

# HOOOSAC

TODAY

FALL 2015

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## A Message from Dean Foster, Head of School



ourselves. Then it is back to alarm clocks and more insistent morning wake up calls by the house parents.

The reason I mention this is that during this window of calm, each of us has a greater chance to stop and reflect on life and all the good that exists in our community. I have never seen so many pictures of the breaking of dawn posted on facebook as I have during this week. I also found opportunity to watch the sun begin its climb over Mount Anthony to the east (my 18-month-old daughter was not fooled by the time on the clock).

A moment of reflection at dawn, a time to take stock of all that has have been given before the tasks at hand require us to direct our thoughts and energy to the immediate. This is a moment when we can contemplate how fortunate we are.

Regardless of Daylight Saving Time, I encourage you to wake up and see the dawn, take some time and think about all that is good in your life, and if you have a spare moment, think about Hoosac. Imagine the sun peaking over the mountains, burning off the fog as it slowly lifts from the lawn in front of Tibbits. See the early movements of the students and faculty around campus, and if you are an alum, hopefully you can picture your own time at Hoosac.

A new dawn is upon us and great things are happening here at Hoosac - be a part of all the wonderful happenings and most of all, stay in touch.

It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming new students to campus, parents and students alike, filled with anticipation and excitement, but the reality is Family Weekend has come and gone, and we are already closing in on final exams. Nearly a full third of the year has passed by and yet we still seem to be as energized as we were on opening day.

As the leaves began to fall from the trees, a yearly event designed to tame time took place, Daylight Saving Time. Spring ahead, Fall back, that curious time of the year when, for about a week, you feel as if you are actually ahead of schedule. That mysterious hour that is transferred from dusk to dawn makes it seem as if the day is yours to conquer. At Hoosac, that seemingly insignificant hour brings about some amazing things.

Breakfast is relaxed and unhurried, chapel is full, well before the start time of 8:00 a.m. Classes move, as they always do, with timeliness and earnest, but the frantic nature of boarding-school life is held at bay for a few days. The fast pace of the student body and the faculty seems to slow, at least until our biological clocks recognize the trick that we have played on



# H. Ashton Crosby, Jr.

By Richard Lomuscio, Former Headmaster

“I first met Ashton when he came to Hoosac as Director of Admission in 1967. He had been teaching at the School under Fr. Blake from 1964 to 1966, then left to pursue a master’s at UConn and teach at the Rectory School. Donn Wright brought him back to Hoosac to become the best admission person ever. Ashton also taught English and directed many plays. He loved teaching students the nuances of acting. I am sure that many alumni from those days remember his plays.

After Donn Wright left for Millbrook, Ashton became Headmaster, one of the youngest in NAIS. I believe he was 30 at the time. From 1970 through 1976 he kept his promise to make Hoosac the best small boarding school in the country. It was an exciting time to be at Hoosac. It was also during that time that he was the force behind establishing the Hoosick Valley Theater Company, involving actors from the community. One summer he had a huge stage construction on the hill in front of the Dining Hall for a production of Brecht’s, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

The students all loved Ashton. He had a manner that could bring out the best in them all, whether discussing *Moby Dick*, playing a role in *Hamlet*, or learning carpentry and electrical work while building sets for all the shows.

Ashton moved from Hoosac to teach English, Latin, and Drama at The Rippowam Cisqua School. He stayed there for a quarter of a century. After his retirement, he led the life of, in his words, an itinerant actor working on plays and films.

Ashton became Chairman of Hoosac’s Board of Trustees in 1985 and remained in that role until 2010 when he retired from that, but remained on the Board. His intelligence, wit, good humor, and charisma left indelible marks on generations of

students. He found the best in all of them.

Throughout my time as Headmaster his help was invaluable. We’ll all miss you, Ashton.”



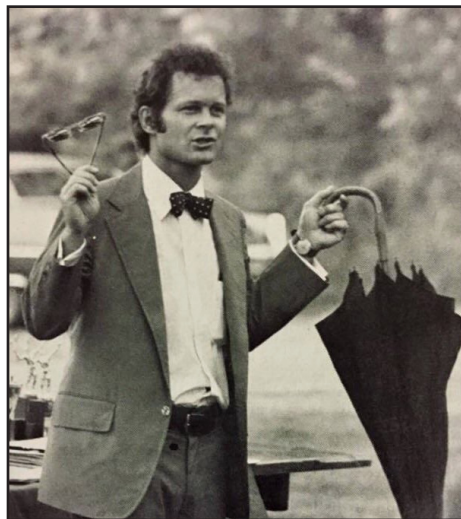
# Ashton

By Edward "Chip" Jarman '73

H. Ashton Crosby was the reason I chose Hoosac over the other schools in New England back in the Winter of 1969. Ashton Crosby was the Director of Admission.

The truth behind Ashton being my reason for choosing Hoosac had little to do with him being a keen salesman, and almost everything to do with his incredible way of connecting with people. And this was evident simply in the fact that a male-only-coat-and-tie-church-school was the last place I ever believed I would want to call my home, or even fit in.

To this day I have held to my memory the very first meeting between Ashton and me, behind those large glass-paned doors to the headmaster's office in Tibbits Hall. The room would have been uncomfortably intimidating to me had it not been for the short, smiling young man that sat across from me, with a binder in his lap and a whimsical look in his eyes. He had no problem making me feel at ease and, without missing a beat, asked me in his calm and collected manner, "So...how do you feel about this place?" And that was all it took. He made that magical connection that I have always assumed Ashton had the gift of making with everyone he ever met.

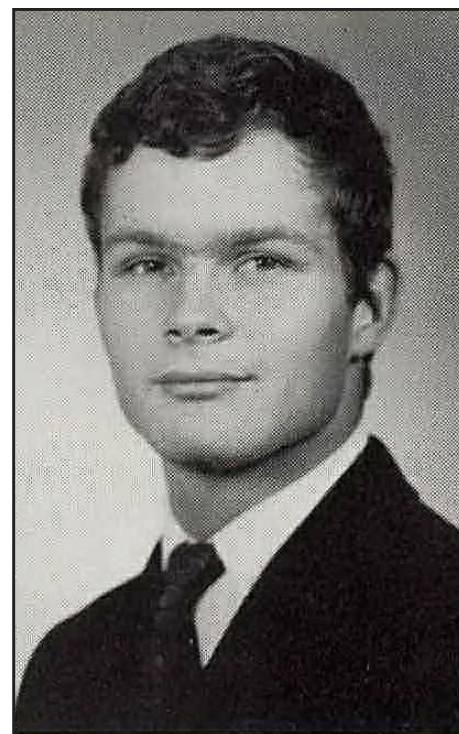


Ashton

Fast forward three and a half years later, and I find the two of us sitting across from each other in the same room, in the same two chairs. Only now he is Headmaster and I, a prefect, am being counseled by him. To this day the incident that put us in that spot will remain confidential, but suffice it to say it was a typical rebellious outburst I had made very public to the student body, out of sheer adolescent confusion. And he, as Headmaster, had to administer some kind of punishment. We were both sad, he was disappointed, and I was ashamed. And we both knew in our hearts why – I had dishonored his trust. The last time we spoke that year was when I shook his hand, he handed me my diploma, and I said thank you.

Twenty years later we finally met again on the grassy hill between Tibbits and Lavino House. It was Alumni Weekend. I was an alumnus, he was a trustee, and we were both much older. A smile of forgiveness was all it took from him for us to both know the connection was still there. We shook hands and began the slow walk toward the dining hall, as he filled me in on the turbulent part of Hoosac's past that the school was just now coming out of. To my astonishment, Hoosac almost had to close its doors and the Annual Boar's Head Pageant almost did not happen.

The year is 2014 and Hoosac celebrates its largest ever 125th All Class Reunion. The campus was at its finest and the class turnouts were off the charts. The Friday night dinner at the Field House was a proud and triumphant moment for Hoosac School, the faculty, the staff, the alumni and their families. Hoosac had done it – the school had not only resurged back into the limelight but had grown in ways many of us never imagined it could. And with a simple nod, a smile, and a pat on the back, Ashton and I said a final goodbye. We



H. Ashton Crosby, Jr.

too had come full circle.

The following were my comments to the news that Ashton had died, which I found out about from a post by Ben Ford on Facebook:

"I am just now hearing of this and I feel like a part of my soul has just fallen out of me. H. Ashton Crosby was the reason I came to Hoosac back in 1969. I had never met someone so captivating, so understanding, and so responsive to who I was. My whole life I have felt indebted to this man simply because I could never thank him enough for welcoming me into the wonderful place called Hoosac. For as long as he was part of our school community, he was our mascot, our mentor, our leader, and our brother. Goodbye, my dear friend. I will miss you deeply."

I never did find the words to thank Ashton for the world he opened up for me. But I think that because of who he was, I didn't really need to. What a great man he was. And what a wonderful gift he was to all of us.

# Remembrances of Ashton

*Anyone who ever met Ashton Crosby came away with a wonderful memory. Shared here with you (though edited for space) are some of those:*

*“He was an incredible human being, caring, calm, with outstanding listening skills. His dedication to Hoosac was well known and needs no further comment. I can speak to his administrative and leadership skills: quiet patience, always listening, weighing all points of view, and coming to a decision which all of us would support. His impact on Hoosac will last forever.”*

**Irving J. Waldman**

*“He was one of my favorite teachers at Hoosac (1967 to 1970). He really made us think and was always getting us to reach deeper into ourselves and be more creative. He especially did this around Christmas and the Boar’s Head performances.”*

**Ralf Boulon ‘70**

*“He was indeed a wonderful human being. Ashton was Director of Admission when my parents were looking for schools for me. They liked him immediately. And of course they liked Hoosac. I always enjoyed talking to Ashton on a variety of subjects - he will surely be missed, but has now joined Maggie Towne. Rest in peace my friend.”*

**Allen Meyer ‘74**

*“He was the first person to receive us in the school in September 1973. I will always remember his first spaghetti dinner at his residence at Hoosac.”*

**Girma Mamo ‘75**

*“He was a great friend and companion. Our life just lost one of its most important branches... his support was what sucked Lee and me into the Hoosac orb.”*

**Lee & Dick Reese**

*“I had the honor of having him as a drama teacher, and perhaps the best Headmaster I’ve been under at Hoosac School! Indeed a gentleman, a trustworthy human being, and definitively a role*

*model. He will surely have a mesmerized audience attending the productions he will be no doubt putting on the stage in the heavens.”*

**- Oswaldo Ozzie Lilla ‘72**

*“He was very inspirational to me even though I only knew him briefly in 1973-74.”*

**Chris Eden ‘75**

*“I was fortunate enough to have Mr. Crosby as my Advisor and English teacher during my sophomore year. He invited my parents to meet with him, to convince them that it would be better for me to move with him to Hoosac for my Junior & Senior years. As it turned out, this was a great recommendation for me. I remember his Shakespeare classes by the fireplace, the page he would carefully write back to us instructing and showing us examples for better grammar and composition, all the plays he directed – like Othello.”*

**Thomas Powell ‘68**

*“I have such fond memories of him and my time (74-75) at Hoosac. Deus Regit and Godspeed.”*

**Jeff Nugent ‘76**

*“He was my teacher, headmaster, director, mentor, fellow board member, and friend. He introduced me to many new aspects of arts and literature, and taught me to believe in myself and my capabilities.”*

**Ben Ford ‘74**

*“A wonderful man and a big influence in my life, he will be missed.”*

**Harold Ochstein ‘74**

*“Ashton was a Hoosac icon and will forever be missed! I feel lucky to have known him.”*

**Jim Walker ‘74**

*“Disappointing him was the worst moment of my life.”*

**Kevin McGuire ‘76**

*“Another beautiful candle has dimmed.”*

**Rich Montgomery ‘73**

*“I am still in disbelief. You were the Headmaster who accepted me as the first girl to graduate from Hoosac. You were at the helm for that very pivotal time in Hoosac history, and in my story. If I could say anything to you right now, it would be ‘thank you’; such a big ‘thank you.’*

*I was only at Hoosac for my senior year; what an incredible gift to have that opportunity as the capstone of my formative years. It was the early 70s. Hoosac was totally current with the times, yet was also holding tight to the formalities that appeal to one’s higher nature. I loved the start of every day at chapel. I loved the old world campus, the codes of behavior and dress, and the importance of learning; the importance of learning scholastically, but also the importance of learning to be a respectful and responsible human being. I look back at Hoosac with many fond memories and much gratitude. Thank you, Ashton Crosby. You will never know how deeply I am indebted to you, and how impacted my life has been by that one, very special year.*

*May your memory be eternal.”*

**Maureen Thompson Phillips ‘73**

*“It was an honor to have known Ashton Crosby as an instructor, mentor, and simply, a friend. The impact he had on my life went well beyond my years at Hoosac. His devotion to the school and to the students, especially those who benefited from his wealth of knowledge, compassion, and sincere dedication, will survive for in our hearts for ever.”*

**Hamilton “Ted” Cammann ‘67**

# Hoosac's Early American Wood Shop

By Jon Horne '68

Upon retiring from Hoosac in the summer of 2011, I traveled to Thailand to be a Buddhist monk. I never anticipated returning to Hoosac. But, as we often discover, life is full of surprises. After a year living as a monk, I returned to Vermont for a brief time, then journeyed to St. Croix, USVI, where I completed a novel. In January of 2013, I decided to visit the Holy Land, and remained there until March 2015. Hoosac's Headmaster, Dean Foster, contacted me in March with an invitation to return to Hoosac and supervise the Early American Wood Shop, created in 2008 with a matching grant from the Ford Foundation. I was pleasantly surprised and immediately accepted his invitation.



*Wood Shop Master Jon Horne '68*

As a younger man, I lived in Weston, Vermont for many years and operated a traditional woodworking shop in a restored 1760 water-powered sawmill museum, established in 1936 as the "Vermont Guild of Old Time Crafts and Industries." At the Old Mill Museum, adjacent to the Weston Playhouse, I made custom Early American Furniture, using hand tools. One of my woodworking passions was making traditional six-board hope chests and jewelry boxes, with hand-cut dovetail joinery and relief carving. In our Early American Wood Shop, Hoosac students are learning the ancient art of dovetailing with hand tools, wood carving, and furniture restoration.



*Ben Adrion '17 works on a box in the Wood Shop*

A primary student project is the building of Hoosac Hope Chests and Jewelry Boxes, which the Headmaster will give as gifts to friends of Hoosac who support the school. Stop by the wood shop and watch students woodworking the old fashioned way.



# Alumni News

**'36-'41 Class Agent, Francis H. Whitcomb '41,** 2278 Centebar Rd., South Albany, West Glover, VT 05875

**Fran Whitcomb** traveled to Hoosac for the Prize Day & Commencement exercises in June. He can be seen here sporting one of the new ties that are exclusive to Hoosac students and alumni.



*Fran Whitcomb*

**'47-'48 Class Agents, Needed.**

**Ramsey Togo '48** passed away April 11, 2015. He had lived in New York City.

**'50-'51 Class Agent, The Very Rev. Raymond D. Brown '51,** 6162 Lazy Man Gulch, Helena, MT 59601. Email: [ray003@aol.com](mailto:ray003@aol.com)

**'52 Class Agent, Needed.**

**'53-'54 Class Agent, Franklin W. Bulkley '53,** 1150 Freddie Ct., Reno, NV 89503. Email: [frankandsal@gmail.com](mailto:frankandsal@gmail.com)

**Frank** emailed in September with class updates.

**Andy Olmsted '52** has broken his foot. It took him a week and the urging of his daughter, Amanda, to get him to have it looked at! Even today – we're still tough!

**Hank Coolidge '53:** **Hank**, a retired Lockheed engineer was able to efficiently dismantle the brake apparatus in his wife, Camilla's, van when it failed – having brought them to a SCREECHING halt. It was only later that

he discovered that the brake fittings worked in conjunction with the accelerator. Free of the brake spring the accelerator spring soon responded! No accident, but a more experienced engineer was born. **Hank** has sent me the following, "Sorry to hear of **Hank Whitfield's** (class of '54) death. I spent a weekend at his place in the early 50s. What I remember best was his 1940 Ford sedan with flaming tail pipes. He had rigged combustion chambers at the end of the exhaust pipes with gasoline drips and spark plugs. He recounted his most infamous moment with those pipes. One night he was upset with a car that had been tailgating, so he turned on his "flames." Needless to say, the local policeman was not amused with his cruiser's scorched front end, nor was **Hank's** father!"

One lovely mountain holiday, the season and rationale long forgotten, two sixteen- or seventeen-year-old Hoosac boys, (**Frank Bulkley** and **Hank Coolidge**) got the bright idea to hitchhike

to Bellows Falls or Brattleboro, VT over Hogback Mountain on the Molly Stark Trail. Okay, not the brightest of ideas, but Fr. Wood had taught us to reach for the stars, or something we had conveniently interpreted to mean the same. At any rate, in a small valley community, somewhere up on the mountain, these two spotted an absolutely beautiful 1936 Cord maroon convertible with a white top, fully retracted, exposing an equally beautiful white leather interior. Furthermore, this magnificent piece of automotive artwork had a hand-lettered sign stating that the car was for sale, \$600... HUH? Needless to say, **Frank** and **Hank** went into the front yard and were being careful not to allow drool to drop onto the car's spotless surface. Shortly, the owner came from his house and asked if we were interested, which apparently was obvious by what we did not say. The owner started the engine merely by reaching in from the outside and pressing the starter button,

resulting in a low rumble of engineering excellence. Unfortunately, neither of us had had anything like \$600 in the accounts with Mr. Green, Hoosac's Bursar, established by our parents. We also knew darn well that none of our parents would support such a hair-brained scheme. Oh well, I guess Fr. Wood's wonderful dream-oriented instruction also included instruction concerning temperance, conveniently forgotten. But it was such a beautiful car - sigh.

**Kerry Payne '53** - "I visited **Kerry** On Whidbey Island (Washington State) in mid-August. We enjoyed a couple of days reminiscing. He particularly remembered the soccer field that ran uphill! I think it was at Buxton. We used to beat them like a drum! **Kerry** took his first selfie. As you can see, there is remarkable little difference between the picture of me in the last *Hoosac Today* and my picture next to **Kerry**! Well. . . maybe a little – I'm on the left.)



*Frank Bulkley '53 and Martin "Kerry" Payne '53*

As for me: Still battling my '65 MGB. It's ahead on bruises 6-1. My wife, Sal, and I saw **Kerry** as part of a trailer trip to Whistler in Canada, where our oldest son, Chris, competed in the Ironman competition. He finished in the very respectable time of 13 hrs. 55 mins. where finishing at all is remarkable! At the conclusion of the race he looked fresher than we did!"

**'55-'56 Class Agent, Charles Rexford '60**, P.O. Box 697, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607

**'57-'58 Class Agent, Paul Rodia '58**, 30 Applegate Lane, Woodbury, CT 06798

**Peter Vilas Hanks '58** died February 16, 2015 after a long illness with leukemia, at age 72. He received a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University. **Peter** was married to Stephanie in 1965 and they were married for 48 years. He worked as an electrical engineer for Draper Labs, and enjoyed windsurfing, scuba diving, and physical fitness. **Pete** was a veteran of the Vietnam War, decorated with a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He and his wife lived in Lexington, MA.

**'59 Class Agent, William Comer, 5650 Eden Roc Lane, Atlanta, GA 30342. Email: bill@comermachinery.com**

**'60 Class Agent, The Rev. Dr. Timothy Parsons, 12 Oak Ave., Norway, ME 04268. Email: timothyprsns@yahoo.com**

**'61 Class Agent, Arthur Rodia, 207 Grassy Hill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06799. Email: ac23rodia@charter.net**

**'62 Class Agent, The Rev. Malcolm Roberts III, 520 Taberna Way, New Bern, NC 28562. Email: mroberts12@hotmail.com**

**'63-'64 Class Agent, Theodore Juraschek '64, 100 Eastbury, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Email: theo\_juracheck@msn.com**

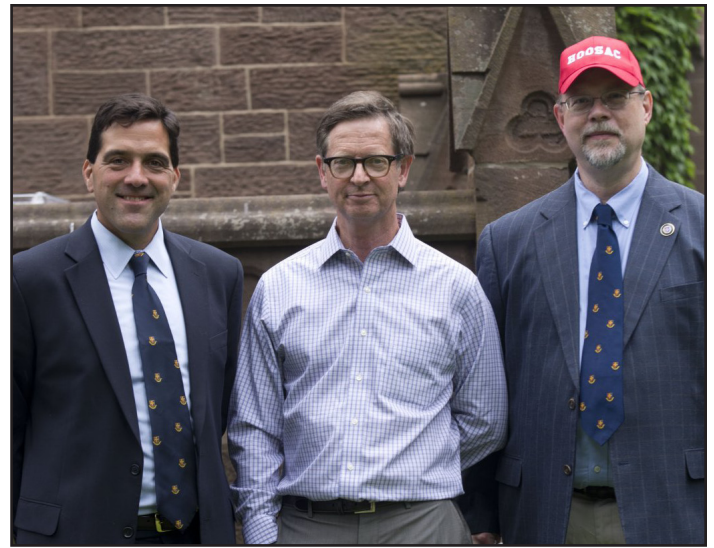
**'65 Class Agent, Needed**  
**'66 Class Agent, Lance Roepe, P.O. Box 111796, Campbell, CA 95011. 207-326-2024. 408-879-9126**

**'67-'68 Class Agent, James W. Millar '68, 160 Upper Troy Rd., Fitzwilliam, NH 03447. 603-585-6444. Email: jim.millar@us.schunk.com**

**'69-'70 Class Agents, Needed.**  
**Jim McCormick '69** wrote in May. "I am a 1969 graduate, living on Block Island, RI. I retired after a career in banking and consulting for health care companies." **Jim's** email is [jimmcc31@aol.com](mailto:jimmcc31@aol.com)

**'71 Class Agent, John T. Ober, 731 Silver Run Valley Rd., Westminster, MD 21158. Email: jtwober@gmail.com**

**'72 Class Agent, David Hoy, 2-101st St., Stone Harbor, NJ 08247**



Headmaster Dean Foster, Will Burden '73 & Ben Ford '74



Alonzo Whitehead '74 with Harold and Margie Ochstein '74



Girma Mamo '75, An Ethiopian American Pioneer who started out at Hoosick, NY in 1973 - some 42 Years Later







Geoffrey "Jade" Barrett '78" shows groups of Hoosac students bridge strategies.



George Verschoor '78 and colleagues from his show Home Free



Dr. J. Toby Mordkoff '82, class agent

**'73 Class Agent, Richard Montgomery**, 154 Samara Dr., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702. Email: [rmontgomery211@gmail.com](mailto:rmontgomery211@gmail.com)

**William H. Burden** visited campus on the weekend of Prize Day & Commencement. **Will** toured the campus and attended the ceremonies, catching up with former classmate, **Ben Ford '74**.

**Chip Jarman's** email address is [JulianMountainRV@gmail.com](mailto:JulianMountainRV@gmail.com)

**'74 Class Agent, Philip Smith III**, P.O. Box 944, Far Hills, NJ 07931. Email: [phillarymgmt@aol.com](mailto:phillarymgmt@aol.com)

**Harold Ochstein** and his wife, Margie, had lunch with Hoosac School buddy and classmate **Alonzo Whitehead** at the Space Needle in Seattle WA. He says, "It was pretty cool to see him after 40 years!" **Alonzo** says, "The years melted away with good food and great conversation. I haven't seen him since 1975! Did I say AWESOME!?! I'm looking forward to visiting them in Florida!" **Alonzo** lives in Seattle and **Harold** lives in South Beach, FL.

**'75 Class Agent, Seton Ijams**, 311 E. 71st St., Apt. 5H, New York, NY 10021. Email: [sijams@aol.com](mailto:sijams@aol.com)

**Girma Mamo** wrote in April, "I currently live outside of Boston, MA in a town called Randolph, with my wife of 37 years, Edwidge. We have two kids, Jeremiah, 30, and Grace, 25. I work with Choice Hotels as an Auditor. In addition, I do independent exploring when I

get time, and I volunteer once a week at a local monastery. My hobbies are film, music, sports, art, and photography. I thank God Almighty for keeping me healthy and well. If I get a chance I will try to visit Hoosac. Hope all is going well."

**'76 Class Agent, Craig Kanner**, 17 Gage Rd., Brewster, NY 10509

**'77-'78 Class Agent, Matthew McCormick '78**, 743 Lincoln Rd., Otsego, MI 49078

**Geoffrey "Jade" Barrett '78** wrote in May, "Headquartered in Elk Point, SD, *Tournament Bridge Services, LLC* is the largest provider of professional services to the world of bridge, from working with the individual competitor to consulting with World Championship organizers, and every level in between. Operating the Great American Bridge Tour, the company has performed in every state in the Union, as well as seventeen countries. We proudly compete for our favorite charity as Team Heifer USA in many events ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)) as well.

With twenty-seven well qualified professionals on staff, TBS participates in over a hundred tournaments each year, providing exceptional education, training, and performance for players at all stages of development. Chairman and Team Leader, **GS Jade Barrett** and Lead Player, Karen Lee Barrett have been participating in tournaments for over 45 years, winning countless championships, as well as coaching and captaining JR

teams that included 37 future World Gold Medalists and North American Champions. As a well-known author, lecturer, and radio voice with over 5 million listeners, **Jade's** Bridge Road Warriors series can be read at [csb-news.org](http://csb-news.org) in both English and Spanish, while America's Dining and Travel Guide with Pierre Wolfe and **Jade Barrett** can be heard on [Biztalkradio.net](http://Biztalkradio.net) and [www.pierrewolfe.com](http://www.pierrewolfe.com). **Jade** recently spoke at Hoosac about bridge, and students enjoyed a chance to play the game. He also, along with **Jon Horne '68**, took students to Heifer International in Rutland, MA. Hoosac students support Heifer as one of their charities.

**Gordon Keen '78** wrote in September. "I have a beautiful place in Cornish, ME, and when I'm not there, I can be found on a tug boat in NYC, of which, I am the captain." **Gordon's** email is [offsholife@aol.com](mailto:offsholife@aol.com).

**George Verschoor '78** lives in Los Angeles, CA. His new project on Fox Broadcasting is called *Home Free*. Premiering in July, the program renovates eight houses for eight families. George is an executive producer.

**'79 Class Agent, Needed**  
**'80 Class Agent, Fred Wright**, 659 Ridgehill Dr., Orange Park, FL 32065

**'81 Class Agent, Michael Rider**, 3 Nob Way, Lowell, MA 01852



**'82 Class Agent, Dr. J. Toby Mordkoff**, 11 Wildberry Ct. NE, Iowa City, IO 52240

**'83 Class Agent, Lizzette Hayes Winters**, 2044 Alycia Way, Pleasant View, TN 37146. Email: [LHlights@aol.com](mailto:LHlights@aol.com)

**'84 Class Agent, Wanda Wrzenski Williams**, 4900 Mystic Oak Dr., Browns Summit, NC 27214. [wkawilliams@juno.com](mailto:wkawilliams@juno.com)

**Shayne Williams** says, "I am currently living in Bennington, VT. After being an artisan bread-baking production manager in six different states for 20 years, I am currently running a computer store with my brother here in Bennington."

**'85 Class Agent, Austin P. McGrath III**, Park Ave., Cohoes, NY 12047. Email: [grandablesiding@nycap.rr.com](mailto:grandablesiding@nycap.rr.com)

**'86 Class Agent, Bryan T. Green**, 7909 Whitebridge Glen, University Park, FL 34201. Email: [bgreen@hhmin.org](mailto:bgreen@hhmin.org)

**'87 Class Agent, Needed**

**'88 Class Agent, Marbie Parshall Tarburton**, 4493 Cedarwood Dr., York, PA 17402. 717-751-6861. Email: [marbis@aol.com](mailto:marbis@aol.com)

**Tom Sullivan** and his wife, Geraldine, live in Branford, CT. Tom works as the Hotel General Manager at the Water's Edge Resort & Spa. He graduated from Johnson & Wales Univ. after leaving Hoosac. His wife works at Yale, and they have a 16-year-old son, Jake. **Tom's** email is [thomasjsullivan@live.com](mailto:thomasjsullivan@live.com).

**'89 Class Agent, Janet Stiegman Fellows**, 2360 Brace Rd., Canandaigua, NY 14424. 716-394-7211. Email: [janetjfellows@yahoo.com](mailto:janetjfellows@yahoo.com)

**'90 Class Agent, Kevin A. Backus**, 23323 Liberty St., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080. Email: [captkevin@mrmuskiecharTERS.com](mailto:captkevin@mrmuskiecharTERS.com)

**Oman Frame** lives in Atlanta, GA with his wife, Naimah, and two daughters. **Oman** was cited in an ION television segment *Everyday Heros* for his work on race, gender, and class. He teaches 7th and 8th grades.

**'91 Class Agent, Karl A. Sessler, Jr.**, 4517 Foxcroft Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32309

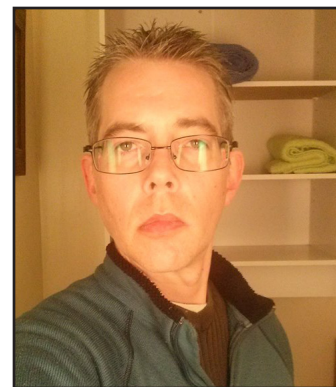
**Jonathan Jay Frost** lives in Wellington, FL, and works at Poiesis Medical LLC. You can find **Jay** on Facebook.

**'92 Class Agent, Kendall Klein Munzer**, 2204 Dewees Creek Dr. Mt. Pleasant, SC. 29466 **Kendell** recently moved and says, "We are loving it here! Five minutes from the beach, 15 from downtown Charleston!"

**Amy Sagalkin** lives in Falls Church, VA and is engaged to Keith Zukowski. **Amy** is Director of Program Eval. & Planning at the Admin. for Native Americans.

**'93 Class Agent, Kristin Norton Anderson**, 172 Todt Hill Rd., Staten Island, NY 10314

**'94 Class Agent, Jaime Campbell Hudak**, 358 Broadway, Ste. 201, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Email: [jchudak@criteriuminc.com](mailto:jchudak@criteriuminc.com)



Shayne Williams '84



Jonathan "Jay" Frost '91



Amy Sagalkin '92 and fiancée, Keith



Gretchen Heath '97



**Eric Berman** is an attorney in Baltimore, MD. He and his wife just had a baby girl in May. They live in Ellicott City, MD.

**'95 Class Agent, Crystal Allen**, 4068 South Washington, Englewood, CO 80113. Email: [all4cailin2000@gmail.com](mailto:all4cailin2000@gmail.com)

**'96 Class Agent, Nick Johnson**, 9 Broadview Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804

**'97 Class Agent, Carlos "Cheech" Quinones**, 1269 Bonheur Dr., St. Louis, MO 63146

**Gretchen Heath** is self-employed and lives in Bristol, RI.

**'98 Class Agent, Jeff Urquhart**, P.O. Box 926, Wolfeboro Falls, NH 03896. Email: [yugecin79@gmail.com](mailto:yugecin79@gmail.com)

**'99 Class Agent, Kelly Price-Bayliffe**, 4092 Ashton Club Dr., Lake Wales, FL 33859. Email: [info@tastour.co.uk](mailto:info@tastour.co.uk)

**Richard Modecki** wrote in June, "After nine years in Japan, I am back in the U.S., and back in my hometown, outside of Washington, D.C. I am now half-way through a two-year MBA program at Georgetown, and I am now enjoying what I am sad to realize will be my last summer break ever! I am engaged and the wedding will be this winter in Hawaii." **Rich** is at [slackjaw3@gmail.com](mailto:slackjaw3@gmail.com).

**Jay Park** lives in Seoul, Korea and is Co-Founder and Chief Content Officer of *IDayISong*. He studied music at Berklee College of Music.

**'00 Class Agent, Christine Donovan Dobson**, Email: [ilovegroams@yahoo.com](mailto:ilovegroams@yahoo.com)

**'01 Class Agent, Jontia Jones**, P.O. Box 319, Selkirk, NY 12158

**Tristan Burns** works at the Wild Oats Market in Williamstown, MA. He recently attended Cheese Camp at The Cellars of Jasper Hill in the Northeast Kingdom in Vermont. **Tristan** is the Wild Oats cheese buyer.

**Yuti Dalal** wrote to Headmaster Dean Foster in October. She says, "I was just blessed with a baby girl two months ago!" **Yuti** and her family live in Mumbai, India.

**'02 Class Agent, Lea Taubinger**, 416 Ocean Ave. #3 Melbourne Beach, FL 32901. Email: [lea\\_taubinger@hotmail.com](mailto:lea_taubinger@hotmail.com)

**'03 Class Agent, Needed. Mark Carragher** was named to the Hall of Fame for all-time leading scorer (hockey) at the University of Southern Maine. **Mark** is from Prince Edward Island, Canada.

**Lauren Ehrlich** writes, "I have been working as a private nanny in NYC for the past 4 1/2 years now, with an amazing family that I adore! In July, I got engaged to my best friend and we are busy planning our July, 2016 wedding. Life is good!!"

**'04 Class Agent, Whitney Kelly**, P.O. Box 9, Hoosick, NY 12089. Email: [whitneynvk5985@aol.com](mailto:whitneynvk5985@aol.com)

**Kelly Fanch** was married in June to Ben Broder. They honeymooned in St. Lucia, and live in Denver, CO.



Eric Berman '94 and his wife with baby, Evie



Mr. and Mrs. Ben Broder (Kelly Fanch '04)



Christina Valkovich Magliaro '08 and Payton

**'05 Class Agent, Laurel Del Rosario**, 193 Church St., Hoosick Falls, NY 12090. Email: [laureldelro2@hotmail.com](mailto:laureldelro2@hotmail.com)

**Laurel Del Rosario** was married Sept. 19 to James Weeden in Hoosick Falls, NY. **Laurel** is a nurse.

**Jeremy Wilson** can be found on Facebook. He says, "I have received the gold award in Editorial from the Society of Illustrators West, for the 54th annual for my painting, *Thin Blue Line*. This year has been incredibly tough for me and a big transition so it's wonderful to close the year with something like this. I also received an Honorable Mention in the Advertising category for my work with Jon Schindehette on *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, which was a limited-edition poster for Art Order." **Jeremy** lives in Richmond, VA.

**'06 Class Agent, Amanda Fleming**, 2514 London St., Los Angeles, CA 90026. Email: [amandamary.fleming@gmail.com](mailto:amandamary.fleming@gmail.com)

**Jamy Lapointe** was married in June 2015 to Daphnye Knotmey.

**'07 Class Agent, Blake Boyer**, 13 Bassett St., Taunton, MA 02780. Email: [hoosachockey1@yahoo.com](mailto:hoosachockey1@yahoo.com)

**'08-'09 Class Agents, Needed.**

**Christina Valkovich Magliaro '08** is married with a three-month-old son, Payton. They live in Houston, TX.

**'10 Class Agent, Jed Jones**, 428 Schenkar Rd., Pownal, VT 05261. Ph: 802-823-5074

**Jennifer Freeman** wrote in June, "I went to college in Newton, MA at Lasell College, and graduated with a BS in Sports Management. I then moved to south Florida last year to get my MBA at Lynn University, finishing in August. I just received my first full-time position in professional sports with the NHL Florida Panthers as their sales associate. I'm very excited to be in professional sports." **Jennifer's** email address is [jlfreeman14@yahoo.com](mailto:jlfreeman14@yahoo.com).



*Jennifer Freeman '10*

**'11 Class Agent, Needed**

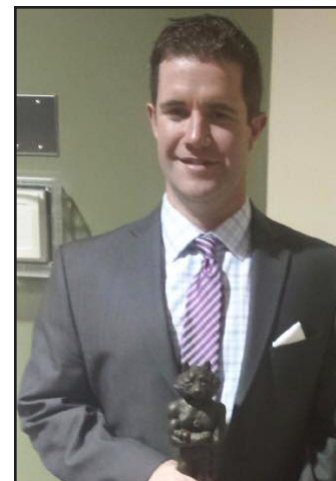
**'12 Class Agent, Patrick (P.J.) Lepage**, 214 Grassy Lake Rd., Whitefish Ontario, Canada P0M 3E0. Email: [pj\\_ryde@hotmail.com](mailto:pj_ryde@hotmail.com)

**'13-'14 Class Agents, Needed**

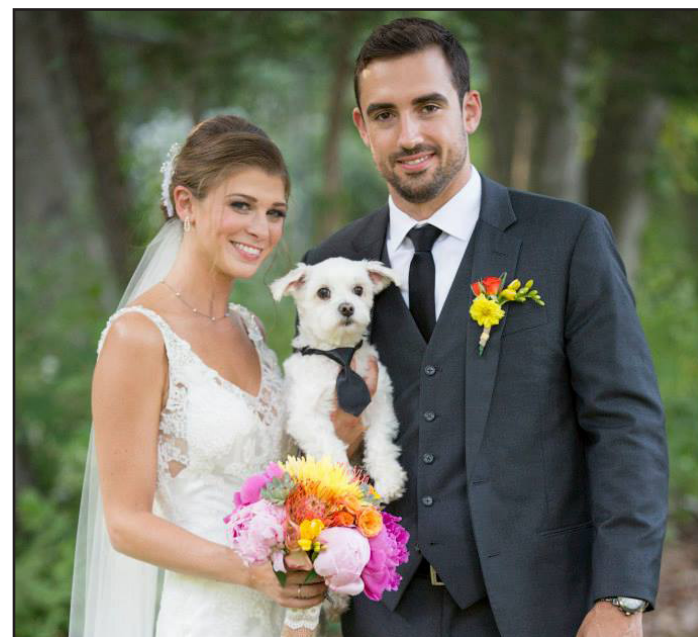
**'15 Class Agent, Anthony Kelly**, 207-18 Melissa Court, Bayside, NY 11360



*Laurel Del Rosario '05 and her husband, Jim Weeden*



*Mark Carragher '03*



*Mr. and Mrs. Jamy Lapointe '06*

## Jeremy Wilson '05 Creates Magic!

Jeremy has been chosen to illustrate a card for the **Magic the Gathering** collectible game cards. This is an honor reserved for a select few. Jeremy's card is in the set called *Battle for Zendicar*, and his character is a soldier named "Kor Ally." The card has been found in other languages such as Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Russian.



*Wizards of the Coast*

# "Snowmageddon"

## The 1987 Snow Storm

**Bruce Merrill '91** began a remembrance on Facebook that "snowballed!" **Bruce** was recalling October 4, 1987 when he was a student at Hoosac and the northeast experienced a major power outage. An early-season heavy snow fell on foliated trees causing widespread power outages for an extended period.

Hoosac, with a student body from all over the world decided to keep students on campus. Here are a few remembrances of that time:

**Bruce** says, "It was kind of a weird anniversary for me today. On this day in 1987 in New York State, a snowstorm surprised the region and dumped over a foot of snow. Due to the fact that all the leaves had not dropped, the trees were falling all over the power, phone, and cable lines. The entire region was declared a federal disaster area. Needless to say, we were stranded at Hoosac. We made the best of it in those days, but my best memory is of the blanket parties in Lavino on the first night of the storm. We stayed there due to the fact that they had a huge fire place. The first full day I think we got out of school, but after that we went to classes while the area public schools were closed up tight."

**David Hicks '89** wrote, "I remember we did not have power for almost a week. I remember the stinky bus

trip to Williams College for showers, and the trees bent over the road like a tunnel of ice-covered branches. We made do - doing homework in the dining hall by lamp light."

**Janet Stiegman Fellows '89** said, "I remember doing homework by lanterns in the dining hall and taking showers at Williams College. It is definitely a memory for the records! That feeling of the first shower in days at Williams. . . Ahh! Never felt so good!"

**Cliff Ashley '88**, "I remember waking up that Sunday morning in Wood Hall and being wicked surprised to see the snow. That was a very physically-tiring stretch of days for me, as I and a bunch of other students helped the maintenance crew clear roads and paths of downed trees, and then cut up and chop all the wood. I remember missing my pre-cal class in that corner classroom in Memorial, and waving to my classmates as I went past in the maintenance pickup truck. 104 total hours without power on campus is a long time! I crashed by the fireplace in Pitt Mason."

**Bob Burns**, who many remember as their history teacher, and who is a retired administrator, recalls, "I woke up that morning wondering if I should mow the lawn once more before winter set in. It started to snow and continued to snow

until it was about 26 inches. **Tristan ('01)** was making a snowman in the front of the house when a large limb came crashing down about twenty feet away, complete with the power lines. Rushing out and scooping him up before he managed to touch the lines, I came back into the house and watched it snow. The next morning I called the school but could not get through. So I set out to see what was up at Hoosac. I got onto Route 346 in Pownal, VT and was told the road was closed because of downed lines and trees all over the road. I went back home. The following morning, I started out for the school again and was able to get there, but it was only one lane of highway. The campus was quiet except for the sounds of a chainsaw. **Robbie Sweet, Chip Puppolo, and Tommy Sullivan (all class of '88)** were cutting up the black locust trees that had fallen everywhere. I had to park at Crosby Art Center and walk in. **Robbie** came over and said 'Burns, give me your truck keys.'

Arriving at Tibbits, it was completely silent. I went to my office and sat at my desk. Instinctively, I proceeded to make some phone calls, but there was no dial tone - nothing. Maggie Towne was in her office with the Yule Log candle lit on her desk, sewing Yule Log costumes. We had classes, but moved

them around to rooms with sunlight and/or fireplaces in them. **Rob Sweet '88** drove back to his home in Warrensburg, NY to bring back a large truck with wood scraps from his grandfather's lumber mill, to use in the dorm fireplaces.

We ate what thawed out in the freezer first. Some very strange combinations, but we had food and could cook because of the gas stoves. Later we took the bus over to the athletic showers at Williams College to clean everyone up. At the end of each day my truck would be full of students begging me to take them home with me. Even faculty members promised to be my best friend if I would bring them home with me.

We made it through and some of the time it was almost fun. It showed the best side of people to share in helping out where it was needed. For one short period of time, we were all on the same page." - NAL



# An Inspiring Teacher of the 1960s

By Scott von Stein '65

We always called him “Riffie” behind his back. Usually affectionately. You did NOT want to mess with the guy if you got in trouble, and he could have a temper. He taught English, and was the Choir Master, conducting and playing piano quite well. I think he majored in English and Music at Yale. Always well dressed, critical, and sharp witted. If he gave you a compliment, which was rare, you could take it to the bank.

Mr. William Reifsnyder was such a fantastic English teacher. He had us diagramming sentences ‘til we nearly cried, and we studied all of Shakespeare’s works. He focused frequently on the theme of the “Tragic Hero.” Things you couldn’t really appreciate at a young age, but learned. He made us memorize and recite many famous Shakespearean sonnets in front of the whole class. He even had us composing our own English sonnets in “iambic pentameter.” (I still remember mine, I think.)

I sang for him in the choir almost every day. He was very critical and demanded perfection. We were a strong choir - great music. He was a very disciplined and inspiring guy. I loved and truly respected him. He was also our first wrestling coach, and directed some student plays such as *Mr. Roberts*, which were a lot of fun to produce. (I produce and direct shows today. Not really because of him, but maybe because I knew I could if he could.) He was inspiring to watch, and very patient.

He would sometimes rent movies on Saturday nights, using a big mechanical projector and screen. Movies slightly more mature than we would see otherwise, like the classic *On the Waterfront* with Marlon Brando. He drove a black Triumph convertible (TR3), which was a pretty fast car in its day. Father Blake, by the way, drove a classic red Daimler convertible. (Today I drive a 1969 Mercedes 280SL convertible, also a classic.)



Scott von Stein 1965

As Assistant Headmaster he was in charge of discipline. He was good at it and commanded respect. You didn’t mess with him, and you never ever called him by his first name; not ever. I can just hear him “blasting” at me when I got into minor infractions which were normal and frequent. Short version: “Mr. von Stein!!! I am sick and tired of your insubordination! Your levity does not amuse me, and your vanity appalls me. If you can’t keep a civil tongue, I shall be forced to take far more serious disciplinary measures! Is that clear young man? Are you sure?” This is the very short version. By now I was trembling, or at least he had my full attention.



Scott von Stein speaking at Prize Day

## The Red Bench

When you had some minor disciplinary infraction at Hoosac, usually for saying or doing something un-gentlemanly like, you were sent to the “RedBench”, or as they said: “Go to the Red Bench!”

It was upstairs on the second floor in Tibbits Hall, just outside what was then Mr. Reifsnyder’s office. It was, in fact, a red bench, about 5’ long, red cushion, etc. (I wonder where it is?)

There, you sat alone, you were in “Detention” usually awaiting a blistering tongue lashing, and/or extra job duty. I still remember getting read the “riot act” from Mr. Reifsnyder as a result of something I did, or said, mostly in good fun, (or at least I thought so at the time).

Needless to say, anyone who was anyone at Hoosac spent a little time on the Red Bench! It wasn’t exactly fun, but you weren’t considered normal if you weren’t involved in some minor infraction over the years.

Of course, if you did something really bad, you got kicked out, and we always had one kid each year that got the boot. Always for good reason. The Red Bench was just a warning, and we all loved Mr. Reifsnyder, but really feared his tongue lashing. I once did a near perfect “imitation” of him blasting some student, and he was standing right behind me! It was a lot of fun.

So now you know the history of the





# Hoosac Owl Society

Make Hoosac Possible!

Become an Owl Society member for  
2015-2016 with your gift of \$1,000  
or more.

64 members last year!

Thank you for supporting our school.

## 2015 – 2016

## The Meredith B. Wood Scholarship Fund

The Meredith B. Wood Scholarship Fund was begun in 1999, spearheaded by Keith Adams '54, with \$5,000 seed money provided by John Pulsifer '54. Keith served as Chairman until he became ill in 2008; John passed away in 2011. Hoosac remains grateful to them and the loyal alums who give to strengthen the scholarship fund. Currently chaired by Gerald Guild '55 and David Bliss '54, the Fund continues to grow and help our current students.

In the words of our 2015-2016 scholarship recipient, IV Former Ms. Daisy Perez:

“Well, let us get one thing straight: going up to receive this award, I had no idea what I was getting. I just heard my name and there I went, limping up (due to my knee injury) to receive it. I later learned from Ms. Klein about who the award was in memory of, and why. I looked at the award differently when I got home that day. As I heard the story of this wonderful person, Father Wood, who believed in education and helped so many students' lives, I realized that to have been given a chance to learn in a friendly, loving environment is one of the best feelings to have. I cannot express how grateful I am to continue

my journey at Hoosac, and to know that I am one of the followers of Father Wood's beliefs. I live to be happy and to have a great education and I thank all who have made this scholarship possible.”

If you would like to support *The Meredith B. Wood Scholarship Fund*, please contact the school at P.O. Box 9, Hoosick, NY 12089, or call 518-686-7331. Our students appreciate your support!



*Daisy Perez '18, and Headmaster Dean S. Foster*

**The H. Ashton Crosby, Jr. Memorial Challenge** has been started with an anonymous \$10,000 donation.



**Help us continue to make opportunities possible for our students! Send your gift today to Hoosac School at P.O. Box 9, Hoosick, NY 12089, or go to our website - [www.hoosac.org](http://www.hoosac.org) - where you can contribute online.**

## Hoosac Around the World

By SCK

One visit to Memorial Hall with its flags from around the world as ceiling decor evidences the many countries represented by Hoosac students over the years. And now, due to worldwide web capabilities, it is possible to find and re-connect with many of those alumni using methods such as Facebook and Twitter.

As integration of students from across the globe has increased, so has the research about it. Research from the National Study of Student Learning indicated that a strong connection to critical thinking accompanied a willingness to accept diverse backgrounds. Common sense says that life experience shapes our judgements of others. Here at Hoosac, a life experience is gained that cultivates good citizens of the world and an ability to approach all

individuals with respect, regardless of nationality, language, race, sex, cultural or religious backgrounds.

This year at Hoosac, an educational experience is shared by young people from thirteen countries: United States of America, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Georgia, Korea, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, and Turkey. The air is filled with the music of languages from different lands, even as they all aim to master the speaking and writing of English. This diversity contributes to a rich environment for teaching, learning, and developing intellectual outlook, and it promotes respect and appreciation for cultural differences. It is a blend that may initially separate and challenge, but it speaks of a powerful social progress with global reach.

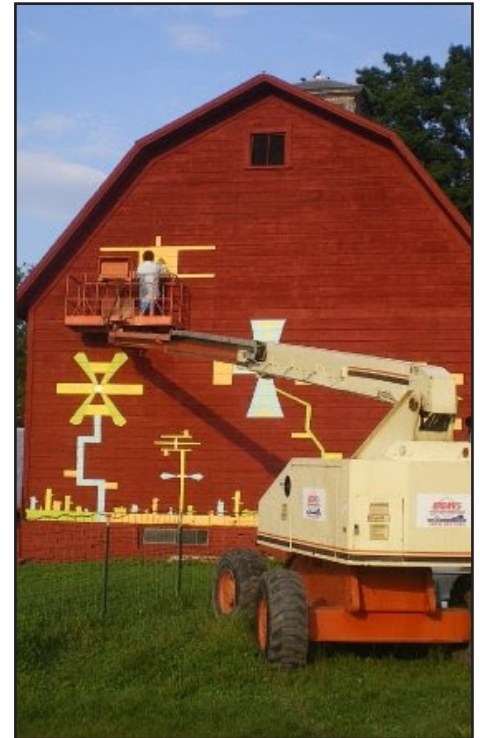
## Fall Term Art Classes

By Jason Jansen

Studio Art classes for the Fall term are focusing on the elements of value, form, and texture. Students are learning how these elements interact with each other, when to focus on one element over the other, and how to combine the elements to show a strong contrast in their charcoal and graphite self-portraits.



Other than daily meals, many functions are enjoyed in Memorial Hall. Pictured above is our Annual Founder's Day celebration with an auction. We also hold three performances of the Boar's Head and Yule Log there, the Bleeze Banquet, and the Eucharist service, which is part of Prize Day and graduation.



Art Director, Jason Jansen, is a muralist, and is shown working on one of his passions, painting a mural on a barn.



# Pastime Passions of Those Who Teach

By Sherri C. Klein

In a school such as ours, learning has always been enhanced by the extracurricular interests of its faculty. The interests, pastimes, and the accompanying enthusiasm complete the portrait of each teacher. As contagious as laughter, a passion for the whole of life is demonstrated, often inspiring students to broaden their own experiences. That notion of “the whole student” was incorporated into the mission of Hoosac School since its beginning.

Mr. Mather loves to travel. He has focused on South East Asia and has been to Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore, to name a few.

Ms. McLenithan enjoys karate, traveling (Ireland), and raising goats & llamas on their Happy Kids Farm.

Ms. Beaudette – the great outdoors, even scuba diving.

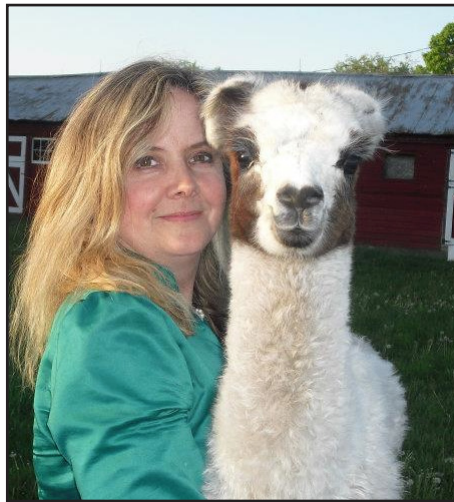
Mr. Robichaud (newly married and our Dean of Students), aspires to become an ADK 46-er!, hiking the 46 high peaks of the Adirondacks.

Mr. Jansen, our Art Director, is a muralist at heart.

Mrs. Wilson enjoys golf, music, and traveling.

Ms. Stulz loves to curl up with a good book, especially thrillers!

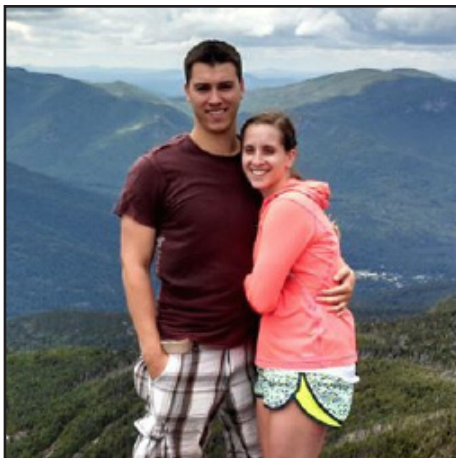
Ms. Foster, our Latin teacher, loves Greek drama.



*Peggy McLenithan is shown with one of her llamas.*



*Tyler Mather in Cambodia.*



*Kevin and Lauren Robichaud hike the Adirondacks.*



*Anita Wilson recently visited Venice.*

Mr. Gary Rabinowitz is a rock music enthusiast who loves to write. Here is an excerpt from his piece entitled “A Miniscule Ode to Kafka.”



“In the world of team sports, transition is of paramount importance. Progressing from defense to offense must be fluid, precise, and instantaneous. If there is one minor gaffe or hitch, the consequences are often calamitous. Teams that are attentive to detail, possess a high skill level, and can execute with a mode of consistency strike swiftly, and with deadly accuracy. There is a beauty to the transition game that strikes any observer as a delicate science. A choreographed boogie down that often leaves the opponent befuddled and the spectator awe struck. Wouldn't it be gratifying to pursue a life transition as if you were the 2013 Chicago Blackhawks? Handle change as deftly as Patrick Kane accepts a pass from Duncan Keith? Change? Transition? Minimizing? Love, death, changing jobs, additions or subtractions of people and things all cause blips on our radar. A little self-mercy on our emotional well-being goes a long way in preserving sanity. Change arrives through any door it chooses to barge through. A friendly knock at the front door or a fierce and inhuman detonation at our back door. Either way, we are strong and adaptable and are capable of forcing the entity of change to beg for leniency. We may lose a limb, some semblance of prudence or even a few ticks on the clock in the process, but we not so gracefully plow forward.”

## New Science Faculty

Ms. Aimee Beaudette holds a BA in Environmental Science & Biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. Her studies abroad include environmentally-focused coursework in Sydney, Australia. Her education included specialized coursework in Marine Biology and Microbiology. Aimee's professional experience ranged from promoting Parks and Trails of New York, to risk management and school safety, to coordinating conferences and public relations. As well as serving as Alpha Phi Omega Service Vice President, Aimee has volunteered her time and talent to: Engineers for a Sustainable World to design building and sustainable initiatives in Haiti; Women's Mentor Program; Vashuda Environmental Living; Student Sustainability Task Force; and NCAA Division II Cross Country.

"I've grown up loving the environment," says Ms. Beaudette. "This summer I completed a two-year pursuit of hiking all 46 Adirondack High Peaks. I run, hike, swim, bike. I love the outdoors and desire to help protect it. I had really great environmental science teachers who inspired my interest in sustainability. I've worked a lot with (Hoosac Trustee) Rick Hartt in Alpha Phi Omega National Services – which is a co-ed community service fraternity. One of our services is the dog rescue where Ms. Stulz's dog, Allie, came from. I have thought about going into teaching for a long time, such as at Teachers of America."

Mr. Jacob Ben Brode holds a BS in Physics with a concentration in Astrophysics and Astronomy. He also holds a BS in Electronic Media, Arts, & Communications. His professional experience includes teaching Physics,



Aimee Beaudette

computer game design, film animation, theater technician, marketing, and website writer/director/editor. He has written for several theatrical productions such as *The Unfinished Song*. Jacob has volunteered to serve as Director/President/Archivist of Delta Xi Cast of Alpha Psi Omega, and as theatrical director, publicity director, and membership chair for the RPI Players. -SCK



Jacob Ben Brode

## A Touch of Kindness

Each week the faculty nominates, then votes on students they identify as doing an outstanding job that week; a total of 32 "Student of the Week" certificates are awarded each year. That student then has the option of choosing a faculty member to accompany him or her for a dinner off campus - compliments of the school. At the end of last year, I happened to be nearby when a colleague quietly handed in her "Student of the Week" Dinner Out receipts to the business office – all 12 of them!

It is a common sound to hear students call out "Ms. E," and just as common to hear her speak specifically to every student as they file out of Chapel. "Good morning, Mark; Good morning, Will; Good morning, Cathy, have a great day." Just what is Ms. E. imparting to our students and why do they love her?

Vth Former Djordje Jaksic says it is "Because no matter what, she always tries to make you feel better and helps you." IVth Former Eric Pei says it is because "She is kind, funny, and friendly." And VIth Former Joshua Hyon says "Everyone loves Ms. E because she sees the good in people. Ms. E believes in me and sees the good in me. She is one of the kindest people I know who is always willing to give a hand, whether it is a ride across the street or advice about problems and life. Ms. E has taught me that doing the right thing is so important, and being kind to people goes a long way."

**See Hoosac School's FB for "Student of the Week" snapshots & write ups!**



## A Classroom Tale

by Director of Music and English faculty, Christopher Uhl

Students continue to surprise and amaze me with their quick thinking, creativity, and interests. Here is a vignette of a lighter moment in English Class: *From the Relevance-of-Computer-Games Dept.*

As I was giving an introduction to The Canterbury Tales, showing a photo of Canterbury Cathedral, Marcus Richardson '16 began sitting up straighter in his chair and listening more intently. I continued the introduction, telling the class about the martyrdom of Archbishop of Canterbury, St. Thomas Becket. Suddenly, a surprised Marcus interrupted by saying, "Mr. Uhl, everything you're telling us is in my computer game, 'Assassin's Creed.' I had no idea that it was based on real events." Obviously, the person who created this game is interested in the Medieval world. I was pleasantly surprised.



*Marcus Richardson in English class with Chris Uhl*

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## J.V. Soccer 10-0-2



*The boys J.V. soccer team was undefeated this fall. Coached by D.J. Wassick, the boys put forth a stellar effort.*

# Proud to be a Hoosac Boy

by Sherri Klein

When I asked Brandon when I could interview him, his face lit up with a smile “How about right now?” His tall, lanky frame fit comfortably in a Squealery chair, engaging and confident, and with the chatter of fellow students about, he mused aloud, “Hmmm, where to begin? It’s been a while, but I do remember the first couple of years – I learned all kinds of things – he laughs – both good and bad (he mentions a dozen students by name). Why did I stay on? I stayed for the good education and for love of the school – it’s a nice environment because of the people here. The teachers are kind and you get to meet people from different countries and cultures. I’ve met a lot of friends here from all around the world – Korea to Canada. I made lifetime friendships – Blake and Maxx. During the summers I worked on projects here with them – re-doing

the Squealery, the Auditorium, and the Chapel. I’ve seen many changes in the school over five years – things were laid back when I first started and became stricter, which is good, because it improved the environment not only for learning, but socially too. Yes, I am very proud to be a Hoosac boy!

Ms. Stulz, one of Brandon’s teachers for four out of his five years, says that he is one of the most diligent students she’s ever taught. “I could keep giving him more and more work, and he would just do it. He began as a little 11nd Former, quiet and shy, and has grown into a self-assured young man. He has ethics – I’ve never known him to tell a lie, although I can tell when he’d rather not answer. He is very focused on college and the pursuit of a career in wildlife management (Brandon is an avid rifle and bow hunter). And he has no fear of



Brandon Kloc ‘16

contributing to classroom discussions, albeit injecting into them his delightfully entertaining sense of humor. I am really going to miss that kid next year.”

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## Three Years at Hoosac

by Hanjing (Adele) Shi ‘16

Time is interesting. People can’t believe a little baby grows up day by day, and so soon becomes a real man or woman. People can’t imagine the beauty indicated by the sunrise and sunset of one day passing. For me, I can’t imagine that I have already spent three years at Hoosac. I still do not forget the first day I came here. The sky was blue and the wind was calm. Everything was novel for me since it was my first time studying in a U.S. boarding school. Immediately, kind and warm teachers remitted my stress of being a new student. I still can recall the first time I met Ms. Kelly. She said, “You were born on the same day as my sister!” Those simple words made me feel that Hoosac was like a big family which had brothers and sisters from countries all over the world.

Teachers here are so patient that they can answer any questions we don’t understand at any time. Since we have had students from more than thirteen countries, teachers do their best to help international students acquire knowledge. As a result, three years of academic life at Hoosac let me not only have the basic classes like calculus and chemistry, but I also gained a comprehensive education. In psychology class I learned about different mental disorders, in woodshop I learned about joinery as a way to make a wooden box, and in piano class I learned how to compose music.

Additionally, I met many interesting people here. Some became best friends, and some helped me a lot. Although students speak diverse languages, we are still like a family. Three years at



Adele Shi, class of 2016, in a photo taken by Alexi Zhang ‘18

Hoosac taught me how to get along well with others, how to overcome difficulties, and how to be a leader. Moreover, every individual here is loving and kind. Overall, I really appreciate the experiences I have had at Hoosac. I think those experiences will influence my future development.

# Hoosac Gives Back (Again!)

by Julia Kopala '16

The Hoosac Gives Back Charity Committee was started by students in 2012-2013 with spot on leadership and enthusiasm. They were able to raise enough money to support Heifer International and provide for a hungry and impoverished family in that first year. To kick off another great year of raising awareness and funds for those less fortunate, Hoosac was immersed in a three-day connection with alumnus Geoffrey "Jade" Barrett '78, who returned to Hoosac on a mission to educate and motivate the young leaders of Hoosac to become passionate about something bigger than themselves. Mr. Barrett showed the potential of massive change due to one person. He and his partner, Dr. Donna Lombardi, gave a moving presentation on Friday night about Heifer and their efforts in the Heifer project within the United States. As surprising as it may be, many areas of America are lacking basic sustainability and survival skills, such as the small farms of Appalachia. Mr. Barrett and Dr. Lombardi have raised awareness and funds for Heifer through outstanding presentations, inspiring words, stories, and talents. Both happen to be World Champion Bridge players.

Bridge is the most difficult card game and can never be fully mastered. For Hoosac students, Saturday morning offered the opportunity to learn and practice playing Bridge with these professionals. It was an alternative learning experience with numbers, concepts, and strategy. The competitive aspect of the game was slowly approached, as the complexity was intimidating to most students. With all challenges accepted, the session was a success.

Finally, on Sunday morning, several students and two faculty members headed to the Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA. There, a guided tour incorporated hands-on activities and a worldwide

view of Heifer's efforts. Chee Chee Qi '16, said "Milking the goat was a new life experience for me. I also liked the way the volunteers cared for the animals, gentle, caring, and benevolent. I'm glad I got introduced to Heifer; I like the concept of how the gifts are passed on. It definitely is a sustainable way of running a charity, which helps the environment as well." As the tour progressed, there were llamas, alpacas, sheep, yaks, and laying and broiler chickens to be seen. At every stop, the tour guide engaged everyone into understanding how gifts of animals works. A system of "M's" helped us grasp the concept of how valuable one farm animal can be to a family and a community: milk, manure, money, muscle, meat, material, and motivation can be extracted from these precious resources. Then, a replication of a standard Appalachian home was shown; the absence of electricity or common technology in this day and age was surreal.

The Hoosac community may be small, but now we understand the significant change we can accomplish. The Hoosac Gives Back Charity Committee is honored to be collaborating with Heifer International again. So far this Fall, our school has raised over \$400 to "work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth," as the Heifer mission statement asserts. Many more opportunities to spread awareness and raise funds will be provided by Hoosac Gives Back as the year progresses.



Jade Barrett '78



L. to r.: Senior Prefect, Julia Kopala '16, Jack Becker '19, Jon Horne '68, Geoff Barrett '78, Dr. Lombardi, Aimee Beaudette, and CheeChee Qi '16. Above, Geoffrey "Jade" Barrett teaches students about bridge.

# Do What You Love

Presented by George Verschoor '78

“Do What You Love,” that was the opening slide in George Verschoor’s presentation to students about his amazing career as a show-runner, creator, and director of television shows. Very evident was his belief that a career “doing what you love to do” is possible if you stay curious, are willing to work hard from the ground up, and do simple things exceptionally well every time.

George Verschoor grew up in the Hoosick area and spent his senior year at Hoosac, graduating in 1978. He recalls that he did not really enjoy his high school years, but recognized how those experiences contributed to success. Mr. Verschoor is well known as a pioneer producer of reality shows for television, such as *Extreme Home Makeover* and *The Real World* – one of the

longer running reality shows in history. Among his long list of productions is *Building Wild*, run for *National Geographic* in 2014. “About 20 cabins were built in this area, bringing community together to do the projects,” George says, as he displayed a slide of a mountain cabin with a ski jump built into its deck. Yes, that gained the undivided attention of our students, topped only by the slide and story of the *National Geographic* “Die Trying” project where a fireproof zip line was constructed to enable a daredevil explorer to descend into a crater of fire! George returns to his home area often, “to relax” and unwind from the intense demands of his work. He is the founder and President of Hoosick Falls Productions [www.hfpla.com](http://www.hfpla.com).



George Verschoor spoke with a class at Hoosac



“Cabin with a bus!” on a Building Wild episode



George at the Darvaza crater of fire in Turkmenistan



“Waterfall Cabin” for Building Wild



A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported Hoosac School's 2014-2015 Annual Fund! We couldn't do it without you. You can see the Annual Report included in this issue.

See past issues of Hoosac's Alumni Owllet posted on our website - [www.hoosac.org](http://www.hoosac.org) - under *Alumni*. Six annual issues are now posted!

Also under the *Alumni* section is *Alumni News* where you can see our "Decade to Remember" series!



# News from Advancement

by Advancement Director, Susan Schoeninger '94

Thanks to your generous gifts and support, the 2015-2016 school year is underway with a polished campus for our students to enjoy.



Our alumni and friends network is stronger than ever and we are excited to launch the first round of our concentrated fundraisers: "8 Weeks, One Goal; Make Hoosac Possible" with a \$50,000 goal to be reached on Yule Log weekend in December. Your dollars will go toward helping us reach our Fiscal Year Annual Fund goal of \$300,000, and to help us finish our beautiful, state-of-the-art, STEM Lab project. If you aren't familiar with STEM, an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, it is a vital part of today's curriculum, and a necessary element to ensure Hoosac remains a key player in the competitive boarding-school market. It is an exciting project that will certainly be a showcase on campus! For more information on ways to give and help support this project, please contact me directly at [susan@hoosac.org](mailto:susan@hoosac.org).

We hope our alumni will mark their calendars for the Yule Log Alumni night on Friday, December 11. We plan to toast our successful and completed eight week, \$50,000 goal that night.

We appreciate your support!

**Front Cover:** The front cover is a fall shot at dawn looking toward Lavino Dorm.

**Back Cover:** Taken by Austin McCroskie, class of 2012, this is a shot of the Gazebo, looking toward Memorial Hall.

## Photography in this issue:

Photographs in this issue were taken by Vanessa Lewis, Dean Foster, Audra Foster, Sherri Klein, Pam Kopala, Nancy LaPorte, and from various internet sources.

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*Calling all  
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