

# GETTYSBURG

College Magazine

Winter 2025  
Vol. 115 - No. 2



## *Dialogues Across Difference*

ALSO INSIDE CONSEQUENTIAL CONNECTIONS









## UPFRONT

On Oct. 4, 2024, history was made under the lights. Gettysburg College hosted its first-ever night football game on Shirk Field at Musselman Stadium—a 20-7 win over McDaniel College.

Thanks to the generous donations of 25 alumni and families, the College was able to install new LED stadium lights. A special event, Under the Lights, celebrated the Bullets athletic teams in a momentous way, complete with activities, giveaways, performances by the Bullets Marching Band, and interactive light shows.

Turn to page 12 to hear Football Head Coach *Moe Banks*' perspective on the evening, from the energy he witnessed to his gratitude for the Gettysburg community.

Stay tuned for more games under the lights, including the first night home game for men's lacrosse against Swarthmore College on March 22 at 7 p.m.

*Photo by Jason Minick*



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**ON THE COVER** During the 2024 U.S. Elections, Gettysburg College Democrats and Gettysburg College Republicans came together for constructive conversations, issuing a joint statement pledging to put country over party.



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Across Difference**



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**Consequential  
Connections**



# A GOOD TEACHER IS A STUDENT'S COMPASS TO A GREAT LIFE.

Before he was revered as one of the greatest leaders our world has ever known, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was shaped by the teaching and mentorship of Major General Fox Connor.

Recognizing Eisenhower's potential during his previous postings, including his time in Gettysburg, Connor selected Ike as his second-in-command in Panama in 1922. There, the two fell into a routine of deep intellectual engagement. Their morning rides together served as informal lessons, with Connor giving Ike an assigned reading list packed with seminal works on history and military strategy, including Carl von Clausewitz's classics.

Their conversations pushed Ike to work harder than he ever had before. In fact, this intense tutelage is what paved the way for Eisenhower to attend the Command and General Staff School in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he ranked first in his class—setting the stage for his rise to leadership in the decade to follow.

This personalized mentorship changed Eisenhower forever—building his mind, testing his resolve, and transforming him into the leader Connor believed Ike could one day become. Eisenhower would later offer young people this powerful advice: "...Always try to associate yourself closely with and learn as much as you can from those who know more than you, who do better than you, who see more clearly than you. Don't be afraid to reach upward."

At Gettysburg College, we want our students to heed Eisenhower's timeless words and be emboldened to reach upward. We achieve this by pairing our students with a truly world-class faculty.

For nearly two centuries, such one-on-one partnerships—a hallmark of a Gettysburg education—have helped generations of Gettysburgians to realize their highest aspirations and lead lives of consequence. This approach was personified by our beloved colleague and friend, Peter Carmichael, whose character and commitment will forever serve as an inspiration to our community (pg. 55).

As higher education confronts challenges and opportunities, our faculty are stepping forward in exciting ways for our students. In the last few years alone, they have passed a new core curriculum; explored generative artificial intelligence and its emerging

influence and applications; and launched additional majors, most recently in finance and public health policy (pg. 11).

Beyond this, we're also extending a Gettysburg education to new students by establishing new master's programs, including our master's in American history with the Gilder Lehrman Institute, our MBA 4+1 program with Loyola University Maryland (pg. 12), and—as I write this letter—a new master's in education.

Our faculty's spirit of innovation is a primary reason why, among all liberal arts colleges, the Princeton Review ranks Gettysburg College No. 10 for the Best Classroom Experience, and why U.S. News & World Report ranks us No. 35 for Best Undergraduate Teaching.

While our faculty are central to our students' success, Gettysburg College students are surrounded by a constellation of mentors. From coaches to program directors to our exceptional dining staff, like Connor, every member of this campus plays a vital role in uplifting and encouraging our students to be their very best.

Of course, our alumni are essential to this work as well. Beginning this summer, we will proudly formalize this mentorship role by inviting our 32,000 alumni to volunteer to become an Alumni Mentor for a student as part of the Gettysburg Approach. Situated alongside a student's Faculty Advisor, Co-Curricular Advisor, and Career Advisor, each Alumni Mentor will be a member of our Personal Advising Teams, providing students with invaluable advice and support.

Most institutions couldn't dream of providing this level of personalization. We're actively doing it! Visit [www.gettysburg.edu/mentor](http://www.gettysburg.edu/mentor) to learn more and express interest in being an Alumni Mentor today. I hope you'll join us in empowering our next generation of great leaders and citizens.

Sincerely,



Bob Iuliano  
President



# GETTYSBURG

College Magazine

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

In the News section of the Summer 2024 issue, the titles for Sara Harenchar Levinson '09 and Lauren Meehan Keefe '09 were mistakenly swapped. They have been corrected in the online version. The correct copy reads, "Sara Harenchar Levinson '09, who is a member of the Alumni Board of Director's Executive Committee and also a former BOLD Council member, and Lauren Meehan Keefe '09, who serves as secretary for the Alumni Board of Directors and was a former member of the BOLD Council, are recipients of the 2024 Young Alumni Achievement Awards for Service."

In the Class of 1974 notes in the Summer 2024 issue, announcing the death of Craig Driver, the name of Marc O'Mara, who submitted the news, was accidentally mixed into the narrative. The correct copy should read, "Craig also had four grandchildren. We send our condolences to Craig's family." Our apologies for the error.



# FACILITIES UPGRADES COMING SOON

By Megan Miller

To position itself for its future, Gettysburg College continues to enhance the student experience each academic year with exciting new initiatives.

In October 2024, the College was pleased to announce upgrades to the West Quad residence halls, Plank Gym's lower level, and the College Union Building (CUB) Ballroom. Plank Gym's lower level will be ready for use by the Spring 2025 semester, while residence halls will be renovated over a two-year period, beginning this spring. The CUB Ballroom project is currently in its planning phase.

"These spaces will provide exciting opportunities to further foster the community that is at the heart of the Gettysburg College experience," said Vice President for College Life *Anne Ehrlich*. "Whether it's hanging out with friends in a fresh new lounge in West Quad, attending a performance or panel discussion in the modernized Ballroom, or meeting new people when they stop to grab a snack and drink in Plank—all of these spaces are designed to help students make the personal, social, and academic

connections that will help them thrive."

Paul Hall, Rice Hall, and Stine Hall in the West Quad will see necessary upgrades, while gaining more collaborative spaces to build community. Renovations include accessible entrances, new patios and pathways, open-concept lobbies, increased function and privacy amenities in bathrooms, new HVAC systems, and upgraded finishes and furniture.

By the Spring 2025 semester, Plank Gym's lower level will include an eatery and bar, with an outdoor social space opening after spring break this in March. This social venue is open to all Gettysburgians, and the outdoor space can be reserved.

Design discussions for the CUB Ballroom are still underway. Renovations will include upgrades to existing finishes, furniture, building systems, and technology.

**ABOVE** Rendering of lobby in West Quad buildings.  
**OPPOSITE PAGE** Renderings of lounge in West Quad buildings (top) and open space (bottom)







# SOCIAL MEDIA

ON SOCIAL MEDIA, THE GETTYSBURG COLLEGE COMMUNITY SHARED MOMENTS OF BOTH ENERGY AND REFLECTION THROUGHOUT THE FALL 2024 SEMESTER.



## UNDER THE LIGHTS

The energy was electric during the first-ever night football game on Shirk Field at Musselman Stadium on Oct. 4, 2024 (see Upfront, inside front cover). With a victory over McDaniel College combined with the strength of the Gettysburg College community, the shared sense of spirit and connection flowed across the College's social media channels:

*"It was a fantastic night!"*

• **Dawn Leidich Hopke '96**

*"Well done, keep improving, keep growing."*

• **James TenBrook '85**

*"Excited to witness the start of this new era! #UnderTheLights #GettysburgCollege"*

• **Sarah Kotlinski, Acting Director of Enrollment Systems and Analytics, Office of Admissions**

## NORTHERN LIGHTS

On Oct. 10, 2024, Gettysburg College students captured the rare appearance of the northern lights, also known as the aurora borealis, appearing in breathtaking waves of greens and reds. Our community enjoyed the students' photos, including the photo below by *Jazmine Sanchez '26*.

*"Beautiful!!!"*

• **Stephanie Pullara Vancura P'25**

*"How great is this?! Would've been amazing to witness firsthand, but G'burg students delivered! #GburgPODs #StudentCam"*

• **Kailey White '21, Assistant Director of Digital Strategy, Communications and Marketing**







## AN INSPIRING VISIT

After meeting with the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. visited Africana Studies Prof. *Hakim Mohandas Amani Williams*' class Education for Social Change on Oct. 22, 2024 (photo above). Together with his son, former Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., they spoke about Gettysburgians' responsibility as engaged citizens to vote. Members of our community reflected:

*"It was [an] awesome experience to be a part of helping to bring Rev. Jesse Jackson to campus as a member of the Gettysburg Alumni of Color Council at Gettysburg College. ... As an alumni, it brought a smile to [my] face to see this happen at such short notice."*

🗨️ **Edmund Hardy '09, Vice President of the Gettysburg Alumni of Color Council**

*"I ended up unexpectedly next to a civil rights icon this week. Rev. Jesse Jackson visited @gettysburg with @RPCoalition encouraging students to vote. He shook my hand warmly for the second time in six years. He hasn't let age or health deter him from fighting for justice. #KeepHopeAlive"*

🗨️ **Tracie Potts, Executive Director, The Eisenhower Institute**

## CIVIL DISCOURSE

Ahead of the 2024 U.S. Elections, Gettysburg College Democrats and Gettysburg College Republicans issued a joint statement pledging to put country over party, regardless of the outcome. Turn to page 25 to read the statement in full. Upon sharing it across the College's social media, Gettysburgians spoke up as engaged citizens:

*"Beautifully written, factual, and inspirational. Gratitude, humanity, respect for others, personal responsibility, and accountability. Proud of you, Gettysburg College students and community."*

🗨️ **Greg Natello '76**

*"President Iuliano said it a while back, but it's moments like these that show the true values of our students and our campus community and makes me forever proud to be a Gettysburgian! #gettysburggreat"*

🗨️ **Kasey Varner '14**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MOST RECENT ALUMNI DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT WINNERS!

Gettysburg College would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our most recent alumni digital engagement winners! These Gettysburgians regularly show up in College social media channels with encouraging words for students, to reminisce about their years on campus, and to celebrate progress the College is making toward its future. Please join us in thanking them for their support and advocacy.

*Susan Keyser Copps '72      William Schiff '73      Linda Schrader '74*  
*Charles T. Scott '77 P'09 P'12      Stephanie Phillips Travis '77*

**To partate in these online conversations, find and follow Gettysburg College on your favorite social media platform!**

🌐 Gburg.College   📧 gettysburgcollege   🗨️ gettysburg-college   ● gettysburgcollege   📺 gettysburg   📺 GettysburgCollege







# NEWS



## GETTYSBURG ♥ PHILADELPHIA

Gettysburg College blitzes  
Philadelphia with a  
three-day celebration.

P. 10



## NEW MAJORS

Two new majors—finance and  
public health policy—will be available  
to students in the 2025-2026  
academic year.

P. 11

## LASTING LEGACY

The late *Peter S. Carmichael*  
helped procure nearly 200  
books from Pulitzer Prize–  
winning author Tony Horwitz.

P. 10

## HALL OF FAME

*Carol Daly Cantele '83, P'15*, the  
College's former women's lacrosse and  
field hockey coach, was inducted into  
the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

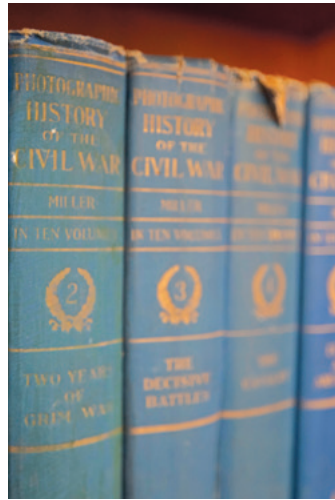
P. 12



FACULTY

## LASTING LEGACY

One of *Peter S. Carmichael's* final projects as director of the Civil War Institute before his untimely passing this past July was procuring nearly 200 books from the private collection of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tony Horwitz. The collection, donated by Horwitz's wife, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks, and currently housed in the Civil War Institute and Gettysburg College Special Collections, will serve as an enduring legacy for two impassioned scholars dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the understanding of how history can inform and guide the present.



LEADERSHIP

## LEADING VOICE

In the fall of 2024, Gettysburg College President *Bob Iuliano* began his term on the American Council on Education (ACE) Board of Directors. This membership organization mobilizes the higher education community to design solutions for today's challenges. As an advocate for student access, Iuliano will take on a leadership role as higher education in America becomes even more essential for students today and tomorrow.

ON CAMPUS

## GUIDED PATHWAYS FUND

Gettysburg College launched a new Guided Pathways Fund to support students' experiential learning activities within the Guided Pathways, a defining part of the Gettysburg Approach. Contributions to this fund have been provided by generous donors who "believe in and support Gettysburg's approach to experiential learning in general, and who are excited about the promise of the Guided Pathways to have an even more positive impact on students during and after their Gettysburg experience," said Garthwait Leadership Center Executive Director *Andy Hughes*.



FACULTY

## THANKS, TOSTEN

Former Vice President of Information Technology *Rod Tosten '85* retired at the end of the Fall 2024 semester after being an invaluable member of our community for the past 35 years. He launched the Computer Science Department, serving as its first chair in 1999. Before retiring, he appeared in *HuffPost*, explaining the importance of security, specifically how, without multifactor authentication set up, anyone with access to your device may have access to your wallet.

OFF CAMPUS

## GETTYSBURG ❤️ PHILADELPHIA

Last November, generations of Gettysburgians came together in Philadelphia for a first-of-its-kind celebration in support of Gettysburg College and its future. The three-day event featured a series of fun-filled events, including micro-classes and a night of ping-pong, and showcased new initiatives launched as part of the College's Strategic Direction. A bus full of students, faculty, and staff joined the celebration, engaging with alumni during a special closing reception.

FACULTY

## IMPACTFUL GRANT

Public Policy *Prof. Dave Powell* received a nearly \$190,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support his workshop program for 72 K-12 educators, "On Hallowed Ground: Gettysburg in History & Memory." This program allows teachers to stay in Gettysburg while learning about the community's role within our nation's history during the Civil War.





## STUDENTS

# HONORING HISTORY

Expanding on a project that began when she was in high school, history major *Danielle Russell '25* identified more than 500 veterans in the Gavilan Hills Memorial Park in California, including 64 from the Civil War. She appeared on FOX News in September 2024 to discuss her work that honors their legacies, which included updating cemetery records and raising more than \$11,000 to provide headstones and medallions for unmarked veterans' gravesites.



## ON CAMPUS

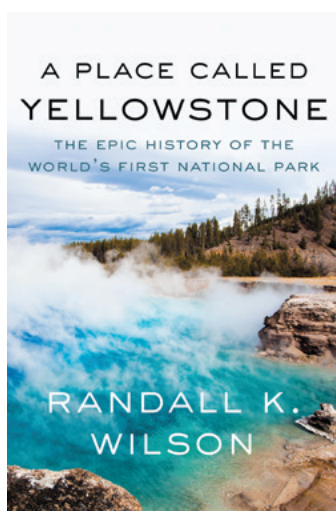
# NEW MAJORS

Gettysburg College continues to meet the needs of today's students and equip them with the knowledge and enduring skills that employers desire. In September 2024, the College announced two new majors—finance and public health policy. Both will be available to students beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year. With a Gettysburg education, grounded in the liberal arts and sciences, students majoring in these disciplines will graduate as effective leaders and engaged citizens ready to contribute to economies worldwide.

## FACULTY

# NEW BOOK

Environmental Studies *Prof. Randall Wilson P'20* wrote a new book about Yellowstone National Park, entitled "A Place Called Yellowstone." Spotlights by the Los Angeles Times in October 2024, they noted "Wilson's talent as a storyteller shines through" as he presents "the history of Yellowstone [as] the history of America." Gettysburg College students assisted with research for the book, joining Wilson on trips to Yellowstone. Their work led to senior honors theses on the topic and co-presentations at academic conferences. In February, Wilson accompanied a Gettysburg alumni trip to the park in search of wolves.



## LEADERSHIP

# NEW TRUSTEES

Gettysburg College appointed six new members to the Board of Trustees: *Kyle A. Betty '96, Elizabeth A. Burgess P'20, Ellie C. DeWitt '19, James C. Kirkwood '85, Dylan B. Minor P'26, and Robert L. Noddin '83.* Chaired by *Lauren Wise Bright '90*, the Board of Trustees works closely with President *Bob Iuliano* and the institution's senior leadership team to help fulfill the mission and vision of Gettysburg College.

## FACULTY

# TOP PRIZE

Sunderman Conservatory of Music Director of Bands *Prof. Russell McCutcheon* won the American Prize in Conducting, music theater division, for his collaborative and innovative work on the Gettysburg College musical "The Prom" in November 2023. This prestigious honor was his first top award from the organization after being named a finalist in the conducting-university and college bands division in 2016 and a runner-up in musical theater in 2020.





ON CAMPUS

## EMS PROGRAM

After a pilot in the Spring 2024 semester, Gettysburg College Campus Safety launched a new EMS program that connects students who are licensed EMTs with opportunities to serve the campus and the Adams County community. Through additional training to help with special events for the College, and Career-Ready Experiences with Adams Regional Emergency Medical Services, students gain practical medical and enduring skills, such as leadership and communication, that are essential for health care careers.



ALUMNI

## HALL OF FAME

In January 2025, *Carol Daly Cantele '83, P'15*, the College's former women's lacrosse and field hockey coach, was inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, a premier program of USA Lacrosse, the national governing body for the sport. This honor comes after being enshrined into the Gettysburg College Hall of Athletic Honor just four months prior, alongside *Tedra Fazendeiro Clark '97* (field hockey), *Heather Gallagher Raley '03* (women's swimming), *Ryan Moore '02* (football), *Garrick Robinson '83* (men's lacrosse), and *Andy Sheely '88* (baseball). With a 451-134 career record, Cantele, who retired in 2022 after 30 years of coaching, is the second all-time winningest coach in Division III history. She also served as an assistant coach with the 2013 world champion U.S. National Team.



FACULTY

## COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY

The 2024 Gettysburg College's Summer Pedagogy Institute, led by the Johnson Center for Creative Teaching and Learning (JCCTL), emphasized the importance of kindness in teaching, demonstrating our faculty's commitment to supporting the whole student. With a new curriculum, attendees discussed building compassionate, innovative learning environments where students feel empowered.



ON CAMPUS

## MBA PARTNERSHIP

In September 2024, Gettysburg College proudly announced its partnership with Loyola University Maryland to open Loyola's new accelerated Emerging Leaders MBA 4+1 program to students at Gettysburg College. With its cost savings, this 4+1 partnership allows students completing an undergraduate degree at Gettysburg College to pursue their master's degree at Loyola simultaneously.



## ON CAMPUS

# COMMUNITY CENTER

Gettysburg College received a 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, to open a community learning center on campus that provides high-quality, bilingual learning opportunities after school and in the summer for underserved students and their families in Adams County, Pennsylvania. Gettysburg's 21st CCLC coordinates closely with local and campus partners, such as the Vida Charter School, the Spanish Department, and Gettysburg's Innovation and Creativity Lab.

## FACULTY

# ELECTION ANALYST

In *The Conversation*, a nonprofit, independent news organization, Political Science **Prof. Alauna Safarpour** analyzed the numbers behind each candidate's path to the White House and the important role the Keystone State played in the 2024 U.S. presidential election. She served as an exit polling analyst for *The Washington Post*.



## STUDENTS

# CONSEQUENTIAL IMPACT

This past summer, through The Eisenhower Institute's Washington Summer Fellowship at the Applied Science & Technology Research Organization (ASTRO) of America in Washington, D.C., **Ratul Pradhan '25** helped enhance manufacturing capabilities associated with the White House AM Forward initiative, which aims to help lower costs for American families. He used the knowledge and skills he gained at Gettysburg College to help fix software impacting work efficiency and accessibility, which are considered integral security protocols and firewalls of industry leaders like Pratt & Whitney, Honeywell, and General Electric.



## FACULTY

# SOCCER SUCCESS

Africana Studies and History **Prof. Scott Hancock** was profiled by FOX43 News for leading the Gettysburg High School varsity boys soccer team to its best season in nearly 10 years. This father-son duo, who have coached the program since 2010, continues to inspire the players and the greater Gettysburg community.



## ON CAMPUS

# HIGHEST HONOR

Before the start of the Fall 2024 semester, Gettysburg College's Iota of Pennsylvania Chapter was recognized as an Outstanding Small Liberal Arts College Chapter by the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation's oldest academic honor society, during the 2021-2024 triennium. Gettysburg's chapter, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023, was honored for its commitment to the values of academic excellence, intellectual integrity, and freedom of inquiry—principles that have defined Phi Beta Kappa for nearly 250 years.

READ MORE NEWS AT [WWW.GETTYSBURG.EDU](http://WWW.GETTYSBURG.EDU)



# ON THE TOPIC OF *COMMUNITY*

HOW DOES SCHOOL SPIRIT SHINE WITHIN  
THE GETTYSBURG COLLEGE COMMUNITY?



**Moe Banks**

*Football head coach*

On Oct. 4, 2024, the Gettysburg football program played its first-ever night game at Shirk Field at Musselman Stadium—under the new lights funded by our alumni and families. The pregame tailgate generated great energy before kickoff, and the atmosphere during the game was incredible. Students, parents, alumni, College employees, and the Gettysburg community all came out to support our young men, and it certainly made an impact.

The gathering of the community to take part in food, drinks, music, and games pulls our campus together and strengthens the connectivity within it. I believe that a strong sense of community is vital to the success of any organization. The ability to be connected to and supported by the people that you share space with not only helps develop a sense of belonging but also creates fulfillment in the work you do within the space.

The “Under The Lights” game sent a great boost of energy through our program. We cannot thank the community enough for showing up for us in such a major way. Our hope is that this becomes a regular occurrence—to come and spend time together as a community, supporting our Bullets.



**Meg Blume-Kohout**

*Professor of Economics*

Gettysburg College spirit celebrates our individual identities and contributions, and, through unwavering belief in our collective potential, nurtures the persistence and resilience needed to meet future challenges.

As the women’s soccer faculty liaison, I see this spirit. Supporters on the sidelines value these women not just for their great plays, but as individuals. The team embodies Gettysburg spirit in their grit, responding to setbacks with renewed determination and commitment. Teamwork drives progress.

In my classroom, this spirit thrives as students pursue research reflecting their personal interests. Their collaboration to master challenging material and their willingness to engage in multiple revisions demonstrates our shared belief in their potential.

I also see this spirit in Board of Trustees meetings and conversations with faculty about courses for the upcoming First-Year Data & Society program.

Gettysburg spirit shines brightest when we unite as a community, turning challenges into opportunities. When we embrace this spirit, we Do Great Work.



**Dylann Eck '26**

*Public policy and Spanish/Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino studies double major with a sociology minor*

The first time I stepped foot on campus was as a member of the Bullets Marching Band. By the end of my first week, I could sing the Alma Mater in four-part harmony, learned the many traditions the band carries on year after year, and met some of my closest friends. So much of what it means to be a Gettysburg student comes from my involvement with the band.

Every home football game, I march through campus with my friends, accompanied by our parents, classmates, and community. We are cheering on the team but also celebrating the past, present, and future of Gettysburg College. As college students learning about the world around us, we can acknowledge that things are not perfect. However, this creates an opportunity for growth. The Gettysburg College community can use the pride we have in each other to encourage change and demand excellence from each other, just as we do when setting drill or playing music in the band. I believe our commitment to bettering ourselves and our community exemplifies school spirit at Gettysburg College.





**Robert H. Schwartz '92**

*Board of Trustees member,  
Global chief marketing officer at Starcom*

A few weeks ago, I attended the first football game under the new Musselman Stadium lights. As a multi-generational Gettysburgian, you'd assume I've been to a bunch of football games on campus. You'd be wrong. But I was inspired by the people who fundraised to put in the lights and bring a different kind of experience to our College. So I went.

It was great, not just because of the beautiful sunset across Seminary Ridge or the gentle light across the field that felt magical. It was like so many other Gettysburg experiences in my life. Our community made it special.

As I have moved through my life, I've come to appreciate that we become part of these places, groups of people, and ideas. We attach bits of ourselves to all of them, imprinting on who and what have meant the most to us. When we reunite or meet others with that shared connection, we feel the familiar touch of who we are—of who we are called to be.

That's my family's story at Gettysburg. It's one of our places, and Gettysburgians are our people. Both have changed our lives.



**Jill Ogline Titus**

*Interim director of the Civil War Institute*

While school spirit can be found in our athletic facilities, music venues, and anywhere our students congregate, it is also richly expressed in the traditions that bind us and connect our campus to the community around it. As a historian, I'm particularly interested in those partnerships with the community that are rooted in understanding and expressing our shared history.

One of my favorite Gettysburg traditions is the First-Year Walk, for the way it encourages new students to understand that they are part of a broader community here, not just a campus community, and invites them to see themselves and their Gettysburg education as part of a broader story, rooted in this iconic historical location. By placing themselves in the footsteps of their student predecessors, current-day students are inspired to see themselves in the historical narrative, to feel a personal connection to the history of this place, and to think seriously, at the beginning of their experience here, about how they will use their education to contribute to the unfinished work that Lincoln spoke of in his Gettysburg Address, the great task remaining for the next generation.

“OUR  
COMMITMENT  
TO BETTERING  
OURSELVES AND  
OUR COMMUNITY  
EXEMPLIFIES  
SCHOOL SPIRIT  
AT GETTYSBURG  
COLLEGE.”

**Dylann Eck '26**

*Public policy and Spanish/  
Latin American, Caribbean,  
and Latino studies double major  
and sociology minor*



# ASHLEY DOMM '07 SPREADS RIPPLES OF KINDNESS AT D.C. NONPROFIT

by Katelyn Silva

Working in her community comes naturally to *Ashley Domm '07*—it's in her blood. Following in the footsteps of her parents and grandparents, for whom community service was central to their personal and professional pursuits, Domm's dedication to helping others attracted her to Gettysburg College and her vocation. Each fall, as Thanksgiving nears, Domm's college memories converge with her current role.

"The organization I work for takes on fresh excitement every November because we give away 12,000 or more turkeys every year at Thanksgiving," said Domm, who is head of advancement and chief development officer at Bread for the City, the largest food pantry and wraparound direct service nonprofit in Washington, D.C. "This always reminds me of one of my favorite memories at Gettysburg, which was the yearly Thanksgiving dinner at Servo. It was so special to be with all your friends and served this amazing meal by staff and professors. I remember my first year really feeling like an adult for the first time, and those Thanksgivings are some of my most cherished memories."

This tradition remains an ongoing part of Domm's life; she and many of her college classmates still get together every year for a potluck meal. They also go on an annual camping trip to Gettysburg, bringing their spouses and children, which is especially exciting for her son, who is a Civil War buff. Domm's Gettysburg roots run deep, and she credits her student experience with helping to shape her desire to make a difference in the world.



*Ashley Domm '07 works in Bread for the City's rooftop garden alongside dedicated volunteers.*



“Gettysburg has such a beautiful focus on public service and community-building. Students don’t just go to their classes and go back to the dorms; there’s a real commitment to being a part of the vibrant community on campus and off. I knew very few people who weren’t involved in something beyond their day-to-day classes, whether that was sports, music, affinity groups, or community volunteering,” said Domm, who, in addition to double majoring in history and German, worked in Special Collections in Musselman Library, created themed houses with the Office of Residential and First-Year Programs, babysat professors’ children, attended church in town, and waitressed at the famed local restaurant, Mamma Ventura.

*“Gettysburg has such a beautiful focus on public service and community-building. Students don’t just go to their classes and go back to the dorms; there’s a real commitment to being a part of the vibrant community on campus and off.”*

While you might not immediately associate her degrees with the foundation for a career in nonprofit development and communications, Domm credits Gettysburg’s liberal arts and sciences education as the ideal blend of disciplines.

“I tell people all the time that a history degree is such a strong background for public service work,” she said. “What you’re learning is how to take in a lot of information, analyze that information, and then communicate that out. Synthesizing really big ideas and strong communication is the



**TOP** Ashley Domm '07 celebrates Bread for the City's annual fundraising gala while highlighting the vital work of the organization's food program—D.C.'s largest food pantry.

**MIDDLE** Domm's son, Owain, volunteers alongside his mom in downtown D.C.

**BOTTOM** Domm proudly carries the German Studies Department banner during the Class of 2007 Commencement ceremony.

backbone of what I do at Bread for the City, and Gettysburg prepared me well for that.”

Domm has been a critical leader at Bread for the City for the past five years, raising funds to keep its doors open, running its volunteer program, leading external communications and media relations, and helping shepherd the community through COVID-19. The pandemic was an especially challenging time for federally qualified health centers like Bread for the City, and Domm and her team got creative to ensure they stretched every dollar to meet that need.

Before working at Bread for the City, Domm worked in development at Georgetown University. While she enjoyed it, the 2016 presidential election sparked a desire in her to get more civically involved and connect more to the community, especially in “hyper-local progressive spaces.” Bread for the City stood out to her because, in addition to other wraparound programs, the organization focuses on two areas of work that she feels passionate about: food insecurity and legal support for domestic violence victims. Bread for the City also provides clothing, medical care, and social services to reduce the burden of poverty in the Washington community. For Domm, pursuing a life of consequence is about the impact you can make as an individual.

“When you’re young and in college or just graduating, it can feel overwhelming to think about what impact you can have in this world as only one person, but there are so many different ways that an individual can make a powerful impact and difference,” Domm explained. “As you grow in your career and life, there will be even more opportunities to help others. That doesn’t mean you have to explicitly choose to go into public service, but it can mean mentoring others in your career field or volunteering in your community. That creates a ripple effect.” **G**



# CONNECTIONS

**WE INITIALLY CHOSE GETTYSBURG TO PLAY BASKETBALL**, but through that basketball community, we found a group that all really cared about each other. Whether it was as part of the basketball team or working with the Center for Career Engagement, there were always people who just really cared about you and wanted to help other people. The Management Department and the professors there were very special and made you feel like you were part of a family.

**MANAGEMENT PROF. JIM HAMERSTONE '64 WAS OUR ADVISOR.** We took many classes with him because of our majors, but he took such an interest in each of his students. He made you feel so special. He came to all of our games, and in class, he would ask you about the game. When he was teaching, he would point out things that he knew were going to help you in the real world and not just focus on what was in textbooks. We tried to get together with him every year when we came back to Gettysburg because he was such an important part of our experience.

**WE REALLY APPRECIATED HOW BROAD OUR LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION WAS**, and as management majors, it prepared us for not just one career, but potentially multiple careers and jobs. Whether it was learning about human resource management, how to use Excel spreadsheets, or taking finance courses with Economics *Prof. Drew Murphy '84, P'20*, Gettysburg helped us develop methods to balance our knowledge and skills that help us in our careers today. With the smaller, diverse environment, we also learned how to effectively communicate and lead people, which can be one of the hardest things to do in the professional world.

**IT TAKES A LOT OF FORWARD-THINKING BY GETTYSBURG** to curate a program in a way that helps students go from their first job to potentially their 10th or more over the course of their career. Going from an entry-level job to a CEO doesn't happen overnight, and it's important to help students develop the skills they need with the right team around them. To have this Personal Advising Team that a student can rely on throughout their four years is a huge positive.

**GETTYSBURG LASTS BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO WENT THERE CONTINUE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE.** We want to give our time and resources to Gettysburg because we feel so strongly about the interest and care people like Prof. Hamerstone gave us and how that led to where we are today.

## KENNETH (KIP) '11 AND COURTNEY FIELDS ROBSON '10

*Both majored in management and played basketball*

*Courtney earned master nutrition therapist certification at the Nutrition Therapy Institute*

*Kip is a senior vice president and financial advisor at Morgan Stanley*

*Members of Loyalty Circle and Cupola Society*

*Live outside Chicago with three sons*





# FEATURES

## DIALOGUES ACROSS DIFFERENCE

In a time of hyperpolarization, Gettysburg College provides the space for constructive conversations about today's most pressing issues.

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## CONSEQUENTIAL CONNECTIONS

The power of the Gettysburg Network runs deep.

P. 26

*Eric Lee '15 outside Air Force One. (Photo courtesy of Eric Lee '15)*



# *Dialogues* *Across*

by Phoebe Doscher '22





In a time of  
hyerpolarization,  
Gettysburg College provides  
the space for constructive  
conversations about today's  
most pressing issues.

# *Difference*



*During the 2024 U.S. Elections, Gettysburg College Democrats and Gettysburg College Republicans came together for constructive conversations, issuing a joint statement pledging to put country over party.*



**A**fter the Israel-Hamas war began in October 2023, college campuses across America became epicenters of protest and conversation, including Gettysburg College.

Moments of national and global significance, like this war and the 2024 presidential election, put the missions of these institutions to the test. At Gettysburg, our mission is to “engage the complex questions of our time through effective leadership and socially responsible citizenship,” which, in practice, involves civil discourse.

## Sparking the conversation

Freedom of expression has remained central to Gettysburg College’s mission since its founding. Last fall, President **Bob Iuliano** joined college presidents nationwide in committing to advancing civil discourse, announcing a campus-wide initiative, *The Unfinished Work: Conversations for Change*. This initiative encourages conversations across differences, preparing graduates to deploy this skill.

“Students are learning that you should talk across differences, but we’re not necessarily born with that skill,” said Eisenhower Institute Executive Director **Tracie Potts**. “I often think of college as an incubator. These are the last four years before we

launch you into the world—and this is a skill and mindset you will need.”

Gettysburgians engage in such conversations in the classroom. Public Policy Chair **Anne S. Douds**, alongside Research, Instruction, and Online Learning Librarian **Kevin Moore**, teaches a civil discourse series in which students analyze bias in scholarship or media.

“This series is not telling them anything about what they should think; it’s teaching them to think critically, standing in the shoes of multiple stakeholders,” Douds said. “If you cannot understand alternative perspectives, then how can you craft meaningful responses to them?”

**Carl DeMarco ’25**, co-president of College Republicans, sees this open-mindedness in the faculty. He’s witnessed professors encourage students to share freely and interrogate both their own and others’ ideas.

“I’ve seen strong conversations, but it’s never been, ‘You’re just wrong.’ It’s ‘Why?’” DeMarco said. “There’s a lot of questioning and trying to get people to not only understand their own opinions but the other people in the classroom too.”

Understanding others also involves talking openly about our backgrounds and perspectives—an approach Political Science **Prof. Douglas Page** takes.



**BELOW LEFT** Eisenhower Institute Executive Director **Tracie Potts** co-leads a workshop on civil discourse with *Urban Rural Action* during EI’s Democracy Week 2023. (Photo courtesy of **Tracie Potts**/The Eisenhower Institute) **BELOW** Last summer, **Sema Meckie Williams ’27** volunteered at *Casa Alitas* in Tucson, Arizona, helping to provide food and water for immigrants seeking asylum. (Photo courtesy of **Sema Meckie Williams ’27**)



“What I do in the classroom is communicate who I am and where I come from,” said Page, a political campaigner and the College Democrats’ faculty advisor. “We may not agree, but I feel like students have been comfortable saying their part. It makes it more personal, and hopefully, that can inspire trust.”

Gettysburgians also learn how to grow this skill through experiential learning opportunities. Last summer, **Sema Meckie Williams ’27** gleaned perspective while volunteering for *Casa Alitas*, a homeless shelter for migrant families seeking asylum in Arizona.

“Gettysburg is giving us a good opportunity to participate in activities that help you learn about social issues and current events,” said Williams. “It is important to have thoughtful conversations because we are trying to make the world diverse and for everyone to feel included.”

In the classroom and beyond, Gettysburgians engage critically with the factors that shape our viewpoints, including the media. Spanish Chair



**Alvaro Kaempfer P'22, P'25**, who taught a class about media coverage in the 2024 presidential election last fall, encourages students to reflect on how they consume media.

“Classrooms are spaces for open discussion,” Kaempfer said. “In an oversaturated media environment, people might not always have the ability and patience to listen and articulate an informed reaction. Part of my goal is to create that conversation.”

## ***Growing our understanding***

Public forums and open discussions are prevalent in many aspects of life, from social media comments to the dinner table. Civil discourse emphasizes mutual respect.

“It also doesn’t make our campus beautiful and diverse if everyone agrees on everything,” said Associate Dean for Inclusion and Belonging **Cristina Garcia**. “You should be engaging in the conversation as long as it’s done in a civil, respectful, appropriate way.”

**Alisha LeVine '25**, president of Gettysburg College Democrats, gathered students to discuss recent political events before the 2024 presidential election. While not all students agreed, they interacted civilly.

“We still saw respect,” LeVine said. “It’s important that students can trust their peers and know that they’re their friends, and we come from a lot of different places and opinions. Oftentimes, our end goals can be similar.”

*Alisha LeVine '25 (right), president of Gettysburg College Republicans, converses with her peers in the College Union Building.*



# THE UNFINISHED WORK

## CONVERSATIONS FOR CHANGE

GETTYSBURG COLLEGE COMMITS  
TO OPEN DIALOGUE

Launched in the Fall 2024 semester, The Unfinished Work: Conversations for Change is a campus-wide initiative that embodies Gettysburg College’s mission and core values. The goal is to foster meaningful and productive dialogues across differences to grow and understand one another.

“This program is not only an event series; it is a personal commitment we are making as Gettysburgians to engage deeply and authentically with one another, particularly in a moment in time when we are confronting deep-rooted division in our nation and our world,” said President **Bob Iuliano** in his opening communication for the initiative in August 2024. “Our College’s history calls on us to lead by example.”

Conversations for Change engages our community through various programs, including dialogue facilitation workshops, speakers and panels, and grant-funded engagement activities.

This past fall, our campus community heard from the following speakers: Raj Vinnakota, president of the Institute for Citizens & Scholars; Colin Woodard, New York Times bestselling author, award-winning journalist, and POLITICO contributing editor; James Coan; executive director of More Like US; Peter Canellos, POLITICO managing editor; and Roger Worthington, University of Maryland professor in the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education, and the founder and executive director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education.

Additionally, through Iuliano’s involvement with the Institute for Citizens & Scholars’ College Presidents for Civic Preparedness initiative, Gettysburg College has access to faculty development workshops and other resources focused on advancing critical dialogue on and off campus.





Students have conversations about dialogues across difference in an event co-hosted by WITF and Urban Rural Action at Waldo's & Company in Gettysburg for the Eisenhower Institute's Democracy Week 2024. (Photo courtesy of Tom Downing/WITF)

On the eve of Election Day, Gettysburg College Democrats and Gettysburg College Republicans then came together to issue a joint statement that pledged to place country over party, regardless of the outcome. They also co-sponsored an election watch party as part of Conversations for Change, collaborating with the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, the Eisenhower Institute, and the Public Policy Department.

"We are so proud to have been part of this unifying effort!" stated the Gettysburg College Republicans on Instagram.

As engaged citizens, that unity remains central to the Gettysburg College community, on and off campus.

Garcia and her colleagues continue to train students that civil discourse is about listening to understand—not listening to respond—which fosters more productive conversations. Garcia encourages students to think critically by asking, "So what, and now what? What does this mean to my understanding of things, and what do I do next with this understanding?"

"When we learn how to have those types of conversations, we're learning more about ourselves," Garcia said. "We're fine tuning our values and beliefs and how we're able to communicate those. Hopefully through all of that, we're allowing others to do the same."

**Eric Lee '15**, a New York Times photography fellow covering politics in Washington, D.C., documents various perspectives in his work. He hopes his efforts will expand readers' understandings of the White House, Congress, and life in the nation's capital.

"As a photojournalist, I can give context by documenting everyone on all ends of the political spectrum," Lee said. "If my photos matter to one person, then I've done my job."

Even if everyone doesn't agree 100%, they can walk away with a better understanding of each other."

**Laura Strickler '95**, an NBC News senior investigative reporter, similarly bears witness to people's stories in her career, like those in communities affected by the fentanyl crisis or Hurricane Helene. She's observed that Americans have more in common than they might think.

"When you look online, it seems like the complete opposite—there's so much anger and division between Americans, and I just don't buy it. I find much more often that there's common ground between Americans on big issues," Strickler said. "Hopefully, the more conversations we have with one another, the more we'll figure that out for ourselves."

Whether in the classroom or our homes, the key to civil discourse is to engage in a way that broadens our understanding of others and the world.

"The focus on 'civil' is really important," Potts said. "We have to start looking at people as humans before we start looking at them as opinions." **G**

**TOP** Laura Strickler '95, senior investigative reporter for NBC News, pictured in the newsroom. (Photo courtesy of Laura Strickler '95)

**BOTTOM** Eric Lee '15 outside Air Force One. (Photo courtesy of Eric Lee '15)





# JOINT STATEMENT

ON THE EVE OF THE 2024 U.S. ELECTIONS, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE DEMOCRATS AND GETTYSBURG COLLEGE REPUBLICANS HAVE ISSUED A JOINT STATEMENT PLEDGING TO PUT COUNTRY OVER PARTY, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THIS ELECTION AND THE FUTURE TO FOLLOW. READ THE FULL STATEMENT FROM OUR STUDENTS:

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One hundred and sixty years ago, the eyes of the nation turned towards Pennsylvania as news poured in of a great battle in the small town of Gettysburg. Our democracy hung in the balance as our countrymen fought for two separate visions of what the future of this continent would look like. Over 50,000 Americans were killed, wounded or declared missing after three days of intense fighting in the blistering heat of July 1863. Yet, despite the carnage and death, democracy and freedom prevailed that day as Union forces defeated the Confederate Army. While the Civil War would rage for another two years, Gettysburg and Pennsylvania would become synonymous with turning the tide of the war and preserving the nation.

Today, the world once again looks to Pennsylvania, including the little town of Gettysburg, as the 2024 election draws near. Pennsylvania may decide the future of the nation, just as it did in July of 1863. We write this today from the halls of Gettysburg College, an institution that bore witness to the immense suffering and death of the battle that raged around it. In its halls were housed countless wounded soldiers of both armies and in the fields of this town were so many from both armies buried.

Despite the challenges that lie before us, even as the most fervent believers fight bitterly, most Americans understand that political violence is not the answer to our predicament. In the spirit of our joint faith in the sanctity of our union and in its people's will to pursue happiness and not strife, Gettysburg College Democrats and Gettysburg College Republicans categorically condemn political violence. It is as true as ever that the two parties disagree on how our country will brave its problems and let them pass into history as moments of triumph for the nation. Yet that which divides us does not bind us to disunity above all, just as our forefathers overcame disunity and even violence of the highest order in their pursuit of a more perfect union. When we remain committed to future American triumphs, we commit ourselves to peace between neighbors and countrymen, and to making the most of the best parts of our democracy.

For almost 250 years our nation has endured political strife, yet while we have endured, we have not endured lightly. For a time, the country was mostly without political violence. In our new millennium, the trend has reversed once again. Are we to assume that this is simply another period of turbulent history that will pass? In doing so, we would neglect the active role of history's participants in keeping the country together despite its challenges. Were it not for the restraint of angry American citizens and the will of patriots to transcend our boundaries in favor of what unites us as Americans and as human beings, we would be without peace and without a stable government that has, more than many, withstood the rigors of time.

In the heat of war, Lincoln promised a peace born out of that great struggle: "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Now, we call on all Americans to answer Lincoln's call to dedicate ourselves to the peaceable preservation of this great nation, regardless of party or ideology. We, the College Republicans and College Democrats of Gettysburg College stand shoulder to shoulder to not only condemn political violence no matter where it comes from but pledge to put country over party regardless of the outcome of this election and the future to follow.





# CONSEQUENTIAL CONNECTIONS

*by Phoebe Doscher '22*



## The power of the Gettysburg Network runs deep.

### \*PING\*

A LinkedIn connection request pops up on your phone.

With increased technological advances, these notifications are ever-present. In an instant, we can video chat, call, text, and email from anywhere around the world.

Today, leveraging the Gettysburg Network can make all the difference, helping you land your next professional opportunity, from a job to graduate school.

“The Gettysburg Network is a vital resource,” said **Pete Menzies ’11**. “It nurtures a spirit of mentorship and innovation. Ultimately, it’s the sense of belonging and shared purpose cultivated at Gettysburg that enables alumni to make meaningful contributions to their industries and one another.”

These consequential connections are a testament to the power of the Gettysburg Network—32,000-plus alumni strong.

*“My connection with Yashima has been a very worthwhile endeavor for both of us. It was just fun and really rewarding to talk to somebody who is going to Gettysburg and shares as much love of the school as I have.”*

TORI HICKERSON ’79



**TORI BEACH HICKERSON ’79**

*Mathematics and economics double major*

*“My mentorship experience with **Tori Hickerson ’79** has been incredibly insightful. It’s been transformative, and I feel fortunate to have such a strong connection with an alum who is so invested in helping me succeed.”*

YASHIMA ADHIKARI ’26



**YASHIMA ADHIKARI ’26**

*Mathematical economics major, data science minor*

**Tori Beach Hickerson ’79** and **Yashima Adhikari ’26** immediately bonded over their shared interest in finance. Hickerson had recently retired as a senior technology lead at Bank of America. In regular phone calls, Hickerson advises Adhikari on navigating the professional world, thinking strategically about her career goals, and approaching networking confidently, all of which Adhikari considers instrumental to her development.

*“This Gettysburg connection has meant so much to me. It’s very hard to find someone who graduated around the same time as you and not have a connection somewhere or have some way to have a conversation.”*

ALBERTUS ROWAN ’12

*“Gettysburg College plays a crucial role in cultivating enduring relationships among its alumni. The shared experiences we gained create a powerful bond that transcends disciplines and graduation years.”*

PETE MENZIES ’11



**ALBERTUS ROWAN ’12**

*Philosophy major*

**PETE MENZIES ’11**

*Economics major, business minor*

**Albertus Rowan ’12** shifted careers during the COVID-19 pandemic and got a master’s in supply chain management. He later connected on LinkedIn with The Terminal Corporation President **Pete Menzies ’11**, who invited Rowan to tour his company. That tour led to an internship, during which Menzies shared insights about supply chain and port operations, and by the end of the internship, Rowan joined full-time.



*"It all came together through Men's Basketball Coach **B.J. Dunne's** alumni mentorship program, Rassoul personally being confident enough to reach out, and the fact that Gettysburg has helped me personally."*

KEVIN KENNEDY '11

*"The connection was meant to happen, honestly. It all started with someone who was trying to give back to people who gave him something."*

RASSOUL ABAKAR HACHYM '25

KEVIN KENNEDY '11

Management major



RASSOUL ABAKAR HACHYM '25

Environmental studies major, French minor

**Kevin Kennedy '11** met **Rassoul Abakar Hachym '25** through the Gettysburg Men's Basketball Alumni Board Association. Hachym's interest in urban planning intrigued Kennedy, a partner at supply chain consulting company RC Kennedy Consulting. After connecting an urban planner with Hachym, Hachym attended a National Town Builders Association conference, won the association's scholarship, and interned with Seabrook Land Company in Washington.

*"The Gettysburg Network is so important, having those connections and the trust established. To be able to trust a student that you met a month ago to do actual legal casework was so impactful."*

ALESSIA BUOSO '26

*"Mentorship is something I really like to do because there were a lot of people who did that for me when I was at Gettysburg. When people need support or ask me for advice, I know that was valuable to me at that time in my life."*

RACHEL RUTTER '11



ALESSIA BUOSO '26

International and global studies and public policy double major, French and Italian studies double minor

RACHEL RUTTER '11

Africana studies, English, Spanish triple major

**Alessia Buoso '26**, who's interested in immigration law, contacted **Rachel Rutter '11** about interning with Rutter's nonprofit, Project Libertad, which empowers immigrant youth by providing legal and social services. Last summer, Buoso interned for Rutter, assisting with summer camps and cases, in addition to preparing affidavits and immigration forms. Buoso still volunteers for Rutter while gaining insights into immigration law and career development.



*“When Dave returned to Gettysburg College to speak about the role of physician assistants, I knew that was the right career path for me. Since then, Dave has helped me through the application process, specifically editing my personal statement.”*

NORHAN GOMAA '21

*“If I can help someone else, maybe voice some of the mistakes I made or have an easier time going through the interview process, that’s worthwhile. To have it be a Gettysburg connection on both ends is really cool.”*

DAVE GILMORE '14



**NORHAN GOMAA '21**

*Health sciences major*

**DAVE GILMORE '14**

*Health sciences major*

**Dave Gilmore '14**, a physician assistant (PA) at St. Luke’s Psychiatric Associates in Pennsylvania, met **Norhan Goma '21** when he came to Gettysburg to speak to the pre-health professions club. Gilmore later guided Goma through the PA school application process at Monmouth University. During her clinical rotations last year, Goma shadowed Gilmore at St. Luke’s, bringing their connection full circle.

*“I encourage people to offer themselves as a resource for career navigation. It can just take a 15-minute phone call to positively change the trajectory of someone’s life.”*

KELSEY MARKIEWICZ '14

*“Without Kelsey, our connection to Gettysburg, and the values that Gettysburg College has instilled in us about teamwork, kindness, and helping the next in line, I would not be at NBCU and would not be the person I am today.”*

EMMA HILL '19




**KELSEY MARKIEWICZ '14**

*Sociology major*



**EMMA HILL '19**

*Sociology major*

When fellow lacrosse player **Emma Hill '19** approached **Kelsey Markiewicz '14** for an informational interview about her role at NBCUniversal, Markiewicz—whose path to NBC started with an externship with Nick Johnson '90 —helped her prepare for interviews. Hill landed a job at NBCUniversal after graduation, and the two have remained connected ever since. 

# CÉSAR LEAL

by Alex J. Hayes



The earliest notes of Sunderman Conservatory of Music *Prof. César Leal's* life song set up an introduction to a career that fuels his passions for music and connection.

Leal was born in Colombia, South America, into a very musical family. His family members would gather at Leal's grandmother's house every Sunday for lunch and a jam session.

"It would be hours, and hours, and hours of playing," he recalled fondly.

Looking back, Leal believes he knew at an early age the path he would take, even though his teachers may have had other goals in mind.

"I went to a private school that promised parents their kids would turn out to be a lawyer, doctor, or politician," he said. "They returned my dad a musician."

After earning his bachelor's degree in music performance from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, in 2001, Leal cashed in his savings and headed to the United States with CDs containing his recital. The music was eclectic and soulful. Florida International University recognized his talents, and Leal's new movement began in America.

Four years later, after earning his doctorate in philosophy in musicology and ethnomusicology from the University of Kentucky and working as orchestra conductor at The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, for six years, Leal sought to teach at a college with a conservatory. He wanted to explore a liberal arts institution, one where both music played a central role on the student experience with new artistic opportunities, and he could continue his research. He discovered that opportunity at Gettysburg College.

He has since taught at Gettysburg for five years, serving as the director of orchestral activities and coordinator of musicology. He challenges his students to pay attention to what he calls "the goosebump test." While they are playing, he often stops them and asks if they feel what they are performing. If they do, that feeling will likely resonate with the audience.

Throughout his career, Leal has led ensembles in academic and professional settings across the United States, Panama, Colombia, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Ukraine.

Leal believes music gives people the opportunity to be their true selves. He uses music as a window to understand history or personal stories through a different lens.

"The beautiful thing about music is you cannot hide anything," he said. "It's a tremendous gift to the community."

It's also that community that brings his career to life. Leal jokes that the relationships he has made through his work have prevented him from having to book a hotel room while traveling the world to perform, conduct, or speak. He especially enjoys working with youth ensembles and instilling an early love for the power of music.

He also remains deeply connected to his family. Leal visits his brother in Florida and his parents in Colombia when his schedule allows, but he doesn't need to be in person to know what is happening in their lives.

"It's a Latinx family, so there can be 10 calls a day," he said.





When Leal makes those calls, he doesn't consider the practice to be calling home.

"Where is home?" is a very loaded question for me," he said.

On June 6, 2024, Leal began to feel a little more comfortable answering that question. During the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day at the Eisenhower National Historic Site, Leal became an American citizen, culminating a 23-year journey.

"Even after living in the U.S. for more than half of my life, becoming a citizen of this country has profoundly changed my experience here," he told the Class of 2028 during the Gettysburg College First-Year Walk. "I now feel at home."

He uses his story to better connect with students and others where they are. Leal prides himself in learning as many languages as possible and can currently converse in French, Italian, Spanish, and English.

"I try to learn how to think in different languages," he said. "I take any opportunity to practice it."

Leal approaches another hobby, cooking, much less intentionally.

"I love to cook and learned to do so as a kid because my mom, a passionate feminist, wanted to raise useful sons," he said. "I don't follow a recipe and I find this to be a useful and transferable skill."

With a life built around connections, Leal occasionally heads to the woods to disconnect and pay attention to nature. When he resets his mind after a hike, he is excited to return to Gettysburg College and help students understand who they are through music.

"The students here are so eager. I really enjoy challenging them," he said.

**ABOVE** Sunderman Conservatory of Music Prof. César Leal delivered the keynote speech and recited Lincoln's Gettysburg Address during the First-Year Walk for the Class of 2028. (Photo by Luke Waldner)

# 3

*ingredients he needs to make a delicious meal: onion, garlic, and tomatoes*

# 5

*years after Prof. Leal joined the Gettysburg College faculty, he welcomed the Class of 2028 as the First-Year Walk keynote speaker*

# 10

*countries where he has presented scholarly papers*

# 14

*years as artistic director of the Ensemble of Variable Geometry (EnVaGe)*

# 16

*the age he realized he could make music a career*



# GETTYSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA: A PRESIDENTIAL BACKDROP FOR PIVOTAL MOMENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

by Brooke Askin '25

*“The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”*

Abraham Lincoln  
during The Gettysburg Address


On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln took the stage at the dedication of Gettysburg National Cemetery to deliver these profound words as part of his Gettysburg Address—one of the most impactful speeches in U.S. history. Honoring fallen soldiers from the Civil War, he urged our nation to embrace unity.

Of the 30 U.S. presidents who have served in office since Lincoln, 23 have visited Gettysburg. Many echoed his address, using the battlefield as a backdrop to reunite the country in times of division, segregation, or crisis. Several delivered speeches on anniversaries for the Battle of Gettysburg. Some directly addressed students and faculty of the College, and others spoke during national holidays.

On July 3, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke during the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg (*opposite page, top photo*). Shortly before the start of World War II, he dedicated the Eternal Light Peace Memorial in front of nearly 2,000 Civil War veterans and 200,000 spectators. Emphasizing a united nation during increasing global tension, he stated, “Men who wore the Blue and men who wore the Grey are here together. ... All of them we honor, not asking under which flag they fought then—thankful that they stand together under one flag now.”

On April 4, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered a Commencement speech at Gettysburg College (*opposite page, middle photo*), reflecting on his deep connection to the institution and its mission. Amid Cold War strains, Eisenhower argued that “freedom is indivisible.” He highlighted the importance of a liberal arts education in developing understanding and critical thinking while addressing international conflict. “Over the 127 years of Gettysburg College’s existence, its graduates have, in many ways, served the cause of freedom and of justice,” he said.

On May 30, 1963, before being elected president, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered the keynote at a Memorial Day celebration (*opposite page, bottom photo. Courtesy of the Adams County Historical Society*). He used Gettysburg National Cemetery to reinforce Lincoln’s message, speaking on the unfinished work of the civil rights movement. “We, the living, have not forgotten—and will never forget—the deeds or the words of Gettysburg. We honor them now... in a prayer for permanent peace of the world and fulfillment of our hopes for universal freedom and justice,” he said.

Gettysburg College acknowledges its presence in such a significant, historical place. We are committed to fostering civil discourse throughout our community. Recognizing the lasting impact of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, we remain dedicated to the “unfinished work” that he charged us to complete in 1863. 



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## BULLETINS

### **MARCH 26-27**

*Gettysburgives  
36-Hour Challenge*

### **APRIL 7**

*Founder's Day*

### **MAY 16-17**

*Commencement Weekend  
for the Class of 2025*

### **MAY 30**

*Orange & Blue Golf Classic*

### **MAY 29-JUNE 1**

*Alumni College and Reunion  
Weekend (Celebrating classes  
ending in 5 and 10: 1955-2010)*

### **MAY 31**

*Final day to make a gift for the  
2025 fund year*

### **JULY-AUGUST**

*Welcome Gatherings for  
New Families*

### **AUGUST 20**

*Opening Day*

### **OCTOBER 3-5**

*Homecoming &  
BOLD Reunion Weekend*

### **OCTOBER 24-26**

*Family Weekend*

*Dates are subject to change. Please visit [www.gettysburg.edu](http://www.gettysburg.edu) for the latest event details.*

## CANDIDATES FOR HONORARY DEGREES

Through September 30, 2025, the Office of the Provost is accepting nominations for honorary degrees to be awarded at Commencement 2027. Recipients of the College's highest honor may be artists, scholars, clergy, humanitarians, and other distinguished leaders. The nomination form and guidelines are available online at <https://www.gettysburg.edu/commencement/traditions/honorary-degrees>. Nominations and questions can be directed to the Provost's Office at [HonoraryDegreeNominations@gettysburg.edu](mailto:HonoraryDegreeNominations@gettysburg.edu) or 717-337-6820.

## NOMINATIONS TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DEADLINE: MARCH 7, 2025

Alumni Association Board of Directors share a close connection to the College and provide leadership and representation for all alumni. Send your nominations to Nicki West at [nwest@gettysburg.edu](mailto:nwest@gettysburg.edu) or 717-337-6508.



# CLASS NOTES

⊙ indicates photo available on page 58.

## 1953

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## '54

Glen Pannell writes that he keeps in touch with Al Comery, and they recently reminisced about their days at the college radio station, WWGC. Glen has children living on both coasts—New Jersey and Oregon. I also have children living on both coasts, plus one in Texas. It certainly keeps all of us traveling! Nancy Penniman Young recently had a knee replacement so she could continue her hiking. Nancy enjoys rug braiding when she's not hiking.

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## '55

We've received news of several classmates who have recently passed. While we mourn their loss, we also celebrate their rich lives and many contributions to family,

community, and beyond. **Robert L. Sibert** died on June 23, 2024. After graduating from Gettysburg, Bob rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam. He worked as an investigator with the Department of Defense and was deeply involved in Masonic work, earning a 50-Year Masonic Emblem and being a member of the Zembo Shriners. A 50-year veteran of the Boy Scouts of America, Bob is survived by his wife, Georgia Borneman Sibert '56; three children; three grandchildren; two brothers; and a sister. He was interred at Indiantown Gap Cemetery with full military honors. **Rev. William A. Markley** died on Aug. 19, 2024, in Taneytown, Md. A classics major at Gettysburg, William went on to seminary and served parishes in the Maryland Synod before becoming a hospital chaplain at Sibley Memorial Hospital. He retired after 40 years in ministry to pursue his passions for travel and collecting. A member of the Sons of the American Revolution, William is survived by his wife of 55 years, Shelia Jean (Bixler). **Marjorie “Pixie” Geesaman** died on Sept. 23, 2024, after a brief illness. A chemistry major who graduated with honors, Pixie earned an MBA and worked at McGraw-Hill in educational testing. She and her husband, Frank Geesaman '56, enjoyed piloting planes and hot air balloons and participating in a local sports car club. She is survived by nieces, nephews, and their families. **Lemuel R. Lawson** died on

Oct. 7, 2024, in Elizabethtown, Pa. Drafted into the Army after graduation, Lem served in hospital roles before building a career at Wyeth Labs. An avid outdoorsman and Red Lion Masonic Lodge member, Lem is survived by his wife of 41 years, Lorraine (Smith); their daughter, Lynne Czech (Paul) of Rhode Island; and two grandchildren. **Robert “Buck” Beaver** died on Oct. 10, 2024. A football standout at Gettysburg, Buck led the 1953 team to an 8-1 record. After graduation, he chose seminary over the NFL, serving as a pastor before earning a law degree from Temple. Buck specialized in defending doctors and hospitals and served on numerous boards, including the Gettysburg Seminary. An accomplished sailor, skier, pilot, and fox hunter, Buck is survived by his daughter, Britt Beaver Saitta, her husband, John, two grandsons, and five great-grandchildren. Finally, **James Megee** passed away in March 2023. A retired chemist, Jim devoted himself to his family. He is survived by his wife, Sally; their four children; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Our condolences go out to the families of these six classmates. They will be deeply missed.

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## '57

It's been wonderful to receive news and updates from fellow classmates over the past few months. **Wayne Fleck** shared that he married his college sweetheart, Mary Lou, and they will celebrate their 65th anniversary in February. After living in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for 46 years, they moved to a Life Care Center in Nashville. Wayne still enjoys gardening, driving, traveling, and playing drums—he notes, “lots of retired musicians here in Nashville!” From Colorado, **Wayne Ewing** reports that he has a new book coming out, “In the Land of Forgetfulness: Meditations on Dementia Care and Spiritual Formation,” published by Wipf & Stock. Congratulations, Wayne! He continues to write for the weekly “Wet Mountain Tribune” out of Westcliffe, Colo. He also shared the challenges of being a full-time caregiver, along with his wife Shannon, for his elderly father-in-law. Recently, Wayne and his son, Christopher, traveled to Singapore, where Wayne was honored by Trinity Theological College, where he previously taught theology in both English and Mandarin. In a new book about the college's history, covering the transitional years from 1965–70, Wayne is remembered as a “radical, highly educated lecturer who was behind the student uprisings of the '60s, one who encouraged students to think and live into, through, and beyond issues not usually touched on in pastoral and theological education of that era.” Wayne keeps in touch with fellow classmate, **Bob Schultz**, who, in turn, stays connected with **Mike Bishop**. As always, **Stu Carswell** keeps me updated from New Hampshire. His latest note was a picture postcard showing him celebrating his 90th birthday with friends and family. He sends birthday greetings to any classmates celebrating that milestone in the coming months. Since my last column, I've been saddened to hear of just one classmate “caught in that ever-flowing stream that bears us all away.” **Anne Herschfeld Lau** died on July 5. Anne was married to fellow Gettysburgian Jim

Lau '55 for 69 years. She taught English for 25 years at North Penn H.S. in Lansdale, Pa. After retirement, Anne and Jim moved to South Carolina, where she enjoyed golf and gardening. Anne is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandson. We send our deepest sympathy to her family. I received the following obituary notices after the deadline for submitting my column. They will be covered more fully in the next edition. **Deane Bornheimer**, Apr. 13, **Terrence J. Harris**, June 28, **William B. Wivel**, Aug. 9, and **Virginia Lammey Way**, Oct. 19.

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## '58

What a nice surprise I received when Julie Catalano, **Howard Body's** daughter, called and wanted some help in contacting **George Potter**, Howard's roommate from College. I was able to help and Howard and George had a “face time” one Sunday. They caught up on 65 years of living. George and his wife, Penny, live in Salisbury, Md., and Howard lives in Douglasville, Pa. Howard reminisced about working at the bar at the Gettysburg Hotel when President Eisenhower was convalescing at his farm in G'burg. During President Eisenhower's medical recovery Howard had the opportunity to serve him when he came by for some service at the hotel. What a great memory. Howard was 90 on Oct. 27, so Happy Birthday! His grandson, Matthew, is a student at G'burg now. An article that I believe never got in the alumni magazine was from Dave Kessler in Nov. 2023, when he had returned from a 5,400 miles trip out West in their RV and 2 weeks later a 17-day Biblical Tour of the Apostle Paul's journeys. On Oct. 7, they were due to land in Israel, but, as you now know, that's when Hamas attacked, so their trip was diverted and they went to the Greek Islands, back to Ephesus, Turkey, and finally Athens. Glad they are

safe and sorry this report is so late. As we are all aging the news of those living “keeps us young at heart,” so let us hear from you.

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## '59

Our 65th reunion took place on a sunny weekend on our beautiful campus. Ten members attended: **Harry Binger**, **Carol (Reed)** and **Bruce Hamilton**, **Anita (Landgren)** **McDonough**, **Florence (Duckworth)** **Pollock**, **Carl Schoenborn**, **Bob Smith**, **Bucky Walters**, **Ellen (Buchanan)** **Wilcox**, and **Nancy (Hood) Young**. **Bob Smith** and Pat (Ness) Smith '60 hosted a welcoming dinner on Friday night at their lovely home in G'burg. On Saturday, the Convocation was crowded with alumni as the group honored retiring Alumni Relations Director **Joe Lynch '85**. Thank you, Joe. I regret to share that I received a note from **Walter Hoff's** wife informing us that he passed away on June 26, 2024. Walter was a Sigma Chi member and earned his degree in economics. After graduation, he enrolled in Officer Candidate School and served in the Navy onboard the USS Macon and USS Boston. He completed 20 years as a reservist before working for years in food brokerage and sales. He was very active in his local Lutheran church. He is survived by his wife, **Constance**, and three children and seven grandchildren. **Robert M. Deiley** passed away on August 9th. He was an insurance agent and a member of the Doylestown Jaycees and Kiwanis. He was very active coaching youth sports and helped found the Doylestown Athletic Association. He is survived by his wife, Martha and three children. He was Pop-pop to ten greats and grandchildren. **Rev. Hugo W. Schroeder, Jr.** died on July 13th. After Gettysburg College, he received a Bachelor of Divinity from Gettysburg

Seminary. He served as a pastor in several Lutheran churches in Pa. and N.Y. He leaves his wife, Evelyn, son Hugo III '83 and daughter Sue Pennay and seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

**Nancy (Hood) Young**  
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## 1960

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## '61

We're fairly well settled in and enjoying our new home but my mailbox is getting empty again. Please let me hear from you. Just a note, email, etc. will do. **Doug** and **Janet Rockafellow** are comfortable and enjoying their "Villa" in Pa. Having moved just before COVID reared its ugly head, the move itself was problematic. Now that they are very much at home, their children don't need to wonder "what to do with Mom and Dad" and everyone is happy. **Bill** and **Linda Matz** write to let us know that Bill's book "My Toughest Battle: A Soldier's Lifelong Struggle with Polio" was recently posted on the Amazon and Barnes and Noble sites for pre-order on <https://a.co/d/hBuSdqK>. The posting includes a description, endorsements, reviews, etc. It will be released in January 2025 and is an autobiography of Bill's 80+ years which include those wonderful years shared at G'burg and beyond. Bill is most appreciative of the advice and endorsements of his fellow Gettysburgians. The project has been a two and a half year undertaking and he and Linda are glad it's almost over. **Pat Ness Smith** writes that once again, the College generously offered our class the use of Glatfelter Lodge for our "tweener" lunch gathering at Homecoming. The group enjoyed so much that no one went to the football game except Bob Smith who left for a short time to bring a halftime score

back to the group. **Sherm Hendrix** and Carol '63, **Bill Hockenberry** and Kathy, **Gene Leber** and Sue '62, **Ed McCleaf** and Laurie, Doug and Janet **Rockafellow**, **Pat Ness Smith** and Bob '59 and **Bob Whyte** enjoyed time to reminisce about fun times at Gettysburg. Everyone in attendance wanted to continue the "tweeners." Our thanks to **Doug** and **Pat** for all that they do for our class. Our sympathies to the families of **S. William Bear**, **Ronald Beerkircher** and **Helen Gilbert Wolf**. Please contact me if you would like their obituaries.

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## '62

I have very little news for you this time. I do know that the classmates I maintain contact with in Florida all survived the 2 destructive hurricanes of the fall with little or no damage to their properties. I certainly hope others who live in Florida and western North Carolina can report the same good news. And now for the bad news. **Colleen Grace Sholly Cronlund** passed away September 21, 2024, after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Martin H. Cronlund, Jr., and their four children. Colleen was a lifelong learner and an advocate for education. After earning her B.S. degree and an M.S. in Science Teaching from American University she continued her studies at Anne Arundel Community College throughout her life. Colleen will be remembered for her kindness, generosity, and quiet strength. She touched many lives with her acts of service. On May 10, 2024, **Joanne Dearcopp** passed away at her home in Old Greenwich, Connecticut where she had been a resident and involved community member for over 40 years. After earning her B.A. in psychology, she moved to New York and worked at the Sloan-Kettering Institute, the Animal Medical Center and then began her first stint in publishing at Simon & Schuster. Her first entrepreneurial job was as a sports marketing agent. She

was one of the first women allowed in the pits at the Indy 500 and at the Formula One race in Monte Carlo. She represented Janet Guthrie, the first woman driver at the Indy 500, and Lela Lombardi, the first woman to race Formula One. She also represented Olympic downhill gold medalist Barbara Ann Cochran, and the boxer Jackie Tonawanda, who dubbed herself the 'Female Ali'. She also photographed film stars Charles Bronson and Richard Burton on location. Joanne was an avid traveler, sailor, and passionate collector of Native American and Chinese art and artifacts. Joanne was also a dedicated student of Zen Buddhism for 20 years, and was recently ordained at the Zen Mountain Monastery in Mt. Tremper, NY. Joanne also served as a Director of the Old Greenwich Yacht Club.

**Betty Reade Hansen**  
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## '63

Dear classmates, the fall is beautiful here in Maryland, and I hope you are all enjoying a respite from a hot summer. I am also hoping those of you in Florida have survived the devastating storms that have plagued your state. We have lost more classmates, and I will begin with those memories.

**Peter Williard Wright**, USAF Lt. Colonel-retired, passed away in 2018. I just received his obituary and wanted to let you all know. Pete was a member of Cornwell United Methodist Church and proud to serve our nation as a member of the USAF. Pete also taught at Newburgh Free Academy. While at G'burg, he was a member of Alpha Phi Omega, Delta Phi Alpha, Alpha Tau Omega, and the tennis team. Pete is survived by his wife, Ann, his son, James (Chris Ann), daughter-in-law, Denise, and five grandchildren. Thank you for your devoted service, Peter. **George Otlowski** passed away in September 2024 in Perth Amboy, where he was a lifelong resident. After G'burg, George received his Juris



Doctor degree from Calif. Western School of Law and spent his life helping residents of Perth Amboy while improving services offered by the town. In 2014, George was honored as Man of the Year by the United Poles of America. He was predeceased by his wife, Judy, and his brother, Matthew, but is survived by several nieces, nephews, and countless friends and clients he helped over the years. **William Kirchoff** passed away in July 2024. While at G'burg, Bill was a Sigma Alpha Epsilon brother as well as a member of the baseball team. He met his future wife, Jean Cleveland, the love of his life, and they married in December 1963. Bill joined Cleveland Brothers Equipment Company, where he ultimately served as Executive Vice-President and Dealer Principal. He and Jean raised their children in Central Pa., where they were both dedicated to family and the community. Bill is survived by Jean, their two daughters, Karen (Rob) and Katie (Anson), their daughter-in-law, Staci, and eight grandchildren. **John Cunningham** passed away on September 7, 2024. After graduating from St. Peter's Preparatory School where he was a champion fencer, John graduated from Gettysburg College, and from Adelphi University. Where he earned his Master's Degree. During his career, John worked in many sales capacities until his retirement, and enjoyed traveling and working with his many customers. Reading was his passion, and John especially liked historical literature. He is survived by his wife, Marsha, his daughter, Julia (Patrick) as well as many nieces and nephews. Lastly, I share the obituary of **Katherine Hess Tenley**, a dear friend of mine from high school who attended G'burg for two years before transferring to Cornell University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She met her future husband, Dick, through her college roommate, Dolly, and the couple raised two children. Kathy worked as an instructor and registered nurse in Kingston, N.Y., and also at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minn. She loved to cook and was an accomplished seamstress. Kathy's

faith in the Lord was formed when she was young, and she recognized the importance of nurturing her beliefs. Kathy shared that faith with all she met, especially her family. She is survived by her husband, Dick, her daughter Sue (Tom), her son John (Kristen), four grandchildren, and her brother, Herb (BJ). That is all for now... stay well and send any news you have. "The light at the end of the tunnel is not an illusion...the tunnel is."

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'64

Happy WINTER greetings to the class of 1964! Proposed 62nd reunion effort via ZOOM is looming in addition to returning to campus in 2026! How delightful it would be to be able to see you all on laptops and computers! Attendees at the 60th reunion: **Richard Albright, Stephen Blank, Harry "Buzzie" Buzzard, Angela Gravino (Estes), Judy Lawrence (Graef), Lance Graef, Jim Grant, Jo Foster (Grant), Georgia Condon (Guenther), Sarah Brinkerhoff (Hartwig), Crist Hoffman, Carolyn Hauser (Hudson), Donna Gilbert (Koerner), Harry McElroy, Susan Chapin (McElroy), Phyllis Savage (Parkell), Tim Parsons, Ed Southworth, Dave Wehr, Sandy Perry (Yeatman), Pen Yeatman, Harvey Goss, Jim Lukens, Barry Gruber, Ed Salmon, and John Biddle.** I received greetings from **Sid Breman** (Economics major, swimmer, soccer, WWGC, and Phi Sigma Kappa). In June 2024, the Naval Institute published an article entitled "Missing History: Operation Swanee and the Liberty Ferry" related to his third published book on Vietnam, "Controlled Crash: The misadventures of a Young Sailor" (Kindle Press, 2024). **Sherry (Rasmussen) Jackson** (Music major, College Choir, M.E.N.C., Sigma Kappa), lives in Jensen Beach, Fla.,

and has been a choir director in several churches. She has been in touch with **Nancy Hunter Nelson** (her roomie), and with Helen Francisco, her "big sorority sister". She recently visited G'burg this year and was awed by the visit to the campus and the National Park! We received word that **Jim Hamerstone** (Political Science major, Caucus Club, Sigma Chi), had passed away on March 13, 2024. Jim's resume included stints in human resources with Digital Equipment, TRW, and University Hospitals of Cleveland. Retirement brought Jim to G'burg College, where he taught business classes and published a book, "A Woman's Framework for a Successful Career and Life." **Paul Showalter** (History major, PSEA-NEA, intramurals, Young Republicans, Kappa Delta Rho), passed away on 3/5/2023. He was a proud father of five and grandfather of seven. **Sue Anne (Robinson) Miller** (Spanish Major, Spanish Club, Gettysburgian, junior year abroad in Madrid) passed away on 8/9/2024. Sue traveled with her Naval father to a variety of foreign countries. She worked for NSA in Washington, D.C., Romania, and Syria. She received an MA degree in Library Science leading to work with the CIA and several Fairfax, Va., libraries. PLEA: please let me hear from you! Substance and Sizzle!!

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'65

As I write this, my mailbox is filling up! No, not with political ads, pleas for contributions, or "soon it's Christmas" sales, but with—(are you ready?)—notes from **Dave Radin** (and me) about our 60th reunion next summer. Surprised anyone is left to attend? Missed the last few? Think you're too old, fat, or bald? Dave's tradition says a minyan is enough

(look it up). My tradition says where two or three are gathered together. The truth is, we really want to see you again and hear the stories we missed five years ago. Look for more information in your mailbox soon. I'm sorry to share that **Bob Hughey** has passed away. A wonderful, comprehensive obituary appeared in The Press of Atlantic City: "At any given time, he was a public administrator, a college professor, a city planner, the Commissioner of the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection for a Republican governor, the N.J. Job Czar for a Democratic governor, an investment banker, an acting college president, or an NJIT vice president, or some combination thereof." Also, **Gary Grabn** has died. He loved his wife, Sharon, his family, his church, Bible study and mission trips, travel and any who in life were marginalized. After making significant business contributions to American Photo Group, he accepted the role of Chief Executive Officer at Langer Bio Mechanics in New York before retiring at age 55. We remember him from his involvement with the 'Burgian and Spectrum and the Phi Sigs. And **Dave Williams** has died. He received an M.A. at Temple and a Ph.D. at U of P., and then joined the newly-formed psychology department at Ithaca College in 1970, where he taught until his retirement in 2006. As a scholar and business consultant, his travels took him to Eswatini, Finland, Japan and numerous other countries. He loved music, singing with a semi-professional barbershop quartet, with fellow Welsh choral enthusiasts and in several church choirs. At G'burg, he also enjoyed music and theater. The College says renovations are coming soon. What stories do you have about Rice, Stevens or the cottages? Send them to me at the address below, as a kind of pre-reunion compilation.

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## '66

**Tom McCracken** notes that Oct. 3 marks the 60th anniversary of the Bullets win over Delaware. GOAT in schools football history. Classmates on that team were **Dale Boyd, Ron Brentzel, Bob Dimeo, Ray Frick, Lloyd Grumbein, Tom Hardy, John Hilty, Ken Snowe, Jimmy Ward, Pete Wolynec, and Ron Zazworsky. Pat Shaffer Petiet** and husband run the Comic Opera Guild in Ann Arbor, Mich., which performs comic operettas. Internationally known as the only group that has recorded over 38 Victor Herbert musicals. On the 100th anniversary of his death, gave a concert comprised of many of his unknown works. A bio major, shows what a wonderful thing about going to a liberal arts college. **Jim McLaughlin** is still working as an accountant in the Houston area. He prepares tax returns both individual and corporate which keeps him busy. Has problems with herbicides as do many who served in Vietnam. **Peter Thompson** died on April 13, 2024 in Franklin, Pa. After receiving his medical degree, he set up a family practice in Franklin where he spent his entire career. He was a well beloved and giving local doctor. **Gerald Bloom** died December 18, 2023 in Richboro, Pa. Gerry played on the Bullets varsity basketball team and the tennis team. He played basketball at the local Y against much younger men until his late 60s. A graduate of Dickinson Law, he practiced law for 53 years from his office in Langhorne, Pa. He always did his best for his clients. They were his top priority. He was a prolific writer and had a great command of both the English and Latin languages.

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## '67

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of **Lee Philip Cummings** suddenly on May 30th in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Lee was born in Troy, Pa., in 1945. I met Lee in our freshman year at G'burg, and we were

roommates in our freshman and sophomore years. We both pledged Phi Delta Theta and remained life-long friends until his death. Lee and his loving wife, Nancy Cummings, shared a remarkable marriage of 56 years. Lee was a man who embodied passion and love for his family. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Myrtle Beach, the Troy Lions Club and served multiple terms on the board for the Martha Lloyd Community Services in Troy, demonstrating his dedication to service and community welfare. As a mentor and friend, Lee touched countless lives. His unwavering support and willingness to help anyone in need made him a respected figure in many people's lives. I, and his Phi Delt brothers who knew him, will miss him. Attending Lee's Celebration of Life in Troy, Pa., were **Lew Manges** and wife Maxine, **Steve Baksa** and wife Dee, and Tom Hardy '66. **Phyllis Hauck Price**, age 79 of Arendtsville, passed away on June 21, 2024, at Gettysburg Hospital. She was born April 20, 1945 in East Orange, N.J., the daughter of the late Doctor Rudolf and Dorothy Day Hauck. She married Richard Price on June 29, 1968, and adopted their late son, Kevin Price, in 1972. Phyllis was an educator who taught for four years in the Hanover School District at Clearview Elementary School and in the Upper Adams School District with gifted students. She worked as a biology lab instructor at G'burg College from 1974-2017 and as a research technician at the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center before her retirement. **David J. Otis**, age 78, of Drexel Hill died peacefully May 7, 2024. He is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Carol (nee Cherry) Otis. David was born in Little Falls, New York. He was a graduate of Croton-Harmon H.S. He was drafted into the United States Army during law school at Villanova University and served for 2 years. He returned to Villanova Law School and graduated in 1972. He worked as an attorney in Delaware and Montgomery Counties for 42 years until his retirement in 2014.

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'68

**Al Keene** and his wife, Margaret, continue to provide reading glasses in the Keene Reading Glasses Program to 15 Northwell Health Hospitals in NYC, three Catholic hospitals on Long Island (including one where I had my tonsils taken out at age five), and three social services agencies in Palm Beach County, Fla. This adds up to about 100,000 pairs of spectacles annually since 2013. Al was volunteering in a hospital when he was circulating with a library cart and met many patients who did not have their glasses as they had been admitted to the hospital suddenly. He and Margaret decided they could fill in this gap for the patients and their families. **Larry and Nancy (Humbert) Leister** often travel from their home in Frederick, Md. to that of their sons and grandchildren in Colo., N.H., and Baltimore. Since their grandchildren are still small, they are enjoying attending various grandparent days at elementary schools. Nancy also enjoyed a trip for her 60th high school reunion in N.J. Unfortunately, I must report the death of **Ron Reaves** in October. Ron was a retired Lutheran minister and kept himself busy in retirement with writing and caring for his wife, Lucretia. He graciously gave the blessing at our 50th and 55th reunion dinners. We mourn with his family and friends.

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'69

**Vincent Keipper** attended our 55th reunion this year and enjoyed the chance to see old friends; he reunited with Sigma Nu brothers **Joe Baker**, **Gunnar Anderson**, **Alan Pohlman**, and **Larry Smith** and their lovely wives. Vince also caught up with Dan Hely, his old roommate, who showed him how to be a good dorm counselor back

in the day. Although he could not make it to the reunion, a shout out to **Bill Lindsay** who organized the creation of a bronze plaque commemorating the formation of a new lacrosse team in our senior year with names of all the players in it. It is now on the outside of the locker room door of the football stadium. Vince and his wife, Eileen Schmatz Keipper '71, live on a small horse farm in Concord, N.C. He is a retired internist and geriatrician who now golfs, enjoys woodworking, and visits national parks and foreign travel with his wife. It's become an unhappy circumstance that with each of these class updates, I have to notify you of classmates we've lost. **Deanna S. Forney (Dea)**, passed away on October 21, 2024, in Palmer Township, Pa. Dea's career was in higher education. She served as a student affairs practitioner at Penn State, the State University of New York at Oswego, the U. of Delaware, Allegheny College, and Gettysburg College. Then, for 24 years, she served on the graduate faculty (College Student Personnel Program) at Western Illinois U., where she received Faculty Excellence and Professional Achievement Awards. On her retirement, a scholarship was named in her honor. Dea authored or co-authored many publications, including the books, *Student Development in College* and *Using Entertainment Media in Student Affairs Teaching and Practice*. Her interests included films, TV, and reading, and she was a lifelong fan of rock music. She was delighted to have met Chuck Berry, the father of rock and roll and was a charter member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. Dea is survived by her sister, a niece, nephew and a great nephew. **John L. Scarborough**, of Elkton, Md., passed away on August 4, 2024. At G'burg, John played freshman basketball, but focused on football, where he was a letterman. He was a member of the G'burg football team of 1966 that won the Lambert Cup, symbolizing the best small college in the East. After College, he taught at Bohemia Manor H.S. and law clerked for the judges of the Circuit Court for

Cecil County while attending law school. Upon passing the Maryland bar exam, John was hired as an Assistant State's Attorney. He was elected State's Attorney for Cecil County in 1982 and was re-elected four times. John served in the Maryland Army National Guard, was a supporter of the Special Olympics, and was an avid sportsman. He coached his four sons' teams in Little League Baseball and Junior Football for almost 20 years. John is survived by his four sons, nine grandchildren, a sister, brother, and many nieces and nephews.

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1970

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'71

It's been a slow communication season since our last class column. I received a note and a link to The Seattle Times of June 30, 2024 from our classmate **Dave Neth**, who is a realtor in Seattle Washington. Dave has been on the "other coast" since 1960 and writes, "I was honored during Seattle's June Pride month with a front page Seattle Times article commemorating my creating Seattle's first Gay Pride Week in 1974, 50 years ago. We had less than 150 people that week—this year the parade in downtown boasted nearly 200,000 spectators. I continue to enjoy good health (relatively) and live with my spouse of 16 years." The article is a great tribute to Dave and to the LGBTQ+ community in the Northwest. If any other classmates are in that area, please connect with Dave. Unfortunately, we mourn the loss of

classmates **Pete Buckingham**, **Wayne Wagner**, and **Glenda Galebach**. **Pete Buckingham** earned his MA in history after G'burg, teaching history for DOD Dependents Schools in England where he met and married his future wife Lorraine who was from Illinois. They retired back to Ill., where he continued his passion for long-distance biking, bowling, and golfing. **Wayne Wagner** entered the nuclear engineering field after obtaining advanced degrees from the U. of Florida. His career took him (and his family) to facilities in seven states while his zeal for handyman projects saw him design and supervise construction of the family cabin in North Carolina. **Glenda Galebach** also went westward post -G'burg graduation, earning her Masters in Education at the U. of Oklahoma. When she was not traveling, Glenda taught math in the Oklahoma City School System until she retired and returned to Pa., to rejoin family. There is never enough space in these columns to allow for proper tributes or photos; please note that Legacy.com carries fuller tributes on their site where you can search by name or by college attended (or other keywords of your liking). Please send along any info to share with our class & College and I hope 2024 was good to all, with hopes abounding for 2025.

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**f Gettysburg College Class of 1971**

**'72**

Hopefully all is well with our Class of '72. Please drop me a line that I can share with the Class. Sadly, I report the passing of, **Laura Gannon Vasilantone**. She passed away August 24, at her home in Clinton, N.J., after a courageous battle with cancer. After G'burg she earned her Master's Degree at Rutgers U., and enjoyed a fulfilling career at Laser Diode spanning 35 years as a Quality Assurance Manager. Laura was married to Alex Vasilantone for 33 years. She was the proud mother of three children; Traci (Becker) Buchanan, Kristi Becker, and Dan Becker and had

two step sons, Brian and Michael Vasilantone. She also adored her seven grandchildren, a role that brought her immense joy and pride. Laura treasured every moment spent with her family.

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**'73**

I have sad news. I received a call from Linda Allewalt and she has shared the following: **Donald L. Allewalt Jr.** (aka Larry "Cat" Allewalt) died at the age of 72 on May 16, 2024. May 16th also happened to be the 49th anniversary of his engagement to Gettysburg grad Linda (Personeus) Allewalt. Larry proposed to Linda at the Covered Bridge near Gettysburg in 1975 and they were married at the Gettysburg College Chapel on October 4th of that year. He was a member of the Kappa Delta Rho fraternity and valued his friendships with fraternity brothers for many years. After their marriage, Linda and Larry settled in Biglerville and lived there until 1986. Larry had also graduated from the University of Baltimore Law School and tried private practice in Gettysburg for a couple of years, but didn't find that to be a good fit for him. He went on to work for various corporations in the arenas of site negotiations, property management/leasing, and real estate contract renewals, etc. His career moved the family several times. He spent most of his working years with McDonald's corporation. He and Linda kept in touch with friends in the Adams County area and attended their 50th reunion in 2023. Over the years Larry enjoyed camping trips with Linda and their two daughters, Jessica and Stephanie; became an accomplished woodworker, welder, and car/Jeep/truck restorer. He loved road trips, especially out west, and particularly in Montana where he and Linda had a vacation condo. Most of all, Larry loved his family deeply and the feeling was mutual. He was a wonderful husband and partner to Linda, a guide and

endless support to his daughters, and an awesome "Granddad" to his three granddaughters, Aderyn, Myhre and Marin. As a personal note I first met Cat during Freshmen Orientation since we shared residence at Rice Hall. Cat always had a wonderful smile and a great sense of humor. We are all fortunate to have been able to reunite last year at our 50th Reunion. Best wishes to our classmate Linda and the Allewalt family.

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**'74**

The 50th reunion was outstanding, complete with picture perfect weather. Many of us started the weekend by attending Alumni College classes including the very popular "History of Stand-Up Comedy" featuring **Ritchie Shydney** who kept us laughing continuously. The weekend included a reception at the Majestic, cocktails at The Attic, breakfast with President Iuliano, an all-alumni gathering in the Union where our class received a standing ovation as we entered, lunch in the (much improved!) Bullet Hole, and a class dinner. Some participated in a walking tour of campus highlighting the College's Civil War history. 92 classmates were photographed in our class picture taken at Penn Hall. Reunion chairs **Bonnie Stephan Hampton** and **Paul Nix** accepted the honors given to our class for raising the most funds. It was wonderful to see so many classmates. In October, at the inaugural night football game played under the newly lit Musselman Stadium, **Ed Dietz Sr.** and his son Ed Jr. '97 participated in the coin toss for the game. They are the only father-son duo to be captains of their football teams at G'burg. Ed Sr. is the son of **Debbie Neall Jewell**. Ed and Debbie's grandson Joe is also a current student and wrestler at Gettysburg! **Geoff Lantos** reported he retired as a Professor of Marketing after 38 years at Stonehill College in Mass. He is now living in Norton,



Mass. to be close to family. **Curt Deardorff** is a retired dentist who lives with his wife Sue in North Wales, Pa. Their family includes two daughters and a son, Clark, who unfortunately passed away all too soon at age 36. All of Curt and Sue's eight grandchildren live no more than 20 minutes away. My apologies to **Marc O'Mara** for making an incorrect reference in my previous column. Mark informed me of the passing of **Craig Driver**, and I announced it in the recent column. When I asked for the class to send condolences, I mistakenly listed Marc's name instead of Craig's. **Nancy Frock Oberholtzer** of Stockton, Calif., and her husband David are retired and have enjoyed some California travel as well as a Mediterranean cruise to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. I am sorry to report the death of **Alison Raab Ruth's** husband. Tim Ruth was a very respected attorney in York, Pa., who attended Georgetown Law with **Gary Boguski**. **Jim Malloy** released his first album of 12 original songs called *Behind The Eight Ball*. Jim is working on his second album entitled *TWO* to be released late in 2024. Jim continues to enjoy reconnecting with **Ray Owen**. Several couples who met at G'burg celebrated their 50th anniversaries recently: **Ken Bruchey** and **Wendy Thomas Bruchey**, and **Carolyn Hand McGarvie** and Paul McGarvie '73. I attended the McGarvies' celebration with **Holly Parker Monihan**, **Jane Somerville Weber**, and **Judy Aeckerle Cunningham**. If you are trying to contact fellow alums, look for the Alumni Directory on the College website. Once you register, you can search for any G'burg alum and find their current contact information.

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## '75

In July 2024, ten members of Phi Delta Theta, including **Paul Seale**, **Mike Madden**, **Mike Malewicki**, Joe Centanni

'76, Dob DeVerna '73, Bill Heyman '74, Craig Sabatino '78, Scott Kintzing '74, Vic Kalman '77, and Chris Re' '78, traveled from Pa., N.J., Del., and N.Y., to Long Island to visit **Bob Isaacson**. The group shared stories and reminisced about College days. **Earl Hurrey** wrote in from Honolulu, Hawaii, about his unique 50-year (and counting) career, launched by a G'burg music degree. After a year of teaching, Earl was accepted into "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, serving four U.S. presidents: Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton, until he retired as the band's stage manager in 1997. Earl then became the manager for guest talent and education programs with Walt Disney Entertainment, followed by a decade as deputy executive director of the National Association for Music Education. Since 2009, he has served as vice president of Historic Programs, a national nonprofit that organizes ceremonies honoring veterans and active-duty military. In June 2024, Earl led several G'burg alumni on a trip to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. He welcomes notes from old College friends at earlhurrey@gmail.com. Gary Engelhart '76 wrote in about his close friendship with **Bob Sorger**, who passed away in November 2023. Gary and Bob were high school and college friends who attended W.C. Mephram H.S. in Bellmore, N.Y., and were soccer and wrestling teammates. Both men were coached by the renowned Frank "Sprig" Gardener, who coached at both Mephram H.S., and G'burg College. At G'burg, Gary joined the Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity. He noted the 2023 Gettysburg College Christmas card featured a 1976 pond hockey scene with himself and fellow FIJIs Rich Cross '77 and Mark Engelhart '79 (Gary's younger brother). In July 2024, Gary, his wife, and fellow FIJI brothers Bill Walsleben '77, Phil Cotsalas '79, Phil Bernardi '79, John Merkel '80, **Mark Engelhart**, and **Gary**, attended a Yankees-Phillies game in Philadelphia. Now retired, Gary and his wife enjoy the Ariz. sunshine

in Eloy. We are saddened to report that **Lynne (Koppenhaver) Margolin Howard** died unexpectedly on June 7, 2024, in West Islip, N.Y. A two-time cancer survivor, Lynne requested donations be made to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Gettysburg College with a bachelor's in psychology and earning her master's in education from the College of William and Mary, Lynne taught in Va., and later in N.Y. She retired in 2018 from the Half Hollow Hills School District in Dix Hills, N.Y., after a 22-year teaching career. Lynne loved her family, including 14 children and grandchildren, as well as movies, Broadway shows, and gathering with loved ones for Navy and Penn State football games. She created cherished memories with family during visits to Annapolis and Ocean City, N.J., often involving mini-golf, Kohr Brothers ice cream, and, of course, the beach.

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## '76

**Jane (Prescott)** and Dan '75 Thompson are enjoying family life in North Carolina. Keeping up the Gettysburg College tradition are daughter Rebecca Sayers '02 and son-in-law Jason Sayers '04. Will granddaughter Caroline follow in their footsteps? Son Benjamin and Jason's family also live close by in the Tar Heel state. My freshman year roommate, **Anna (Farrar) Schiefer** and I celebrated 52 years of friendship this year. We explored Palm Springs during a heatwave when the temperatures were approaching 120 degrees. Nothing a few frozen margaritas couldn't help us to handle. With Anna in Maryland and me in California, we never missed weddings and adventures over the years from the Grand Canyon to Broadway. How about you reach out to your

roommates and share stories with me for the next column?

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'77

I'm sad to report the passing of **Cynthia Cluss Dempsey**. After a valiant, two-decade battle with Parkinson's Disease, Cindy died peacefully on July 24, 2024 surrounded by her family. Following our graduation, Cindy and a few friends moved to Washington, D.C., living first in Alexandria, Va., and later on Capitol Hill. She worked as a tour guide at the Custis-Lee Mansion, as an editor at Realtor magazine, and as a technical support representative for NBI Word Processors. Cindy then transitioned to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) where she was a member of the Management Information Services department for 20 years. Cindy was a smart and creative problem solver who could fix anything. Her specialty at home was stepping in at the right moment to patiently repair someone else's job gone bad. Her greatest gift was an unwavering ability to see the good in every thing and every person. She was a wonderful friend, neighbor, aunt, sister, and wife. Most importantly, she was a generous and loving mother who never missed a game, parent-teacher meeting, or an opportunity to encourage and cherish her children. Cindy is survived by Joe, her loving husband of 40 years, her children Michael (Libby), Kevin (Devon), and Patrick. She is also survived by her granddaughter, Claire, her five siblings, and many nieces and nephews. This past spring on Quattro de Mayo, **Sam Gayman** and his wife Sue Gehman hosted a Phi Sig reunion at their home in Ambler, Pa. In attendance were **Bill Horstmann, Craig Weaver, Tom Gates, David Watters, Doug Snavelly, Bill Krupp**, Mike Shaffer '78, Bruce Gottschall '75 and respective wives. Everyone enjoyed "Quattro de Mayo" specialties but most of all the reminiscing and fellowship. Keep the

news coming! Please drop me an email and let us know what you have been up to ... any reunions, travels, retirement adventures?

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'78

I just love it when I open my email and find a fun and unsolicited news update from a fellow classmate in my inbox. Shout out to **Scott Harner!** Scott and his wife, Donnie are doing well and living in middle Tennessee. After graduating and getting married, they lived in Connecticut for 16 years and then in Illinois for another 19. About ten years ago they retired (Scott was in insurance finance and his wife was a teacher) and moved to Asheville, N.C. About five years ago they moved to a community south of Nashville where their four grandchildren are close by, with two more in Maine. Scott admits that he hasn't been back to G'burg since graduating so he is on the target list for the 50th reunion committee. Unfortunately, there is also sad news to report about a fellow classmate, **Carol Talley Berger Poe**. Carol was a former ER doctor living in Pickens County, S.C. She was hiking with her two dogs in October, fell and went missing for several days before being found. In addition to being a well-respected and beloved member of her local community, her obituary listed an extraordinary list of accomplishments which many of us who knew her didn't even know. In addition to being national spelling bee champion, achieving a perfect SAT score, she graduated as high school and Gettysburg valedictorian (please fact check, Gettysburg, since this wasn't listed in her obit) and at the top of her medical school class. She went on to become an award-winning emergency medicine doctor and EMS coordinator for the Upstate of South Carolina. Over her 30 plus year career, she directly helped thousands of people and trained many of the paramedics, doctors and nurses who continue to serve the community. On top of all this, she was an exceptional athlete,

having captained her swim team and competed in NCAA nationals in swimming, lacrosse, and field hockey. Later she became an avid runner, competing in numerous events of varying distances, including marathons. Her greatest passion, however, was cycling, logging thousands of miles and forming a peloton of friends along the way. Carol is survived by her husband, Buddy, and a son and daughter. In addition to leaving her mark on the Gettysburg community, she clearly left a mark on all her communities after leaving Gettysburg. You will be missed, Carol.

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'79

The 45th Class Reunion this past June was a memorable time for everyone who attended. Special thanks to the reunion committee—**Anne (Hanley) Casillo, Paul Welliver, Sue (Johnson) Hunter, Jack Duffy, Lovette (Eichelberger) Mott, George White, Carolyn Zygmunt, Bob Martin**, and **Jean (Pugh) Shipman**—for their hard work. **Lori (Brucker) Stevens** enjoyed hearing Prime Time play at the reunion, bringing back fond memories of good times at G'burg. Thank you, Lori, for sharing so many wonderful photos of the reunion on the Gettysburg College Class of 1979 Facebook page. For those who haven't joined yet, consider connecting on the page—it's a great way to stay in touch. **Bob** and **Suzanne (Moore) LeComte** are thrilled to have all three of their children on the East Coast now. Their son, Robert, recently received his Ph.D. from the U. of Kansas and is back in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins. Their daughter, Carolyn, lives in N.J., and Bob and Suzanne often visit to pick up their two grandsons from school. The family also celebrated their youngest, Elise's, wedding in June. Speaking of weddings, **Claire (Wilmot) Kraft's** son, CK, was married in June. He and his bride, Dillon, had hoped for Claire's grandson, Evan, to ride in a wagon at the wedding. However, as Evan was only born in January



(to Claire's daughter, Courtney), he wasn't quite ready to sit up and participate. **Kim (Bennett) Close** and her husband, Tom, welcomed a new grandchild to the family. Their daughter, Cassie '13, and her husband celebrated the birth of baby Jackson last winter. Kim and Tom now have two grandsons and two granddaughters. **Stacie (McGivern) Colbeth**, after years of working in NYC, has been living in the coastal town of Duxbury, Mass., for 28 years. She raised her son, Christopher, there and launched her own architectural design firm. Stacie's earlier work as a French country antique importer often took her to the south of France. However, she says her greatest fulfillment came from being a single mom to Christopher, who now works in Boston as a biomedical manufacturing engineer. Stacie reports that she's happy, healthy, and blessed. Sadly, we lost **James "Jim" Edward Partridge** on April 26, 2024, after a 16-month battle with cholangiocarcinoma. After Gettysburg, Jim earned his master's and doctorate in physical therapy and, later, a master's in theological studies from Reformed Presbyterian Seminary, becoming bi-vocational in 2020. Jim is survived by his wife, Tracy; their four children; seven grandchildren; and two sisters. **Jeffrey Keith Pearson** passed away on August 4, 2024. A compassionate family and sports medicine physician, Jeff had a unique tradition: he'd ask each patient to share a joke before treatment. For over 35 years, he mentored young medical professionals in the "art" of patient communication. Jeff remained positive even after his pancreatic cancer diagnosis two years before his death. He is survived by his wife, Laurie; children Samantha, Michael A., and Michael E.; sisters Lori and Wendy; and six nieces and nephews.

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 Gettysburg College Class of 1979

## 1980

A liberal arts education is said to foster well-rounded, curious adults with knowledge across arts and sciences. Many of our classmates have reinvented themselves over the years, discovering new talents and passions along the way. Thanks to Facebook and friends, I've seen some impressive artwork from former classmates. Here are just a few—**Ann (Carley) Johnson**: anncarleyjohnsonfineart.com; **Candace (Connors) Vorhaus**: candacevorhaus.com; **Diane Lang**: dianelang.com; **Alex Wilkie** (Facebook: Alexanderscapes); **Freya Qually**: Hanover Area Arts Guild. **Pete Carlson** has been fundraising for Swim Across America for 15 years. He began volunteering with his boat to protect swimmers, then joined his sister's team in honor of her friend with cancer. After realizing the impact he could have, he's since become a top fundraiser, swimming every year in honor or memory of friends. Funds raised have supported research, including development of the cancer drug Keytruda. **Jeff Martini** is now 11 years into his third career in acting. He's appeared in over a dozen films and commercials, with two feature films set to shoot this winter. This follows a busy stage career, after retiring from two previous careers—as a music teacher and then in business software, where he helped take a company public. **Alexander Wilkie** and Janet (Hambleton) Wilkie '81 celebrated their daughter Gwendolyn's wedding at Bogie's Restaurant and Golf Club in Sewell, New Jersey, on Sept. 1. Also attending were **Mark Hite** and Karen (Irwin) Hite '82, **Virginia (Bohn) Baskerville** and Geoffrey Baskerville '82. **Jeff** and **Stacy (Naus) Deuel** reconnected with **Mary Fitzgerald** in Las Vegas in March while there for work conferences. Jeff and Stacy, who live on Mercer Island, Wash., enjoyed catching up with Mary, who lives in Savannah, Ga. The Deuels also took a Panama Canal/Costa Rica cruise with **Fred Blackwell** and **Jane (Holmes) Hollingsworth** in February, calling it

memorable. They attended a Seattle-based G'burg alumni event with Stacy's mother, Sunny (Newlyn) Naus '53, and visited **Nelson Remetz** and Anne (Pietz) Remetz '79 in August. During a trip to the D.C. area in September, the Deuels had a lively dinner in Vienna, Va., with the Hollingsworths, Laura Lee '81, and Barb Bittner '81. Jeff is retiring in May 2025 after 43 years in banking, and he and Stacy look forward to travel adventures. **Tim** and **Debbie (Shinsky) Montgomery** had an active year. Debbie was elected secretary of their local Kiwanis Club, and Tim was elected junior vice commander of American Legion Post 865 in Zion, Ill. The Montgomerys traveled to Northern Ireland with their grandson's soccer team and plan to visit Scotland with the U.S. Clan Montgomery contingent, including a luncheon with the current Lord and Lady Montgomery. Congratulations to **Dr. David Spence** on the publication of his book "Climate of Contempt: Rescuing the U.S. Energy Transition From Voter Partisanship." Visit climateofcontempt.com for details. Believe it or not, we'll be celebrating our 45th reunion next year! Mark your calendars for May 29–June 1, 2025, and consider attending and supporting our class gift!

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## '81

Hi everyone, **Jan Conway** retired from the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) in July 2024, after nearly 21 years. Her final position was assistant chief/senior policy advisor in the Investigative Operations Division at USMS Headquarters in Arlington, Va. She also spent five years in the USMS Office of Congressional Affairs. Before joining the USMS, Jan worked as a government affairs specialist in a D.C. law firm's lobbying shop. In retirement, Jan is

excited to continue her work on the board of Nyumbani-USA, a nonprofit supporting children and adults affected by HIV in Kenya. She plans to take on additional volunteer activities, travel more, and cross items off her bucket list. Though she plans to stay in the D.C. area for now, Jan looks forward to wintering in Florida and summering in Maine. She says if she can avoid mittens and boots, she'll be happy!

**Brad Bretzin** visited Gettysburg in October 2024. Along with attending a Friday night football game, his fraternity, Alpha Chi Rho, held events for alumni. Brad enjoyed reconnecting with **Bob Wallace**, who is doing well. Brad is recovering from a full knee replacement, which got a workout as he walked around campus. Sadly, I must share that **Peter C. Valentine** passed away on July 2, 2024, after a six-month battle with pancreatic cancer. After graduating from Gettysburg, Peter earned M.L.S. and M.B.A. degrees from Rutgers University. He worked for Prudential, Lowenstein Sandler, and most recently, Ropes & Gray in competitive intelligence research. Peter is survived by his wife, Nancy, and children, Patrick and Emily. A Midland Park, N.J., resident for 30 years, Peter was an avid sports fan and history enthusiast with a special love for Abraham Lincoln. He will be remembered for his humor and compassion. We also mourn the loss of **Debra (Partenheimer) Turner**, who died on Aug. 16, 2024, after her second battle with breast cancer. Debra began her career teaching and coaching at Sewickley Academy in Pa. before becoming a park ranger at Grand Teton National Park. She later worked at Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah, where she met her husband, Tom Turner. Debra's adventurous spirit led her to patrol rivers, hike trails, and embrace outdoor activities like kayaking, golf, and pickleball. Debra is survived by her children, Benjamin Cantu of Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and Christina Cantu of Louisville, Ky. She will be remembered for her tenacity and love of life. As for me, **Linda (Pickford) Monkoski**, I retired from teaching elementary school in June 2024. While I miss my students, I've embraced retirement with golf, gym classes, volunteering, and travel. My husband and I loved our recent trip to Alaska and enjoy

road trips to visit our children and grandchildren in Connecticut, North Carolina, and Georgia. If you're reading this column, the next deadline is approaching. **Jan Conway** has graciously agreed to take over, so please send her updates. Stay well!

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'82

**Kelly Woods Lynch**  
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f Gettysburg College Class of 1982

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'83

As we write, fall is in full swing, bringing back memories of those crisp, colorful days we shared on campus. Recently, we had a chance to catch up and recall the Gettysburg years with **Jan (Heiland)** and **Greg Mas** over dinner in Princeton. Greg and Jan are doing great, and they just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. We are thrilled to share that **Joyce Barron (Chambers)** welcomed her second grandson, Johnny, little brother to Jett. Joyce lives in Clearwater, Fla., and is always open for visitors. I hope you are all enjoying the beauty of the season and finding some time for reflection and joy. We would love to hear what is new in your lives! Please send us your updates for the next issue of the Gettysburg College Magazine.

**Amy (Rowe) and Andy Ruymann**  
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'84

The 40th reunion for our class is now one for the books! Thanks to the committee who planned it and to those 64 classmates who attended. The first weekend this past June was a fun time of catching up and reminiscing. A number of us were there in spirit if not in person! Happily, for the

College, the 40th Reunion Class Gift to the Gettysburg Fund was \$240,939 with a total gifts and commitments of \$2,795,227. Close to 100 of our class are college fund donors, about 31%.

I haven't received any updates from anyone in a while. Lexi and I are still at the address listed with these notes through February 2025. I retired from being pastor these last 37 years, 30 at my current call at St. Benjamin's Lutheran Church, Westminster, Md., only 25 miles south of G'burg. We are moving for our "rewirement" to Beaufort, N.C., and will receive mail at 101 Harper Street, Beaufort, N.C., 28516. We will be a 12 minute ride to the Emerald Isle beaches and live off the 2nd hole of the Beaufort Club Golf Course. Best wishes in these days and holidays.

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'85

Dear classmates, 2025 is the year of our 40th reunion and our reunion committee is working hard to plan fun ways to reconnect and renew friendships formed 40 years ago. Please put the weekend of May 30 – June 1 on your calendar and make plans to join us for the weekend. We are resurrecting an activity from our last reunion to help raise money for our class gift, an online/silent auction. If you have a service you provide, vacation home, or special something that would be worth donating, please consider offering it for the auction. There's not much news from classmates, **Tim Bright** reports that he has landed in Texas and it suits him well, aside from the hot summers. I also caught up with **Lisa Long** who has replaced golf with a new passion for pickleball and enjoys competing in matches. Lisa, we hope to play pickleball during our reunion, and don't forget the golf tournament for the Orange and Blue fund. We received news that our classmate **Raymond Fitzgerald** passed away June 2, 2024. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity as well as a member of Gettysburg's original rugby team, kicking the winning goal his



senior year during the last game of the season. Ray retired from eSignal in 2017 and leaves behind one daughter and multiple family members. Please keep me up-to-date with what's going on so I can share news with our classmates. Take care everyone, be safe and healthy!

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## '86

Dear Class of '86! I hope you are all well and had a joyful holiday season! I heard from **Gretchen Rockafellow** who retired from Carroll County Public Schools last year. Gretchen spent the last part of her career as the principal of a separate public day school. She claims however that she failed retirement and started working part time as an Advocate Supervisor for CASA of Baltimore County. In her newly found free time, she is traveling and has already been to southern Italy and to Turkey. Next up is Paris and a river boat trip up the Seine. Sounds like you did not fail anything but rather did a terrific job!! No other news to report at this time, so I will just ask that you please send me all of your wonderful updates so I can add them to the next column! Until then, Happy 2025!

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 Gettysburg College Class of 1986

## '87

It certainly has been a busy Fall as we have not heard from too many in the class but here is what we have: On a lovely fall weekend in September, **Laura Harris Helwig, Jeanne McLellan, Anne Swigart,** and Ann Land Weins '88 gathered at the

lake home of **Susan Mack Zanetti** in northern Connecticut. Woods walks, stories, perusals of the PIG book and yearbook, memories, cocktails, and laughs were shared, and the group proudly sported T-shirts that recreated the original red, 1983 edition given to all residents of Stevens Hall (which was women-only at the time). Great photos were shared. A few days later, Jeanne traveled to La Quinta, Calif., to celebrate the birthday of **Andy Stoner**. It was a fabulous evening with lots of laughing and dancing! Brad and Capri (Goraya) '88 **Ebright** and their son, Jake, also participated in the 1960s-themed festivities. Brad and Capri were in California visiting Jake, who is pursuing an acting career in Los Angeles. Great photos were shared. Jeanne, Brad, Capri, and Lisa Elverud '88 and her daughter Karina also met in NYC in April 2024 and enjoyed catching up and reminiscing about their time at G'burg. Back in July, **Jennifer Harris-Jacobus** shared that she is now Grandmother "GiGi" to beautiful Amelia Joyce (adorable photo sent) as of February 17th 2024. Jen has not retired yet...but reports she is working on that. Her niece Alexis Cuneo '12 got married April 13, 2024. Lawrence Cuneo '82 and sister Kim Harris Cuneo '83 all celebrated with other G'burg graduates. That is all we wrote this time...Please send in your updates everyone!! At least send us a holiday card to the address below so we know you read these...We will report who actually sent cards in the next issue.

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## '88

I hope this finds everyone well! It was nice to hear from **Steve Sickel**. He got together with **Art Kelly, Brian Golden** and **Mike Grenier** for their annual guys weekend at

Steve's place in Ocean City, N.J. He said the weather was crap, but who cares...they did what they always do...sit around, party, tell G'burg stories, and laugh at them even harder. Direct quote from Steve, "Love these guys, always a great time hanging with them!" The four of them reunited again in September for Mike's wedding in Elizabethtown, Pa., where he married Marnie Antonik. The weather was perfect, the ceremony was beautiful, and Mike's a happy guy! Congratulations Mike!! I was fortunate enough to spend a few days with G'burg friends too. In September, ten out of our typical group of 14 had a long weekend in Rehoboth Beach, Del., at **Jane (Reeder) Padgett's** house. The rest of the group includes **Margi (Humrich) Myers, Macqueen (Vermilye) Parker, Betsy (Rohland) Mosmiller, Allison Woodruff, Lisa (Sarandos) Kump, Cindy (Dalena) Wright, Mary (Andres) Vassallo,** and **Chris (Lynch) Eberhart**. During a morning walk on the beach, we had the pleasant surprise of catching up with **Monica L'Tainen**. The weekend was full of fun, love and laughter. People we encountered asked what our group was celebrating and when they heard we'd been friends for 40 years, they were impressed. One gentleman said he didn't think he's liked anyone for 40 years! It's heartwarming to know that the bonds we created in College will last a lifetime. On a sad note, **Jeffrey Golden** passed away on April 30, 2024. Jeff loved to run, golf, and travel with family and friends. After a successful career as an IT Sales Executive, Jeff became a stay-at-home Dad (and part-time Robotics coach) focusing on carpool, homework, and watching his daughters compete in various sports. Remember friends, life is short. Make the call, send the text, hug your family, say I love you, eat the cookie! Make the most of today because tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

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'89

**Kelly (McWilliams) Callaban** went to our 35th reunion. First time back in 15 years — for our 20th! She hesitated, due to the distance from southern N.H., but this year ALL of the roomies were going. **Rebecca Weidensaul, Karlyn Anderson Voss, Ellen Hagigh, Traci DeLuca Button**, and [I drove with] **Beth Seifert Crimmins** from Conn. The campus looks spectacular, [aside from what must be constant updating construction] and we stayed in the circle at the beautiful Hotel Gettysburg, and The Swope Manor Bed and Breakfast (great find Traci and Greg Button '88). The town has really upped its game for alum and visitors; many more stores and restaurants. New breakfast spot, as well as the tried and true Gettysburg Diner. The old JD's, The Pub and Restaurant, was still our favorite "late night" spot. We all agreed that after 35 years, our friendships fall right into place and felt like we were there yesterday. The weather was perfect which bode well for multiple walks to and from town and campus. Visited and toured many old haunts and fraternity houses, catching up with many classmates as well as a surprise 50-year alum who was the football coach at my high school! A great time was had by all, as documented in a new daily group thread. Yay, Gettysburg!

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 **Gettysburg College Class of 1989**

1990

Hi, everyone! Get excited for our 35th Reunion—especially since COVID took away our 30th! Please make plans now to be back on campus May 30–June 1. I've heard from **Lisa Oehlers Denner** about her recent summer roommate gathering down the Jersey Shore with her buddies **Melissa Bond Sakimura, Mindy Fiscus Hatfield**, and **Tracey Bethas Austin**. Sounds like a blast, ladies! They sent a picture that I hope will be included in the

magazine (fingers crossed). The four former roommates also enjoyed a December weekend together shopping for the holidays and catching up. Since the four hadn't been together since the 25th reunion, getting together twice in a year was a real treat. Great job, everyone, for making the effort! In June, I was fortunate to get away to our good friend and "honorary" G'burg friend and donor Sandra Simpson's place in Boca Raton, Fla., with **Tracy Baker Johnson, Becca Link, Sarah Wendt, and Debbie Dent Young**. We relaxed in the sun, goofed off, and enjoyed time in Boca and Delray. **Mary Wiggin** traveled to Portugal in early September, meeting up with good friend **Irene Magish Bassock** and a few of Mary's lifelong grade school friends for a girls' trip in the Algarve. They stayed in an Airbnb in Ferragudo for five days, relaxed on beautiful beaches, and toured Lagos, Portimão, Estômbar, and Monchique. The group shared lots of stories, reminisced, caroused, and had all sorts of fun. What a great trip! **Gabrielle (formerly Gary) Shultz** writes from South Philadelphia; she works in the pharmaceutical industry on gene editing (CRISPR). Gabbi looks forward to helping the LGBTQ community at G'burg and loves to donate to Hera's Closet, a trans clothing exchange program started by an undergraduate. Thanks for checking in, Gabbi. Please keep an eye on your email for reunion updates, as well as on the Gettysburg Alumni site, where our class page should be up soon. I'm looking forward to seeing you all!

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'91

**Doug Steinhardt**, a prominent figure in N.J.'s legal and political spheres, was named to InsiderNJ's prestigious 2024 Insider 100: Legal List. Ranked #17, Steinhardt's inclusion underscores his significant influence and contributions to the legal landscape in New Jersey. As a named partner at Florio Perrucci Steinhardt

Cappelli & Tipton, Steinhardt boasts a robust legal career, marked by favorable verdicts and positive settlements across diverse areas including litigation, land use, commercial transactions, labor and employment, and family law. His extensive experience includes serving as outside counsel to various corporations and public entities including the McDonald's Corporation, Tilcon, Quanta Services, the NJ Sports and Exposition Authority, Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, and countless others. He also serves as defense counsel to insurance companies and joint insurance funds and is the Sussex County Counsel. In addition to his legal practice, Steinhardt holds or has held several notable positions, including New Jersey State Senator representing the 23rd legislative district; Chairman of the Warren County Republican Committee; and Former Chairman of the New Jersey Republican State Committee. Steinhardt's commitment to public service extends beyond his professional duties. He co-chairs the Warren County Addiction Awareness Task Force and Warren County Mental Health Task Force and has held leadership roles in various other non-profit and charitable organizations. His efforts earned him multiple awards including the "Future of New Jersey Award" and induction into the Warren County Hall of Fame.

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'92

Hello Class of '92 and happy new year! Lots of fun news to share. Congratulations to Jennifer Oliva who was profiled recently in Business Insider. The article details her career in network news and how the RTO mandate led to her launching her own PR firm. "I never thought I'd be a remote worker or an entrepreneur. I'm grateful my company implemented the RTO mandate. It pushed me toward a new career path that fits the type of work-life balance I want and turned me into an entrepreneur with a thriving business. Part of what keeps me



motivated and doing the best job possible for my clients is making my company so successful that I never have to work in an office or for someone else ever again.” **Sue Maggs** reached out to share that she is still teaching in Washington, DC. In the Summer of 2024, she and her husband traveled to Southern Africa with Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) with 11 other educators from around the country. They traveled by land from Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe to Capetown, South Africa. On the last day of the three-week journey, she and fellow traveler, Jen Hart ’99, discovered that they were both G’burg grads. How cool to make that small world connection at the Cape of Good Hope! I heard from **Kevin Larson** who wrote that **Nick Denby, Marshall Brown, Devon Clancy, Tom Maurath, Tim Collins** and **Scott Luedeke** made a trip to visit him in Frisco, Colo., in September. They saw a show at Red Rocks, boated around Lake Dillon, and spent a day fly fishing on the Colorado River. No surprise, Kev said it was just like old times with tons of laughs and good times. All of them are doing great and can’t wait to do it again! As for me, I met my G’burg girls in Charleson, S.C., in November. All 10 of us get together annually for a girls’ weekend: **Jenny Noyes McCulloch, Christy Fry Giulieri, Ellen Ruffner Patrick, Lauralyn Pestritto, Jenn McCaskill, Liz Layton, Mary Lynch Latz, Noel Ciferni Baumann** and **Kelly Chapman Fletcher**. Just a month later, we were all together again for my wedding on December 7th. Jenn McCaskill stood by my side as best woman. Friends since freshman year when we all pledged Chi O, we always remark how fortunate and grateful we are to share such a strong bond these 36 years later! All the best for a fantastic 2025!

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 Gettysburg College Class of 1992

'93

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'94

Hi everyone, I hope your year is off to a good start. If you have any news to share with our class in upcoming columns, please let me know!

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 Gettysburg College Class of 1994

'95

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 Gettysburg College Class of 1995

'96

Hello, Class of 1996! I hope this column finds everyone well. It’s a busy time for **Justin Bruton** and me, as our daughter Jillie is in her senior year and navigating the college application process. I’m happy to share that she is applying to Gettysburg College (among several others)! Our son, Quinn, is a junior at Penn State, interviewing for summer internships and preparing to study abroad this spring in Maastricht, Netherlands. We’re planning a European visit while he’s there. After the large update in the last edition, I’m glad to report that I continue to receive updates from several classmates. **Tracy Gardner Hall** has lived in various places since graduation, including Los Angeles,

Philadelphia, New York, and Baltimore. She recently settled in Columbia, Md., where she lives with her two children, 16-year-old CC and 13-year-old Brendan. Tracy spent many years teaching high school English before leaving to be a stay-at-home parent for 13 years. She reentered the workforce recently and now works as a test center coordinator at a local community college. Tracy has also done quite a bit of voice-over work over the last few years. **Marisa Salafia Sherman** took a break from watching the family weekend Gettysburg football game to share that her daughter, Ella, is a freshman at Gettysburg this fall. Ella participates in the marching band and loves it! Marisa lives in Annapolis, Md., with her husband and daughters and is a licensed counselor working with families and college students. **Emily Flagg** writes that she trained for the Twisted Branch 100k (which she completed in 2022), but unfortunately got injured from a bike crash in Cape Cod while on a yoga retreat. She ended up volunteering instead, and it was a spectacular day! Emily is now heading to Nepal for a 13-day trek, including a visit to Everest Base Camp! Thanks again for the updates. It’s so great to keep connecting with our classmates!

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 Gettysburg College Class of 1996

'97

*Interested in volunteering as a class notes correspondent and catching up on all the latest news with your classmates? Contact Laura Carr in Communications and Marketing (lcarr@gettysburg.edu; 717-337-6800) for more information.*

'98

In April 2024, the Salem Pantry elected **Rebecca Babbitt Chafe** to its Board of Directors. The organization is dedicated to providing convenient and reliable access to fresh, healthy food in Salem, MA and neighboring communities. Rebecca has over 20 years of experience in financial services, including roles at MetLife, John Hancock, and Harbor Capital Advisors. In her current role as the Head of Business Controls-Americas for State Street Global Institutional Group, Babbitt Chafe leads a global team responsible for identifying and mitigating risk and ensuring efficient and effective application of policies, procedures, and Controls.

*Interested in volunteering as a class notes correspondent and catching up on all the latest news with your classmates? Contact Laura Carr in Communications and Marketing (lcarr@gettysburg.edu; 717-337-6800) for more information.*

'99

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2000

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 **Gettysburg College Class of 2000**

'01

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'02

**Catherine (Dietrich) Pulse**  
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'03

**Monica Everett** and her fiancé Jake Leech welcomed a daughter to the world, Mary Catherine Everett Leech, born on July 24th, 2024. Monica, Jake and Mary Kate live in the Boston area.

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 **Gettysburg College Class of 2003**

'04

Hello Class of 2004, this past August, **Jason Henderson** was promoted to Commander in the Navy onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). He serves as the lead tactics officer on the ship, which is currently on deployment in the Western Pacific/Southeast Asia. After a 21 day stay in Cooper University Hospital's ICU, **Shannon Maria Jones Sweitzer** was diagnosed with Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) and Connective Tissue Disorder. She's using her experiences with this chronic illness to try to inspire others to embrace every moment and choose JOY with her @BrightSpotSunflowers Video and Blog. Keep your updates coming!

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 **Gettysburg College Class of 2004**

'05

Class of 2005, get ready for our 20th Reunion! Can you believe it's been two decades? It feels like just yesterday we were laughing in class, hanging out at Servo, and making unforgettable memories during campus events. Mark your calendars for May 29 – June 1, 2025 and relive the fun times! For more information please visit: [www.gettysburg.edu/alumni/events/reunion-weekend](http://www.gettysburg.edu/alumni/events/reunion-weekend). In other news, **Tory (Harper) Hogan** was appointed Associate Professor with Tenure at The Ohio State University this May. Congrats Tory!

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'06

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'07

Warm winter greetings to my fellow '07 alums! I trust everyone enjoyed the holiday season and is ready to take on 2025. Thank you for your continued interest in our class column—please keep your updates coming! **Derek Claiborne** and **Matthew Soult** reconnected at the starting line of the 2024 Ironman 70.3 Eagleman in Cambridge, Md. The former men's swimming teammates took the top two spots in their age group for the swim. Both credit their success to [their former G'burg swim team] Coach Mike Rawleigh. Congratulations to **Michelle (Veresink) Richmond** who was honored as one of Lehigh Valley Business' Forty Under 40. This award recognizes the area's top 40 young professionals under the age of 40, highlighting their professional accomplishments, community service, and commitment to positive change. Michelle is the Sr. Manager of Membership at ArtsQuest in Bethlehem, Pa. **Stephanie (Hafer) Shaak** was recently promoted to Senior Events Manager at Teleflex, a global provider of medical devices and technologies, where she has planned meetings, events, and tradeshow since November 2022. I would be remiss if I didn't wish you ALL a (belated or early) happy 40th birthday! Gosh, doesn't it feel like just yesterday we were housing mozz sticks at Midnight Madness and painstakingly searching for open computers at the Musselman computer lab? #corememories

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'08

**Dan Keefer** was recently appointed Director of Development for the Philadelphia office of the Anti-Defamation League, covering eastern Pa., southern N.J., and Del. He and Norrell (Griffiths) Keefer '09 also welcomed their daughter Ellis in April 2022, joining her brother Dalton. The family lives in South Philly.

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'09

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 15th Class Reunion so special. We had more than 75 Class of 2009 alumni return to campus in June. It was so wonderful to see you all and spend time together! Thanks to all of the generous donors from our class, we won the GettysburgGives participation challenge this year, and it was great to see the '09 flag flying on top of the Cupola all weekend. :) Special thanks to my co-chair **Lauren Meehan Keefe**. I couldn't have done it without you! Congrats to **Kate Anderson**, **Aimee George**, and **Lauren Meehan Keefe**, who all received alumni awards at the ceremony that weekend. **Tammy Armstrong (McBeth)** just celebrated the first anniversary of her business, Little Data Solutions, which helps nonprofits and small businesses with their reporting and analytics needs. Tammy was also appointed President of Des Moines Data For Good, a nonprofit that provides pro bono analytics services to other nonprofits in the Des Moines area. **Megan (Graham) Benka-Coker** became a tenured professor at Gettysburg College. She is now in her seventh year of teaching in the Health Sciences Department. **Geoff Norris** got engaged to Jennifer Leigh Garcia. They live in Seattle, and I got to meet Jen in September when I was there for a friend's wedding. Geoff is a Senior Scientist in

Biology at Sound Biologics in Bothell, WA. **Jen Gerckens** is moving to Belgium for her dream job, and she already had her dream career. **Erin Miller** and **Sara (Harenchar) Levinson** reconnected at ADWEEK in NYC in October. Erin works in advertising sales for The GIST, a sports media brand providing equal coverage to women's and men's sports. As of this writing, Erin is headed to the NWSL championships in Kansas City. The GIST is also facilitating a student learning experience for a current Gburg student! **Jennie French** and **Sara (Harenchar) Levinson** attended the wedding of **Ashley Zimmerman** and Brian Kim at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA in May. Brian and Ashley reside in Leominster, MA, and they attended reunion weekend a few weeks after their wedding! After four years at Prometric, **Sara (Harenchar) Levinson** was named Head of Strategic Accounts at Claravine, a Series B tech company that partners with a quarter of the Fortune 100.

If you work for a company that is hiring OR you want to mentor a Gburg student, please contact Billy Ferrell at: bferrell@gettysburg.edu

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2010

**Tara Gaston Moncman**, D.O. joined Holy Cross Medical Group, a multi-specialty physician employed group of more than 130 physicians. Prior to joining Holy Cross Health, Tara specialized in foot and ankle surgery and served as Chief of Research at The Rothman Orthopaedic Institute/ AdventHealth Department of Orthopedic Foot & Ankle Surgery.

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'11

Hello Class of 2011! I do not have any updates to share. I wish everyone the best and please do not hesitate to send me updates.

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'12

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'13

Happy Hello, Class of 2013! Congratulations to **Bryan Barth** and **Emily (Watkins) Barth** on the arrival of their new baby on September 1. **Johnny Nelson** and **Shruti (Naik) Nelson** welcomed a son, Rohan Arthur Nelson, into the world in February 2024. **Evan Petrack** and **Kaitlin (Reed) Petrack** moved into their own place in Pittsburgh. Please reach out with any life updates and stay warm!

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'14

Happy 10 years to the Class of 2014! I hope everyone enjoyed a great homecoming weekend in Gettysburg together this fall; the best time of year to be in our favorite place! Congratulations to **Amada Bond** on her promotion to Research Analyst at CNA Corporation, where she works in the Safety and Security Division. Amada currently works on a number of federally funded

projects, in addition to managing a couple of projects funded by the Department of Justice and another funded by the Department of Homeland Security. Her research focuses on domestic terrorism, law enforcement accountability and transparency, and organizational reform. She also serves as an analyst on the Independent Monitoring Team for the Chicago Police Department's Consent Decree. **Lauren Kauffman**, who graduated from UMD with PhD in Epidemiology, is starting as an Assistant Professor at James Madison University in August 2024. **Kasey Varner** recently jumped on a flight to spend some time with Rachel Fry '15 in London and Belgium. She also spent time with Morgan (Marianelli) Allen '15 at Rehoboth Beach this summer, where they got to show off their cute G'burg College hats, and she had **Michelle (Black) Morritz**, **Beth Ann (Carlson) Ansell**, Rachel Fry '15, Morgan (Marianelli) Allen '15, Shannon (Brobst) Renninger '15, and Laura Howsare '15 over for a summer pool party. Kasey is also happy to share that she started her own Etsy shop selling book inspired candles as a fun hobby to stay creative outside of her 9 to 5. You can see her candles on Instagram (@kaseyscandles13) or find her shop on Etsy by the same name!

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## '15

**Ben Litwin** married Jennifer Wachtel on August 4th at Airlie in Warrenton, Va. Other G'burg alumni in attendance were **Michael Dischner**, **Eric Harris**, **Logan Phillips**, Emily Francisco '14 and Logan Tapscott '14. Please send me your updates to be featured in future columns! You can also submit notes in the Alumni & Friends section of the G'burg website.

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## '16

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## '17

The Class of 2017 has lots to celebrate! In February, **Julia Deros** and **Chris Sniezek** got married at the Gettysburg Hotel with Gburg friends and classmates in attendance. Chris now works as the Executive Director of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House & Museum located in Baltimore, Md. The Museum is the historic home of Mary Pickersgill who sewed the flag which inspired the National Anthem. Julia Deros works as the processing archivist at the Space Telescope Science Institute Institutional Archive in Baltimore, Md. The STScI is a science operations center for the Hubble Space Telescope and operations center for the James Webb Space Telescope. Classmates **Erin Morin** and **Ben Taber** got married in May. In attendance was a big Gburg crew: Sean Moran '14, Harry Thoman '18, **Lauren Daugherty**, **Sam Boyle**, Pat Custer '19, **Jason Speigel**, Pat Hill '14, Paul Eppler '16, Alex Petrecca '19, **Nate Wojick**, **Aaron Bezio**, Avery (Fox) Moran '16, Emily (Evans) Thoman '18, **Anna Bucci**, **Kelly Palmer**, **Caroline Pace**, **Meghan Brady**, **Mariam Aghayan**, **Rachel Haskins**, **Kellie (Burke) Bezio**, **Natalie (Tanke) Holland**, Noah Rossiter '16, and Nate Cody '16. In June, **Mary Westermann** married Samir Rahim in Mountainville, N.Y. Sydney Braat '18 was present for the celebrations as well. In August, **Kat Krohn** married Eric Grady in Philadelphia, Pa., with many Gburg alumni in attendance. In September, **Katrina Cordssen-David** married Tyler Eline. **Sarah Kramer**, **Irene Harris**, and **Caroline DeAngelis** were in attendance. We had several October weddings: Charlotte Triebel married Rose Deng at the Penn Museum. Dr. Hakim Williams was their officiant. Sam Reed married Garrett Strong in Hammondsport, N.Y. Emily Turner was Sam's bridesmaid. **Emily Waddell** married Danny Navarro.

In attendance were **Chelsey Byrne**, Sarah Congdon '18, **Kelsey Meisch**, Kim Corcoran '18, and Wendy Piniak '03. Meredith Natsch married Pat Barron. **Paige Susskind** finished her MBA with concentrations in Data Analytics, Marketing, and Strategic Leadership at Villanova U, cum laude in September. In October, **Nate Grosskopf** and his wife, Jamie, welcomed their daughter, Liliana, to the world. Athletic phenom **Caroline Moyer** completed an Ironman.

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 Gettysburg College Class of 2017

## '18

**Katie Willis** is currently earning her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from Vanderbilt U. **Julia Palmucci** successfully defended her doctoral thesis in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology at Duke U. Her work focused on novel treatment strategies for invasive fungal infections. She then acquired a Science and Politics Fellowship at the Rutgers U., Eagleton Institute of Politics, with a placement as a legislative science aide to the New Jersey General Assembly. Several classmates were recently married; **Jake Ecke** and **Kate (Hegwood) Ecke** were married on September 21st, 2024 in Stonington, Conn. **Drew Douglas** and Abby Slaboden '17 were married in a beautiful ceremony on September 28th, surrounded by many Gettysburgians. Lastly, **Tyler Burke** and wife Natalie were married on October 26th in Chapel Hill, N.C. In attendance were best man **Joey Meyer**, **Natalie Keznor**, **Mary Schaefer**, **Andrea Near**, and **Aidan Hughes**.

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'19

Hi, all! It was a wonderful gathering with many of you at this year's Five Year Reunion. **Gloria K. Norcross** started a new job as Town Planner for the Town of Amherst, N.H., in September. **Mark A. Casillas** and Meghan M. Eaton '18 got married on September 21, 2024. **Bailey Heath** graduated with his PhD in Mathematics from the U. of South Carolina and is now a Lecturer of Mathematics at Yale U. We also received two wedding announcements. **Hannah Hellmuth** married Christopher Waldron '20 on May 18th, 2024. **Gabriella Bucci** and Zach Imel were married on April 6, 2024 at St. Mary Church in Pittsburgh, PA, followed by a reception at Oakmont Country Club. Numerous Gettysburg alumni were in attendance.

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 Gettysburg College Class of 2020

2020

Hi everyone! Since our last update, **Ally Schultz** began a new role as the Associate Director for Messaging in the Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser, **Katie Kratz** and Jake Krier were married, and **Jessica Greenman** completed Officer Development School in Newport, RI and is on her way to becoming a Navy JAG. **Bethany Miller** accepted a new pediatric Physical Therapy position with Leg Up Farm. **Kyle McIntyre** began law school at Willamette U College of Law. I, **Libby Walker**, graduated from Johns Hopkins U. Bloomberg School of Public Health with my MPH in Epidemiology & Biostatistics and began a new Research Coordinator position at the Kennedy Krieger Institute. Please continue to send in your updates!

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 Gettysburg College Class of 2020

'21

**Grace Torrance**  
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'22

Hi, Class of 2022! In May, **Ellie Knapman** graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service with a master's degree in Arab studies. In the same month, she started working as associate editor of the Middle East Journal at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C. Great work, Ellie! Please don't hesitate to reach out with more updates!

**Phoebe Doscher**  
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 Gettysburg College Class of 2022

'23

**Ziv Carmi**  
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'24

Dear Class of 2024, it is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the six month mark from when we attended commencement and graduated from Gettysburg College last May. During these six months, I am optimistic that your transitions into graduate school, your working fields or other occupations across different disciplines are fulfilling and rewarding. Speaking from my postgraduate transition, I traveled back to campus numerous times as an "official alumni" and each time I go back I am heartfelt to see other recent graduates and young alumni mingling with staff, visiting their favorite spots in town, and strolling through the campus. My friends **Caroline Gill**, **Isabella Barca**, **Jack Murphy** from the Class of 2024 and Olivia Taylor and Carl DeMarco from the class of 2025 had a blast alumni weekend, and our most recent

travels back to campus this past weekend. As we all move forward into different corners of our postgraduate responsibilities, it is always special to hold those Gettysburg friends so close to you. Very Truly Yours in Orange and Blue, Drew.

**Drew Lemon**  
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## CLASS NOTES CORRESPONDENTS' DEADLINES

4/8 for Summer  
10/15 for Winter

*Disclaimer: All class notes are compiled by class correspondents, who are responsible for confirming the accuracy of the information submitted to GETTYSBURG College Magazine.*

# CLASS PHOTOS

**1** Left to Right: Sarah Kramer '17, Katrina Cordssen-David '17, Caroline DeAngelis '17, Irene Harris '17

**2** Jane Reeder Padgett '88, Margaret Humrich Myers '88, Macqueen Vermilye Parker '88, Betsy Rohland Mosmiller '88, P'23, Allison Woodruff '88, Lisa Sarandos Kump '88, Cindy Dalena Wright '88, Mary Andrus Vassallo '88, and Chris Lynch Eberhart '88.

**3** Peter Carlson '80

**4** Left to Right: Chelsey Byrne '17, Sarah Congdon '18, Emily Waddell '17, Kelsey Meisch '17, Kim Corcoran '18, and Wendy Dow Piniak '03





# IN MEMORIAM

ALL DATES ARE 2024 UNLESS NOTED

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>1946</b> Alice Zimmerman Creager,<br/>Oct. 22<br/>Vivian Wickey Otto, April 25*</p> <p><b>'49</b> C. Edwin Borgh Jr., July 6<br/>Margaret Gettys Coon, May 24</p> <p><b>'50</b> Frances D. Greiman, Oct. 22</p> <p><b>'51</b> Magnus Flaws Jr., Sept. 14<br/>R. Wade Ortel, June 27<br/>Robert B. Wieand, Oct. 15</p> <p><b>'52</b> Charles B. Bender Jr., June 6<br/>Cynthia Shearer Johnson, May 2<br/>Carey A. Moore, Sept. 28</p> <p><b>'53</b> William H. Keers Jr., Oct. 13</p> <p><b>'54</b> Ralph C. Fischer, Aug. 19<br/>Shirley Hawk Miller, Aug. 9<br/>Harold M. Raffensperger, July 25</p> <p><b>'55</b> R. Hart Beaver, Oct. 10<br/>Marjorie Worth Geesaman,<br/>Sept. 23<br/>Lemuel R. Lawson, Oct. 7<br/>William A. Markley, Aug. 19<br/>Robert L. Sibert, June 24</p> <p><b>'56</b> Edwin N. Hadley, Sept. 14<br/>Robert A. Heder, June 10<br/>Glandon R. Laing Jr., Nov. 1</p> <p><b>'57</b> Deane G. Bornheimer, April 13<br/>Terrence J. Harris, June 28<br/>Ann Hershfeld Lau, July 5<br/>Virginia Lammey Way, Oct. 19<br/>William B. Wivel, Aug. 9</p> <p><b>'59</b> Robert M. Deiley, Aug. 9<br/>Walter M. Hof, June 26<br/>Hugo W. Schroeder Jr., July 13</p> <p><b>'60</b> Stephen G. Bishop, May 28</p> | <p><b>'61</b> S. William Bear, May 11<br/>Ronald W. Beerkircher, July 8<br/>Helen Gilbert Wolf, April 26</p> <p><b>'62</b> Colleen Sholly Cronlund, Sept. 21<br/>Joanne Dearcopp, May 10</p> <p><b>'63</b> John P. Cunningham, Sept. 7<br/>William T. Kirchhoff, July 1<br/>George W. Miller IV, Aug. 14<br/>George J. Otlowski Jr., Sept. 25<br/>Katherine G. Tenley, May 3</p> <p><b>'64</b> James E. Hamerstone, May 13<br/>Sue Miller Robinson, Aug. 9<br/>Paul L. Showalter, Feb. 5, 2023</p> <p><b>'65</b> Gary L. Grahm, Nov. 2<br/>Robert E. Hughey, April 13<br/>David V. Williams, July 26</p> <p><b>'66</b> Leonard G. Epp, June 19</p> <p><b>'67</b> Lee P. Cummings, May 30<br/>David J. Otis, May 7<br/>Phyllis Hauck Price, June 21</p> <p><b>'68</b> Bettye J. Baker, July 23<br/>Elizabeth Haave Dougherty,<br/>Aug. 21<br/>Ronald E. Reaves, Oct. 23</p> <p><b>'69</b> Deanna S. Forney, Oct. 21<br/>John L. Scarborough, Aug. 4</p> <p><b>'71</b> Peter Warren Buckingham, May 7<br/>Glenda J. Galebach, May 7<br/>Wayne A. Wagner, June 24</p> <p><b>'72</b> Laura Gannon Vasilantone,<br/>Aug. 24</p> <p><b>'75</b> Lynne Koppenhaver Howard,<br/>June 7</p> | <p><b>'76</b> Preston L. Burlew, Aug. 10<br/>Stephen F. Marsh, June 8</p> <p><b>'77</b> Cynthia L. Cluss, July 24</p> <p><b>'78</b> Thomas J. Varian, July 14</p> <p><b>'79</b> David A. Hartmann, Oct. 22<br/>James E. Partridge, April 26</p> <p><b>'80</b> Terrence Smithers, June 27</p> <p><b>'81</b> Debra Partenheimer Turner,<br/>Aug. 16<br/>Peter C. Valentine, July 2</p> <p><b>'82</b> Gail Whittemore Denman,<br/>June 10<br/>Jean Wingerd Purinton, June 2</p> <p><b>'85</b> Raymond C. FitzGerald, June 2</p> <p><b>'88</b> William G. Duffill, Sept. 19<br/>Janice Donley Hopkins, June 23</p> <p><b>'93</b> Christopher M. Marshall, Sept. 18</p> <p><b>'97</b> Louis J. Otremba III, Sept. 23</p> <p><b>2000</b> Emily M. Kaeli, July 13</p> <p><b>'10</b> Victor T. Smith, Oct. 20</p> |
|--|---|---|

## RETIRED STAFF

Peter S. Carmichael, July 21

## RETIRED FACULTY

Gertrude G. Gobbel, Aug. 9  
J. Roger Stemen, May 4

## HONORING LEGACIES



### PETER S. CARMICHAEL

Gettysburg College Civil War Institute (CWI) Director and Robert C. Fluhner Professor of Civil War Studies Peter S. Carmichael died July 21, 2024. During his nearly 15 years of service to Gettysburg, Pete contributed his visionary leadership, infectious enthusiasm, and steadfast dedication to supporting the student experience.

Pete arrived at Gettysburg College in the fall of 2010 after working at Western Carolina University, the University of North Carolina Greensboro, and West Virginia University. His leadership of the CWI's annual conference connected thousands of members of the public with leading historians and scholars in Civil War era studies. Pete relished every opportunity to welcome people from across the country and around the world to Gettysburg to discover for themselves this consequential place in American history.

With support from many individuals across the Gettysburg community, he created the public history minor and established the Brian C. Pohanka Internship Program in 2011. This program places students in interpretive, cultural resource management, and archaeology positions in public history settings, such as National Park Service sites and museums. Other internship opportunities have been added to supplement the Pohanka program in

recent years. To date CWI's Funded Internship Program has helped more than 200 students attain Career-Ready Experiences in the professional world.

A scholar and teacher, Pete was a passionate historian, author of numerous books and scholarly articles, and an editor for the University of North Carolina Press. His engaging teaching style and mentorship empowered his students to analyze primary sources, critically think about events that have shaped history, and hone their communication and problem-solving skills. He regularly invited students to explore historical settings firsthand, making countless visits with them to Gettysburg National Military Park over the years.

"Pete's impact on this community and in the community of Civil War scholars has been immeasurable," said President Bob Iuliano. "He has helped us to see the Civil War through a broader and more nuanced lens, and along the way guided legions of Gettysburg College students into the field of public history."

"Pete Carmichael was a gifted scholar whose writing, lectures, and teaching extended understanding of the Civil War in new directions, encouraging more nuanced perceptions of the motivations underlying human actions," said Jill Oglie Titus, interim director of the Civil War Institute. "Under Pete's leadership, Civil War Institute programming embraced challenging questions about the war and its legacy, while his welcoming nature and vibrant personality helped build a diverse community invested in thoughtful conversation. As a colleague and a friend, as well as a husband and father, Pete put relationships first and was always willing to drop everything to step in where he saw a need. His interest in people knew no bounds, and everyone walked away from a conversation with him feeling valued. His death is a catastrophic loss, but his life is an inspiration for all of us fortunate enough to know him."

A memorial service for Pete was held last July at Christ Lutheran Church in Gettysburg. A celebration of life was held at the Majestic Theater on Sept. 20, 2024, during Homecoming Weekend.

Pete is survived by his wife, Beth; his two daughters, Cameron and Isabel; his mother, Charlotte Carmichael; his mother- and father-in-law, Janet and Jack Getz; his brother- and sister-in-law, Christopher and Stephanie Getz; extended family members; and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Lowell Carmichael. Gifts in Pete's name may be made to the Funded Internship Program at Gettysburg College or the Peter S. Carmichael Endowed Scholarship.

*by Michael Vyskocil*



### REV. DR. RUDOLPH FEATHERSTONE '56

The Rev. Dr. *Rudolph Featherstone '56* died Nov. 8, 2024. Describing himself as the "janitor for Jesus," he worked tirelessly for social justice for all people.

Featherstone, often called Rudy by close friends and family members, was born in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 26, 1934, to his parents, James Samuel Featherstone and Annie (Brown) Featherstone. He was one of eight children.

When Featherstone began his undergraduate education at Gettysburg College in the



fall of 1952, he was the only African American student on campus during his first two years of study. He participated on the College's basketball and track and field teams and became the first African American student to graduate from the College in 1956.

Upon graduating from Gettysburg, he continued his education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary), graduating in 1960. After graduation, he served as a pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in the Bronx, New York. He later became pastor at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Jamaica, New York, and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Detroit, Michigan.

After graduating from Harvard Divinity School in 1972, he served in campus ministry for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he mentored students of color. Featherstone then became a professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. There, he taught cross-cultural theological studies and mission service, including a course on the theology of Martin Luther King Jr.

Continually motivated to serve the Lutheran faith community, Featherstone helped establish the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta. During its more than 30 years of operations, Lutheran seminary students of all races could study there and find opportunities to engage with Black churches and the Black community in Atlanta.

Featherstone was an ardent advocate for African American Lutherans and dedicated himself to advancing their voices in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). He was involved in the Conference of International Black Lutherans (CIBL). Featherstone also published many works, including "A Tri-dimensional Reality and Symbol," "Human Dignity in the Thought of Martin Luther King Jr.," and "The Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr."

Through his writing and teachings, Featherstone considered questions such as how the teaching and insights of the Black Christian church can enrich the Lutheran faith. His sermons advocated a greater commitment to social justice in words and action. Ministry trips abroad to Africa and South America amplified his passion for travel and commitment to mission work. He once said, "Lutherans are generally a little more circumspect in their behavior. But, when the spirit gets a hold of you, you can't sit down. You gotta move, you gotta groove, you gotta slide, you gotta glide—something's gotta happen to you!"

Featherstone retired from ministry and teaching in 2002. In May 2008, he returned to his alma mater, where he attended Gettysburg's 173rd Commencement Exercises and received an honorary Doctor of Theology degree.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Carmella Delores Featherstone; his son, Sean Richard Featherstone; and his siblings, James Samuel Featherstone Jr., Jean Erma (Featherstone) Clark, Ralph Edward Featherstone, and Joyce Elizabeth Featherstone Wigfall. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Featherstone; his siblings, Norida Ann (Featherstone) Harrison, Charles Austin Featherstone, Deloris (Allan) Featherstone Stephenson; and many extended family members, friends, and ministry colleagues.

by Michael Vyskocil

## WILLIAM T. KIRCHHOFF '63, P'86

When the baseball team moved to a new field on the north side of campus in 1991, they sat on wooden benches exposed to the elements. There were no dugouts to keep players and coaches protected from the sun, rain, or occasional March snow squall. Former baseball player and Trustee *Bill Kirchhoff '63, P'86* helped change that, partnering with his wife, *Jean Cleveland Kirchhoff '64, P'86*, to support the construction of permanent brick dugouts.



Today, Kirchhoff Field bears the family name, emblazoned in white lettering on an orange sign hanging below the right field scoreboard. It's a reminder of the legacy of one of Gettysburg's all-time greats in Bill Kirchhoff, who passed away on July 1, 2024, at the age of 82.

"When I think of Bill Kirchhoff, I think of gratitude, support, and humbleness," said *John Campo P'07*, former head baseball coach. "Bill and Jean have been blessed with great lives and a wonderful family. Their support and passion for Gettysburg was a way of paying it back to where it all started."

"Sweet William from Swedesboro" was a standout high school athlete, earning letters in football, basketball, and baseball. He enrolled at Gettysburg where he joined the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and continued his baseball career, helping the program to its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 1962.

An economics major, Bill met the love of his life at Gettysburg, marrying Jean in December 1963.

Bill and Jean settled down in Central Pennsylvania with Bill joining Jean's family business, Cleveland Brothers Equipment Company. He served as executive vice president and dealer principal before his retirement in 2007. While active in his professional endeavors, Bill remained passionate and dedicated to his family, friends,

and his alma mater. He served on a host of committees and boards at the College, including the Board of Trustees, Alumni Executive Board, and Board of Fellows. Their daughter, Karen, graduated from Gettysburg in 1986.

Even though his family's name adorns the baseball scoreboard, Bill's impact has been keenly felt in every corner of campus. Through their five decades of giving to the institution, Bill and Jean have supported everything from endowed scholarships to the Gettysburg Fund. They have contributed to building projects like the Science Center and Jaeger Center and have made gifts to plant trees, create gardens, and enhance our beautiful campus.

Bill and Jean were members of the Benefactors Circle, which recognizes the College's most passionate and steadfast donors. In 2004, Bill received a Meritorious Service Award from Gettysburg, and in 2014, Bill and Jean were given the Lavern H. Brenneman '36 Award for Exemplary Service to Gettysburg College.

"The College wanted to name the field after the Kirchhoff family, not just because of their association and their support of the baseball program, but also their support across campus in so many other ways," Campo said. "They are both so appreciative of the education they received and the opportunities that Gettysburg provided for them and their family."

Each year since 2013, Gettysburg's baseball team has organized a fundraiser called Take ALS Yard. It began as a way to honor Bill and Jean's son Tommy, who passed away from the condition known as Lou Gehrig's disease in 2015. Through this campaign, the baseball team has raised approximately \$150,000 for Project ALS. The team intends to honor Bill's legacy as part of Take ALS Yard Day in April.

Bill is survived by his wife Jean, daughters Karen and Katie and their families, and eight grandchildren.

*by Corey Jewart*



### **VICTOR T. SMITH '10**

*Victor Smith '10* aspired to make a difference in every community he joined. Whether it was at the Taft School in his home state of Connecticut, on the football team at Gettysburg College, or in courtrooms in Daytona Beach and St. Augustine, Florida, Victor was a peacemaker who saw potential in everyone he met.

A member of the Alumni Board of Directors, Victor passed away unexpectedly at his home in Palm Beach, Florida, on Oct. 20, 2024. He was 36 years old.

Growing up in New London, Connecticut, Victor earned the nickname "The Governor" for his empathetic and compassionate leadership abilities. At Gettysburg, he played football all four years, served as a resident assistant and community advisor in Residence Life, and sat on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and executive board of Pi Lambda Sigma. Victor studied abroad in England during his junior year, an adventure that kindled a love of travel throughout the rest of his life.

After graduating with a political science degree, Victor attended the Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, Florida, earning his juris doctorate in 2012. After being admitted to the Florida Bar in 2013, he spent more than eight years as an associate attorney at the Law Offices of Rotstein & Shiffman in Daytona Beach, Florida. In 2021, Victor then joined The Robertson Firm, where he focused on construction litigation.

While one eye remained fixed on being an advocate and voice for those in need in his local communities, Victor kept the other eye on his alma mater and the opportunities to make an impact on the student experience. He joined the Alumni Board of Directors in 2022 and served on committees for development and diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. Additionally, Victor co-chaired the Class of 2010 reunion committee for both his 10<sup>th</sup> and upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> reunion celebrations.

To show his gratitude for the support he received as a student at Gettysburg, Victor became one of the youngest alumni to create a Gettysburg Fund Named Scholarship, opening the door for students in need to experience the gift of a Gettysburg College education.

When he was featured in the Gettysburg College *Magazine* in the summer of 2022, Victor left a charge to the campus community, imploring students to keep an open mind and look at situations from multiple perspectives as we all work together to improve society.

"My hope for current and future students is that they leave Gettysburg with a real understanding of what it means to be a quality person. I want them to be open-minded and open to listening to different perspectives. Maybe you still end up disagreeing, but you're listening and hearing others. ... I think if everybody would do that, worldwide, we'd be in a much better place as an overall human race."

Victor is survived by his mother Valerie Mason, father Victor R. Smith, his sister Victoria Stackhouse and his niece ChrisTienne Ezizyah Stackhouse, his paternal grandmother Jean Smith, his maternal grandmother Ellen Kidd, and many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

To honor Victor's legacy, his family has requested memorial contributions be allocated to the Victor T. Smith, Esq. '10 Gettysburg Fund Scholarship

*by Corey Jewart*



BEHIND THE SCENES

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## WITH A GETTYSBURG GREAT

UPLIFTING UNSUNG HEROES THROUGH STORYTELLING  
AT KABA BABY

*by Tyobista Girma '15*





## WHEN I BEGAN MY EDUCATION IN GLOBALIZATION STUDIES AT GETTYSBURG COLLEGE, I WAS ALREADY CURIOUS ABOUT THE DIVERSE STORIES THAT SHAPE OUR WORLD.

Growing up in Ethiopia, I was surrounded by rich cultural narratives that often went unnoticed in the broader global conversation. This curiosity only deepened during my time at Gettysburg, where I learned to embrace leadership, critical thinking, and, most importantly, independence.

Those formative experiences inspired me to start Kaba Baby with my childhood best friend. We saw a gap in the market—not only for diverse, culturally inspired children's products, but also for narratives that celebrate the contributions of people of color whose stories are often left untold.

At Kaba Baby, our mission is to uplift and share the legacies of these unsung heroes. While our clothing is designed for the little ones, the stories we tell are meant for everyone, serving as a bridge that connects generations and cultures.

Being at Gettysburg College played a crucial role in shaping this mission. The College encouraged me to think critically and take charge of my own learning. Through leadership roles, campus activities, and studying abroad, I learned how to navigate different perspectives and craft meaningful narratives—skills that have been instrumental in building Kaba Baby. At Gettysburg, I found the courage to pursue projects independently, much like how I now approach entrepreneurship with Kaba Baby.

Kaba Baby is more than a children's clothing brand; it's a storytelling platform. Each piece of clothing carries the narrative of remarkable individuals who have made significant contributions

to our world. By focusing on these unsung heroes, we aim to provide families with stories that inspire curiosity, pride, and a sense of belonging. We believe that celebrating these narratives can empower children and adults alike to see the value in every culture and to recognize that history is composed of countless voices.

My entrepreneurial journey with Kaba Baby is a direct extension of the independence and leadership skills I honed at Gettysburg. In many ways, Gettysburg provided a stepping stone to what Kaba Baby has become: a movement that seeks to bring overlooked stories to the forefront while offering families a chance to connect, learn, and grow together.

Looking back, I'm grateful for how Gettysburg empowered me to explore the intersection of culture, leadership, and storytelling. Kaba Baby is my way of taking that spirit of independence and global thinking into the world. I hope future Gettysburg graduates will find their own paths to uplift diverse voices and, like me, use their education to create something that makes a difference. **G**

**PHOTOS AT RIGHT** From onesies to rompers, each piece off Kaba Baby's apparel tells the stories of Black and Brown innovators and leaders while thoughtfully celebrating and reflecting diversity.

**BOTTOM** Tyobista Girma '15 with Kaba Baby co-founder Rewina Kahssay. All photos are courtesy of Tyobista Girma '15





# A CONSEQUENTIAL CAREER

HOW A MUSIC DEGREE AT GETTYSBURG LED TO A LIFE FULL OF IMPACT

by Earl Hurrey '75

The last 50 years have taken me in lots of directions, but always in the music field I have loved since earning my music degree from G'burg. Much of my success I attribute directly to the superb education I received. My college band director and my mentor, Music Prof. **Bob Zellner**, and so many other incredible educators gave me many opportunities to lead and learn throughout my four years there. I have been so grateful for this blessing throughout my life.

I taught middle school music for just one year but realized that being a teacher was not in my DNA. I auditioned for and was accepted into "The President's Own" United States Marine Band. I served four presidents—Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and Bill Clinton—and I served proudly until I retired as the band's stage manager in 1997 with the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. Being a part of this world-renowned musical organization gave me so much more than a wonderful music career. My stage was the White House; my audience was the presidents, world leaders, and countless celebrities and entertainers. I had the great fortune to witness so much amazing history over the course of my 21 years as a Marine.

After my retirement from the Marine Corps, I took a position as the manager for guest talent and education programs with Walt Disney Entertainment, a job that I loved. I had the incredible opportunity to be on the management team for the opening of Animal Kingdom Theme Park at Walt Disney World, and so many other unique and wonderful Disney events. One of my favorite events

was the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Naval Academy that was celebrated under Spaceship Earth at EPCOT.

Never one to get too comfortable in any job, this position led me to a wonderful career as the deputy executive director of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), which I held for 10 years. Ironically, as a music education major, we were all required to join NAfME as part of our education program. Little did I know then that I would someday be leading that same organization.



*Earl Hurrey '75 and his Historic Programs Team at the Normandy American Cemetery in France following the 75th anniversary ceremony.*

But I wasn't done yet.

All of these experiences put me in a position to take on my biggest challenge as the vice president of Historic Programs, a national nonprofit that produces and administers national and international ceremonies and events celebrating America's history and honoring our

veterans and our active-duty military. I've proudly done this for the past 15 years. The Historic Programs team works tirelessly together to produce some of the most prestigious and iconic historic events in the world, such as the D-Day Commemoration in Normandy, France; the Pearl Harbor ceremony and parade in Honolulu, Hawaii; the National Veterans Day Ceremony in our nation's capital; and the National Vietnam Veterans Day Parade and the Gold Star Family Memorial Day Parade in Honolulu. Most importantly, we have honored and celebrated America's veterans and educated our younger generations about our important history.

At 72, I'm not even close to retirement yet. I live in Honolulu and plan to continue working for our veterans and honoring our history with Historic Programs for as long as God allows me to keep going. Just this past June, I was able to take several G'burg alumni to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. It was great fun to see my old friends again.

Losing my wife and youngest child taught me to trust in God and keep moving forward. I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where I serve as the Mission Leader and Self-Reliance Specialist for my ward. I serve on the Veterans Council for O'ahu, and I am a proud member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. I still enjoy playing my music as the principal tuba in the O'ahu Civic Orchestra and the Honolulu Symphonic Band. One of these days I may retire, but not yet... **G**



# GETTYSBURGIANS STEP FORWARD FOR ONE ANOTHER

*As a Gettysburg alum, your engagement can help shape the lives of current students.*

*We are often asked by alumni "How can I help?". There are countless ways to get engaged and support current students.*

## JOIN US FOR EVENTS



Reconnect with old classmates and engage with current students by attending events in your region or on campus.

## VOLUNTEER



You can directly strengthen the Gettysburg Network by...

- Mentoring a student
- Hosting externships or job shadowing opportunities
- Helping plan your next reunion
- Keeping your classmates engaged as a Class Champion

## MAKE A GIFT



Your gifts to the College help us deliver on our promise of A Consequential Education for all students. We invite you to make a gift to an area of the College that is the most meaningful to you.





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# RETURN HOME

*for* REUNION WEEKEND 2025

MAY 29-JUNE 1, 2025

## FEATURED EVENTS INCLUDE:

- *Alumni College Courses*
- *Orange & Blue Golf Classic*
- *Reunions for 5s and 10s Classes (1965–2010)*
- *President's Address and Alumni Awards*
- *Family-Friendly Activities*

Registration opens soon at [www.gettysburg.edu/reunion](http://www.gettysburg.edu/reunion)

**Reunion** <sup>2025</sup>

EVERYONE'S  
INVITED!

## REUNION GIVING

*is truly the heart of philanthropy at Gettysburg. Join in the tradition of supporting your Reunion Class Gift by making a gift today at [www.gettysburg.edu/reuniongiving](http://www.gettysburg.edu/reuniongiving) or using the QR code.*

