

# GETTYSBURG

College Magazine

Winter 2026  
Vol. 116 - No. 2



**LET'S  
REAL GET**

HOW IS  
GETTYSBURG  
PREPARING THE  
NEXT GENERATION  
OF REAL ESTATE  
AND FINANCE  
PROFESSIONALS?

ALSO INSIDE  
FOREVER  
GETTYSBURG





## UPFRONT

The Majestic Theater's 100th anniversary celebration on Nov. 14, 2025, brought together more than a century of artistry, community spirit, and history. Hundreds of supporters from across Gettysburg College, the Gettysburg community, and the region gathered for a memorable evening that honored the Majestic's past and looked ahead to its next century of performance.

Highlights of the Majestic's centennial celebration included standout performances from internationally renowned fiddler Natalie MacMaster (pictured) and the Grammy Award-winning Orpheus Chamber Orchestra.

Following the performance, guests gathered at Hotel Gettysburg for the Centennial Gala. More than a hundred alumni, donors, community partners, and arts patrons attended the dinner and celebration.

The gala honored supporters whose generosity has advanced the Majestic's mission over the decades: philanthropic leaders Mary and Jed Smith, *Ken '66* and *Elizabeth Lundeen, David '85* and *Cynthia LeCompte '84 Salisbury P'15*, and Emeriti Trustee *David '68* and *Pauline LeVan*. More than 20 years ago, David LeVan led the effort to restore the Majestic Theater to its prominence as a community gathering place for entertainment, creativity, and enlightenment.

Founding executive director *Jeffrey Gabel* was also honored for his work in managing the theater's restoration and opening the doors to thousands of patrons who have viewed more than 300 concerts by professional artists over two decades.

In his remarks, Gettysburg College *President Bob Iuliano* reflected on the enduring influence of the Majestic over the past century.

"The Majestic is more than a building. It's a bridge," Iuliano said, "a bridge between the generations, a bridge between our campus and community, and a bridge between the arts and those who bring them to life."

*by Corey Jewart*

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## Forever Gettysburg

Community and College pride endure here.

*by Molly Pavlovich*

26

## Let's Get Real

The housing market is in crisis. How is Gettysburg preparing the next generation of real estate and finance professionals?

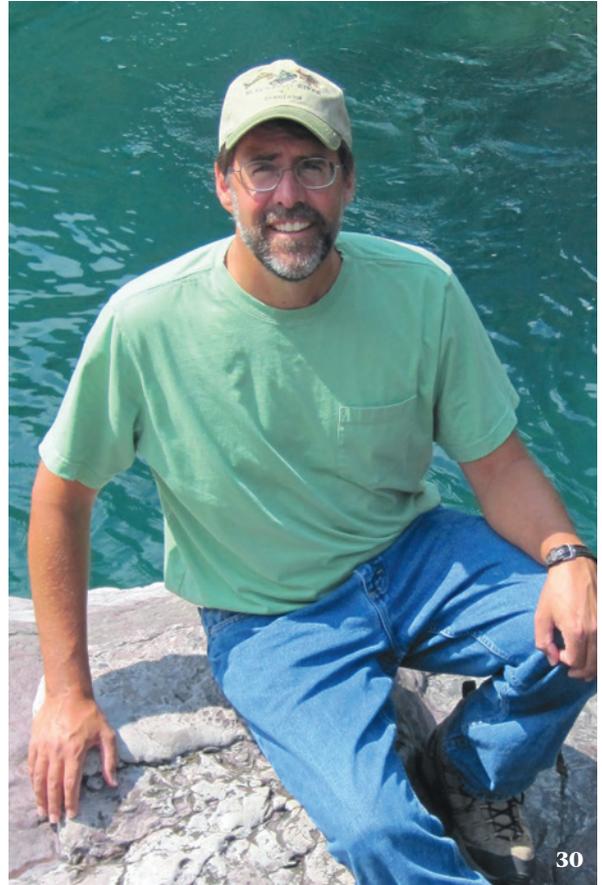
*by Phoebe Doscher '22*



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# HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Generations of Gettysburgians call our College home. Not simply because of the iconic buildings that grace our campus grounds, but because of the relationships that form here—the lifelong friendships, the formative mentorship, and the shared moments that bind us together.

Every one of us is part of the Gettysburg story. And today, we are authoring an exciting new chapter—one that honors our cherished past while building a future that keeps community at the very heart of our student experience.

This year, we've taken bold steps to bring this vision to life. In our newly dedicated Rogers Center for Innovation and Creativity—now located in the lower level of Plank Gym and named in honor of Distinguished Alumni Award recipient **Clarence B. "Jack" Rogers Jr. '51**—students are collaborating across disciplines to explore big ideas and tackle complex problems.

In the center of campus, our College Union Building (CUB) Ballroom is undergoing a dramatic transformation. We're thrilled to unveil this inspiring space before Get Acquainted Day in April, offering our newest Gettysburg students and families a first glimpse into the connections, traditions, and sense of belonging that define this campus.

We're also reimagining our West Quad residence halls—spaces that hold within them decades of fond memories! This winter, we opened the doors to our newly renovated Stine Hall (page 6). Now, we're turning our attention to Paul Hall, carrying forward our commitment not only to enhance where students live, but also to enrich how they engage with and learn from one another.

In that spirit, we're proud that several accomplished alumni are finding their way home, bringing their experience and leadership back to Gettysburg College. **Rob Schwartz '92**, a third-generation Gettysburgian and former senior executive at global companies like IBM and AT&T, now leads our enrollment strategy as Vice President for Enrollment and Educational Services. **Amy Layman '94** is guiding our fundraising and engagement efforts as Associate Vice President for College Advancement and Campaign Director (page 9). And **Troy Dell '95** has returned to serve as Executive Director of Athletics and Recreation, to empower our student-athletes to grow as leaders and teammates while competing for conference and NCAA championships (page 5).

Above all else, Gettysburg is about community—the people and the place that make this College home. As we look to the future, I'm heartened by all the ways this community continues to rally around our students and steward what makes Gettysburg so special. Together, we are building something truly lasting—something worthy of the generations of Gettysburgians still to come.

Sincerely,



Bob Iuliano  
President



Gettysburg College President Bob Iuliano meets with students in the Rogers Center for Innovation and Creativity.

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Magazine is published twice a year  
as a gift to all alumni, faculty, staff,  
and friends of the College by the  
Communications and Marketing  
Office. Please direct any inquiries  
to [alumnimagazine@gettysburg.edu](mailto:alumnimagazine@gettysburg.edu).  
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ADDRESS CHANGES

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## TROY DELL '95 LEADS GETTYSBURG ATHLETICS INTO NEW ERA

by Corey Jewart

**T**roy Dell '95 has come home. After nearly two decades leading transformative initiatives as director of athletics at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland, Dell returned to Gettysburg College as Executive Director of Athletics and Recreation last August.

A native of Hanover, Pennsylvania, Dell was a four-year letterwinner on the wrestling mat and graduated with a degree in history. He was named Gettysburg's head wrestling coach during the 1997-1998 season and remained in that role for a decade, coaching multiple national qualifiers and Centennial Conference champions. He was also assistant director of athletics for five years, where he guided facilities operations, first-year Orientation, and interdepartmental initiatives.

"As an undergraduate, Gettysburg College provided me with a foundation of academic excellence that carried into my professional career," Dell noted. "If it wasn't for David Wilson's recruitment, I would not have been exposed to this great community. I'm also forever thankful for Chuck Winters [former director of athletics] for hiring me to take over the wrestling program and David Wright [former assistant vice president for athletics] for the opportunity to enter administration and for being a lifelong mentor and friend."

Dell took over as the director of athletics at Frostburg in 2007, overseeing 25 varsity sports, intramural programs, and



a comprehensive community wellness initiative. His leadership was pivotal in Frostburg's 2019 transition from Division III to Division II. He strengthened student-athlete experiences by expanding athletic training and strength programs, introducing new varsity sports, and increasing academic performance across teams.

The homecoming presents a new chapter for Dell and his wife Toni. After spending nearly two decades at Frostburg watching their four children grow and compete as student-athletes at the collegiate level, the couple return to their family roots and embark on an exciting opportunity alongside a new group of student-athletes, coaches, and staff at Gettysburg.

"I'm honored to return and work with today's student-athletes and look forward to collaborating across campus, as well as with alumni and friends of the College," Dell said.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA, GETTYSBURGIANS SHARED THEIR LOVE FOR THEIR ALMA MATER BY REFLECTING AND CELEBRATING ALL THAT THEY LOVE ABOUT THE ORANGE AND BLUE.



## SERVO THANKSGIVING

Across generations of Gettysburgians, our annual Servo Thanksgiving holiday tradition continues to evoke memories of good food and good friends.

*“One of my favorite memories! I’ve worked in higher ed for 40 years and never heard of another campus that did this...G’burg you are one of a kind!”*

• **Jacinta Felice '81**

*“I was just telling my kids about how much we loved the Gettysburg Thanksgiving turkey dinner!!! Glad to hear the College is still doing it—and that students still call it ‘Servo.’”*

• **Carolyn Hall Finlay '95**

*“I loved serving this dinner all the years I worked at the College. The students have so much fun. A special thank you to everyone who prepped and cooked and cleaned up!”*

• **Deb Rinehart, retired support staff**

## STINE HALL RENOVATIONS

The recent renovation to Stine Hall over the past few months conjured memories from alumni about living and learning at Gettysburg.

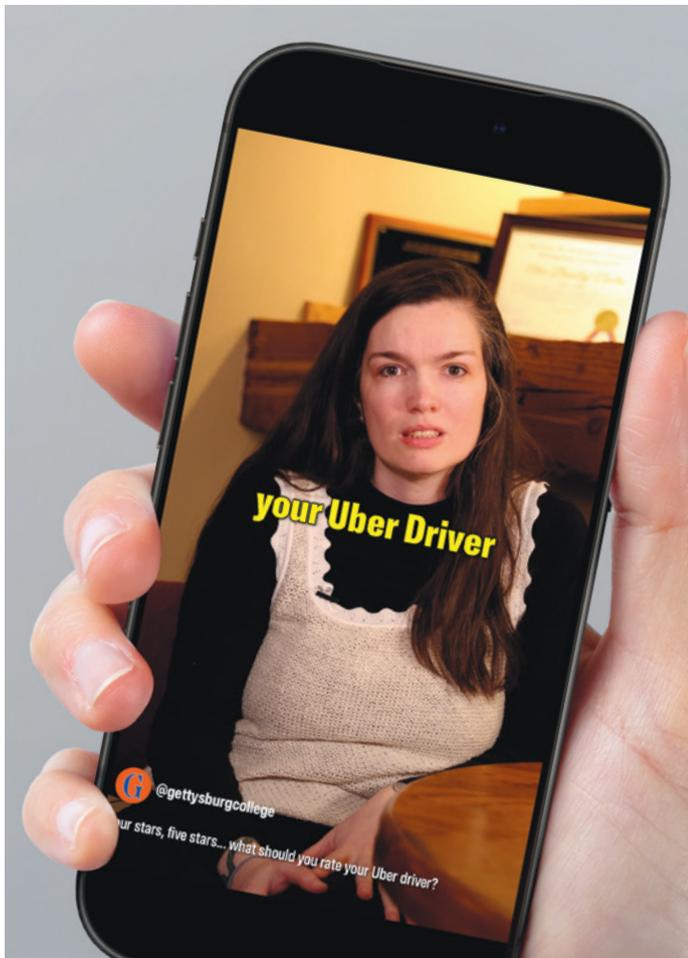
*“While the education Gettysburg provides is second to none, upgraded dorm space is essential to win the battle to admit students. Can’t wait to show this new space to the prospective Class of 2030!!”*

• **Richard L. Scheff '77**

*“I remember this dorm well!”*

• **Susan Bryja '80**





## ASK A PROFESSOR

**F**our stars, five stars...what should you rate your Uber driver? 🌟🚗

Last fall, in our new “Ask a Professor” social series, Management **Prof. Alice Brawley Newlin** explained the impact of Uber ratings in the gig economy, a topic she’s studied as part of her research. The video featuring Brawley Newlin garnered more than 200,000 views across Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok.

## GETTYSBURG RAILWAY DEBUT

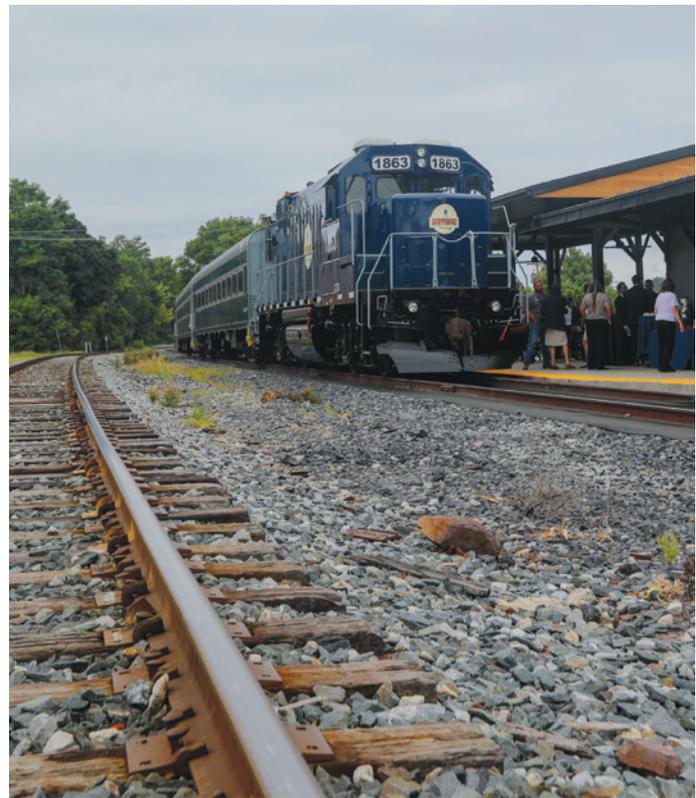
**L**ast summer, our community celebrated the ribbon cutting of Gettysburg’s newest attraction. The Gettysburg Railway is a historic train experience that offers students and visitors a unique way to connect with the place we call home.

*“Tripped over those tracks many times on the way from campus to the square—so happy to see they’re being put to use!”*

📍 **Kate Grieger Piekut '79**

*“Trains today? YES!”*

📍 **Audrey Schwinn '11**



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MOST RECENT ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT WINNERS!

For the past six months, these alumni have helped bring the Gettysburg community to life online—sharing our stories, supporting one another, and creating connections that matter. We’re grateful for their pride and commitment.

*Gregory W. Dachille '17   Debbie S. Eshbach '91   Carol A. Hegeman '73  
Trish Mullinix Hykes '10   Emily R. Jumba '24*

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

📍 Gburg.College   📷 gettysburgcollege   📺 gettysburg-college   📺 gettysburgcollege   📺 gettysburg   📺 GettysburgCollege

# NEWS

*Contributions from  
Awa Diop '29*



*MLK Day Commemoration, see page 12*

## **KUHLMANN FAMILY GENEROSITY**

Sisters *Anne Kuhlmann Taylor '66* and *Celia J. Kuhlmann '75* give back in support of Gettysburg.

**P. 11**

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## **POSTGRADUATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Gettysburg expanded its academic partnerships in Fall 2025.

**P. 12**

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## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Gettysburg College has been selected for the 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement.

**P. 12**

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STAFF

## FOOTBALL COACH ANNOUNCED

**Michael Green** joins Gettysburg as the new head coach of our football program. He spent the last 12 years on the coaching staff at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, his alma mater, including the last five as defensive coordinator. Under Green's leadership, Hobart has fielded one of the most dynamic and dominant defenses in all of Division III.

STAFF

## NEW CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Two Gettysburg alumni have returned to work for their alma mater. **Robert Schwartz '92** is serving as Vice President for Enrollment and Educational Services (EES). **Amy Layman '94** joins College Advancement as Associate Vice President for College Advancement and Campaign Director.

STAFF

## NEW BASKETBALL COACH

**Matt Hunter** has taken the helm as head coach of Gettysburg College's men's basketball team. He comes to Gettysburg after serving 13 years as the head men's basketball coach at York College of Pennsylvania. Hunter becomes the 13th coach in the 125-year history of the Bullets' men's basketball program.

ALUMNI

## MENTORSHIP IN THE ARTS

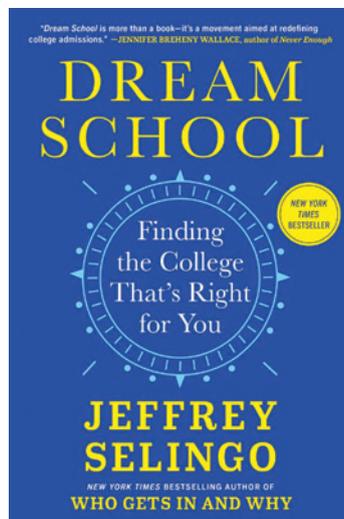
Through a commitment from **Joseph '75** and **Susan '77 Biernat**, Gettysburg College has established the Biernat Endowed Professorship in the Creative, Performance, and History of the Arts and the Biernat Internship Fund for the Arts. This rotating professorship will be awarded to faculty from the Art & Art History, Cinema & Media Studies, Music, Theatre Arts, and English departments. The Biernat Internship Fund for the Arts will provide students with hands-on learning experiences in museums, galleries, performing arts organizations, and other creative fields.



CAMPUS

## 'DREAM SCHOOL'

Gettysburg College was named one of 75 "New Dream Schools" in the book "Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You" by New York Times bestselling author and higher education expert Jeffrey Selingo. In the book, Selingo praised Gettysburg's experiential learning opportunities, strong career outcomes for graduates, and dynamic First-Year Seminars.



ALUMNI

## FULBRIGHT HONOREES

In 2025, seven Gettysburg alumni were offered fellowships from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program: **Joe Accetta '20**, **Patrick Artur '24**, **Kenzie McKowen '23**, **Gracie Meisner '25**, **Vivek Rallabandi '25**, **Emily Suter '25**, and **Joe Zimble '25**. Three received prestigious grants to go abroad: Accetta (Germany), Meisner (Germany), and Suter (Austria). Including the 2025 cohort, Gettysburg College students have earned 45 Fulbright grants, six of which were awarded in the past two years.

FACULTY

## JANUARY FACULTY INSTITUTE

In January, the Johnson Center for Creative Teaching and Learning (JCCTL) and the Provost’s Office hosted a Faculty Institute that invited Gettysburg faculty to delve further into the topic of artificial intelligence (AI) in education. AI workshops and showcases focused on best practices for assessing student learning in the AI age.



FACULTY

## PHYSICS PROFESSORSHIP

Physics **Prof. Ryan Johnson** began his five-year term as the W.K.T. Sahn Professor of Physics during the Fall 2025 semester. The endowed professorship was established through the generosity of the family of **W.K.T. Sahn, Class of 1872**, to support faculty excellence and student-faculty research in the Physics Department.

STUDENTS

## EXPLORING URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Gettysburg students studied the legacy of the nation’s interstate system and a renewed movement to create more connected, equitable cities through the Eisenhower Institute’s Building America transportation program. Led by Public Policy **Prof. Christopher Rick**, students traveled to Syracuse and Rochester, New York; Richmond, Virginia; and Baltimore, Maryland, to study the history of highway construction and learn about the people and communities affected by it.



ALUMNI

## RECOGNIZING ALUMNI MENTORS

Last October, Gettysburg’s Alumni Mentor program received recognition from Inside Higher Ed. The higher education media source highlighted how Gettysburg’s Alumni Mentors help students to build their professional network before graduation and ease their transition into professional careers or graduate study after graduation.

Gettysburg’s Alumni Mentor program launched in Fall 2025 with the Class of 2027, the first class to participate in the College’s Guided Pathways. Students participating in the Guided Pathways can choose to add an Alumni Mentor to their Personal Advising Teams, which include faculty, co-curricular, and career advisors. Alumni interested in becoming mentors can sign up through connectGettysburg ([www.connectgettysburg.com](http://www.connectgettysburg.com)).

ALUMNI

## KUHLMANN FAMILY GENEROSITY

Sisters **Anne Kuhlmann Taylor '66** and **Celia J. Kuhlmann '75** have made transformative commitments to their alma mater in recognition of the lasting impact Gettysburg College had on their lives and careers.

The Kuhlmann sisters' combined multimillion-dollar gifts support major scholarships and key academic programs for students.



FACULTY

## NEW CWI DIRECTOR

**Prof. Ian Isherwood '00**, associate professor of War and Memory Studies, was named director of the Civil War Institute (CWI) and director of the Civil War Era Studies (CWES) program. Isherwood began his full-time career at Gettysburg as assistant director of the CWI in 2012, when he taught in the CWES program and mentored students in the CWI Fellows program.

FACULTY

## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year, eight Gettysburg College faculty members earned tenure and promotion to associate professors, while five were promoted to full professors. These faculty members represent diverse academic programs. "Receiving tenure at Gettysburg has truly been a full-circle moment for me," said Environmental Studies **Prof. Tasha Gownaris '09**. "I arrived at Gettysburg College in fall '05 as a nervous and lost first-gen student, and the faculty here changed my life."

ALUMNI

## HALL OF ATHLETIC HONOR

During Homecoming, Gettysburg celebrated its recent inductees to the Hall of Athletic Honor. These individuals included men's lacrosse coach **Hank Janczyk**, **Brian Abbott '99** (men's lacrosse), **Jennifer Bengel Claiborne '06** (women's basketball), **Lauren Boyd Leventry '03** (volleyball), **Paul Martin '86** (football), and **Kate Murphy Bashaw '05** (women's lacrosse). The Centennial Conference-winning 1985 football team was named the Team of Distinction.



CAMPUS

## 15 YEARS FOR GLC

During Homecoming, the Garthwait Leadership Center (GLC) marked its 15th anniversary, honoring the legacy of its founder, **Bob Garthwait Jr. '82**. Over the last 15 years, the GLC has provided learning opportunities and programming to more than 7,000 students at Gettysburg. Nearly 750 students have participated in the GLC's one-year leadership certificate program.





Photo Courtesy: Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine

CAMPUS

## POSTGRADUATE PARTNERSHIPS

Gettysburg expanded its academic partnerships in Fall 2025, offering pathways tailored for students seeking to expand their education and career opportunities in fields ranging from health care to forensic science and business. These partnerships include Lancaster University in the United Kingdom, Towson University in Maryland, Penn State College of Medicine, the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing at Villanova University, and the Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine.

FACULTY

## PBA PRESIDENT

**Kristen Gaddis Hamilton '99** was appointed to serve a three-year term as president of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Board of Governors. She is a member of the Law Office of Eric J. Weisbrod, PC, in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.



FACULTY

## TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Political Science **Prof. Lindsay Reid '11** was awarded the Dr. Ralph Cavaliere Endowed Teaching Award during Fall Honors Day on Oct. 24, 2025. This annual award, named in honor of Biology **Prof. Emeritus Ralph Cavaliere**, recognizes a full-time Gettysburg College faculty member who exhibits excellence in teaching. The Student Senate selects the award recipient.



CAMPUS

## MLK COMMEMORATION

Gettysburg College commemorated the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19 with its traditional Chapel celebration. Organized by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, along with several College departments and offices and community organizations, this year's celebration, "An Evening of Hope," featured renowned invited tenor Dr. John Wright of the American Spiritual Ensemble, with participation from the Gettysburg Children's Choir and the Sunderman Conservatory of Music. The College's second annual MLK Day Teach-In also took place during the day. Programming was sponsored by the Public Policy, Africana Studies, and Philosophy and Religious Studies departments, in partnership with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Multicultural Engagement, and the Center for Public Service.

CAMPUS

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Gettysburg College has been selected for the 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement. The national designation was awarded by the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Gettysburg is one of 237 colleges recognized with the honor, demonstrating strong town-gown alignment and community partnership.



ALUMNI

## \$9.45 MILLION GIFT ANNOUNCED

Gettysburg College has received a \$9.45 million gift from the estates of *Bruce Baky '65* and *Sherrin Hilburt Baky-Nessler '65, P'01*. The \$9.45 million gift will support four endowed funds: The Baky Endowment for Faculty Growth & Innovation in the Health Sciences, The Baky Endowed Faculty Fund for the Sunderman Conservatory of Music, The Baky Endowed Fund for the Eisenhower Institute Experts-in-Residence Program, and the Sherrin Hilburt Baky-Nessler Endowed Scholarship for students in the health sciences.

CAMPUS

## BLAVATT LECTURE

Philanthropist, historian, and investor David Rubenstein headlined the Eisenhower Institute's 24th annual Blavatt Lecture on Tuesday, Feb. 3. During the program, Rubenstein spoke about the enduring lessons of the Declaration of Independence and encouraged students to connect the enduring lessons of the nation's founding ideals with their own responsibility to lead with purpose. Rubenstein is the co-founder of The Carlyle Group and owner of the Baltimore Orioles.



CAMPUS

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

*Kate Anderson '09*, an acclaimed songwriter for stage, film, and television, has been selected as Gettysburg College's Commencement speaker for the Class of 2026. Anderson is part of the creative team behind the Apple TV series "Central Park," Disney Animation's "Olaf's Frozen Adventure," and internationally produced musicals, including "Between the Lines" and "The Book Thief." Her work spans Broadway, London's West End, and major Hollywood studios. Commencement for the Class of 2026 will take place on Saturday, May 16, at 11 a.m. on the Beachem Portico on the north side of Pennsylvania Hall.

FACULTY

## LEAL AT LINCOLN CENTER

Sunderman Conservatory of Music *Prof. César Leal* represented Gettysburg College on a national stage as a guest conductor for the 58th annual Handel's Messiah Sing-In on Dec. 15, 2025.

The event took place in the David Geffen Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. Collaborating with National Chorale Artistic Director Everett McCorvey, Leal led a chamber orchestra in a powerful performance that united thousands of choristers from across the region.



# ON THE TOPIC OF LEADERSHIP

## WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP MEAN TO YOU?



**Neil Bryant '82**

*Vice president, coaching and leadership development, Bluepoint Leadership Development*

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Today, leadership happens one conversation at a time. Long gone are the days when titular authority was equated with leadership. The world and workplace have evolved from that simplistic perception.

With fluid work settings, global cultural integration, and emerging technologies, the ability to orchestrate resources—human and otherwise—to create positive change requires a fine set of skills. These all begin at the interpersonal level. Leadership is a social construct—it is people-oriented. Therefore, there must be alignment between leaders and followers. Exceptional leaders understand themselves and know how to manage their capabilities in ways that enable others to do the same. It's how great teams achieve common goals.

The root of this dynamic is conversation based on balancing speaking and listening, questioning and curiosity, and genuine appreciation for perspectives. This leads to trust—the foundation for the leader-follower relationship.

Our Garthwait Leadership Center (GLC) is at the forefront of teaching leadership skills to students and alumni. Check it out!



**Adrienne (Rahs) Heffelfinger '12**

*Senior finance manager at Olympus Corporation of the Americas*

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“Effective leaders demonstrate empathy of individuals from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, utilizing clear communication and a strong sense of purpose to unify and motivate teams toward common goals.”

The above is an excerpt from a passage I wrote during a retreat with the GLC during my senior year. We were tasked with describing our leadership style and key leader qualities. Having participated in athletics for most of my life, I had consistently assumed leadership roles within my teams. However, it was not until my experiences with the GLC that I truly reflected on and analyzed the qualities required to be an effective leader.

While the above statement, which I wrote more than 10 years ago, remains consistent with my overarching leadership strategies today, I believe that the most successful leaders continually pursue personal growth and self-reflection. Applying insights into practice equips you to inspire and influence those around you, while leading with integrity and accountability.



**Mary Huegel '26**

*Biochemistry and molecular biology major*

---

I have always had an innate desire to lead. In everything I do, I seek upward growth and never settle for disengagement. Whether serving on the volleyball team's leadership council, working as an organic chemistry teaching assistant, managing staff as an Ortenzio Fitness Center coordinator, leading as vice president of Sceptical Chymists, or acting as director of academic affairs in Alpha Delta Pi, I consistently pursue leadership opportunities.

Leadership varies across disciplines. Running an experiment demands level-headedness and attention to detail, while leading on the court requires energy and inspiration. I cannot act like a research assistant on the court any more than I can shout ace cheers during a muscle incubation. A good leader must be adaptable, adjusting to best guide those around them.

Leading does not come with overt glory. Mottos “leaders eat last” and “give more, expect less” summarize the selflessness of a leader. The true reward is inspiring growth in others. Gettysburg volleyball emphasizes leaving the program better than you found it. I strive to extend that mindset into all my campus involvements, forming leaders of tomorrow.



**Andy Hughes**

*Executive director of the Garthwait Leadership Center*

The purpose of leadership is change. Leaders and followers participate in the process of leadership to respond to or to ignite change. How this leadership happens looks different depending on how power is used.

Traditional notions of leadership as command and control, or power-wielding, are still pervasive today. Organization hierarchies have flattened over time, but we continue to accept that the power of leadership sits at the top.

Rather than power-wielding, what if leadership became power-giving?

At Gettysburg, we prepare students to lead through empowerment “toward effecting change for the greater good.” For nearly two centuries, we’ve embraced this mission and emerged as a national leader in promoting leadership for public purpose. As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the GLC, I believe we are more committed—and better equipped—than ever to develop students and alumni who lead this way.

We believe in a type of leadership that serves for and with others. Leadership grounded in action. Leadership that is consequential. Leadership that empowers. Leadership that endures.



**Alfredo Roman Jordan '26**

*Physics major, mathematics minor, Student Senate president*

To me, leadership is about connection. Serving in the Student Senate has shown me that leaders are not just decision makers; they are bridges. On one side are students who want their concerns heard, and on the other are administrators who guide the College. Leadership is about bringing those voices together, making sure both sides understand each other, and making sure no one feels left out.

A lot of the time, that means listening first. It means paying attention to what students are experiencing and then sharing that honestly with administrators. It also means helping administrators explain the reasons behind policies so that students know they have been considered. When that bridge is working, trust grows, and progress follows.

At Gettysburg, I have learned that leadership is not about standing above others but about standing in the middle, helping people meet in the middle, and keeping the conversation going.

“EFFECTIVE LEADERS DEMONSTRATE EMPATHY OF INDIVIDUALS FROM A VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES, UTILIZING CLEAR COMMUNICATION AND A STRONG SENSE OF PURPOSE TO UNIFY AND MOTIVATE TEAMS TOWARD COMMON GOALS.”

*Adrienne (Rahs) Heffelfinger '12*

*Senior finance manager at Olympus Corporation of the Americas*

# NEUROLOGIST BRIN FREUND '06 FOCUSES ON TREATING EPILEPSY THROUGH CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

by Katelyn Silva

Approximately 3.4 million people in the United States have epilepsy, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Yet only 70% of individuals with this brain condition that causes recurring seizures will respond to medication, said **Brin Freund '06**, a neurologist at the Mayo Clinic.

"I partner with patients to manage their epilepsy, and we always hope that medications will stabilize their condition, but 30% of the time, they won't," he said.

Freund and the Mayo Clinic are using groundbreaking treatments to improve the lives of patients with epilepsy who don't respond to medication.

Freund was recently part of a care team that treated a teenager who couldn't sleep due to multiple seizures each night. She's now in college and seizure-free thanks to Freund, his team, and a new FDA-approved brain implant called NeuroOne. The device uses minimally invasive depth electrodes to diagnose and treat medication-resistant epilepsy. Freund and his team's work was featured last year on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Treatment for epilepsy that doesn't respond to medication typically involves brain surgery, which consists of removing or ablating—often by using heat—the area of the brain responsible for seizures. This method can "feel rudimentary," said Freund, because of the difficulty in determining the exact origin of seizure activity within the brain.

NeuroOne allows Freund and his team to combine seizure location diagnostics and ablative treatments into one less invasive procedure. The procedure's success can be measured by monitoring the brain afterward.

Before Freund was at the forefront of cutting-edge neurological treatments, he was a teenager impacted by the death of a beloved aunt from breast cancer.

"Losing someone you're close to in the prime of life sticks with you. Seeing the impact of her care left an impression and inspired my desire to be part of the medical field," he said. His mother had diabetes, which also motivated him to pursue a medical career.

When looking at colleges, Freund consulted with family friends who are doctors. They advised him to focus on



finding a school that could provide a more intimate, personalized experience where he could build deep relationships in small classes and have strong mentors.

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*“I would challenge you to find a field that has had more technological and clinical improvements over the last 20 years than neurology.”*

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“I looked at a lot of colleges, but Gettysburg fit the bill perfectly,” said Freund, who was a member of Phi Kappa Psi. He met his wife, **Charlotte Pastorius Freund ’03**, with whom he shares two children, through his Gettysburg friend circle.

Freund, who majored in biology at Gettysburg, graduated from Temple University School of Medicine and spent four years as a neurologist for the U.S. Navy before joining the Mayo Clinic in 2023.

Before beginning medical school, Freund researched diabetes and cardiovascular disease in animals at Thomas Jefferson University—an interest nurtured by Gettysburg’s support of a senior-year research study. He and a peer wanted to study diabetes in mice, but the project required relatively expensive equipment to measure metabolic activity.

“Gettysburg didn’t hesitate to support us and find the funding. I think about that all the time—how much the College is truly committed to student development,” he said.

While Freund credits every faculty member in Gettysburg’s Biology Department with providing knowledge, guidance, and support, he acknowledges the transformative mentorship of Biology **Prof. Emerita Kay Etheridge**.

“I had the best mentor in Dr. Etheridge, for whom I was also a teaching assistant during my senior year. She taught me so much academically, but she also imparted a love of teaching and the skills needed to be a great mentor to others,” he said.

Mentorship has been a cornerstone of Freund’s journey. At the Mayo Clinic, Freund guides medical students as the associate clerkship director. He is also an adjunct assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

“I find mentoring and instructing students really fulfilling, and that spark started at Gettysburg. It was always evident how much the faculty enjoyed teaching. I think that sets the College apart, especially from bigger research institutions,” said Freund. He likewise recognizes the value of a liberal arts education in helping him to think critically and become a strong writer.

In addition to his work with NeuroOne, Freund is co-authoring a handbook on the electroencephalogram (EEG), a medical test measuring the brain’s electrical activity, with his mentor at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. William Tatum.

As for NeuroOne, the Mayo Clinic continues to be one of only a handful of providers using this technology to give hope to patients with treatment-resistant epilepsy, with Freund on the front lines.

“I would challenge you to find a field that has had more technological and clinical improvements over the last 20 years than neurology,” Freund said.

“It’s incredibly rewarding to help restore quality of life to individuals for whom there was previously no treatment available and to help train the next generation who will bring the field even further.” 



*Brin Freund '06 spends family time with his children.*



*Brin Freund '06 (right) receives the 2023 Mayo Clinic School of Continuous Professional Development's Outstanding Faculty Award.*

# CONNECTIONS

**GETTYSBURG WAS THE PLACE WHERE WE TRULY CAME INTO OUR OWN—ACADEMICALLY, SOCIALLY, AND PERSONALLY.** We loved the energy of campus life, from an active social scene to long walks and quiet moments on the battlefield, which gave us space to think, talk, and imagine what our futures might hold. Laura especially loved attending football and basketball games, where the sense of community was palpable, and dances and concerts added to the fun and excitement of being a student. Even now, we think of Gettysburg as one of the most beautiful campuses we've ever known—a place that felt inspiring and welcoming every day.

**OUR TIME AT GETTYSBURG WAS SHAPED PROFOUNDLY BY FACULTY MENTORS WHO BELIEVED IN US AND PUSHED US TO BE OUR BEST.** Clay was challenged and encouraged by Dr. Derrick Gondwe in Economics, whose rigorous approach sharpened his thinking and boosted his confidence. **Dr. Lou Hammann '51** in Religious Studies also played a pivotal role, ultimately recommending Clay for Phi Beta Kappa—an affirmation that meant more than we can fully express. Laura found her mentors in the English Department, particularly Dr. James Pickering and Dr. Richard Geyer, who helped her develop strong communication and critical thinking skills. Those skills became the foundation for her career in advertising, just as Clay relied on the analytical and communication tools he gained at Gettysburg when he started his real estate business.

**OUR LIVES SINCE GETTYSBURG HAVE TAKEN US MANY PLACES.** Today, we divide our time between Park City, Utah, and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, with real estate projects in both locations. Laura retired from advertising to raise our family of three children, each of whom has followed their own unique path. Our middle son, Alex, who has Down syndrome, was fully included in regular classrooms and now lives independently—a journey that continues to remind us of the power of opportunity and belief. Our daughter, Kristin, is an artistic director of a regional theater and a mother, and our youngest son, Max, is self-employed in Manhattan.

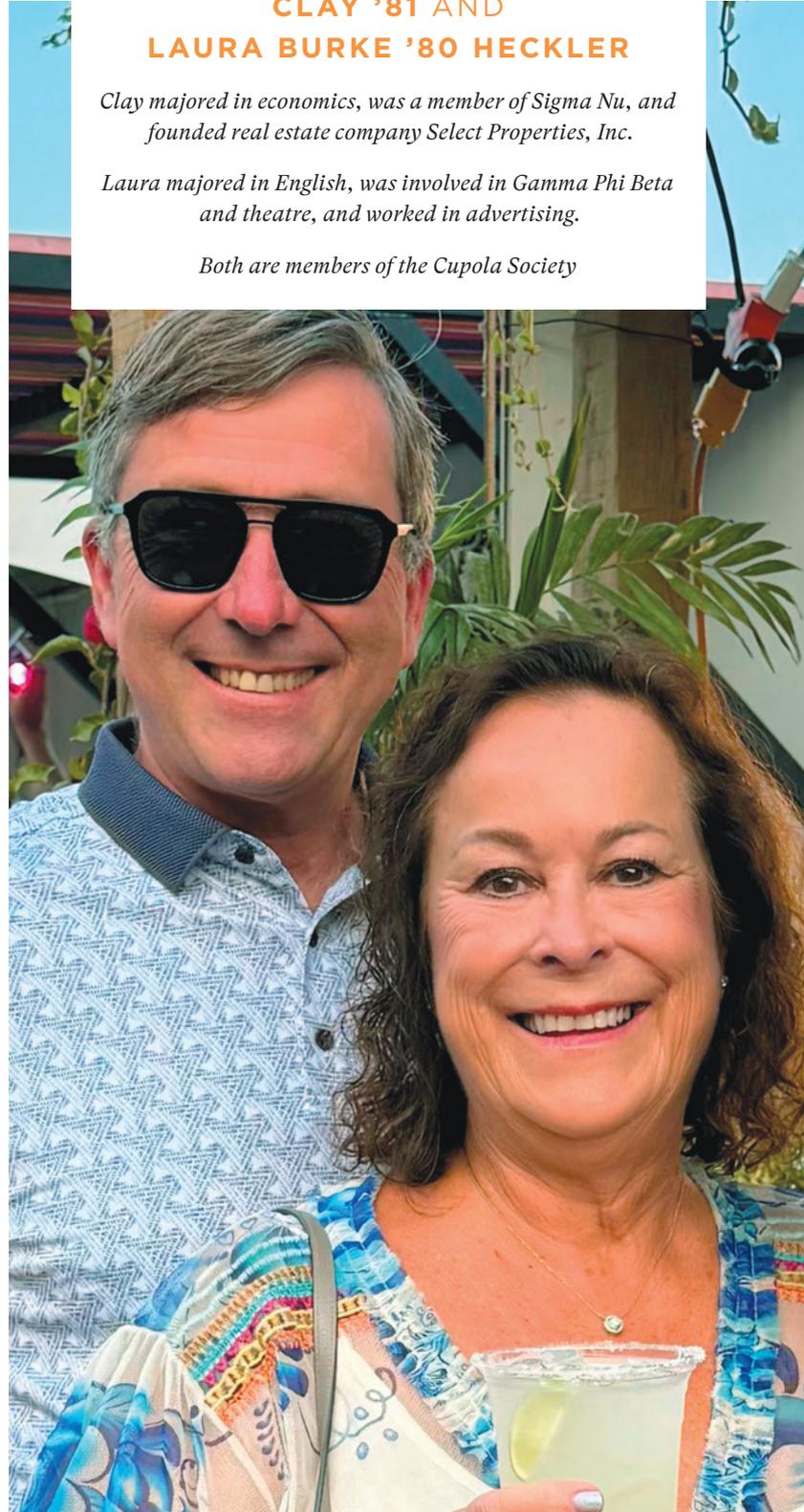
**GETTYSBURG TAUGHT US THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE AND THAT DREAMS ARE WORTH PURSUING.** That belief inspired us to give back by establishing the Professor Gondwe Memorial Endowed Scholarship for students who are the first in their families to attend college—something especially meaningful to us, as Clay was a first-generation college graduate. We are deeply grateful for what Gettysburg gave us and are proud to help open the door for another student each year.

## CLAY '81 AND LAURA BURKE '80 HECKLER

*Clay majored in economics, was a member of Sigma Nu, and founded real estate company Select Properties, Inc.*

*Laura majored in English, was involved in Gamma Phi Beta and theatre, and worked in advertising.*

*Both are members of the Cupola Society*



# FEATURES

## FOREVER GETTYSBURG

Community and College  
pride endure here.

P. 20

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## LET'S GET REAL

The housing market is in  
crisis. How is Gettysburg  
preparing the next generation  
of real estate and finance  
professionals?

P. 26

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# FOREVER

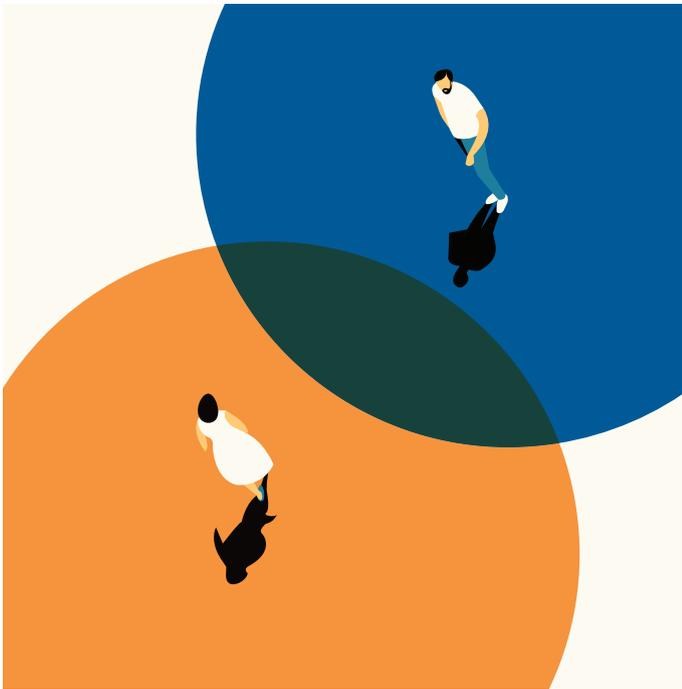


# GETTYSBURG

WHERE COMMUNITY  
AND COLLEGE  
PRIDE ENDURE.

*by Molly Pavlovich*





**RANKING NEAR THE TOP 5% OF ALL NOUNS USED, COMMUNITY CAN FEEL LIKE A BUZZWORD. BUT WHAT MAKES ITS USE PURPOSEFUL IN REFERENCE TO GETTYSBURG COLLEGE IS THAT MEANING AND EMBODIMENT ALIGN HERE.**

At Gettysburg, community isn't static like a noun; it unites, aspires, and transforms like a verb.

"It's a network built on character, curiosity, and a commitment to making a difference," said **Mark Hourigan '81**, CEO of Hourigan, an integrated construction, development, consulting, and equipment solutions firm.

Just as our beloved traditions are passed down from Gettysburgian to Gettysburgian, this spirit of connection extends from one generation of thinkers and doers to the next.

### ROOTED IN TRADITION

Every Gettysburg journey begins and ends between the enduring columns of Pennsylvania Hall—from the procession of first-year students during Convocation to graduates at Commencement.

When **Awa Diop '29**, an international student from Senegal, received the key to Gettysburg during the First-Year Walk for the Class of 2029, she felt surrounded by history and hope.

"Being welcomed in that way meant more than just starting my college journey," she said. "It felt like motivation to keep working hard and staying true to what brought me here."

From the First-Year Walk to Servo Thanksgiving, Salsa on the Square to Founder's Day, International Food Fest to Burgburst, students and alumni eagerly anticipate and remember our traditions.



### A LIVING CURRICULUM

Through the rigorous, dynamic liberal arts and sciences curriculum at Gettysburg College, students are challenged to engage with complex issues and take bold steps toward meaningful change.

"The College supports these high expectations by providing a huge range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities that let students think harder, try new things, take the lead when they feel ready, and leave campus at graduation prepared for whatever's next," said Associate Provost for Academic Affairs **Jeanne Hamming**.

Experiences through the Cross-Disciplinary Science Institute at Gettysburg (X-SIG), the Civil War Institute, the Eisenhower Institute, the Sunderman Conservatory of Music, and the Garthwait Leadership Center are some of the many opportunities students have to learn by doing.



### CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

With more than 140 clubs and organizations, including Greek Life, study abroad, student government, intramural sports, and everything in between, Gettysburg's community fosters exploration, and students embrace it.

"Over the years, our student body has become more diverse," said **Brad Lancaster**, director of International Student Services.

“With that, intercultural events, cultural traditions, and cross-cultural friendships have blossomed across campus, allowing students a window into perspectives from around the world.”



### RALLYING ALONGSIDE OTHERS

Volunteerism is part of the Gettysburg experience from day one. Since 1992, Gettysburg Is Volunteering (GIV) Day has united first-year students, faculty, and staff in serving more than 45 community organizations, including the Painted Turtle Farm, our campus-community hub for food justice.

“You feel it in the energy of campus events, in the way students show up for each other, and in how we engage with the local community,” said physics major **Mason McFarland '27**. “Gettysburgians are constantly finding ways to give back.”

McFarland has committed himself to service, from coordinating programs at the Center for Public Service to youth mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sisters of South-Central PA.



### THE GLORIOUS ORANGE AND BLUE

On Orange and Blue Day—the first Friday of every month—the College’s signature colors are on full display. Alumni across the country participate by wearing orange and blue, an outward expression of their shared Gettysburg pride.

From the steady rhythm of the Bullets Marching Band to the spirited chants of fans in the stands, our community also comes together in competition, guided by the same purpose defining every Gettysburgian: dedication, resilience, and unity.

## Signs You’re a Gettysburgian

by Phoebe Doscher '22

1. 🍪 Servo cookies are your Kryptonite.
2. 🏰 You’ve walked, run, had class, or picnicked on the battlefield at Gettysburg National Military Park.
3. 🪑 You’ve lounged in our Adirondack chairs.
4. ✈️ Almost everyone you know has studied abroad, as nearly half of our students do!
5. 🦃 You have a favorite Gettysburg tradition, such as the First-Year Walk or Servo Thanksgiving.
6. 🇺🇸 You’ve visited Washington, D.C., at least once for a class trip or just for fun.
7. 🟡 You got the dot! The special moment you committed to Gettysburg is something you won’t forget.
8. 🙌 You’re on a first-name basis with Regina Tyree from Dining Services.
9. 🏠 Your professors are your biggest supporters in and out of the classroom.
10. 🧸 You’ve earned prizes and free items from campus events, like Build-A-Bae (our version of Build-A-Bear) and Midnight Madness.
11. 🌅 You’ve taken countless pictures of Gettysburg sunsets that paint the sky in orange and blue.
12. ❤️ You know what it means to Do Great Work, joining our community in its commitment to academic and personal success.

Share your favorite moments by emailing [alumnimagazine@gettysburg.edu](mailto:alumnimagazine@gettysburg.edu).

**OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP** Awa Diop '29 (far right) participates in the First-Year Walk for the Class of 2029.

**OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM** Students have gained hands-on archaeological experience through digs on campus.

**THIS PAGE, TOP** Students gather for turkey and tradition during Servo Thanksgiving.

**THIS PAGE, BOTTOM** Salsa on the Square brings the community together in downtown Gettysburg.



“Athletics plays an important role in providing a well-rounded student body, supporting enrollment initiatives, and building culture and community,” said Executive Director of Athletics and Recreation **Troy Dell '95**. “It’s a space where you can rally alongside others and share in the pride of being part of something bigger than yourself.”

### A UNIFYING THREAD

The connections students form here become the foundation of a vast global connection.

“It’s not just a professional network,” said Hourigan, who has mentored Gettysburg students and offered internships for more than a decade. “It really is a community that shapes how you lead, think, and serve, both while at Gettysburg and beyond.”

For **Cindy Hybels '91 Johnson P'28**, this community is a thread woven through every stage of life. She married her classmate, **Erik (EJ) Johnson '91, P'28**, and has remained close with nearly

a dozen friends who have walked alongside each other through marriages, children, health changes, and every peak and valley of life. Now, she and EJ are grateful to watch their son, **Carter Johnson '28**, an economics major, shape his Gettysburg story.

“As you get older, you grow to realize how meaningful those Gettysburg connections really are—to have people to share in all moments of life with,” Cindy said.

Through similar experiences that are cherished by countless alumni, there are layers of truth in the often-said phrase “the people make the place.”

“It’s part of the DNA of Gettysburg to want to remain connected, to help, to respond, and to leave the world a better place,” said **Billy Ferrell P'28**, director of external relations for the Center for Career Engagement.

In that enduring cycle of showing up, lifting others, and carrying Gettysburg forward, the community reveals itself as not only something you’re part of, but also a core part of who you are. 



**OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP ROW, FAR LEFT** Students conduct research in Special Collections and College Archives at Musselman Library. **OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP ROW, FAR RIGHT** Alexis Jones '24, Emily Kreider '25, Ratul Pradhan '25, and Jack Joiner '25 participate in a 2023 Center for Public Service food, sustainability, and globalization immersion project in Kathmandu, Nepal. **OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM ROW, FAR LEFT** Building connections begins during First-Year Orientation. **OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM ROW, FAR RIGHT** GIV (Gettysburg Is Volunteering) Day unites students with community service. **ABOVE** Gettysburg's cross country student-athletes rally before competition. **RIGHT** The Bullets Marching Band and Color Guard enter Shirk Field at Musselman Stadium. **BELOW** Alumni gather for Reunion Weekend in front of the Norris-Wachob Alumni House.





THE HOUSING  
MARKET IS IN  
CRISIS. HOW IS  
GETTYSBURG  
PREPARING THE  
NEXT GENERATION  
OF REAL ESTATE  
AND FINANCE  
PROFESSIONALS?

# Let's Get Deal

by Phoebe Doscher '22



**TALK TO ANY RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATE, AND CHANCES ARE THEY'VE EITHER PLANNED TO MOVE BACK IN WITH THEIR PARENTS OR RELATIVES AFTER GRADUATING, OR THEY KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS.**

According to a study by Sallie Mae and Ipsos, 64% of college graduates in America who concluded their undergraduate education within the past two years are living with their parents. Among those graduates surveyed within the past five years (who represent colleges and universities across America), 58% say they're living at home because they cannot afford their own place.

The housing crisis is not unique to recent graduates. Many factors, including high interest rates and a housing shortage, have rendered housing unaffordable for many Americans.

According to the Searchlight Institute, 79% of Americans say housing prices are "too high" or "way too high." This poll states that 62% of Americans say it's become harder to find affordable housing over the past three years. The most recent Federal Reserve survey found that the median home was worth more than 4.6 times the median family income, a historic high.

"Financial markets by nature don't usually care much about the affordability crisis," Economics **Prof. Brendan Cushing-Daniels** said. "Investors are seeking high returns, and if those come through maintaining a shortage of affordable housing, so be it."

Now more than ever, America needs financial professionals who are ready to innovate and find creative solutions to these ongoing issues.

Gettysburg's new finance program, unveiled during the fall 2025 semester, arms graduates with the skills to approach this complex array of challenges. Through coursework in the liberal arts that builds knowledge, skills, and experience, Gettysburg graduates are prepared to address these issues head-on as the next generation of real estate and finance professionals.

**CLASSROOM PREPARATION**

Economics major **Will Lightcap '26** took advantage of various course offerings that set him apart as a candidate in the real estate industry. An incoming industrial sales associate at the Philadelphia-based real estate brokerage firm Binswanger, Lightcap said the Real Estate Finance course taught by Finance **Prof. Sabur Mollah** allowed him to learn real-world skills.

"The Real Estate Finance course is about putting together real-life concepts into financial modeling," he said. "That's really helped strengthen my real estate skills, because we're doing a project in that course where we underwrite properties in the [Philadelphia] area, making our own offer memorandum."

Lightcap wrote a research paper for another economics course on the effects of home values and affordability on vacancy rates. In that course, he learned to conduct statistical analysis using Stata, alongside learning Excel in his Introduction to Finance course.

"These courses taught me to think analytically and quantitatively. The numbers have to tell a story," Lightcap said. "You've got to be a numbers person in real estate."

**Will Hedley '26**, also an economics major, found that learning a combination of enduring skills, such as communication, and industry-specific skills, such as data analysis, gave him a leg up during his internship with First National Bank.

"I had to do a presentation with two other interns, and I could tell the difference in terms of how comfortable we were with presenting," he said. "Our courses teach us to take the data and statistics from projects that we work on and then present them very efficiently."

**Julie Breedveld '26**, a business, organizations, and management major, said the experiential learning she gained through the Emerging Leadership Development Program at Vanguard strengthened her leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.

"Looking ahead, I am pursuing a career in finance and will be continuing with Vanguard through its two-year Emerging Leaders Development Program, a rotational program designed to build both leadership and technical skills across different areas of the firm," she said. "Learning how to analyze complex problems, collaborate with diverse teams, and make disciplined decisions will continue to shape how I approach my remaining studies and my future career in finance."

**A LIBERAL ARTS IMPACT**

While much of the finance coursework focuses on skill-building and career preparation, Cushing-Daniels emphasizes that the curriculum also gives students the confidence and space to problem-solve and test out creative ideas.

"Many of the world's most important innovations have come from folks with both top-notch technical skills and keenly sharpened creative abilities," he said.

The flexibility of the liberal arts allowed corporate and real estate lawyer **Farhad Eshaghpour '91** to find a career path he was passionate about in law. His openness to change and ability to adapt to the market eventually led Eshaghpour to real estate.

“The truth is that the liberal arts education let me try a bit of everything until I figured it out,” said Eshaghpour. While he still practices law, both in the transactional and litigation field, he is pursuing his other passion, restoring and managing historic landmark properties. “My career journey has been so much better because of the influence of the liberal arts education.”

Both creative and analytical know-how are critical to pursuing today’s real estate industry. According to **Carter Sackman ’86**, president of real estate development company Sackman Enterprises, today’s graduates need to be prepared for a more complex landscape than the one he encountered when he graduated.

“There’s a lot more red tape and regulations than when I first started. I think it’s harder for people today,” Sackman said. “Overwhelming and ineffective regulation exacerbates the affordability problem and reduces housing stock.”

**Christina Kellar ’15**, a solutions strategist and portfolio manager who has worked at T. Rowe Price Associates for 10 years, is responsible for investment decisions from a multi-asset perspective. She is not only involved in the work of investing but also in communicating with clients, ranging from beginning to experienced investors.

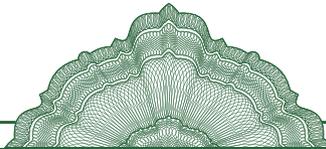
At Gettysburg, Kellar learned to be adaptable through her liberal arts education, tailoring her studies to the career she sought.

“My math studies in Gettysburg prepared me well from a quantitative perspective. When I started having my eye toward a career in finance, I added an economics minor in addition to a Spanish minor and refined my math major to be more applied than theoretical,” she said.

To succeed in this rapidly changing field, Kellar credits Gettysburg for the “multifaceted education” that provided the technical knowledge—the math of investing—as well as the skills of communication, connection, resiliency, and problem solving.

Challenges like the housing crisis and the growing regulations in the real estate industry require problem solvers who can view situations from multiple lenses.

“I think about majors and disciplines as lenses to the world,” Cushing-Daniels said. “The housing crisis is one problem that requires folks to think about the sociology of neighborhoods, the public policy around land development, and how we might finance the investment in new or different housing models.” 



## Get to Know the Finance Network

by Corey Jewart

Gettysburg College has launched the Finance Network, a new professional affinity group designed to connect alumni, students, faculty, and partners with shared interests in finance, banking, investment, consulting, accounting, and related industries. More than a traditional networking platform, the Finance Network emphasizes relationship building and the cultivation of mentorship and guidance that extends well beyond the traditional job search.

Through the Finance Network, alumni share not only career opportunities but also insights, lessons, and experiences that help students understand how to build—and sustain—authentic professional relationships. These connections encourage Gettysburg students to explore the many paths within finance, while learning the importance of integrity, curiosity, and lifelong growth in their professional journeys.

Members of the Finance Network engage through connectGettysburg, where they can collaborate, exchange ideas, and participate in virtual and in-person events. Alumni are also encouraged to partner with the Center for Career Engagement and the Office of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving to expand access to internships, externships, and early-career opportunities for students.

By volunteering as mentors, serving as advocates within their workplaces, and supporting the College through service and philanthropy, alumni help ensure that Gettysburg students graduate career-ready and equipped with the confidence and connections needed to thrive in a dynamic industry.

The Finance Network strengthens Gettysburg’s vibrant alumni community and reflects the College’s enduring commitment to connecting people, purpose, and profession—one relationship at a time.

# RANDY WILSON

by Michael Vyskocil

Growing up in the American West, Environmental Studies **Prof. Randy Wilson P'20** relished time spent in the outdoors. Through encounters with public lands, forests, and national parks, Wilson initially aspired to be a forest ranger or park ranger.

Although he couldn't have predicted the pathway his career would ultimately take, he also wouldn't trade the unexpected serendipities along the way for anything.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Humboldt State University and his master's from the University of Colorado-Boulder, Wilson met and married his wife, Robin. In 1994, the two headed east to Iowa, where they completed their doctoral programs at the University of Iowa—Wilson in geography and his wife in public health. Before finishing her program, however, Robin received an offer for a postdoctoral opportunity at the National Cancer Institute in Washington, D.C. The couple then moved to Frederick, Maryland.

Upon settling in Maryland, Wilson secured a teaching position at Gettysburg College. Since his first visit to campus in 2000, Wilson continues to marvel at the “friendliness” of the College, “how personable, welcoming, and friendly everyone I've met has been,” he said. “Gettysburg has a feeling of community about it. It has this global reach and wonderful network.”

For the past 26 years at Gettysburg, Wilson has taught courses covering environmental history and policy, natural resource management, and the geography of the American West. Throughout his more than two decades of teaching, he has worked with countless Gettysburg

& Cultural Geography. They have also accompanied him on research excursions to Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, and Arizona. These ventures allowed students to make their own contributions to environmental studies.

In addition to teaching, Wilson has served as the faculty advisor for Gettysburg's student-run organic garden, the Painted Turtle Farm, and is a founding member of the Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee. He's also a member of the Faculty Advisory Committee for the Eisenhower Institute.

As a teacher and scholar, Wilson has consistently maintained an interest in educating people about the importance of public lands and the need to safeguard our environment. His first book, “America's Public Lands: From Yellowstone to Smokey Bear and Beyond” (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2016), was named an Outstanding Academic Title of the Year from Choice Reviews. The book won the John Brinckerhoff Jackson Prize from the Association of American Geographers.

His latest work, “A Place Called Yellowstone: The Epic History of the World's First National Park” (Counterpoint, 2024), has also received critical acclaim. In this book, Wilson highlights the park's significance in American history. He also delves into the cultural and ideological mindsets that have contributed to conflict and tension since Yellowstone was established as America's first national park in 1872. Early last year, “A Place Called



students on research projects that have tackled challenging and often controversial subjects such as park accessibility and the reintroduction of wolves into national parks.

Since 2004, Wilson has brought students to Colorado for his summer field course, *The Rocky Mountain West: Physical*



Yellowstone” was named the winner of the 2025 Barbara and David Zalaznick Book Prize in American History by The New York Historical.

Amid the international and national accolades and Stoles of Gratitude he’s received, Wilson remains humble about his work. Much like the legendary singer-songwriter John Denver, who celebrated nature and exuded a passion for the environment, Wilson communicates to his students the importance of environmental stewardship through his teaching and research.

“I hope that my students not only learn the importance of nature and the environment, but that the knowledge they’ve gained at Gettysburg can make a difference in addressing real-world problems.

“If the work that they’re doing contributes in some way to solving a problem, then there’s a lot of satisfaction in that,” he said. “Above all, I encourage them to have adventures and new experiences, and to say yes to opportunities when they come along because you never know where they’re going to lead.”



**TOP** Yellowstone National Park summer research with Kevin Aughinbaugh '18, Katerina Krohn '17, and Sam Donnelly '17 **BOTTOM** Wilson in Lamar Valley

5

*countries in which he lived, studied, and conducted research abroad*

8

*years spent researching Yellowstone National Park*

9

*-year period when Wilson worked as a wrangler on a Colorado dude ranch before and after graduate school*

16

*summer field course experiences he’s hosted for students in Colorado*

20,000+

*miles traveled by van with students throughout the Rocky Mountains in the West*

# UNCOVERING THE OLDEST ARTIFACTS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

by Awa Diop '29

Photography provided by Gettysburg College Special Collections and College Archives, Musselman Library, and Wali Muhammad '28

Housed within Special Collections and College Archives at Musselman Library are objects whose presence reflects hundreds of years of rich historical context. From rare books and handwritten letters to works of art and campus artifacts, the significance and memories associated with these materials are preserved at Gettysburg.

In this issue, we're highlighting five of the oldest items in our collections. Each offers a glimpse into a different era of history. Together, they remind us that history can be studied by examining objects that have endured the passage of several centuries.



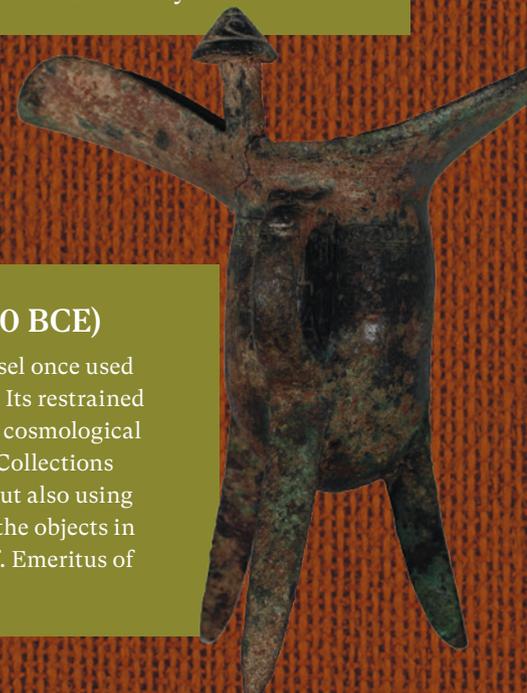
## Oldest Map: Septentrionalium Regionum Description (1570)

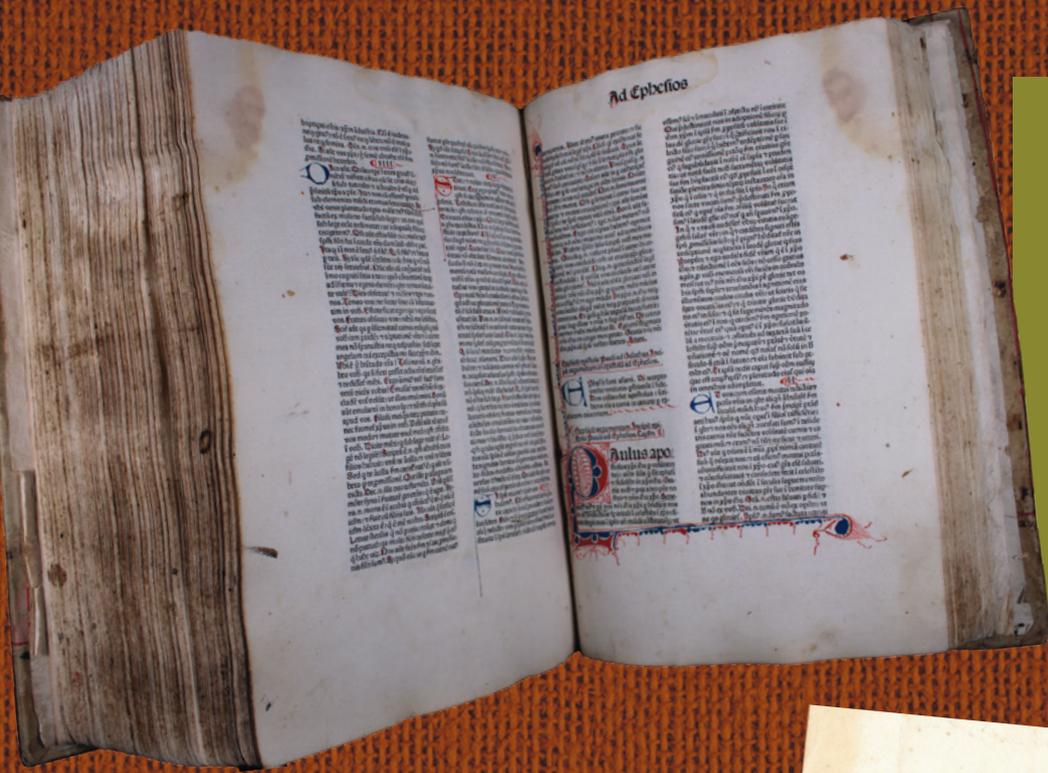
Created in 1570, this engraved map of the North Atlantic comes from Abraham Ortelius's *Theatrum Orbis Terrarum*, often considered the first modern atlas. It depicts regions including Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia, and the British Isles, as well as mythical islands such as Saint Brendan's and Frisland.

The map reflects how early cartographers blended exploration, imagination, and belief into their work. The map is part of the Stuckenberg Map Collection, willed to the College in 1901, along with personal papers and furniture by John H.W. Stuckenberg. Stuckenberg was a chaplain who served with the 145th Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Battle of Gettysburg. He and his wife, Mary, the first president of the Woman's General League at Gettysburg College, are buried in Gettysburg National Cemetery.

## Oldest Asian Art Object: Bronze Jue (1700-1050 BCE)

This bronze Jue, dating to China's Shang dynasty, is a ritual wine vessel once used by elite members of society during sacrifices and ceremonial offerings. Its restrained decoration, animal motifs, and patina reflect the deep spirituality and cosmological beliefs of early Chinese Bronze Age culture. Its presence in Special Collections highlights Gettysburg's commitment to not only preserving objects but also using them for research and teaching today. This piece, along with most of the objects in the Asian art collection, was given to the College by the estate of Prof. Emeritus of Education *Frank Kramer, Class of 1914.*





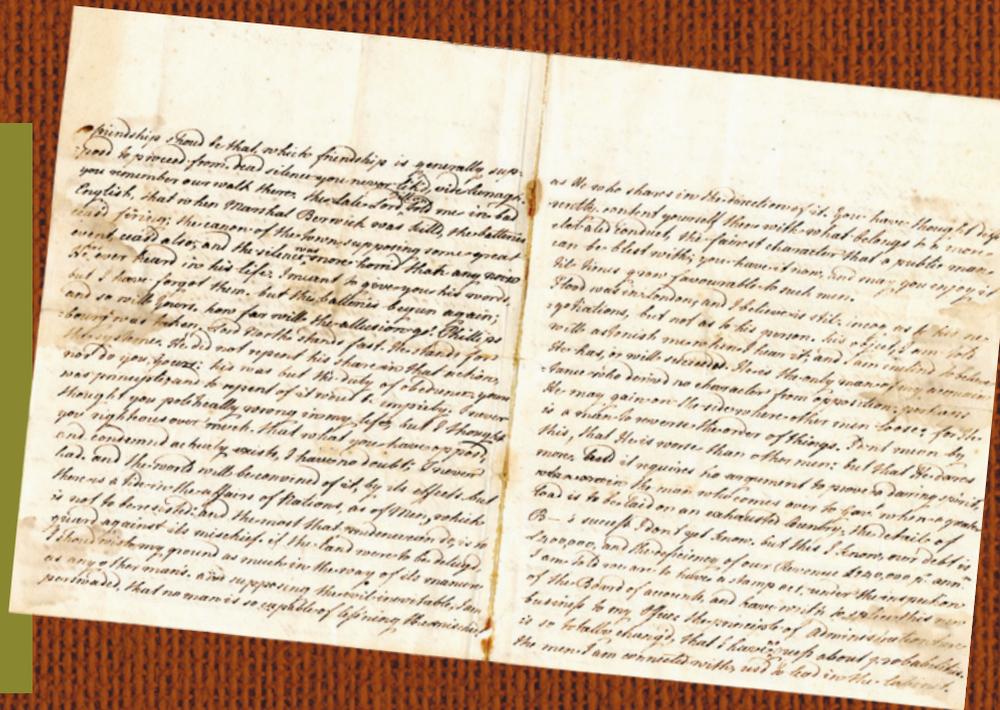
### Oldest Book: Biblia Sacra (1475)

Printed in Venice in 1475, this Biblia Sacra is the oldest book in Gettysburg College's collection.

The work contains outstanding examples of rubrication, a practice of adding colored text and ornamentation to manuscripts to guide readers. Produced only decades after the invention of the printing press, it represents a pivotal moment in the spread of knowledge across Europe. This book was one of more than 20,000 volumes donated to Gettysburg College by Rev. **Jeremiah Zimmerman, Class of 1873**, when the College's first library building, Schmucker Library, opened in 1929.

### Oldest Letter: Charles O'Hara to Edmund Burke (1778)

Written on Sept. 11, 1778, this correspondence from Charles O'Hara to statesman Edmund Burke is the oldest letter in Gettysburg's collection. The letter discusses Irish politics, a subject of particular interest to Burke, who was Anglo-Irish, and O'Hara, who was Irish. Burke served in the UK Parliament, and O'Hara served in the Irish Parliament until the Act of Union, the 1707 legislation that united the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland into the Kingdom of Great Britain. In 1994, Special Collections and College Archives purchased the collection of Edmund Burke correspondence.



### Oldest College Artifact: Stevens Hall Lock and Key

This lock and key from Stevens Hall, which was originally built in 1868 and once served as a preparatory school for the College, are among the oldest surviving physical artifacts connected directly to Gettysburg College. Stevens Hall is named for Thaddeus Stevens, one of the College's founders and author of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. 



## FOUNDER'S DAY

*April 7*

## COMMENCEMENT FOR THE CLASS OF 2026

*May 15-16*

## ORANGE & BLUE GOLF CLASSIC

*May 29*

## ALUMNI COLLEGE AND REUNION WEEKEND

*(Celebrating classes ending in 6 and 11: 1961-2011)*

*May 28-31*

## FINAL DAY TO MAKE A GIFT FOR THE 2026 FUND YEAR

*May 31*

## ORIENTATION BEGINS

*August 19*

## HOMECOMING & BOLD REUNION WEEKEND

*October 16-18*

## FAMILY WEEKEND

*October 30-November 1*

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

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY DEGREES

### THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS OCTOBER 31, 2026.

Each year at Commencement, Gettysburg College awards selected individuals with an honorary degree, the highest recognition that the College can bestow. This practice allows us to not only recognize individuals of exceptional accomplishment but to also bring honor to the College and connect it in meaningful ways to persons of distinction. Three to four individuals are selected each year.

If the individual you nominate is selected as an honorary degree recipient, you will be invited to attend the platform party reception and dinner.

Gettysburg College seeks and designates persons for honorary degrees whose documented achievements evidence the following: bring honor and distinction to the College and embody its mission, which is grounded in the values associated with a liberal arts and sciences education; demonstrate that s/he values the worth and dignity of all people; demonstrate the free exchange of ideas which lead to excellence and innovation in an academic discipline, professional and/or creative field, and/or affect positive change in the greater society; demonstrate a lifelong commitment to service, broadly defined; and have lasted over time and will have an inspirational impact on others, especially our students. Recipients can be celebrated artists, scholars, clergy, corporate or business leaders, humanitarians, or public leaders. Please note, however, that no posthumous nominations will be accepted.

Honorary degree recipients are chosen well in advance of the time at which the degrees are conferred. The Provost's Office is currently soliciting nominations for degrees to be conferred

at Commencements 2027, 2028, and 2029. All members of the immediate community—faculty, administrators, staff, students, parents, alumni, and trustees—are encouraged to complete a nomination form for each nominee. All nominations are confidential and remain on an active consideration list for an additional two years.

The nomination form can be found on the Gettysburg College website at <https://www.gettysburg.edu/commencement/traditions/honorary-degrees>.

There, you will also find the guidelines for selecting an appropriate recipient. Please read them before deciding whether to nominate.

## NOMINATIONS TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2026

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.

## NOMINATIONS FOR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS

### DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 12, 2026

The Alumni Association invites alumni to nominate candidates for awards by November 12. Complete the form at [www.gettysburg.edu/alumniawards](http://www.gettysburg.edu/alumniawards) or contact [alumni@gettysburg.edu](mailto:alumni@gettysburg.edu) or 717-337-6508.

# CLASS NOTES

⦿ indicates photo available on pages 54-55.

## 1954

It is with sadness that we report that **Helen-Ann (Souder) Comstock** passed away in July 2025. She was a dedicated Gettysburgian, writing this class column for many years. Helen-Ann was also awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2020. We are thankful for Helen-Ann's time and dedication to representing the class of 1954 in *GETTYSBURG College Magazine*. **Henry Lush** has graciously volunteered to fulfill the class correspondent role going forward. Please reach out to him via email with any news you have to report.

**Henry Lush**  
lushh3@gmail.com

## '55

Since the last issue of *GETTYSBURG College Magazine*, we received notice that **Kenneth C. Louder** passed away in April 2025. A native of Johnstown, Pa., Ken went on to graduate from the seminary and served Pennsylvania congregations, including Windber and Watsonstown. Ken was later employed as a reporter for the local newspaper and director of Easter Seals. He also directed camping programming for Girl Scouts in several counties. His loving wife, Janice (Stuver), predeceased him, as did his daughter,

Mara Lee, and his sons, Mark and David. He is survived by his daughters-in-law, Denise and Corlee; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. In Sept. 2025, **Robert F. Matthias** passed away in Swarthmore, Pa. At G'burg, I recall that Bob was a warbler in the College Choir and then manager under the direction of Parker Wagnild. Bob graduated from the seminary and served parishes in Waynesboro, Altoona, and Harrisburg, Pa. Bob was later called to be coordinator of youth ministry (LCA) and assistant to the bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. In retirement, he served as interim pastor for several congregations in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He is survived by his wife, Dody (Kulman); his daughter, Karen; his sons, Mark and Paul; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Let's hear from our former classmates. Surely you have had interesting experiences along your life's journey, especially in retirement. Caution: Don't include your "meds" list, and I promise you not to include my own in this column!

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## '56

*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.*

## '57

Like many of us, I reached the "90" milestone this past summer, but I'm still thinking it's good to plan ahead. My wife, Phyllis Ball Helfrich '58, and I received a phone call in Sept. 2025 from the Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society. They inquired if our garden would be open for touring during the 2026 Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival. Optimistically, we said we were planning on doing it again and would be happy to welcome them in July. I was pleased to receive another note of thanks from **Howard Tykot**. Howie lives near Princeton Junction, N.J., with his wife of 65 years, Joan F. Spitaleri, M.D. I was sorry to read in *The Lutheran* magazine of the death of **Bruce Craft** in Kailua, Hawaii. Bruce attended the Gettysburg Seminary (now the United Lutheran Seminary) and spent most of his career as a Lutheran pastor in Hawaii. No further information was available. I have received the following obituaries from the College and from personal notes sent by surviving relatives. **Barbara Leidholdt**

**Winters** of Valois, N.Y., died on April 24, 2025. After graduation, Barbara received a master's degree in psychology from Temple U. She began her teaching career at The Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia and later taught at the Medical College of Virginia Hospital (now VCU Medical Center). Barbara is survived by her husband, John R. Winters, and three adopted children. **Richard "Dick" Wurst** died July 12, 2025, in Bridgewater, Va. After graduation, Dick served in the U.S. Army and earned an MBA at the U of Delaware. He retired from DuPont, where he had worked as a systems analyst. Dick and his wife, Margaret "Peggy" Mason, met at G'burg where they both sang in the College Choir, and they continued to sing in many choruses throughout their lives. In addition to Peggy, Dick is survived by two sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. **Leon M. Koppelman** died July 29, 2025, in Clearwater, Fla. Lee was enrolled in ROTC and served in the Army, stationed at Fort Benjamin Harrison and at The White House. Known as an extraordinary salesman, Lee served as an executive in commercial printing and packaging. Lee is survived by his wife, Ellen Wishner, two daughters, and one grandson. **Shirley Cashman Sheridan** of Hanover, Pa., died Oct. 11, 2025. After graduation, Shirley married fellow classmate **Ted Sheridan**, who died in 2009. During her career, Shirley worked as an administrator for several businesses, retiring from The Peer Group of Florham Park, N.J. Throughout her life, Shirley dedicated herself to many public service organizations, both in Morris County, N.J., and Hanover, Pa. Shirley was predeceased by her husband, Ted, and is survived by one son and two daughters. I'd like to add that Shirley was the writer of this Class Notes column for many years before turning it over to me. We extend our sympathy to the families of these classmates.

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## '58

It's nice to know that some in our class are still traveling, as **Bonnie Bankert Rice** just returned from a trip to California to visit her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter. I also had the pleasure of seeing a friend whom I haven't seen in 49 years when her cruise liner docked in Norfolk, Va., for a few hours, and I was able to go there for a day's reunion. Let me know what adventure you've had lately, as soon we'll be 90 years old. Bucky and **Joan Manges Walters** are keeping busy with nine grandchildren. Bucky sent an entertaining video of his grandson where he is a baseball batter and then an umpire—all in a few seconds of activity. Joan's grandfather was a student at G'burg and graduated in 1875, when my great-grandfather was teaching there. **Rich Brunner** does a great job of keeping up with daily events and let me know that a fraternity brother of his, Steve Jacoby '60, passed away. The following people from our class have left their mark in the world, and I'll pass on some information so you can look up their obituaries as they have lived fruitful and fulfilling lives. **Burnell Dehoff** died Oct. 1, 2025, having stayed in the Gettysburg area, where he had a career with Musselman Corp., a name we're all familiar with. He was an active volunteer and family man and will be missed. **Joseph Kochenderfer** passed away on July 12, 2025, in Havre de Grace, Md., having been very active in nature and historical trail walks and museum activities. He was a tireless volunteer. While at G'burg, he was a veteran and Phi Beta Kappa member and, later, had a successful career that used his abilities at work. He will be remembered for his many contributions to his community and his fine example as a husband and father. **Mary Ellen Reinsmith Farquhar** passed away in June 2025. Her obituary emphasized her kind personality and many capable talents in promoting education and being a friend to all. Our condolences go out to all the families of these classmates as we remember these friends

of our college days. The obituaries are very complete, so I hope you will look them up. I am so thankful we have fond memories of many years ago and can reflect on the contributions made by our classmates during their lives.

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## '59

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## 1960

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## '61

Many thanks to **Pat Ness Smith** for sharing information regarding our Homecoming gathering in 2025 and our 65th reunion. Pat enjoyed visiting with members of our class who attended a lovely gathering at Homecoming last October. Enjoying the conversation and the company were Janet and **Doug Rockafellow**, Carol and **Sherm Hendrix**, **Gene** and Sue '62 **Leber**, Cathe and **Bill Hockenberry**, Laurie and **Ed McCleaf**, and Bob '59 and **Pat Smith**. Stopping by to say hello were Bucky '59 and Joan '58 Walters. Following lunch, we had a long discussion about our upcoming 65th reunion. It was decided that the reunion will be held on Reunion Weekend, May 28-31. Our class luncheon on Saturday, May 30, will be a part of the Heritage Luncheon, and the Class of '61 will be

seated together. Pat asked that we mark our calendars. We send our sincere sympathy to the families of **John Vincent Foltz Jr.**, **Roland Y. Perez**, and **Darryl L. Sensenig**. Please let me know if you would like more information.

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'62

I have nothing to report other than the passing of our G'burg friends. As I write this, I realize that this column is getting closer to the beginning of this section in GETTYSBURG College Magazine. Dr. **Francis Cost** died April 7, 2025, in Williamsport, Md. He practiced nuclear cardiology at Moffitt Hospital, the Mayo Clinic, and Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. **Edward Donald** passed away on April 16, 2025, in Camp Hill, Pa. He served in Vietnam and had a successful career with Xerox. Dr. **Henry Newman** passed away on April 25, 2025, in Jensen Beach, Fla. He was a cardiologist at the St. Petersburg Medical Center, greatly admired for his passion for medicine and bedside manner. He restored antique cars and started "Doc's Clocks," bringing many antique clocks back to life. Dr. **Gordon Thayer** passed away in April 2025 at his home in Morehead City, N.C. Gordon had an amazing career in marine biology and zoology, publishing more than 85 papers in his field. He was internationally recognized as a world expert on seagrass ecology and its restoration. During his career, he conducted research along the East Coast, from the Chesapeake Bay to the Florida Bay, and internationally in Australia, Belize, and Saudi Arabia, the latter following the Kuwait oil spill during the first Gulf War. **William Hoffman** passed away in June 2025 in Naples, Fla. Bill served in the U.S. Army and four years in the Reserves. He earned his CPA certification while working for Arthur Andersen and later became president of the Mobile Field Office Company in Berlin, N.J., expanding the company with locations stretching from New York to Florida.

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'63

I talked to **Bob Duncan** by phone. He lives in Bonita Springs, Fla. Bob and his wife, Linda, have been in Florida for many years and love the weather there. He cordially invites Gettysburgians to visit him. When I was their guest years ago, I enjoyed reminiscing about our college days and sharing a meal. Thank you, Bob and Linda. Now some sad news. **Jeanne Cowan Walker** passed away in May 2025 at Covenant Living Hospice Care in Keene, N.H. Jeanne married **Steve Whetstone** our junior year in college, and the couple had two children, Stephen and Krista. In the early 1970s, Jeanne met and married a medical student, Ray Walker. Later, Jeanne earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English literature from Connecticut College. After her children were grown, she and Ray moved to rural Hanover, Conn., where Jeanne raised goats, sheep, and miniature donkeys, while continuing to write and work in her pottery studio. In the 1980s, Jeanne cared for AIDS patients in Norwich. Later, she volunteered full time as a guardian of vulnerable children in the court system. Jeanne was one of my favorite friends at Gettysburg. **Jim Vinson** passed away in June 2025. Jim was a physics major and a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa. From Gettysburg, he continued his education, receiving his Ph.D. in physics from the U of Virginia in 1967. Jim was a lifelong educator, serving in university administration in several schools before retiring as president emeritus at the U of Evansville, Indiana. He and his wife, Susan, were married 58 years and had two daughters, Susannah and Elizabeth, five grandchildren, and Jim's two chosen sons, Ignacio and Alex. Jim and his family traveled often, visiting all seven continents and swimming with rhinos in Kenya and dolphins in New Zealand. **Bonnie Anderson Edwards** died in January 2025 after dedicating her life to

teaching in Montgomery County, Md. She was raised in Allendale, N.J., alongside her identical twin sister, Betty, and her older sister, Beverly. Bonnie was a devoted bridge player and met her husband, Ralph Edwards, in a bridge game. They developed a devoted partnership that lasted 44 years. Bonnie's legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched in her teaching, her acts of service, and the love she shared with family and friends. She is survived by her sister, Beverly, and many nieces and nephews. **George Pappas** died Sept. 3, 2025, in Richmond, Va., at 83. He insisted he was only 59 for several decades. On the same day George graduated from Gettysburg, he and his college sweetheart, **Christine Conley**, married. They were together for 58 years before Christine died in 2021. George received his master's and Ph.D. from the U of Pennsylvania and taught at the U of Ontario and Ohio State U. George published acclaimed articles and books on philosophical problems and arguments. He remained an avid fan of the Phillies, the Eagles, and the Sixers. He is survived by their two daughters, Christina (Joseph) and Sara; his sisters, Maria and Ruth; and many nieces and nephews. **Dale Leroy Sultzbaugh** died in 2025. He graduated from Gettysburg with a B.A. in Greek and obtained a Master of Divinity from Mount Airy Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Dale served as a minister before returning to school to receive his master's in social work. He spent the last years of his career as a professor in the sociology, social work, and criminal justice department at Bloomsburg State College (now Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania-Bloomsburg). Dale retired as professor emeritus in 2008. Dale was married to Judith Matter for 59 years and had a daughter, Rebecca, and a son, Philip. He is survived by his wife, six grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Although I'm sad when reporting information about our deceased classmates, I smile as I remember my time with you all many years ago. Please send me your news.

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'64

In mid-April 2025, **Alan Lukens** visited with his KDR brother, **Steve Blank**, at his “posh” continuing care community in Pittsboro, N.C. Alan was simply amazed at all the amenities offered and enjoyed Steve’s company immensely. **Jim Lombardi**, a physics major, track and cross country student-athlete, and Phi Gamma Delta member, texted that while he was at Allegany, he did research with students in physics and related fields. He received his Ph.D. in physics from Rutgers U in 1971, the same year and place he met his wife, Mary Jane, who received her master’s in math. Their son, Jamie, was born the same year. They moved to Meadville, Pa., where Jim started teaching physics and astronomy for 34 years. Interestingly, Jamie joined the same academic department. Their daughter, Laura, is with the international office of Greenpeace in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Jim credited his incentive to teach to his Gettysburg professors like Physics Prof. Richard Mara and the rest of the “top-notch” members of the Physics Department. Jim is a bona fide “top USA” mile runner whose accolades are national in nature. **Bob Linders**, a Bible major, cross country and track student-athlete, and member of L.S.A. and S.C.A., has been serving St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Doylestown, Pa., since 1977 as senior pastor. Bob has preached or lectured at Cornell, Princeton, Penn State, and the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. Presently, Bob is “Theologian in Residence” at the church. In June 2025, Bob was inducted into his third athletic hall of fame and honored for his track and field events, many remain unbroken after 60 years. In 1964, Jim represented the United States in London. His 800-meter record is the College’s second oldest record. **Jim Meyers** sent a message regarding **Brian Avnet**, a business administration major, swimming and lacrosse student athlete, and member of the Owl & Nightingale and Tau Kappa Epsilon. “Our good-hearted, funny, and genuine personality

who passed on in spring 2025. He battled Parkinson’s that could never dampen his always-positive spirit! To say that we were close is an understatement! We double-dated at our high school senior prom. He had a stellar career in the music industry, where he launched careers for many artists, including The Manhattan Transfer, Josh Groban, and Michael Buble, as well as producing music albums for Whitney Houston, the Coors, Herb Alpert, Barry Manilow, David Foster, and Bette Midler! We traveled to off-Broadway music shows together. Most importantly, we celebrated the four births as well as two adoptions of my six kids, as Uncle Brian! No pretense with Brian. You were always his friend, no matter what! Semper Fi!” **Bob Wolfgang**, an economics major, football student-athlete, and member of I.F.C. Phi Gamma Delta, passed away in a valiant battle with Parkinson’s disease due to “Agent Orange” on Oct. 26, 2025. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served for four years (101st Infantry, Airborne and Ranger Training). In 1966, he went to Vietnam as a first lieutenant, which was the first “ground formation” deployed to Vietnam. He was promoted to captain and received a Bronze Star “for valiant effort during ground operations against the enemy.” He finished his military career at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland at the Ordnance OCS. After his military service, Bob worked for Westvaco and was promoted to area manager. Subsequently, he finished his work career with Walter G. Anderson. Bob was staunchly committed to supporting fellow veterans and families. In June 2025, Bob was granted the distinction of “Distinguished Member of the 503rd Infantry Regiment by Order of the Secretary of the Army” for his efforts.

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'65

We had our 60th reunion! From across the country, 30 of us showed up at one or more of the many special Class of 1965 events during a weekend when we celebrated our lives and accomplishments, shared new and old stories, kept our record-breaking giving total alive, and agreed to meet again in five years. Our dinner in Old Dorm featured a long-awaited wonderful presentation by Public Policy Chair and Co-Chair of Public Health Policy Anne S. Douds and one of her students. Barb and **Tony Presogna** have moved to St. James, N.Y., after years in Tenn. and S.C. He still plays golf but only watches football! **Ed** and Sue (Berg '66) **Morgan** have moved to a 55-plus community in N.C. They spend time attending games involving their nine grandchildren. He just retired from a volunteer track coach position at a local high school. **Dick** and Pat **Peppler** still travel here and abroad. He was part of the founding faculty at East Tennessee State University and the University of Central Florida, where he started a medical school and got it fully accredited. **Eric** and **Gail Larson Van Gilder** live in Del. and winter in Fla. They have five kids and seven grandchildren. She founded and is still active with Delaware Greenways, Preserve Our Park, Historic Lewes Byway, and Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway. **Jim Gelbert** listens to the Great Courses while he’s still active in his CPA tax practice. **Don Rohrbaugh Jr.** still plays golf and still gardens, but at a slower pace. We especially remembered **Chris** and **Carole (Christian) Hayden**, who were recovering from a serious car wreck. **Jim Todd** was one of the presenters at the Alumni College, well-attended by '65ers. **Norm Haase** alerted me to **Jim Walker**’s induction into the Moravian University Athletic Hall of Fame after 36 years as a basketball and tennis coach and in an administration post. A group of Phi Deltas hoped to witness the ceremony. **Bill Bush** retired in 2007 after 18 years as a hospital administrator and 15 years as editor-

in-chief of several custom-published magazines. He and Nancy married in 2018 and live in the mountains southeast of Los Angeles. **Buck Miller** has had two books published: "S-e-oul Awakening" (Amazon, 2025) and "Unfinished Dreams: I've Always Wanted to Hike the Appalachian Trail" (Amazon, 2023). He plans to hike the Appalachian Trail in Maine to complete the final miles of the journey from Ga. There is sadder news too. Imposed space limitations mean I can only reference these dear friends and classmates. Check online to see their several obituaries and check your final "Spectrum" to remember their many alma mater activities. Our hearts hurt for the families of **Pam Bennett, Tim Barnes, Ray Menges, Bart Olinger, Ron Prentice, Penn Rhodeen, Joe Ritsick, Carole Hottinger Williams, and Judith Oleson Zwaaf**. They shared our dorms, our classes, and our fun times. We were lucky to have known them as friends. At Reunion Weekend, plaques I saw in the College Union Building and elsewhere remind us that past trustees included **Patty Bacon, Sherrin Hilburt Baky-Nessler, John Jaeger, Bob Jones, Pat Noonan, and Barry and Barb (Wenger) Shaw**. Did I miss your name? Other plaques list the names of '65 classmates who have contributed enormous amounts of money to our alma mater. But just as significant as those gifts will be the check you send off today. We were recipients; now we will be givers! We truly missed you at Reunion Weekend. More than once, the question was asked, what do you know about so-and-so? Please send me information about your latest hip, your newest retirement home, the number of your great grandchildren, and your best recollection of the 64 years we spent together!

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## '66

"Dr." **Brandon Beck** died on Aug. 2, 2025, in Columbus, Miss. A member of Theta Chi, he was a man for all seasons. A noted

scholar, he had a lifelong fascination with railroad steam engines and loved classical music. He was a most devoted fan of the New York Giants through good seasons and bad ones and a true friend. He received his M.A. from the U of Virginia and his Ph.D. in history from the U of Rochester. Brandon was most well-known for his teaching about the American Civil War. He was a most respected speaker and author on the subject as well as a battlefield guide. Brandon was the founder, director, and director emeritus of the McCormick Civil War Institute at Shenandoah U. He wrote many books and articles over his lifetime, including 12 which were about the Civil War. He was considered an expert on the three battles of Winchester, Va. Brandon's ashes were scattered at a Civil War location. He is deeply missed by his brothers.

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## '67

I received a nice update from **Anne Giaouque Cowburn**. The following gathered in Gettysburg on Aug. 9, 2025, as part of an 80th birthday celebration: **Carol Barton Burbank, Bunny Schwarz Buzby, Anne Giaouque Cowburn, David Cowburn, Sue Colestock Hill, Wayne Hill, Joanne Zinn Lewis, Bonnie Lindsell Rabold, Doris Krug Schueler, and Paul Schueler**. In mid-October 2025, several Phi Deltas celebrated the big eight-O in Amelia Island, Fla. Attendees were Anne and **Bill Cannell**, Linda and **Scott Higgins**, Lynn and **Larry Luessen**, Maxine and **Lew Manges**, Margy and **Mac McCarthy**, Kathy and **Jay Rockman**, Lynn and **Barry Stiger**, and Barbara and **Chuck Widger**. Regrets were received from Dee and **Steve Baksa**, Tina and **Jack Boals**, Michelle and **Paul Haldeman**, **Carl Hellerstedt**, Kris and **Dick Hughey**, Jean and **Dave Roth**, **Bud Tallman**, and Ellen and **John Thomas**.

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## '68

**Doug Ruby** wrote with some good news. He and his wife, Sally, recently received the Four Horsemen Award from the Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren at its recent annual conference. This award has rarely been given, and it had been nearly 20 years since it was last awarded. It reflected their 59 years of working with camps in the Church of the Brethren network by teaching nature activities to children, leading adult birdwatching events, and leading summer camp weeks. It started after Doug's sophomore year at G'burg where he asked the guidance counselor for a suggestion for a summer job for a biology major. What started as a simple summer job multiplied into a much bigger "thing" that they maintained over the years. Unfortunately, I must report the deaths of more classmates. **Linda (Malsbury) Ross** died in July 2025. She was employed as a first-grade teacher in Saddle River, N.J., and became an antiques dealer, as well as working in the registrar's office at Raritan Valley Community College. **Sharon (Usoff) Edwards** died in Aug. 2025. After G'burg, she obtained an M.A. in education from Penn State and taught third grade for 38 years in Pa. She was an active member of the International Side Saddle Organization and rode in several presidential inaugural parades. She also served in various offices in a local hunt club, in the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.), and in the Lancaster Shrine Club. She was an active member of numerous bridge clubs and delivered for Meals on Wheels. **Frederick Funk** died in Sept. 2025. He spent a long career in the pharmaceutical industry with Lederle Laboratories and Pfizer and obtained an M.S. from Rutgers and an M.B.A. from Iona U. He was very involved with his local Lutheran church as well as the Metrolina Association for the Blind in Charlotte,

N.C. **Betsy (Bender) Griffiths** died in Sept. 2025. After G'burg, she obtained a medical technologist (MT) credential (certified by the American Society for Clinical Pathology, ASCP) from the Duke U Medical Center School of Medicine. She worked as a medical technologist and helped to establish the first birthing room at the Atlantic City, N.J., Medical Center and taught introductory biology labs at Stockton U. She later also volunteered in advancing environmental topics with the Land Conservancy of Adams County and the South Mountain Audubon Society. She continued her musical interest in several choral groups and helped to conduct children's choirs. **Joan (Brettschneider) Farrell** died in Oct. 2025. She served as a librarian with the Montgomery County, Md., system and then moved into jobs in the county's administrative team. **Robert Hengeveld** died in Aug. 2024. He earned his D.D.S. at Fairleigh Dickinson and had a dental practice in New Jersey until 2008. He also enjoyed visiting local grade schools to teach children dental hygiene and often opened his office in an emergency for anyone in pain. I also received word of the death of **William Kane**. However, no further information was available. We mourn with these classmates' families and friends.

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## '69

**Carol (Moyer) McNicholas** wrote for the first time with news that she married Donald W. McNicholas, whom she met over a decade ago. Since then, they have traveled to Florida and taken cruises in the Caribbean, with brief trips to local beaches in Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey. Before she got married, Carol lived and worked in Cheltenham, England, for three years, and from there, she traveled

to France, Germany, and Switzerland, as well as other countries. One of these days she hopes she might travel with her husband to Europe together. **Fred Schumacher**, who has kept us amazed by all his activities over the years since graduation, wrote with an update on the things he did this past summer, including serving as keynote speaker for the garrison at Fort Detrick in the kickoff for Army Heritage Month. Fred recounted that, over his lifetime, he has been in every category the U.S. Army has: army dependent (brat), contracted cadet, Regular Army, Army of the United States, Army Reserve, Retiree Recall, and, finally, just retired. He was back on campus for the alumni cross country meet—this time as a spectator, not a participant—and again in Oct. 2025 for Homecoming activities. Sadly, we have lost more classmates. **John F. "Jeff" Burridge Jr.** died in August 2025 at his home in Boyce, Va. He worked as a writer and editor in the fields of energy and education and served in the U.S. Navy in the Vietnam era. He married Donald Poppe, and they were together for 47 years. In addition to their home in Boyce, they enjoyed their vacation home in Nova Scotia. **John Terrence "Terry" Ludlow**, 77, of Stafford County, Va., passed away in Oct. 2025. After graduating from Gettysburg, he received a master's degree from James Madison U. Terry worked as a school psychologist in Culpeper, King George, and Spotsylvania counties in Virginia before retiring. Terry loved woodworking, making furniture, and fishing. He also loved to travel and was passionate about learning. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Ludlow; four daughters; three siblings; numerous nieces and nephews; and 14 grandchildren.

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## 1970

I hope everyone had a good summer! It was hot in Maryland. The spring was so wet that Bob and I didn't get our garden plowed in time to plant tomatoes. At least I was able to do a lot of kickboard laps in our pool. I'll put in a request for sending me news at the start and the end of this column. I know there are a lot of you who have never sent any information on yourselves. Please send me some news so I'll have something to write about! I know that your classmates will be interested. Thanks to **Lou Germinario** for writing for the first time! He was elected as a Fellow of the Microscopy Society of America (MSA), class of 2024. The designation "MSA Fellow" is intended to recognize senior distinguished members of the society who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the field of microscopy and microanalysis through a combination of scientific achievement and service to the scientific community and the Society itself. Election to MSA Fellow is limited to a small fraction of the Society membership in any given year and represents a major recognition by one's peers of the individual's contribution to the field. The citation goes on to say "an innovative pioneer in microscopy and mentor to many younger microscopists, Lou's accomplishments include developing novel cold storage designs for cryo-EM studies in TEM/STEM and in situ site-specific heavy atom imaging modalities. Lou said he is grateful and humbled by his G'burg experience and the opportunities that were afforded. I'm sorry to be finishing on a sad note, but the College let me know of the passing of **Richard Peebles** of Norwalk, Conn. He earned a Master of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1973. He began his career serving as a minister before transitioning to the corporate world, where he found success as a senior event planner at Gartner. Those who knew Richard remember him as an excellent conversationalist who brought joy and

energy to every gathering. He was a devoted puzzle enthusiast. He is survived by his devoted husband, Douglas Bloom. Now for my second request for information for future columns: Thanks for sending info! I hope everyone has a great rest of the fall and winter.

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## '71

It's been an unhurried communication season since our last class column. We mourn the unfortunate passing of classmates **Martha Mauriello Arthur** and **Robert Hosier**. After graduation, Martha pursued a career in special education and support services. She worked as a teacher, coordinator, supervisor, principal, and director of special education in Washington County, Maryland. Later in her career, she worked at the Maryland State Department of Education. Martha was an avid golfer, accomplished pianist, and gourmet cook who loved to entertain family and friends. Bob achieved an M.Ed. degree from Lehigh U after his G'burg graduation. He then began teaching and coaching in the Pennridge School District in Bucks County, Pa., where he enjoyed a 49-year indoor track and spring track career with teams that won silver and gold medals in Pennsylvania state championship meets. Bob was inducted into the Pennridge-Quakertown Hall of Fame in 2017. Among his many community activities, Bob was also a stalwart attendee of our class reunions. There is never enough space in these columns to allow for proper tributes or photos. Please note that Legacy.com carries fuller tributes on its site, where you can search by name or by college attended—or other keywords of your liking. I find it fortunate that there are several ways to connect with classmates via social media. Many are experiencing milestone travel adventures; some are facing and overcoming health challenges. A number are relishing landmark anniversary celebrations, and

some, like me, are just relishing what Lou Hammann '51 used to call "the fact that the Buddhist monks chanted for the sun to rise in the morning." I would enjoy hearing from—and about—one and all. Please send along any info to share with our class and College. Best wishes for a successful and sunny 2026! Keep your eyes peeled for info on our 55th Gettysburg College reunion. Be there or be square!

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## '72

**John Hylton** was kind enough to send his 53-year update! He reported, "I have had a blessed life. After Gettysburg, I spent five years teaching high school choral music in York, Pa., and earned a master's degree in music education from Penn State. I worked as a seasonal Licensed Battlefield Guide in the summers from 1976 to 1980 and earned my doctorate in music education at Penn State in 1980. That same year, I took a position at the U of Missouri-St. Louis, where I spent 32 years as a music professor and as founding dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication. I met my wife, Doris, in 1980. We have five children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. We live in St. Charles, Mo. At Gettysburg, I was mentored by some great music faculty, some of whom became lifelong friends. I had many great experiences at Gettysburg, including singing at The White House with the College Choir, performing in 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' and being part of the College Choir's 28-day European tour in 1972. I was honored to be inducted into the Missouri Music Educators Association Hall of Fame in 2014. After retiring from the university in 2012, I felt God calling me to full-time Christian service. I earned my master's degree in theology in 2016 and served as interim pastor at two area churches, from 2016 to 2022. Currently, I take lots of naps, read lots of books, and I am enjoying retirement. Doris and I love spending time with each other, with our children and grandchildren, and with other family and

friends." Georgene and I stopped in to see **Chris Knud-Hansen** on our cross-country road trip last summer. We really enjoyed our visit with Chris. He is doing well in Boulder, Colo., and enjoying some newly competitive UC Buffaloes and Denver Broncos football games. Drop me a line and let me know how you're doing.

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## '73

Greetings, Class of '73 classmates. **Diane Christie Liakos** shared the following update: "After graduating from Gettysburg with a B.S. in biology, I completed a Master of Public Health in epidemiology and biostatistics from the U of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and Master of Science in human nutrition from Columbia U's Mailman School of Public Health. I worked for Pittsburgh's Allegheny County Health Department, New Jersey's Camden County Health Department as a prenatal and well-baby nutritionist for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program, and the N.J. State Department of Health's Maternal and Child Health Program as a state nutrition consultant. I've been happily married for 47 years to my husband Steven, a recently retired gastroenterologist. We have a son who works in the Albuquerque, N.M., film industry and daughter whose husband, three young children and long-haired red dachshund live within walking distance of our home. For 20 more than years, I've promoted an environmentally healthy lifestyle, been Green Committee Chair at our church, and written articles each week for the church bulletin and other organizations regarding environmental and public health issues. I completed a course sponsored by Rutgers U regarding green infrastructure implementation to reduce the risk of storm water runoff and flooding throughout the State of New Jersey and assist our local public works department. My husband and I enjoy ballroom dancing,

are board members of Dance Haddonfield in Haddonfield, N.J., and attend other dance events in New Jersey and Delaware. For several years, I've worked with Dance Haddonfield's president, Joe Murphy, and Rowan adjunct professor and professional dance instructor, Gene La Pierre, who created "Ballroom Dancing for a Better U" (BD4BU) several years ago. BD4BU is a nonprofit organization which helps to bring ballroom instruction to children and adults for health and wellness. La Pierre has taught people of all ages and with various disabilities. We teach ballroom dancing to 23 delightful blind and visually impaired participants for eight weeks each fall and spring. I hope that our friends from Gettysburg College and their families are doing well, keeping active as the years go by, and wish everyone much good health throughout 2026!" **Beth Kershaw Shirley** shared the following update: "The Gettysburg College music department gave me such a strong foundation in music education, I was able to teach both vocal and instrumental music for 42 years, first in Rhode Island (32 years) and later in New Jersey at the Gill St. Bernard private school, teaching voice and piano. I continue to sing professionally. I still take lessons with a voice coach at the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in New York City. He keeps me from sounding like an old lady! I have cabarets coming up in Providence, R.I., and Morristown, N.J., soon. I also have a job at an Anglo-Catholic church, singing for Renaissance Masses with their mostly professional choir." **Marie Riegler-Kinch** shared the following update: "My life is a quiet one, with church and community commitments, gardening tasks, and, when I can squeeze it in, doing artwork. Sometimes, when I enter my art in a juried show, it wins an award, which is gratifying. Right now, I am appreciating sitting down to type this message because I'm stiff from harvesting our winter squash. I had hoped to space out the harvest, but there's possible light frost tonight. Hope this brief note finds you doing well."

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'74

I received word that our classmate, **Dana Scott Harvey**, passed away in August 2024. Originally from Newton, Mass., Dana spent his childhood in Cheshire, Conn. He was an enthusiastic member of TKE at Gettysburg. After college, Dana packed up and left to explore his dream of cowboying in the Rocky Mountains. Settling in Virginia City, Mont., he began working as a ranch hand. His recognized talent in welding and metal fabrication created the opportunities needed to start an immediately thriving business. He was renowned for his work throughout Madison County. Many of the businesses' signs and ornate fencing that add to the charm of Virginia City's historic downtown were Dana's work. Later, Dana switched gears and studied to become a physician's assistant. To learn more about Dana's unique life, I encourage you to read his extraordinary obituary online. In case you missed the news in a previous edition of Bullet Points, classmate **Gary Boguski P'15** was given a very special award by the college last spring. He was a recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Bestowed by the Alumni Board of Directors, the awards recognize outstanding alumni for their impact in their professions and communities and their service to Gettysburg College. The Class of 1974 is proud that Gary was honored as a Distinguished Alumni. It was good to hear from **Dave Restrepo** who shared updates about his two sons. At the time I heard from Dave—Ryan, the older son of Dave and his wife Carol '77—was out on a Navy humanitarian mission called Continuing Promise 2025. The mission provides medical services to individuals

around the world. Capt. Restrepo, U.S. Navy Plastic Surgeon, was quoted in an article describing the mission and the life-changing surgery he and a local surgeon performed on a young Panamanian man. Ironically, the daughter of Marianne Miller Yingling '79—Randall—served as a nurse on the USNS Comfort with Ryan. Marianne was a sorority sister of Dave's wife, Carol. Dave's younger son, Randy, spent 10 years as a special agent with the National Security Agency (NSA) and is now a lead security person at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear plant in southern Maryland, which is part of Constellation Energy. Following in the footsteps of the incomparable **Linda Harmer Morris**, it's been my privilege to hear from so many of you and share your news in this column for the past eight years. Now, it's time for me to pass the baton, and **Bonnie Stephan Hampton** has kindly agreed to be our new class correspondent. Thank you, Bonnie! Please stay in touch with me, but more importantly, please fill Bonnie's inbox with stories about our great class.

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'75

**Bill Fedoryshyn** wrote that he has retired as an executive recruiter. He and his wife Kathy have moved their primary residence to Bluffton, S.C., around the corner from Hilton Head Island and a stone's throw from Savannah, Ga. They will continue to spend their summer months in the Milwaukee, Wis., area. Any friends in the Northeast are welcome to visit in the months when they can't feel their toes! Bill's email address is billfed53@gmail.com.

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## '76

Mark your calendar to attend our 50th reunion during Reunion Weekend, May 28-31, 2026! It will be a fun time highlighted by a special dinner on Saturday evening, May 30. We have one update from **Daria Lo Presti Wallach**. On Dec. 3, 2025, Daria was honored for her service to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, where she is the chair of the board of trustees for the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation. Additionally, Daria serves as the vice chair of the board of the New York Philharmonic and is the chair of ReadWorks, a nonprofit organization committed to creating a culture of academic excellence in urban elementary schools. Congratulations, Daria! Please note that my contact information has changed.

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## '77

**Tom Shusted** recently completed 13 years on the Superior Court bench in Camden, N.J. Judge emeritus status has him hearing domestic violence cases while on temporary recall. He has lived in Cherry Hill, N.J., for the last 28 years with his wife, Rita, and two children, **Kiera Shusted '20** and son Thomas III. Tom reported that Phi Delta Theta had a 150th anniversary of its founding in April 2025. The event was held at the Hotel Gettysburg with more than 175 guests. Mitch Madden '75 provided a dynamic PowerPoint presentation. Tom, **Dan Alleman, Bo Liess, and Joe Lafauci** were the Class of 1977 attendees. **Bruce Keim** lives in South Jersey with his wife, Sue, of 43 years. They have two married daughters and one grandson, Jules. Bruce reported that he saw **Jack Rheiner, Rich Mayo, Bruce Reynolds, Rich Whiting, and Scott Luschenat** several years back at a Sigma Chi dinner commemorating the chapter anniversary. They are all enjoying retirement. Rich M. in Wake Forest, N.C., and Bruce in Richmond, Va., get together

to play golf. Jack is in Wycombe, Pa. Rich W. lives in the western burbs of Philly. Scott is in Downingtown, Pa., and **Dave Petrie**, who could not attend the dinner, lives in Odenton, Md. Sadly, **Christopher Herko** passed away on April 26, 2025, in Phoenix, Ariz. Chris built a career in finance and sales. He retired from Zions National Real Estate in 2014, where he did SBA 504 wholesale lending. His work reflected a commitment to excellence and professionalism that left a lasting impression on colleagues and clients alike. Chris has two daughters, Ashley Mapes and Kara Bull, and four grandchildren, Michael, Gabriel, Noah, and Kara Bull, as well as four grandchildren. Outside of work and family life, Chris found great joy in playing with his pets, Chewy and Sasha, along with golfing, reading, and, most of all, hosting big parties. His golf tourney was and still is known as the best banker golf tournament in Phoenix. We also lost **Elizabeth Emile Jackson**. Liz held a master's in counseling and excelled in legacy computer languages and data management. She worked in data support for companies such as Warner-Lambert and Unisys, then others more recently. Liz met her husband, Carl, when she took a summer job in 1975 with the Good Humor Ice Cream Co. Carl was her trainer. They dated 15 years, and in June 1989, they married. Carl passed away on Jan. 1, 2025, and Liz transitioned only a few months later on July 29, 2025. One of her friends shared that working with Liz meant more than gaining technical knowledge. It meant learning how to treat people with respect, empathy, and grace. Outside of work, Liz had a beautiful, melodious singing voice, a deep love for books and literature, and an extraordinary sense of humor that stayed with her no matter what life brought her way. Her presence brought not just intelligence to a room, but warmth and joy. In early October, several classmates gathered in Charlottesville, Va., to celebrate friendship and turning 70! **Dale Nickon Svatik, Jayne Anderson Risk, Legene Wert White, Karen Weldy Karkuff, Karen Eaken Peter, Ginny Cates Bowie, Jennifer Carr Bees, Sharon Longenecker Penhallegon, Penny Comp Muccia, and Barb Pichert Psimoulis**

had a great time sharing memories and catching up. They saw Monticello, visited wineries, walked, played tennis, practiced yoga, shopped, ate, and drank!

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## '78

When news is slow—which it usually is—I reach out to unsuspecting classmates to see what's going on in their lives. This time, the victim was Lisa Yeo, who reported that all is well on the left coast—other than a few National Guard troops who will hopefully be gone by the time this column gets to you. Lisa followed her heart to Portland, Ore., in 1997, raised an adopted son who is now 37, and enjoys Oregon's active lifestyle with her spouse, Lori Yohn. After serving as CIO for a large organization, she started her own technology consulting firm, from which she may retire someday. Lisa had visits from fellow G'burgers this year, including Cheryl Faul Braun '79; Vickie Weagly '77; and our very own 1978er, **Alan Fuerstman**. Thanks for the update, Lisa! I am trying to talk Lisa into coming back for our 50th reunion. She's interested, but she wants **Jane Hickman Tribbitt** to join her. Jane, I'll work on you next summer at Bethany Beach. On a difficult note, I heard from **Josie Merriken Scupp** that she lost her beloved husband of 47 years, Ken, from the Class of 1977, this summer. Ken had been an honorary member of the Class of 1978 for decades, as he always joined Josie at our reunions and was best friends with fellow classmates, **Fran Cannon** and **Scott Lange**, who were in Vermont visiting just a few days before his sudden death. Ken was given a new lease on life three years ago when he became the recipient of a heart transplant. All was going well; his children and their spouses had come to visit Vermont, followed by friends' visits, which included floating on the lake on rafts with cocktails. Ken died very unexpectedly on Aug. 13, 2025, at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury,

Vt. I think we all know the message from this story: Hold your family, friends, and fellow classmates close to you as we are at that point in life where these events are sadly becoming more frequent. In the meantime, please take a minute to reach out to your trusty class correspondent or else I will have to try to find you!

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## '79

Many of us celebrated our 50th high school reunions this past year. *Teena (Stewart) Mowery* posted a fun picture of her car radio with the station set to great tunes of the '70s on her way with her husband, Harold (Hal) '76, to her reunion for Mahwah High School in Mahwah, N.J. Thanks, Teena. That brought back some great memories! Teena and Hal became grandparents when their son and his wife had a beautiful baby girl two years ago. Their middle daughter was married in May 2025, and their youngest daughter will be married in October. Their oldest daughter travels the East Coast as a fitness coach and personal assistant to a horse show family. Teena and Hal enjoy boating and spent this past summer cruising the Bahamas and Eleuthera, harboring otherwise in Hilton Head, S.C. They still have horses and winter mostly at their farm in Florida or their home in the Bahamas. Traveling with their family is their favorite pastime! Gettysburg is only 30 minutes from their residence in Pennsylvania, and they frequent the town often. Speaking of great memories, Aug. 27, 2025, also marked the 50th anniversary of our arriving on campus as wide-eyed first-year students. *Jack Duffy* reported that *Bill Proehl* figured that out. How lucky were we to have ended up at the 'Burg? *Karen (Beveridge) Montagnese, Barb (Nelson) Neville, Audrey Smith, Linda (Druschel)*

*Potts, Linda Eckard Vilardo, Mary (O'Mara) Johnson, Donna (Ohmott) Carpenter, Heather Smith, Cheryl (Faul) Braun, Joan (Puzzini) Colbert, John Skrabak, Dick Hollyday, Lovette (Eichelberger) Mott, Stuart Eliot May, Mary Lemmon, Sally Nanas-Androphy, Lori (Brucker) Stevens, Jean (Pugh) Shipman, Tom Vignola, Josh Dare, Paul Welliver, Lori (Stevens) Davenport and Jeffrey Schiffman* all posted comments to that on our Gettysburg College Class of 1979 Facebook group page. I encourage all classmates to join that group. It's a wonderful spot to get some news in between receiving GETTYSBURG College Magazine. Great news for Jean (Pugh) Shipman! After handling books as a librarian for around 40 years, she decided to write and publish her own novel using stories and letters from her mother's side of the family. "One Tragic June" was released on Dec. 1, 2025, via Amazon, just in time for holiday giving. Check out Jean's author page on Amazon.com to learn more. My Chi Omega sister, Carol (Connor) Restrepo '77 and her husband Dave '74, met my husband, Randy '81 and me, *Marianne (Miller) Yingling*, for dinner after we found out through a mutual friend that our daughter, Randall '10, a nurse, and their son, Ryan, a surgeon, would both be serving on the U.S. Navy hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, on its 79-day humanitarian and goodwill mission "Continuing Promise 2025" this past summer. The USNS Comfort visited Grenada, Panama, Ecuador, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago, where Ryan performed much-needed surgeries and Randall provided patient care on an 80-bed medical-surgical ward. Both sets of parents are extremely proud of their respective children's service. I'd love to write more, but this is all I have now. I imagine many of you are retiring, traveling to some interesting places, volunteering, having grandchildren, meeting up with other classmates, etc. That would all be nice to include in the next column, so please send me an email

with any news you'd like to share. Thank you in advance.

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 Gettysburg College Class of 1979

## 1980

*George M. Riter*, Esq., a partner at Timoney Knox, LLP, in Fort Washington, Pa., was one of eight lawyers at his firm named to 2026 Best Lawyers in America. According to a news release, Best Lawyers has earned the respect of the profession, the media, and the public as "the most reliable, unbiased source of legal referrals." Its first international list was published in 2006 and has grown to provide lists in more than 75 countries. George has also been recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer since 2006, selected by his peers as among the top 5% of lawyers in the Commonwealth. He has also been named among Best Lawyers in Trusts and Estates since 2019. *Jeff* and *Stacy Deuel* toured China. While on the trip, Jeff struck up a conversation with one of the other members of the tour. During the conversation, Jeff told the individual that he had taken several courses in Chinese history in college, and the nature of the material resonated with him while they were touring. The individual on the tour asked Jeff where he went to school, and, as luck would have it, the individual went to G'burg too: Matt Rice '71. He and his wife Kirin became fast friends with Jeff and Stacy. All agreed they will likely get together again since, ironically, both the Deuels and Rices live in the Seattle area. *René Rovtar* retired from her position as superintendent of schools in Montville, N.J., in June 2022 and was successfully retired for 50 days when school districts came calling for her to do interim administrative work. After two years

of interim work, she returned to a full-time position with the N.J. Department of Education in August 2024. René fits in travel when she can, around delightful moments spent with her family, especially her three—soon to be four—grandchildren. She also enjoys her involvement in competitive eating and is currently ranked No. 43 in the world. **Steve Jirgal** and his wife Pam traveled last summer to Long Island for their son's wedding. On the way, they stopped and visited with lots of G'burg folks, including Jim '78 and Teresa '83 Martino. They explored the Bible Museum in Washington, D.C., then headed for Gettysburg to visit with former cross country head coach Jim Wright '57 and Lefty and Shirley Biser. The next day, they went on a battlefield bus tour and had lunch with Kirby Scott '77. On the way back from the wedding, they stopped and had lunch with **Bob** and Pam '85 **Long** in Mechanicsburg, Pa. **David Spence**, a professor of law in the U of Texas at Austin School of Law, was named the grand prize winner of the 2025 Hamilton Book Awards for his book "Climate of Contempt: How to Rescue the U.S. Energy Transition from Voter Partisanship." Spence holds the Rex G. Baker Centennial Chair in Natural Resources Law and teaches in the McCombs School of Business. He has published extensively on the economic and environmental regulation of the energy industry, including fossil fuels and clean energy sectors.

*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.*

## '81

Have you marked your calendars yet for the Class of 1981 Reunion? If not, please save the dates for Thursday, May 28, to Sunday, May 31, 2026. It's hard to believe it will have been 45 years since graduation, but here we are, and we are looking forward to a great turnout! We missed out on a full event for our 40th reunion, as we were delayed by COVID, so we hope everyone

will attend this time and catch up with old friends. Guided by the College Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving Office and led by co-chairs **Lorna Rice** and **Teri (Hanna) Lanan**, Reunion Committee members **Brad Bretzin**, **Sue Gамbee**, **Tim Golden**, **June Miller**, **Sharon (Darmetko) McNish**, **Linda (Pickford) Monkoski**, **Lisa (Reid) Scott**, **Dave Sibley**, **Carol Shelly**, **Barbara (Spillane) Wilson**, and yours truly are hard at work planning various events to make the weekend fun for everyone. We hope to see you there! In addition to Alumni College classes and other social events that are open to all returning classes, hopefully you will join us for a class activity (or activities) on Saturday, May 30, including a tour of recent campus renovations and the class dinner on Saturday evening. Committee members will also be reaching out to the Class of 1981 to encourage full participation in the Reunion Class Gift to the Gettysburg Fund. Your current or future year contribution will help us reach our goal of \$350,000. **Chris Van Zandt** recently let us know that he had a chance to meet up for brunch with **Dan Yaeger** at Brewery Ardenes Taproom & Kitchen in Geneva, N.Y. Chris estimated that it's been about 12 years since the fellow Lambda Chi Alpha brothers have seen each other. Chris reported that he also stays in contact with **Doug Raitt** and **Scott Armington**, both of whom live in the Philadelphia area. Chris and his wife are living on Keuka Lake, in the Finger Lakes region of western New York, but they love visiting their son, daughter-in-law, and new grandson in Devon, Pa., as well as their daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren in Fort Collins, Colo. **Peter Dunbar** shared that he stopped by campus last October for Homecoming & BOLD (Burgians of the Last Decade) weekend events, and while there, he attended the 15th anniversary of the Garthwait Leadership Center (GLC), founded by our friend Bob Garthwait Jr. '82. Peter reported that by the time you read this column, he plans to be retired from his job as managing director for risk management at KPMG, LLP in Baltimore, Md. Peter is exploring volunteer opportunities but mostly looking forward to not punching a clock. Welcome to the

Retired Alumni Club! **Tim Golden** also reached out to say that after many years working in the insurance industry, he decided to switch gears completely and is putting his history major to great use by teaching social studies at a middle school in Pennsylvania. Congratulations to both! Please keep the notes, emails, and texts coming. See you in May 2026 at our reunion.

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 1981](#)

## '82

Hello, all. I hope this note finds you well. I don't have too much news to share this time, but it is very sad. We lost two terrific classmates this past year. **John "JT" O'Connor P'11, '12** passed away in April 2025. You may know that, for several years, he was on the G'burg Board of Trustees. He was also a boisterous addition to many College-focused events in New York City over the years. After graduating from Gettysburg, JT pursued his law degree at Pace, where he graduated first in his class in 1986. He started his legal career at the international law firm Milbank LLP in 1988, became a partner, and spent 20 years building its M&A practice. He then practiced at Hunton Andrews Kurth for 13 years before retiring in April 2024. JT was a lifelong beach lover, with memories rooted in Puerto Rico and Lavalette. In May 2023, John married Marina Andguladze in true Vegas style at a little white chapel, just the two of them. It has been described as "private, a little rebellious, and full of love." It sounds just perfect for him. JT was a dedicated father to his three sons with Charlene Milke Christie '79 (two of them, Charlie '11 and Jay '12, also attended Gettysburg); and in recent years, he embraced his blended and growing family with so much heart. I encourage you to read the online post, as it does a fantastic job capturing the essence of JT. Please keep his family in your thoughts as you

do: <https://bit.ly/JTOConnor>. In November 2025, we lost **Kevin Tague**. Kevin lived in Ambler, Pa., and spent his career as a Realtor and broker with Tague Real Estate before becoming a commercial appraiser for Gleason Real Estate. I always think of him as having such a calm and steadfast presence. He was an avid golfer, athlete, and sports fan, and he kept a tight bond with his G'burg friends—particularly the TKE crowd. But above all, he was absolutely devoted to his family—in fact, it has been said that “his love for his family was unwavering and defined his life’s greatest purpose.” There are so many examples of the mentorship and support he poured into his kids, Jennifer and Brian; how he cherished his wife, Nancy; and the pride in creating a beautiful home for all of them and their pup, Scooby. The lovely online tribute paints a much better picture of what meant the most to Kevin than I ever could. As you read it, please keep his family and friends close to your heart: <https://bit.ly/KTague>. Thank you, friends. Drop me a line via email or find me on Facebook. You can also send Class Notes using the “Share News” feature in the Alumni section of the College’s website: [www.gettysburg.edu/alumni](http://www.gettysburg.edu/alumni). Please remember to tell those who matter how important they are to you. Stay safe and be well.

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 **Gettysburg College Class of 1982**

## '83

As we write this edition of Class Notes, we are both enjoying the freedom that comes with retirement, finding joy in time spent with family and friends. **Amy Rowe Ruymann** recently caught up with **Julie (Vincent) Ostering** and **Beth (Koval) WorriLOW**, and they shared updates on their lives. Beth retired from a career in adult education at the U of Delaware and now enjoys teaching Spanish to elementary

school students at a local Catholic school in Delaware. Julie retired from her career as a retail buyer and now keeps busy volunteering at a food bank and museum in Verona, N.J. **Joyce Chambers Barron** spent the past four months on assignment, opening a new Magnit Global office in Bangalore, India. While there, Joyce was able to go to Delhi, Agra, to see the Taj Mahal, Vadodara to play Garba, and Mysuru for the Dasara festival and join in the Diwali festivities. Joyce also traveled to Shillong and Cochin. Her adventure also included stops in London for a few days. Although Joyce never thought she'd be a world traveler, she's spent a year in Shanghai, China, and two extended stays in Bangalore, India. When she's not traveling the world, Joyce enjoys spending time at her home in Clearwater and Safety Harbor, Fla., and loves traveling to Cypress, Texas, to spend time with her two grandsons, Jett, age 3, and Johnny, age 1. Please feel free to reach out with any updates to share with the Class of '83. We would love to hear from you!

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## '84

As a sign of just how old we're getting, **Ken Bence** will be retiring from the Golden Valley (Minn.) Fire Department after 26 years, having reached the rank of battalion chief. It has been a great and rewarding second job, and he will continue with his full-time career in public health research and policy, focusing on people with disabilities. **Nancy (Nord) Bence** retired from the active clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) early last year after 27 years. They both look forward to spending more time with their new grandbaby twins, who live in Milwaukee, Wis.

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## '85

Hi, everyone! Well, 2025 has been a wild year so far. Our classmates continue to join the ranks of the retired—**Bill Gutheim** may be next—our 40th reunion, etc. For those who couldn't make it to Gettysburg for our reunion, you were missed. It was fun to be together and enjoy catching up and laughing about our memories. As usual, our class had several fun activities planned. We started with a gathering Friday at Upper Crust with a large crowd that included **Bill Collins**, **Carl DeGroat**, **Ginger (Reagoso) French**, **Bill Gardner**, **Joe Lynch**, **Stephanie (Gehrke) Marra**, **Pat Sabo**, **A.J. Russo**, **Sue Riccio**, **Susan Ulrich**, **Adam Sherman**, **Tom Shields**, **Chris Snow**, **Jim Williamson**, **Keith Talbert**, **Pete Traut** (I didn't recognize him with the long hair and beard), and many more. On Saturday morning, we headed out for a bike ride. There were two groups who did long and short rides. Joe Lynch led the shorter ride with **Don Hecht** and **Brian Pluta**, while **Dave Salisbury** led a longer ride with me, **Matt Parker**, **Mark Burton**, and **John Kresky**, among others. It was hard to identify everyone since we all had helmets and sunglasses on. After our class picture, our group broke up for two activities with **Janet (Blodgett) Johnson** and **Don Hecht** blowing everyone out on the Bream pickleball court. The scavenger hunt had two groups competing, and **Amy (Manson) Keating** came up with the greatest clues dragging us through the entire campus. A fun time was had by all. Be sure to plan on coming in five years for our 45th reunion. I also heard from **Eric Lipkin**, who did not make it to Reunion Weekend. He let me know about a mini-reunion with fellow Theta Chi members hosted by **Curt Corl** on the weekend of June 21, 2025, of fellow Theta Chi brothers and friends and spouses at his gorgeous home in Rhode Island. Attendees included **Jim Glatz**, **Tom Fischer** and Donna Fischer, **Eric Lipkin**, Pete Erskine '86 and Kim Erskine, Luke Percario '83, Ken Foreman '84, and Rob Hess '87 all enjoyed

the beach, Twin Willows restaurant (and other restaurants and bars), and of course beer pong the '80s way. As always, Curt kept the pong title! That's it for now. Be sure to reach on with news so I can pass it along to our classmates. And, if you find yourself traveling through Richmond, be sure to look me up. We are in the historic district near VCU.

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## '86

*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](mailto:lcarr@gettysburg.edu); 717-337-6800) for more information.*

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## '87

A recurring theme among our classmates seems to be our 60th birthdays and some of the grandchild stories outnumber the wedding clips. Send us your 60th celebration stories to add to the next issue. **Christine Pistoia Rover** reported that **Laurie (Acquaire)** and **Glen Vilim** celebrated their 60th birthdays last summer surrounded by family and friends, including Christine and **David Richards** at Blue Bell Country Club in Pennsylvania. **David and Janis (Vosburgh) Richards** celebrated their 60th birthdays and 35th wedding anniversary in Kauai with family. They are expecting their first grandchild in February. **Anne Swigart** added that, in August 2025, she and **Debbie (Hall) Gustafson** attended a festive gathering for the milestone birthday of their good friend, **Laura (Harris) Helwig**. The party, which took place at Laura and **Ted Helwig's** home in suburban Philadelphia on a beautiful summer evening, gave friends a chance to catch up on their lives and families. Anne happily shared that her new grandson was born in April 2025. She and Debbie enjoyed spending time with Laura and Ted's three

sons and their grandson. Debbie, Anne, and Laura wish happy milestone birthdays to everyone in the Class of '87. Well stated, ladies! **Bob Palmer** reported that Lambda Chis from the '80s met at Hopkins Farm Brewery in Md. to watch John Wagner '88 play in his band, BBG. Lambda Chis spent many Saturdays in the basement listening to John play back in college. John recently retired after 36 years of teaching high school history. John and his wife, JoAnn Bruns Wagner '89, are both enjoying being empty nestors. John taught all three of the Ebright boys, and Capri Goraya Ebright '88 and **Brad Ebright** joined with one of their sons. The Ebrights recently sold their medical practice, although Brad is still practicing medicine when not spending time on his farm or sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Also attending was John Palmer '88, who is retired from his family business and playing a lot of golf and doing yoga while living in the Reading, Pa., area. Ted and Laura Helwig also joined, as did **Bruce Braunewell**, Bob Palmer, and Mark Bridwell '89. Ted and Laura welcomed their first grandchild; they live in the Philadelphia area. Mark recently moved back to the Berwyn, Pa., area. Bob is a partner with an investment firm in Philadelphia, investing in women-owned, minority-owned, and other disadvantaged business owners. Bruce is retired from CliftonLarsonAllen. The Richards are looking for a volunteer to take over as class correspondent. Let us know who would like to volunteer for the Class of 1987.

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## '88

It's nice to get updates from **Steve Sichel!** In June, he got together with his G'burg buds, **Art Kelly**, **Brian Golden**, **Guy Eberhart**, Chris Broking '89, and a few other friends for their annual "guys weekend" in Ocean City, N.J. This year's theme was beer pong, complete with

themed T-shirts. They pushed aside all the furniture, set up a beer pong table, played tournaments all weekend, and had a blast. Were they rusty? As Art said, "It's just like riding a bike...you never forget." It sounds like your guys weekends are always a good time! When Grandparents Day occurred last September, I realized that we're at the age that a bunch of us have become them. Here are a few that are enjoying every game of peek-a-boo, snuggles, and even diaper changes: **Lisa (Sarandos) Kump**, **Janine (O'Hearen) O'Brien**, **Mary (Andrus) Vassallo**, **Betsy (Rohland) Mosmiller**, **Chris (Lynch) Eberhart**, and **Guy Eberhart**. I'm sure there are more of you out there who share in the fun of seeing your children with kids of their own. Relish every moment. As you know, time passes by way too fast. Take care and send me news!

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## '89

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 1989](#)

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## 1990 ☉

We had a great turnout for our 35th Reunion at the end of May 2025 with lots of laughter and reminiscing! Thank you to our fabulous committee co-chaired by **Abby Titus Johnson** and **Scott Baret** for leading the charge. At the Saturday night all-campus event, our classmates' band, South Central (name shortened due to two missing band members) played, and they sounded as great as always. Band members included **Craig Montesano**, **John Potts**, **William Paris**, and **Hugh Welton**. Joining the guys for a cameo of "Jolene" was Scott Baret's wife, Maryann. On the Friday of Reunion Weekend, **Kim Crandall Paris**

and **William Paris** renewed their wedding vows, celebrating 27 years together as they gathered with a small group of classmates at the campus gazebo. Kim and William reconnected at our fifth Reunion here at G'burg. Cheers to the Paris family, who live in Asbury Park, N.J. They often see the Baret family who live nearby. Witnesses to the vow ceremony were **Andrea Masters, Mary Wiggin, Angela Carbone Sontheimer, Irene Magish Bassock, Jen Lasher Angell, Maryann and Scott Baret, Craig Montesano, and John Potts**. Rich Haigh is in Somers, N.Y., married to his wife, Debbie, for 30 years with two kids (ages 21 and 26). Richie has had a career in landscaping, was a Mr. Mom, and then went back to school to become an RN, which he has been for the past 13 years. **Mike Colbath** and his wife Audrey live in Hoboken, N.J., and have been married for 30 years. They have three kids, Meghan (27) and twin boys Jack and Robert (25), all living not too far from home. Mike, currently a police captain, is in his 31st year of law enforcement. **Jon Riordan** made the trip from Winston Salem, N.C., where he lives with his wife, Penny, and their two children, Paige (a UNC grad) and Sean (attending NC State). Jon retired in 2020 after a 28-year career in financial services, most recently serving as deputy chief compliance officer at Truist. He spends significant time at his beach place near Beaufort, S.C. **Rob Henger** moved to Birmingham, Ala., more than 30 years ago, married a Southern woman named Tiffany, and raised two children, Sophia and Nick. He is semi-retired after more than 30 years in mortgage banking, spending more time on dirt bike trails than in a board room. It was so good to hug besties since high school, **Laurie Riggs** (Swarthmore, Pa.) and **Ann Coyle Black** (Royersford, Pa.). They see each other frequently. **Jen McMahon** just finished her 17th year of teaching at Kenyon. Both of her daughters are now out of college and are finding their way. At the Reunion, Jen and **Amy Santangelo Bower** took advantage of the Saturday morning alumni bike ride

through the battlefields. They also spent time on Saturday with Bert Buell '89. It was great to catch up with all of you! More news to come in our next column.

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'91

**Cindy (Hybels) Johnson P'28** wrote that she was among a group of lifelong friends who took a trip to Charleston, S.C., in June 2025. She was accompanied by several members of the Class of 1991: **Sarah (Hutchinson) Guido, Sue (Chambers) Haldeman, Jennifer (Munson) Celiberti, Kate (Duffy) Carlson, Abby (Howard) Rausch, Dana (Gerstenfeld) Donnelly, and Cathy (Jones) Rochford. Linda Schulz, Christy Tucker Boyle, Rachel Pope Tucker, Lora Giovacchini Foley, Frances Bullen Dunn, and Lisa Gill Parulis** reunited with excitement and nostalgia in April 2025 in Hilton Head Island, S.C. The years may have passed, but the laughter was just as loud as it had been back in the day! They reminisced about old memories, swapped stories of their lives since graduation, and reveled in the joy of being together again. Over drinks, they relaxed in the comfort of each other's company. Their conversations flowed effortlessly and continuously from one topic to the next, often interrupted by bursts of laughter. It was a time to celebrate the bond they formed at Gettysburg and a reminder that true friendships never fade.

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'92

Happy winter, Class of '92! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. **Kelly**

**(Bieda) Butzler's** son, Alex, completed the Appalachian Trail this past summer—a 2,200-mile journey from Georgia to Maine. When she shared that he was a thru-hiker, **Clare McGlenn** reached out, as she lives very close to the trail in Warwick, N.Y. Kelly loved the fact that, after all these years, their paths crossed again through her son's adventure! Alex even went on to stay with Clare's brother in Vermont. **Grant Kaley** shared that, in April 2025, the "BU Clan" was at it again. Grant, Clarke Miller '91, **Chris Baer, Travis Espenlaub, Neal Bonner, Jeff Hingher, Scott Hughes, and Rich Talbot**, joined by honorary '93er Jeff Stratford, all descended on the Lancaster, Pa., stomping grounds of Steve Grow '93. The crew has made an art form out of rotating annual invasions over the years. Colonial Beach, Va.; Frederick, Md.; Boston, Mass.; Baltimore, Md.; Raleigh, N.C.; and Nashville, Tenn., have all survived previous campaigns. This year, Steve and Lancaster and Lititz, Pa., played host. Highlights included pit stops at Rock Lititz and the Southern Market, a slow stroll through downtown Lititz, a visit to Bulls Head Public House in Lititz, and an appearance at the Lancaster Elks Lodge No. 134. True to form, the best moments are never the sightseeing but sessions sitting around the fire, where tales from Servo and near-misses outside Townie Bullet got a little taller. Of course, between laughs, the conversation turned to kids graduating college. Alas, amid all the nostalgia came a new reason to raise a glass as they welcomed a future potential Bullet, Harrison Dean Kaley, born July 8, 2025. Congratulations, Grant! We extend a huge congratulations to **Robert Schwartz**, who has been named Gettysburg's new vice president for Enrollment and Educational Services (EES). A third-generation Bullet, Rob has been a dedicated member of the Board of Trustees for the past four and a half years (see story on page 9). We're proud of you, Rob!

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 1992](#)

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## '93

**Carl Willert** happily reports that he got together with many alums to celebrate his brother John's wedding in New York City (see photo on page 54). Carl enjoys working as a first vice president with a large national investment firm, Stifel. He has lived in Florida for the past 23 years, and although he misses many things about Gettysburg, he does not miss the cold and snow. **Christine Adams** shared that her second book, a collection of poetry entitled "Breaking Bread," has been accepted for publication by Aldrich Press, an imprint of Kelsay Books. Publication date is slated for early 2027. If you have missed The Gettysburg Review, be sure to pick up this book and support a classmate. **Sandra Kuhlman** married Scott Szuhay this summer. The ceremony was at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, and the party continued into the night on the Gateway Clipper's Princess riverboat. The wedding felt like a mini class reunion. Gettysburg alums in attendance included **Bridget Donnelly Collins, Megan Strauss Hallman, Carla Mastro Simone McManimon, Jennifer Haase, Kim McEvoy Saltsburg, Jess Bradley, Tam Bray Atwood, Cyndi Slember Tafaro** and her husband Ted Tafaro '91, **Kathy Poist Varady** and her husband Joe Varady '91, and **Cathy Nickels Berger**. Sandra is currently working in Buffalo, N.Y., at the U at Buffalo. Congrats to the new couple. **Kathy (Poist) Varady** became a Pennsylvania master naturalist this fall. This program is a statewide initiative to connect people with their local ecosystems directed toward developing a local corps of master volunteers dedicated to understanding and managing natural areas within their communities. She returned to her biology degree roots and installed and maintains two community native pollinator gardens in Phoenixville, Pa.

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## '94

Dear Class of '94, I'm very sorry to share the news of the passing of **Daniel Nast Gallucci**. After graduation, Dan earned his J.D. at the Dickinson School of Law (now Penn State Dickinson Law). After law school, Dan clerked for the Hon. Michael Georgelis and joined RodaNast, P.C., where he secured several landmark personal injury verdicts. Dan then joined NastLaw LLC, based in Philadelphia, where he worked on several national mass tort and antitrust cases. Dan is survived by his mother, Dianne Nast; his stepfather, Joseph F. Roda; his father, Michael Gallucci; his two daughters, Olivia and Ava Gallucci; their mother, Kimberly Gallucci; his two younger brothers, Joseph and Joshua Roda; and his younger sister, Anastasia Nast. Our heart goes out to his friends and family.

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 1994](#)

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## '95

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 1995](#)

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## '96

Hello, Class of 1996! I hope this column finds everyone well. Sadly, my first update is that **Scott Willmen** from our class, age 52, passed away peacefully on March 28, 2025, after a courageous battle with cancer. Scott was a devoted husband, teacher, and friend. He worked as a business college professor for more than 15 years, where his passion for business and teaching left a lasting impact on his students and the greater school community. Scott had a passion for most outdoor activities, traveling, woodworking, and making the

most out of life. He is survived by his loving wife, Cynthia, and his sister, Jennifer. Unfortunately, that is the only update I received for this issue. I also wanted to remind you of our upcoming 30th Reunion Weekend, May 28-31, which will be a good time to reconnect with friends, reminisce about our time at Gettysburg, and see how much has changed on campus. Please continue to send any updates my way. It has been so great hearing from you all!

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 1996](#)

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## '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](mailto:lcarr@gettysburg.edu); 717-337-6800) for more information.*

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## '98

Hello, classmates of 1998! I'm pleased to be the new class correspondent for our Class Notes section of GETTYSBURG College Magazine. The magazine is published twice a year, winter and summer. Please send me any updates and news by April 10 to be included in the Summer 2026 issue. My email is [ckopple@gmail.com](mailto:ckopple@gmail.com). Don't forget that we have a class Facebook page as well (see below). Follow the page for future updates. Thank you!

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 1998](#)

## CLASS NOTES

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'99

*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.*

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 2003](#)

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'04

Hello, Class of 2004. **Brian Malfettone** and **Kevin Kolmer Jr.** both work at Merrill Lynch and qualified for the Top Advisor summit in Colorado Springs in 2025. There, they reconnected in person for the first time since the 10-year reunion. Tri Sigmas from six states recently gathered to help **Shannon Maria (Sweitzer) Jones** knock items off her bucket list and celebrate her lung disease journey. Coming together were **Kathryn Chongpinitchai**, **Erin (Leach) Medico**, **Joann (Sullivan) Diniz**, **Amanda (Ruch) Fallon**, **Ami (Lovelace) Griffin**, **Pam Cunningham**, and Erin Sears '05. The group spent

the weekend having royal tea, taking a limo to dinner at Talula's Garden in Philadelphia, and eating soup dumplings at a MICHELIN-recommended restaurant. Updates on Shannon's diagnosis and bucket list plans are available at [www.shannonssunflowers.com](http://www.shannonssunflowers.com).

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 2004](#)

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'05

Wishing everyone a bright and joyful year ahead! As we turn the page toward new adventures, I hope you'll take a moment to share them—big milestones, small joys, and everything in between. It's always wonderful to hear where life has taken our Class of '05 family! With that in mind, I am happy to share some news. **Sarah Sigal** just published the sequel to her first novel, "The Socialite Spy: In Pursuit of a King" (Lume Books, 2023), called "The Paris Spy" (Lume Books, 2025). The first book was about a woman who becomes a spy in London in 1936 during the abdication crisis of King Edward VIII and the second features the same character, who is sent by MI6 to Paris in 1939 to spy on the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. For more information on the book, please visit [www.lumebooks.co.uk/book/the-paris-spy](http://www.lumebooks.co.uk/book/the-paris-spy). **Sean Valentine** was named director of development for Wilbraham & Monson Academy (WMA), effective July 1. WMA is an independent, co-ed, boarding and day school for grades 6 to 12 located in Wilbraham, Mass. For the last eight years, Sean has held the position of director of stewardship and donor relations, while also running the school's planned giving program.

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'09

**Geoffrey Norris** married Jennifer Leigh Garcia at the Ace Hotel in Palm Springs, Calif., on Halloween night last year. **Leo Vaccaro** was the officiant. Paul Accomando '08, Sebastian DiNatale '10, and **Sara Harenchar Levinson** were all in attendance. Leo remembered to bring a Gettysburg flag. **Sara (Maloney-Truitt) Beck** celebrated her one-year wedding anniversary to Anthony Beck in Sept. 2025. They welcomed their baby boy Patrick as the newest member of their family this past summer. They live in Boston. **Jennifer Gerckens** relocated to Belgium for her dream job, which she loves, along with the Belgian chocolate and beer. She and Sara Harenchar Levinson unearthed their G'burg keychains from graduation day within the same hour. Sara was unpacking boxes in her garage in Durham, and Jen was unpacking a box in Belgium. **Aimee George** rejoined Washington, D.C.-based International Justice Mission, the globe's largest anti-human trafficking organization, in her home country of

Singapore. **Jason Parker**, Crystal Ebert Parker '06, and Sara Harenchar Levinson attended the kickoff party for Triangle Central Kitchen in Durham, N.C., in Sept. 2025. The kitchen is inspired by D.C. Central Kitchen, where countless G'burg students have volunteered as part of the First-Year Seminar on homelessness taught by Graeff Professor of English and Chair Chris Fee and which inspired the Campus Kitchen at Gettysburg College. **Brady (Luceno) Seals** and **Sara Harenchar Levinson** caught up in Boulder, Colo., this past August. Brady also started a new job at Stanford U as director of Electrification for Health. Her office is next door to Tara O'Shea '10, managing director of Natural Climate Solutions. Both initiatives are in the Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford's hub for interdisciplinary research about the environment. Sara Harenchar Levinson was recently named vice president of strategic growth for CeriFi, an educational technology company providing training and certification services for the financial and legal industries. In her new role, she will oversee CeriFi's partnerships with some of the largest financial organizations in the world. Dear classmates: Supporting the college financially is not the only way to stay connected. If you'd be open to talking to current students about your career as part of a panel in your field of study, or if your company is hiring or offers internships, please message me. I'll connect you with the right people at the College. Your involvement makes a lasting impact on student's futures. I want to hear from more of you! Send your Class Notes to me at [saramarialevinson@gmail.com](mailto:saramarialevinson@gmail.com).

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## 2010

Here's an update from **Danielle (Hiss) Smyth**: "I'm thrilled to share that my debut novel, 'Ghost Writing,' was published on Oct. 13, 2025, through Astralumen Press. This cozy, friends-to-lovers romance is

set in a small-town library, and since its release, it has already reached No. 5 on Amazon's Hot New Releases and No. 13 on the Bestseller list, both in the Friends-to-Lovers Romance category. 'Ghost Writing' follows Callie, a writer finding her voice, and Will, the quiet librarian with a secret that could change everything. The story is full of small-town charm, heartfelt moments, and nods to millennial nostalgia like 'Gilmore Girls,' 'Dawson's Creek,' and 'Clueless.' Publishing this novel has been an exciting milestone for me. When I'm not writing, I run a digital marketing agency, Wordsmyth Creative Content Marketing LLC. 'Ghost Writing' is available from Astralumen Press, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, and independent bookstores online."

*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](mailto:lcarr@gettysburg.edu); 717-337-6800) for more information.*

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## '11

Hello, Class of 2011. I hope everyone is doing well and is excited for our 15-year reunion, which will take place during Reunion Weekend from May 28-31. On May 3, 2025, **Sara Cawley** married Scott Rigney on a beautiful, unseasonably warm and sunny day in southwestern Montana's Paradise Valley. Fellow classmate **Courtney (Tomlinson) Grady** was in attendance to celebrate. I wish everyone the best. Please continue to send me updates!

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## '12

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## '13

I hope you all had a wonderful fall and holiday season! I kicked off the school year in a new role as director of annual giving at Greenwich Academy in Greenwich, Conn. **Caroline (Coolidge) Kregling** and Kenneth Kregling '14 welcomed a baby girl, Lillian Josephine Kregling, on Feb. 24, 2025. **Joseph Miller** and **Dina Abdurahman** welcomed a baby girl, Rima Abdurahman Miller, on Sept. 2, 2025.

**Kavya Kumar**  
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Bronx, NY 10463  
[kumarkavya01@gmail.com](mailto:kumarkavya01@gmail.com)

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## '14

**Christianna Jo (Evans) Smith**  
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Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
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## '15

**Morgan (Marianelli) Allen** and husband Jonathan Allen (Haverford College '14) welcomed their first child, Bryan, on December 19, 2024. Bryan is a happy, healthy baby boy, and Mom and Dad are overjoyed with their Christmas miracle! They look forward to their first campus visit as a family.

**Jesse DeMartino**  
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## '16

**Lindsey Gieger**  
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## '17 ©

**Paige Susskind** married Antonio Beato in Dec. 2024. **Angela Parr** married **Will**

## CLASS NOTES

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**Koelln** in Arlington, Va., in Feb. 2025. They met on their first-year residence floor. Classmates **Noah Koester** and **Dave Julien** were in attendance. **Amelia Johnson** married Fletcher Reese Vaughn in May 2025. Amelia recently earned her master's in applied American politics and policy from Florida State U. She works as the deputy chief of staff at the Florida Department of Education. She was also recently recognized in Influence Magazine as a Rising Star in Florida Politics. **Rachel (Wilkins) Mace** completed her MBA in project management from American Military U. On campus, I'm still working in Residential Education. We are excited that the newly renovated Stine Hall opened over winter break. Paul Hall is under renovation for the spring 2026 semester, and Rice Hall will follow in fall 2026. Check the College's social media and ResEd (@GettysburgResEd) Instagram account for updates!

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 2017](#)

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### '18

**Shelby Trail** and Joey Smith welcomed their second daughter, Evelyn, on Feb. 2, 2025. Shelby also made the transition from teaching to administration. She accepted a middle school assistant principal position beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. **Kailey Wilk** married Noah Hale on May 31, 2025. **Aubrey Kamppila** and **Jack Seibert** were married over the summer with many classmates in attendance. **Andrea (Near) McCue** and her husband, Hunter, were married on Aug. 23 in Harpers Ferry, W.Va. In attendance were bridesmaids **Natalie Keznor** and **Mandy Pollock**, as well as **Liz Delianites**, **Natasha Kerr**, **Shelby Smith**, and **Tyler Burke**.

**Andrea (Near) McCue**  
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### '19

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 [Gettysburg College Class of 2019](#)

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### 2020

Hi, everyone! Our classmates have been up to some exciting things. **Sarahrose Jonik** graduated from Penn State College of Medicine. **Madeleine Miller** graduated from Campbell U School of Osteopathic Medicine. **Sara Seuffert** graduated from Seton Hall U as a PA and is working at Carolina Neurosurgery & Spine Associates. **Amanda Benfante** graduated from Drexel U School of Medicine and is completing her residency in pediatrics at Yale U. **Julia Ruff** graduated from Bryant U as a PA and is completing her pediatric cardiology fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital. **Megan Zierold** graduated from Saint Louis U School of Medicine and is completing her residency in OBGYN at Virginia Commonwealth U. **Erin Schroeder** graduated from Duke U School of Medicine with a Ph.D. in molecular genetics and microbiology and is working at Merck as a senior scientist. **Meghan Guy** and **Aaron Paul** were married on July 5, 2025. **Ryan Smolik** and **Angel Cui** were married on Aug. 9, 2025. Please continue to send in your updates.

**Libby Walker**  
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libby.walker1@gmail.com

 [Gettysburg College Class of 2020](#)

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### '21

Hi, Class of 2021! We have now reached over four years post-graduation, and it is quite an exciting time with many big life milestones and achievements! I am so excited for all that our class has accomplished and how everyone will continue to grow. **Annie Grab** and **Paul Ivans '22** recently got engaged in Washington, D.C. They live in Arlington, Va., with their dog, Chester. Annie works as a paralegal at an employment defense law firm in Vienna, Va. Paul works in tech sales at Corsha, an industrial cybersecurity startup focused on securing manufacturing and critical infrastructure environments. Congratulations to Annie and Paul, as well as everyone else sharing big milestones in their lives. Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any exciting news to share or want to be featured!

**Grace Torrance**  
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Arlington, VA 22201  
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gftorrance@gmail.com

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### '22

Unfortunately, I didn't receive any updates from the Class of 2022 this time around. Please see below for my contact info and feel free to reach out with your updates.

**Phoebe Doscher**  
203-560-4989  
phoebedoscher@gmail.com

 [Gettysburg College Class of 2022](#)

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### '23

As expected, our fellow classmates are all doing great work! I'm sure you'd rather hear about their achievements than hear from me, so without further ado, let's dive into all the wonderful things that they are doing. Many of our Bullets are doing great work outside of the classroom.

**Mimi Pessagno** is now working as a Registered Nurse at Frederick Health Hospital, caring for older adults in fragile health as well as injured people and people recovering from surgery. **Robert Rosenberg** began a new job at Stevenson U, working in systems analytics and finishing his MBA in December 2025. Of course, many of our Bullets are still doing great work in the classroom as they continue their graduate education. In April 2025, **Bryn Werley** was named a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. This fellowship provides funding in support of the work that she is pursuing during her Ph.D. in chemistry at the U of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill. Bryn is also in the middle of her second semester as an ad hoc professor for UNC's chemistry department, teaching a class of nearly 400 students—different than our small classes at Gettysburg! I, too, am feeling the difference between a large state school, Texas A&M U, and Gettysburg, even if the history survey class that I serve as TA (teaching assistant) for is only 100 students compared to Bryn's 400. As for me, I am thriving here in College Station and excited to continue my Ph.D. education at TAMU! On weekends, I serve as a docent at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, helping improve visitors' experiences whenever I can and educating them on President Bush's life, career, and legacy. If anyone is visiting central Texas, please don't hesitate to reach out and connect. As always, please feel free to reach out with any updates you may have for inclusion in the next Class Notes. No update is "too boring." Your fellow Bullets all want to know what you're up to! Reiterating what I said last time, if there's anything else I can ever do for you, either as a professional student of history or in a personal capacity, feel free to email me at [ziv@carmi.us](mailto:ziv@carmi.us). I will conclude with my usual sign-off: Keep doing great work, and, as always, Go Bullets!

**Ziv Carmi**  
[ziv@carmi.us](mailto:ziv@carmi.us)

'24

Hello, Class of 2024. It was a pleasure to see so many familiar faces at Homecoming Weekend last October. The Gettysburg excitement, energy, and passion from town to campus made the weekend such a delight. As an aside, my tours around campus revealed so many new facilities updates. Can you all believe we have a brand-new beer garden and a Plank bar? Also, the renovations to Stine and Patrick residence halls are timely and enjoyable upgrades. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and I hope to see many of you around campus in the near future. Truly yours in Orange and Blue,  
Drew Lemon.

**Drew Lemon**  
[drewlemon@gmail.com](mailto:drewlemon@gmail.com)

## CLASS NOTES CORRESPONDENTS' DEADLINES

4/10 for Summer  
10/16 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

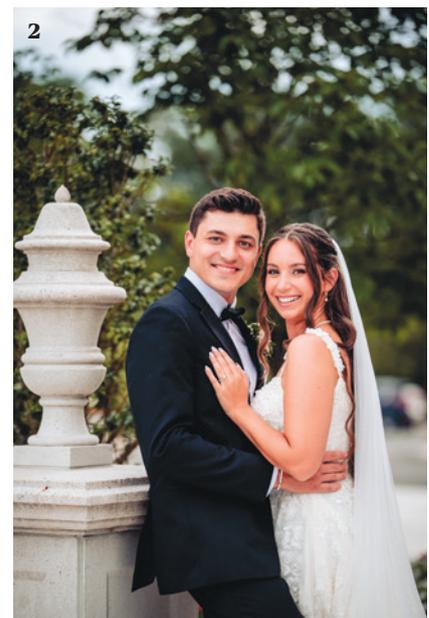
**1** Brady (Luceno) Seals '09 and Sara Harenchar Levinson '09 caught up in Boulder, Colorado, this past August.

**2** Maria (Gerckens) McKnight '21 & Mike McKnight '19

**3** Carl Willert '93 gathered with classmates to celebrate his brother John's wedding in New York City. Left to right: Jack Vishab '91, Amanda (Willert) Harrell '97, John Willert '91, Tobias Johnson '91, and Carl Willert '93.

**4** Susan Bloomfield '74 (far left) joined Daria Lo Presti Wallach '76 (second from left), Sarah Wendt '90, and Kathy Bloomfield '76 for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's celebration on Dec. 3, 2025. The event honored Wallach's service as chair of the board of the trustees for the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation.

**5** Chuck Widger '67 surprised fellow '67 alums with personalized Gettysburg College shirts featuring the new G 1832 logo art and their names printed on the back. Front row: Scott Higgins '67, Maxine Manges, Larry Luessen '67, and Lynn Luessen. Back row: Barbara Widger, Chuck Widger '67, Kathy Rockman, Linda Higgins, Bud Manges '67, Bill Cannell '67, Jay Rockman '67, Anne Cannell, Lynn Stiger, and Barry Stiger '67.



**6** Eight Theta chapter of Sigma Chi brothers from the classes of 1964, 1965, and 1966 got together last year in Annapolis, Maryland, to celebrate 60 years since they graduated. “We had a blast, kind of like Spring House Party 1963,” said Marshall “Nick” Nichols ’64. Left to right: George Samaras ’65, Rick Myers ’65, Curt Cheyney ’64, Tim Parsons ’64, Howie Livingston ’66, Marshall “Nick” Nichols ’64, Dave Aker ’65, and Don DeMaio ’65.

**7** Amelia Johnson ’17 married Fletcher Reese Vaughn in May 2025.

**8** Left to right: Amanda (Ruch) Fallon ’04, Shannon Maria (Sweitzer) Jones ’04, Kathryn Chongpinitchai ’04, Erin Sears ’05, Joann (Sullivan) Diniz ’04, Ami (Lovelace) Griffin ’04, Erin (Leach) Medico ’04, and Pam Cunningham ’04 gathered to help Shannon knock items off her bucket list and celebrate her lung disease journey.

**9** Joe Lynch ’85, Brian Pluta ’85, Don Hecht ’85, Nadine Hecht, Anne Kennedy ’05, Jennifer McMahon ’90, and Carolyn Tuckey ’75.

**10** Several members of the Class of 1991 gathered in Charleston, South Carolina, in June 2025. Left to right: Cindy (Hybels) Johnson, Sarah (Hutchinson) Guido, Sue (Chambers) Haldeman, Jennifer (Munson) Celiberti, Kate (Duffy) Carlson, Abby (Howard) Rausch, Dana (Gerstenfeld) Donnelly, and Cathy (Jones) Rochford.

**11** Ten classmates from the Class of 1977 converged on Charlottesville, Virginia, in October 2025. Left to right: Ginny Cates Bowie, Karen Eaken Peter, Sharon Longenecker Penhallegon, Jen Carr Bees, Jayne Anderson Risk, Legene Wert White, Karen Weldy Karkuff, Dale Nickon Svatik, Penny Comp Muccia, and Barb Pichert Psimoulis.



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# IN MEMORIAM

ALL DATES ARE 2025 UNLESS NOTED

- 1941** Lucille Hartzell Corbin, July 25
- '49** G. Willard Thomas, May 6  
George H. Thrush III, July 17
- '50** Jeanne Hankins Dufour
- '51** Charles L. Liebeknecht, May 1  
Clarence (Jack) B. Rogers Jr.,  
Aug. 13
- '53** Robert O. Alenson, April 12  
William E. Miles Jr., Sept. 28  
Susan Thomas Reeves, April 6
- '54** Helen-Ann Souder Comstock  
(*no date provided*)
- '55** Kenneth C. Louder, April 20  
Robert F. Matthias, Sept. 10
- '56** Thomas H. Brower, June 8  
Kay Baker Jensen, Oct. 20  
Eugene L. Klupt, Sept. 25  
Warren H. Shaffer, Sept. 5
- '57** Leon M. Koppelman, July 29  
Shirley Cashman Sheridan,  
Oct. 11  
Barbara Leidholdt Winters,  
April 24  
Richard S. Wurst, July 12
- '58** Burnell R. Dehoff, Oct. 1  
Mary Ellen Reinsmith Farquhar,  
June 16  
Robert C. Harris, Oct. 30  
Joseph W. Kochenderfer,  
July 12
- '59** Warren B. Adams, July 26  
Harry H. Binger, Sept. 23  
Marjorie Mills Carpenter, May 16  
Carolyn Doehne Duckworth,  
April 8  
Carol Reed Hamilton, Aug. 31  
Richard T. Hise, May 11  
William R. Swisher Jr., May 5  
Samuel Walker VI, April 19
- '60** Peter Casagrande, Sept. 26  
Judith Keyes Guss-Nelson, July 7  
Stephen N. Jacoby, Sept. 18  
Barbara Moore Koehler,  
Dec. 7, 2024  
Robert C. Muff, July 18  
Lois Fink Normand, Sept. 9  
John C. Scheffey, July 27  
John G. Snook, Jan. 27
- '61** John V. Foltz Jr., July 31  
Roland Y. Perez, July 30  
Darryl L. Sensenig, Aug. 30  
Audrey S. Verona, June 23
- '62** F. Francis Cost, April 7  
Edward M. Donald, Aug. 16  
Henry E. Newman, April 25  
Gordon W. Thayer, April 25
- '63** Bonnie Anderson Edwards,  
Jan. 10  
George S. Pappas, Sept. 3  
Dale E. Sultzbaugh, April 9  
James S. Vinson, June 27  
Jeanne Cowan Walker, May 8
- '64** Robert G. Hooper, Sept. 19  
Frederic B. Koch, Sept. 4  
Leila Tharp Steiner, July 28  
J. Robert Wolfgang, Oct. 26
- '65** Charles S. Miller Jr., April 9  
Ronald H. Prentice, May 19  
Judith Oleson Zwaaf, July 23
- '66** Brandon Hagy Beck, Aug. 2
- '67** Jacob H. Heikkinen, Oct. 18
- '68** Sharon Usoff Edwards, Aug. 14  
Joan Brettschneider Farrell, Oct. 14  
Frederick P. Funk, Sept. 7  
G. Elizabeth Bender Griffiths,  
Sept. 25  
Robert A. Hengeveld,  
Aug. 9, 2024  
William Kane (*no date provided*)  
Linda Malsbury Ross, July 8
- '69** John F. Burrige Jr., Aug. 9  
John T. Ludlow, Oct. 25
- '70** Richard T. Peebles, Aug. 12
- '71** Martha Mauriello Arthur,  
May 26  
Robert A. Hosier, Oct. 15
- '72** Bruce Emrich, Oct. 29  
Barbara Thompson Henderson,  
Oct. 30
- '73** Linda Christensen Fagerstrom,  
Aug. 12  
Martin L. Schroeder, June 13  
Theodore F. Them, July 12
- '74** Dana S. Harvey, Aug. 11
- '77** Christopher N. Herko, April 26  
Elizabeth Emile Jackson, July 29
- '78** B. Joy Keller Brown, June 16  
Kevin J. Keating, Sept. 25  
Kenneth C. Scupp Jr., Aug. 13
- '80** Stephen G. Napp, May 6
- '82** John T. O'Connor, April 21  
Michael M. Tague, Nov. 2
- '94** Daniel N. Gallucci, May 5
- '96** Scott R. Willmen, March 28
- 2003** Matthew J. Kornacki, Sept. 19
- '07** Timothy M. McGowan, May 10

## GABOR S. BORITT

**Gabor S. Boritt**, the Robert Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies emeritus at Gettysburg College and the founding director of the Civil War Institute, passed away on Feb. 2 at 86. His extraordinary journey from war-torn Budapest to the battlefields of Gettysburg shaped one of the most influential careers in American historical scholarship.

A nationally recognized authority on President Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, Gabor spent nearly three decades transforming Gettysburg College into a global center for scholarship while mentoring generations of students, teachers, and historians. Gabor's impressive list of publications positioned him at the forefront of his field. His distinguished presence on our faculty helped attract young historians to the College during a period of change and growth in our institution's history.

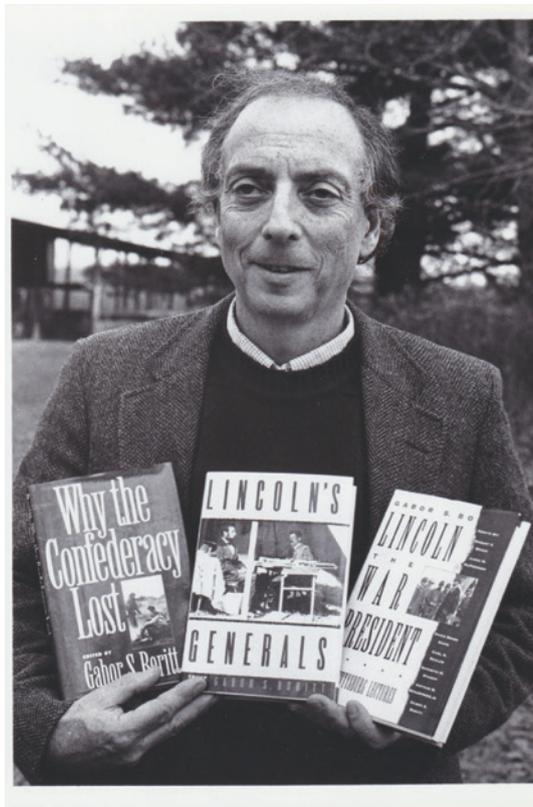
Born in Budapest at the outset of World War II, Gabor endured Nazi persecution and later Soviet repression. At 16, he joined the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. When Soviet tanks crushed the uprising, he and his sister fled on foot across Austria and then to the United States. His journey—one marked by courage and conscience—shaped both his worldview and scholarship.

He arrived in America with a dollar and little knowledge of English, eventually settling in South Dakota. To learn the language, he picked up a booklet of Abraham Lincoln's writings. "There was something about him that pulled you deeply, meaningfully," Gabor later said. That connection became a calling.

Gabor earned degrees from Yankton College, the University of South Dakota, and Boston University. Feeling a deep obligation to his adopted country, he

later went to Vietnam, where he taught American history, including the Civil War, to U.S. troops.

His 1978 debut book, "Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream," helped reinvigorate the field of American history by examining Lincoln through the lens of economic opportunity and what Gabor called "the right to rise." He went on to write, co-write, and edit more than a dozen books, including "The Gettysburg Nobody Knows" (1997), "The Lincoln Enigma: The Changing Faces of an American Icon" (2001), and "The Gettysburg Gospel: The Lincoln Speech Nobody Knows" (2006).



After joining Gettysburg College in 1981, Gabor founded the Civil War Institute and helped establish the nation's first fully funded chair in Civil War Studies. The institute's annual summer conference grew into an internationally respected weeklong gathering for scholars and

enthusiasts. He also chaired the board of the prestigious Lincoln Prize, widely considered the highest honor for the study of American history, and was a co-founder of The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

"Gabor's vision and the energy he put behind it made Gettysburg College a real force in the national conversation about the American Civil War," noted History **Prof. Michael Birkner '72, P'10**.

"His enthusiasm for learning rubbed off on his students, his friends, and young scholars in particular. Few scholars have had his impact."

In 2008, Gabor guided President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush on a private tour of the Gettysburg battlefield. Later that year, Bush awarded him the National Humanities Medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), recognizing a lifetime of scholarship illuminating Lincoln and the Civil War era. He also received the Order of Lincoln by the state of Illinois and the Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement by the Lincoln Forum. His life story was also chronicled in the documentary "Budapest to Gettysburg," directed by his son Jake.

In retirement, Gabor and his wife, Liz, restored an 18th-century farmhouse along the Gettysburg battlefield and raised three sons. Gabor is survived by his wife; his son Beowulf; his son Dan and daughter-in-law, Katie Moreau, and their children, Henry and Leo; and his son Jake and daughter-in-law, Heather Ross, and their children, Lincoln, Ellis, and Sadie Rozsa.

From refugee to renowned historian, Gabor embodied the ideals he admired in Lincoln—resilience, opportunity, and faith in democracy—leaving an enduring legacy at Gettysburg and far beyond.

by *Corey Jewart*

BEHIND THE SCENES

# FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH RECREATION

**NATHAN REIGNER '01 CHAMPIONS  
PENNSYLVANIA'S OUTDOOR ECONOMY**

*by Michael Vyskocil*



**AS PENNSYLVANIA'S FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION, NATHAN REIGNER '01 OVERSEES A TEAM CHARGED WITH PROMOTING OUTDOOR RECREATION AS A COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL. HIS WORK FOCUSES ON GROWING PENNSYLVANIA'S OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY, HELPING COMMUNITIES USE OUTDOOR RECREATION AS A WORKFORCE RETENTION AND BUSINESS RECRUITMENT TOOL, AND ENSURING THAT ALL PEOPLE ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HAVE INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.**

Reigner's career as a public lands, conservation, outdoor recreation, and nature-based social scientist includes work related to visitor use, tourism, and resource planning and management. He has worked in and with more than 100 parks, forests, historic sites, and heritage areas in the United States and overseas.

While the settings and responsibilities of the jobs he's held have been diverse, the knowledge and skills Reigner cultivated at Gettysburg have served as guideposts for his career, enabling him to focus on serving people.

**GETTYSBURG COLLEGE MAGAZINE:**  
*Why did you decide to attend Gettysburg College?*

**NATHAN REIGNER '01:** I grew up in southeast Pennsylvania and knew that a smaller college rather than a larger university was going to be in the cards. I had an aunt and uncle, **Kyle Reigner '72** and **Joanne Richards Reigner '72**, who were Bullets. I was recruited to play football at Gettysburg, and all those factors drew me toward it. On the campus visit, it was that intangible feel—"This is the place!"

**GCM:** *How did your Gettysburg education prepare you for your career?*

**NR:** The education at Gettysburg was broad-based. I took a bunch of different classes; instructors were hands-on and developed relationships with students. I had friends studying all kinds of subjects. I was a double major in sociology and anthropology, and through that, I did a ton of writing. I think my Gettysburg education cultivated my ability to structure arguments and to express myself.

Sometime toward the end of my sophomore year, the summer going into my junior year, I realized that this is my education. It is my opportunity and responsibility to take it in the direction that I want it to go. That was a super empowering realization. I went into my junior year positioning myself to go on a service-learning trip to Peru, which was very impactful.

I remember going with English **Prof. Christopher Fee** to Washington, D.C., for a service-learning experience focused on homelessness and hunger.

The social science perspective I've developed at Gettysburg has carried me through graduate school to get my doctoral degree. As I worked with natural scientists, economists, policy advocates, and others, it's enabled me to bring a complementary perspective.

**GCM:** *What does a day at work look like for you?*

**NR:** The Office of Outdoor Recreation is very outward-facing. I am a circuit rider for our outdoor economy in Pennsylvania. I'm the person carrying the news of our work from one place to another, being the tie that binds.

There are times when I'm giving a talk from 3 to 5 o'clock in Scranton, and I have a 9 a.m. the following morning in Pittsburgh. I have to pack up and hit the road on Interstate 80. It can be grueling at times, but it's also super rewarding: There is no substitute for being in a place with people, both to demonstrate our level of commitment to this work and to their priorities, and for knowledge building. **G**



**OPPOSITE PAGE** Nathan Reigner '01 and Corey Breneisen paddle the Schuylkill River during the Schuylkill River Greenway's annual sojourn.

**TOP** Nathan and his parents at Commencement.

**MIDDLE** Headshot of Nathan Reigner.

**BOTTOM** Nathan Reigner talks to a reporter during a tour of Johnstown with national leaders attending a Forum on Rural Development.

# PATHWAYS TO THE UNEXPECTED

by Katherine M. (Haas) Pompeani '10

Gettysburg College initially appealed to me as a historic liberal arts institution. My experiences at this small college in a small town situated at the crossroads of the American Civil War served as a nexus to a career in searching for missing U.S. service members from World War II to the Iraq War.

My journey began during my first semester of my first year, when I was introduced to “bioarchaeology” by Anthropology **Prof. Emerita Julia Hendon**. Our bones and teeth serve as archives of who we are, what we do, where we live, and what we eat. Dr. Hendon illustrated how accessing these archives provides an intimate view of the drama of daily life in the past—from the quotidian to the exceptional and unexpected. My fascination with this interplay between the biological and social led me to major in anthropology with a minor in health sciences.

At Gettysburg, my newfound independence as a college student was met with an exuberance to learn and explore, and the opportunities to do so. Beyond academics, I competed as a Bullet in cross country and track, and I was a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. I came to know Classics **Prof. Emerita Carolyn Snively** as a work-study student in history and Classics. Dr. Snively’s mentorship, combined with funding from Gettysburg, allowed me to accompany her for two summers to work alongside archaeologists in North Macedonia.

The depth of my education and breadth of experience at Gettysburg, especially through independent research and archaeological fieldwork, set me up for success in entering a Ph.D. program



*Katherine M. (Haas) Pompeani '10 uses a helicopter to support DPAA recovery operations in Laos.*

in anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. At Pittsburgh, I specialized in bioarchaeology and continued pursuing research opportunities in Southeast Europe. My dissertation examined cultural and behavioral determinants of health in a Middle Bronze Age (ca. 1800-1500 BCE) population in Serbia.

My experience in graduate school can be characterized as a trial-and-error journey as I sought out and stumbled along many different paths. Much like when I tried new running routes across the Gettysburg battlefield, some of these pathways dead-ended into overgrown forests choked with thorny weeds, whereas others led to scenic and inspiring vistas. Throughout, I relied heavily on the interdisciplinary nature of my Gettysburg education. During this time, I served as an instructor at Pittsburgh and later Kansas State University, led pedagogy workshops in Pittsburgh’s University Center for Teaching and Learning, and served as a consulting forensic anthropologist in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. I also conducted archaeological research in Hungary, Serbia, North Macedonia, and Kansas.

Perhaps the most unexpected and rewarding pathway I have embarked upon since graduating from Gettysburg is the one I am traveling down today. Since 2021, I have had the honor and privilege to work as a forensic anthropologist for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), supporting the agency’s objective of recovering and identifying the remains of missing U.S. service members. As a laboratory analyst, I work directly with human remains and material evidence obtained from disinterments, field recoveries,

or unilateral transfers. As a civilian scientific subject matter expert in the field, I guide teams in the archaeological survey and excavation of locations believed to be associated with missing U.S. service members. In this capacity, I have worked in Hawaii, Laos, Vietnam, Palau, and the Solomon Islands.

I am a firm believer in and advocate of the liberal arts model of education. It has served me exceptionally well in embracing the unknown and pursuing the unexpected. Gettysburg College taught me that challenges, while intimidating, are just fascinating, novel puzzles that require a mix of ingenuity, tenacity, and critical thinking to parse out. Whether I am hiking, running road races, or taking a helicopter deep into the jungles of Vietnam to hopefully bring closure to a family who has been waiting over half a century for answers, all pathways lead back to the mentorship, education, opportunities, and enduring relationships I had at Gettysburg. 

*Disclaimer: All views expressed here are personal.*



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MAY 28-31, 2026

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- *President's Address and Alumni Awards Ceremony*
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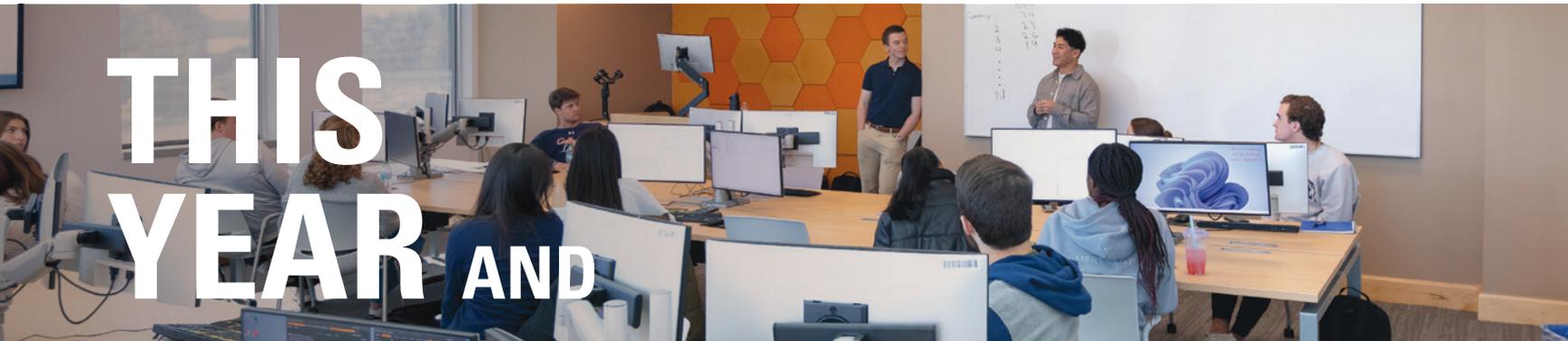
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