAME



Oman Frame '90 came to Hoosac by an indirect route. Moving from the Atlantic public school system in Georgia to Martha's Vineyard, Oman said the culture shock of going from a predominantly black school system to a predominantly white system was big enough, but when his aunt began talking about a small private school in the mountains in New York, Oman couldn't imagine how much his life was about to change.

"My aunt was Lisa Cash, an art teacher at Hoosac and one of my guiding lights in life. She and my mom are both art teachers, so art was our thing and Lisa was living in North Adams and she got this job at the school and she told us about it," said Oman. "We had just moved from Atlanta to Martha's Vineyard which was a full, complete culture shock. The most amazing thing is that I can still vividly remember turning off of Route 7 onto Hoosac's campus and seeing how majestic it was in so many ways, but it was also a haven. I got there and felt like I could find more of who I am there."

Oman said the size of Hoosac's campus was what made it work so well for him. "I have many learning differences. At Hoosac it was a chance for me to start over, it was a chance to reset myself. I redid my freshman year."

"The great thing about Hoosac is its size. You were able to get to know everyone, which I thought was Hoosac's greatest gift." As far as mentors, Oman said then-Headmaster Richard Lomuscio was someone he models himself after today. "He was hilarious. I've patterned a lot of my administration style, and his ability to relate to kids, after Mr. L. I'm still floored about how much he gave to the school."

The prefecture was also an important part of Oman's foundation while at Hoosac. "Our prefect group at that time was a very strong core of folks. Richie (Lomuscio) and I had a really tight relationship and then there were some of the other folks," he said. "I really had to find myself at Hoosac, but the part that I'm really impressed with in terms of the people that were there have to be folks that after I graduated I didn't realize their impact. And that's one of the things I think Hoosac does well - it allows you to kind of marinate on relationships." Oman attended Hoosac with his brother, Kairi Frame '91, and said the two became very close. "I had mentors across campus until I was that mentor and I got lucky to be able to do that with my brother."

Other relationships offered him experiences beyond anything he had had previously. "Cliff Ashley was one of the first people who helped me see areas of my life that I didn't recognize yet. The one thing Cliff always did for me was to keep things as honest and real as possible. He

talked about being a white boy from Maine and not really understanding half of what I was talking about or dealing with or going through. He took me skiing for the first time and there's a whole story about a chair lift and me being dragged up the mountain because I had no idea how to let go... and so that's one of those things that we go back and forth laughing about."

"That was the beauty of that class; with like 23 people, you have a group of friends. You have to love and respect each other and that was wild.

For Oman, Hoosac also represented his first time away from home. "It was interesting. There were a couple of things that were intense. When I got there, especially young, and still trying to figure myself out, I think my ability to adapt served me incredibly well and I was often times adjusting on the fly," he said. "There enough caring adults like Father Clemmons, Mr. Lomuscio, and in the kitchen. Eve Burns. Eve saw me in all my raggedness, but knew that there was something underneath that just needed some guidance. Mrs. Roth saw in me things that I didn't even think about."

And then there was Maggie Towne. "She gave me something when I was the jester - I still have it actually. When I was a jester, I took shots at Maggie because she didn't play and she made me this heart that said, 'This is

the heart of Mrs. Towne; tough on the outside, but soft underneath.' And it melted me. It melted me because I knew that's what love looks like. In addition to Rev. Duggar, Father Clemmons, Mr. Burns, I'm absolutely allergic to mathematics and two people changed that for me. One was Mrs. Topolovic. I have never had someone make me feel 10 feet tall in math other than Mrs. T and Matthew Smith, Mary Smith's son, made me feel like I could do anything. That's the only way to say that; those folks were dynamic."

Hoosac was the first place that made Oman feel seen and heard. "The size and proximity - we didn't have anywhere to go. We had to look inward and look at each other. We went through all of this stuff. We had the honest conversations and the emotional vulnerability and there was no social media, so we had each other. We had to be authentic. There were people that, when I graduated, that I didn't think I'd ever see again, but never out of malice. We just chose to go other ways."

While they didn't have social media then, Oman said various

platforms have fostered friendships from Hoosac that bloomed long after graduation. "Social media is nice because there are people I never thought I'd talk with again who I am now friends with. Nelson Espeland - Nelson and I were on totally different ends of the spectrum socially, politically, etc., but I love that kid from where we were at school. I look At Wood Hall - we had to work together. It was about managing. For me, that's how diversity, equity, inclusion, and the big one for me, belonging, happens. You're plopped in a place and you have to work it out. And that's one of the things that Hoosac gave to me, was the ability to work stuff out."

Today Oman is the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Paideia School in Atlanta, Georgia, where he began his education all those years ago. He is drawing on his experiences at

Hoosac to improve experiences for students at the Paideia and hopes to implement work jobs as a way to promote personal accountability. "These kids leave their crap all over the place," he laughed. "I'm like let's find a way to make sure that our school finds a way to take care of it."

Concluding the interview, Oman reflected, "I didn't expect that I'd get to this point in the conversation today and realize that a lot of what I bring to the table today comes from my experience in a small private school in the mountains." In short, he said, "I love that place."



The Mailroom, 1967





Hoosac History Club traveled more than 200 feet below ground to explore Howe Caverns in Howes Cave, New York. In addition to learning about the impressive geologic formations showcased within the caverns, students also enjoyed a boat ride through the latter part of the tunnel system.



A little more than 30 years ago, I stepped onto Hoosac's campus for the first time, but I had no way of understanding how my experiences at boarding school would help prepare me to reach one of my career goals of being a newspaper publisher.

I was named the publisher of the Madison Journal in Tallulah, Louisiana, this past December. The opportunity came after moving to several different small communities, much like Hoosac, in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi for approximately 20 years.

As I reflected on my time at Hoosac, 27 1/2 years after my graduation in 1996, I was able to see how the school's culture and traditions provided me a foundation for the future in ways I could not fathom. My experiences in and out of the classroom during my three years at Hoosac were equally beneficial.

The culture in small communities I've lived in and small-town life have a wide range of parallels with Hoosac.

Working in a small town often means there are not as many employees at any one particular place.

In smaller workplaces, I had to be prepared to do a little bit of everything. I have never been and am still not too important to do any particular task.

I have written all different types of stories and columns, no matter what my position was, laid out pages, edited articles, made sure my publication's website and social media were updated, sold advertisements, placed legal and classified ads in the paper and more.

The responsibilities do not stop with work involving the publication itself. I have packed newspapers in the middle of the night, brought them to the post office in the early hours of the morning, driven an hour or so to pick them up, put invoices in envelopes and mailed them to customers, answered the phone and more.

When you're in a small community, you must be ready to do any job at any given time.

I think back to my years at Hoosac and all the odd jobs we had to do. Hoosac's work program gave every student responsibilities. If we did not do our work jobs, others in the community would suffer. At one point or another, every student had a work job that seemed unpleasant.

My work job was to ring the school bell for two-and-a-half years so everyone would know when something just ended or was about to start in the next five minutes. I waited and cleared tables during meals. We all had jobs to clean our dorms.

As a Prefect, I had to be the Prefect on Duty many weekends. The Prefect on Duty was either responsible for making sure the other students had a movie to watch on Saturday nights or helping with Category on Sunday morning.

For those who don't know, Category was one of Hoosac's disciplinary systems. Students who missed class or were being disciplined for some other reason had to work around campus on Sunday mornings.

Having these responsibilities that seemed menial at the time

prepared me to willingly do everything that came my way in the workplace.

I initially hoped to be a reporter on a larger newspaper. I wanted to be a "small fish in a big pond."

The more responsibilities I took on working for smaller publications, my goals changed. I decided my career path would work better being a "big fish in a small pond."

Hoosac's culture made being a big fish in a small pond much easier.

Traditions at Hoosac helped prepare me to live in smaller communities.

Hoosac's traditions include having the Headmaster read the front page of the newspaper at Chapel or morning meeting, the Yule Log Christmas play, Graftonian versus Antonian competition with ASADO

Day capping things off late in the school year, formal meals in the dining hall and more.

I am sure we all appreciated some of the traditions more than others. No matter how we felt about any of the traditions, they were a part of our culture.

Learning about community traditions was very important to me as I moved to different communities. Knowing the traditions was important for the coverage of the newspapers I worked on and understanding the culture around me.

Two of the communities I've lived in, Helena-West Helena, Arkansas, and Clarksdale, Mississippi, have unique blues traditions. They have many blues clubs and festivals drawing tourists from all over the world. Helena-West Helena has a King Biscuit Blues Festival every October and Clarksdale has a Juke Joint Festival every April.

One community I lived in, McComb, Mississippi, played a very

important role in the railroad industry. Stuttgart, Arkansas, another community I lived in, has a World's Championship Duck Calling Contest & Wings Over the Prairie Festival every Thanksgiving weekend.

Hoosac having its own traditions made it much easier to understand traditions, such as the ones I just mentioned, and helped me be a more effective journalist.

As a high school senior, I wrote for Hoosac's newspaper - The Owlet.

Writing for The Owlet did not prepare me for journalism in the traditional sense of knowing how to be a newspaper reporter. It did prepare me in other ways and provided me a foundation to have a career in journalism.

There were only seven of us on The Owlet staff. I had to be prepared to write any type of story.

Writing different stories showed me I had a desire to know what was going on in my community. I enjoyed being able to learn and then write about different issues.

I had not made up my mind to be a journalist when I graduated from Hoosac, but my experience on The Owlet was in the back of my mind.

I went on to graduate from Jacksonville University. One semester after beginning college, I made the decision to become a journalist. I joined the Jacksonville University campus newspaper, The Navigator.

JU, just like Hoosac, was a small

school. That meant I had to wear many hats working on the college newspaper. I wrote stories for all different sections, learned to layout pages, was the news editor, took photographs and more.

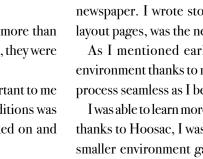
As I mentioned earlier, I was accustomed to such a small environment thanks to my time at Hoosac. It made the adjustment process seamless as I began learning my eventual profession.

I was able to learn more right after joining The Navigator because, thanks to Hoosac, I was accustomed to a smaller environment. A smaller environment gave me the opportunity to learn skills in many different areas, which afforded me more job opportunities.

We carry our experiences with us everywhere we go. As we go through each experience, we cannot comprehend how it will shape us moving forward.

All of my experiences since graduating from Hoosac stayed with me and helped prepare me for each step I have taken in life.

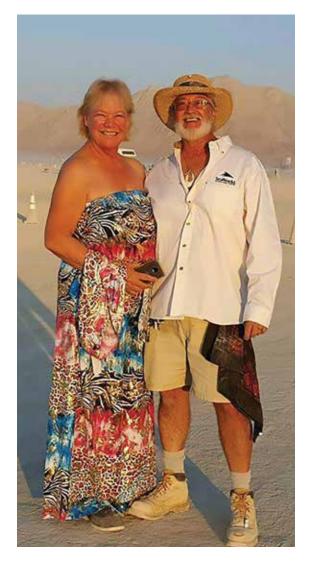
Thank you, Hoosac!



BURNING man CHIP JARMAN

The only son of a Navy captain who was rarely home and the brother of three older sisters meant that my childhood growing up was far from the traditional male upbringing. Though my father and I loved each other dearly, I simply did not get the coaching a young boy needs to prepare himself for the "locker room" mentality of the times. By the time I was a budding teenager, I had been to a different school every year up until 9th grade. I was flunking out in school and was picked up by the police more than once for juvenile delinquency. My final year in public school was in Columbus, OH.

Cut to the summer of 1969 and it was my mother who offered to drive me up into New England to look at boarding schools. I thought I had found just the right school at Buxton



but I still had one more school to visit.

From the moment I arrived on campus at Hoosac School, I had a pretty good idea it would be an agreeable place to live. But no one expected me to choose it over Buxton as it was a religious, coat and tie boy's school – I did not like formal attire, I did not like having to attend church, and I most definitely did like to chase girls.

And though most of us can understand that the campus alone is one of the prime reasons one is drawn to Hoosac, for me it was the interview with the Dean of Admissions, Ashton Crosby, that made Hoosac the easy choice. And anyone that knew Ashton or was lucky enough to have been interviewed by him, will understand why. It was no

surprise that by my final year at Hoosac, Ashton Crosby was the school's headmaster.

The "ah-hah" moment when I felt I was really beginning a new life on my own at Hoosac was the first morning I woke up in my new dorm room in Pitt-Mason, the 3rd form dormitory. I had a wonderful roommate, who not only made me feel welcome and at home, but was someone who I could relate to on my own level.

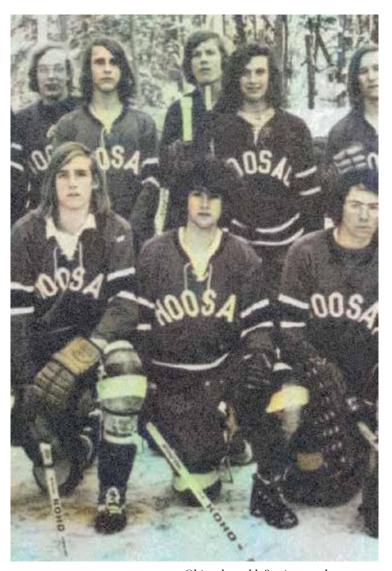
The most valuable experience at Hoosac for me was learning what it meant to have a "brother owl." When I first arrived at Hoosac, I had none of the skills or characteristics of a strong young man, neither physically or mentally. All that changed my second year when a 5th form roommate of mine in Lewisohn House took me under his wing and encouraged me to take risks and attempt things I never thought I had the ability to endure. Afterall, I didn't even know how to hammer a nail into a piece of wood, and his long list of talents soon changed all that. But what was most remarkable to me, even to this day, is that I don't think he even realized what an impact he had on me and what a difference it made in my life. He just had that gift of making you feel important. He was, without a doubt, my true "brother owl."

By the time I was a 6th former, I was selected as one of three prefects and was thrilled to have made the varsity hockey team (sure, it was only the third string, but for me it meant I had finally attained the stature in life to truly consider myself a man.

Since that warm May afternoon in 1973 outside Memorial Dining Hall where I walked down the road with my fellow graduates in white ducks and Hoosac blazers, I have embraced several opportunities to go after my dreams – the most incredible being my lone hitch-hike across country from Ohio to California at the age of 18. I had no money, just a pack on my back and a lot of passion and hopes for what lay ahead.

My life has been a conquest on many levels, both personally and professionally, including jobs as a film editor in Hollywood, a commercial fishing boat owner and operator in the Pacific Northwest, a sailor in the United States Navy, where I held the highest security clearance in Command and Control, and ultimately finding my niche in my senior years as a participant in the annual Burning Man Festival.

But the greatest pleasure (and success) of my life that I



Chip played left wing on the Hoosac varsity hockey team

do attribute to the principles and ethics that Hoosac instilled in me has been finding and marrying the strongest, most incredibly supportive and compassionate woman I have ever known, my wife Lynne. As I feel very fortunate and grateful for having the opportunity to share my life with Lynne, so do I feel immeasurably thankful to Hoosac for giving me that "chance" we all have so much desire for – to become the person we want to be.

Deus Regit.



COMPETITIVE edge SEAN JENKINS

Sean Jenkins '09 didn't hear about Hoosac School through a recruiter; he talked with Hoosac students while at a showcase. At the time, Sean was living overseas, but knew the path to college hockey would involve an American prep school.

"There was a junior team that was hosting tryouts and they had invited me to attend the tryouts along with a few players from Hoosac," he said. Those students Andrew Stewart '07 and Rio Miyazaki '07 had just won a NEPSAC D2 Championship. "I was on a line with both of those guys and we all played really well together that weekend. They were going back to school and said they would put me in touch with

the coach and the school. I got on the horn with the coach at the time, Gary Rabinowitz, and started the application process."

While Sean resides in the city where he was born, Boston, Massachusetts, much of his life was punctuated by frequent moves both in and outside of the United States. "We lived in Germany and then Budapest, Hungary," where Sean said he was fortunate to play for an all-star team. "You can't play college hockey in Budapest, so the idea was to go to prep school first and then follow that path, which is ultimately what I did."

Sean was joined that year at Hoosac by another Hungarian student, Attila Pavuk '10. While at Hoosac, the duo enjoyed a strong, competitive team. Sean also played soccer and said he really appreciated the camaraderie he experienced at Hoosac.

"We had that same common goal," he said. "We worked really hard, but also had a good time in the classroom, and definitely had the most fun playing hockey. I don't think that's unique to me. Probably a similar answer for most of the guys that played that year."

Sean also credits two of his mentors at Hoosac, Coaches Gary Rabinowitz and Sean Streich.

"Streich had played Division 1 hockey at Union. He was a great mentor in that he helped us focus on the academic part of it, but also put in a lot of time outside of the rink. Streich, being newly out of school himself, provided me with opportunities to ask questions about next steps. And Gary Rabinowitz knew the game really well; he studied the game hard and was very disciplined. He demanded excellence. Having those two figures really taught me a lot about showing up on time, being organized, sitting at the front of the class." Sean credits these lessons with his successes following Hoosac.

Investing time in sports while at Hoosac, provided its own lessons, Sean explained: "What we learned at the time was that there is always adversity. We had to get up super early, we had to be on the road a lot, we played a lot of top talent - in dealing with this adversity and not falling on the excuse of 'I'm tired,' you build a strong foundation for life. Life's hard, you need to pick yourself up and dive right in. I credit my time at Hoosac for having this experience





YOU NEED A
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YOU

at a young age and learning to weather any storm."

In his first spring at Hoosac, Sean tried out for a few junior hockey teams. He had a plan: "Play a year of hockey, take some community college classes, and play against more advanced players," said Sean. "I ended up doing that for two years and then attended Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire- only missed one game, which is difficult to do, but played all four years and ended up doing really well in the classroom." During that time, he began internships that would help him make some important decisions about his next step.

"I thought I wanted to be a wealth advisor and, at the last minute, my mentor had asked me if I liked the work I had been doing," recounted Sean. "I was very frank and

said, 'no,' but I liked him and liked the environment, and he asked what I'd like to do. I told him that my interest was in research on the sales and trading side of the financial services industry. I wanted to be into stocks, in the weeds and in the action, and was able to create a path to the company where I work today. I've been with Hedgeye now for nine years, basically right out of school."

For Sean, mentorship was key. For today's Hoosac students, Sean said, "You need a bit of luck to have success, but the important thing is that someone believes in you. And the way that happens is you need to be a hard worker, show diligence, be interested in whatever it is you want to do."





FINDING community

Before coming to Hoosac, David Millstein '96 was a senior at Governor Dummer Academy in Byfield, MA. "It's a traditional New England prep school, where I was a boarding student. In the early part of my senior year there, my lackluster academic performance had not positioned me for college, my expected next step. Poor personal accountability was central to my poor performance. If I was interested, I would excel, otherwise, I would manufacture every conceivable excuse."

Faced with a choice between getting a GED, attending a different private school, or going to public school, David weighed his options. It was a phone call from his best friend in college which spurred him to make a decision. "He had gotten into college."

"I'm not sure how we found Hoosac," said David, "but I remember my first trip there quite well. Dean Foster commented on my Tackla belt, and that created an immediate sense of belonging."

The same friend who inspired him with his entrance into college, now offered some valuable advice: "You're not there to make friends; you're there to do work and get into the college you want."

David's first impression of Hoosac's campus was positive. "Since I can remember, I've had a fondness for the outdoors, and have spent decades exploring the woods. Hoosac seemed surreal – the terrain was beautiful; the surrounding area was of picturesque central New England. I couldn't wait to see it in the fall."

Hoosac's small class size was hugely beneficial to David, who had grown accustomed to ducking academic accountability in larger classes. "The more intimate setting of the classroom was very appealing. It prevented me from being able to 'fall through the cracks' or hide from responsibility."

David also appreciated the feeling of community he found at Hoosac. "Without the comfort of people I knew and, in an environment where everyone already knew each other, I saw myself as the outsider. What I didn't realize at the time was that more lifelong friendships arose from my one year at Hoosac than at my previous school where I had been for more than three years."

Having already spent time at another boarding school, David was surprised at what he felt when he saw his



parents drive away, leaving him at Pitt Mason for the first time. "I've always been independent, and that's part of what likely got me in academic purgatory previously. When I saw the taillights of my parents' car as they braked down the hill away from Pitt, reality struck. My previous school had been close to home; this time, I was a few hours away. That disconnect was truly what I needed to realize that I wasn't as independent as I thought and that was the other side of one of my biggest problems; realizing that my usual support network was absent forced me into working on my personal accountability."

David found himself navigating academics at Hoosac with the confidence needed to get into the school of his choice. His friend was right and the results were evident.

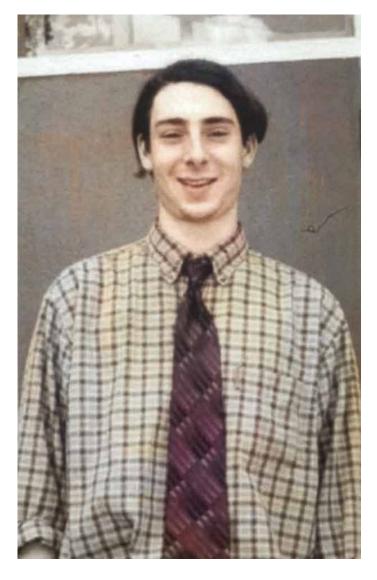
"I was accepted to Gettysburg College following Hoosac and attended for political science, with the legal profession in my sights." David later changed his focus to business and economics, minoring in English. "There was some early struggle at Gettysburg, but soon that Hoosac mindset really persevered." David graduated from college in 2000. "Hoosac really helped me to rekindle my love for learning, and working in challenging positions." But the growth didn't stop there.

"In 2022, I completed a post-grad Master of Science program." $\,$

Having started as a volunteer firefighter early in his career in data analytics, David found his passion shifting toward helping others. "I worked towards my focus and was hired by a fire department in Maryland in 2004. I retired in 2018 as a Lieutenant, paramedic/firefighter, and Hazardous Materials Specialist, and started a federal career as a Fire Program Specialist with the United States Fire Administration. I have worked at the national level in fire incident data for 20 years, and until 2018, I was a contractor at the USFA doing similar work. Currently, I'm the Branch Chief for the EMS Branch and the National Fire Data Center."

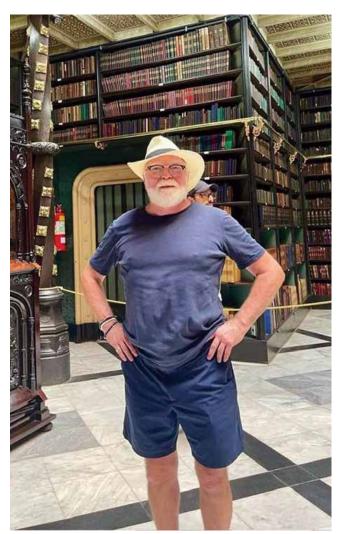
Today he combines his knowledge of data with his goal of helping others: "My current role allows me to lead, educate, and assist others on the national stage with an overall goal to reduce loss from fire by affecting change."

David's advice to current students is to never stop learning. "Read. Learn how to work in groups as well



as independently. Develop emotional intelligence and practice using it. There are no such things as problems, only challenges waiting to be resolved. Remove the word 'should' from your vocabulary. Pause. Take time to think through your response, including your emotional response; this is a powerful skill that is invaluable. Stay active and enjoy life, nature, and take time to see life through the eyes of a child, void of bias or influence." And lastly, David said, "Put your phone down—wherever you are, be there."





KEVIN MCGUIRE REFLECT ON 50 YEARS OF HOOSAC

Kevin McGuire '76 wrote to us on January 21st of this year. "50 years ago today, I had my interview at The Hoosac School. It was a very cold and snowy day. My father dropped me off at the gate as the long road to the main campus had not been plowed. I did not want to seem uncool, but I was totally unprepared for my walk. The snow was up to my knees and freezing. I came around the bend in the road and Tibbits Hall loomed large on the hillside. It looked like something out of a Charlotte Bronte novel or a Victorian snow globe. As I made my way up the hill, my insecurities got the better of me, which happens to me now then. Who did I think I was? I loved my life, my family, friends, and school downtown. Why change? I arrived at the big red doors, opened them, and entered into the stunningly beautiful mahogany foyer, relieved I had made it. Little did I know that was so true... I had made it. I was greeted by Ashton Crosby and Maggie Town. There was a fire in the large fireplace and Maggie asked me if I wanted some cocoa. Yes! I said. The rest, as they say, is history.

I was accepted with a full scholarship. It changed my life.

To paraphrase the great Robert Frost, Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and I took the one less traveled by. It has made all the difference! Thank You Hoosae!

This is my very vivid memory of 50 years ago."

VERSCHOOR RECEIVES EMMY

George Verschoor '78 was recently awarded a Daytime Emmy by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, along with co-producers, for work on Netflix's "Instant Dream Home." The director, producer, and showrunner, known for his ground-breaking work launching the world's first reality television series, "The Real World," was previously nominated for an Emmy in 1991. George has worked with Netflix, Fox, National Geographic, MTV, VH1, PBS, HGTV, and more. He is the founder of Hoosick Falls Productions, based in Santa Monica, California.





FOSTER MAKES CLARKSON DEAN'S LIST

ColtonFoster '22 is now a sophomore majoring in software engineering at Clarkson University and was recently named to the Dean's List. Dean's List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 GPA and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

SEAN JENKINS PROMOTED BY HEDGEYE



Hedgeye Risk Management, a leading independent provider of investment research and online financial media firm, announced in February that Hoosac's **Sean Jenkins '09** has been promoted to lead the firm's Gaming, Lodging & Leisure (GLL) research team as its new Sector Head. See Sean's Hoosac story on page 20 of this issue.

LACY BIGELOW NAMED TO MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL



Lacy Bigelow '23 was one of 140 Lebanon Valley College student-athletes to be named to the Middle Atlantic Conference's (MAC) Fall Academic Honor Roll. Bigelow is a member of the Lebanon Valley College field hockey team, and is pursuing a bachelor of science in biology. The academic honor roll is comprised of student-athletes who compete in a varsity-level sport and register a term/semester GPA of 3.20 or higher.

ALUMNI UPDATES

CYR ON VACATION

David Cyr 15 enjoyed fishing for urchins in and around Vancouver this spring.



Kyle Hardy '07 continues to dominate on the rink, winning with his team, the

French Cup championship!

HWANG AND ESPELAND ON TARGET



Sung Soo Hwang '89 and Nelson Espeland '91 enjoyed some target practice together at the Hartwood Club in New York this spring.



PIGEON NAMED DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Gabriel Pigeon '19 of Saint Remi, Quebec, is one of four Lebanon Valley College student-athletes to receive a conference player of the week award this past February. Pigeon, a member of the men's ice hockey team, was named was named Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Defensive Player of the Week and the United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) Goaltender of the Week for the week ending February 18th. Pigeon came up big on Senior Night as the senior goaltender recorded LVC's first shutout of the year, and the first of his career, with 51 saves in a 4-0 victory over Alvernia to keep the Dutchmen alive for a possible UCHC playoff spot in his only action of the week. Pigeon extended the Dutchmen's winning streak to four games with 16 saves in the first period, 13 in the second, and then an amazing 22 saves in the third period. The win allowed the Dutchmen to clinch a second-place finish in the MAC standings. Pigeon is pursuing a bachelor of science in exercise science.



A LETTER FROM MOM...



Hi All

I'm writing to say what an accomplishment several of the hockey boys have achieved. My son, **Ben Naples'23**, is playing junior hockey with the WBS Knights in PA along with **Jimmy Jones'23**, **Alexi Parent'23** and **Sam Turkowitz'24**. Both the Elite and Premier teams clinched a spot in the USPHL Nationals in Utica, NY.

When the seeding round schedule came out I noticed that the Wisconsin Riverkings are also national bound. I know that **Jake Bryceland '23**, **Owen Atkins '22**, and **Jude Ayling '22** play for them.

Well played Hoosac! This is quite the accomplishment.

Best.

Susan Leahy

Ben's proud mom (except for that little incident...)



FUTURE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT miles mittentag '24

I've loved my time at Hoosac and wish I could have been here longer. I came to Hoosac to play hockey and I've enjoyed it very much. I've also had the opportunity to play baseball with friends in the spring.

During my time at Hoosac, I've met people from all different backgrounds and was lucky enough to be friends with a lot of them. Hoosac has shown me that people from different backgrounds and cultures can get along as one family. It's also taught me about leadership.

For me, being a good leader is showing your dedication and commitment to whatever you do. For example, if you want people to buy into your team philosophy, demonstrate your dedication to the team. Communication is also very important because if you're not communicating with your team well, then no one is listening.

I think the most important qualities in a person are trustworthiness and compassion. Being trustworthy is important because in order for people to listen to you and take your word, they have to trust you. Compassion is important because it shows that you care about other people and try to understand them. Both of these qualities are important in any setting, here at Hoosac and beyond.

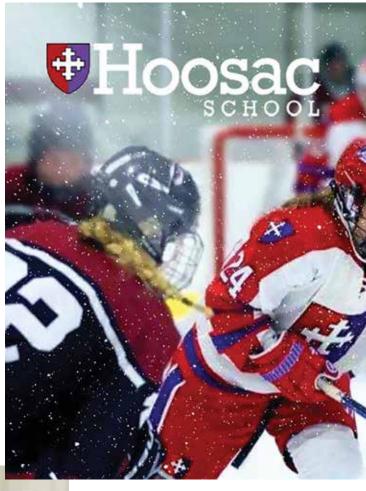
To BE HOOSAC means to embrace the school for its traditions and what they stand for. When I first came here, I wasn't a big fan of formal dinners, but I started to enjoy it more and more and now I love the tradition. Another thing is having pride in our teams. When our team doesn't have games, we will go watch the other teams play and vice versa.

My biggest influences at Hoosac have been my coaches and teachers. Coach Welsh, Coach Walton, and Coach Jordan have helped make me into the best person I can on and off the ice. They have truly had my back and supported me during my time at Hoosac. Another influence is Coach Ryan, a great baseball coach and a great person.



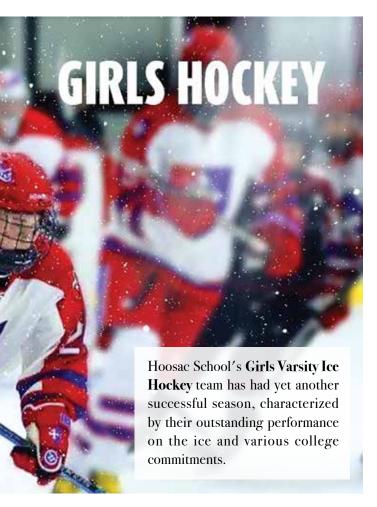


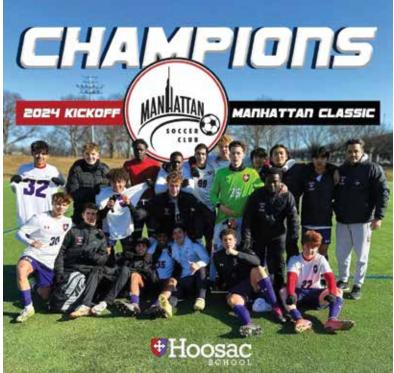
Our Owls in Florida! Hoosac's tennis team traveled to Florida over Spring break to play tournaments, practice, and observe college tournaments at the largest tennis center in the United States, the USTA National Campus in Orlando.





Hoosac School's **Boys' Hockey** team pulled off an epic feat this season, crashing not one, but six opponent's senior nights with a dazzling display of skill and tenacity.





Hoosac Soccer conquered the Manhattan Kickoff Classic Tournament in NYC to bring home the championship!



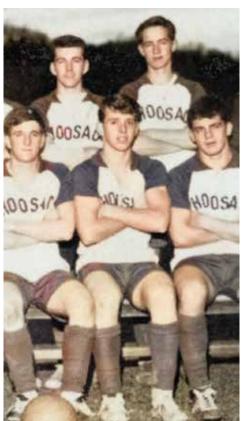
Congratulations to the AAA team for one of several big wins this winter. This photo taken after a Hoosac victory 83-76 over Vermont Academy

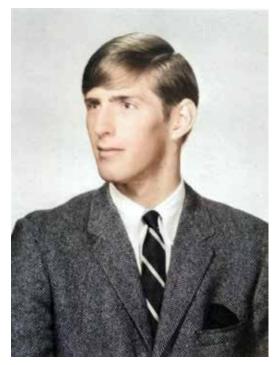
In **Girls Basketball**, Hannah Richardson committed to Division 1 St. Bonaventure, Zoe Richardson committed to Division 1 Siena College, and Rylie Rosenberg committed to Division 1 Merrimack College, all en route to an impressive 16-7 season.

MEMORIALS



It is with deep sadness we report one of our eldest alumni, **Hans Lopez'48**, has died. Despite trouble communicating, "Hansy" maintained contact with his alma mater throughout his life. Though he will be buried in Puerto Rico, his name is forever etched within the bell tower of All Saints Church at the site of Hoosac's early campus.





Thomas Cochran '66 died on March 12th. During his time at Hoosac, Tom was Class Vice-President, and active in cross country, wrestling, baseball, and drama. He played the dragon during the Boar's Head and Yule Log celebration. Tom later returned to his almamater a teacher and eventually becoming Dean of Students. In total, Tom worked for Hoosac School for 25 years. "Tom was deeply dedicated to his work at Hoosac, and cherished his time there," said his daughter, Hannah. See more on Tom's contributions to Hoosac in the next issue of *Hoosac Today*.

Craig S. Gutermuth '64 (pictured at center), has died at 78. Craig was born in Carmel, California and grew up in Berlin, New York where he loved spending time on the family farm in Pownal, Vermont. Following Hoosac, he graduated from Paul Smith's College in Saranac Lake with a degree in Forestry and later graduated from North Adams State College in North Adams, Massachusetts with a degree in Business.

He served proudly in the United States Navy during Vietnam aboard the USS Woodrow Wilson, a ballistic missile submarine.

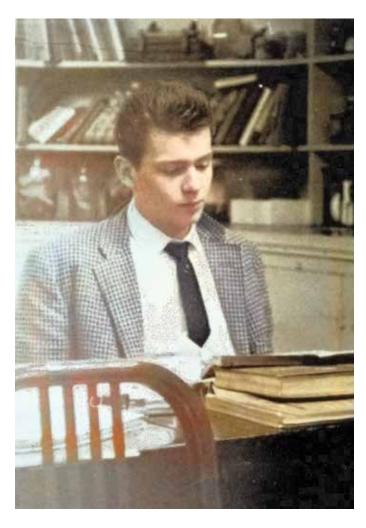
Craig was employed by W.J. Cowee, Inc. in Berlin for over 30 years as a forester before retiring.

While at Hoosac Craig was one of the top defensemen for the school's soccer team and was also a member of the wrestling team.



Following graduation from Hoosac School, Dawit Bekele'19 obtained permanent residency and wasted no time in getting down to business. Establishing his own company called DYB Marketing, he juggled multiple full-time jobs while assimilating into society. However, two years later, his life took an unexpected turn when he received a cancer diagnosis. Confronted with a tumor the size of a basketball, Dawit faced this challenge head-on, displaying unwavering courage. Guided by the belief that "every adversity holds the potential for equal or greater benefit," he viewed this battle as a sign to persevere. Undergoing intensive chemotherapy, Dawit fought tirelessly to prevent the tumor from spreading, ultimately defeating cancer in December 2021. Remarkably, he never skipped a beat, maintaining a cheerful demeanor and an unyielding desire to pursue his calling. Fueled by excitement, he continued working towards his dream, further developing his company. Unfortunately, his journey took another unforeseen twist when he was diagnosed with early-stage leukemia. Despite this setback, Dawit fortified his defenses, recognizing the potential for greater rewards that lay ahead. He understood that he was crafting his own narrative, one that would inspire millions. His faith grew stronger and he embraced the remainder of his life with hopeful anticipation. Eventually, Dawit required a stem cell transplant, which proved successful. While the exact cause of his passing remains unknown, all tests indicated improvement and an absence of infections. It served as confirmation that he had indeed received the greater benefit and joined our creator in heaven. Dawit epitomized unwavering faith and an indomitable spirit. Like all of us, he faced challenges, but he continually worked on himself to avoid weariness. Those closest to him consider themselves blessed to have witnessed such an exemplary life and strive to honor him by living with the same unwavering faith. We will forever miss him and take immense pride in the man he became. His pursuit of impact and his triumphant story will be eternally remembered.

Peter Lorraine '61 has died. Peter was the captain of the Hoosac basketball team and also played hockey and baseball for the school. In addition to team sports, Peter excelled at horseback riding, golf, and was involved in the student council. He was the recipient of the Latin the science Book Prizes.



The school received notice that **Eugene Menger '67** passed away last fall.



FOR HOSTING THIS YEAR'S ALL SCHOOL REUNION



2024 All-School Reunion Schedule

Don't miss this year's All-School Reunion. Events include the opening reception, dinner, and dance held on the athletic fields. The meal will feature Hoosac traditions like the boar's head and roast beef. Enjoy music from a 12-piece rock band that takes requests! (Send us your song requests so we can be sure to get everyone out on the dance floor.) Bring on your school 'spirit' with our top-shelf bar. And conclude your evening with a huge fireworks display.

Saturday begins with a golf tournament and the Bubo Cup. Other activities during the day include tennis or pickleball lessons and matches at the tennis courts, history tours of both new and old campus, and cornhole. After a relaxing buffet lunch, join in on the dedication of the newest addition to campus, Gipson Hall, followed by tours of the building and an interactive art exhibition.

A reception and formal dinner in the dining hall will bring back memories of formal dinners when you were a student and live entertainment will help us dance that night away.

Sunday concludes with a memorial service at All Saint's Church where we will remember our dearly departed.



Dear Hoosac School,

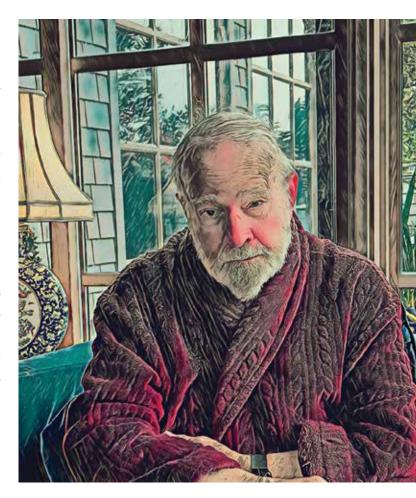
I have just read the Fall 2023 alumni magazine. The article about the Prefectural System brought tears to my eyes. I arrived at Hoosac in the fall of 1950 with my tail between my legs. I had just spent four painful years at the Hotchkiss School, and with the lowest grade point average in my class, I did not graduate and was not accepted into any college.

I had been a victim of my father's lifelong penny pinching. We lived in Greenwich, CT, on a 12 acre equestrian estate in a gated community, with swimming pool and tennis court. My father was a graduate of Hotchkiss 1914 and Yale 1918. Greenwich at the time had four country clubs, and five private elementary schools. To save money he enrolled me in the town's public schools. They were virtually ghetto schools. My classmates parents were servants, people who did yard maintenance, garbage collectors, etc. It did not seem to bother my father that when we were invited to dinner at friends' homes I knew the children of the cooks and servants. When we played golf, it did not seem to bother him that I knew all the caddies.

After my failure at Hotchkiss, not knowing what to do, my father contacted one of his former Yale classmates, Meredith B. Wood, Headmaster at Hoosac. Without much of a formal application process, I was accepted into the class of 1951. My first day at Hoosac I had a meeting with Dr. Wood. He asked me whether I knew what the "work ethic" was. I did not. He explained it simply, but forcefully. My goal from that day on was to achieve by hard work and diligence, to the best of my ability, excellence in everything I did.

He told me he was assigning me a roommate, Daniel Wilcox Adams (brother of Keith Adams Hoosac, 1954). Dan was a Senior Prefect, who would have a special task of mentoring me and helping me to achieve my new goal of being best in everything I did. The following year was one of the best years of my life. Instructors helped me when there were gaps in my knowledge of basic English, French, Math, and Dr. Wood made basic chemistry fascinating to me. I excelled in all my subjects.

It all worked, I graduated 3rd in my class of 15. Two of us were accepted into Yale and one into Princeton.



I graduated from Yale with a B.A. in Political Science, from Yale School of Music with a B.Mus. in 1957, and after my military service, I graduated from California State University Fullerton with a M.Mus. and spent the next 35 years teaching piano at various colleges in California. My wife is also a pianist, so we became a professional team — performing solo and ensemble and operating a very successful piano teaching studio in Carmel, CA.

Last October, we retired from music teaching, sold our home in the Carmel Highlands and retired to a senior living community in Pacific Grove, CA. I am 91 years old and my wife Renée is 84. We have been married 62 years.

I have often wondered what would have happened to me had I not had the wonderful year at Hoosac. God bless Father Wood and Prefect Dan Adams (deceased).

All my best wishes to you all.

Lyn Bronson 51

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Join us in the Valley of the Owl to rekindle old friendships while you celebrate the milestone years with food and festivities on Hoosac's beautiful hillside campus.

