

# HOOSAC



SPRING 2025

FEATURING  
Hoosac Hockey  
*Where are they now?*

# HOOSAC TODAY

SPRING 2025

This issue is dedicated to  
**Michael Mendelson '90**  
1971 - 2024

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADMASTER *Dean Foster*



A quick literary reminder that the joy of Spring transcends all time. As Chaucer so perfectly captures in words the transition from the dark of winter to the blooming of life and light, so too do the faces of all the students here at Hoosac.

*When April with its sweet showers  
Has bathed the drought of March deep in the roots,  
And filled every vein of plants with life-giving moisture,  
And the young sun has run half its course in Aries,  
And small birds make melodies all night with open eyes,  
So nature pricks them in their hearts*

As the spring unfolds, it brings not only the long-awaited warmth of spring but also the realization by Vth Formers that their time at Hoosac is drawing to a close. You can feel the energy in the air. It is a season of anticipation, of cherished traditions, and of excitement for what lay ahead.

For alumni, this time of year might ignite memories of spring sports, the fun of Asado Day, and the celebrations surrounding Prize Day and Commencement. Current students stand at the threshold of joining the ranks of decades of alumni who came before and who have ensured the continued growth of Hoosac. Soon, it will be their turn to preserve the school for future graduates just as the alumni have done for 136 years.

As you read about some of your fellow alums, take a moment to remember your fondest memories, and if you are inclined, write them down and send them to us. We would love to add positive experiences to the archives of the school. Who knows, maybe your story will be the next cover of Hoosac Today!

Enjoy the magazine and as always, stay in touch!

**Deus Regit!**

Sincerely,



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# The Power of SYNCHRONICITY

*HOW A SIMPLE REQUEST LED TO A UNIQUE DISCOVERY*

One of my favorite tasks here at Hoosac School is working on learning more about the history of this beloved institution. Recently, I received an email from a gentleman who was looking for information on his grandfather. Not only were we able to locate the grandfather, but as it turns out, we have the grandfather's copy of his yearbook, one that includes his signature.

Born in 1890 outside of North Adams, Massachusetts, Clinton Whitman Richmond entered Hoosac School in 1905 and graduated in 1910. Known at Hoosac as "Biddie," Clinton became a prefect and the editor of the Owl and was an active member of both the Advisory Committee and the Athletic Association. He was also a great member of the Debating Club and was named a Cup Debater. He was the manager of the school's Drama Club and known for his writerly and musical talents.



Clinton likely ended up at Hoosac because of his father's familiarity with the school. His father Clinton Quackenbush Richmond, was born in Hoosick Falls, New York in 1859 and the family remained in the area for several decades, even leaving land to the school at one point. Whit's uncle, Cebra Quackenbush of Hoosick, served as a Trustee of the School.

Following graduation from Hoosac, Richmond attended Amherst and later became a bond salesman for Merrill Lynch & Co. in New York City. In 1918, when the United States became involved in the first World War, Clinton registered for military service. He eventually retired in Florida at the age of 55 and is buried in Hillside Cemetery in North Adams. We are always happy to help locate information relating to the school or alumni. Please email [info@hoosac.org](mailto:info@hoosac.org) with your request and we'll reach out with any available information. -SCB



*Clinton Whitman Richmond (far right, middle row) began attending Hoosac School in 1905 and graduated in 1909. This photo captures the football team sometime in the early part of Clinton's academic career at Hoosac*





francis lavoie

# FROM PUCKS TO THE POLLS

*a journey from Hoosac to politics*

When Francis Lavoie '10 arrived to Hoosac's quiet, serene campus, he might have been met with a feeling very much juxtaposed to the calm surroundings. While the young Canadian was excited about the opportunities that lay ahead, there was one thing that posed a daunting obstacle; he didn't speak a word of English. "I did not understand anything of what people said. I was very much ESL but everyone was so kind and willing to help." That and the tranquil nature of Hoosac's campus were an ideal fit for the young hockey player.

It wasn't long before Francis found his footing, not just in his classes and on the hockey team, but also in the broader world of politics. Even as a teenager, his eyes were fixed on making a difference. "I've always wanted to be in politics," he said. While attending Hoosac, Francis actively volunteered in local political campaigns, a rare move for a student his age, where he first developed a love for grassroots activism. Teachers like Coach Gary and Mr. Horn helped sharpen his understanding of leadership and ethics, giving him a clearer picture of the kind of public servant he wanted to be.

"Coach Gary was a great leader and he taught us discipline and the value of hard work. The late Mr. Cochrane was my history teacher and a very kind man. Mr. Horn was my adviser and my ethics teacher; I appreciated his philosophy about life, and to see things through new perspectives" said Francis.

Francis focused on building relationships with his peers, which helped him more quickly improve his English. He was able to visit sites within the United States and during breaks and following graduation, he enjoyed traveling to visit fellow alumni in other parts of the world. Hoosac made him appreciate his home country and introduced him to a global community. "I was able to visit my teammate, Attila Pavuk, in his home country of Hungary."

Life after Hoosac wasn't always easy. After enrolling at Concordia

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University, Francis found himself at a crossroads. 'It was a dark time,' he admits. 'I started questioning who I was and what I wanted out of life.' He grappled with identity and purpose, wrestling with the pressures of adulthood. Eventually, Francis made a bold decision—to leave university behind and pursue a new path in sales. Settling in Toronto, he found that the hustle of sales mirrored many of the skills he'd developed as a student leader and athlete.

While carving out a career in Toronto, Francis's life took an unexpected turn when he met his now-husband, Clayton Scott, an actor and performer with a resume full of high-profile credits. "We met in the most incredible way—he was performing at an Elton John event, and from the moment we met, I knew we had something special," Francis said. Over the years, his husband's success in film and TV (including roles in *The Shape of Water* and *Star Trek*) has added a unique dimension to their life together. Now, with both of them pursuing their passions—Francis in politics and his husband continuing in entertainment—their lives are more intertwined than ever.

Francis was recently nominated to the Conservative Party ticket in Davenport, Ontario. He knows the odds are steep; Davenport has been a Liberal stronghold for over 70 years, but that's not stopping him from giving it everything he has. "I'm going to give 100%," he said firmly. "I have an uphill battle, but Hoosac taught me to believe in myself and to work hard."

Reflecting on his journey from a young, non-English speaking student to a political candidate in one of Canada's most dynamic cities, Francis Lavoie has learned more than just language and leadership—he's learned resilience. "If there's one thing I can pass on to current students, it's this: Enjoy the time that you have. Being at Hoosac is a privilege and an honor. You are part of an institution dating back to 1889 so many have come before us. Be part of the legacy and do your best everyday."



*Clayton Scott (left), Francis' spouse, is an actor, who has been featured on television and in film.*





# timothy campbell

## THE POWER OF REUNION

**Timothy Campbell '72** said he's living in the right place. "You know, I'm not burning up; I'm not under three feet of snow." And yet, when he reflects back on his time at Hoosac, he said, "I remember one of the better memories was of winter day, a huge snowfall." He said the snow often meant canceled classes. "We got to go out with those plastic trays, hand trays, from the dining hall, and we were using those to scoop snow to open the road. They were there to making young men out of us. You studied, you worked, no excuses. Yeah, it was a different world."

Tim's first memory of Hoosac was of his mother showing him around. "She wanted to get me out of Florida, which had an awful, awful school system. It was a gift from my grandparents to be able to afford my tuition."

When it came time to attend, Tim recalled the travel and the people. "I remember the plane ride up by myself, the Hoosac bus picking us up at the airport and, of course, the dynamics- we were all from poor to spoiled rich."

"I loved it," Tim said of Hoosac. "It was a chance for me to grow up, get my skills together. Gave me a super boost to be able to go to college where I was; I was ready. It was organized. I wasn't homesick. So all these other kids come from high school, and they had adjustments to do. Yeah, I didn't have to do that. It was a springboard to allow me to really enjoy college."

Tim, who grew up on a farm, said the small campus and wilderness beyond, was familiar and a good fit. He said one of the first things he learned while at Hoosac was to stop lying.

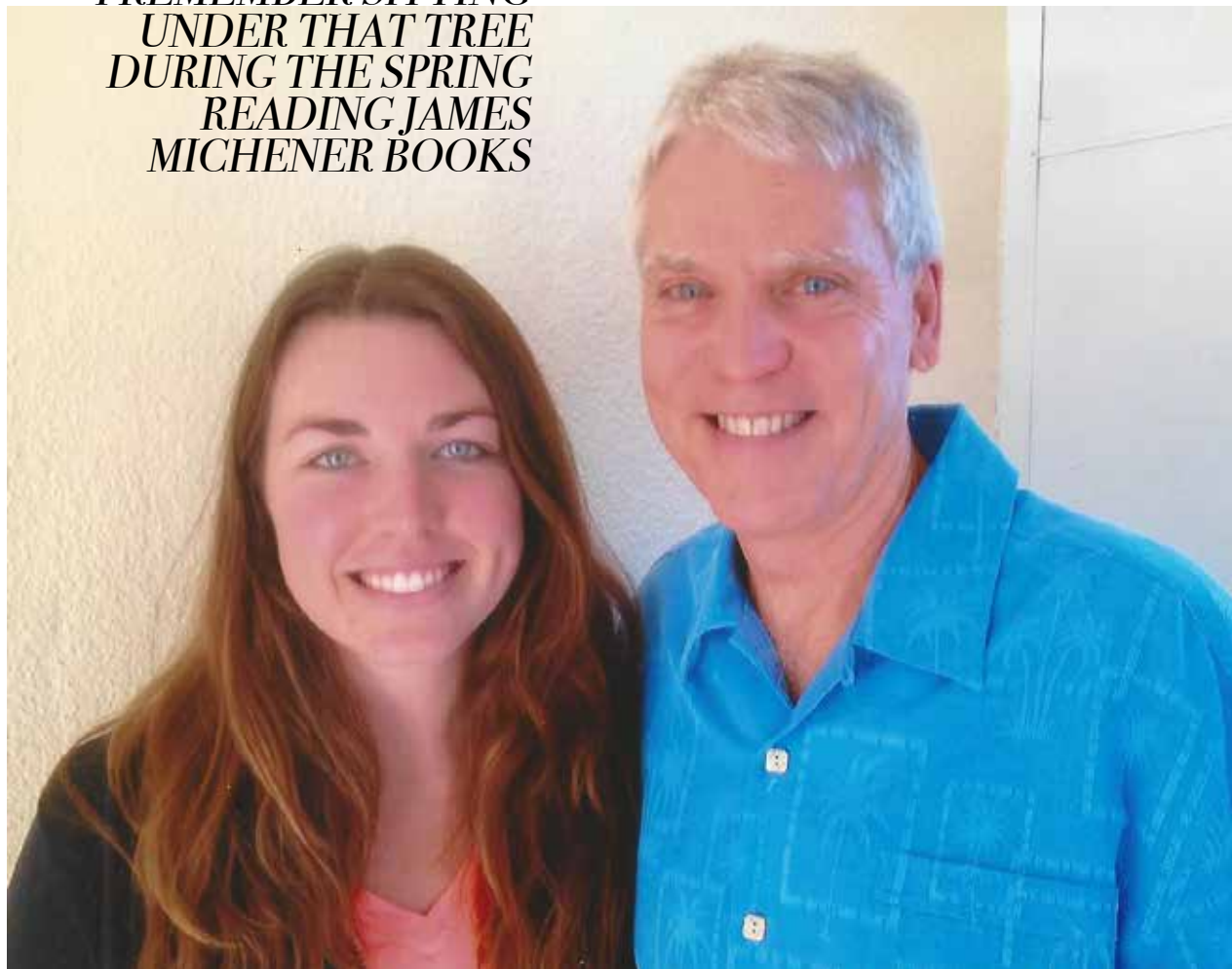
"I can remember well; there was an incident where one of the local girls came to a dance and I didn't want to see her, so was immature and hid in my room. I remember thinking that I didn't like the way that felt and that was a big deal for me. So many people lie throughout their lives, but to grow up and say it's better to face the consequences and admit to it and admit these feelings rather than lie served me well."

Tim, who shared he grew up in a large, dynamic family, was the one who was always trying to make everyone around him happy. "That's a dead end street. And it took me until my late 30s to figure it out, but that was a start for me."





**I DON'T LIKE BIG CITIES AND CROWDS, WHICH IS WHY I LOVE HOOSAC; ALL THE QUIET MOMENTS. AS A SOPHOMORE I CAN REMEMBER THAT BIG, HUGE TREE IN FRONT OF WOOD HALL. THAT'S ALL GONE, BUT I REMEMBER SITTING UNDER THAT TREE DURING THE SPRING READING JAMES MICHENER BOOKS**



*Tim poses with his daughter*

“I was lucky we had Donn Wright, who I thought was the perfect father figure for all the kids,” Tim continued.

#### **The Power of Reunion**

A return to campus for Tim’s 50th, had a lasting impact. “It was highly emotional,” said Tim. “You know, bonding with those guys that are 70 and older and upperclassmen. It was interesting, because I needed closure with my roommate from our freshman year. You know, they just dumped him at Hoosac. It was just a lot; he is from Venezuela, and he goes to visit campus with relatives in New Jersey, and the next thing he knows, his mother’s taking him out to buy clothes for winter. The kid said, ‘But Mom, we live in Venezuela, what do I need this for?’ and she told him he wasn’t going back to Venezuela. I had no idea his journey was like that when he was my roommate. Was I helpful and supportive? No, I was a dumb 14 year old, so I wanted to say, ‘Hey, I’m sorry I wasn’t more supportive.’ And he shared with me all he was going through, and I’m like, oh my god, I thought I had it hard.”

“That is part of the beauty of getting together and talking to people,” Tim continued. “Yeah, a million stories, you know, Hoosac had a big impression on me, as did my classmates. We all had family issues that seemed to be a common thread; some worse than others.”

While at Hoosac, Tim benefited from the structure. “We got a taste of the power structure that you get in the military.” He said from the benefits you earned as upper classmates to recognizing the work that went into becoming a prefect, Tim said helped him later in life when aiming for goals in life and later in his career as a financial advisor.

Following Hoosac, Time attended a university outside of Los Angeles. “I realized my freshman year how well Hoosac prepared me for college. No issues being away from home for me as I saw so many other college classmates struggle to adjust to being totally on their own. I am glad I was lucky enough to have Grandparents who were able to pay my Hoosac tuition.”

Tim spent time trying to land a job with a brand new four-year-degree, but found himself working as a grunt laborer instead. It was a difficult time for work and it was a chance phone call that provided Tim with an opportunity to succeed.

An acquaintance of Tim’s suggested he check out a new field because of his background in finance. “Financial planning. You don’t have to be a stock broker. You don’t have to be an insurance agent, which is what I was gravitating toward. You’re

young, you’re energetic. Become a financial planner, and I took it. It led me to San Diego.”

Tim said he fell in love with San Diego. “It was America’s Finest City. It was outdoors. I got an apartment, pursued financial planning; it was the golden years.”

“The lessons I learned on my journey through that, through that industry, are incredible, valuable lessons,” Tim continued. “I found that there are many ways you can make money. I was the youngest person to earn the CFP designation. And we’re talking like back in the stone age,” he laughed.

“It’s a changed world – nothing like what I did when I entered. The young kids; I don’t tell them about investing or anything else. The financial markets are constantly evolving. Let me talk to you about human beings and human behavior, because that’s what really is the underlying motivation for anything. And once you understand human behavior, which I’m not a professional, but you’ll do better. And I warn them about how greed and other things as they’re young and eager, they may fall victim to their elders in the business.”

This is where Tim credits Hoosac with his success. “I think a lot of its structure. I mean to me, structure is really, really important. It served me well. I didn’t work for a big firm in financial planning. I was with little boutique groups of like one or two guys and an assistant, because it was a brand new industry, so I had to be self-disciplined. They didn’t care if I showed up. It was up to me, you know. You have to be motivated.”

Hoosac also provided Tim with the quiet he craved. “I don’t like big cities and crowds, which is why I love Hoosac; all the quiet moments. As a sophomore I can remember that big, huge tree in front of Wood Hall. That’s all gone, but I remember sitting under that tree during the spring reading James Michener books. I’m a big reader and I wasn’t before. Following college, I started to get into self-help-books, which to me, was a spiritual journey, trying to understand what we do, how we do, and what we do, and stop blaming others.”

As far as advice for current students, Tim echoes what many alumni have said: Don’t take your time at Hoosac for granted. “I don’t know how boarding schools are today. They were the norm when I was young. I don’t know how rare or what percentage the population even goes to boarding school, but I didn’t appreciate it. Initially, none of us did. I learned to really appreciate it.” He added that it’s important to let go of the little things. “Be grateful that you’re there and make the most of it.”

# henry perez a BLESSED life

Despite a difficult beginning, **Henry Perez '76** exudes joy. "Man, I'm doing super duper. We're having a beautiful day over here. So, yeah, I'm doing pretty good."

On his initial impression of Hoosac, Henry said the campus was beautiful. "Imagine a 14 year old inner city kid from the Lower East Side of Manhattan; pure hood coming to this pristine campus. Man, coming up the road and going up a little hill and finding out that I'm going to be living in that little castle up there; it was amazing."

Henry remembered meeting his new roommate for the first time. "A guy named Jay Norton. It was a very powerful first impression. I remember Jay telling me that it was time to go to dinner. And then told me I couldn't go dressed as I was."

Unsure of what was expected, he said, "What do you mean? And he said, no, you've got to wear a jacket and a tie or a turtleneck and a jacket. I didn't know. I didn't know what kind of jacket he was talking about, because I didn't come properly prepared. I didn't have the right stuff. And, man, I mean, Jay, he said, Come here, man, let me help you."

Jay gave Henry one his jackets, a shirt, and a tie. "The only problem was that I'm about five foot three and he's about six feet tall," Henry laughed.

"I was really happy. I remember one teacher, Mr. Harvey Lee; he became a real mentor to me. He was so helpful and loving and kind to me, of course, being in a small little classroom with sometimes three or four students, especially for the math and language classes. It was amazing, just that contact. During that time there were just some really, really good people. Mister Ashton Crosby became another real mentor."

Early in Henry's Fifth Form, his family suffered a tragedy. "My brother was murdered that year in September." He said the feeling of family at Hoosac kept him grounded. One experience made him feel like part of a family. "It was the junior prom and I had a girlfriend, but I didn't have a tuxedo.

Mr. Crosby said, 'Listen, come down to the home farm. I want to show you a couple of things.' And so I went down to the home farm and opened his closet and said, 'Henry, you can have anything you want.' He was short like me and he even taught me how to tie a bowtie!"

"I learned manners there at the school," Henry continued. "I learned how to set a table. I learned how to wait on people. I think the biggest part for me was the spirit of peace. The Deus Regit. I didn't know what that meant, you know, until I learned a little Latin, and the school ode, which I still and I have memorized to this day."

"I will lift up my eyes unto the hill..." Henry smiled. "I loved the chapel services. "I got to learn how to sing out of the book, and I would help the priest at that time to set up the sacraments every day. My time there was amazing, and just started a spiritual foundation in me. It taught me, helped me with my cultural IQ and working with people. That I've carried throughout. I told you next year is 50 years for me, so, you know, I've committed myself throughout those years to working with people. My most recent job (I retired last year), I worked as a counselor in the state prison. I've worked with people; helping them address their problems for about 35 years. I work with the mission out here in Los Angeles. I'm now a pastor in a kind of remote area by Downey, CA, and I've had an amazing life."

Following graduation from Hoosac, Henry attended William Smith College, but left after a few years. "My experience in college there was not really good. I joined the wrong fraternity and got in with the wrong people, and it just kind of sidetracked my life."

Henry required help. He entered a rehab and during his transformation to recovery, he began working his way up. "I started as a student, then an intern, then junior staff, senior staff, assistant director, director, and finally as the director of their training school for 18 years." In total he spent 23 years working in rehabilitation. "From there, I went to



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work for the Los Angeles Mission in downtown LA and I was there for about a little over five years, working with the program graduates and helping them to re enter, you know, reenter society.”

And then Henry did something incredible. “I went back to school. And I spent six years full time back in school. I got degrees in psychology and social services and from there I went to work in the prison system as a counselor for about six years.

What began as a challenge in college flourished into a career based on hope, positivity, and commitment to growth. “Being around people and struggling with some different mental health issues that I had to work through; once I made it through that period, the rest has been great. I’ve lived a really beautiful life. I have two adult kids. My daughter’s 35 and she’s a teacher. She got her master’s degree in education, and my son is a musician in LA.” Today, Henry lives with his wife Emma of 16 years.

Henry said Hoosac was a huge part of his success story. “I still cry when I think about it, you know. I feel blessed. I feel like God intended for me to go there.” Henry said his brother, who died of AIDS from exposure to shared needles, was one of several people who died on his street. “I was the only one who made it out.” He credits the ABC program for providing his Hoosac opportunity. A Better Chance (ABC) was a program founded by three New England prep schools in the 1960s with a goal to promote integration and create opportunities in education for disadvantaged youth. “It likely saved my life,” said Henry.



“Through that, I’ve been able to pass it on. For 40 years. I’ve given my life to helping people, empowering people. That’s who I’ve become. I’ve been in the ministry for 40 years.”

Henry found his spiritual foundation while at Hoosac. “For me, in that period of my life, I was learning to honor God and getting to know God, and to be a man. Be an example. Not everybody has had to come out of my neighborhood and have become the person that I have and my foundation was there. Listen, I had two brothers; they’re both dead. They stayed. I thank God for the opportunity that I had.”

Henry said Hoosac was an inclusive school during his time. “I had to learn about other cultures. When I was in the city, I was part of a majority. At Hoosac, I became the minority ethnically and culturally, but I’ve learned to be open to all people.”

Henry credits men like Ashton Crosby and Harvey Lee, who he called “men of character” and “men of integrity” with his success at Hoosac. “You talk about being Hoosac; those men were Hoosac.”

Henry fondly remembers classmates like Kevin McGuire ‘76 and Seton Ijams ‘75 and others who he looked up to. And today Henry

is heading up a church called The Life Church, where he says, “People can come back to life. That’s a byline at our church... I’ve experienced the blessing and have a beautiful wife, I live in a beautiful home, and I get to be a pastor in a beautiful church. I’ve had a great, great life.”

“I wish that some of my friends that I grew up with had that same opportunity that I had,” Henry concluded. He plans to visit campus with his daughter during the 2026 Reunion and looks forward to seeing many old friends and a family he knows today as Hoosac.







# hot on the **I C E** manny cabral

**Manuel “Manny” Cabral ‘20** said the only difference between his home in Providence, Rhode Island and Hoosac was the population and the hills. “I remember when we passed about western Massachusetts it started to get hilly, which was different from home, but the campus was nice and Tibbits Hall was awesome.”

The up and coming collegiate hockey star saw Hoosac as a great opportunity to hone his skills on the ice. “Looking back now, I think I was taking it a little for granted. I was 18, living, away from family, at a prep school and that’s something that not a lot of kids get the opportunity to do. Our schedule was packed; we played all the top NEPSAC schools, like a lot of schools in Boston, St Sebastian’s and Dexter and Thayer Academy. It was awesome playing those schools. From the practices to the games, it was always so competitive. And I think it definitely helped me as a hockey player as well as a person.”

Manny said the schedule helped him grow academically and in accountability. “We would start our day, you know, just like every other student, we’d have to go to breakfast and then head to chapel. Everyone had to do that. We’d go through our classes, and then after class, we would head to the locker room on campus, pack our bag and hop on those buses over to the rink on that 45 minute drive.”

A few members of the faculty stood out to the young hockey player, including Headmaster Dean Foster and Coach Hoff. “Hoff played a big role in my experience and development at Hoosac. Mr. Foster was an amazing guy. He helped me out a lot. I’m sure he’d say I was a handful for him, but, yeah, I mean, he was there. We went through a few coaches when I was there. I think it was just like finding the right fit, and, you know, so at the time, but Coach Heigl was so helpful for me. He was actually my dorm parent my first year so he was with us all the time. He’s also from the Boston area, so we stuff in common.”

Kevin Robichaud was definitely someone who was on me a lot, but looking back, he helped me out so much. I remember I missed a couple alarms one day, and I think it was like 9am and so I missed breakfast, chapel, all that check in, and maybe my first class, and he walked right into my dorm room was like, What are you doing? Like, you’ve got to get up, you’ve got to get to class. He wasn’t too happy about it. At the time, I was like, come on, like, let me sleep in but it’s just awesome that there are guys there looking out for you. Obviously you pay money to go there, but you know, they’re trying to give you the most



that you're gonna get. Looking back, it helped me a lot.

Following a Zoom graduation during Covid, Manny said he couldn't do much, so he focused on continuing his strength training. "I knew I wanted to pursue hockey, so I was trying to do whatever I could at home to be ready for that. And then when everything started opening up, I went to the North American Hockey League for the Northeast Generals. It was tough that year with Covid so the following year, I crossed the border and I went to Ottawa, where I played for the Rockland Nationals and the Central Canada Hockey League, which is a junior league. I was a lot further from home than I was at Hoosac. It was like seven and a half hours and I lived with a billet family there. That's a family that kind of takes you in as one of their own, and helps you just like a parent would. Even with that, Hoosac helped me with the adjustment because it wasn't my first time living away from home."

Being away from home was just one of many things for which Manny felt Hoosac prepared him. "I learned a lot about time management. When I got to Hoosac, a deadline was a deadline. Obviously, in college, it's very similar. So I've learned time management and prioritizing stuff in the classroom, which is a skill I'm not sure I would have if it weren't for Hoosac. And then obviously hockey. I mean, that's where I started to learn a lot and develop more. I keep progressing on the foundation that was built there and I'm still learning here, but the tips that I learned there are helping me now."

Today, Manny attends Curry College where he plays for the Curry Colonels. At the end of March the team was in attendance at the D3 Frozen Four, hosted in Utica, NY. The Colonels were one of four teams to make it to the finals. In a game against Hobart, the Colonels held their ground, but lost in overtime.

That's not keeping Manny down. "I want to keep playing hockey; to play pro somewhere. I have a whole year to keep developing. I'm getting better as a hockey player, so we'll go from there, but I definitely have goals of playing pro."

He added that he's impressed with the updates to campus since he graduated. "If I could go back and start as a freshman, I would. I keep seeing the improvements. I see the new shooting pad and stuff in the back on campus, and no new buildings and dorms. It's awesome to see it growing. So yeah, if I could, I'd go back right now, but I'm definitely gonna have to make a trip over there soon. I'm super fortunate that I got to experience Hoosac."



*Manny on ice during the D3 Frozen Four at the end of March*

'16

**Julia Kopala '16**, Senior Prefect, has completed her Master's in Social Work from Boston College this past May. While in her graduate program, she worked with older adults with major mental illnesses in a group home setting as her first internship. She coordinated outings such as visits to a local animal farm, the Boston Public Library architecture tour, and a sailing trip on the Boston Harbor. She also provided mental health services to high school students in her second internship. Her favorite moments from working with high schoolers this past year have been ones where growth occurs from her bond with them, really highlighting the trust she has developed with the students. She has since started a full-time position as a Clinician at Step by Step Supportive Services in Brookline, MA, whose mission is "to empower adults who deal with significant mental health challenges to lead enriching lives on their own terms." Social justice and a positive regard for others has always been a passion of Julia's, as a former ESL tutor, regular community service participant, and the charity committee chair at Hoosac from 2012-2016.





# douglas pell

## KEEPING WITH

### *tradition*

**Doug Pell '58** has enjoyed a rich and varied life full of experiences that have shaped his journey, both academically and professionally. Following the death of his father, when he was quite young, his mother relocated the family to Cooperstown, NY, where he attended school through the sixth grade. That summer, as he planned for attending the 7th grade in Cooperstown, he learned his mother had other plans.

"She had other aspirations, so she sent me to Hoosac which got me used to preparatory school life, and then two years later, she sent me off to St Andrews School, in Delaware," said Doug.

While he doesn't recall a first impression of Hoosac, he said he still remembers the faculty well. "I remember all of them. Father Wood, Father Dunkerley, who was, you know, a wonderful man. He used to play movies. We had a lot of silent movies. And he used to play the piano along with the movie. And he was really good at it. I remember Mr. Howard, Mr. Prigge, John Locke. I do remember Mr. Locke in particular."

When asked for his impression of Father Wood, Doug responded, "I actually do not have a memory of actually ever talking to him, but, you know, he was a larger than life presence at the school. I mean, he was the school. That year, 1952 was the first time that students took over Tibbits Hall. He was clearly in the middle of,

shall we say, rescuing and giving Hoosac a new birth. I have memories of him as a minister at the church."

Doug reflected on what it was like then versus several decades later when he returned for a visit. "The dining room at the time was just to the left of the main doors when you come into Tibbits Hall (now the headmaster's office). At 11 years old, I thought, wow, it was a large room with lots of people in it, but it certainly didn't seem that big the last time I saw it. And to think we were a school with just 35 students."

While visiting campus a few years ago, Doug visited what he referred to as "Eight Room."

"I don't know if they use those terms anymore, but if you go up to the second floor of Tibbits Hall and go to the top of the stairs, off to the left, there's a classroom and straight ahead was where Mr. Butcher lived. Turn right, go down the hall. That first door on your left was 'Six Room' because there were six ninth or tenth graders living there. The next room, which is right on the corner, is the 'Eight Room,' where they had eight of us. And, you know, I looked in that room, it was very small when I looked in the room. And of course, I remember it being much larger. Yeah, you go down the whole little father, there's a door to the left, toward the right- that was Mr. Locke's apartment. I have strong memories of all of this."

Some other memories that stood out after more than 70 years included a big fire on the hillside near the pond.

"We were getting ready to go to bed and out the window that's facing towards the lake, the whole ridge-line was covered in the fire. Yeah, it was a pretty serious fire, it didn't get to the carriage house, but it was pretty close. The whole school was out there fighting the fire."

Doug said he can remember Frank Butcher's dedication to the annual performance of the Boar's Head and Yule Log and loved the traditions facilitated by Hoosac School.

"One of the big things that happened every once in a while, Father Wood would announce at breakfast, 'This is a free day,' which meant you could do everything you wanted. Or he would say, 'This is a work day,' which means we go out to do a project. Father Wood was just a larger than life figure. Every spring, he would announce the day that we would have a free day, and we're supposed to make our way to Owl springs where they would roast a full lamb, which was very tasty." Owl Springs was located nearly two miles away from the school. "You had to get there on your own."

Doug, who spent 45 years in the aerospace industry, said he knew early on he wasn't cut out for a liberal arts degree, so following Hoosac, he applied to MIT.

"At the time I was there, the premier courses were physics and electrical engineering," said Doug of MIT. "Electrical engineering was getting the highest salaries, but they required a minimum grade point average, whereas to stay in electrical engineering, you basically maintain a B average. For me, that was challenging. I was a straight C student at MIT, so I looked around and I looked around and aeronautical engineering wasn't a



*Doug Pell began his career at Hoosac just as the school was expanding to the hillside campus we know today. In this photo, Doug and his classmates pose with the brand new Hoosac School bus donated to the school in 1953*



big school at that time, but they were getting good salaries. And I didn't need to maintain any kind of great point. If I could stay in the university; I could stay in the school." Going into aerospace allowed him to receive critical skills deferment during Vietnam. Doug later worked on a number of special projects.

"I cannot talk about some of them even to this day. However, in the first 10 years or so, I first went to work for Douglas Aircraft here in Santa Monica, California; spent three years there, worked on the Thor program for a while. Had a great

range, payload, and a bunch of interesting things. I then went into a series of classified programs which I wish I could talk about because they're very interesting. After that, I spent 10 years working on proposals. After about 30 years, I got a little bit tired of working really hard, so I decided to go into management. And you know, if you're a manager, you need a fancy office, fancy title, and be able to make wise things. So I was able to do that. And when I retired, I was Director of Operations for our division, Director of Programs for our division, and Director of Mission Assurance."



deal of fun working in wind tunnel work, and coordinating wind tunnel testing. That's the first job I ever had. It was a wonderful job."

"When I came to California in 1962, I spent 3 years at Douglas Aircraft," Doug continued. "In 1965, I switched over to TRW and stayed there until retirement in 2007. It was an entirely different culture. I spent 10 years working on Minuteman missile systems in the area of targeting, accuracy,

Today Doug is enjoying retirement and gathers on Zoom with several of his college classmates each month. He said his advice to current Hoosac students is to get along with the program. "You know, over time the responsibility shifts from the school watching you like a protective parent to, You're on your own, Sport." He said this is the approach that made his, and his fellow Hoosac classmates, transition into college a success.

'18

After graduating from Liberty University in 2022, **Logan Cahill** moved to Tampa, Florida, to embark on a new career in the automotive recycling industry. He has been embracing the opportunity to contribute to the family business, while also making strides in the industry.



'68

**Thomas Powell** grew up in western Pennsylvania in the rural eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh. He is a 1968 graduate of Hoosac school and during and following that time was active in the Boy Scouts of America, becoming an Eagle Scout in 1966 and earning the role of Assistant Camp Director at the second largest camp in America at the time from 1967-1970. Tom graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a BA in Technical Theater and later worked as a director and for KPR network as their production coordinator in Kansas. In 1973 he married Debra Karnei. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December of 2023. The couple has three children, Wade (Founder/CEO DigitalBlue), Lori (EL SPED Teacher), and Jennifer (RN/BSN Case Manager) in addition to five grandchildren.



In 1978 Tom was recruited by Motorola as a Sales Rep for business two-way radio sales in South Texas. He later became the Motorola Sales Engineer for Special Products in the southeastern US and the Motorola Mobile Data Project Manager for long haul trucking fleets. In 1995 Tom was recruited by GeoLogic Solutions as a Sr. Project Manager for their long haul trucking products.

Retirement became necessary in 2011 when Tom was diagnosed with cancer. Today he is happily in remission and writes, "I have had a series of major medical issues that have grounded me. I'm finishing my fourth year sending out a daily devotional message (365 days a year) with a different, never repeated Bible verse. I started writing some in 2016 when I was recovering from a near death pulmonary embolism. When I was down hard for many months with COVID, I felt the calling to start writing the devotionals for family and friends."



# RACING *ahead*

My three years at Hoosac were incredible to say the least. The thing I liked most was meeting other students from all around the world and being able to celebrate and experience their cultures. A lesson that I've learned from Hoosac is you get out what you put into anything you do and I feel that in life it's really important to put forth a good effort in everything you do for the best result possible.

In my opinion, what makes a good leader is being approachable. Being approachable is really important because more will be accomplished in any situation if collectively as a group, you feel comfortable sharing information or just how you feel in general.

I believe that there is one quality in a person that stands above the rest and is the most important of all, being genuine. I think that is pretty self explanatory but that is absolutely the most important quality in my mind.

For me, Being Hoosac means to represent. I will always be Hoosac alumni and I do everything in my power to represent myself and the school very well.

My biggest influences while I was at Hoosac were Mr. Foster, Mr. Grant, and Mr. Ryan. Mr Foster and Mr. Grant are two of the most genuine people I've ever met which I explained earlier is very important to me. Mr. Ryan played baseball at a very high level and it was always a good conversation when he explained to me what it truly means to be a professional.

My life after Hoosac has been busy to say the least. I followed my passion in Motorsport and have been very successful to date. My goal in life and racing is to win the Indianapolis 500 like my grandfather, Parnelli Jones in 1963. When I'm not at a track I love golfing and spending time with family and friends. Not only did I receive a great education and make so many great lifelong friendships, I also learned so much about myself and so many life lessons.

*Jimmy Jones '22*





# HOCKEY

## *Where Are They Now?*

**'07** After graduating from Bowdoin College as a two-time All-American in 2011, **Kyle Hardy** went to Europe to start his professional hockey career. "I have played in France, Sweden, Austria, and the UK," he said. "Most recently I have been in Grenoble, France where I have played and lived the last nine years. My daughter and wife are here with me enjoying the French Alps. My wife is now pregnant with our second daughter who is set to born here shortly after the playoffs are done in May. We usually spend our summers in Montreal between seasons, where we enjoy time with family and friends."

Kyle announced his retirement from hockey in March.



**'22** **Molly Dukesharer** earned a spot on the Hockey Second Team All Conference for her efforts during the MASCAC Championship this spring. She is currently attending Rivier University and is a 2023-24 AHCA/Krampade All-American Scholar.





'23

**Lacy Bigelow** is attending Lebanon Valley College where she is studying biology and making a name for herself on the Division 3 Ice Hockey team.

"I'm in my second year, and this season is the best one we've had in franchise history, including most shutouts in a season for goalies, and most wins for the team. We had our first playoff game March 1st! There's a few girls I went to Hoosac with that are in the same league (the MAC) and it makes me so happy to see them!"



'23

**Nina Hudakova** began her degree in sports management at Wilkes University. "I also play for women's ice hockey here. We just won first place in the conference for the regular season and now we are going to playoffs. Also, I'm one of the best scorers on the team!"



'18

**Richard "Richie" Colarusso** is in his final year at Saint Anselm College where he is studying cyber criminology. Colarusso signed a minor-professional deal with the Binghamton Black Bears and later the Baton Rouge Zydeco in the Federal Prospects Hockey League.



'23



Since graduating from Hoosac, **Ashley Gillies** has been pursuing academic and athletics. "I began my first year of college at Stevenson University while furthering my knowledge in the biological sciences field. With the opportunity to study and discover new bacteria-eating viruses called phages, my experience in research increased. Any specific phage found can be used to treat bacterial infections and other diseases globally and can eventually solve the antibiotic immunity issue.

Along with finding and naming these phages, I was able to further my involvement in several types of research by using carbon quantum dots (CQDs) to solve a completely different global issue. Along with a few other peers, we found that CQDs can be derived from green beans and used as detectors to find hard metals in polluted water in any region of the world with access to green beans. In the next few months, this research will be published with my peers' names and my own.

After developing my athletic abilities at Hoosac, I committed to Stevenson, where I played one year of NCAA DIII hockey. After my first year of college, I decided to continue my undergrad years at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. I am currently studying general biology with a pre-dental track in a more rigorous environment while continuing to play ice hockey. In the coming summer, I will be working as a dental assistant at a practice near me to build skills needed in future dental environments. In the next coming years, I will be applying to dental schools in hopes of furthering my dental career."



'23



**Adriana Urban** is currently a sophomore pursuing a degree in fitness and wellness with a minor in nutrition and sports management. "At the moment my team is preparing for playoffs," she said in a recent interview. "We've been practicing and getting prepared to play for the SUNYACS. It's all an exciting experience and I'm looking forward to the best part of the season. I also just got a new puppy. He is a Frenchie mix and his name is 'Bhodi.'"

## alumni update



**Edoardo De Siervo '22** has big news! "I'm excited to announce that I've been selected as the new Head Coach of Falcons FC! It's already been an incredible start. I'm proud of the team's hard work and determination and ready to put in the work, push our limits, and make this an unforgettable season."



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT  
AARON ULLMAN

Aaron Ullman grew up in Port Washington, Wisconsin and later attended college at the University of North Dakota where he briefly studied aviation and mechanical engineering. While in and out of university he took many different jobs including as a derrick hand on workover rigs in the Bakken oil fields, a technician at a Cirrus aircraft factory, a youth hockey coach, and a constituent services representative at a U.S. Senate office.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 2015 with a dual major in Chinese and Economics, Aaron caught the ‘travel-bug’ and accepted a teaching position in Shenyang, China. He took this opportunity to explore China, its neighbors, and teach a wide variety of subjects at international schools for students from across the globe. After serving several years as a lecturer in a partnership program between Oxford Brookes University and the Chengdu University of Technology, he returned to the United States to teach at the Hoosac School.

In addition to teaching, what Aaron loves most about his current position at Hoosac is its cultivating environment that allows students to uncover and pursue new interests. This atmosphere has allowed Aaron and his students form HEART (Hoosac Exo-Atmospheric Rocket Team) to design, build, and launch progressively larger rockets. It has also allowed his students to create the Galactica Astronomy Club and explore the universe by taking advantage of the Proctor family’s Galactica Observatory and telescopic equipment. These resources ensure the only limitations to the scope of these clubs are the limits of our current skills and knowledge. Aaron enjoys leading students in these clubs, because their learning is continuously rewarded with new skills, new sights, and new challenges.



Mr. Ullman is working with Hoosac students on building and firing rockets. He runs the Hoosac Exo-Atmospheric Rocket Team (HEART)

FUTURE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT  
OLIVIA LORENZ '25

Throughout my four years at Hoosac, I have made and lost friendships that could last a lifetime. My best experiences in Hoosac have been with my friends. I have lost some of the friends I have made here, but even the friends I lost, I still had the best years with them and don’t regret any of it. Being at Hoosac can be hard because of how many new people there are every year; however, this, in my opinion, is an opportunity to grow my ability to make friends. I have made new friends every year I have been at Hoosac, and some I will have forever, and others I grew apart from. This, to me, is the best part of Hoosac. I have grown so much as a person through my time here, I have learned how to make friends and have independence. These are lessons I needed and am so grateful to have learned.

I came to Hoosac expecting to spend five years here, but instead I decided to graduate early. This was made possible by my time at Hoosac, and I am truly grateful for it. I am currently 16 years old, however, I am already looking at attending Colorado or Amherst. This summer I plan to ride horses and work.

I have been told I am described as a “good leader,” and at the beginning of my time here, that would have made me laugh, but now I feel self-assured and able to help others. I am a prefect, which sometimes involves leading skills such as helping people find classes at the beginning of the year and giving people any information they might need. I think what makes me a good leader is my independence I have learned while being here. Being able to be independent has allowed me to not feel scared to take charge and not rely on others to be in charge of me. My ability to be a good leader has come from all the challenges and successes of being at Hoosac.

Everyone should have the qualities of being kind and understanding. These qualities are so important because they give you the ability to empathize with others and help them. Being kind and able to help others is the most important quality to create and maintain lifelong friendships. Friendships are what help you grow as a person and succeed in life, if you don’t have good connections in business, you have nothing. Even if you don’t need friendship for business reasons, you also need it for personal reasons like support and love. Everyone benefits from being as kind and understanding as much as possible, as it benefits you and the people around you.

My biggest influences at Hoosac have been my teachers and friends. You have already heard enough about my cherished friendships, but my teachers are also big supporters of my future. My teachers do so much for me, and I have found a kind of friendship with some of them. I am generally loved by my teachers and enjoy learning from them. Every one of my classes has given me something I will use for the rest of my life. One of my favorite teachers is Ms.Graves-Brownell, has been a big influence in my life and has allowed me to write this. I don’t see her as much now, but I have learned so much from her, including, but not limited to, history when I took her class. She is also one of the teachers involved in the History club, where we go on lots of adventures and have lots of fun, and learn something new every time.

My experience at Hoosac is something I wouldn’t trade for anything and has shaped me into the person I am today. I love it here and am so sad to leave, but I am excited for my future and what it will bring.





# MEMORIALS

**Hon. Trustee C. Francis Egan, Jr.** died peacefully on October 31, 2024 at his residence in Portland. He was born May 22, 1937 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts the son of C. Francis Egan, Sr. and Helen (Rohan) Egan. Known as Frank, he earned a Master’s Degree and taught for many years at various schools around New England. He served in the U.S. Navy and later was active in the Coast Guard Reserve. Frank is survived by several cousins, scattered all over the country. Mr. Egan is buried at St. Joseph Cemetery in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

**William “Bill” Carman Jr. ’61** of Mecklenburg passed away peacefully on Nov. 13, 2024, with family by his side. He was born on Jan. 17, 1942, in Ithaca, a son of the late William Carman Sr. and Marion Dempsey Carman.

He Retired as a truck driver for Babcock’s Poultry in Ithaca and was a longtime trustee of the United Methodist Church in Mecklenburg.

Mr. Carman is survived by his son Greg (Heidi) Carman, Daughters Nicole Carman, and Stephanie Edwards, Son Ben (Sarah) Davidson, 8 Grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, nephews Bill (Christine) Stewart and John Stewart and his brother-in-law George Forgette. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his sister Mary Carman Stewart and brother-in-law John Stewart, his Sister Nancy Carman Forgette, and grandson Kooper Carman Stannard.

A memorial service was held in February.



**Peter Suydam Hendrickson ’60**, of Babylon, New York passed away on Monday, February 20, 2023.

**George C. Freeman ’51** of Bennington, VT, passed away peacefully at his home on November 6, 2024. George was born in Albany, NY on January 9, 1931, the son of William and Helen E. (Batholtz) Freeman III.

He received his education in Hoosick Falls, NY and attended Hoosac School. He later attended Carlisle Military School in Bamberg, SC. He was a graduate of Hoosick Falls High School Clas of 1949. Mr. Freeman married the former Shirley Joly oat Sacred Heart Church in Bennington on October 15, 1950.

He was a member of the Hoosick Falls, NY and Vermont National Guard. In earlier years Mr. Freeman was employed in various mills in the Hoosick Falls and Bennington areas as a tool specialist. In 1965 he went to work for Union Carbide Corporation in the tooling department until his retirement on February 1, 1991 from Eveready Battery Company.

Mr. Freeman was a member of the Bennington Elks Lodge #567, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and Moose Lodge #655 in Fourtown, FL. Mr. Freeman enjoyed playing golf and bowling and tinkering with antique engines. He was also a coin collector and enjoyed square dancing and clogging with his wife Shirley. Mr. Freeman also liked catering, a large portion of which was at the Elks Club. Mr. Freeman’s favorite activity was camping with his family.

Funeral services for Mr. Freeman were held in November in Bennington. Mr. Freeman was buried at the Morgan-Towslee Memorial Cemetery in Pownal, VT.



**Michael Bates Mendelson ’90** passed away on Saturday, December 28th, 2024 from pneumonia as a complication from a ten year old bout of Laryngeal Cancer. Born in New York State on July 23rd, 1971. He grew up all over the United States, including Westchester County, NYC, Ft. Myers, Florida, to Mainesville, Ohio. He even spent a few years in Mexico as a child.

Beloved brother of Rachel and Margaret Mendelson; step-brother to Ilsa Quintiere; best friend to Raya Avery. Michael was predeceased by his father, Robert Mendelson,; Mother, Carolyn Harcum; and Step-Mother, Tannya Ramos Mendelson.

Michael was a business owner and real estate investor held in great respect within his communities of Carolina Beach and Wilmington, North Carolina. He was remembered by colleagues and employees with great fondness and held in deep respect. Michael was someone his father and sisters looked up to because he was knowledgeable on many subjects, had a great love of travel and approached his interactions with everyone with a great gentleness and grace. Michael had a sharp sense of humor and never shied away from an opportunity to use it to entertain those around him.

He began his career in NYC in early 2000 in the entertainment business. Which he was very proud of and his love of movies and television were only surpassed by his life-long love of all animals - especially dogs. Photography was another talent which Michael excelled at.

Michael was devoted to his high school preparatory school, The Hoosac School, in New York State. He has served on the School Board since 2019 and had such fondness, not only for his time at the school, but also the deep friendships which he maintained all these years later.

Michael’s kindness, generosity of spirit, and curiosity were displayed in all areas of his life from his relationships with his family, his dear friendships and in his business interactions.

Michael is deeply missed by his family and friends. We mourn him everyday.



*Michael's graduation yearbook photo*



# HOOSAC TODAY

## HOOSAC HOCKEY HOSTS PUBLIC SKATE EVENT

The Hoosac School hockey program recently hosted an unforgettable evening at the Hoosick Falls rink, where members of our boys' and girls' hockey teams had the chance to skate alongside community members. The event was a fantastic opportunity to connect, learn, and create lasting memories on the ice.

From first-time skaters to seasoned players, everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and excitement of the evening. Our student-athletes were thrilled to share their passion for the sport, offering tips, encouragement, and plenty of high-fives along the way.



## MUSIC TO OUR EARS

This year, more than 30 students have been actively engaged in weekly piano lessons with Mr. Tony Lu, keeping him busy while fostering a vibrant musical community at Hoosac. From beginners to seasoned players, students of all skill levels have embraced the challenge of learning and improving their craft.

Their hard work culminated in a special piano recital held during the week of final exams, giving each student a chance to showcase their progress. With many in need of a well-earned study break, the dining hall quickly filled with supportive classmates eager to enjoy an evening of music.

The event was not just a display of talent but a testament to the inspiration Mr. Lu has brought to his students. In turn, they have motivated each other, creating a culture of encouragement and artistic growth within the school.

With enthusiasm for piano lessons continuing to grow, Hoosac's musical future looks brighter than ever.

View the piano concert series here:  
<https://vimeo.com/1068163785>



## HOOSAC MUSIC PROGRAM

Hoosac Music under the direction of Mr. Garrett Derosia has a concert coming up that will highlight eight auditioned songs from soloists, duos, or bands, and two numbers from a strong chorus of 50. The musical genre is Pop of the Past and Present. All Students will work in various roles to put on this production for the school in April and May.

## LAUNCHING INTO ROCKETRY WITH EYES ON THE SKIES

Students of Mr. Ullman had the opportunity to design and print 3D rockets. Said Mr. Ullman of the experience, "Students were encouraged to create efficient rockets, powerful rockets, pretty rockets, crazy rockets, ugly rockets, or outright doomed-to-fail rockets. Boring rockets were prohibited." Mr. Ullman and students started HEART, the Hoosac Exo-Atmospheric Rocket Team this past January to design, build, and launch progressively larger rockets. When they're not launching rockets, students in the Galactica Astronomy Club explore the universe by taking advantage of the Proctor family's Galactica Observatory and telescopic equipment on campus.



## AVIATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The Hoosac Aviation Team provides responsible students the option to learn how to fly an airplane through a part-time flight training program. Both teachers and certified flight instructors instruct students in meteorology, physics, aerodynamics, navigation, flight planning, and most importantly personal responsibility so they may apply these skills in weekly flying lessons. Advanced students who have accumulated sufficient knowledge, skill, and the appropriate amount of flight hours will have the opportunity to eventually earn their Private Pilot License. This team is a great avenue for growing student responsibility, independence, and confidence while developing a skill set matched by very few of their peers.



## PARENT MATCH CHALLENGE

### A HUGE SUCCESS!!

We're thrilled to share some exciting news! A generous Hoosac alum stepped up with an incredible offer—matching every dollar donated by current Hoosac parents, up to \$25,000. And guess what? Our amazing parent community rose to the challenge and exceeded the goal in just four short weeks!

This inspiring partnership between alumni and parents is making a real impact—supporting the programs, field trips, and special events that bring learning to life and enrich the Hoosac experience for every student. Thank you for being part of something so meaningful!



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"The moment we drove onto campus, we could feel the pride of place, steeped in history dating back to 1889 - it was inspiring.

Little did we know that visit would plant a seed in our son's mind, opening his eyes to the possibilities of a Hoosac education. From the day he arrived on campus for pre-season, he met like-minded students from all over the world."

*April Grant, Mother of Cooper Grant '25*

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