



The Owllet ^{Winter 2025}

Hoosac School Source for Alumni News and Nonsense

Walking Through Darkness

AN ALUMNI'S CANCER DIAGNOSIS LEADS TO A RENEWED OUTLOOK ON LIFE



Janet with her eldest daughter, Lizzie Jean

Janet Stiegman '89 wrote in to share an update with her Hoosac classmates:

I am working for the Veterans Administration as a Medical Assistant. I love working with our nations hero's and assisting them in all their healthcare needs. It's truly a honor and so very humbling listening to all their stories. My oldest daughter graduated with her LPN and is working in the Labor and delivery floor she was born on. Oh and she is getting married!!! I am loving being a proud leader of the M.O.B. (Mother of the Bride) Squad and yes, when you see your baby in a wedding dress grab a kleenex. The big day is in September!

My middle daughter Holly is working at a local company assisting with the 401k programs.

My youngest Allison is a Resident Assistant and finishing her 3rd year at SUNY Morrisville majoring in business. She was accepted to an internship at a very large statewide automotive dealership and was asked to come and work as a Customer Service Manager while on break.

It is true that your kids keep you busy and mine have mastered that!

My name is **Dave Millstein**, a **1996 graduate** of the Hoosac School, and I have a story to tell. You may not know me but please stick with me for a little bit, it will be worth your time. While jogging on May 20, 2024, I received a phone call that a CT scan of my head (for an unrelated allergy issue) found a mass in my brain. "Get to the nearest emergency room ASAP," they said. More scans and a veil of absolute terror covered me in a darkness that I didn't know existed. Following were weeks of crying myself to sleep every day. While my kids were at school, I sat for hours in their rooms wondering what their futures would be like without me in it. What about my daughters? My wife? Ten days later I had the tumor removed. I was walking

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Stiegman continued ON PAGE 4



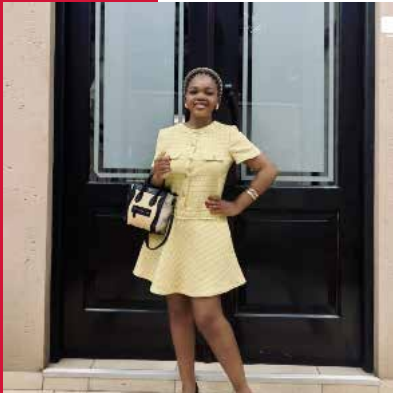
'24

Henrique Leite '24 has started his first year at the University of South Florida and is pursuing a major in business analytics and informaiton systems and is still playing tennis.



'24

Alissa Ushiro '24 started her first year at Ohio State and is majoring in Engineering and Computer Science.



'24

Lehakoe Tserane '24 is currently a Dean's List Actuarial Science student. In her spare time Lehakoe is serving as the Global Marketing Director at Msa Fashion Brands, Digital Creator in the luxury fashion and beauty niche.



'17

Will Clifford '17 joined the engineering team at Rushdown Studios in December building multi-player videogames.



ALUMNI NEWS IN BRIEF



Olivier Lacroix '18 recently passed the CFA Level II Exam, an exam which assesses a candidate's ability to apply financial concepts to real-world scenarios.



Colton Foster '22, who is majoring in Software Engineering at Clarkson University made the Dean's list this semester.

A message from Dana Andrews '85

"I follow the Hockey teams & the other sports, when they post and I also looked up the Yule Log. Thanks for posting. I remember when I was the Dragon in the mummies play. I didn't see how many years the show has been going on up to this year.

I am still installing office furniture, part time now but I have been doing this work since 1986. I have two children, my son Luke is 20 and going to college and my daughter is 23 and works for a company that builds things for the government. I have been in touch with some of my classmates. I actually have brought my son up to see the Yule Log and I wanted to go this year but it was put on earlier than usual.

I have so many memories of Hoosac and all of them made me the person I am today. We didn't have a hockey rink, we had to actually tear down the old one in the woods by the cottage. We used the Williams town rink. I am so impressed by all the new buildings that have been built and I know the man responsible for all of them. Dean has pumped life back into the school. I wish I had his energy. What a super nice guy. He has put his life and soul into that school. I am so proud that Hoosac was part of my life.

I made lifelong friends there and I wish the class of 1985 all the best. Of course, there were only five of us, Austin McGrath, Roy Headwell (jester). I have kept in touch with Patrick, even Mr Hahn, who was the best teacher I ever had. He was my history teacher. He would dress up in the period clothes we were studying. Today he uses his voice for audio books and he is an author of an unbelievable world like the Lord of the Rings. He was also my dorm parent. Top floor of the main building. We spent hours playing D&D.

Mrs. McCormick was my English teacher and she was my another teacher who helped me be the person I am today. Charles King and I would do some pranks at night, move all the cafeteria tables out and put the teachers lounge in the center just as it was, when everyone woke up everyone was surprised. Sadly we lost Charles about five years ago but I guarantee his signature is still somewhere on the campus. Hoosac has a huge place in my heart. I am so proud and happy the school is doing so well."



Alumni getting together



Hoosac School Trustee **Neal Irwin '94** had the chance to catch up with fellow alum and great friend **Masayuki Nagira '96** at Disney this past December. Masa and Neal have been trading trips back and forth to Japan for decades.



Allen Meyer '74 recently recovered from open heart surgery in July. "I am now able to go watch the Hoosac girls play hockey and I remain active with the Millbrook Fire Department. I have also now been able to travel to Florida to see my daughter and my grandson. So life is good!"

'00



Suzanne Bergesen '00

I finally got hired on as a senior technician at a company called thermo control as. We ship megawatt units to Norway from Italy and France and install them here. They sell, manage and install massive energy centrals that deliver heating to hospitals, universities and commercial/industrial buildings. It is very lucrative in scandinavia as there is a huge interest in preventing further global warming. The energy sector is on the fore front here as far as green initiative and energy conservation. I also teach apprentices, how to use tools, formulas, manage systems and trouble shoot possible problems they encounter. I am one in about six women in the country that work on the heating/cooling trade, and the only senior technician female. I hope it inspires young female students to step out of their comfort zone and focus on conservation.



'23

Cole Elwood '23 just got done celebrating his 21st birthday and has been working for a security and automation company since graduating from Hoosac. He and his partner welcomed a baby girl last August named Sunnie.

Siegman continued FROM COVER

Fondest memories of this time of year at Hoosac...

Standing in the dining hall of watching the snow fall while drinking tea with lemon and honey to keep the throat ready for Yule Log.

Going into Bennington to shop and seeing all the candles in the windows.

Sliding down the hill in front of Pitt Mason with friends and even the staff would join in.

This time of year was one that is rich in tradition and family. Hoosac showed me both. The rich traditions that are one of the pillars of Hoosac. Family is not only friends yet the ones that teach you. They would teach you History during the day and then at night be sledding down the hills on campus laughing and making amazing memories.



Hoosac Alumni
We want to hear from you!

email your updates to
Samantha Graves-Brownell at
sgraves@hoosac.org
or call the school at
(518) 686-7331 ext. 315

'01

An update from **Andy Rozanski '01**

Following Hoosac, I graduated from Lawrence University in 2005 with an English degree then came back to Hoosac as faculty from 2005-07. At hoosac I taught English and coached hockey. We won the New England Prep Championship in 2007.

I moved back to wisconsin to teach for three more years then moved to the chicago suburbs in 2010 with my future wife. While there, I went back to school to become a special education teacher. I am currently married to my wife Bethany and have a five-year-old daughter, Elise. I have been living and teaching special education outside of Chicago for the last 15 years. I loved my time at Hoosac as both student and staff and plan to visit in the near future.

Also, I am forever grateful to Hoosac and Dean Foster for giving me an opportunity to teach and coach after college. I love being a teacher and I never would have discovered this passion without Hoosac



'17

Tanner Stanton '17 got married in October “to my husband Anthony Espinoza! We’ve got a big year ahead of us with our son, Holden, turning 2 in March and our honeymoon to Grenada in May! I’ve started playing hockey again and have some tournaments coming up in the spring which I’m excited for. We’ve also started our little one on skates as well in hopes for a future owl!”



'21



Mya Bjorkstrand Luna '21 was recently accepted to Tulane for her Masters in Business Administration.



'23

Emily Wroblewski '23 was named to the Dean’s List during the Fall 2024 academic semester at Salve Regina University.



12-hours after surgery and walked out of Johns Hopkins Hospital two days later headed home. Prior to leaving we met with the surgeon, “100% was removed”. Time to transition to recovery mode...but I’m a helper that was now in need of help. This was strange territory. I began exercising my body and mind.

In July I began six weeks of daily chemotherapy and radiation. They told me I’d be exhausted, and it would get worse during the therapy. I found a strength and drive I didn’t know I had. This was for my family and failure wasn’t an option – I refused to accept a future without me in it. I jogged and exercised daily before treatment and commemorated the last day with a 6K run. The doctors were in awe at my resilience. They commented at each meeting on my positive outlook, physical activity, and overall strength. All of these were things they indicated that would lead to long-term positive outcomes. Eastern Medicine understands the holistic approach to healthcare. When the mind is right, all else follows. My mental health needed a boost, so I started seeing a therapist and felt a change immediately. This was a journey on an unknown path, without a compass, but I needed to get my mind right. For months, scans came back clear, including in January 2025, eight months later...



Today David is cancer free. He and his family attended the Boar’s Head and Yule Log Pageant in December.

The cancer was related to my career in the fire service as a paramedic/firefighter. A purpose emerged, and today, as a Chief at the U.S. Fire Administration, I am in position to help the 1.2 million firefighters and those groups that support and represent them. From direct engagements with the responders to connecting my medical team at Johns Hopkins with some of the fire service research groups, I am leveraging every day as a voice to help affect change.

“And once the storm is over, you won’t remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won’t even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the same person who walked in. That’s what this storm’s all about.” - Haruki Murakami.

Akin to the Yin-Yang, I was able to find the “good in the bad” and am today, forever changed because of it. I am not the same person I was in the beginning. This has been a personal and professional awakening and has been the single greatest impetus for change I have ever experienced. The universe is always talking to us, we just need to learn to listen. I wasn’t and I needed some of these lessons. Slow down, family first, and wherever you are, be present.

A message from Alonzo Whitehead ‘74

‘74



Hello to all! I’ve just been enjoying a mild winter Here in the great Pacific Northwest... And for Seattle, that means no snow! Still recuperating from an on-the-job back injury and have received clearance from my chiropractor to resume my job search. Lookin forward to my lovely wife Sarah’s big 55 next month and dinner and a night of Blues at Jazz Alley.

Hope 2025 is treating all with favor. *Love you guyyzz!*

'25

Cecilia Gurgel '25 "I'm incredibly grateful to share that I will be attending Duke University next fall! This accomplishment would not have been made possible without my unwavering support system: my amazing parents, my supportive sister, and inspiring teachers, mentors, and classmates who I look up to every day. I initially plan on studying Environmental Science & Policy but I'm excited to start this new chapter with an open mind, ready to explore new possibilities. Beyond thrilled for what lies ahead! Go Blue Devils!"



'21

Sofia Gurgel '21 is on her last semester of college and is currently working on her undergraduate honors thesis, investigating anxiety in a schizophrenia model of female rats across different developmental time points. She will begin medical school in the fall and has so far received four acceptance letters, including one from Duke University, but is waiting to hear back on a few more programs before making her final selection.

'13



Axel Barora '13 with his partner, Leanna, and their son Amir, 13 months.



'22

Since graduating from Hoosac, **Ryan Crawford '22** has started his own business as a photography for live music and wedding venues. Although no longer a student at Hoosac, Ryan said he still feels like a part of the family, "I have been generously welcomed back to help coach the very Lacrosse team I used to play for; as well as taking photos for many school events."



Hoosac Faculty Aaron Ullman spent some free time testing the functions of an old SBIG camera. The SBIG or Santa Barbara Instrument Group camera is used in astronomy to capture detailed images of celestial bodies. Mr. Ullman has been working with astronomy students at the school's observatory.



Hoosac Shines!

Night to Shine is an event centered on God's love, it is brought by the Tim Tebow Foundation. It is a prom-based event for people with special needs. It is held all over the world hosted by churches.

Hoosac students participated at Night to Shine this year hosted by Mission City Church at Grace Christian School in Bennington VT.

Students volunteered as waiters and buddies. Waiters got to take guests' orders and serve them Italian cuisine and buddies got paired up with a person with special needs getting to experience the night through their eyes, with dancing, photo booths, karaoke, dinner, and more.



Hoosac Today

Hoosac students and faculty enjoy time with the greater Hoosick Falls community at the township rink this January.