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Spring 2021

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Lawrence University

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SPRING 2021

# LAWRENCE

## ***BRIGHT SPOTS***

***HOW LAWRENCE IS POISED TO THRIVE***

***Also Inside: Be the Light!  
Concludes and Mark Burstein  
Says Goodbye***



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LAWRENCE

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► *Be sure to turn to page 27 for a special surprise!*

**RIGHT:** Associate Professor of Physics Megan Pickett points out stars in the night sky during Earth Hour on April 22, 2021. Earth Hour, sponsored by student organization Greenfire, was part of LU’s Earth Week celebrations.  
Photo: Danny Damiani







# A Candid Conversation with PRESIDENT MARK BURSTEIN

By Kelly Landis

**F**rom the spirit of human connection that infuses Lawrence to his love of the Viking Room, to the three words he'd use to describe Lawrentians, *Lawrence Magazine* spent some time with President Mark Burstein as he reflected on his time at Lawrence, what makes it so special, and what the future might hold for him.

## WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST DAY AT LAWRENCE?

My announcement day felt like the day I joined the Lawrence community. I was on campus in December for my announcement as president. And first I remember the weather—there were snow flurries—but I also remember the warmth of the community, the outreach to me through that day. Not only the Lawrence community, but also Appleton. It was the first time I met Tim Hanna, at that time mayor of Appleton. It was just a whirlwind of a day, but I remember the individual outreach and connection.

## DID THAT FIRST DAY GIVE YOU ANY SENSE OF THE SCOPE OR SCALE OR A LOOK INTO WHAT WAS TO COME FOR YOU?

I'd had the privilege of working for college presidents for 20 years before I became one, but it is different *being* one. That day underlined the intensity of that and the careful observance of every word and action to look for clues.

## YOU MENTIONED HAVING WORKED FOR OTHER COLLEGE PRESIDENTS—YOU OBVIOUSLY CAME FROM AN EAST COAST HIGHER EDUCATION TRADITION, SOME PRETTY ELITE NAMES ON YOUR RESUME. WHAT DREW YOU TO THE MIDWEST AND WHAT DREW YOU TO LAWRENCE?

I was extraordinarily fortunate that I had a lot of options when I decided that being a liberal arts college president was probably my next step. There was just something that felt like a fit through all of my conversations at Lawrence. The sense of community, the focus on a rigorous academic education for a broader student body—I really wanted to move away from an institution that focused exclusively on academically perfect students.

Another thing that appealed to me through all the conversations was this sense of aspiring to be a better version of Lawrence rather than wanting to be another institution. Many institutions where I interviewed would say, "We are X, but we want to be Y," and Y would be another liberal arts college. And I thought, "Hmm, that

doesn't sound like a lot of fun. Why don't you want to be a better X when you already have some real strengths? Why don't you want to be a better version of that?" And at Lawrence, those aspirations were central in every conversation that I had; it was just so appealing to me.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES LAWRENCE LAWRENCE?

I think this theme around human connection, that we are a community where people make time for investing in and carefully stewarding human connection. It's not always perfect. It is not always offered or received in the right way, but it is still a value of who we are and who we want to be, what we want to improve.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE LAWRENCE MEMORY?

This is clear in my mind: Commencement. Every Commencement is just... It is not only the culmination of the academic year, it is the culmination of students' progress through Lawrence and the celebration of real accomplishment by faculty. So it's just a moment where everything comes together, and each Commencement is clear in my mind and an event that I really cherish.

## IN ADDITION TO COMMENCEMENT, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE LAWRENCE TRADITION AND WHY?

I love both Cabaret and Cultural Expressions. Both of those events allow our students to fully express unique aspects of themselves in performance. It feels like such a privilege to experience them.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK IT SAYS ABOUT THE LAWRENCE CULTURE THAT SO MANY TRADITIONS ARE EVENTS OR ROOTED IN EVENTS?

When I was thinking about my favorite spot on campus, I was torn between two places, and one of them is the Chapel, because it is a place of performance. It has all the history of Lawrence in the stained glass windows, in the representation of the classes when we welcome the first-year class. But it's also in the decades of convocations spoken in the space, where we come together as a community to see performances happen. And I think it's back to this theme around human connection—we gather as a community and listen to each other, experience one another's performative work. Whether that's music or spoken word or dance or theater, or athletics. That's just such a central part of who we are as an institution.





Mark Burstein, center, is surrounded by members of the Board of Trustees during his inauguration in 2013. Photo: Max Hermans

### WHAT IS THAT OTHER FAVORITE SPOT?

My other favorite spot is the Viking Room (VR). It's a student owned space—the bartenders are students, it is filled with students. It also has that great view out to the river, so there's an indoor-outdoor experience. It's not the space that is best maintained or perfectly lit or perfectly cleaned, but it's got a feeling of Lawrence in it that I think is really special.

And because it is a student-owned space, the VR has really kept up with the change of Lawrence. It has that grounding in 50 years of history, but it's also contemporary Lawrence at the same time, which is a really nice thing.

### WHAT SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT LAWRENCE OR ABOUT APPLETON OR BOTH?

I think that what surprised me most about Lawrence was how strong the welcome was for David and me, how much of an embrace we have felt from the community. I expected it to be something that was present for us, but it has far exceeded our expectations in so many different ways. And about Appleton, I think what's really surprised us most is the food, the cosmopolitan nature of our food offerings. Both from the variety of the different food cultures and, as someone who is gluten-free, the amount of gluten-free options in the Valley is extraordinary, far beyond any other environment that I've ever lived in. And that's a surprise.

### IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE LAWRENCE IN THREE WORDS, WHAT WOULD THOSE WORDS BE?

That is so hard. I think I would go with creative, community, and future.



Commencement tops Mark's list of favorite Lawrence memories. Photo: Paul Wilke

### WOULD YOU APPLY THOSE SAME WORDS TO LAWRENTIANS OR WOULD YOU HAVE DIFFERENT THREE WORDS?

For Lawrentians I would go certainly with “passion.” The word “change”, those wanting to change the world, and maybe the word “connection.”

### WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS PRESIDENT OF LAWRENCE?

My biggest challenge, and I would argue the largest challenge facing Lawrence right now, is to make the transition from a predominantly white institution to one that is anti-racist and creates a learning environment in which every student, as well as every faculty and staff member, can thrive. It is a national, international, issue and it is certainly one that is a challenge alive and present on our campus every day. I've learned so much from the community and from my experience trying to make this change. And I have a lot more to learn, as I would argue many of us on campus do.

### WHAT WILL YOU LOOK BACK ON WITH THE MOST PRIDE OR THE GREATEST SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT?

There are two places that really resonate for me. One is the effort to become full need and the progress we've made to support students and families financially to the level that our methodology says we should. That is work I did very closely with development colleagues. The other place is work with faculty renewing the curriculum. The various different curricular offerings that we have now that we didn't before and how they really build off of strengths that already existed in our faculty and in their research.



Mark individually greets each member of the incoming class with a handshake after Matriculation Convocation. Photo: Mia Francis '21

### WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST AND WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE LEAST?

What I will miss most are the people.

What I will miss least is the public nature of the role. Many people who are presidents receive energy from the public side of the role, but it is not personally a place where I get energy. The thing with the public piece is that I love the community experiences, and I love speaking to the community. I just don't like every time I'm out, I am known and seen and stared at, and people always interact with me as president of Lawrence, even at the grocery store. Walking around Woodman's and having folks come up to me and talk to me about issues on campus, and sometimes I think, “I know I've been spending a lot of time in the egg aisle, but I'm just trying to figure out if extra large is what I really need.”

And yet, at the same time, I think that one of the beautiful things about Lawrence is this relationship with Appleton. Sarah Appleton Lawrence, Amos Lawrence, this marriage between our college and municipality and the city. But because of the size of Appleton, it just means that is heightened in a way that I experienced in Princeton, New Jersey, but I certainly never experienced at Columbia in the City of New York.

### IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO STUDENTS, WHAT WOULD THAT PIECE OF ADVICE BE?

Always know that we believe in you.



Mark frequently welcomes members of the Lawrence community to his home. Here he greets trick-or-treating students. Photo: Sebastian Evans '21

### ANY WORDS OF WISDOM OR TIPS FOR LAURIE CARTER AS SHE PREPARES TO TAKE THE HELM?

Laurie is so talented and already a sitting president, so I think she knows the lay of the land. And I think she knows this already, but I just want to reinforce that there is so much talent here and that people are genuinely interested in supporting her.

### ANY INSIGHT ON WHAT'S NEXT OR WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR YOU?

I have just started to think about what is next for me. It's been a very demanding year, and I've wanted to make sure that I have been fully present for my responsibilities here. So that has meant thinking about next steps has been, well, a tertiary priority.

The one thing I have done that I'm super excited about is that in the past, my board commitments have always been connected to my responsibilities at my institutions, but now I've been freed up to follow my passions a little bit more. I just joined the African Wildlife Foundation Board. It focuses on environmental issues, which is a personal passion, and in a part of the world that I care deeply about. And it also has an almost entirely African programmatic staff and leadership based in Africa. So also following my values which is, “Yes, we Westerners can raise money for this and maybe give some advice, but let the leadership of the continent lead and think about what change would look like for them.” I'm really, really excited about it.

### ANY FINAL THOUGHTS OR REFLECTIONS ON YOUR LAWRENCE EXPERIENCE?

We say that we're a learning community, and I have learned so much over my eight years here. And I just feel so grateful for that experience. ■





# BRIGHT SPOTS

HOW LAWRENCE IS POSITIONED TO SUCCEED  
AMID HIGHER EDUCATION'S CHALLENGES

By Ed Berthiaume

Lawrence University's willingness to adapt, to embrace change without uprooting its deep commitment to the liberal arts, has the school well-positioned to face an onslaught of coming challenges in a tumultuous higher education climate.

The recent close of the *Be the Light!* Campaign at \$232.6 million, well above the \$220 million goal, speaks to Lawrence's strong support among its alumni and friends and its notable reputation as an innovative and supportive liberal arts college. Those are important strengths to lean on at a time when a once-in-a-century pandemic has added to the already sizable hurdles ahead for higher education—rising student debt, closings and mergers, and a shrinking college-age population among them.

The *Be the Light!* Campaign's success comes as Lawrence prepares for leadership change. Mark Burstein, the university's 16th president in its 174-year history, is set to step aside at the close of the academic year.

Laurie A. Carter, the newly named 17th president, will begin her tenure with those industry challenges front and center, but also with a string of successes to build on—\$91 million in investments toward Full Speed to Full Need (FSFN), expanded and strengthened academic programs, a revitalized Career Center, and the refurbishing of facilities across campus.

Those successes, so central to the Burstein presidency and largely made possible by *Be the Light!*, will provide strength and structure as Lawrence pushes forward amid the headwinds that have dominated and reshaped the higher education conversation.

Lawrence, of course, isn't immune to the volatility. But the narrative here is different. Lawrence's endowment is healthy and growing, and its relationship with alumni is robust. The Full Speed to Full Need initiative continues to resonate, lowering student debt and improving accessibility for students of all economic backgrounds. Its enrollment numbers, even amid the pandemic, have remained steady thanks in part to a wider

geographic focus. And it has successfully added key in-demand academic programs without sacrificing its liberal arts mission.

That isn't to say there aren't choppy waters ahead. For institutions of higher learning that have failed to adapt to changing demographics and the shifting winds of higher education in the 21st century, the results are proving perilous. Lawrence, though, believes it has positioned itself to buck the troubling trends, courtesy of strategic planning years in the making, much of it led by Burstein.

*“Thanks to extraordinary faculty, administrative, and volunteer leadership, Lawrence has been able to swim upstream in a very challenging environment for colleges and universities.”*

That, perhaps more than anything, will be Burstein's legacy.

“He has led the university through unprecedented challenges and remarkable opportunities,” said David Blowers, chair of the Board of Trustees. “During Mark's tenure, our curricular offerings became deeper and broader, applications and the endowment increased dramatically, and our

community became more diverse, inclusive, and equity-minded.”

That important work, Burstein said, is and always will be a team effort.

“Thanks to extraordinary faculty, administrative, and volunteer leadership, Lawrence has been able to swim upstream in a very challenging environment for colleges and universities,” he said.

In the pages that follow, we'll explore the pressures that are tied to student debt concerns, financial strains that are proving difficult for a growing number of institutions of higher education, the realities of changing demographics that will dramatically reduce the number of high school graduates entering college over the coming decade, and the questioning in some sectors of the importance of a liberal arts education. And we'll look at how and why Lawrence, despite the pandemic, has put itself in a position to confidently steer its way through those troublesome waters to serve not only current students but future Lawrentians as well.



TREND NO. 1  
RISING STUDENT DEBT CHANGES THE COLLEGE CONVERSATION

THE LAWRENCE REALITY:  
*A commitment seven years ago to the Full Speed to Full Need initiative has student debt going down for Lawrence students.*

Rising student debt has dominated discussions of higher education over the past decade, the last five years in particular. The burden on young college graduates, the number who are defaulting on loans, the economic repercussions due to an inability to save or to buy homes or make other substantial investments are points of debate in everything from politics to economic forecasting to family planning.

Student loan statistics, reported by *Forbes* in February 2020, before the pandemic hit and put student loan payments on pause, paint a daunting picture. Total student loan debt is at \$1.56 trillion. The average student loan debt is \$32,731. At private not-for-profit schools, that number is \$32,300, 15% higher than in 2008.

Meanwhile, middle class wages across the country have remained stagnant since the Great Recession hit more than a dozen years ago, and the federal Perkins Loan Program, which provided low-interest loans for students who demonstrated exceptional financial need, has since been eliminated, adding to the financial pressures on many college-bound students.

The debt narrative has a more promising tone at Lawrence, though, where the answer has been to attack it head on with the help of the Full Speed to Full Need (FSFN) campaign. Jump-started by a \$25 million gift from an anonymous donor and later increased to \$30 million as part of an ambitious and successful matching challenge, the campaign has raised more than \$91 million since 2014. Alumni have stepped up, recognizing the seriousness of the student debt crisis and the potential barrier it poses for enrollment, said Cal Husmann, vice president for alumni and development.

“It has resonated with this constituency unlike any other philanthropic priority,” he said.

Hundreds of Lawrence students have already been direct recipients of FSFN scholarships or have felt the impact of an increase in aid dollars available to students. The numbers will continue to grow.

In the process, the average debt for Lawrence graduates is going down—opposite the national trend—because the FSFN fund is

*“The average student debt for Lawrence graduates has dropped to \$29,118, its lowest mark in 10 years... The percentage of Lawrence’s students graduating with debt dropped to 56% in 2019–20, well below the 75% of a decade earlier.”*

allowing the university to provide additional scholarship aid, aimed at covering the gap between the full ticket price of enrollment and a student’s demonstrated ability to pay, meaning students are taking out fewer loans to cover that gap. In particular, there is less need to rely on burdensome private loans or to be overextended with multiple work-study expectations. It is leveling the playing field for families with limited resources.

The average student debt for Lawrence graduates has dropped to \$29,118, its lowest mark in 10 years. It hit a high mark of \$34,573 in 2015–16 and has dropped steadily each year since. The percentage of Lawrence’s students graduating with debt dropped to 56% in 2019–20, well below the 75% of a decade earlier.

About 70% of Lawrence’s students receive some level of need-based aid.

“We continue to offer competitive and generous merit-based scholarships and, at the same time, meet a high percentage of need for more students,” Director of Financial Aid **Ryan Gebler ’02** said.

Over the past seven years, the percentage of first-year Lawrence students who had a demonstrated financial gap—the difference between financial aid and an individual student’s financial

need—dropped more than 30%, from 70.9% to 38.69%. The scholarships have pushed the average gap down by \$2,500, a 42% decrease, from \$6,000 in 2014 to \$3,500 in 2019–20.

The benefits also can be seen in academic performance as fewer students are having to deal with the added financial angst. The average GPA of FSFN recipients increased by .27 from 2016–17 to 2019–20.

Of the FSFN scholarships that have been awarded to date, 61% of the recipients have been students of color and 42% have been first-generation college students.

“I was a first-generation college student myself,” Husmann said. “I benefited from scholarships and took out loans. That’s one of the reasons I think Full Speed to Full Need as a core value of the college resonates with me. It’s just really exciting for me to see how it’s making such a positive impact on our students.”

The investments in FSFN are bolstering and providing momentum for other efforts to improve equity of experience at Lawrence. For example, financial aid, bolstered by FSFN and *Be the Light!*, now travels with a student who opts to study abroad, a change that has led to an increase in the number of students going to the London Centre and other off-campus destinations. In 2019–20, before the pandemic temporarily shut down in-person programs, Lawrence had about 150 students studying abroad, up from 89 the year before. Demographics from 2019–20 show a growing number of those students are first-generation

college students, Pell Grant recipients, and domestic students of color.

Funding for experiential learning also has seen a dramatic uptick, courtesy of the *Be the Light!* Campaign. In summer 2020, 90 student internships and self-directed research projects were financially supported through the Experiential Learning Funds (ELF) program, more than double previous years, coordinator Emily Bowles said. The funds can help defray transportation costs, provide needed resources, or cover living expenses. It’s an effort to keep finances from preventing access to quality learning and career-building opportunities.

A new fund in the ELF program, the Equal Opportunity Fund for Career Exploration and Development, was launched last year to support BIPOC and first-generation students in new ways.

It’s all part of an investment in equity that has FSFN at its core.

**Caitlin Zuehlke ’15**, who worked in New York as a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch Private Wealth Management, said the growing student debt burden is hanging over every conversation about higher education these days, and to have Lawrence showing leadership in making real change is a point of pride for alumni.

“I’m excited that Lawrence is at the forefront of what I hope is a trend of universities helping to close that gap to make education more affordable to everybody,” Zuehlke said.



The faces of Full Speed to Full Need: Students featured in a video celebrating this key BTL! priority as part of Giving Day 2019. You can watch the full video at [go.lawrence.edu/fsfnvid](https://go.lawrence.edu/fsfnvid).



TREND NO. 2

FINANCIAL STRAIN LEADS TO GROWING  
NUMBER OF CLOSURES, MERGERS

THE LAWRENCE REALITY:

*A growing endowment and tightening efficiencies in the operating budget have the university in a position of strength.*

The numbers are daunting, and they speak to the reality of the financial crisis that has its grip on higher education.

From 2016 through the end of the 2018–19 academic year, 163 colleges or universities in the United States closed or merged, according to the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Of those, 55 were private not-for-profit schools—41 closed, 14 were consolidated through mergers. (Lawrence itself is the product of consolidation with the merger of Lawrence and Milwaukee-Downer Colleges in 1964.)

Even before the pandemic put a more intense squeeze on operating budgets, this trend was poised to accelerate. Private colleges with modest endowments and a heavy dependency on tuition income to pay the bills are running into turbulence as the student debt crisis alters the conversation for prospective students and the number of high school graduates begins a decline that’s expected to hit hard in five years.

As the economic chaos of the Great Recession exploded in 2008, family planning changed dramatically. Fewer people chose to have children, a trend that has continued. Do the math and you will see that those babies born in 2008 will be graduating from high school in 2026. Fewer graduates mean fewer college-bound students.

From 2026 to 2031, the number of high school graduates will decline 9%, putting new pressures on admissions offices and adding to the potential calamity for any college or university that hasn’t adequately girded itself for a changing marketplace.

*Forbes’* College Financial Grades ranking, using data from the federal government’s National Center for Education Statistics database, was released in late November 2019. It didn’t paint a pretty picture for many colleges, and this was before the pandemic hit. It measured the financial health of 993 private not-for-profit institutions, looking at “balance sheet strength and operational soundness.” Of the schools graded, 675 earned grades of C or D, up from 434 in 2013.

Lawrence earned a robust B+, putting it in company with DePauw University, Middlebury College, Oberlin College, and Smith College, among others. Only 74 schools across the country were ranked as more economically sound than Lawrence.

POWER OF THE ENDOWMENT

Lawrence’s overall endowment has grown by more than 75% since Burstein’s inauguration in 2013, jumping from about \$230 million to about \$414 million over the past eight years. Much of the growth comes from increased philanthropy, led by the *Be the Light!* Campaign, but it also has been boosted by good stewardship on the investment front and an increased commitment to fiscal responsibility.

The *Be the Light!* Campaign raised \$232.6 million, which Burstein announced in February at a virtual *We Are the Light!* event that officially brought the seven-year campaign to a close. Of that total, about \$100 million has already been added to the endowment.

Combined with trimming more than \$5 million from Lawrence’s operating budget through recent cost savings and adjustments focused on administrative efficiency, the campaign positions the school to grow stronger while facing the difficult financial environment ahead.

The higher ed marketplace is reflective of what **Jenna Stone ’00**, Lawrence’s associate vice president of finance, calls the industry’s economic reality and Lawrence’s well-positioned place within it. Lawrence isn’t in the financial company of a handful

of ultra-wealthy schools, mostly on the coasts, with overflowing endowments. And it happily isn’t in the company of those schools with limited endowments that are making headlines because of their various financial woes.

“Lawrence is in an increasingly tiny middle class,” Stone said, stable enough to be positioned for good health but not so flush with cash that it doesn’t have to work hard to keep things moving in a positive direction.

It’s a familiar story, not specific to higher education.

“It’s the same growing wealth inequality that we see among households in America, where the bottom 50% has largely stagnated for the last 15 years while the top 1% has gotten far wealthier,” Stone said. “We’re seeing that same kind of growing inequality of wealth among colleges and universities, where the wealthiest schools are getting increasingly wealthier. They’re getting more mega-gifts, their endowments are getting bigger and bigger and bigger.

“On the other end, you have generally small, not well-resourced liberal arts colleges, entirely dependent on tuition revenues that did not cover their fixed operating costs, hoping for years that things are going to get better. It becomes a vicious cycle, a downward spiral financially. These are a lot of the colleges that you see closing, merging or being acquired, or they are in the news because their debt or bond rating has been downgraded.”

Lawrence, Stone said, is in a much healthier place. The Full Speed to Full Need scholarship initiative has helped to solidify the school’s position as a financially stable institution with a progressive approach to meeting academically qualified students where they’re at and setting them up for success after college.

Mary Alma Noonan, Lawrence’s new vice president of finance and administration, said the key has been philanthropy.

“In addition to the scholarships, we have been really successful in getting endowment support for capital renewal of the campus, for academic enrichment through funded professorships, for programming that will help our students be successful, and for life after Lawrence,” she said. “We are eternally grateful to the thousands of donors who have supported these efforts year in and year out.”

In September 2019, Lawrence placed No. 26 on *Forbes’* 2019 edition of the Grateful Graduates Index, a measurement of alumni giving at private, not-for-profit colleges. Lawrence was the only Wisconsin school to place in the top 70. It speaks to the strong relationship between the school and its alumni, a key to building and maintaining an enduring endowment.

When the waters get rough, a healthy endowment remains a university’s stabilizing force. In good times, a strong endowment provides resources for continual investment and renewal. In leaner times, it provides the runway needed to make thoughtful, strategic course corrections in the long-term interests of the institution. It is the key to any private college’s future sustainability, and the importance of Lawrence’s endowment growth over the past seven years cannot be overstated.

MANAGING INVESTMENTS FOR THE LONG HAUL

Endowments, of course, are not static. They are invested with the expectation that they will grow.

Lawrence’s endowment has seen a five-year average return on investment of 6.6%, which is above the 5% national average for institutions with similarly sized endowments, according to an annual study recently released by the National Association of College and University Business Officers. Lawrence’s 10-year average return, meanwhile, checks in at 8.5%, above the 7.6% national average.

The Board of Trustees’ Investment Committee manages the Lawrence endowment.

COLLEGE FINANCES 101

People in higher education throw around a lot of terms. Here’s a quick primer on some of the major components to help you understand how it all works.

**Endowment:** Money or other financial assets donated to the university by generous benefactors that is meant to be invested so the principle will grow and provide additional income for current and future expenditures. Universities traditionally aim to draw annually roughly 5% of the endowment’s total to support operating costs.

**Investment income:** Earnings from the investments of the endowment that are used to support short- and long-term needs.

**Restricted funds:** Donated monies that are earmarked for a specific use, as determined by the donor. An endowed professorship is one example. Named scholarship support is another.

**Unrestricted funds:** Donated monies that are not earmarked for any specific purpose and can be used at the discretion of the university.

**Annual fund:** If the endowment is the savings account, the annual fund is the checking account. Known at Lawrence as the Lawrence Fund, it supports the university’s daily operations, aiding everything from research to athletics to facilities through yearly gifts.

**Net tuition revenue:** Amount of revenue an institution takes in from tuition and fees, minus all institutional aid including grants and discounts provided to students.

The university strives for intergenerational equity in the investments, a philosophy aimed at managing the investments with a long-term eye, reasonably limiting risk, while spending prudently so as not to sacrifice future generations for the benefit of this generation.

“Our goal is to steward the endowment in a way that it will serve Lawrentians 50 years from now as faithfully and as well as it serves the Lawrentians of today,” Stone said.



TREND NO. 3

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS ARE RESHAPING THE ADMISSIONS LANDSCAPE

THE LAWRENCE REALITY:

*The university’s admissions reach has long been transitioning from regional to national. The foresight to do so is paying dividends now.*

The admissions landscape has been altered dramatically, and the storm clouds keep coming: The rules of when and how schools can recruit students have changed; the Varsity Blues admissions scandal that involved numerous well-known schools, mostly on the east and west coasts, exposed a flawed process; and admissions offices across the country are staring down the approaching steep decline in the number of available college applicants. Add to that a global pandemic that halted travel, severely limited campus visits, and rewrote on the fly the entire process of student recruitment.

Lawrence, with an enrollment of about 1,425, draws students from across the United States—and around the globe—in far greater numbers than in decades past. New investments in national and international recruitment started years ago, giving Lawrence a strong base to build on. That’s no small thing as the Admissions team looks toward significant challenges on the horizon.

Ken Anselment, vice president for enrollment and communication, said geographic flexibility is among the reasons Lawrence is well-positioned to navigate this ever-changing environment. But that’s not saying it’s going to be easy.

Consider that in 1999, more than 60% of Lawrence’s students came from the regional market of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. If you include the rest of the Midwest, that number was closer to 75%. That’s a much different story than today, with classes coming in with a wider geographic footprint. About 50% of Lawrentians now hail from the Midwest, with Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota comprising about 40% of the students.

The number of students coming from southern and western states or international locations, meanwhile, has more than doubled.

That doesn’t mean Lawrence has less interest in students from the Midwest. Rather, it’s been a strategic shift to reflect changing demographics, Anselment said.

“What you’re seeing is a shift where high school seniors in the country live, and the benefits of Lawrence’s national and international reach and reputation,” he said.

While the number of high school seniors across the country has generally been growing this millennium, from 2.85 million in 2001 to 3.77 million in 2019, that growth has not been evenly distributed. The western and southern parts of the United States have been growing while the rates of growth in northeastern and midwestern states have been flat to gradually declining, Anselment said. That’s all a precursor to the dramatic drop in numbers that is coming in five years, when those babies of the great recession begin hitting adulthood.

Lawrence has been preparing for that, and its admissions work has been purposeful in positioning the school to adapt to the changing market.

“This is the result of an institutional strategy we developed decades ago to raise Lawrence’s global visibility and, along with that, our enrollment of a globally diverse student population, which provides immense educational benefits in preparing Lawrentians to thrive in an increasingly interdependent global economy,” Anselment said.

*“We have surrounded our students with faculty, staff, spaces, and services to help create the kind of welcoming, inclusive, and equity-minded environment where they can thrive.”*

The strategy, already paying dividends, allows Lawrence to approach the coming decline in college-age students from a position of strength. Not only does Lawrence have a great story to tell, it also has now firmly established itself in key markets.

The number of high school seniors in the U.S. is expected to peak at 3.93 million in 2025. From there, the decline will be sharp and prolonged.

“There will be far fewer of them, which means that an already competitive market for college students will become even more intense as we see a 10% drop in students from 2026 to 2037,” Anselment said.

That looks to be the new normal, with economics and lifestyle choices often cited for reasons that more young adults are opting not to have children. Birth rates fell to a 33-year low in 2019, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At the same time, the population of high school seniors is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse with each passing year. For Lawrence, that has increasingly become a point of admissions strength. From 2015 to 2020, the percentage of students of color at Lawrence has increased from 19% of the student body to 26%, said Kimberly Barrett, vice president for diversity and inclusion. The number of faculty of color also has grown over that five-year period, going from 13% of total faculty to 17%.

“Much work remains to be done,” Barrett said.

In addition to recruiting a student body and faculty that is more reflective of the nation’s demographics, Lawrence also is committed to better serving all members of its community. In the final years of his presidency, Burstein has committed the institution to ongoing antiracism work as both a strategic and moral priority.

Growing the campus’ diversity—racial and otherwise—has been an intentional part of Lawrence’s institutional commitment and bodes well for the challenges ahead, Anselment said.

“Much as the diversity of our academic and artistic offerings at Lawrence cultivate broad and deep intellectual competence, a diverse living and learning community at Lawrence reflects a global society,” he said. Anselment emphasizes that this drive to become a more diverse and inclusive university is not just for the educational benefit it offers. “This is a key component of our institutional values, one of which is to foster a diverse and welcoming learning community that embraces all members, including those marginalized by their identities.”

Anselment pointed to Lawrence’s strong partnerships with community-based organizations such as the Posse Foundation in New York, Achieve in San Francisco, Chicago Scholars, College Horizons, and the Davis New Mexico Scholars program, all of which work with students from historically underrepresented communities.

“We have surrounded our students with faculty, staff, spaces, and services to help create the kind of welcoming, inclusive, and equity-minded environment where they can thrive,” Anselment said.

The pandemic, of course, has altered everyone’s well-laid plans. For Lawrence, the commitment to geographic and cultural diversity continues even while the business of admissions is being rewired. The pandemic lockdown that came last March forced admissions offices across the country to find new, digital avenues for connecting to prospective students, from more elaborate online campus tours to video chats to digital college fairs.

None of it is perfect. But it’s not going away, even when the pandemic subsides. At least not all of it.

New skills have been learned. New expectations have been built. New financial pressures are in play. Admissions offices will need to make adjustments, find the sweet spot between new-found efficiencies and time-honored traditions. What will become of standardized testing as more schools go test-optional, something Lawrence blazed a trail with more than 15 years ago? Will travel to college fairs and other face-to-face recruiting return to previous levels? Will students demand it? Will they ask for something different?



An image used in one of Lawrence’s digital advertising campaigns. As part of efforts to reach more prospective students, Lawrence has expanded its digital advertising, emphasizing regions where interest in Lawrence is growing. While Lawrentians come from all over, top geographic markets for Lawrence include our home state of Wisconsin as well as other midwestern states like Illinois, but also Colorado, California, Texas, and countries like China and Vietnam. This digital outreach has been particularly important during the pandemic when visits to campus and in-person events were curtailed or cancelled.

It’s all part of the daily conversation for Anselment and his colleagues.

“How can we use this time of upheaval to advance our cause?” he said. “Consider this a dress rehearsal for the markets so many of us will face in 2026.”



TREND NO. 4

THE ROLLING BACK OF LIBERAL ARTS OFFERINGS, RISE OF ONLINE-ONLY EDUCATION

THE LAWRENCE REALITY:  
*The university is staying committed to its liberal arts principles while adding or strengthening key academic programs and embracing a holistic, personal approach to educating its students.*

The growth in jobs tied to coding, data science, and other STEM-related fields in recent years has put liberal arts programming as traditionally conceived in the crosshairs of those who believe a college education need be nothing more than job prep.

Cuts, or proposed cuts, to liberal arts offerings at, among others, the University of Akron, McDaniel College, and Ithaca College have drawn national attention. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, located 60 miles west of Appleton, was in the spotlight in 2018 when it floated a plan to eliminate 13 majors, mostly in the humanities, as part of campus-wide budget cuts. It eventually reversed course.

Online-only programming has pushed the same argument. Get a degree. Get a job. The end.

The pandemic, meanwhile, pushed colleges across the board, including Lawrence, to quickly move all or most of their classes to distance learning. That has reshaped conversations going forward about digital classrooms. It brought new skills and new comfort with distance learning technology, and as post-pandemic classes return to in-person interaction, some of that new-found digital know-how will surely be in play. But video classrooms also spotlighted a deep desire for face-to-face learning. A Stanford University study released in February reported that “Zoom fatigue” is a real thing that is taking a toll on our physical and mental well-being.

The past year of seclusion and isolation also has reminded us of the joys of an education that spans the disciplines. Even before the pandemic, there was a growing push-back in defense of a liberal arts education, one that not only leads students to successful careers but also preps them with the skills to navigate a well-lived life. Yes, the marketplace is asking for more computer science majors, but when those coders and data scientists come out of a liberal arts school, they come equipped with the ability to lead, to collaborate, to think critically, and to grow into well-rounded contributors in and out of their areas of study.

In a report released in January 2020, the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce affirmed what Lawrentians already know—a liberal arts education is a worthwhile investment. The report, a rebuke of the short-sighted approach that suggests colleges should be doing nothing more than prep work for that first job, stated that the return on investment (ROI) for liberal arts colleges continues to grow at greater rates than other colleges over the course of a lifetime.

The study “finds that the median ROI of liberal arts colleges is nearly \$200,000 higher than the median for all colleges. Further, the 40-year median ROI of liberal arts institutions (\$918,000) is on par with those of four-year engineering and technology-related schools (\$917,000) and four-year business and management schools (\$913,000).”

Lawrence has continued to embrace the benefits of its liberal arts offerings while expanding programs to address areas of opportunity—among them a new major in computer science, a new minor in data science, enhanced offerings in neuroscience, a new degree program in music, expanded opportunities in creative writing, and the latest, a new major in environmental science. More are in the pipeline.

In 2021, *The Princeton Review* once again included Lawrence as one of 200 schools on its recommended list of Best Value Schools, based on return on investment. It considered more than 40 data points covering academics, affordability, and career preparation in making its recommendations.

COMMITTED TO LIBERAL ARTS

“The liberal arts philosophy at Lawrence is as strong as ever,” said Provost and Dean of Faculty Catherine Gunther Kodat. “The widening mix of academic opportunities and a campus-wide effort to educate the whole student is the 21st-century liberal arts formula to best prepare students for a rapidly changing world. It’s what sets liberal arts institutions such as Lawrence apart, and why proponents of the liberal arts should continue to push back emphatically when critics question their value in today’s marketplace.”

“There’s an awareness of the full range of opportunities,” Kodat said of liberal arts schools. “To think about a career not just in terms of a job, but also the kind of person you want to be—the kind of artist or thinker or philanthropist, imagining yourself being in a place at some point in the future where you could do good in the world and envisioning how that would happen. Liberal arts colleges offer a course of study that is all about enabling that exploration. It’s a wonderful combination of open-ended exploration and directed study.”



Michele Haeberlin '20 reads a portion of her writing aloud during an Advanced Creative Writing class. Creative writing is one of several exciting new majors and minors added to Lawrence's academic offerings. Others include global studies, computer science, environmental science, statistics and data science, health and global society, and international relations. Photo: Danny Damiani

A 2019 report from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation rallied to the defense of the liberal arts philosophy, but with the caveat that colleges and universities must continue to adapt to a changing world. The report, authored by Catharine B. Hill and Elizabeth Davidson Pisacreta, both economists with Ithaka S+R, called the perception that liberal arts colleges are not graduating students in math and science fields a myth. High-level education in STEM fields is alive and well.

Lawrence has long fit the bill. It has sought-after programs in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physics, and mathematics, to name a few, and has now added depth and range in areas of cognitive neuroscience, computer science, and data science. A \$1 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to implement its Inclusive Excellence Initiative is helping to catalyze efforts to engage science students of all backgrounds and identities.

STRATEGIC ACADEMIC CHANGES

The recent additions or enhancements to those key academic programs have added strength to an already robust curriculum. Computer science, long a part of the mathematics offerings, can now be pursued as a major on its own. And data science, where demand in the marketplace has grown mightily over the past few years, was introduced as a minor in the 2020–21 academic year, strengthened by the recent additions of two talented faculty members—Andrew Sage and Abhishek Chakraborty, both assistant professors of statistics—with deep interest in studying large and often complex data sets. Meanwhile, the Dennis and Charlot Nelson Singleton Professorship in Cognitive Neuroscience has been added to serve as an important bridge between offerings in cognitive science, cognitive psychology, and neuroscience.

Also, the J. Thomas Hurvis Professorship of Organizational Psychology and Collaboration is a new position that has applications across all departments on campus as it teaches business and management science through a liberal arts lens.





**FROM L-R:** Hoa Huynh '19, De Andre King '20, and Maria Poimenidou '20 had to navigate job searching during a pandemic. They leaned heavily on the Career Center, other campus resources, and alumni networking as they navigated these uncertain days before landing jobs. Read more about their journeys at [go.lawrence.edu/jobsearch](https://go.lawrence.edu/jobsearch).

A new creative writing track was introduced to add options for English majors. And the new environmental science major will add new paths for students seeking a more science-focused curriculum tied to environmental studies and the climate crisis. New programs including an international relations major and health and society minor have also just been added to the curriculum.

In the Conservatory of Music, the path in was widened with the introduction of the Bachelor of Musical Arts (B.M.A.) degree, which offers a different auditioning landscape and puts a greater focus on improvisational performance and other music-related possibilities. Other changes in degrees for music majors are being explored, part of an attempt to encourage a greater breadth of musical exploration.

Those changes don't soften the liberal arts approach; they strengthen it, Kodat said. It's important to stay true to liberal arts principles while also remaining nimble enough to make strategic adjustments as the world changes. That's particularly critical in some of the science and math fields, where Lawrence has long excelled and where pragmatic training is part of the drill.

Mixing those skills with the wider liberal arts education puts Lawrence students in position to not only excel in their first jobs out of school but to confidently transition to the job after that and the job after that as career demands and interests change.

"We are at a place right now as a world—in terms of technology, in terms of where the economy is going—where we actually don't know what the big careers are going to be even five years from now," Kodat said. "What I think employers are looking for are graduates who are creative thinkers, problem-solvers, can work

in a group, understand what community is. That's the kind of experience that only a liberal arts education can give you."

### EDUCATING THE WHOLE STUDENT

On the Student Life side, meanwhile, the changes are already being implemented to strengthen the liberal arts experience, with more to come. The close, one-on-one relationships that have been a hallmark of a Lawrence education inside the classroom are extending outside the classroom.

Vice President for Student Life Christopher D. Card said Lawrence is adjusting its co-curricular experience to meet the needs of today's students, adopting a holistic approach to Student Life that is strengthening the liberal arts experience.

The pandemic brought massive, if temporary, changes to life on campus, with mask-wearing and physical distancing being built into the safety protocols that came with the reopening of campus in the fall. As we look ahead with hopefulness to something resembling normalcy, Card said the commitment to a holistic approach to the student journey remains. That includes the ongoing transformation of career preparation, wellness services, mental health support, spiritual life, and academic advising, as well as a new emphasis on mentoring across campus.

"I think folks come here because they expect a particular relationship to emerge, certainly with solid academics and rigor," Card said. "They want to be challenged. They want to know they are getting a first-rate education, but also a first-rate experience outside of the classroom in terms of their own personal growth and development."

Wellness on campus, for example, was already being reimagined before the pandemic arrived.

"Right now, we have three entities under the proverbial umbrella of wellness—physical health, with the director of health and the nurses in that space; the counseling center, which focuses primarily on the emotional and mental well-being; and then recreation," Card said. "That is an umbrella that is expanding more and more as we get into everything from nutrition to activities to exercise to diet to mindfulness, and so on."

That includes being responsive to mental and emotional health concerns of students. That has been a priority before and during the pandemic and will continue to be when the pandemic is in the rear-view mirror.

"Mental health is going to be on our agenda for the foreseeable future," Card said. "We want this to be a place where we minimize any stigma so we can eliminate any reasons for a student not to come in and say, 'I need help.' I think the critical thing families and prospective students need to understand is we're supportive, this is a place that supports and affirms."

That supportive and inclusive approach also has played out in tending to students' spiritual or religious interests. Linda Morgan-Clement, the inaugural Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life, and Terra Winston, associate dean of spiritual and religious life, now staff the Esch Hurvis Center for Spiritual and Religious Life. They have played key roles in guiding students who have had to go through quarantine or isolation in Kohler Hall during the pandemic.

Tending to spiritual needs has had an increased focus on campus since Morgan-Clement came on board in 2016, an endowed position that came out of the *Be the Light!* campaign. The increased programming at Esch Hurvis Center then led to the creation of the associate dean of spiritual life position in 2018.

Also, a \$1.5 million investment courtesy of *Be the Light!* has relocated and modernized the Center for Academic Success on the second floor of the Seeley G. Mudd Library. The new space offers more visible and efficient academic support for students, focused on everything from tutoring to accessibility services to academic counseling.

That's all part of the approach of tending to the whole student, Card said.

Card said it's increasingly important to meet the needs of students as they progress through Lawrence, from arriving as first-years to heading into life after Lawrence four years later. The mission of Student Life, he said, is to help guide that journey in positive, affirming ways.

"There's a certain pattern and rhythm that goes along with student life," he said. "I think what we're trying to do now is better align how we train in that space."

With that has come new investments in the Career Center, courtesy of \$5 million from the *Be the Light!* campaign. The past two years has seen the launch of Career Communities, an online resource guide divided into groupings of related fields or potential career interests, and Viking Connect, an online platform to better connect students with alumni employed in fields of interest. And Mike O'Connor was hired as the first Riaz Waraich Dean for Career, Life, and Community Engagement. That's all brought new engagement between students and alumni and has resulted in an uptick in experiential learning opportunities.

"We've started engaging students earlier about careers," Card said. "In this first full year of rolling out Career Communities, we've engaged more than 80% of the first-year class already. That's space we knew we needed to get better at. We're already seeing results."

Part of that is encouraging and nurturing mentorship on campus. Lawrence has been blessed with a long tradition of positive mentoring relationships between faculty and students. That comes in part because of Lawrence's 8-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio. The work in the Career Center, including via Viking Connect, is now clearing the path for similar relationships between students and alumni.

"A very good friend of the university, an alum, frequently asks me and asks students, 'Who is your person?', and by that he means, who do you count among your supporters here?" Card said. "Who is giving you good advice? Who is holding you to account? Who is one of the angels granting safe passage? I think that's what we're trying to do, to figure out; how do we install a whole bunch of angels who grant safe passage along the way?"

"My hope is that a student will be able to come to Lawrence and find they can find strong and willing mentors in the classroom, that they're in the halls, that they're in organizations they become members of, that they're on the athletic fields along with them. And when they look around, they realize that this is a place that offers more support than they probably imagined."

That, Card said, is part of that synergy between the academic opportunities of a liberal arts campus and the student experience.

"I think what makes students sort of feel a better sense of place and purpose is when we infuse the academic journey with a focus on affinity, a deepening sense of belonging, building connections to those around you, and really forming relationships that are truly supportive," Card said. "It's going to be challenging. I'm not one who thinks college should be easy. I don't think anyone ever promised that. I tell parents all the time, 'The critical thing is, when things get tough, will your child find that there is ample support to navigate that?'"



EYE ON THE FUTURE: PREPARED TO THRIVE

The coming months and years will not be easy. Lawrentians will be challenged time and again to stay committed to the things that have made Lawrence strong for the past 174 years.

But, thanks to Burstein’s leadership, the support of the alumni community, and talented and committed faculty and staff, the pieces are in place for Lawrence to thrive amid those challenges. The philanthropic support via the *Be the Light!* campaign, the strategic growth of key academic offerings, and the university’s increasingly national and global reach has Lawrence prepared for these difficult waters.

Through it all, Card said, the focus will remain on the students—those who are here today and those who will be coming in generations ahead.

“We are catering to folks who love learning, who we want to prepare for life,” he said. “This is not just about these four years and the year or two after. This is a place that will embed you with some serious skills to navigate life.

“If you talk to alums, that’s what they’ll tell you. If you talk with faculty, that’s the approach they are taking. And I think, truly, when you get into the heart of what the student is coming here for, it’s not just about simply getting a college degree; it’s about getting a life degree.”

Continuing to make that happen will take an ongoing commitment from all of the Lawrence community, Burstein said. Lawrentians have already shown a willingness to rise to the occasion.

“Our efforts to enhance the education we offer and to make it affordable to all families has resonated in the marketplace,” Burstein said. “It’s allowed Lawrence to thrive while other institutions have struggled.” ■

Catherine Wagoner '22 transplants leafy greens from their sponge starters to new soil growth media including coco coir, rockwool, and clay beads while working on a hydroponics research project funded by the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium and the Lawrence University Research Fellows program in the Briggs Hall greenhouse. Photo: Danny Damiani



# #lights

## CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LAWRENCE COMMUNITY



FROM TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: Ingrid Albrecht, Matthew Arau, Chloe Armstrong, Stephanie Burdick-Shepherd, Horacio Contreras, John Holiday, Danielle Joyner, Victoria Kononova, Nora Lewis, Brigid Vance.

Ten faculty members earned tenure this year. It's a testament to the strength and talent of our faculty, as well as Lawrence's investment in developing our academic programs: Ingrid Albrecht (Philosophy), Matthew Arau (Music Education), Chloe Armstrong (Philosophy), Stephanie Burdick-Shepherd (Education),

Horacio Contreras (Music—Cello), John Holiday (Music—Voice), Danielle Joyner (Art History), Victoria Kononova (Russian), Nora Lewis (Music—Oboe), Brigid Vance (History). All will be promoted to the title of associate professor.

**Travis Dillon '21** has received a prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) award that will assist the mathematics major as he heads to graduate school and pursues a doctorate. The NSF's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) award provides three years of financial support. It comes a year after Dillon was named a Goldwater Scholar, also a highly competitive honor. It also marks the second consecutive year that a Lawrence senior has received an NSF GRFP award, after **Willa Dworschak '20** earned the honor last year.

Photo: Danny Damiani



In recognition of their vital role in keeping the campus community safe amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Director of Health Services **Jillian Drier** and Director of Campus Services **Jon Meyer** were honored with the annual President's Award of Excellence.

Despite surges in the surrounding community, COVID-19 infection rates on campus remained below 1% for nearly the entire year, due in large part to testing administration by students and staff and a university-wide commitment to Honoring the Pledge

Lawrence's COVID-19 Dashboard, which provides data about COVID-19 on campus, was given an "A" by We Rate Covid Dashboards. *USA Today* also praised Lawrence for how the website set the tone for keeping the spread of COVID-19 in check.

Led by **Sarah Navy '22** and **Malcolm Davis '23**, the Black Student Union and the Diversity and Intercultural Center collaborated to organize a series of events throughout the month of February to shine a new light on Black history and culture.

Thanks to the ingenuity of this year's trivia masters, the Great Midwest Trivia Contest thrived in its first all-digital edition, drawing in an impressive total of 551 virtual players.

Kiese Laymon, author of the renowned *Heavy: an American Memoir*, shared his insights on the importance of revision and reflection with the campus community as the Winter Term Convocation speaker.



Three Lawrence University professors, Beth De Stasio, Raymond H. Herzog Professor of Science and professor of biology, and Gustavo Fares and Rosa Tapia, both professors of Spanish, were featured in *AP Daily*, the College Board's new video lecture series for high school AP students.



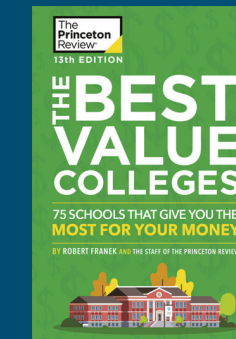
Ongoing sustainability efforts on campus landed Lawrence University a spot on *The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2021 Edition*.



**Adona Lauriano '21** took home third place in The Pitch, an annual competition for Wisconsin college students to gain funding for a business start-up idea—marking the fourth consecutive year Lawrence students have finished in the money.



Assistant Professor of English Austin Segrest was awarded the Vassar Miller Prize for his soon-to-be published poetry collection, *Door to Remain*.



Lawrence has once again been named a Best Value School by *The Princeton Review*. The book features just 200 schools and "recommend[s] the colleges we consider the nation's best for academics, affordability, and career prospects."



Seven years. Thousands of Lawrentians. \$232.6 million. The *Be the Light!* Campaign came to a stunning conclusion on December 31, 2020, far surpassing the ambitious \$220 million goal set when the campaign began. *Be the Light!* supported four key priorities: Full Speed to Full Need, the Student Journey, Campus Renewal, and the Lawrence Fund. More than that, *Be the Light!* supporters have invested in the future of Lawrence and the future of our students.

*Be the Light!*  
By the Numbers

**\$232.6** MILLION RAISED

**\$91 MILLION** FOR FULL  
SPEED TO FULL NEED  
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$31 MILLION** FOR THE  
LAWRENCE FUND

**\$26 MILLION** FOR  
CAMPUS RENEWAL

**5** NEW ENDOWED  
PROFESSORSHIPS &  
**2** NEW ENDOWED DEAN  
POSITIONS

**16,000+** DONORS

**5,500** FIRST-TIME DONORS

**70%** OF GIFTS RECEIVED  
TOTALLED \$100 OR LESS

*"THIS CAMPAIGN HAS TOUCHED EVERY ASPECT OF THE LAWRENCE EXPERIENCE. SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE, ENDOWED FACULTY CHAIRS, BRICKS AND MORTAR PROJECTS, ATHLETICS, BJÖRKLUNDEN. IT'S JUST REALLY TOUCHED EVERY ASPECT OF WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE CAN OFFER TO STUDENTS."*

PRESIDENT MARK BURSTEIN

How is *Be the Light!* transforming Lawrence?



OUR PHYSICAL CAMPUS

Our spaces shape the student experience, and *Be the Light!* allowed Lawrence to invest in renewing our beautiful campus.

- Renovations to Kohler Hall, Lawrence Memorial Chapel, Warch Campus Center, Ormsby Hall, Mudd Library, Esch Hurvis Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, Brokaw Hall, the Banta Bowl, Alexander Gymnasium, the Hockey Locker Room, and more.
- Updated state of the art learning spaces including the Science Learning Commons, which is an active learning space for introductory science courses, and the Center for Academic Success.
- Launch of Net-Zero Björklunden to eliminate the generation of greenhouse gases from the Door County campus



OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Generous supporters of *Be the Light!* funded five endowed professorships and two dean positions, allowing Lawrence to both enrich and expand its academic offerings, sustaining a curriculum that is true to our liberal arts tradition while meeting the needs of 21st-century students.

- J. Thomas Hurvis Professorship in Organizational Psychology and Collaboration
- Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life
- Dwight and Marjorie Peterson Professorship in Innovation
- Dennis and Charlot Nelson Singleton Professorship in Cognitive Neuroscience
- Wendy and KK Tse Professorship in East Asian Studies
- Riaz Waraich Dean of the Career Center
- Jean Lampert Woy and J. Richard Woy Professorship in History



*Be the Light!* supports all facets of the student experience, like the creation of the endowed Julie Esch Hurvis Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life currently held by Linda Morgan-Clement.

OUR STUDENT EXPERIENCES

*Be the Light!* has touched every aspect of life at Lawrence, and nowhere is this more evident than in the breadth of new funds and scholarships available to both enrich the student experience and make more opportunities available to more students. These new funds were established thanks to major gift support from alumni, parents, and friends of Lawrence. Here are just a few examples of new funds that support student scholarships, research, career exploration, wellness, study abroad, pandemic need, and so much more:

The Equal Opportunity Fund for Career Exploration and Development • Peter A. Fritzell Scholarship Fund • Irving I. Gottesman Family Fund for Excellence in Psychology • Inclusive Excellence Fund: Creating a More Just, Equitable and Diverse Lawrence • Lawrence Scholars in Business Program • Social and Environmental Justice Internship Funds • The Herbert and Morla Tjossem Endowed Discretionary Fund for Student Assistance • Wellness Initiatives • Bruce Maitland Brown Fund for Study Abroad



# Make Us a Match!

Lawrence University’s history is entwined with a matching challenge. Amos Lawrence pledged \$10,000 to endow a school on the condition that the Methodists match his gift. 167 years later, an anonymous family sparked *Be the Light!* with a transformative \$25 million matching grant for endowed scholarships called Full Speed to Full Need. That grant was matched by donors in less than 16 months and later grew to \$30 million. It also kindled the possibilities to come, kickstarting the most ambitious fundraising initiative in Lawrence history.

Matching challenges have fueled the campaign, encouraging others to support key initiatives, helping everyone’s dollars go further, and inspiring first-time donors. Here’s a look at a few of the matching challenges that shaped *Be the Light!* ►

### READY THE SHIP: A NEW ERA IN VIKINGS ATHLETICS

*Be the Light!* supporters have also invested in Lawrence Athletics, from key facility renovations of the Banta Bowl and hockey locker rooms to the establishment of endowed funds that are dedicated to our student-athletes’ pursuit of excellence—both now and into the future.

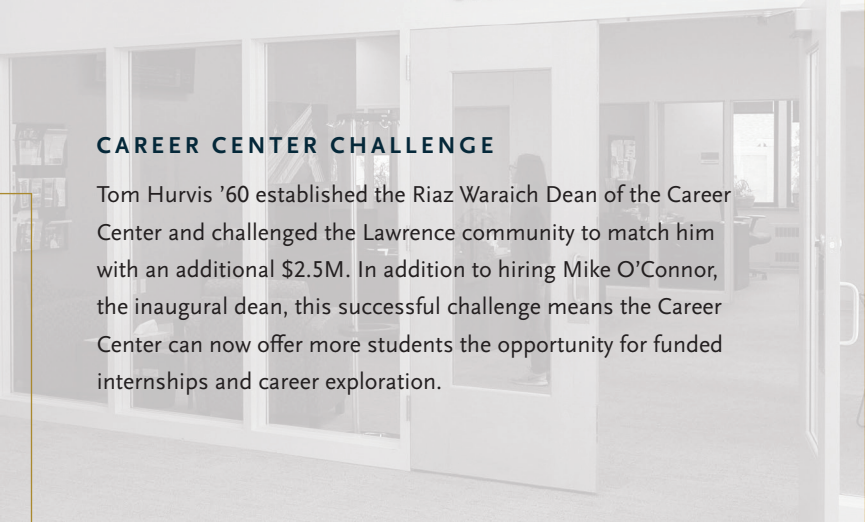
We continue to celebrate the new era with the creation of Lawrence’s first-ever sport-specific endowed funds: the Wexman Lorenz Endowment for Cross Country, the Chuck and Barb Merry Endowment for Cross Country and Track and Field, and the Vikings Football Endowment.

The Dr. Betty Thompson Messenger and Dr. John Cowan Messenger Endowment for Athletics will provide support for current and future Vikings student-athletes across all of our sports.

Catalyzed by a group of special challenge fund donors, the formation of the Forever Vikings General Athletics Endowment allowed alumni to pay their experience forward for the next generation through a special crowdfunding appeal: “Once a Viking, Always a Viking!”

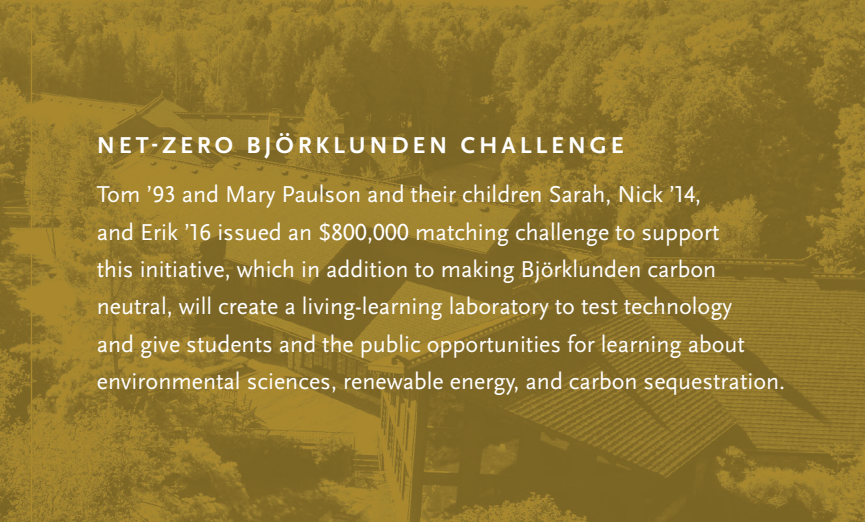
### AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE... AND THE PRESENT

The final year of the campaign coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. Campaign investments provided financial flexibility during what President Burstein calls “a 100-year crisis.” Contributions funded invaluable enhancements as Lawrence navigates the pandemic—improvements in building air quality across campus; support to propel wellness programming; the Julie Esch Hurvis dean and associate dean of Spiritual and Religious Life caring for students quarantining in Kohler Hall; and the Career Center working closely with students seeking employment amid economic upheaval. Donors have also supported immediate student aid through the Supporting Our Students Emergency Fund.



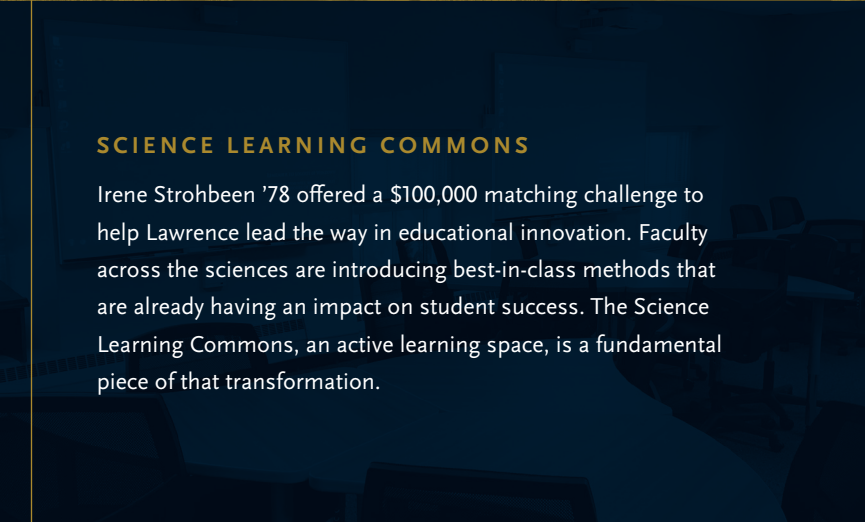
#### CAREER CENTER CHALLENGE

Tom Hurvis ’60 established the Riaz Waraich Dean of the Career Center and challenged the Lawrence community to match him with an additional \$2.5M. In addition to hiring Mike O’Connor, the inaugural dean, this successful challenge means the Career Center can now offer more students the opportunity for funded internships and career exploration.



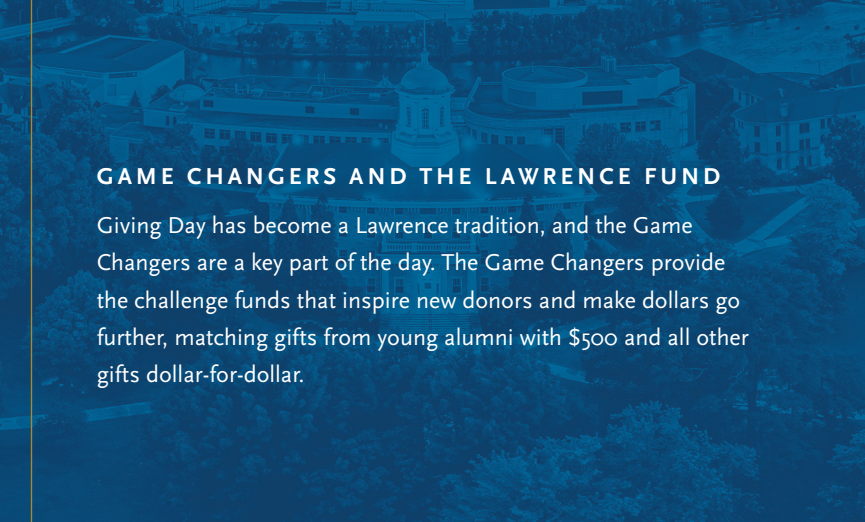
#### NET-ZERO BJÖRKLUNDEN CHALLENGE

Tom ’93 and Mary Paulson and their children Sarah, Nick ’14, and Erik ’16 issued an \$800,000 matching challenge to support this initiative, which in addition to making Björklunden carbon neutral, will create a living-learning laboratory to test technology and give students and the public opportunities for learning about environmental sciences, renewable energy, and carbon sequestration.



#### SCIENCE LEARNING COMMONS

Irene Strohbeen ’78 offered a \$100,000 matching challenge to help Lawrence lead the way in educational innovation. Faculty across the sciences are introducing best-in-class methods that are already having an impact on student success. The Science Learning Commons, an active learning space, is a fundamental piece of that transformation.



#### GAME CHANGERS AND THE LAWRENCE FUND

Giving Day has become a Lawrence tradition, and the Game Changers are a key part of the day. The Game Changers provide the challenge funds that inspire new donors and make dollars go further, matching gifts from young alumni with \$500 and all other gifts dollar-for-dollar.

# Thank you!

we are  
**THE  
LIGHT!**  
LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY



Thank you to every member of the Lawrence community who made the transformative power of *Be the Light!* possible. From volunteer leadership who guided the campaign from its inception to its close, to each and every donor whose generosity impacts student lives every day, to the faculty, staff, families, and friends who support our students and make the Lawrence community shine, we thank you!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CLOSE OF THE CAMPAIGN  
AND TO WATCH THE MOVING CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION  
VIDEO, VISIT [GO.LAWRENCE.EDU/BTLFINALE](https://go.lawrence.edu/btlfinale).

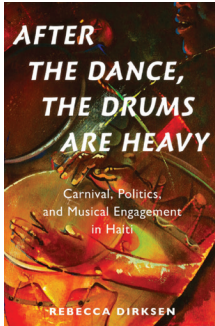
*Editor’s Note: As this magazine was going to press, Lawrence received the sad news of Tom Paulson’s passing. We are forever grateful for his leadership, generosity, and values-driven support of Lawrence.*



BE THE LIGHT!  
LEARNERS. LEADERS. LAWRENTIANS.

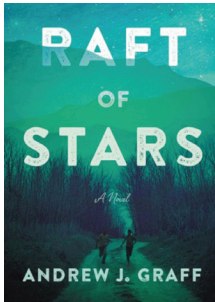


# FACULTY AND ALUMNI BOOKS



**AFTER THE DANCE,  
THE DRUMS ARE HEAVY**  
Rebecca Dirksen '03

Drawing on more than a decade and a half of ethnographic research, Rebecca Dirksen presents an in-depth consideration of politically and socially engaged music and what these expressions mean for the Haitian population in the face of challenging political and economic circumstances. *After the Dance, the Drums Are Heavy* centers the voices of Haitian musicians and regular citizens in this study of carnival, politics, and musical engagement.



**RAFT OF STARS**  
Andrew Graff '09

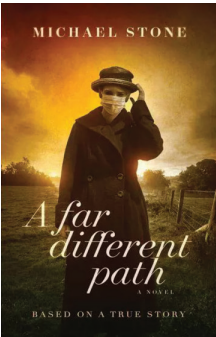
Released to great critical acclaim and anticipation, *Raft of Stars* tells the story of two 10-year-old boys in northern Wisconsin in the mid-1990s, who flee the scene of a shooting and embark on a wild adventure through forests and along rivers while being pursued by law enforcement and family, all with varying motivations and conflicted histories. *Read more on page 36.*

Religious Freedom and  
Mass Conversion in  
India  
Laura Dudley Jenkins



**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND MASS  
CONVERSION IN INDIA**  
Laura Dudley Jenkins '91

Laura Dudley Jenkins' *Religious Freedom and Mass Conversion in India* highlights critical questions about individual agency, spiritual sincerity, and human rights as it focuses in on three mass conversion movements in India. The book carefully examines opposing arguments and illuminates the ways in which underlying tactics immobilize potential converts, reinforce damaging assumptions about women, lower castes, and religious minorities, and continue to restrict religious freedom in India today.



**A FAR DIFFERENT PATH**  
Michael Stone '86

Based on the true story of Michael Stone's grandmother, *A Far Different Path* transports and inspires readers as it explores one woman's brave journey through a life that veers off course in unexpected ways. This detailed and shocking account of the 1918 influenza epidemic, which killed more than 50 million people worldwide, will linger long after Lucile's own story ends.

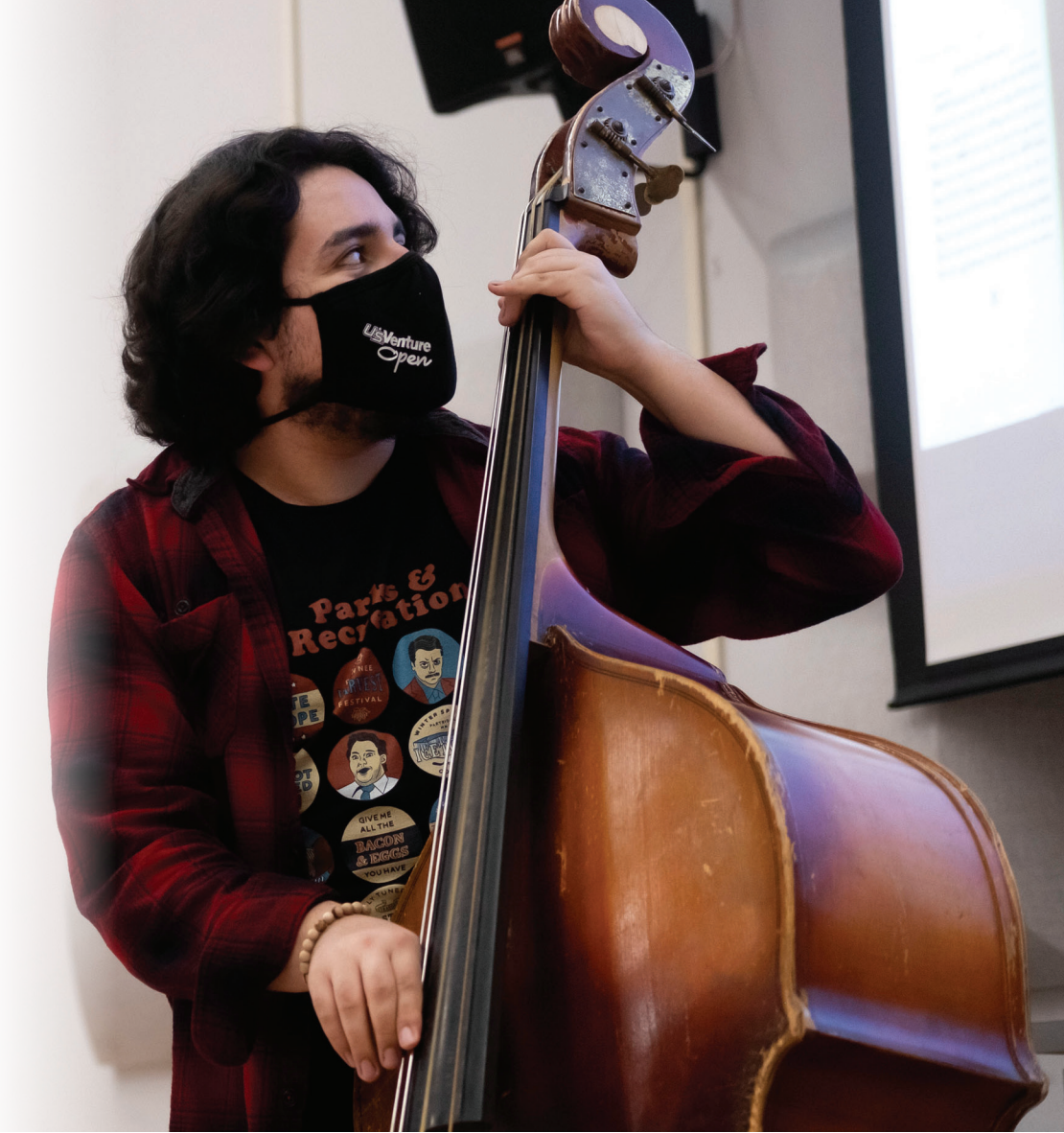
## NEW MARIACHI ENSEMBLE A DREAM REALIZED

**T**he mariachi sounds coming twice-weekly from a rehearsal space in Lawrence University's Music-Drama Center have been a long time in the making. A dream, **Jando Valdez '24** calls it.

The impetus for that dream goes back to 2016, when Valdez, then a freshman at nearby Appleton North High School, started a mariachi band with a few Latinx classmates, celebrating and sharing a genre of music with deep roots in Mexico. From there, Valdez' group, Mariachi Jabalí, connected with the music education team at Mile of Music, beginning a relationship with Lawrence Conservatory of Music. Then, this fall, Valdez enrolled at Lawrence in pursuit of a Bachelor of Musical Arts (BMA) degree. He quickly found himself in conversations with **Alex Medina '21**, **Willy Quijano '22**, and **Ricardo Jiménez '21** on the possibility of launching a mariachi ensemble in the Conservatory.

The idea aligned with discussions that had already begun in the Conservatory, where Associate Professor of Music Matthew Arau, fresh off delivering a keynote address at the International Mariachi Summit in San Diego in August 2019, was all in on adding mariachi to Lawrence's robust roster of student ensembles. He would help guide Valdez and the other students as they put together a plan and began recruiting other students.

Finally, early in Winter Term, the new Lawrence University Mariachi Ensemble (LUMÉ) launched. Numbering upwards of 30 students during any given rehearsal—roughly half music majors, the others from across the college—the



Jando Valdez '24 performs during a Lawrence University Mariachi Ensemble rehearsal. Photo: Danny Damiani

ensemble began playing together twice a week in the Music-Drama Center, with pandemic protocols in place.

"The first time LUMÉ was able to meet in person, it felt as if a piece of myself and my family's heritage had been reignited," Valdez said.

"The difference between LUMÉ and a traditional ensemble is that we want to dive deep into the roots of the music we play and focus heavily on history through research and knowledge from qualified mariachi educators," Valdez said.

That is music to the ears of **Brian Pertl '86**, dean of the conservatory. He called the Mariachi ensemble a great fit with the Conservatory as it allows students to

explore their musical passions in an intellectual, creative, and meaningful way.

"It is such a great example of what I call empowered learning," Pertl said. "Lawrence is so good at helping students make their musical dreams a reality."

The ensemble also aligns well with ongoing Conservatory efforts to teach and explore music from around the world

"The dream of LUMÉ was perfectly aligned with our commitment to broadening our ensemble offerings beyond our outstanding classical music and jazz offerings," Brian Pertl said. ■

For more, visit [go.lawrence.edu/mariachi](https://go.lawrence.edu/mariachi)

## VIKING VOICES

### *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

"We looked at parts of our operations that might have been unintentionally supporting institutional racism. We asked what we could do to dismantle structural barriers to make this already difficult process easier."

—KEN ANSELMANT,  
Vice President for Admissions  
and Communication

### *The Post-Crescent*

"From my perspective, a good leader really takes the DNA of a place and can transform it, but transform it in ways that honor its mission, its goals, its values and its tradition. In order to do that well, you have to spend time listening and talking with folks and really getting a sense of the culture and heart of a place."

—LAURIE CARTER, Incoming President

### *Spectrum News 1*

"I think it's awesome to make opportunities happen. It's kind of what we do at Lawrence for our students. And this is just another means that we can take something that seems so distant, which is chemistry or biochemistry, people think it's only in the periodic tables that this exists and you can only do it in a lab. But for students to see and touch the science they're learning in a textbook is happening in a glass of beer, has been really cool."

—ALLISON FLESHMAN,  
Associate Professor of Chemistry



JOHN HOLIDAY STUNS ON NBC’S THE VOICE

Lawrence University voice professor John Holiday had a wild ride on NBC’s *The Voice*, the popular TV singing competition. His blind audition, a performance of Ella Fitzgerald’s *Misty*, bowled over the judges and went viral. Holiday jumped into the competition after the pandemic shut down his performance schedule in spring 2020.

“It’s been an incredible dream I could never have imagined,” Holiday said of his time on the show.

Flashing a fun sartorial style to match a vocal talent that has made him a rising star in opera circles, the 35-year-old Holiday drew plenty of applause along the way, earning attention in the *Los Angeles Times* and *USA TODAY*, hearing effusive praise from the show’s celebrity coaches—John Legend, Gwen Stefani, Kelly Clarkson, and Blake Shelton—and growing a fan base he calls his Holibaes.

He continued to teach remotely while quietly taking part in the auditions and the early rounds of the show from Los Angeles. Once the show began broadcasting, Holiday’s voice students at Lawrence, who affectionately call him Prof, cheered him every step of the way.

“Even though I have spent so much time with him and have heard him sing so much, sometimes I go back to the first time I met him,

and I become that girl in tears who knew one day she could be great, too,” Sarah Navy ’22 said. “He is such a genuine person who works so hard and is being a representative for so many people.”

That genuineness shined through all levels of the show, whether Holiday was talking to his coach Legend or host Carson Daly about his teaching at Lawrence, being Black and gay, singing opera, his incredibly high falsetto, growing up in his beloved Texas, his relationship with the grandmother he calls Big Momma, and the pain being felt by artists around the world in the midst of the pandemic.

“He is always so authentic to who he is, which is so inspiring to see,” said Jack Murphy ’21, a senior choral student from Neenah, Wis. “And just witnessing the outpouring of love for him. Not only for his talent, but what he stands for as well. It’s encouraging and wonderful. I am so immensely proud of him, and so is our entire studio.”

“Prof always tells us, ‘I want to show you that it is possible,’” Hannah Jones ’22 said. “Well, he was doing that well before *The Voice*, but this is another level. Words cannot describe my excitement for Prof’s success.”

Holiday, who was granted tenure this winter, is taking meetings with music executives and producers and is already working on an album. ■



John Holiday at Lawrence University.  
Photo: Danny Damiani



Ricardo Jimenez '21



Ben Potzen '21

TWO EARN PRESTIGIOUS WATSON FELLOWSHIP

Two Lawrence University seniors have been named national recipients of prestigious **Thomas J. Watson Fellowships**, setting them up for a year of global travel and immersive learning.

**Ricardo Jimenez '21**, a biology and music performance (trumpet) double major from Barrington, Ill., and **Ben Portzen '21**, a music composition major from Rosemount, Minn., were announced as part of the 53rd class of Watson Fellows, making them the 67th and 68th Lawrentians to be awarded a Watson since 1969.

This marks the first time Lawrence has had two Watson recipients in the same year since 2005.

Jimenez will travel to China, India, Mongolia, and Brazil, exploring the ways voice can help people rediscover their roots: “How do we communicate beyond language?” he said in his proposal. “How

do the ways we express ourselves inform who we are and where we belong? I will explore these questions through the voice, singing around the world to engage with the life and culture of the voice, as well as my own roots.”

*“The Watson is all about chasing one’s dreams,” said Brian Pertl, dean of the Lawrence Conservatory and lead advisor for the school’s Watson applications. “This year, perhaps more than any other, it feels good to know that two Lawrentians will travel around the globe to do just that.”*

Portzen will travel to Japan, Nepal, France, Germany, and Iceland to explore how art can help inform our journey: “What role can art play in imagining and building a more equitable, sustainable, and compassionate future?” he said in his proposal. “I will explore how—across a variety of traditions, locales, and media—art makes space for the unknown to be embraced, and transformed from feared into fascinating.”

The announcement of the 2021 Watson class comes even as the COVID-19 pandemic persists. If international travel conditions are deemed safe, all of the fellows are expected to depart Aug. 1. If conditions do not allow that, the fellows will be granted a deferral period. ■

To learn more about this year’s Watson Fellows, visit [go.lawrence.edu/watson2021](http://go.lawrence.edu/watson2021)





## NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE MAJOR

**P**rogram growth continues at Lawrence with the launch of a new **environmental science major**, giving science-minded students with an interest in environmental research a more concentrated path.

The major, running parallel with Lawrence’s long-established environmental studies major, taps into deep expertise in Lawrence’s science faculty on topics ranging from urban ecology and tectonics to soil biology and atmospheric chemistry. Approved in a recent faculty vote following two years of study, the new major will be available beginning in Fall Term, said Environmental Studies chair Jason Brozek, the Stephen Edward Scarff Professor of International Affairs and associate professor of government.

The new major speaks to the growing interest and career paths tied to the climate crisis and the desire by students to do hands-on research in environmental protection. For some students, it will provide a clearer path to graduate school.

“Environmental Studies has always evolved to fit the needs of students, and we see this as a step that builds on our strengths and makes our long-standing program even more robust,” Brozek said. “One of the goals is to help students feel prepared for graduate programs and careers in the environmental sciences—

Sophia Driessen '22 conducts DNA isolation of soil while working on a hydroponics research project. Photo: Danny Damiani

without sacrificing the interdisciplinary perspective that our Environmental Studies program has been built on for more than two decades.”

The environmental studies major will continue to explore environmental issues through a multitude of lenses—scientific, political, economic, and cultural. The environmental science major, meanwhile, will focus more on hands-on scientific research.

“Our students want to be engaged in real-world problem-solving, and the environmental science major provides the background to tackle these problems,” Professor of Geosciences Jeff Clark said.

“Whether students picture a career in environmental justice or hydrology or policy analysis—or all three—we hope they see Lawrence as a good fit for them,” Brozek said. “Environmental Science is another springboard for the next generation of environmental leaders.” ■

**Editor’s note:** As this issue was being finalized, faculty approved two new programs: *The minor in health & society, where students will explore how social, cultural, biological, and environmental factors contribute to the complexities of individual and population health; and the major in international relations where students will analyze questions of conflict, cooperation, and change among international actors.*

## SPECIAL FUNDS SUPPORT STUDENTS’ CAREER PASSIONS

**A** record number of Lawrence University students received funding over the past year through the school’s **Experiential Learning Funds (ELF)** program, designed to support students pursuing summer internships, self-directed research, and volunteer work. Ninety projects received a total of more than \$160,000.

Among the 90 projects funded in the past year: a virtual internship at a psychology clinic working on social skills with middle school students; immersion in a public health research study; a data science internship; research into creating biographies for a catalog of Latin-American cello works; exploration of the barriers the arts present to artists of color; research into food insecurity issues across multiple continents; work in the offices of local elected officials; and many more.

The funds cover expenses for students doing internships, job shadowing, research, or volunteer work. The money might help defray a student’s transportation costs, purchase needed resources, or cover living expenses.

A new fund in the ELF program, the Equal Opportunity Fund for Career Exploration and Development, was launched to support Black, Latino, and/or first-generation students in new ways. And new attention was paid to using ELF funds to get students experience in social justice initiatives or with nonprofits that offer only unpaid internships.

“We were able to support more projects specifically designed by BIPOC and/or first-generation students thanks to the Equal Opportunity Fund,” said ELF Coordinator Emily Bowles. “In the midst of COVID, this fund source let us meet students where they were and alleviate some financial pressures so they could pursue projects based on their passions and personal or professional goals, even with so many factors conspiring to make pursuing internships or unpaid opportunities untenable for many people.” ■

*“In the midst of COVID, this fund source let us meet students where they were and alleviate some financial pressures so they could pursue projects based on their passions and personal or professional goals.”*

Justin Williamson '22 used Lawrence’s Experiential Learning Funds to complete a computer science simulation project he had been working on for years. Photo: Danny Damiani



## GALAXIES COLLIDE

By Isabella Mariani '21

When he was in high school in his hometown of Phoenix, Ariz., **Justin Williamson '22** spent lunch periods asking his physics teacher all kinds of questions about how the world works. Now, his curiosities about physics and space have culminated in his first big 3-D graphics project.

With the help of Lawrence’s Experiential Learning Funds (ELF), the computer science and French double major finished a long-running attempt to simulate two galaxies colliding.

The simulation Williamson completed over winter break is just one iteration of a project he has been tinkering with for about five years. His earlier version of the simulation depicted between 100 and 200 stars. That’s grown to about 50,000 stars in a collision that takes place over 750 million years. More stars mean more computing power and, well, more skill. The difference lies in programming on the CPU (central processing unit) versus the GPU (graphics processing unit).

That’s where the stipend comes in. Williamson had been working with the Career Center to hunt down internships when they sent an email detailing the ELF. This was Williamson’s first time programming on the GPU, so some extra research, which comes with added expenses, was necessary to achieve his goal. “[The fund] allowed me to get books very easily,” Williamson said. “Also, a little bit of hardware for my computer to make it run better. I don’t think I would’ve finished it over the break if I hadn’t had the stipend.”



# ANDREW J. GRAFF'S DEBUT NOVEL ARRIVES AMIDST BUZZ

By Ed Berthiaume

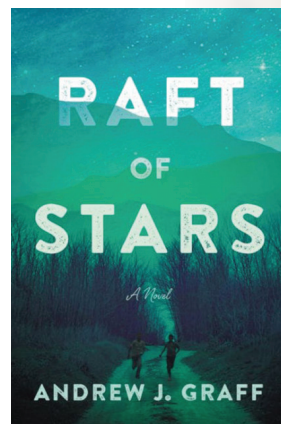


Photo: courtesy of Ecco-Harper Collins

**A**ndrew J. Graff '09 speaks of gratitude as he watches the buzz grow for his debut novel, *Raft of Stars*, released this April by Ecco-HarperCollins.

Gratitude for his experience as an English major at Lawrence University, gratitude for the instruction and guidance that led to his acceptance into the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop, and gratitude for lessons in and out of the classroom that helped him keep his dream alive when the waters got rough.

"I'm thankful for it and just really enjoying everything that is happening," Graff said.

What is happening is that *Raft of Stars* has arrived as a much talked-about novel, standing tall among the spate of spring releases.

Set in northern Wisconsin in the mid-1990s, *Raft of Stars* tells the story of two 10-year-old boys who flee the scene of a shooting and embark on a wild adventure through forests and along rivers while being pursued by law enforcement and family, all with varying motivations and conflicted histories.

The excitement surrounding the book's release comes six years after Graff found himself at a daunting crossroads.

Before embarking on *Raft of Stars*, Graff had spent seven years writing a novel that was set in post-9/11 Afghanistan, where he had been deployed as an aircraft mechanic with the U.S. Air Force. He began it while a student at Lawrence and continued with it as he earned his master's degree at Iowa.

He was back living in northern Wisconsin when his agent sent it to publishers. Graff eagerly awaited the offers.

"I thought, boy, here I come, world," he said. "And no one wanted it. No one. It was pretty unanimous."

It was the rejection that his professors warned him would come. He remembers Lawrence English professor David McGlynn, himself an accomplished author, telling him that if you're talented, passionate, and diligent, you can find literary success, but it will most likely take 10 years or more. Embrace patience and hard work, McGlynn told him.

And yet there was no bracing for the rejection of seven years' worth of work, Graff said.

He stopped writing for a year and a half.

But then it was the voice of McGlynn in his head that brought him back and ignited the spark that would become *Raft of Stars*.

It was late 2014 or early 2015, in the dead of winter, and Graff and his wife, **Heidi Quist Graff '10**, were living in an old house on the banks of the Peshtigo River. Graff had started a teaching job at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

As he rummaged through boxes in the basement, he came upon an old college assignment from McGlynn.

"I wasn't writing," Graff recalled. "I had failed at being a novelist, you know. I was lighting fires in the wood stove in my basement, and I was using old notes from college to light the fire. I had saved every single note and every handout from my time in college. I was hoping I would do something great with them but I ended up lighting fires in wintertime. I was about to put this one essay into the fire; it was called *The Nature and Aim of Fiction* by Flannery O'Connor. I remembered how much David loved that essay. So, I didn't burn it and I set it aside instead.

"In the essay, Flannery O'Connor says it takes three sensory strokes to bring something fully to life on the page, like smell, taste, and touch. That night is when I wrote the first lines of what later would become *Raft of Stars*. I just wrote about two boys pushing their bikes down a gravel road, and there was a blackbird hanging onto a cattail stalk, and there were some bees in the ditch clover. I didn't know who those boys were, and I didn't know where they were headed, but they are Bread and Fish, the two boys from *Raft of Stars*."

Thus began a five-year journey that would land Graff a book contract with Ecco-HarperCollins in mid-2019.

## A JOURNEY OF HIS OWN

*Raft of Stars* is set in a space Graff knows well. He grew up in Niagara, a rural city of 1,600 located near the Menominee River in Marinette County. He hunted, fished, and explored amid the beauty of the Northwoods, landscape that would become central to his story of the two runaway boys as they navigate terrain that is both dangerous and soothing.

Graff enlisted in the Air Force shortly after graduating from high school. When the attacks of 9/11 happened, life took an abrupt turn. He was deployed to Afghanistan.

"I just remember how surreal it was, to be sort of dropped off at this desert combat airfield," Graff said. "We worked at nighttime,

catching C-130s, these inbound cargo jets, to see if they needed any maintenance."

After four years of service, he moved to Appleton and enrolled at Fox Valley Technical College to train to be a paramedic.

He was being practical, he said. But he couldn't shake the feeling that he wasn't where he was supposed to be. He yearned to be a writer. He'd drive past Lawrence and wonder what might be.

"After a year at Fox Valley Tech, which was a great start and I'm thankful for that place, it just became really clear that I have to do this," Graff said.

He applied to Lawrence as a 22-year-old non-traditional student, got in, and immediately impressed. When he turned in an essay about a moment during his time in the Air Force, McGlynn said he could see Graff's confidence growing.

"He began to believe he could become a writer and set his sights on graduate school," McGlynn said.

Graff joins **Madhuri Vijay '09** (*The Far Field*) and **Callie Bates '09** (*The Waking Land* series) as former Lawrence classmates who have landed debut novels with major

publishers, a point of pride for an English department that recently added a creative writing major. The three have built on the writing success of Lawrence alumni who came before and provide a relatable window to what's possible for current and future Lawrence students who want to pursue creative writing, McGlynn said.

"He called me the day *Raft of Stars* sold, in July of 2019, and it was a big moment for us both," McGlynn said of Graff. "His work is a testimony to the fact that inspired, artful writing happens over time and is not the product of a flash of genius or a single good idea. A Lawrence student might not publish a novel while a student, but our record shows that something foundational is happening here. They begin the long journey toward the larger goal."

Graff, now on the English faculty at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, said he's thinking frequently of his Lawrence experience as he savors the excitement surrounding the book's release.

"Without Lawrence, I wouldn't be writing, hands down," Graff said. "It was an interest of mine. I loved books; I always loved reading; I loved daydreaming. But it was at Lawrence where I thought, yes, I really want to try this. I got so much guidance from professors like David McGlynn and (former Lawrence professor) Faith Barrett and others that I couldn't have done it without those years. It was absolutely informative." ■



# LIGHTING THE WAY WITH... ANDREA LEWIS HARTUNG '05

By Ed Berthiaume



Photo courtesy of Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law

Even when **Andrea Lewis Hartung '05** wins a case, she finds it difficult to celebrate.

A lawyer specializing in post-conviction law, Lewis Hartung fights to overturn wrongful convictions, a small but growing field of law that garners attention whenever a wrongfully convicted client is exonerated, often after years of incarceration. But the slog through the legal system is long and difficult, and the reality of a win means an innocent person has had a large chunk of their life taken from them.

“I’d say the victories are bittersweet,” Lewis Hartung said. “The work is slow. These cases often take years to move back through the criminal justice system. There are a lot of road blocks along the way. So, it definitely feels good when there’s a win, when a client gets exonerated or otherwise released from prison, but at the same time there’s always the recognition that there’s a person who was in prison for a crime they did not commit. They’ve essentially lost their life.

“Things have to be relearned, and relived, under this stigma of a prior conviction. There’s a lot of work that has to be done to rebuild a life after a wrongful conviction. So, even if we win, when an individual gets out of prison, that sense of relief is there, but there’s also an enormous struggle to rebuild a life that was lost.”

It is work that Lewis Hartung has a passion for, built on the liberal arts foundation she embraced while at Lawrence University, where she majored in psychology and Spanish. She would go on to study law at Northwestern University’s Pritzker School of Law, working as a student in the school’s Center on Wrongful Convictions.

After graduating, she worked for a Chicago firm in the labor and employment law group and did some pro bono work in criminal law and other areas. But the wrongful convictions work continued to tug at her heart. She returned to Northwestern and the Center

on Wrongful Convictions in 2013 as a clinical fellow, a position focused on female prisoners who were believed to have been wrongfully convicted. She then transitioned into a faculty position two years later. She now teaches post-conviction law and works cases for the clinic.

A recent exoneration happened in the Arkansas case of Tina Jimerson, a woman who spent more than 26 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted in 1992 of being an accessory to a 1988 murder and robbery. Jimerson and three other defendants had been sentenced to life in prison. After years of legal fighting, including a confession from one of the convicted that he acted alone and a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling affirming that prosecutors and police intentionally concealed a jailhouse informant interview, Jimerson and another defendant were exonerated.

Jimerson was released from prison in 2018. But it took until September of 2020 for charges to be formally dismissed.

“When we got word that Tina was exonerated, it was definitely worth all the work,” Lewis Hartung said.

The process is difficult. The end point can feel a long way off. But there are moments on the journey that provide reassurance, Lewis Hartung said.

“There are little steps along the way that make the work worthwhile for me,” she said. “Small things like a client thanking me for listening to their story, or telling me that no one has asked them what happened before, or no one has asked them to walk through their story before. They are thankful for that ... I think it’s worth joining them for that fight.”

The Center on Wrongful Convictions, launched in 1999, is one of dozens of organizations across the country dedicated to overturning wrongful convictions. Since 1989, nearly 2,700 convicted individuals have been exonerated in the U.S., according to the National Registry of Exonerations.

## FUELED BY THE LAWRENCE EXPERIENCE

When she was a student at Lawrence, Lewis Hartung knew she wanted to be a lawyer. She just hadn’t quite centered on where that might lead her. But she knew the liberal arts foundation would take her where she needed to go.

“One of the best parts of the Lawrence experience was that the educational process was a little bit entrepreneurial,” she said. “You pick a major along the way but Lawrence really encourages students to take courses that interest them and to develop as

students. Having the opportunity to sort of push my own boundaries, take classes that may or may not have gone toward my major, and being at a liberal arts college in general, I think was helpful to becoming a lawyer later on. In much the same way, I work on my cases and I take on clients and I have to be pretty creative in determining what to do with cases and how a client may or may not be helped, and I do think having that liberal arts background and having sort of a broader education has helped along the way.”

It was just a matter of time until she found her calling. She initially held off on jumping into law school, instead taking another job in the legal field.

“I wanted to observe what lawyers did for a living, then make a decision from there,” she said.

That eventually led her to Northwestern, back to her Chicago roots. She continues to live near Chicago with her husband, Chris, and their young son, Rob.

## RECONNECTING WITH LAWRENCE

In that first decade after graduating from Lawrence, Lewis Hartung said she mostly lost contact with her alma mater. But when she got an email about efforts to organize a Black alumni reunion, she was intrigued. That eventually brought her back to campus, where she connected with President Mark Burstein and other campus leaders and engaged in conversations about getting and staying involved. She became active with the Black Alumni Network and was named to the Lawrence University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Now she hopes to keep that momentum going, perhaps working through the Viking Connect program or Career Communities or other outlets in the Career Center.

“I know I, and other alumni, would really like to be a bit more involved with student mentorship,” she said. ■

Get to know more alumni, faculty, and students with our profiles! Visit [go.lawrence.edu/gettoknow](https://go.lawrence.edu/gettoknow)



# READY SHIP

## A NEW LOOK FOR VIKING ATHLETICS

Lawrence University has unveiled a new athletics logo for the Vikings. A ship motif replaces the previous Viking head logo. It draws upon the Lawrence brand and history, featuring an antelope from the Amos Lawrence family coat of arms, a shield from the Lawrence University crest, and a stylized LU adorning the sail.

“While the logo is modern and fresh, it incorporates significant pieces of our Lawrence history,” said Director of Athletics Kim Tatro. It’s also “more inclusive and gender-neutral,” an important consideration in the rebrand, she said.

Coaches and student-athletes are excited about the new look. “For me, using the Viking ship logo emphasizes the importance of teamwork and the family atmosphere we have within athletics,” said softball player Ceara Larsen ’21. “I am so excited for us to start using it.”

The new logo comes as varsity athletics start to resume after a hiatus of nearly a year due to the pandemic. It will gradually be rolled out as teams need to refresh uniforms and equipment.

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# CLASS NOTES

## CLASS NEWS IN LAWRENCE MAGAZINE!

Lawrence magazine features individual classes once each year, alternating even and odd years plus M-D, to allow adequate space for the rich details of your lives. Submit your Class Note using our new directory! Learn more at [go.lawrence.edu/profile](http://go.lawrence.edu/profile).



## MILWAUKEE-DOWNER

**Roylee Ross Pflughoeft M-D'45** • I am still trying to enjoy life during this pandemic year. Hope 2021 will be better!

**Jeanne Albrecht Young M-D'46 P'70** • Jeanne has been having some health setbacks this year but is much better now and would love to hear from classmates. Send notes to her home address.

**Ruth Mehring Bernat M-D'49** • I've been living with my daughter, Ann, for 5.5 years. Wishing I was still on my own in Arizona! I can't get a drivers license here as my right eye is dead. I'm only out when I have a doctor's appointment or groceries, as I'm a grad of '49 and born Sept. 1, 1925, which means I'm 95. I am in reasonable health except for a memory problem, which doctors are still deciding about a medication to help. I sure miss being on my own.

**Beverly Olsen Schumacher M-D'51** • My life seems just the same, day to day, as I wait for the call to come in for the vaccine. I have been nowhere since March 13, 2020, and only three family members have been inside my house. But I am well, strong and mentally alert, not depressed and am thankful for that. I would like the addresses of classmates (class of M-D'51) because I enjoy writing letters.

**Gloria Groleski Tolaro M-D'51** • I made it through the worst of the pandemic in Arizona, but 2020 was more difficult in other ways. Jay Tolaro, my 94-year-old husband, friend and lover of 66 years bravely suffered and beat prostate cancer but then succumbed to Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in August. With great support from children, family and friends, I am well and feel so fortunate to have had this great experience and memories.

**Nancy Chadbourne Maze M-D'52 P'88** • In 1960 I was invited to go to the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Ill., to attend classes and field trips in "Reading The Landscape" by M.T. Watts. I have been absorbed with Illinois prairies ever since: gathering seed, planting seed, attending lectures and field trips and spreading and encouraging Illinois prairie information.

**Nancy C. McLoud M-D'53** • At 90, I'm still detesting the time (life) consuming pressures of income tax data compiling for the accountant. Once I've turned in that slavery's product and then checked and revised the drafts of the tax returns, I can get back to working on the anthology of my favorite poems. I indulge myself in studying Scottish Gaelic, Russian, Italian, Spanish, German and French. Friends treat one royally, and I scramble to keep up, profoundly grateful for the glorious blessings I've enjoyed. I'd love to hear from classmates. 3213 Ellendale, Springfield, IL 62704 or 217-787-5209

**Elizabeth Schumacher Windsor M-D'53** • At 89 I live with my son. I enjoy my kids and grandkids, reading and an occasional Hallmark movie. All my best to my classmates. Here's to a better 2021!

**Lurinda Mack Davis M-D'54** • Since I live in a senior community in a part of Houston where there was the highest rate of COVID-19 in March, we were put in "lockdown" on March 13. There have been active cases and death in all areas: staff, skilled nursing, assisted living and independent living where I live. Fortunately, I am well and happy to report we all received a Pfizer vaccination on Dec. 20. We are living proof that wearing masks, washing hands frequently and maintaining social distancing makes a difference. Best wishes to all Milwaukee Downer Alums. My New Year wish is if 2021 is healthy, it will be happy!

**Betty Heistad Barrett M-D'55** • Life is quieter than usual as we mask and social distance. I am in Naples, Fla., January through April, home in Huntington, W.Va., the rest of the year. Life is slowly and slightly less restricted since I have had COVID-19 vaccine. I look forward to the every-other-Sunday Zooms with my family

scattered all over. Zoom and email and phones are lifelines for staying connected with family and friends.

**Joan Bondi Kedzie M-D'55** • Hello to all. Hope you have remained safe/healthy!! All is well here. I'm just taking one day at a time and do look forward to positive change soon. Best news to share: My four newest great-grands are now celebrating their first birthdays. We are looking forward to arrival of two more in June. That will bring the total to 16. In September, I became Nana to a new granddaughter-in-law and a new grandson in law. Have not had pleasure of meeting any of this whole group, unfortunately, but hope springs eternal, and we will be quite a crowd when we come together.

**Betty Sharpe Steinhilber M-D'56** • Back to phase 1 of lockdown here at St. George Village since mid-December so no outside visitors. Outside for quick visits with family, masked and socially distanced. Grandsons home from UGA and University of South Carolina so no Christmas or New Years with family. Granddaughter, a new nurse at a Tacoma, Wash., hospital, has had her shots, thank goodness, and we get ours next Friday. Health and happiness to y'all in 2021.

**Virginia Jones Mason M-D'57** • My news is not very interesting but since there are not many of us left, I would like to send greetings to the M-D Class of '57. We are staying well in Texas and thankful for Zoom!

**Suzanne Breitwisch Walker M-D'57** • I still live in New Mexico. Recently we moved to the East Mountains, so we are settling in a new home in the mountains. It is a beautiful location. The views are tremendous. Miss you all.

**Rosemary Pint Paschke M-D'58** • I've been married to Bill (architect and artist) for 62 years. I have had four sons, all married, with eight grandchildren, (three college grads, five in college). I worked over 35 years at MCW in biochemistry and retired two years ago.

**Nancy Johnson Schildgen M-D'58** • I moved into senior independent living in March of 2020. I'm in Almont, Mich., in a place converted from an old school house, having 24 units and one 'family'! I'm near all of my children which is nice as I am no longer driving, so I need their help with groceries and transport to doctors. Quite a change after 23 years in a condo I loved. New address is 401 Church St., Apt. 114, Almont, MI 48003. I have made room to still do some quilting which is my leisure passion along with reading.

**Rose Marie Kosmatka Reich M-D'59** • Finished and delivered the re-restored partial nativity set to the church in time for Christmas, enjoyed doing it again. Everyone stay well!

**Lynne Ludeman Goodman M-D'59** • Celebrated 60th wedding anniversary on Dec. 23 while sheltering in place here in Fresno, Calif., with the young man I invited to the 1959 Milwaukee-Downer Spring Prom. We're looking forward to the post-pandemic era.

**Prudence Schmidt Meyer M-D'60** • Quite typically I'm a caregiver for my husband. I oversee our apartment management business. A cruiseship-style senior living housing will soon develop for fitness, food and social life.

**Keren Dainow Rotberg M-D'60** • Enjoying retirement despite the pandemic with quilting, reading, puzzles, Zoom and a new dog to our home in Greensboro, N.C. Kids and grandkids all doing well. Happy 2021.

**Kathleen Ehler Wollin M-D'60** • For 41 years I have been working for a very wealthy family handling their personal and financial affairs. It now only requires one day a week. Because of the pandemic, the rest of my time is spent reading two to three books a week, mostly fiction; however, I did enjoy *Educated* by Tara Westover and *Five Presidents* by Clint Hill.

**Holly Habegger Day M-D'61** • Fond greetings to my fellow Downer classmates of '61. I'm happily living in a retirement community in Seattle and it's like the "circle of life" because it's reminiscent of being back in my college dormitory! The same camaraderie, mental stimulation and sharing of meals, with the main differences being that we're in apartments rather than just rooms, and there are male "students" as well as female!! My days at Downer prepared me well for socializing and leadership opportunities, as I'm sure it did for all of you.

**Nancy With Larson M-D'62** • I am still residing in Madison, Wis., however, my three children enjoy living in North Carolina, Colorado, and Hawaii! All great places to visit. Still love to knit and quilt and volunteer at Attic Angel Place serving the elderly. I hope classmates also reply.

**Carolyn King Stephens M-D'62 P'91 '87 & John A. Stephens P'91 '87**



Greetings Downer friends! It finally happened! This spring "Downer Light Keeper Appreciation" awards were presented to six Lawrence leaders who have kept the light of Downer shining at Lawrence University.

A year ago, thanks and honors were postponed due to COVID-19. This June, chalices with our silver-hooded scholar were presented to President Mark Burstein, Vice President Cal Husmann and Assistant Vice President **Mark Breseman '78**. In addition, Hawthorn Bough Service Medallions were presented to Fifty-Year Connection founder, **Douglas Powell '56**; Seeley Mudd Archivist, **Erin Dix '08**; and LU Communications Art Director, Elizabeth Boutelle.

Special thanks go to the patron for this project, **Joan Poppert Jacob, M-D'53**, who served as the fourth national president of the Lawrence University Alumni Association, from 1975–1977.

The chalices confer status upon Messers, Burstein, Husmann and Breseman, as Honorary Downerites.

**Ira Voigt Leidel M-D'64** • Jan. 2, 2020, found us returning from a Nile River Cruise in Egypt to find us staying home with most of the rest of the world. My husband and I have spent much time walking and bicycling, in many Zoom meetings and working with our church food and coat drives for stressed families.

**Barbara Mathews Miller M-D'64** • Greetings from Washington state. I am well and as active as I can be with all the shut-downs. I get to "the Y" regularly when it is open and still am active with the community theatre. Don't seem to have trouble

learning lines, even though I never know where my keys are. Stay safe!

**Carol Briden Polk M-D'64** • Glad to write that I am still alive and kicking. Enjoying retirement, hobbies, volunteering and, of course, my family (kids, grandkids and great-grandkids). Hate all these COVID-19 restrictions and scares. Will be glad when it all passes. My regards to you all and wish you a good life. As always, Carol Polk

P.S. Do we know if **Mary Lennon M-D'63** Green Class) is still with us and do we have an active address for her? She was my big sister and I would love to touch base with her!

## LU CLASS OF 1951

**Althea Hunting Kortenhof P'80 '78** • My life at LG Senior Living continues happily healthwise. Our Resale Shop where I ordinarily assist on a regular basis can't operate during the COVID-19 crisis, but many safe activities are offered by the creative staff. Summers in Wisconsin at the Waupaca Chain O'Lakes and winter here in St. Louis provide a nice change of scenery. Family folk gathered at the lake to view the virtual 2020 Lawrence Commencement which included grandson **Joe W. Kortenhof '20**. He is the fifth of my six grandchildren who are LU graduates. Traveling has been my great pleasure over the years. I have been to all 50 states but now prefer ship cruising (22 so far), foreign and domestic. Thanks LU for online programs.

**Betty Plautz Leeson** • So far all is well here in Rockford, Ill., but really miss having so many nice concerts and musical events to attend. If any of my class or Con classmates are out there, it would be nice to hear from you.

**Nancy Leigh Miller** • Hello from San Jose. My husband and I live in The Villages, a 55-plus community. I spent 24 years singing in the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Now, at age 91, some of my activities have been curtailed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but I am still playing golf twice a week and am in good health. Would love to hear from any classmates or those from surrounding years who are still around.

## 1953

**Loyd W. Bonneville** • Wife **Marilyn nee Carlson '54** died of Alzheimer's depression three years ago; 62 years of marriage.

Now in a California health and retirement facility. Patent lawyer. Interests: Music (led chapel congregation in hymn singing before pandemic). Creative writing now a pastime.

**Barbara Brunswick Ingrams** • I'm in lockdown in Bristol, U.K., with all the ancient vulnerables and sensible folk. I've had both my "jabs" so feel more confident each day on my walks in this historic city of many parks. The southwest of England has been my home for 35 years so am well settled in. I so appreciate the *Lawrence* magazine and emails and keep in touch with friends and family in US with assorted devices, read a lot—US media included—and play bridge online. A godsend.

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**Richard W. Malsack** • Margaret and I continue to live in the retirement community, Fairfield Glade, in Crossville, Tenn. It is pleasingly beautiful in this area and we have the advantage of Knoxville and Nashville being within a short drive to each. 2020 was an unusual year for all, but we are hoping for a more pleasant '21. I have been in contact by phone with a few '53 classmates and would solicit calls from many others who are still around—Email me at [kaslam2001@yahoo.com](mailto:kaslam2001@yahoo.com) or call **931-707-7292**—I would be pleased to hear from you!

**Marjorie Thuss Sarles** • I am still: Loving my condo in Grafton, Wis. Secretary of our condo board. Reading at least two books per week. Driving, knitting, gardening, grandmothering. Stay well, everyone!

1955

**Beverly Hart Branson** • Life in Door County has been creatively going on. The landscape is beautiful as the seasons change. I have enjoyed painting my watercolors, but I miss the gallery shows and interaction with other artists, both local and visitors to the county. I wish you all well. Onward—

**Russel C. Evans** • Russ Evans persists outside Waukesha, Wis., having been barred from Canada by COVID-19. Two of three middle-aged children live closer to Lake Michigan but mostly exist on Zoom—as does one in sunny California. At least the federal government seems to be correcting itself. Better days must be ahead, right?

**Delphine Joerns Overby P'90** • I have lived and loved my life post-Lawrence as a wife, mom, grandma, great-grandma, pet caretaker and professional volunteer. In the early years of our marriage there were several moves to various states: job transfers for Jim. Since 1962, Connecticut has been home. Jim had a 43-year career in the paper industry. We enjoyed various travels. Special time for us was family time at our cottage on a lake in WI. For 25 summers the highlight was a week at the Outer Banks in a big house on the shore of the Atlantic with our whole family (four kids, their spouses and eight grandkids). We lost Jim two years ago but are very fortunate for all those good years. I thank God daily for our many blessings: Lawrence among them!

**Kenneth W. Schamens** • Retired USAF Colonel/ pilot—with “Agent Orange” disabilities. Retired Lutheran Clergy. My bride of 65 years (Jane, St. Olaf '54) and I live in Ocala, Fla., at Stone Creek—a Pulte development. We have three senior adult children and four adult grandchildren! No great-grandchildren yet!! I'm still trying to play golf—my foot wedge has improved!!

**Peggy Stewart Wilson P'85** • The historic, highly destructive Chicago-area derecho of Aug. 10 left my Oak Park home uninhabitable! I'm in temporary housing in Evanston, Ill. I spend lots of time on Facebook during this COVID-19 pandemic! **Spence Roberts '55** is a FB friend. Best to all my LU '55 classmates, and stay healthy, stay safe!

**Nancy Ryan Wright** • I love being a Lawrence alum. I live on Long Island, N.Y., and there aren't any of my classmates around. We live close to NYC but as of last March, haven't been able to take advantage of

our favorite museums, concerts, points of interest. I am very active with the Port Washington Friends of the Library, doing Zoom meetings with the Freeport Community Band (I play the saxophone), and I am involved with our local neighborhood association. I still have local Pi Beta Phi friends, and I hope to get back to silver smithing soon.

1957

**Theodore A. Beranis** • For our Class of '57 “Octos” to think about: At OUR graduation in 1957 the surviving alums who were 85 THEN were members of the Class of '94!! 63 years “of separation” for them! Now us. So if you are puzzled, perplexed or pleased about the myriad changes today—pause and SMILE. Our cherished memories of Lawrence COLLEGE, as we knew it, remain vivid. Thanks to those who have sent a brief note/memory for inclusion in our spring class notes.

**Martin L. Deppe P'86 & Margaret Atwater Deppe P'86** • Sequestered for the last 11 months my wife, Peg, and I have managed with Aldi grocery deliveries and much help from wonderful neighbors. While confronting several health issues, we remain mobile and busy with downsizing, pill ordering, Scrabble and Netflix movies. My downsizing has included sending cartons of books to our Seeley G. Mudd Library, specifically my African American history and literature books. Some months earlier I donated my peace library. I am delighted that many of these books will be shelved in the newly designated Roger Dale Kruse Room, a reading room with a special collection of social justice books. If anyone is interested in my civil rights collection you may Google me for the Rev. Martin Deppe Papers at Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago. I wish the best of health to my fellow classmates and urge you all to get vaccinated ASAP. Be safe, stay well and stay sane.

**Anne Blanchard Gascoigne** • All is well in Adrian, Mich. I was really enjoying the participation in some pool tournaments in the area but COVID-19 put a stop to that recreation. I am filling my time by volunteering with a local service club (Civitan) and as a board member of the local senior center which is, of course, closed right now. So hoping we will soon be back to life as it was—if we ever are. I was spending a few winter months in Arizona but once again the virus has stunted my time there. Hoping for April. Come visit me.

**Sue Ann Hackett** • Taking advantage of the local library and always enjoys the quarterly issues of the *Lawrence Magazine*.

**John C. Harmon P'04 '03 & Linda Montross Harmon '75 P'04 '03** • John Harmon continues to play piano and compose every day, and also added ‘author’ to his list of accomplishments. He wrote a book about his experience with Matrix, the nine-piece jazz ensemble that came out of Lawrence in 1974. It is currently with the publisher and hopefully will be released somewhere between late spring and early fall. The title is *From the Heart—The Inspiring Journey of Matrix*. Chronicling the band's journey, it is full of “stories on the road” and is a quick read that will make you both laugh and cry.

**David L. Hoffman P'94 '92 & Deborah Hoffman P'94 '92** • I have run a marathon on every continent in the world including Antarctica.

**Ronald C. Johnson** • Retired from the faculty of Emory University in Atlanta. I am busy with Zoom classes, Tai chi, yoga classes and church services on YouTube.

**Norma Christopherson Kretzschmar** • Nothing new for me except waiting for the COVID-19 vaccine. My husband, Richard, had quadruple bypass surgery on his 85th birthday Dec. 22 and was home in time for our 60th anniversary Dec. 28. He's still doing cardio rehab and recovering better than some people half his age. I knew he was a “keeper.”

**Roger W. Lalk** • Retired teacher in Oshkosh, Wis.

**Chuck Merry** • All is fairly quiet here in the Merry household. Normally I would be going to “the Y,” volunteering at the library, attending LU basketball games, etc. Instead I am picking up books from the Appleton library via curbside pickup which works out very well. I continue to run three days per week, but, due to the pandemic, most road races in 2020 were cancelled, and I ran only one 5K that year.

**Graham G. Olson & Phyllis Greiner Olson** • Hello to our Lawrence classmates. Phyllis and I are just fine and feeling truly blessed to have our farm here in Walworth County, where we are staying out of the mainstream and somewhat isolated. Our family is close by, so life is quite normal until we turn on the national news in the evening. We are both scheduled to be vaccinated the week of Feb. 7, so hopefully life will return to something more normal, and maybe even a Lawrence reunion in the spring! Take care all, and stay safe.

**James L. Parker** • Retired research scientist from Kimberly Clark but volunteers as a crew chief on Habitat for Humanity builds.

**Richard D. Rine & Carol Bowman Rine** • We have recently moved into a condominium on the Fox River.

1959

**Thomas F. Christie & Joyce Freiberg Christie '58** • Joyce and I are still enjoying life in our comfortable apartment as part of the Luther Manor Retirement Complex in Wauwatosa, Wis., despite the inconveniences of COVID-19. We practice our instruments regularly in anticipation of returning to perform in public: Joyce on piano and cello and Tom on trumpet and flute. Our singing voices aren't what they used to be, but we have fun with our home karaoke to keep some degree of vocal flexibility. Our daily 1.5-mile walk outside around the campus keeps our legs and breathing toned up, and we engage in a one-hour flexibility and stretching routine three times each week. All that, plus reading and enjoying TV movies completes our days.

**Betty Kuether Gast** • We decided in March to stay at home and follow COVID-19 protection and we are still following those rules. When I say “we” that also means my husband, Gerry. Living on the shores of a very nice lake makes the views wonderful!! Now the snow brightens up our views and keeps us busy shoveling the driveway and entrance to our house. Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren keep in touch with phone calls and Zoom meetings,

including livestreamed church services and emails. The Lord is taking care of us!! Hi to all.

**Richard A. Malcomson** • Retired from 36 years in commercial banking and 20 years as a naval officer (four years active duty and 16 years active naval reserve). Currently living in The Colonnade, a life care community in Surprise, Ariz.

**Waltressa Allen Molsberry** • On Feb. 1, I moved from an apartment into a small retirement community here in Boulder, Colo., looking for more socialization with other elders. Ironically, a month later, we were restricted to our own apartments. No joining others, no activities, no guests, no traveling, etc. So much for socialization. Thank goodness for Zoom; there is still access to discussion groups, exercise on Zoom, a survey course in American history, family gatherings, etc. I'm able to drive, which is immensely freeing. I love to read and am discovering that a slower pace offers time to just be and think. A saving grace is the company of my two cats. They are so intelligent; they find value in everything I say.

**James F. Reiskytl & Lysbeth Vaillancourt Reiskytl** • Fortunately, we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in Hawaii with our family. Thirty-three of us: four kids, their spouses, children and great-grandchildren, the year before the virus hit. Jim is still involved with the AAA (American Academy of Actuaries) risk-based Capital Committees for life insurance companies. Survived COVID-19 on Christmas and looking forward to traveling and meeting with our Phi Delta Theta group **DerHovespians, Webers Liebensteins, Gobels Sally Ruf Polzin** again soon.

**Karl J. Schmidt & JoAnn Staab Schmidt '60** • With JoAnn, we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary in our home of 52 years in Palo Alto, Calif. Such stability in these chaotic times! JoAnn has recovered well from a stroke suffered two years ago. Children (two) and grandchildren (two) are doing well. Musically, no ensemble playing because of the pandemic restrictions, but I did compose a funky “COVID-19 Blues” tune, recorded with my daughter, Kristine, and a hauntingly beautiful “Interlude” for violin, cello and piano that had a world premier performance in San Francisco in November. Both pieces can be viewed on YouTube.

**Miriam A. Spiegel-Volkmann** • In Berlin, where I've been living for so many years, we are now enduring conditions of lockdown because of the pandemic at the time of this writing. The latest of the regulations is no household is allowed to have more than one other visitor at a time. It is hard for me since the shock of the unexpected and sudden passing of husband in July. Must wear masks when grocery shopping or entering drugstore or pharmacy. All other stores are closed including hairdressers so have to use hairspray and submit to awful smell. I am well and keep in touch with Judy Pedersen, husband and “Berliner”daughter.

**Shirley Spangler Steiner P'82 & Richard J. Steiner P'82** We sold our home we had lived in for over 50 years and bought another home in Richland Center, Wis. It was hard to give up our lovely flower gardens but too many steps to climb, etc. Our new/old house is a lovely brick one built in 1955—great year, don't

you think! We won't be tempted to put in extensive gardens because we have a hill behind and green space in front that is teeming with deer. We enjoy all the wildlife. I have an art studio but the grand piano and harpsichord went to our daughters since I am no longer teaching lessons. I miss traveling, but we are doing well staying home. Enjoy seeing and hearing about LU on Facebook.

1961

**Richard E. Cusic** • We have a new grandson born Oct. 16 to our daughter and her husband; name is Dylan Michael. They live in Swampscott, Mass. Karin and I have moved to a condo in Bonita Springs, Fla. We finally tired of the Naples lifestyle. Karin and I both had open heart surgery last year and are mostly recovered. We hope you are well and enjoying this later stage of our lives without catching the virus.

**John E. Dunning** • We are still living in Yorktown, Va., enjoying good health and the use of technology such as Zoom to maintain our connection with colleagues, friends and family. We will miss not having a class reunion every five years and the opportunity to renew friendships and “make the avenue” with classmates. Come visit the “Historical Triangle” of Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown. I enjoy giving tours.

**David R. Grant** • My wife, Suzanne, and I have lived in Keowee Key, near Clemson and Greenville, in South Carolina for 11 years after living in Greece, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey again and now South Carolina as I managed various companies in the sports industry, most notably Penn Tennis. Our two sons and four grandkids live in New Jersey and Florida, and we have seen little of them in 18 months. I am competing in National 80-plus F/S tennis with both sons and won a silver and bronze ball with the boys in 2019 but had them all canceled in 2020. Like everyone else, we travel little but play tennis three times per week and keep fit. I am a volunteer tennis coach and a certified college official and will do so as long as I am vertical. All the best.

**Ann DeLong Haase & Ashley T. Haase** • In 1984 Ashley joined the University of Minnesota as chairman of the Department of Microbiology where he now continues as chair of the department to continue HIV/AIDS research and new work on COVID-19. Arguably, the sheltering-in-place that COVID-19 has dictated for all has created 5–6-day weeks of less-interrupted opportunity for Ash to continue this research focus. His sheltering wife looks forward to our dinners at night, where we endlessly enjoy Ash-selected (dare I say “needed”) wines and a good, daily catchup. The thought occurs that LU may have unwittingly been educating its graduates for just the sort of pandemic isolation we are all experiencing. Hmmm ...?

**G. Eric Hansen** • I am doing well and coming out of another pandemic lockdown in San Francisco. I am scheduled for my initial COVID-19 shot on Feb. 14 (St. Valentine!) and hope we are on our way to recovery. I did not spend my summer on Cape Cod, Mass., as I have for many years, nor have I made regular trips to Palm Springs, Calif., which has prevented me from many nice engagements with old friends. But, luckily, no one in my family or friendship circle has been infected and for that I am

very grateful. We all really need to get out of isolation and on with our lives. I am not complaining as I think of the real suffering this disease has brought to so many, so be well everyone!

**Jane Voss Holroyd P'85 & Robert A. Holroyd P'85** No ground-breaking news here—just very grateful to be pretty healthy—able to practice yoga, Tai chi and enjoy the fresh air as I walk trails or play an occasional game of golf. Connecting with family and friends across the country has been central to my sense of well-being these past months. There has also been plenty of time to think back on our years at Lawrence. Those years were so very special and, in my opinion, mark the real beginning of our journey of life-long learning. Thank you, Lawrence! Be well, dear friends!

**Patricia Cane Kraske** • First of all, I am still alive. 😊 As some of you know, I have been a widow for almost 18 years. I have three children and three grandchildren. A number of years ago, I received my master's degree in social work from the University of Connecticut. Several years ago, I serendipitously met **Cathy Fieleke Butterfield '61**. She and her husband live in Amherst, Mass., where her husband retired as a professor from the University of Massachusetts. I had not seen her for 55 years, but she recognized me!

**Dr. William R. Levis** • I am director and attending physician of the New York Hansen's Disease Program at Bellevue hospital in NYC.

**Celoris Hackbart Miller & John D. Miller '64** • We (myself and husband, John D. Miller '64) are doing well for old folks! Last March I was again collaborating with vocal soloists in the Winnipeg Music Festival. And I was singing with the Manitoba Opera chorus that I've been part of since '81, rehearsing for the spring production of *Carmen* when everything stopped. J.D. is long retired from the Winnipeg Symphony. He has been playing trombone in several different groups the last few years and, of course, they also had to quit meeting. We have recorded several hymns for our church's virtual worship services but we miss singing with our family group, The Miller Brew. Our entire family adds up to 25 wonderful, busy people, and we are blessed.

**Janet Davenport Niemeyer** • Donald, my dear husband and life partner for six decades died Dec. 20, 2017. Even with this life-changing loss, I am still surrounded by my two children, five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and an amazing community of friends and neighbors. I have retired from active ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA) but am still very occupied, mostly virtually, with efforts to work for change in our historic systems of white supremacy, racism and injustice. Last fall, I greatly enjoyed participating in the virtual gathering of Lawrentians around the writings of Natasha Trethewey. It was good to be a part of that conversation. Blessings and peace.

**MaryLou Lloyd Opgenorth** • All is well here in Kimberly, Wis. I have survived quite nicely during the COVID-19 lockdown. I have become a frequent user of Zoom and walk at least 5,000 to 10,000 steps a day. Sewing is my inside activity, so I manage to keep my sanity. The Opgenorths have just added a new little girl, Olivia Grace, to our family. She was



born on Dec. 31, and that means I am a Great Nain (grandmother). It wasn't on my bucket list! I never could have imagined I would live this long! With a lot of luck, a friend and I will take a Danube River cruise in September—postponed from 2020. We are not holding our breath and tempering our enthusiasm. Be well, all 1961 classmates.

**James O. Schulze** • In late September I was diagnosed with mesothelioma, which is incurable and currently am on chemotherapy, hoping for overtime. This caused us to make some major decisions, including downsizing from the house we just had built five years ago. My wife also wanted to be close to good friends from Appleton, so we moved to Summerfield, Fla., and have been in our new house one week. We sold our previous house in two days with a full offer. Tomorrow I have my first chemo treatment with The Florida Cancer Institute, my fifth overall. A previous CAT scan showed a reduction in the tumors in both lungs, hoping the trend continues at the 2-minute warning.

**Stanley A. Smith** • For the past 11 years, I have lived in Knoxville, Tenn. I love this area. It is an hour drive from the Smokey Mountains and is very beautiful with moderate, four-season weather. (I love watching the weather on the Weather Channel instead of living it.) Knoxville has an emphasis on history and the arts that comes with living in a university town. My only teaching is as a volunteer through The Joy of Music School in Knoxville. Of course, that has been done on Zoom for the past year. Like everyone else, I'm hopeful for an end to the pandemic so I can get back to ping-pong and my other interests. All the best to former classmates at Lawrence.

**Nancy M. Stowe P'87** • I am sad to report that my beloved partner John Koopman passed away this past Dec. 22 from complications of COPD and congestive heart failure. We had returned to Appleton from California in July where he continued on hospice care. We were grateful to have been able to return and were able to have many happy days at our home here, although missed the family and friends we had made in the 10 lovely winters we had spent in Palo Alto, Calif. John and I marveled at the wonderful loving relationship we were given late in our lives, after knowing each other since the fall of 1960! The **Stowes** and **Koopmans** were dear friends all those years, sharing love of Lawrence and music.

1963

**Allen R. Bjornson** • I am still in Evanston, Ill., feeling like I'm in an egg waiting to hatch. The pandemic has sure clipped our wings. My wife, Marti, had both knees replaced in 2020 and is doing very well. Long walks are the order of the day for knee strengthening. Marti and I got our first COVID-19 shots. The next shot is in mid-February. That is a hopeful sign. I look forward to a brighter 2021 filled with in-person contact with friends and family.

**Erlan S. Bliss** • Life in the time of COVID-19: Some things are the same on paper—I'm still working at Lawrence Livermore National Lab 1000 hours/year. However, since much of the work in the laser program is not currently “hands on,” I am working from home. I am still a trombone playing member

of two bands, but we are not rehearsing in the usual sense. For the smaller band we are video recording individual parts at home for combination into group videos and having biweekly Zoom meetings. The larger group is more fully on hold. Our travel plans have all been delayed, but we are both vaccinated now and hoping trips will be more reasonable this summer. Best wishes and good health to everyone!

**Elizabeth Cole** • Along with everyone else, I've been sticking close to home these months, all work and travel having been cancelled. Still, I'm getting used to having time to read, walk on the beach when it's not raining and do some interesting local video and copy editing projects. In short, I and mine are well, and I hope the same for all of us.

**Rosalie Delaney Neuwirth** • My husband, Paul, and I are alive and well and Aging In Place gracefully (whenever possible). Good food and good humor keep us fit (more or less). Wishing all classmates and spouses an easier summer ahead.

**Letha E. Dreyfus** • Life across the river from the nation's capitol can be exciting. I'm happier when it's calm. We've lived in Arlington, Va., since 1979 and have no plans to move. In 2014, I discovered a community flute choir. Our conductor took us to perform at a music festival in Alba (Cuneo), Italy, each May from 2016–2018. In May 2019 the virus shut down the festival. I long to return to Alba but likely not this year. Our seven children live here and there in the lower 48. Two daughters live/work nearby and look out for us. I was fortunate to get my first vaccine shot this week. Wishing you happiness and good health.

**Victoria Agee Groser & Luke Groser '64 P'92** • Entered assisted living memory care in September of 2020 in Portland, Ore. MD's say I have Parkinson's with Lewy body dementia. I do remember the significant positive impact of my Lawrence experience upon my entire life journey. I am grateful to all of you for filling my life with richness.

**Dr. Donald E. Kersemeier** • Retired (2000) after 36 years in education. The past two decades: reading and writing lots of poetry (for family), including a printed collection of 350 poems (100 pages), *From Me To You*, dating from 1957 through 2020. In process is *InQuest*, an examination of a life somewhat along, about of Erik Erikson's life stages, a sequel to my self-published book *BeQuest: A Son's 50-Year Search of His Birth Father* (2010).

Recent life highlights: celebrating 55 years of marriage and enjoying the family “clan” numbering 20—a first great-granddaughter to join us soon. Abodes: Luther Village (Arlington Heights, Ill., lake shore haven, in Door County). 63ers: **Jack Woodyatt, Gephart**

**Thomas Pearl Lawrence** • Hi, what's going on? Nothing. Got my shots, a blessing, I can relax a bit. I'll still wear a mask, won't hug or shake hands, fine with me. More and more people are living with COVID-19. I'd rather live without it. Eating out is over-rated, carryout is fine. Zooming Spanish and voiceover classes, not related.



John Eide '65 photo of Antarctica Peninsula, February 2014.

Still miss and love my college friends. Amazingly, they haven't changed. I had all the answers when I was a college kid, not so much now. A lot of things are “once in a lifetime,” but this pandemic thing is crazy. Great English WW2 song, *We'll Meet Again, Don't Know Where, Don't Know When*. Keep in touch, figuratively and literally. Keep calm and carry on? Just carry on. Love.

**Robert B. Petters** • Although my North Carolina State University *Introduction to Musical Experiences* class was already online and able to continue, my community orchestra and church choir rehearsals came to a screeching halt last March when COVID-19 struck. Now I'm creating orchestra arrangements such as a *Toy Symphony Spoof* and a full orchestra version of Bach's G minor fugue. And I just received word that I have a vaccine appointment in less than a week!

I hope all my classmates are moving through this frightful time and looking forward to some normalcy. I certainly am.

**R. William Schier & Diana Gage Schier '64** • Diana and I are just BIDEN our time until things get better.

**Margaret Snyder Schumann** • Like the rest of the world, I found 2020 to be quieter than I would've liked. No bridge, sheepshead, symphonies or theater, etc. Did get some painting done and brought home the Inman Award from the Association of Wisconsin Artists Show in Madison. While most of our activities were curtailed, Bob and I did manage to take a few days to escape to Björklunden in late September. Just us, some wine, quiet and Lake Michigan to fill our days. Peace and health to all.

**Dorothy Polzin Staley** • I left the Arctic in 1976, but it never left me. Although my novel *Bear Woman Rising*, is a fiction piece, it represents my way of paying homage to all the women scientists, the wives who faced long and dark winters and the Inupiat who enriched my life at the top of the world. *Bear Woman Rising* tracks the harrowing lives of two very different women who face challenges of survival in remote regions and male-dominated hierarchies of the 1970s. Their journey attests to the power of friendship and to their determination to pursue their dreams despite daunting obstacles. To learn more, I invite you to watch my short video on [sunshinestatebookfestival.com](http://sunshinestatebookfestival.com) and click “Find an Author.”

**Daniel J. Taylor** • Retirement is great! We've spent a month each in Athens (actually two), Brussels, Florence, Milan, Rome and four total in Paris. We've also moved down from our 9600 square-foot Rocky Mountain aerie to a more breathable 5280 square-foot in a southwest Denver suburb. Björklunden this fall? Reunion in 2023?

**Reed C. Williams** • After retirement, my wife, Elaine, and I have spent time traveling and visiting our three daughters, husbands and young grandsons who all live nearby in Delaware. My special hobby is restoring our 230-year-old farmhouse which is listed on the National Historic Register and has sheltered slaves who traveled to freedom on the underground railroad. We also cheer for Joe Biden whose Delaware home is not far from us. During his many years in the US senate, Joe commuted by train each night from Washington back to his home in Delaware in order to be with his family. Delaware is proud of Joe Biden! So far we have avoided COVID-19 and each day we count our blessings and we walk with joy!

1965

**Phoebe Rhodes Allen & Philip K. Allen** • PK and I shared our 55th wedding anniversary last June, dutifully quarantined. We were to celebrate with all 15 of us last August by taking all to Kenya. Alas it was not to be. We did enjoy sharing our anticipation of the trip. COVID-19 has given the two of us opportunities to share our love of walking. PK worked for five months on his memoir, a wonderful gift for family members, and I continue at the pottery coop, masked/socially distanced with limited members in attendance. The studio has never been cleaner!

**Judith Nagel Almendariz** • So glad that 2020 is over! Fortunately, my family has survived COVID-19, et al. Looking forward to the return of a normal lifestyle—dreaming of traveling to the Caribbean and sipping an exotic rum drink while watching the sun set over a pristine beach. Life here has boiled down to playing *World of Warcraft* and the Stock Market (also a game). Tonight is *Dungeons and Dragons* night over the internet. My son is the Dungeon Master. We finish our current campaign in five weeks, and I must create a new character—different from my current one which is a paladin. I am considering doing a Voodoo necromancer priest. When summer comes, all activities move outdoors.

**Mary-Claire Vander Wal Barton & William A. Barton** • Bill and Mary-Claire Vander Wal Barton, married for 54-plus years (through many storms!!). Both our sons, Ben, a law professor, and Jacob, a museum designer, and their families are a joy! A few years ago, we decided to shed a country house, an apartment off Central Park and cars. We gave away everything we didn't need, simplified our lives and moved into one large room on the top of a senior independent living place with high ceilings and amazing views of the Hudson River and city ... and freedom to come and go with time for silence, river watching, reading, long talks, playing poker, making new friends and good food. With the exception of the food, it is like the good old days in the Union. Bill continues to play the guitar, write songs and do sing-alongs with folk music. MC is working on a book about the art business.

**Carolyn Stickney Beck, Ph.D. & Hayward J. Beck** • COVID-19 has opened us to the beauty and revitalizing nature of Minnesota state parks and forests. Even in the deep winter, they have warmed our hearts and revealed new possibilities. As spring approaches, we will expand our adventures beyond day trips from Rochester, Minn. Now that we have savored these delights close to home, we hope to visit all the parks. They are balm for a fractured America.

**Virginia Goldsmith Beekmann** • Hello classmates. I am still living in Olympia, Wash. I love looking out on the city of Olympia, Budd Inlet and Mount Rainier ... occasionally when the clouds part. I still downhill ski and even camp at the ski mountain, in my Escape fiberglass trailer. The pandemic has reduced contra dancing to online Zoom concerts and dances. Just not the camaraderie of being in person. My church community is still my close support system with many Zoom gatherings. Looking forward to returning to both dance and church in person.

**Charles E. Bennison, Jr. • Joan Reahard Bennison M-D'66** • Joan and I are presently selling our home of 25 years in Philadelphia and moving to a cottage at Sea Island, Ga., where we honeymooned 54 years ago and have been many times since. We now often have with us—as we do at our summer cottage in Leland, Mich.—our daughters, their husbands and our six grandchildren. Retired since 2013, I still enjoy short-term parish responsibilities, most recently in Munich, Germany, and Mill Brook, N.Y. I earned a master's degree in philosophy in 2018, and now spend my days either reading further in that field or returning for a deeper read in works I skimmed through at Lawrence and elsewhere in life.

**Maria L. Dye** • This is my 56th year post-Lawrence update. At this moment the most exciting thing in my life is having my two vaccine appointments! Otherwise, I mourn two of our classmates who died recently. My dear friend **Jo Robbins '65** and **Frank Jones '65**. I went to the senior prom with Frank; we pretended to be French together. Jo and I walked the Camino de Santiago de Compostella to celebrate our 70s. And before those losses, we lost **Dick Stuart '65**, the irrepressible. Summarizing the last 56 years: for the last 49 of those years I have lived in this five-college community; been married/divorced; had a lovely daughter/three grands; remarried; become a clinical social worker, an Episcopalian, a yogi. Warm regards!

**John Eide** • I retired in 2008 after creating the photo program at the Maine College of Art. I joined seven friends in 2014 chartering a 1975 sloop for a three-week sail from Ushusia, Argentina, across the Drake Passage and down the Antarctica Peninsula. The magnitude, beauty and color of the ice we saw was indescribable. But sad knowing the ice is melting. You can see photos at [johnaide.com](http://johnaide.com). The work has been in one solo and one group show, which might bring some awareness to the issues in Antarctica. A grandfather, arm around his grandson, in front of one of my ice photos, said, tearfully, “I hope when you're my age, you get to see this.” Let's hope. No sitting around the old sailors' home. Retirement is too much fun.

**Bruce M. Feldt P'92 & Linda Raasch Feldt '64 P'92** No major changes in the past several years. I retired from teaching (orchestra and strings) in 2000. Those were good times, but retirement is going very well. Linda and I have been in Marshfield, Wis., since 1968—I think we will stay—great medical facilities and good friends. We both have been involved in musical organizations through the local UW campus here, but right now there are no rehearsals or performances allowed. Hopefully that will change in the future. Family gatherings occur by way of Zoom. We hope summer will allow us more visits with the family and more opportunity to travel to the Upper Peninsula and our small cottage on the lake.

**Susan Gilman Ferguson P'89** • Yes, indeed, I still live near Tucson, Ariz., and consider myself a “western girl.” Thank heavens we are all healthy. My two girls, Kirsten and Dawn, are both married and have college-age children of their own. I work part time at the University of Arizona Medical School as a standardized patient and coach. I have also been active in their program to evaluate medical school applicants. I enjoy spending time teaching and getting to know our future medical professionals. With all our sunshine and generally good weather, I still find time to walk, hike and bike though at a slower pace than in my younger years. I have done a lot of reading and gardening, and my house has gotten a lot more attention.

**Michael R. Gannett, Jr.** • Mike Gannett and his wife, Stell, relocated from Burlington, Vt., to McCormick, S.C., last summer. Warmer winter temps was the obvious draw. In spite of hard COVID-19 times, they've felt welcomed into Savannah Lakes Village. Pickleball is my main outdoor activity but aging-in-place golfers, boaters and hikers abound here! SLV is surrounded by state and national public lands and a lake with 1000-plus miles of shoreline. Look us up! We'll continue to summer in lovely Vermont.

**Susan Nelson Goldsmith & Richard N. Goldsmith '64** • Just a year ago (Feb. 29 to March 13), I had the good fortune to join a Lawrence-organized trip to Ghana. It was a fabulous trip for all of us, and for me, it was a return to West Africa where I spent 1965–1967 in Cote d'Ivoire with the Peace Corps. This trip renewed my love for the people, the sound of drums, the taste of the food, the colors of the landscape and the fabrics, the spirit of the place. Of course since March 13, like most of us, Rich and I have been mostly at home, sheltering from the virus, being grateful for and annoyed with Zoom. We look forward to being able to visit our son, Andy, in Australia and our son, Matt, his wife and children in Berkeley, Calif., in 2021.

**Albert E. Hansen** • 2020—we saw nothing, we said nothing, and we did nothing. This took place in Colorado where my lovely Diane and I have lived and played since 1966. My bachelor's degree in physics from Lawrence prepared me for varied careers from jobs in education, solar energy and IT project management to Diane's to-do lists. Our health is age-appropriate. Our son and twin grandsons live in Oak Park, Ill., and our daughter and granddaughter live in Denver. Hard to believe a year has passed—glad to still be around ...



**Michael E. Hayes** • Still in Key West, Fla., working. I was a finalist in the Key West Literary Seminar for poets, an annual national conference. Other than that, still working and enjoying life.

**Theodore M. Katzoff** • I have discovered the simple joys of bird watching! The Ballona Wetlands has a freshwater marsh, which is a wonderful habitat for all kinds of birds. A good pair of binoculars to see water birds, raptors and small mammals. It is also a fun way to walk a couple of miles. I have been reading books by Louise Penny and John Crowley, among others. And I am still doing some guitar strumming. Claudette and I have discovered the joy of takeout from our favorite brew pub. I am looking forward to our next bird outing and good meal. My best to all my classmates, stay safe and healthy. I hope to see you at Lawrence in 2022.

**Louisa Loveridge-Gallas** • I am retired from my profession as a therapist; I still focus on how to heal troubled relationships and conflict aversion; I'm a published poet and author, a climate activist and member of Milwaukee Eco-Poets and Musicians. Although we live in Milwaukee, we are sequestering through the winter in a remote Michigan village where my husband, Richard, our dog, Ella, (for Ella Fitzgerald, and I live in the summer. We helped raise a young boy into manhood in recent years; he and his wife are now expecting their second son, so we are honorary grandparents. I remain in some contact through FB with a few classmates. If any other old friends would like to connect, my email is [riverlakelou@gmail.com](mailto:riverlakelou@gmail.com)

**Todd J. Mitchell** • Fortunately for us, Florida is an “open” state, meaning that we can play golf and tennis and generally be outside and enjoy nice weather. I'm currently looking for an illustrator for a children's book I have written and am working on a second book. We have had our dog, Summer, certified as a therapy dog, but COVID-19 limits the opportunity to utilize her “talents.” She is our precious love and provides a lot of smiles and satisfaction. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has prevented us from visiting our kids and 13 grandchildren but we hope we can change that this year as more of us get vaccinated.

**Byron J. Nordstrom** • What can one write about 2020? Every day from mid-March to the present was pretty much the same. Stay home, wear a mask and maintain social distancing. One bit of fun was our annual Christmas letter in which we described visiting half a dozen sites around the world including Machu Picchu, Patagonia, New Guinea, Urumchi, Easter Island, St. Helena, Svalbard, and Stockholm. All through the wonders of Photoshop. We have joined the exiled Napoleon for a morning walk on the shore.

**Barbara Bradley Petura** • I long for my town, Pullman, Wash., to have a community museum, so I was delighted recently when an historic railroad depot was acquired for that purpose. I advocated for it to be not a “railroad museum”—lots of those—but one covering many aspects of community history. It is now the Pullman Depot Heritage Center, with that broad view, and I am enjoying service on the fundraising committee. Genealogy continues as a favorite hobby, and writing chapters of family history



Byron Nordstrom and Janet joined the exiled Napoleon for a morning walk on the shore.

a pleasure. Just finishing one on origins of my Bruce ancestors who arrived in Milwaukee in 1839. My LU English major and history minor are being put to good use yet today!!

**Gary A. Pines** • Bought a home in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., in—BallenIsles. Living in Florida seven months and Chicago five months.

**Richard L. Rapport II** • I became professor emeritus at the University of Washington in July and joined the faculty at the relatively new Washington State University College of Medicine where I continue to teach. My wife, Valerie Trueblood, has finished her sixth collection of stories, and I will also publish new writing this year. Recently, **Bob Schoenwetter '66** and I joined other former LU football players on a Zoom link with Coach Tony Aker and some recruits for the team in an effort to get better. It was fun.

**Richard B. Snyder** • 2020: Calendar - all cross outs  
Restaurants - takeout  
My volunteer job - Zoom 100%  
Our church services - Facebook live  
Seeing our daughter in California - wait 18 months  
Seeing our grandchildren - backyard in the snow  
Christmas card picture - everyone in masks  
Not all was bad: Golf live; Skiing live

**John E. Thomas** • Life is good! At age 73 I retired from the practice of in-house law but remain active on two nonprofit boards. Shari has two kids and I have three, each of which is, thankfully, gainfully employed. In all, we have 11 grandkids, ranging in age from 22 to less than 3 weeks (and counting). We are blessed to be able to winter in Naples, Fla., where I serve as VP of the Master Board for our golf and tennis community. “Up North” is Hudson, Wis., where I serve as president of our lake association and am active on our church's pastoral care committee, focusing on members (and their families) faced with dementia. We enjoy boating, gardening, golf and, of course, the grandkids (can't wait to hug them again)!

**Jean Sydow West & Robert MacLellan West '63** • Hello from Denver! We are doing well and staying safe and healthy—and have just received our COVID-19 vaccinations! No travel this past year so Jean continued researching family histories and genealogy, while Mac kept his consulting business, Informal Learning Experiences, going as well as serving on NSF grant funding panels. Lots of Zoom meetings! Fortunately, our son, Chris, and his family live only 10 minutes away, so we were able to celebrate important family events in person with them.

1967

**Sidney K. Ayabe** • Cookie and I are enjoying having our first grandchild, Liv, and her parents, Lisa and Matt, living with us. Having retired from private

practice five years ago, I continue to do some mediation/arbitration work. I am also kept busy serving on several nonprofits as well as Lawrence's Board of Trustees. Cookie and I enjoy our babysitting duties, golf outings and travels (unfortunately not in 2020). Our oldest daughter Lisa continues her private law practice. Sara continues her stint with the US Attorney's Office. My youngest Marie recently married Dr. Paul Park in October and continues her social work with a nonprofit organization in Boston. I send my best wishes to my classmates and pray for a better year for all.

**Richard A. Culbertson, Ph.D.** • Not much good this year in New Orleans. Mardi Gras 2021 effectively cancelled. 2020 seems like Katrina on steroids. Good news is 20% increase in LSU Medical School applications due to the “Fauci effect.” Many more qualified and motivated applicants make my job on our admissions committee harder, but it is wonderful work.

Maybe next year we will travel and parade again. To all, be well.

**Anne Stuart Galli** • We sold our home in Portola Valley, Calif., and moved to a retirement community in Cupertino, Calif., only 15 miles southeast. I am still active in various volunteer capacities although constrained by COVID-19, and Steve still works full time at Stanford University. We enjoy getting out on local beautiful trails.

**John L. Grandin III** • I am still living in Chestnut Hill, Mass., with Anne, who is a creative painter. Retired six years ago from fundraising and love it. Plenty of time for golf, tennis, fishing, hunting and skiing. Many volunteer activities also take a lot of time—Charter School board, land trust, church, town politics, etc. Caught up recently with **John Whipple '67**, **Bob Simmons '67** and **Lee Sternal '67**, who are hunkered down in Maine, upstate New York, and Colorado respectively.

**David H. Gregerson P'97 & Jane Paulson Gregerson '69 P'97** • As I write this in January, my family and I have come through the pandemic and madness of 2020 undamaged. With restricted travel and contact, we have stayed close with all grandchildren through seasonal sports (some I play, some I watch) and recreation (nighttime fire-pit s'mores, a favorite) and frequent Zoom gatherings. Jane and I are blessed to have everyone here in the Minneapolis area. I appear infrequently (read minimally) at the law firm offices; I still like my clients, my partners and the stimulation, especially now during COVID-19. And despite the despair all around, I feel January 2021 and Pfizer/ Moderna provide hope for the days ahead, the long climb back.

**Cynthia Russell Howe & John F. Howe** • My husband, John Howe, and I have been lucky enough to have remained healthy throughout the pandemic. Our children and grandchildren are in the Seattle area, so we continue to see them outdoors and hiking in the mountains. Although we couldn't cross the border last summer to sail in British Columbia, as we have for 30-plus years, we had three weeks aboard in the San Juan Islands of Washington, which was wonderful and a welcome break from political news.

I continue to work with the League of Women

Voters and have taken a number of online courses during this period of hunkering down. I wish the best for our classmates as we forge our way through COVID-19 and work to strengthen our democracy.

**John F. Howe & Cynthia Russell Howe** • A year ago the tutoring program with Reading Partners National was halted. The curriculum and lesson plans I learned last year will be adapted to online tutoring, which resumes Feb. 8. I find it fascinating to learn how to teach reading and observe children learning to read. These programs are directed to children who are reading below grade level.

I have volunteered with tree planting in burned national forest land this year. Beyond that, I am grateful Lawrence launched me to enjoy learning—from reading to courses to lectures on all sorts of interesting things.

**Marcia Rogers Hunter** • I am sure our year has been similar to yours—hunkered down and waiting for the “all clear” to resume our normal lives. My husband, Jim, spent more time than ever in the garden, resulting in lots of healthy veggies. Our dog got more than her share of walks. We spent way too much time on the computer, but Zoom calls with friends and volunteer committees gave us much-needed connections. FaceTime calls with our 2-year-old granddaughter saved us from missing her too much. It is so hard, but we really must count our blessings, because no one in our family got sick, and we still have our house (unlike our neighboring community that lost over 2,000 homes to wildfire). Here's to a better 2021.

**Chris Kaufman** • This is a new phase and is aimed at recovery from the collective PTSD of the past few years. It's going well here. I still have a practice of providing Healing Touch energy therapy, now done remotely due to COVID-19. I enjoy reading and movies, walking, connecting safely with friends and looking forward to travel. My husband, Mark Austill, just retired, and we have a new young dog who is making us old and keeping us young.

I am grateful for the experiences I had at Lawrence and hope you are well.

**Jonathan Lustig** • As with most folks, I'm trying to do the best I can to find joy during these surreal times!

While my typical day has not dramatically changed from pre-plague days—food and wine, books and music, photography, walks—I certainly do miss hugs, dining out—even crowded, loud restaurants—museums, cinema and theater, travel ...

But looking forward to sooner or later enjoying all of the above, especially those hugs!

My favorite activity in these times is the almost-daily livestream lectures offered by One Day University. Sort of like LU without exams! Best wishes to you all!

**Gerry Max** • The COVID-19 lockdown keeps Carole and me pretty much housebound. For morale and amusement, hobbies help, as do pets, online shopping, Facebook, sports telecasts, minor home improvement projects and Scrabble games—add lots of reading. I continue to collect (and appraise) rare books, but at this stage of my life it's advisable that I export more than I import. My book *Richard Halliburton and the Voyage of the Sea Dragon* was published in October. In spring, I will be doing Zoom-

casts related to the book and its themes, including one for the Treasure Island Museum in San Francisco. I am also writing a novel in the belief that, once I reach 200 pages, a plot just might emerge.

**James A. McNamee** • Sue and I have lived in Colorado for 45 years and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. We do like to travel, though, and have been to all 50 states and about 50 countries. We have six grandchildren (five girls and one boy), ages 2–12. Four of our granddaughters live in Wisconsin. It's been tough not seeing them for the past year, although we do see them on FaceTime every couple of weeks. I enjoyed our 50th class reunion, but I wish more of our classmates had attended. We had 10 of my Delta Tau Delta pledge class there, which was great. I plan to attend the 2022 reunion (our 55th—gasp) and hope to see many of you there.

**Judith Lee McNatt** • My daughter and I are doing okay during the pandemic in spite of both having lost our jobs because of COVID-19. Susanna's performing arts agency job was terminated when the company was forced to close. My position at Sarah Lawrence College was eliminated at the end of May 2020 due to the college downsizing. But we are making the most of our time at home. Susanna has been trying new crafts, taking German lessons and tutoring/ babysitting part time. I have completed a number of house projects and have gotten more involved with a local volunteer organization that focuses on environmental issues. And by the time “Class Notes” is published, I will have received my second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

**Ellen Bierdz Osterhart** • In these difficult times, John and I are grateful to enjoy relatively good health and hope others are as well. In non-COVID-19 times, we appreciate spending time with family and friends, biking and kayaking locally, and traveling to Serra International meetings in amazing cities including Rome, Mexico City, and Melbourne. I also enjoy tutoring opportunities: tutoring English to sisters here from Spain and Spanish to granddaughters and their friends as they navigate Spanish II. In August, John and I celebrated our 50th anniversary with an outdoor games day with our two sons and their families and awoke to a great yard sign on the actual day: “Just married—50 years ago!” The years fly!

**Robert Y. Paddock, Jr.** • Two landmarks this past year—retiring from a lifetime of work at the family publishing business in the Chicago area and transition of the company from family to employee ownership. Both mark significant changes for me and the company, which has been family-owned for four generations. My spouse Marcie and two daughters endeavor to keep me productively focused in family life. Community service, board work at Roosevelt University and Rotary give me alternatives to too many chore lists at home. I've been grateful to the Lawrence experience, plus subsequent time in the Army and Vista, for giving significant direction to both my company and personal life these many years.

**Lee Galda Pellegrini** • This past year has been challenging, for sure, but has also brought some happy moments. I have relished the phone calls and email notes from old friends far and wide, the ways that our children have cared for us, both emotionally and physically, and the opportunities for connection

through Zoom and FaceTime. Sure, we didn't get to visit our son in England or to be with our grandchildren as often as we'd like (even though we're in a bubble), but we're baking bread, making soup, doing yoga, walking the dog and eager for spring.

**David R. Pfleger** • I'm glad it's 2021, because 2020 was a horrible year. In addition to what we all had to endure last year, Mary, my wife of 50 years, died in late December 2019. Thanks to all my friends, including some of you who helped when I needed it. I had plans to rebuild my life, all of which got cancelled because of the virus. But I abide, awaiting my second Moderna shot in a couple of weeks, and looking forward to a semblance of normality in the rest of the year. Wish this was a cheerier report, but the news is what it is. Take great care.

**Susan Raccoli** • The pandemic has made this a rough year. Our son, William, was married in January 2019, and the boys and I played for the wedding in Mexico City. Alas, the couple are now in a contentious divorce, complicated by the closure of the courts in Mexico due to COVID-19. A divorce is difficult for the whole family. I had a major car accident on Sept. 6. I was not hurt because I wore my seatbelt until the car came to a stop. We went out to dinner Dec. 27, 2019, to celebrate William's violin recital. Alas, a stone in my salad did severe damage to my teeth. This year I saw more dentists than anyone else. I lost my job Nov. 18—our priest retired so two parishes combined. I was the casualty. I hope to get sub jobs.

**Kathy Peak Raimer** • I've been retired from full-time work for 11 years but have a part-time job that I like. I volunteer at church and at our Portage Public Library, play bridge and belong to a book club—the normal retirement stuff. This past year some activities have come to an end except what can be done using Zoom. That is also how I've kept in touch with my two daughters and their families. I've been a watermedia artist for about 20 years, so this year I have attended virtual art school using online videos and classes. So much valuable help online. I am well, painting and Zooming.

**Martha Colburn Rasmus** • We are blessed that Jim and I lived through 2020 without any COVID-19 and started 2021 with our first vaccine! However, we had to cancel a trip south and to Norway. But we are optimistic about 2021 and have rescheduled both trips. I've become a Zoom expert, as I try to keep up, and fill my time with a new grandson, reading, puzzles and trying new recipes. There are times I go stir crazy, and I sure miss going out, but I count my blessings.

**Charlot Nelson Singleton** • Dear 1967 classmates, Being 75 has the advantage of allowing us to get our COVID-19 vaccinations. Thanks to those of you who contributed to the *Be The Light* campaign, allowing us to surpass our goal of \$220 million!! Extra time at home provides me with online art classes at Stanford University and mentoring middle school students at the Boys and Girls Club. Lots of golf, gardening and reading lengthy biographies. Travel plans hopefully take us to Washington, D.C., in the fall with our grandchildren and some European car rallies. Best to all of you.



**Barbara Martin Smith** • “No eye has seen no ear has heard and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him” 1 *Corinthians* 2:9

Finding focus and inspiration in the birth of a star, birds singing around our feeder on the back deck, and long walks with Tim around the country club grounds, I celebrate by painting in my studio each day. Staying in touch via Zoom and FaceTime with children and grandchildren brings added joy to many days. The raccoon wearing a mask and washing paws seems to be a good mascot for these times. In 1606, Shakespeare's theatre was forced to close because of the plague. So he wrote *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Antony and Cleopatra*.  
Wear a mask and be grateful.

**Nancy L. Stover** • What a geography of feelings and facts and grace we traced this year of COVID-19, climate change and collective disassembly politically. I'm grateful for the capacity learned at Lawrence to be part of a process of cooperative ongoing learning, using skills of perception from both inside and outside the classroom; journaling and creative writing to find one's soul in reverence for what one can and cannot control; for scientific persistence in radical faith in the human capacity to help oneself to uncover facts versus non-contextual data, pointing by omission to steps for sustaining constitution of body and elevating the Constitution of the United States of America. We'll get it ❤️!!

**Rolf H. Swensen** • Three years ago, I began a rewarding phase of my life: retirement from Queens College. During the pandemic, I went camping in Connecticut and Vermont four times last summer! This was safe and rewarding! The November 2020 issue of the journal *Nova Religio* carried my 12th article on the history of the Christian Science movement: A ‘*Green Oak in a Thirsty Land*’: *The Christian Science Board of Directors Routinizes Charisma, 1910–1925*. Now I'm deep into an article that will describe the rise, decline and possible rebirth of the Christian Science movement, 1925 to date. This is a rewarding, though challenging, way to use my time during retirement and the pandemic! I also like to shovel snow!

**Paul R. Temple** • I decided to retire last summer in the midst of the developing COVID-19 and the attending guidelines to work from a home office as much as possible. In fact it was strange to bid farewell at work, as only a handful of colleagues were present on my final day. However, the need for my wife to have back surgery actually coincided fairly well with the quarantine guidelines, and we did not feel too badly about curtailing our post-retirement travel plans. My son is coping with his senior college year, having all online classes, and definitely misses the classroom interactions.

**Sue Campbell Trimble** • After earning my doctorate in education, I taught for 20 years at Georgia Southern University, then retired in Tallahassee, Fla., where winters are warm, but summers sizzle! The COVID-19 situation has given me time to paint and draw, plan future trips, keep up with book clubs and use Zoom. I really like helping other seniors to be comfortable with their iPads or laptops. Looking forward to more reunions in Appleton!

**John W. Whipple** • This year I was happy to take a trip to Ecuador with two of our three kids to hike and raft on the Amazon just before COVID-19 hit. I spent a whole lot of time doing stuff that I'd thought I'd never have time to do. The garden was immaculate and both houses are in great shape! No complaints: the kids are fine, Tish and I are healthy, I still do enough design work on the computer that my brain has not atrophied, and my joints still work. No grandchildren yet, but that may still happen.

1969

**Amelia Bodine Bergmann** • Hi all. I live in Lexington, Mass., near the Munroe Tavern where George Washington ate lunch. I retired from my killer job as an occupational therapist in litigious Lexington, but I'm still working as an occupational therapist in a tiny public school on the island of Nahant on the north shore of Boston. I pass a bay on the way where people are frequently kite surfing. I still can't spell, but fortunately I married a guy who is a Scrabble fiend so he is my dictionary. We have two daughters, one in Washington, D.C., and one in New Haven, Conn. I've been taking a French class where we watch movies en francais. C'est tres cool.

**Linda Skoug Brann** • Mark and I are still living in the U.K. We have a new daughter-in-law (Mária) and a lovely grandson (Theo) together with son Jeremy based in Berlin but soon moving to France for a period of time to do his artwork. Our second son Jonathan does art work for films and has his own business. Daniella does marketing for a London law firm, and Elisa is working on a Ph.D. in mental health and lives in London with her husband who designs educational language software. I still teach piano and have many students preparing for graded exams. My husband is European chairman of the International Summit Council for World Peace. We are all busy and luckily healthy! Missing my time at Lawrence.

**Karen Foster Brassfield** • I still reside in Littleton, Colo., happily living close to my son and his family. Also I still serve on the Board of Silvergate Capital Corporation. I am deeply concerned about the future of the U.S. The hatred is destroying the country, and we have lost our dignity. Unity is not about forcing individuals to agree to one political viewpoint. We have lost our ability to have a productive conversation on a topic even when we have opposing views. All we do is call each other names. All Americans need to go back to kindergarten and relearn how to play nicely in the sandbox.

**Richard C. Bush & Martha Hodge Bush** • After 19 years working in the federal government and 18 years at The Brookings Institution, Richard Bush retired at the end of March last year—just about the time that Washington, D.C., jurisdictions imposed their COVID-19 lockdowns. He and Marty have hunkered down since then and are waiting for the opportunity to enjoy many of retirement's benefits. In the meantime, Richard finished work on a book on Taiwan's democracy that the Brookings Press will publish in April and is deep into his family history. Marty's quilting projects continue without a let-up.

**Jane A. Fisher** • After 10-plus years of going to France a couple times a year, 2020 was the first year with



SLUG takeover with John O'Boyle '69, Karen Henderson Bachhuber '68 and Chuck McKee '68 (and a bunch of "townie" friends).

no international travel for us. We enjoyed time on Martha's Vineyard and at Acadia Park in Maine in September. We hope to get to Florida before the winter is over if the vaccine roll-out allows. I continue to sing with Concord Women's Chorus and my church choir, on mute over Zoom. It keeps us connected, and we've actually even learned some new music. Zooming with LU friends has been great fun and an important connection. In sum, we're healthy, balancing our dependence on Ben & Jerry's with daily walks and hoping that the new administration in Washington, D.C., will restore sanity to our country. Stay well everyone!

**Michael S. Foster** • I'm still alive.

**Nancy K. Gardner** • I continue to work as a psychologist specializing in couple therapy and in training therapists to work with couples. This year I have worked completely online due to the pandemic, and therapy and teaching actually work pretty well using Zoom. Some colleagues and I released a documentary film this year on long-term marriage called *Living Love that Lasts*. My husband is retired and does more than his share of keeping the household running, which I deeply appreciate. He has become a fairly accomplished amateur landscape photographer. We see and enjoy our two grown children and their spouses and our five grandchildren as often as we can. My best to all of you in these difficult times.

**Harold D. Hiatt** • Ellen and I will be married 40 years on the Fourth of July (lost my independence). Our daughter, Sasha, and her husband, Kyle, blessed us with our first grandson (Ivan Daniel Hiatt-Blenkush) last June 19 in Minneapolis. I retired as a special education teacher in Racine Unified in 2015 but continued to sub until COVID-19 halted all of us. We are trying to stay happy and healthy while enduring a Wisconsin winter. Best wishes to all and GOD BLESS AMERICA!

**Pamela Bolotin Joseph** • After teaching online spring quarter, which was not at all as much fun as teaching face-to-face, I finally decided to retire from University of Washington-Bothell and received an *emeritus* appointment. I may teach a course in the future—whenever life is back to normal—and am writing a book in my research field, moral dimensions of education. My husband, Mark, and I enjoyed a wonderful trip to Denmark last September and while in Copenhagen, our sixth grandchild was born—a little early! And before that, the amazing Lawrence 50-year reunion was in June of 2019. The planning was so well done, seeing classmates after 50 years was magical, but nothing tops the hilarious slide show



Mary and Steven V. Ponto '69 with two granddaughters, Hazel and Olive.

at the Saturday night dinner. Thank you, Reunion Committee!

**James D. Karon** • I began a sabbatical in March from the Renaissance Book Shop at Milwaukee's airport (oldest and largest used book store in an airport). With visitors from all over the world, the risk of COVID-19 exposure at my age seemed too great. Don't know when or if I'll return to work.

Colleague and fellow Lawrence geology major, **Jim Rosenbaum '70**, did likewise.

**Gar E. Kellom & Kolleen Egan Kellom '71** • We have moved to the Twin Cities and have a new address: 1201 East River Pkwy., Minneapolis, MN 55414. Our house provides a great view of the Mississippi River and city skyline, as well as access to bike trails and proximity to several higher education institutions. Best of all, it is between kids and grandkids so we are able to see them more often now that we are getting vaccinated. Although we are both retired, the move and continuing projects of quilting, gardening, music, exercise, volunteering and accreditation work keep us busy. Then there is the cabin to look forward to, with spring around the corner, and keeping in touch with old LU friends like **Brenda** and **Tocher Mitchell '69**.

**Mark Leonas** • Hi Lawrence Friends! We (Mark and Deb Leonas) are well and safe in Easthampton, Mass. Hunkering down during pandemic times, which includes reading, Netflix, exercise and food shopping at our coop. I am working with friends on a documentary, *The Spirit of Rice*, based on the story of a friend who grows rice in Massachusetts. I'm also writing an article on "Gardening for Immunity". Our children, Andrew and Janet, are employed (teacher and physician's assistant) and recently got their COVID-19 shots. We look forward to spring, gardening and hopefully better times. We miss our granddaughter, Aliset, aged 4. I wish safety and good health for all fellow Lawrentians! *Veritas est lux!*

**Laurie A. Magee** • My husband, Tom Blajeski, and I still live in Laguna Vista, Texas. We're 15 minutes from South Padre Island and Tom's favorite surf fishing spot. We can hear and see the launch of SpaceX from our home, though it is six miles away. I am the chair of the 2021 Rio Grande Valley Quilt Show. It normally is held at the convention center on South Padre Island, but, for obvious reasons, that is not possible



this year. I have spent the past 10 months learning to use Zoom and coordinating a team of dedicated volunteers developing a virtual quilt show which is scheduled for February. Our newest grandson, Sage, turned 1 year old on Dec. 19.

**David S. Matz** • I retired in July after nearly 40 years as a classics professor at St. Bonaventure University in western New York State. Great timing on my part ... starting retirement in the midst of a pandemic. But my wife, Lauren, and I have stayed well; having a spacious backyard helps greatly.

My son is the head baseball coach at an area high school, and he recently asked me if, for my first retirement project, I'd like to join his coaching staff this spring, as a volunteer assistant. I thought about it for maybe three seconds, and then said, "Well, yeah!" I'm seriously looking forward to that!

**Tocher Mitchell** • Brenda and I are now empty nesters, so we've moved after building a new, smaller house, which in turn necessitated shedding a lot of "stuff"!

**John W. O'Boyle P'12 '10 & Christina L. O'Boyle P'12 '10** • Christina and I are slogging through the COVID-19 quarantine in Appleton as best we can. Many of the things that make living here wonderful are not available during this time, including public lectures and performances at Lawrence. One bright compensation in all of this, though, is that along with fellow alums **Karen Henderson Bachhuber '68** and **Chuck McKee '68** (and a bunch of "townie" friends), we were able to take over SLUG (Student LU Garden). The students were sent home, yet there were vegetables to be planted, tomatoes to be staked, weeds to be weeded and a whole lot of deferred maintenance to be remedied. By fall we had even begun to construct a hoop house that we found in the shed. Will finish when it's warmer. Hope you all are safe!

**Mark M. Orton** • Yes, 2020 was a strange year. But at least we have adults back in charge in Washington. Remain very busy with trustee work at local library and continue work as GM of a software company here in Hudson, N.Y. Playing lots of tennis though no doubles. Missing the trash talk. Also missing visits with children and grandchildren in NYC and the Netherlands, not to mention the associated travel. One happy consequence of the pandemic is that I have been meeting with my three siblings who are scattered on three continents every week via Zoom. More talk than in our entire lives. Karen remains busy too. She just published a book, *Still Stepping: A Family Portrait*, about childhood onset schizophrenia.

**Steven V. Ponto** • I am in my 11th year as mayor of the City of Brookfield, Wis., and really enjoy the varied aspects of the job. I am strongly considering running for a fourth four-year term in 2022. My wife of 39 years, Mary, continues her work part-time as a telecommunications training consultant with AVAYA and its business partners. Our older daughter, Stephanie, is following in her mother's footsteps. She is Senior Call Center Engineer with Abbott Laboratories. Our younger daughter, Elizabeth, is a firefighter/EMT in New Berlin, Wis. She is married and has two beautiful daughters who are the light

James Stoa '69 and Gail Christiansen on a National Geographic expedition to Patagonia.

of our lives. While the pandemic has made life challenging, I am hopeful that better days are ahead.

**Richard Byron Smith** • I was honored by the Ice Age Trail Alliance with its annual Spirit Stick Award, presented for long-term volunteer dedication, service and leadership on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. In my 20 years as chapter coordinator, I created a community of trail supporters and volunteers, served as a member of the Alliance's Board of Directors, created relationships with trail partners, and contributed in numerous ways to the trail, including direct maintenance and service to trail users. I have now retired from trail leadership and am serving as president of the Chippewa County Land Conservancy.

**James L. Stoa** • Last March I was fortunate to take a trip of a lifetime, a National Geographic expedition to Patagonia (the southern tip of Chile and Argentina). We walked among penguins and elephant seals, explored fjords and glaciers on inflatable boats and enjoyed many presentations by the National Geographic naturalists. We hiked to the lighthouse Jules Verne wrote about in his 1905 book, *The Lighthouse at the End of the World*. With clear weather we were also able to climb the hill to the lighthouse at Cape Horn, which is rarely accessible. Then, as COVID-19 spread, Chile closed its ports, so we sailed to the Falkland Islands. From there National Geographic charted a plane that took us to Miami via Santiago. Eighteen days of amazing!

**Mary Jo McGuire Swanson** • Not much of consequence happened in my life in 2020 that didn't happen to everyone else. I count myself among the lucky ones because of that—no illness, no death, no job loss. My eight grandchildren, one girl followed by seven boys, continue to thrive, though I only know that by report! I am pretty much out of the school psychology game, but I do work with the children and grandchildren of friends and neighbors. I am still an avid (and poor) golfer. Because it was a safe way to socialize, the game kept me sane during the warm weather months. Luckily, we have had a mild winter in Colorado, and I recently got my first vaccination. Now we will just have to figure out how to return to 'normal.'

**Cynthia Sholl Turner P'99 & Miles E. Turner '69 P'99** • Our 2020 news is similar to everyone's: canceled travel, missing our grandchildren and two-person holiday dinners. Our 50th wedding anniversary was in June. Instead of the planned family Alaskan cruise, we returned to the Lawrence campus where it all started. We had a masked and safely distanced picnic on a plot of ground that used to be Alsted House. Our daughter, **Ellen Wenberg**, and son-in-law, **Neil Wenberg**, both LU Class of 1999, along with our grandsons, joined us. Miles arranged for phone calls timed during the picnic from bridesmaids, **Dianne Schwartz Davis '69** and **MaryJo McGuire Swanson '69**. It was not the celebration we had planned, but given the pandemic, it was a memorable day.

**Priscilla Weaver** • Greetings from the land of COVID-19 vaccinations on snowbound highways (Grants Pass, Ore.). In case any of you think class reunions don't matter, after you all nagged me at our 50th reunion to publish the music I played at



our memorial service, I did so, and it has been a happy continuing adventure. I came home from the reunion, finished the transcriptions of *The lost Songs of St. Kilda* and had them printed. Since then, I have met the man from Edinburgh who unwittingly put in motion the whole unlikely saga and we have had further adventures. You can read about it at his new website, [www.melodiesofstkilda.com](http://www.melodiesofstkilda.com). Serendipity comes in many forms, including class reunions!

1971

**Scott W. Alexander** • After 48 straight years of being a minister in a variety of settings—Northern Maine (Houlton) for four years, New Jersey (Plainfield) for 10 years, Massachusetts (Boston) at denominational headquarters for 10 years, Maryland (Bethesda) for 12 years, and most recently Vero Beach, Fla., for the past 11 years, I have decided to “retire” ... although I am sure to continue my ministry in some shape or fashion. My partner, Collins, and I have purchased a riverfront condo in Sheboygan, Wis., where we anticipate spending part of the year. We also have homes in Florida and the Adirondacks of New York.

**Lance Alwin** • For the past four years Nancy Harter-Alwin and I have been volunteering with Border Angels, an organization committed to providing humanitarian aid and seeking social justice for migrants. Primarily, our volunteer efforts have centered on leading teams into southwest desert border regions of the country for the purpose of dropping lifesaving water and supplies. All our efforts have taken on more urgency as the militarization of the desert border regions continues to escalate. A result of this militarization, our evidence shows, has been that more people, specifically families, feel compelled to risk the dangers of fleeing untenable lives where they are, by migrating through the ever more harsh regions of the desert border not yet militarized by our government. The past year has severely restricted our personal participation in leading the desert drops as the pandemic has landed us squarely in the at-risk health-aged population. We can hardly wait to get our vaccinations in order to pick up where we left of with our Border Angels work. Beyond this, we can't wait to be able to once again romp around with our children and 12 grandchildren!

**Steven M. Bartell** • I remain gainfully employed in environmental consulting as a senior principal with Cardno Inc. and continue my faculty affiliations with the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Oak Ridge Associated Universities. I am working mainly from our American Saddlebred horse farm during the pandemic, but at least there is a beautiful view of the nearby snow-covered Great Smoky Mountains. I plan to pick up a golf club again come spring!

**John A. Behnke** • Marie an I are still living in Ukiah, Calif. I retired in January 2020 after spending the last 15 years as a California State Court Judge. We intended to travel and visit kids and grandkids in Nevada, Kauai, Hawaii, and the Ukraine, but the pandemic intervened, so I'm working part time on assignment and hanging out at home along the Russian River. I enjoy keeping up with **David Mitchell '71, James Bode '71, Barbara Geiser '71, Ann Baumgarten Petersen '71 and Bob Hawley '71.**

**Susan Folsom Berman & Mark S. Berman** • We are happily retired in Kingston, R.I., across the street from the URI campus, where we are both active in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

**Andrew N. Binns** • 50 years! Really? I retired from the University of Pennsylvania in 2018, and in November 2019 we moved to Santa Fe, N.M. We have been so grateful to be in such amazing surroundings while dealing with COVID-19. Lots of walking, hiking and golfing in the mountains and high desert. My wife, Susan, has set up her psychotherapy practice, and her 96-year-old mother lives nearby and survived COVID-19! I have joined the National Center for Genome Resources and have been able to set up a microbial genetics lab. Thus I am able to keep my lifelong addiction to benchwork quite active, collaborating with the genomics scientists on a variety of their projects that need such help. Looking forward to seeing visitors in 2021!

**Betty Lynn Brown P'98** • Music continues to keep me busy. I am the band director/piano teacher at three Lutheran schools and have private students as well. In place of Chancel Choir accompanist for church, since we have not met together for a year, I am recording music for virtual services at this time and am an organist for a church that has in-person services. Summer 2020 gave us a shorter season for the Lebanon Band where I play flute/piccolo and direct the band when our director is gone. Because of COVID-19, my children and grandchildren have only been able to be together a few times. I'm looking forward to the reunion.

**Douglas E. Clapp** • I missed reading Steinbeck's *Travels With Charley* in my youth, so, having recently enjoyed it, I was inspired to take off on my own “Travels With Frankie” last fall. The urge to hit the road to nowhere in particular is strong and palpable in me, especially after this dang pandemic.

My weimaraner/lab mix, Frankie, and I took off to explore the Utah outback around Moab, Utah. Driving the width of Colorado toward Utah & passing the charred scars of wildland fires, I was reminded that COVID-19 is not the only disaster we face these days. Over the next three days, however, I tried to put the Sturm and drang of 2020 out of my mind. We hiked dog-friendly trails and met some nice folks in the high desert towns we visited.

**Jacqueline Rauscher Curtiss** • Russ and I feel lucky to be retired in beautiful eastern Tennessee, a good place to ride out this pandemic. Like most of you, we've had three vacations cancelled so far. Filling my days with lots of online bridge, book clubs, swimming daily laps (I should admit it's mainly doggy paddling), knitting and tending to the very spoiled pomeranians. I just joined the Jane Austen Society, so I am rereading her works. I teach continuing education



classes, so I am working on my next class—hoping to be able to present it next fall. Working on a bathroom remodel and think of Lawrence every time I see a Kohler sink! Hope everyone is safe and well.

**D. Scott Frankenberger** • The Art Museum of Greater Lafayette featured a retrospective of my 50-year career. Scheduled to open in May of 2020, all plans for a public opening and viewing went out the window due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Reenvisioned as a virtual exhibition, it can be seen at <https://www.artlafayette.org/current-exhibits>. It is now open to the public on a limited basis through August 30. The online version will continue. My initial contact with clay began in the old Wriston Art Center, along with other art media studies. After teaching ceramics at a local Lafayette area high school, I took a chance to set up a home studio, and made a career as a self-supporting artist.

**Mary Jo Freeman** • I'm delighted to be opening Hillcrest House, a youth shelter and care facility for homeless teenagers in Marathon County ([katsinc.org](http://katsinc.org)). This has been a big focus of my efforts in the last several years, made difficult with the pandemic and inability to fundraise. Since immunization, we're planning trips. Upcoming is New York, where our youngest son, Joe, hopes to break into the jazz scene. Always great to see **Danita Hall '71**. As “super spreaders,” we have been unable to perform but are looking forward to resuming next fall. Praying Israel and Jordan open up by May.

**Robert F. Haege** • Kate and I have been dodging the virus with the aid of having two homes, one in Highlands Ranch, Colo., and the other in Three Lakes, Wis. Both afford us the ability to enjoy the outdoors as an alternative to just hunkering down inside. Plans for 2021 include GETTING VACCINATED ASAP, hopefully driving to Utah sometime in February or March to visit friends who are in our common healthy “bubble,” driving to northern Wisconsin for four or five months for boating, swimming, golfing, hiking, kayaking and carefully socializing. Hopefully the Wisconsin time will include a visit from our granddaughter (and son and daughter-in-law) for some quality time. Stay safe!

**Richard O. Haight P'00 & Denise Dyer Haight '70 P'00** • Denise and I are doing well but mostly in isolation. Denise quite enjoys having her groceries delivered and may never return to the stores. We also have our vaccines scheduled and are looking forward to be able to visit our granddaughter who is a freshman at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. I am officially retired having given up my license in both Florida and Wisconsin.

**Nancy Paulu Hyde** • I retired in 2020. Fifty years of journalism in Minneapolis and writing/editing at the U.S. Dept. of Education in Washington, D.C., provided remarkable opportunities to indulge my twin passions for education and writing. With COVID-19, some retirement plans have materialized (joining a book group, meditating, exercising with my “Aging Backwards” DVD, taking ukulele classes); others are on hold (tap dancing lessons and travelling). My husband of 37 years (a lawyer and all-around good person) still makes me laugh. Our married son teaches preschool in Charlottesville, Va., and is the

father of our granddaughter; our soon-to-be married daughter is an OB/GYN resident at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.

**Margaret Tift Janis** • No news is good news. Our family has all fared well during the pandemic. Jim and I came home to Minnesota from our winter home in San Diego in mid-March, just a few days after my daughter and I got back from a Lawrence alumni trip to Ghana. The trip to Ghana was terrific. We all felt like we were in a safe bubble there while Europe and North America were beginning to deal with the reality of the pandemic. I've used the extra time during lockdown to write a major section of the book I've been working on for several years. I've even found a Lawrence alum to work with me as the editor. Trying to keep it in the family!

**David A. Jones P'10 & Rochelle G. Jones P'10** • For wife Rochelle and me, as for many people, it has been an intensely quiet year (once you dial out the political turmoil that somehow keeps seeping in). With compromised immune systems, we've kept ourselves pretty tightly bottled up—doctors' orders. Ro has been able to set up her Northwestern University office in our guest bedroom, with no pressure to return to campus anytime soon. I have a large garden out back and a house seemingly furnished with end table piles of partly read books and magazines. I retired from poetry journal, *RHINO*, after 12 years as managing editor, receiving their Paladin Award for “Extraordinary Long-Term Contribution to Poetry in Illinois.” A good way to go.

**Marvis Ann Knospe** • Husband Michael Harper is still teaching remotely so we've rented an apartment in Brooklyn, N.Y., and are looking forward to being back in New York City to visit our son, Oliver, his wife, Clare Ros, and their daughter, our first grandchild, Alma Paz, born Jan. 14.

**Douglas Kohrt** • After 20 years, I continue to work as Master Commissioner at the Supreme Court of Ohio. Working from home for the past year has certainly been different. I enjoyed the reunion with members of the 1969 football team that was held at Lawrence before COVID-19 began. It has also been over 50 years since I went with the first group of Lawrentians to the Arden Hotel at the London Study Centre. I later became an Air Force judge advocate and lived in England for three years when I was stationed at Greenham Common, Berkshire, in the early 1980s. I now live in the Columbus, Ohio, area and have a winter home in Redlands, Calif.

**Janet Heimann Kriz P'04 & David G. Kriz P'04** After 42 years in Downers Grove, Ill., Dave and I moved to Eugene, Ore., last February. We were just in time for everything to shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic. We've managed to do some exploration and sightseeing in the intervening months, but not as much as we had hoped and anticipated. Still, we're comfortably situated in a beautiful location with the mountains and the Pacific coast each within an hour's drive. Our next adventure is a probable move to the Boston area to be near our daughter, **Allyson '04**, her partner and our new granddaughter.

**Ann Niebling Laughlin** • On Aug. 21, I lost my husband of 20 years, Leighton Laughlin, after caring

for him for five years. Now that I'm free to travel, I can't, of course, because of COVID-19. So in addition to my third career, which is morning baker at my son's bagel and deli shop, I have joined the Vermont Medical Reserve Corps to do COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Who could have imagined where life would take me when I left Lawrence? I have eight grandchildren, five of whom live in the same town as I do, so I am truly blessed.

**Stephen D. Le Van & Karen Wille Le Van '74** • Our Lawrence connections are through family: **Greg Wille '68** and **Suzanne LeVan '74**. I have been in Camden, S.C., since 1987. Our son, Matt, and his wife work from home in mid-Massachusetts—computer programming careers. I fully retired in 2015 (20 years as a USAF pilot then 25 years in arts management). Karen retired shortly after me. She became my nurse after my aortic valve replacement. We still raise and exhibit Irish wolfhounds. I had an awesome gig in Sydney, Australia, judging Irish wolfhounds. I was supposed to judge in Prague, Czechoslovakia, last July—canceled—maybe this July. Every spare moment is spent preparing our home to sell. We plan to build a small cottage on a good friend's farm in Pennsylvania.

**Norah Barrett McCue** • Like most folks, we have little to report except staying relatively healthy in the past months. At our house, a big evening involves building a fire in the fireplace and listening to NPR jazz (Fred Sturm would approve) while we watch hockey on TV with the sound off. We truly missed attending Chicago Symphony concerts at Ravinia last summer and hope that somehow we can have that experience this year. Right now, we are buried in snow but are thinking about what varieties of tomatoes to plant in a few months. It's great to hear news from around the Lawrence world!

**Katherine Mayer Mead & Lawrence N. Mead** • We are enjoying our retirement, Kathy from Columbus, Ohio, City Schools, where she worked in assessment and testing, and Larry from corporate finance, though he still works as a management consultant to an architectural firm and an environmental engineering firm. Our three sons and their families survived the pandemic pretty well, and we have five grands—two boys (aged 13 and 14 in Toledo, Ohio) and three girls (4 year old in Columbus, Ohio, and 5 and 2 year olds in Kitchener, Ontario). We were looking forward to our 50th reunion, but may take a trip to Wisconsin anyway (COVID-19-pending) to touch base with our many Wisconsin friends. Let us know if you'd like us to stop by!

**Michael L. Moodie** • At the end of December I “retired” after an almost 50-year career in government, think tanks and academia focused on international security and foreign policy, both at home and abroad. And I still hope to keep my hand in the game with some part-time work. I told my daughter, who chose the same path, “It's a career where you won't get rich, but you will have a hell of a ride! The places you'll go, the things you'll do, the people you'll meet—remarkable!”

**Julie K. Panke** • I am looking forward to again directing my three community choirs when choral singing becomes a safe activity. In the meantime

my husband and I spend lots of time with our grandchildren who live next door to Scotia, N.Y.

**Ann Baumgarten Petersen** • My husband, Ted, and I have been living in Washington, D.C., for the past 40 years. We have two grown children and one grandchild. I spent years as the Director of the International Student House in D.C. and the Osher Life Long Learning program at American University—this program looks even more interesting to me now, as I get older, than it did when I ran the program. We are now happily retired and are fortunate to spend several months each summer in Door County, Wis., just a two-hour drive north of Appleton. If we are fortunate enough to have a true reunion next year, I look forward to reconnecting with many old friends from Lawrence.

**Stephen F. Rechner & Susan Gedney Rechner** • Susan and I are both now retired; Susan retired from a career in nursing administration and I retired as an obstetrician/gynecologist. We reside in Ada, Mich., and enjoy frequent visits to our cottage in the Upper Peninsula. Luckily, our two sons and their families are close by, giving us ample opportunity to enjoy our grandchildren.

**Rick Rothschild** • Amidst the behavioral adaptation due to COVID-19, our two younger ones (twins) are very successfully finishing up high school from home while looking with anticipation at semi-normal start to college life in the fall. I've been blessed to have been fully engaged throughout the last year with work on several new FlyOver attractions. We open the first one in Las Vegas in September 2021. I've been out filming for that one since this past August. We are a very small production pod as it is all helicopter filming, working mostly in extremely remote areas of the western U.S. At the same time, I've truly enjoyed more time home in the past 12 months than perhaps I have in the past 15 years.

**John T. Schaefer** • Happily retired from teaching 15 years ago, now learning to paint as COVID-19 keeps me home. Amazing passion. May we all get out and soon enjoy a bit of normalcy.

**Marjorie C. Strobel, Ph.D.** • I retired from the Jackson Laboratory in June 2019. I did several trips around the U.S. before COVID-19 hit, since then have been enjoying life in beautiful Bar Harbor, Maine. Looking forward to more travel in post-pandemic times, including to Appleton for our reunion in June 2022!

**Patricia Suhrcke** • After retirement and five years of intensive travel, the pandemic has completely clipped my wings, so I've given in to my inner compulsive teacher and volunteer. I'm working with Friends of Fairsted (the Frederick Law Olmsted NHS) to celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth in 2022 and teaching elementary students about botany and ecosystems via Zoom (my new home) for the Arnold Arboretum. I'm also multitasking for our church and, my favorite, teaching Russian literature in translation to the lifelong learners at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. I think of Richard Yatzeck and George Smalley with each class meeting. I learned so much! I'm proud and humbled to be able to pass it on.



**Marilyn A. Thompson** • It is disappointing that circumstances make it impossible for us to gather this summer to celebrate our 50th reunion. I am enjoying my retirement from health care, relieved not to be on the front lines of COVID-19. My wife, Sharon, retired just before lockdown for the pandemic and we have been making the most of our time at home with our disabled son, David, who we moved home for his safety, and our younger son, Nate, who transitioned home for his school. All are well and anxious for vaccinations. I have been busy bicycling, now cross-country skiing, taking flute lessons and learning Spanish in addition to gardening and housing projects. Hopefully, travel is in our future.

**Pamela L. Tibbetts** • I can't remember what I said last time I gave an update or, for that matter, when I last gave an update. We have been lucky to have the resources to get through this pandemic year. We've stayed in touch with friends through FaceTime, Zoom and small outdoor gatherings. Our highlight came when we met the kids for an RV camping trip in Cody, Wyo. It was great to see them again and still socially distance. We went to our timeshare in the Bahamas in February; we hadn't been in four years and wanted to go to support their rebuilding after Dorian. We had the privilege of volunteering with the World Central Kitchen delivering meals; it's a fabulous organization. Looking forward to our reunion in 2022.

**Marianne R. Varney** • I'm still living in Naples, Fla., close to Vanderbilt Beach. Retired, but I am a personal assistant for friends even older than I! Arthritis is taking its toll, but otherwise I'm healthy so far. I see **Jeff Riestler '70** and **Jone Riestler '72** when they come to Sanibel, otherwise no current Lawrence contacts. Modest but cozy guest room and bath ... come visit!

**John C. Woodruff** • Where were you when the world shut down due to COVID-19? My husband and I had just sold our home in the Sacramento suburb of Elk Grove, Calif., completed a wonderful road trip visiting family (which included **Wendy Hopfensperger '62**), sold our Honda CRV, organized our lives into eight large suitcases plus four carry-on bags and boarded a plane at SFO to retire in Porto, Portugal, arriving March 14, 2020. Europe greeted us in total lockdown. Entering 2021, we're enjoying life in Braga, Portugal, as we wait for our condo to be built just steps from the Atlantic beaches of Perafita. My husband, Jeff, is a 'list person.' Any of you live with a list person? It's helpful as we await vaccination and border openings.

**1973**  
**Duffie A. Adelson** • During the pandemic I have tremendously enjoyed weekly Zoom visits with **Stan Kingsley Day '73**, **Susanne Fusso '76** and **Dave Larson '76**. They are such inspiring people and so much fun! I also recently enjoyed watching **Mary Luehrsen Young '75** interview soprano Renee Fleming, neurologist Nina Kraus and Maestro Gustavo Dudamel during NAMM's recent "Believe in Music" online conference. Mary is an absolutely masterful interviewer and leader in the field!

**Deborah J. Anderson** • Hello from the Pacific Northwest! I'm still here, ensconced in my modest house overlooking Puget Sound. I love watching the

storms roll in or trying to capture a phenomenal sunset. Retirement gives me time for work on projects, gourmet cooking once a week and walks in the neighborhood. The pandemic quashed most social events and concert-going, but otherwise I've been fine. Three of my four children are married or in a permanent relationship, and three live relatively near me. My 10-year-old relationship with Ted, a fluvial geomorphologist, revolves around the weekends and vacations. I reached my goal of 100 compositions. Website **www.deborahjanderson.com**, Instagram **deborahanderson928**.

**William R. Ash & Julieann Norman Ash** • Having retired from my corporate job in the spring of 2018, I have continued to work for my wife, Julieann, as CFO and business manager for her practice, Midwest Educational Therapists & Associates, here in Columbus, Ohio. The practice just moved to new offices with a five-year lease, so we expect to be active in the practice into our mid-70s, which is quite a privilege. In addition, I am currently the Class A licensed operator of our current water system, chairman of the system's shareholder board, a board member of the Mount Air Water District and secretary-treasurer of our flying club. Retirement is not involving nearly as many naps as I thought it would.

**Ronald L. Bernard** • I'm retired from flying big airplanes (DC-9, MD-80, B747 and B737) and living in Daytona Beach, Fla., flying part-time charters to the Bahamas from Sanford, Fla. My three kids—Christopher, Johnathan and Charlotte—are settled in their own careers of regional sales executive, orthopedic surgeon and lawyer, respectively. Four very beautiful grandchildren are excitedly waiting for this COVID-19 craziness to subside so they can come down and visit grandpa and Disney. Looking forward to attending our 50th reunion. All the best to the class of '73.

**Annette Archambeau Brower** • Greetings from the Great White North, where my daffodils and tulips are already coming up in the first part of February and new wineries are springing up almost as quickly. I am finally retiring—for the third time—at the end of the academic year and giving up my medical licenses in both countries. Violin playing is occupying an increasingly large part of my semiretirement. Jeff and I are doing well in our bubble. Thankfully, the COVID-19 numbers are low in British Columbia. Looking forward to having the Lawrence ladies visit this fall.

**David P. Brown** • Two major changes: We have moved back to Maine after nine years in South Carolina; we were missing the kids and grandkids (though not the snow). I traded in my old barely functioning lungs for a new set. Things are going well so far, and I am very grateful to the amazing transplant team at Brigham and Women's Hospital. I hope everyone is being safe.

**Mark S. Cebulski** • I'm retired and living on Milwaukee's East Side, in the pipeline for COVID-19 shots and awaiting a chance at a hip replacement after I get them. I had a triple bypass in 2018, so I barely missed the 45th reunion, but I came out of that fairly well. Writing a blog is keeping me busy because there's no shortage of issues! Lying low and waiting for spring!

**James E. Cox** • My wife, Roz, and I are retired and living in Longmont, Colo. Both of us are aspiring musicians. She plays upright bass in a bluegrass band, although they haven't played a gig in a long time because of COVID-19. My progress has been more modest. These days I do all my guitar playing and singing in the basement. Pre-COVID-19 I would occasionally come up out of the cellar to play at an open mic or jam. Otherwise, I spend my time bike riding and fly fishing, weather permitting. I get the feeling we are the only people in Colorado who don't ski. I think living in Alabama for 30 years produced an aversion to the cold in both of us.

**David L. Danner** • After retiring in August 2018, we returned to Toronto with an eye to making it our "forever home." Last year we bought a downtown condo, and we've again become urbanites. Of course, our plans to make the most of city life and the freedom to travel have evaporated with the pandemic, but hopefully we still have a good number of years left to enjoy our retirement. In my dotage I decided to return to school, beginning a Ph.D. in immigration studies at the University of Toronto. It's been a great time so far. I just need the archives and libraries, which have been closed to in-person research since the beginning of the pandemic, to reopen. Thank God for access to online resources. Stay well.

**Stan Kingsley Day** • After almost 27 years on the Northwestern University staff, I retired as publications lead editor in the Office of Global Marketing and Communications at the end of August. I'd been working from home since March, so I went from being home all the time to being home all the time. Until the pandemic I'd remained active in professional theater, most recently playing Sir Harcourt in *London Assurance* and the Learned Judge in *Trial by Jury* at City Lit Theater, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at Metropolis Performing Arts and Terry in the Chicago premiere of Harvey Fierstein's *Casa Valentina* at Pride Arts. As the Savoyaires' resident director, I also staged the company's two most recent Gilbert & Sullivan productions, *Ruddigore* and *The Yeomen of the Guard*. My article "Deciphering Chopin's Shorthand in the Posthumous Mazurka in F Minor" was published in the September/October 2018 issue of *Clavier Companion*. In 2019 I visited two former Lawrence professors, Marjory Irvin and Ted Rehl, and heard Ted's last piano recital before his death only a month later. Having recently visited Thailand and Japan, I'm eager to resume traveling, but I'm very grateful that compared with so many, my pandemic hardships have been manageable.

**Bonnie Wisth DeVore** • Wayne and I moved to Lewistown, Mont., a few years ago and are loving it here. In this challenging time, we have been fortunate to have remained healthy. Our two daughters (one in Los Angeles and one in the Twin Cities) and their husbands also continue to be well. Our days are filled with exercise, long walks, reading (a lot) and putting the finishing touches on the house we built here to be our forever house. Looking forward to getting the vaccine and being able to visit our 3-year-old grandson more often.

**Leslie Dickinson** • This pandemic has brought me closer to the precious youngsters growing up in our cul-de-sac! I am teaching myself Japanese

to communicate with one family and have made special fused-glass gifts for seven little ones for each holiday this past year, since all of our lives have been so isolated. I also adopted my very first little dog, who had been in three shelters and with two families before I found him, and he was only seven months old! It's been a real learning experience trying to train him to be less reactive to everything that moves because he was used as bait in dog fighting in California before being rescued at 8 weeks old. He's precious to me! Hope we all get vaccinated soon!

**Kurt R. Dietrich P'10 '06 & Maria Kaiser Dietrich '78 P'10 '06** • Like so many classmates, I feel fortunate to be retired and comfortable financially. Lavish travel plans have been cancelled, as well as all music gigs (except recording music at home for virtual church services). I was also on a run of numerous book "events" after the publication of my book, *Wisconsin Riffs: Jazz Profiles from the Heartland* (Wisconsin Historical Society Press). All those were cancelled as well, but a couple of virtual talks are upcoming. I am currently writing a biography of jazz singer (and Wisconsin native) Al Jarreau. Maria and I are among the very lucky ones during these challenging times.

**Augustin K. Fosu P'13 & Helen A. Fosu P'13** • I continue to teach master's degree and Ph.D. students at the University of Ghana and to serve as Extraordinary Professor at South Africa's University of Pretoria and as research associate at the University of Oxford's Centre for the Study of African Economies in the U.K. I have just also been appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor at South Africa's University of Johannesburg. Last year I was appointed to the Ghana President's Fiscal Council and the Eminent Panel for Ghana Priorities. For three years in a row, I have been invited by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to submit nominations for the Economics Nobel Prize. Most memorably, in March last year, my wife, Helen, and I hosted a Lawrence alumni group visiting Ghana. It was indeed an honor and a pleasure!

**Deborah Burns Fox & Jeffrey A. Fox '72** • As for so many others, 2020 brought challenges and changes in how we gathered with family and friends. But Jeff and I took an unexpected leap and relocated to Callawassie Island in South Carolina. We are settling into the low country lifestyle, happily learning about tides, bird-watching, perfecting our kayak paddling techniques, golfing and playing tennis. I am now fully retired after a long career in ministry. It's time for those younger than me to shine. Jeff and I enjoy serving on the Lawrence President's Advisory Council and look forward to the 50th reunions for both the classes of '72 and '73.

**Anne Sturgeon Frenchick** • Our world was sheltered and secure this past year in every important way (housing, finances, health). Since the COVID-19 restrictions began, Ted and I have been in our home for all but a week in September, which we spent at my cousins' cottage in Michigan—a retreat-like vacation! The turmoil in our world, from George Floyd's killing to the insurrection at the Capitol, has been a stark contrast to our domestic putterings: mask making, bread baking, gardening, bathroom remodeling, learning Turkish online. Having just turned 70, I

am contemplating what I want to make of the rest of my life and what my legacy will be. I don't have the answers yet. Do you? (I mean, do you have the answer for me?!)

**Karen Kirhofer Hansen** • I have been enjoying retirement and have been volunteering, walking, hiking and taking all kinds of classes. Rock concerts have also been part of the menu, and I'm hoping they will return soon. Bob and I have continued our camper travels with the dogs, and I go to the Chicago area about every two months to help my 94-year-old mom. After the pandemic **Nancy Freeman Wallace '73**, **Margie Allen Carroll '73** and I will meet up on one of these trips, as we did once before. Service trips to Kenya and Fiji were cancelled due to the pandemic, but Kenya is rescheduled for this summer, and I am hoping it will go. Take care, everyone!

**Linda Rosenbauer Hau** • Since 2017, my husband, Tom, and I have been blessed with two beautiful grandchildren: Walter, 3, and Alice, 8 months. They live in Minneapolis, so we haven't been able to see them in person for quite a while due to the pandemic. Our daughter married her partner on the Oregon coast in September, and we were able to Zoom the ceremony. Not the way I wanted to see their wedding, but so very happy for them.

**William O. Humleker** • We are enjoying life in the North Carolina mountains. Our daughters and their families live nearby, and we love having our grandsons (ages 8 and 6) in the neighborhood. Looking forward to visiting with friends at our 50th in 2023.

**Laura Mueller Just** • I am recently widowed and have plans to move back to Wisconsin from North Carolina during the first half of 2021. Like everyone else, I hope to participate in deferred in-person reunions of friends, classmates and family as soon as enough of us have been vaccinated and can travel and fraternize with much less concern. Looking forward to those hugs!

**Kristen Olson Lahner & Ronald B. Lahner** • We've enjoyed our first full year as Denverites and, in spite of COVID-19 restrictions, we've been blessed to connect with several of the many Lawrentians in the area. We will be working in the months ahead to establish the Colorado Alumni Club and would love to hear from fellow Colorado alums. Ron has a nice balance of independent consulting work in the health care industry and more free time in semiretirement. Kristen is serving her second term on the LUAA Board, loving that continued connection to campus. Son John and family live nearby—we love being able to spend time with them and watch Sophie (now 3) grow. Looking forward to working with everyone on the big 50th! See you there!

**Joseph W. Michel** • Wishing most of the class of '73 a happy 70th birthday from northern Wisconsin.

**Marcia A. Mittelstadt** • I am retired in Memphis, Tenn., where I have a great support group of friends, many of whom were my students when I taught at Lambuth University. I had a Rhine River Cruise planned for July 2020, but the pandemic put that on hold until 2022. In a way this was a good thing, since I had some health issues to work through. Now I am

back to normal and ready to go, just waiting for our world to heal. I did have a part-time bell directing gig, but that too is on hold. I do miss seeing people and making music together. I have become an expert communicator with my cats. They have been my companions through all of these months at home. I proudly wear the title of old maid cat lady.

**Larry E. Nesper** • I live in Madison, Wis., where I'm a professor in the Department of Anthropology and American Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin. My book on Ojibwe Indian mixed bloods is coming out this spring. Cross-country skiing, ice skating and some running help me endure this stint in COVID-19 prison about as well as one could hope for.

**Cynthia Percak** • I relocated to Riverton, N.J., from Racine, Wis., in November 2020. I have recently been appointed to the U.S. Board of the Seraj Library Project, which provides initiatives and support in developing community libraries and multigenerational civic education programs in rural Palestinian villages.

**Sara A. Quandt** • I continue working half-time as faculty at Wake Forest School of Medicine, as does my husband, Tom Arcury. Spending our mornings working—mostly writing—has provided a welcome structure and creative outlet during the pandemic. We both serve as board members and gardeners at a community garden, which has also kept us busy. We feel fortunate to be healthy but still miss the four international trips we had to cancel in 2020. Hoping to reschedule them soon!

**Alice J. Ralph** • The world seems glad to see the back of 2020. I'm still trying to comprehend it. My husband, Pete Cokinos, died last April of COVID-19. In this, I am grateful for so many, both near and far, who sustain me. My mother survives, living in a community nearby at age 95. The pandemic burdens us all in ways great and small. We crave the quotidian matrix of resilience, as life goes on with necessary precautions. I continue to serve beyond two decades on the Washtenaw County Historic District Commission and will also serve on a new city board to develop a public space in downtown Ann Arbor, Mich., finally taking shape after a successful 2018 ballot initiative. Be safe, practice kindness, share joy.

**Susan Conkey Running** • Tom and I will not make our usual trip to Texas this March. The long wait for life to return to "normal" continues ... Last June our daughter, Katie, and her husband, Aaron, moved into the new home they built in Hortonville, Wis. They were living in Green Bay, Wis., which sure isn't far away, but it's nice to have them even closer. Our closets, the pantry and our yard have never looked better, but I do hope 2021 has a bit more excitement to offer. And I'm definitely looking forward to our 50th reunion in 2023.

**Myra Soifer** • In March 2020, after a bit more than two years of service in Panama, I was among the 7,000-plus Peace Corps volunteers evacuated home because of COVID-19. I've resettled in Reno, Nevada, and—like pretty much everyone else—I'm waiting (and praying!) for this pandemic to end so that I



can chart “the next chapter.” In the meantime, I do occasional rabbinic back-up service, a bit of ESL teaching (my Peace Corps service) and more Zoom and webinars than I can count! Grateful for health and safety.

**David S. Spear** • I retired in May 2020 after 38 years of teaching history at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. Debbie and I are spending our time reading and seeing grandchildren from time to time.

**Margy Upton Trumbull** • My life partner, Scott Trumbull, died on Aug. 29, surrounded by our three sons, their wives, eight grandchildren and my siblings at our home in St. Joseph, Mich. He was a wonderful man who loved and supported me in so many ways; we had a magical time together. Oh, I miss him dearly and will be ever saddened by his death but am so grateful for the life we had together. He even enjoyed visiting the Lawrence campus with me during my three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

My family and friends sustain me, and as of this submission, I have gladly received my first COVID-19 vaccine. My second in three weeks will follow my first knee replacement surgery. My osteoarthritis has been plaguing me for some time, and with my two artificial hips and one shoulder replacement, I am rapidly becoming the Bionic Woman. I am glad I leaped when I could (in my senior photo I was doing the Russian leaps on Union Hill).

I am saddened at the veiling of truth in our land and proud that my cousin and Congressman Fred Upton has continued to vote his and my conscience to “support and uphold the Constitution.” He was the first Republican to acknowledge Biden’s presidency too. Thankfully, Trump is gone.

**Nancy Freeman Wallace** • Although I feel pretty isolated as I write this, I’m grateful that the virus has enabled me to become accustomed to and enjoy solitude. This has been a gift of the pandemic. I managed trips to Door County, North Carolina and north Wisconsin this summer. I enjoy online Zumba and strong women classes and try to walk every day, weather permitting. I have enjoyed the *Learning at Lawrence* webinars and recommend them—well, all but one. Jim and I continue to work on downsizing as we anticipate moving into a condo, much smaller than our home, sometime in 2021. We will be in either Oregon or Stoughton (both Wisconsin). Our kids and 10 grandkids (ages 3 to 21) all seem to be doing well, knock on wood!

**George B. Wyeth** • I retired in 2017 from the EPA, where I’d worked as a lawyer for 27 years, and have worked since then with nonprofits in the environmental field—gaining very little money but a good deal of satisfaction (especially the opportunity to take on an administration that was very hostile to good policy and even basic public administration). Since I work from home, my kids are grown, and I’m generally not a busybody, I have not been greatly affected by COVID-19, but I miss traveling (and hanging out with other Lawrentians, such as **Harold Jordan ’72**, **Rob Lindquist ’73**, **Tony Welhouse ’73**, **Steve Holmgren ’73** and **Dave Rogers ’73**). We live in Somerset, Md., near Washington, D.C., and have two sons who are in Austin, Texas, and Oakland, Calif.

1975

**Joseph R. Baierl** • Hi! I retired in January 2020, and let’s just say the year didn’t exactly unfold as expected. We adopted a dog in January, I fell on ice and got my first major broken bone in February, then came March and COVID-19. Denise and I are healthy, though, and hoping to see our kids in a vacation rental this summer. Stay safe, everyone!

**Richard D. Bressler** • I received my first COVID-19 vaccine shot on Jan. 29, and have had no real problems with the pandemic. My fourth book, *Frank Selee*, was published in January 2021 by McFarland and Company. I am enjoying his retirement in Champaign, Ill.

**Gail E. Colman** • I am very content these days. I live with my partner, Joe, who is a wonderful cook, in Rogers Park, on Chicago’s far North Side. For the past six years I’ve been doing in-home psychotherapy on the North and South Side. I love my autonomy and hope I die with my boots on. I no longer have a car and am able to get around fine with Chicago’s public transit, not to mention that I ride for free. I’ve been able to pursue my writing passion, mostly through a storytelling workshop I participate in. Prior to the pandemic, I was volunteering for a hospice and animal shelter, the former of which enabled me to practice Reiki.

**Thomas W. Cutter** • Semi-retired in June 2020 as a faculty anesthesiologist at the University of Chicago. I still work one day a week but then spend 1.5 days remote learning with my twin granddaughters who live close by. I am also able to visit my other granddaughter in Milwaukee more frequently. Life is good.

**Patricia Knetzger Fullam** • “News”?!?! News during these pandemic times tends to be of the lower case variety, for me at least. Hunkered down in suburban Chicago. Retirement plans to travel got postponed so we pivoted to attending virtual weddings, birthday parties, funerals, group chats and cocktail parties on screen. Could sneak in outdoor, masked visits with grandkids and friends when the weather permitted. Did score a vaccine in late January and hope all you do too soon so we can get back to whatever the new normal is. Please do plan to attend our 45th cluster LU reunion June 17–21—it will be held virtually this year, but think how easy it will be to get back to Appleton this way!

**Timothy O. Grana** • The year 2020 is hard to forget—but it’s worth the effort. At least 2021 has started well with the demise of the most aberrant U.S. presidential administration on record. Could this signal an end to our Age of Endarkenment? Alas, here in the U.K., we now have to contend with the utter folly that is Brexit, an egregious act of national self-harm brought to us by the same global pandemic of reactionary xenophobia that has elevated such appalling characters as Jair Bolsonaro, Vladimir Putin, Matteo Salvini, Viktor Orbán, Nigel Farage, Marjorie Taylor Greene—and on and on. So let’s say the glass is not half empty, but half full ... of hemlock.

**David A. Gust & Linda Wolfgram Gust** • Linda and I, as well as our family and friends, have stayed healthy here in Australia. With international and state borders being repeatedly closed and reopened, interstate

travel restricted and public gatherings limited, we have ‘rediscovered’ a lazier lifestyle filled with books, conversations, neighborhood walks and puzzles. Zoom choir rehearsals, seminars and meetings with Ph.D. students help fill the time. We look forward to a different 2021.

**Linda Montross Harmon P’04 ’03 & John C. Harmon ’57 P’04 ’03** • I retired as a school librarian three years ago and have recently become ‘editor’ for John’s book. (Amazing that we are still married! Ha ha!) As I write this on Valentine’s Day, it is an anniversary of sort—we moved to Winneconne, Wis., on this very day 46 years ago (back in 1974). Every day that I live, I realize more and more what an education I received at Lawrence. We have two “grandchildren” (very close friends) that are freshmen this year at LU, and I am SO excited for them. My biggest hope is that they will be able to eventually experience life on campus (after COVID-19) as we knew it years ago ...

**Nancy Butler Kuhn & Richard A. Kuhn ’74** • Our travel has been curtailed due to COVID-19 but we still managed trips to Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas over the winter, and we see our family in Charlotte, N.C., (a three-hour drive away) every couple of months. We’ve stayed pretty close to home the rest of the time and are fortunate to live in a low density population area where we can be outdoors all year round. Outdoor and Zoom fitness classes have been fabulous to offset a more sedentary lifestyle resulting from the pandemic. Getting the vaccine can’t come soon enough ... realistically early spring for us. Richard and I are in good health and looking forward to resuming a more “normal” life when circumstances allow.

**Lynn M. Libera** • I’m still happily retired (10 years now) and still in possession of all of my original (major) parts. Golfing, gardening and grandparenting are my play times. Park board commissioner and two golf league boards are my givebacks. My husband and I are celebrating 40 years of marriage, amazing us both.

**R. Randy Lindsey** • I am transitioning to female at a ripe old age. Who would have known? Life is too short to hold yourself back. But I’m not in blimp pilot training school ;-) Genuinely curious questions and encouraging comments welcome! The younger generations know all about this; why not us? I guess I’m out now ...

**Jane Jacobus Mead** • I am currently teaching CPR for the Red Cross across the Columbus, Ohio, area as well as for my own business, CPR TODAY, LLC. I followed my musical direction for most of my career as a teacher and performer in the Tucson, Ariz., area as well as the northeast Ohio area. My husband, Ron, and I are happily transitioning into retirement but staying active in serving in our church and food pantry and in marriage mentoring, as well as through my CPR business. We also enjoy our grandchildren and family here in Columbus and New Jersey. We welcome any visitors anytime!

**Christopher W. Murray** • My wife, Dany, and I have been comfortably ensconced in Belgium, not crossing the frontiers of this small country in more than a year now. It has been interesting comparing the European and American responses to COVID-19. Much stricter lockdowns in Europe, but the key numbers on

COVID-19 victims have been about the same. We’re all looking forward to vaccines and travel!

**Kendrick E. Neubecker** • As with many, our original plans for 2020 went a bit haywire. We will try it again in 2021, after we get vaccinated! Our original plan was to sell the house and hit the road for a couple years in our R-Pod travel trailer, fishing and exploring the West with our little schnauzer Walter. We will do a fair amount of that this year, although maybe without selling the house. One trip commitment is to get up to Washington state to see **Jon Ulsh ’74** in his new place! We also plan to get south and see folks like **Mike Pearce ’74** and **Maya Page ’73** in New Mexico. Paula’s cognitive abilities are declining into the early stages of Alzheimer’s, so I think getting out more would help her.

**Elizabeth Coddington Norton** • Amidst the challenges of 2020, we found much to celebrate! Our adult daughter found herself living with us due to a combination of happenings. We have made many happy memories during her stay. Our grandsons have been spending time with us a couple days a week. They bring with them love and joy! We see their mother, our eldest, and their dad frequently as well. We avoided the deracho in Iowa last summer. Our life in Denver has been a blessing during this tumultuous year. Throughout it all I have been present at some Zoom calls with good friends from Lawrence. My retirement seems to be all about time with those I love.

**Karen Freeman Ortmann** • What a year! I finally retired in 2020 due to COVID-19 after working in health care for 44 years, initially as a physical therapist, then as a hospital executive and then back to PT. Last February, I was able to take an bucket list trip to Egypt that was amazing. Since COVID-19, I’ve spent a lot of this year learning to golf, walking, gardening, doing home projects and doing a lot of cooking. My son and his family came to stay with me for three months from Brooklyn, N.Y., to stay safe, so I was blessed to be able to spend a lot of time with my grandchildren Olivia (3 years old) and Benjamin (2-years-old).

I have thoroughly enjoyed the monthly Zoom calls with LU alum friends and other groups.

**Mary Jo Hibbert Powell** • Life goes on in Texas, where the state shuts down when it snows and temperatures drop below 30 degrees (it’s happened twice lately, and I’ve been spoiled by living in Texas), and retirement agrees with me. Had my second COVID-19 vaccine last week—one of the benefits of residing in an independent senior living community that happens to be attached to assisted living and memory care units (so we all got the shots). Was able to celebrate Christmas with much of the family and also have been busy with classmates from 1975, 1976 and 1977 and Lawrence staff planning our now virtual cluster reunion June 17–21. Join us from wherever you are for a reunion unlike any other.

**George E. Stalle** • Kay (my wife) and I are currently enjoying 35 wonderful years together and have been living on a lake in Roswell, Ga., since October 2018. I am still selling real estate for Keller Williams and have resumed clarinet studies with Laura Ardan, principal clarinetist in the Atlanta Symphony.

**Laurie L. Stearns** • I’ve been remembering that 50 years ago I was looking ahead to starting college in the fall and wondering what the future held. I am so grateful to my fellow Lawrence students, to the faculty, to the staff and to all those whose paths crossed with mine over the next four years. The meaningful experiences that we shared and what I learned at Lawrence meant a great deal to me then and always will.

**Diana Murray Swets & Stephen A. Swets ’73** • Diana and I relocated to Sarasota, Fla., from the Boston area permanently in 2017. We enjoy the Florida lifestyle (year-round biking, walking and golf) and have adjusted to a new definition of “seasons”—really hot outside in the summer and a bit of heat on inside in the “winter.” We became grandparents in November when our daughter and son-in-law welcomed a daughter into their lives and we are truly enjoying that new experience. Our son is on the basketball staff at USC in Los Angeles, so we are able to see him on TV weekly during the season though all the games are in PST and generally go from 10 p.m. until midnight.

**Dale Elizabeth Walter** • My biggest news is my grandson who is 4-years-old and awesome. After retiring from my career at Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, Wis., where I wore different hats including director of the reading program and chair of the fine arts department, I have been able to babysit! I also serve as learning coordinator for international students in the Fox Valley, reading tutor at the Boys & Girls Club and liaison for many things involving the elderly. Due to the pandemic, I have had to pull back a bit. So I have spent countless hours clearing our land along the river at the cottage creating a fairyland trail for my grandson. My biggest joy has been spending time with him and the family wandering through nature.

**Janice Woodward & Charles E. Woodward** • As we are sure is the case for most of us, Chuck and I spent much of the year at home, walking on what we hoped would be deserted trails, and on Zoom. We did do one crazy thing, which was to sell our little house close to downtown and move to a new home about 10 miles south (but still in Denver). Chuck continues to work part-time as a mediator for Denver and in his private practice. He also bought a new toy at the beginning of the pandemic—a 1978 Triumph Spitfire. I try to fill my days with long walks and some semblance of continuing my volunteer work via Zoom. We see our two grandchildren in Denver from afar with masks and our other two grandchildren in Seattle via FaceTime.

1977

**Terry R. Bolz P’14 & Anne Rosin Bolz P’14** • Anne retired from UW-Health in July 2020. Anne continues to work as section chief for dermatology at the Veteran’s Hospital. It allows her to fulfill her passions of serving veterans and teaching residents. I retired from UW-Health and Quartz in January 2021. We continue to live in Madison, Wis., and spend weekends at our farm in the Driftless area of Western Wisconsin. Two new puppies joined us recently—Elvis (the King) and Cleo (the Queen). Even during COVID-19, life has been good.

**Barbara A. Butler** • Greetings from Montana and hope you are all doing well during these interesting times. I have avoided COVID-19 so far and hope that continues. Became a grandma in April and retired from the City of Billings, Mont., as their Environmental Compliance Coordinator in October 2020 ... both good news. Retiring mid-pandemic lessened the fun factor but am thankful for a dog who needs walks and helps me keep my head out of the fridge and my butt off the couch. Had a mini-LU reunion Zoom chat last fall with **John McGee ’77**, **Cyd Einck ’77**, **Susan Osborn ’77**, **Tracy Grogan Mooty ’77** and **Tom “Howie” Hughes ’77** that was a delight. Stay safe, everyone. And RIP, **Jean Halligan ’77**.

**Jeane M. Capper** • 2020 was a challenging year for so many reasons. Of course, COVID-19 has affected us all, but I also suffered the loss of my husband, Wally Heinichen, on July 16 due to complications from dementia. I have a wonderful support system and living in Michigan has been good. Zoom and Facetime help to keep me connected to those who I can’t see in person. I retired three years ago in order to be a full-time caregiver and have recently started part-time teaching skiing at our local area, Crystal Mountain. It gets me out, and I am really enjoying working with all ages on the ski hill. Looking forward to a better 2021.

**Jody Feldman** • My latest passion is facilitating discussion groups based on the *Seeing White* podcast series, opening eyes about our country’s founding and history. I’ve also taken up knitting for the grandchildren (and me) during COVID-19; knitting circles are a great way to socialize! Hubby Bill & I are looking forward to traveling again, and our list of places to experience is getting longer. We live in Portland, Ore., and have an Airbnb for anyone interested in experiencing the Pacific Northwest.

**Susan Rosenthal Gordon** • It has been an interesting year! As an RN, I have been called out of retirement twice. Last spring, I helped answer a COVID-19 hotline and am currently in the process of getting rehired to help at a COVID-19 vaccination clinic. My husband, Alan, retired last summer without any fanfare—one day he was working and the next day he wasn’t. We had planned a celebratory trip to Scotland, but obviously had to put that on hold. We have been able to see our kids and grandkids a few times, so we feel fortunate for that, and we are grateful that so far no one in our immediate family has contracted the virus. I hope all of you are well and safe!

**Ann M. Hopkins** • Along with the rest of you, we’re hunkered down waiting for the tide to change. Fortunately, we live in a remote area of the Ozark Mountains where we hardly ever see people, so it’s easy to stay healthy. Our hearts go out to those who continue to face the challenges and terrible losses brought by this pandemic. My primary focus has been writing my first novel. The rough draft is done (after three years), and I’m starting the revision process (at least another year). For someone who needed a tutor to get through basic composition classes at LU, I guess I’ve come a long way. I’m grateful for local workshops on writing craft and support from a dedicated critique group via Zoom.



**Deborah Howland** • Tom and I both retired last spring (Tom from 46 years in engineering and me after nearly 40 years as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ). I had a full knee replacement just before the COVID-19 shutdown, so we've had plenty of time to get acquainted with retirement and life after rehab. Tom and I have appreciated seeing our kids who live close by and look forward to the time we can start visiting our long-distance kids in Minnesota and Oregon. Stay well, everybody.

**Tom G. Hughes** • Tom “Howie” Hughes has connected with many of his fellow Lawrentian alumni via Zoom. This list includes **Robin Fondow '76**, **Mike Powers '78**, **Barb Butler '77**, **Susan Osborn '77**, **Tracy Grogan Mooty '77**, **Cyd Einck '77**, **Tom Lindfors '78**, **John McGee '77** and **John McCarthy '78**. I have talked on the phone with **Ann Routier '77**, **Sue Schneider Harrison '78**, **Mary Reed Spencer '78**, **Jim Brooks '77** and **Mark Schoenbohm '77**. I am sure I forgot some and spelled some names wrong, but to make connections in these trying times brought me joy and nostalgia.

**Karen S. Kinsell** • Nearing a year of dealing with COVID-19 in a poor, rural southern town. It's been horrific and also has completely changed my practice of medicine. We're still mostly virtual. I am also doing COVID-19 testing and vaccinating, methadone and suboxone treatments of opioid-use disorders, serving as plasma clinic medical director, doing Medicare house calls and VA exams, etc. Both life and death are so close now.

**Sally J. March** • Still in lockdown here in the U.K. Last March, I left Madrid just days before Spain locked down. The U.K. locked down a few weeks later, and, apart from the summer, that's been our year. We are in the Cotswolds, which is a beautiful place to be. Lockdown means staying at home except for a trip to the supermarket or clinic. Wishing we could see friends and family in the flesh again, but Zoom is the next best thing to being there.

**James H. Murphy III** • After many years in Silicon Valley working in technology, I recently made a switch to biotechnology. I now head HR for a pre-IPO company in the oncology space. We have a great mission, and it's interesting to learn a new industry. We're still enjoying the San Francisco Bay Area. I can walk from our home to a trailhead that leads to nearby hills, so it has been easy to get some exercise during the pandemic—while taking in our good weather and the views. Our three daughters are all doing well; one is in the SF Bay Area, one in North Carolina and one in Austin, Texas. All good places to visit!

**Martha J. Olson** • Having retired eight years ago, I've been “working from home” since well before COVID-19, and I remain very busy with board and business advising work. Serving on the Lawrence Board of Trustees has been a privilege, but I truly miss being able to travel back to campus for the meetings—Zoom just can't replace being there. Husband Jeff and I continue to proceed through the many phases of “adulting”—we bought the condo in ski country, our daughter is engaged and planning a post-pandemic wedding, and we're starting the process of downsizing. Here's to traveling again.



Rose and Jeff Hawley at Moab in Utah in October of 2020.

**Fred D. Palmer** • 2020 was a challenging year as we'll all agree, but I very happily got married again. My first wife died six years ago, and Heidi and I have been playing in a couple community bands for the past four years. We finally decided it was time. Life is great! I'm still conducting and managing the Holton-Elkhorn Band in Elkhorn, Wis., but all concerts were cancelled this past year due to COVID-19. Hopefully this next summer. Stay safe everyone and let's have a great summer of 2021.

**James M. Rand P'06 & Sarah C. Rand P'06** • “2020 hindsight” shows that last year was not for staying home, but for retiring and moving. I promised to follow Sarah to our next destination as she followed me in my clergy career, including 25 years in Milwaukee. She picked Raleigh, N.C., to be near family. And near we are! A sister is across the street, and her parents moved in with us! It's a daily crash course in geriatric memory, medicine and mobility (before we move in with our kids!). I'm currently hiking the Camino de Santiago again (virtually now). I walk local sidewalks and trails, then chart my miles to an interactive map of Spain. The website shows photos of places we visited in 2019. We'll go back in person in 2022, post-COVID-19.

**Ruth Shaw Striegel** • Looking for the bright side of the pandemic? Our dog, Corby, is loving all the time with his people. And I am able to learn about environmental justice issues and advocate for climate legislation without leaving home, as our state legislature's committee meetings are now all on Zoom. I've learned how to mix music tracks and create videos for our church's pre-recorded worship services. And time and again I've found that distance is no barrier to connecting with people when so much of our interaction is online or via phone conversations.

**Catherine E. Tinker** • Still making architectural scale models and trial exhibits in Chicago. Last year we made the scale model of the Obama Foundation which was featured on a 60 *Minutes* interview with President Obama. If you saw the interview, you saw a great example of what we do VERY WELL.

**Anne Macleod Weeks** • We have been so fortunate to live in the safest place in North America during the pandemic. Our lives have been impacted only slightly—no restaurants, no playing pickleball inside, dinner with only a handful of designated friends, but we have had the beauty of the Maritimes to explore hiking, walking, snowshoeing, etc. The border being

closed, though, has been tough. Our son got married in November, and we couldn't be there. It has been a year and a half since we have seen him. We are hopeful he will be able to visit by fall. I continue to photograph, to take the occasional art course, to consult with an educational firm in China (part time) and to participate in writing and book groups.

**Andrea Williamson** • 2020 was a “different” year, but thanks to health, relationships and fulfilling work, it was a good one. I continue at Save the Children and in March adjusted to the new normal of working from home. It's been surprisingly OK, affording me much more flexibility. Just prior to the lockdown, I took a two-week trek to Chilean Patagonia, hiking the Torres del Paine Circuit—an amazing trip with incomparable scenery. That was it for travel for this year, other than some local ‘vacations’ for hiking and cycling. Running (lots of virtual races) and cycling are still passions, despite my 65-year-old knees. Best to all and I really do hope to make it to our next big reunion!

**Patti Glassman Wilson** • The last five years have been enjoyable. I moved to The Villages, Fla., from Appleton six years ago. I then moved to Anchorage, Alaska, for an orchestra teaching position. A year later I moved to Naples, Fla., for a high school orchestra/choir position and came back to The Villages to stay now for the last two years!! Alaska was beautiful but too far away, and Naples was wonderful! I love the beaches, but my home is in The Villages for golf, pickle ball, tennis, bowling and pool time with many friends from all over the world living here!! The sun does wonders for me vs. snow and ice!!! I have two little yorkies with me, and my two children (son and grandson in Gillett, Wis., and daughter in Denver) both doing well!

**Abby J. Zimberg** • In June, I finally passed my clinical exam to become a licensed marriage and family therapist in California. I am steadily growing a private practice. See [theartoftherapy.com](http://theartoftherapy.com).

**Margaret McCulla '77, Lilah Greene '77, Kim Neill '77** and I (Cooke House alums) have been Zooming every so often to stay in touch. Other than that, waiting for the vaccine shot and a return to more mobility in the world. Stay well. Yay Biden-Harris!

**Susan Saunders Zoidis** • Here's a shout out from me, Susan! (Yo Rob, Emily, Allan, David, Osborn, Meems and Mary, etc.) Living the COVID-19 dream in Minneapolis. Lots of time to write ... none of it publishable ... but I love my playwrighting classes nonetheless! Still married to Greg; our two sons live nearby, as does our 9-year-old grandson. I was going to tell you what keeps me sane, but I haven't found it yet! XOXO

## 1979

**Lina Beth Barber** • John and I spent the first half of 2020 in Portland, Ore. In August we returned to our Umbrian hill-town home in Italy for five months. After a two-week mandatory quarantine, we experienced relative freedom due to very low rates of COVID-19 infection, but by November, Italy was back to “stay in your own town” restrictions. We returned to the U.S. at Christmas and are enjoying a couple of socially distanced, double-masked winter months in Tucson, Ariz. We hope to get vaccinated in the next couple months so we can return to Italy in May or June.

**Teri Herbst Bill & John A. Bill** • John and I sold our business and have now officially transitioned to retirement and granddaughter-sitting!

Our son and daughter-in-law purchased our financial planning business and also blessed us with a granddaughter in 2019. We have fun being with her a couple days a week. With the pandemic and little socializing, our dining/living room have become a nice play area!

Golf remains our main sports activity. We bought a condo in Palm Desert, Calif., in 2018. It is on a golf course, and we enjoy the sunshine of southern California along with new friends (mostly Canadians) during the winter months. **Jim Palm '79** and **Sue Palm '80** own a condo close to us, and **Rich Faust '79** has visited a couple of times.

**John T. Boyle** • What can I say? I've been hunkered down at home for about nine months now trying to avoid COVID-19. So far, so good. I'm glad I'm as old and slow and uninteresting as I am at this stage in life, because that makes it a lot easier to deal with this craziness. I'm fortunate enough still to be working, but I haven't been able to travel as I normally would. My family has fared well throughout, but there has been way too much closeness—I told my wife I married her for better or worse, but not for lunch. Our daughter moved in with us temporarily—just to get out of NYC for a bit—and while she is great company, I have encouraged her to move back to NYC and send postcards. Stay well everyone.

**Susan T. Chandler** • My family, friends and I are healthy and all looking forward to the vaccine! Like everyone, it's been a year of working from home with lots of Zooming and streaming. I changed jobs in September, after I merged Madeline Island Chamber Music with MacPhail Center for Music and am now VP of Development at MacPhail. This is my winter of snowshoeing, and I'm looking forward to spring when we Minnesotans can once again hang out on decks and patios. For all who attended our 40th Reunion: aren't we so lucky it was pre-pandemic!?

**Peter M. Copeland** • I published a book about learning to be a journalist called *Finding the News: Adventures of a Young Reporter* (LSU Press). I focused on the first decade of a long career, because that's when I learned the most the quickest and frankly had the most fun, from night cops in Chicago to the borderlands in Texas, Mexico City and Washington, D.C. I filed stories from 30 countries, met fascinating people, got shot at a few times and tried to be fair and honest in my reporting. I fell in love along the way, and we have two grown kids and are still together going on 40 years. I hope the book will inspire young people, but I know that when I was starting I didn't seek much advice from “old” people.

**Jane W. Curran-Meuli & Michael G. Meuli '76** • I am President of Monroe Clinic (hospital and clinics) in Monroe, Wis. My husband, Michael, is VP R&D at Prefense. So our lives have been very busy during the pandemic.

**David W. Ehrlich** • Greetings! My first year of retirement moved right from travel into getting my wife, Jennifer Salk, a professor of dance at the University of Washington, through foot and back surgery. That segued right into the pandemic with lockdown life. We broke that up with van travel which

presented the possibilities of self-containment in remote parts of the West. I took along a motorcycle for touring the wilds. Back in town, I finished my certification with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to instruct and license new motorcyclists. I touched base with **Betsy Pilmer**, who went on the Slavic trip in 1979, at her place in Montana. Fishing did well as a COVID-19 activity, as well as bicycling. My daughter's spring wedding is on!

**Richard J. Faust** • I went into business as an independent IT consultant in August 2020. Things went full blast for the first five months. Now I spend half my time looking for new customers and the other half wondering whether it's time to retire. Either way, wish me luck!

**Michael J. Gerlicher** • Since 2014, I'm managing the Mumbai office of Aldrich CPAs. Carol and I remained in India during COVID-19 lockdowns. By May 2020, the situation got dicey. When an infection happened, that person was whisked away to government quarantine and their building was sealed (literally) for two-plus weeks. So we boarded a rare KLM repatriation flight back to the U.S. and Oregon. Managing our Mumbai staff long-distance over Microsoft Teams has had challenges. As we wait for India to reopen (visas, flights), it's been wonderful to be home for weddings, births, celebrations and to finish a bunch of Honey-Dos. Anyone interest in seeing India? Come to Mumbai first and we'll show you around the Big Mango, a city that never sleeps.

**Jeffrey R. Hawley** • Rose and I spent some time last year exploring Utah's national parks. Otherwise we are healthy, continue to work our full-time jobs and live in God's country (Southern California) during the pandemic.

**Jeff S. Heimerman & Sarah Anne Bauer** • We are just about to celebrate our third year back in Menasha, Wis., since retiring from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We lived in Washington, D.C., proper for more than 30 years. Because of COVID-19 we have mainly focused on upgrades to our house which includes painting nearly every room and moving our laundry area. Right after Thanksgiving, work began on a modest addition, which will be an art studio dedicated to making fused glass. Zoom and Facetime have been our main avenues to connect with family and friends. We are anxiously awaiting the COVID-19 vaccine, although we have no clue when that will be.

**Kris L. Hoffman** • I retired in 2019 after almost 40 years working for the Department of Defense, moving twice (Florida and California) to stay employed and getting the opportunity to travel to five foreign countries for my job. Since retiring, I got a couple of quick trips in before COVID-19 hit, and since then, I have focused on doing home upgrades and refamiliarizing myself with the needlework projects I had started at various times throughout my life.

**Elizabeth Dodge Kaprelian** • Greetings! It has been a crazy year for us as for everyone else. I've been working as the religious education director for our church, and my home office has now taken over a spare room in our house. Our kids are in Milwaukee, near Minneapolis and here in town. We are so grateful for technology that allows us to have virtual

happy hours and dinners, and we've even tried game nights. We're looking forward to vaccines and safe ways to travel and be together in whatever our new normal is going to look like. Stay safe everyone!

**Kathryn A. Krohn-Gill** • I really need to get a new mirror. Something's wrong with it. The other day I noticed that my hair was a bright silver color. I also saw wrinkles that I hadn't noticed before, especially where my face mask covers my mouth and chin. I'm sure it has nothing to do with wearing PPE most of the days and avoiding my hairdresser. As I approach the last few months of my career as a family physician, I have very mixed feelings. Instead of looking into others' faces I will have to face my own! My husband, Greg, and I will retire on June 1. I guess we will have a little longer to plan the worldwide travels we had hoped for. In the meantime, we hope to devote a lot of attention to our three grandchildren!

**Regina Swingen Lee** • I retired early (May 2019) so I could spend more time with my mom before her passing and to travel all around the world. As we all know, the travel part didn't happen in 2020, so I decided to try to get myself in better shape for when I do get to go. Surgeries have been a long slow process, but they should be worth the effort. I'm also working with an architect to build my “dream home” on a lake. Looking forward to traveling to more than Wisconsin and Tennessee this summer. I am planning on going with a friend to Yellowstone National Park for a behind-the-scenes trip to study wolves and grizzly bears with the Nature Conservancy in June.

**Roelif M. Loveland** • I'm still happy to have gotten involved with the planning of (and attending) the 40th class reunion ... as it was great to see former classmates and to share stories. Lots of laughing, and I'm pretty sure that no one noticed that not a single hair remains on my shiny pate! After all, who cares?! Life flies by in a flash ... so we all need take advantage of all chances to see and enjoy our old friends! I encourage everyone to make the effort to attend future reunions!!

**Mary Thome Marshal P'09 & Douglas D. Marshall '78 P'09** • Retired for two years, I've yet to see a downside. Loving reading, exercising, sleeping, cooking and pursuing my passion of mentoring children in the Sun Prairie schools. Doug and I are grandparents of Wes, with two more grandchildren on the way. COVID-19 has limited family time together, but we did manage trips to Washington, D.C., and NYC to see our children. We downsized from our home of 30 years to a nearby condo, which has supported our desire to spend weekends biking, hiking and saving our democracy. We are rebuilding a family home in the Adirondacks that burned to the ground last year and look forward to travel adventures when Doug retires in June.

**Scott D. Myers** • Who would have thought that in one year you could go from not knowing what Zoom is to being happy for its existence to dreading going on another Zoom meeting or Zoom cocktail hour. Like everyone else, the last year for me has been one of cancellations. Cancelled vacations, the cancellation of a music festival that I run and cancelled gatherings



with friends and family. However, there were bright spots. We had the joy of our three kids and their spouses working remotely from our house in the Leelanau peninsula of Michigan for the whole summer. Additionally, we welcomed our first grandchild in December. Nothing like a granddaughter to end the year on a high note.

**Jose Luis Romero Hicks** • My wife, Chiemi, and I are waiting for COVID-19 vaccines to reach Mexico. Our daughter, María José, is doing graduate work at Lyon's Catholic University, and our son, Luis Felipe, just finished his master's degree at Cornell. It was sad that Christmas excluded extended family's celebrations—every year 50-plus family members gather around my mother's table. Professional activities fill daily agendas. Thanks to webinar instruments, the legal and financial consulting firm (Romero Hicks & Galindo-Abogados) of which I'm a partner, continues to work, although we are all in home offices.

The ACM 1976 India Studies alumni are now doing Zoom encounters, an upswing of sheltering and reaching out.

**Thomas C. Spear** • Life has changed without tourists in town: it's NYC for New Yorkers! Now in third semester teaching online ... It's been an odd year without any travel (domestic or international), but nonetheless productive; I finished a 22-plus year project featuring literature from the world's French-speaking islands: ile-en-ile.org. The archive is in French; there is information about it in English with a video of a webinar organized last November (available at [centerforthehumanities.org](http://centerforthehumanities.org)) and a feature interview forthcoming at [wordswithoutborders.org](http://wordswithoutborders.org). I also published a new book, a collection of short, original texts by 30 Haitian authors, *Une soirée haïtienne*. Updates & info at [thomasspear.com](http://thomasspear.com).

**Robert E. Spoo** • In this disorienting time, our family has managed to carry on. My wife, Marjorie, continues to produce paintings and sculptures in her studio, a masked artist. Our twin daughters, Sophie and Virginia, are finishing their senior years at the Kansas City Art Institute, with painting and filmmaking majors, respectively. Their college experience, like that of many others, has been largely online since last April. I'm on a year's leave from teaching at University of Tulsa College of Law, with a Law and Public Affairs (LAPA) Fellowship with Princeton University. The fellowship was supposed to be on Princeton's campus, but that hasn't been feasible. Still, it's been a productive time for me.

**Michelle Mahn Swodzinski** • I have been retired from teaching school for about seven years, and I got a call in October to do a long-term sub job in my old school in my old choral job! I subbed for two months in the virtual world. I learned so much! Thank goodness for the smart students who helped me along the way. Teaching choir virtually with the students on mute was a whole new world for me. I also continue to walk every day for about an hour with our two golden retrievers, Ralph and Wilson. Our church is still virtual, and I contribute by singing the hymns every week. I hope everyone is well and safe during these unusual times.

**Dona Vander Schaaf Wininsk** • Blissfully retired after almost 27 years at the American Lung Association. Looking forward to the next adventure and class reunion.

1981

**Robert D. Alexander** • Not a lot to report ... back home in Minnesota and glad to be home. Having a great time selling real estate software. Wishing COVID-19 would go away, so I can go see my brother/ sister-in-law and drink fine wine and eat great food. Hope everyone is happy and healthy!! Looking forward to a real reunion and a few beers at Jim's or Cleo's.

**Elizabeth Austin Asch** • Seventeen months prior to the COVID-19 lockdown in my state, I became CEO of three companies when my husband passed away. By the time the pandemic hit, I was somewhat experienced at traumatic, disaster scenarios. While acknowledging the real tragedy it was for many others, 2020 became a year of growth and renewal for me. Passion and creativity were, by necessity, directed away from earlier occupations as artist and interspecies communicator. Please see the January 2021 issue of *Club Business International* for an article about one of my ventures; the name of the article is "The Great Comeback." My children and I still have homes in Paris and Hanover, N.H.

**Lisa Marie Brady** • Except for two years of my life, I have either been a student or teacher/librarian, so I am permanently on an academic calendar. This is my eighth year as librarian at John Adams High School in South Bend, Ind. I've been with this district for 16 years. Divorced for four years and living reluctantly in South Bend. I want to move to a remote location to live independent of major utilities; not sure where yet. Still enjoy the great outdoors. My daughter completed her undergraduate degree (Psychology & Literature/Film Studies) at the American University in Washington, D.C., and is now working on a master's degree (Literature, Culture, Technology) there; she plans to return to the Midwest afterwards.

**Philip D. Brick** • Phil Brick is Miles C. Moore Professor of Politics at Whitman College in Washington state, where he is completing his 30th year of teaching in the liberal arts. He is founding director of an environmental studies field program, Whitman College Semester in the West, which takes students in the field for intensive experiential learning throughout the interior American West. It has been such a honor and a privilege to work with so many incredibly talented students over the years, both in the classroom and in the field! It has also been fabulous to work with **Paul Arbetan '81** in the field. Paul is a gifted teacher of ecology; there is nothing better than working with an old friend!

**Elizabeth Russell Brunner** • There've been many "next career chapters" since 1981! I taught high school music for two years and then found my way into TV. Three markets & 28 years later, I left and launched Brunner Communications in October 2013. Pre-COVID-19, I traveled the U.S. as a communications coach working one-on-one with top-level executives

and leading workshops. In 2020, I created my online learning platform, **BrunnerAcademy.com**, offering a master public speaking course, "How to Be a Rock Star Public Speaker." I'm still coaching, leading workshops, public speaking and hosting my podcast, *Live Your Best Life with Liz Brunner* with inspiring guest's stories. I'm on all the major directors. I invite everyone to check it out.

**James M. Cornelius & Anne Smith Cornelius** • Corny and Anne closely monitor their home in Springfield, Ill., for uncomfortably low levels of tea, coffee and stronger drink. Corny's used bookstore and their church where Anne works have been open throughout the pandemic because both sites provide necessary service for mental and social health. Visit or write: [jcornelius.ala@gmail.com](mailto:jcornelius.ala@gmail.com) [ascornelius@aol.com](mailto:ascornelius@aol.com) See you at Cleo's!

**Kathleen M. DeMets** • In September 2020, my husband and I retired from our 38-plus-year careers in management at Madison Gas & Electric Co. Our first grandchild arrived in late August, so a few road trips were made to visit him in Providence, R.I. His parents are our oldest daughter, who is a second-year medical resident at Brown U/RI Hospital, and her husband. Luckily our younger daughter, who is a pharmacist, lives in Wisconsin, so it isn't as difficult to see her and her boyfriend. We have been busy remodeling our home in Middleton, Wis., enjoying our Door County vacation home, golfing, walking, cross-country skiing and keeping up with friends and family outdoors. When the world is ready for travel again, we will be ready too!

**Ann S. Derse** • I'm hanging out close to home, watching PBS on TV and movies from the library, listening to NPR and Zooming. Daily virtual workouts, plus physically distanced local hiking and cross-country skiing have resulted in my best-ever fitness. I squeezed in a botany-focused trip to Arizona in late February 2020 to learn about cacti. Then the pandemic squelched nature trips to Cuba and another one to Ecuador and the Galapagos. Only the Cuba trip will be rescheduled, perhaps late 2021 or spring 2022. Do you remember reading *The Plague* by Albert Camus in Freshman Studies class? It was one of my favorites. Never thought I'd experience a real-world example of this novel, though. Be well, everyone!

**Tod I. Gimbel** • Tod returned to the U.S. last year after living in Singapore for 13 years. He held senior pan-Asia government affairs roles at Kraft Foods, Levi's and Citi before moving to Herbalife Nutrition in 2015. He is now Senior Vice President of Global Government Affairs at Herbalife Nutrition's headquarters in Los Angeles. He, his wife, Hany, and his son, Sanjay, are living in Santa Monica, Calif.

**Greg R. Grunert** • Not much to report here. I was deemed essential due to my job as a truck driver, and since I traveled extensively, I caught the virus and spread it to my family. We now have COVID-19 antibodies in our blood, so if anyone out there needs convalescent plasma you know who to contact. Stay safe and I hope to see everyone soon.

**Bernard A. Haen** • Hello, everyone! Really bummed that the reunion will only be held virtually—and also about the Packers, as usual this time of year :( I'm still in Green Bay, Wis.; worked for the census in 2020 and will be starting up the American Community Survey shortly (another census position, basically gathering info that used to be on the long form).

My wife, Gini, and I are laying low until we can get our COVID-19 shots and things (mostly) return to normal. However, I will be moving my daughter, Caroline, out to Tacoma, Wash., the end of January for a job at the Northwest Trek Wildlife Park working with the carnivores (cougars, wolves, bears, sasquatch, etc.). Miss you guys!

**Kathryn C. Henry-Choisser** • Greetings! I currently work at Randolph-Macon College, a small liberal arts college near Richmond, Va., (where I've lived for 25-plus years). I am the curator at the Flippo Gallery on the R-MC campus, and I teach a drawing principles course as well. Teaching a studio class via Zoom is a trip! And regarding one of the many tumults of 2020, it was incredibly profound to live in Richmond, the "Capitol of the Confederacy," and bear witness in real time as modest but significant changes happened here last year. Civil War statues were removed from their pedestals, thanks to continuous, clamorous and predominantly peaceful protests—fascinating and exciting times! "See" y'all at the virtual reunion in June!

**Eleanor Kerlow, Esq.** • I'm starting year four of my business Eleanor Kerlow PR, though with the pandemic, last year has felt more like practice for retirement living. We got a pandemic puppy, and in between Zoom client calls, there are a lot of walks in the neighborhood, plus baking, ukulele playing and my new pastime, outdoor table tennis. I look forward to attending the virtual reunion in June, where we'll still be able to recreate some of the fun from our younger days. Hope to see you there.

**James L. Matchefts** • Samantha and I are enjoying time with our two grandsons, Jace (4 years) and Landon (1 year). We recently purchased a condominium on Table Rock Lake in southwest Missouri and look forward to teaching the kids the joys (if not the art) of fishing. I look forward to seeing everyone at a reunion when that is possible.

**Cynthia Boeye McGinnis** • While 2020 will be remembered for cancelled travel plans, social distancing and laying low, our family had some good news this year as both of our sons became engaged within a week of each other this past summer! In January 2021, my husband, Randy, retired after 34.5 years with his company. We are hoping to do some more traveling, spending time with our family and friends and looking forward to two weddings.

**Timothy P. Melcher** • Still teaching counseling psychology at Marquette University. My wife is a psychotherapist. We really like living in Fox Point on the North Side of Milwaukee. Kids are all in their 20s now and doing well (oldest in materials science, another in computer science and engineering and the youngest pursuing a degree in psychotherapy). We recently got a camper van so we can enjoy nature more easily; that's been fun. Life is pretty good for our family!

**Susan McGrath Mielenhausen** • In 2019, I wrapped up the last of my child protection cases (representing kids in long-term foster care) and let my law license go. My husband, Tom, is recently retired and our plan was to start traveling more often. Hah! On the bright side, we have weathered the pandemic far better than many and are grateful to have a home and neighbors we love. We have lived here for more than 30 years and are now the old people of the block.

Evidently not feeling the allure of St. Paul, one of our sons lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., and the other in Memphis, Tenn. Both are well, happy and employed. Life is good.

Cheers to the LU Class of 1981!

**Coralee Ferk Ott** • I am currently living in Plymouth, Mich., working part time as a recreation coordinator for Canton Township. I also serve on the board of Independent Living Alliance, a nonprofit, working to design an intentional apartment community for adults with disabilities in southeast Michigan. Recently Independent Alliance took on an intern from Lawrence University to do research on disability housing. I still stay in touch with many LU friends and once COVID-19 passes look forward to seeing them personally.

**Sara Wood Rattan** • It was with great regret that I retired from the maturity rating industry— having never received a score above seven, it seemed time! Mark and I are spending more time each season at our Georgia home and will return from the land of peaches, armadillos and grits for the reunion. But it's virtual, you say? Thank God for Cleo's and hot spots! If you feel 50 and have no comorbidities, join us! Admit it: you want a Suffering Bastard!

**Ann Matthews Schneider** • I've worked as a management consultant for nonprofits for nearly 20 years, but all projects are on hold right now due to the virus. I'm also mayor of the Town of Oak Ridge, N.C., which keeps me busy. Our youngest, Josh, is finishing his senior year at University of Richmond in Virginia. Our oldest, Sarah, is working as a graphic designer in Los Angeles, and our middle daughter, Hannah, is working for a higher education nonprofit in Washington, D.C. Husband Matt is an English professor and university administrator. I do a lot of volunteer work and enjoy cooking, hiking and making art. We used to enjoy travelling ... and hope to again sometime soon!

**Patrick H. Short** • The pandemic forced CSZ Portland/ComedySportz entirely online, and our team did an amazing pivot. We've done over 100 shows, nearly 200 classes and 25-plus corporate trainings via Zoom. While the reduction in gross income has been sobering, it's been a positive in many ways—including virtual teaching in India, Mexico, Nigeria, Costa Rica and more. We're also lucky that Ruth has continued in speech/language for Providence, again, by adapting much of her therapy to Zoom. Son Cowan is working at KTVB in Boise, Idaho; daughter Fiona is a third-year at the University of British Columbia. Staying home has switched live music performance to recording, with three projects to finish in 2021.

**Pete Shuster** • Our son, Simon, completed his Ph.D. in aerospace engineering this past spring. His specialty is docking chase vehicles, like lunar landing modules, to the mother ships. He is working for Space Dynamics Lab in Logan, Utah. Seth works with me at Neuromics and lives in Salt Lake City. Margy lives in Del Mar, Calif. She is a graphic designer.

The point being we have been blessed with wonderful children who all live in great spots to visit. They all ski and surf so there is plenty to do when we get together in California or Utah.

Peg, my wife, is retiring this spring from elementary school teaching and administration. I continue to run my 19-year-old biotechnology company. Its has been an excellent adventure.

**Keith G. Smedema** • Greetings to all in the Age of the Pandemic. As I write this, my wife has scheduled her first COVID-19 vaccination, and I hope to be eligible in the next four-to-six weeks, so hopefully there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Although we have been mostly shut down by the virus, I did set a new personal best on my bike last year.

I was off work for about seven months, but I'm back working three days a week as an air traffic control instructor. They just can't do it without me. My wife, Melinda, retired at the end of last year. Our son, Daniel, got married in Milwaukee in October. They had a very small wedding but are planning a big reception this October on the one-year anniversary date.

**Teresa Miller Spevacek** • Greetings all! I am happy to report that we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our first grandchild to our son, Greg, and his wife in April! By the time this report arrives, I will be in full "Nana" mode, and I can't wait! I'm taking up knitting again and have started a baby blanket pattern—great mindfulness practice! We've spent lots of time outdoors this past year, gardening, hiking and biking, discovering new parks, trails and parts of the city we didn't know existed! We are so grateful to be healthy and, for the time being at least, to have both of our adult kids in town! Life is good!

**Joan Jansky Stolarz** • My husband and I recently retired and are enjoying spending time with our new grandchild and our two children. We have been staying busy with house projects, outdoor activities, volunteer work and watching our grandson two days a week. We would like to do more traveling but that will have to wait until COVID-19 is under control.

**KK Tse** • As a result of the pandemic, hiking has become a popular activity in Hong Kong. I went for one last weekend with a bunch of high school classmates and gosh we have known each other for half a century! Well, our graduation from Lawrence was almost 40 years ago, not a small number either. While we would be unable to do reunion for that occasion, I have often reflected upon my time at Lawrence as a foreign student. A stage of life that was full of uncertainties of my future but almost every class was a great learning experience. Reasonable class workload also gave me a lot of opportunities to explore different things in the library and chat with other Lawrentians. A luxury in retrospect!



1983

**Megan Diane Bailiff** • Six decades of living brings on lots of changes, some positive—some less so—and Megan Bailiff’s last decade has been particularly eventful. Megan is a proud mother of two beautiful daughters, Tazmin (27) and Serina (24); a warrior, surviving both a domestic violence divorce in 2012 and a near fatal accident (being run over by a motorboat in Fiji) in 2013, and as if that were not enough, she has gone on to reinvent herself—moving to Washington, D.C., in 2016, unexpectedly falling in love and starting a business with her new partner and her twin brother, Dan. As founder, owner and president/CEO of Equus Striping, she and her two partners are busy “Changing the World, One Line at a Time.” Check out [www.equusstriping.com](http://www.equusstriping.com).

**Jonathan W. Bauer** • Life is good! I was recently engaged to Liz Flanagan. It’s awesome. Why? We cohabitated for 11 months of COVID-19 and then merged two homes in a move to Colorado, and we still love each other. Life is going to be fabulous. After most of my life in the Chicago area, Liz and I moved to Castle Pine Village, south of Denver. We found an awesome home that looks out on the Front Range, and most important, her kids and mine love the house. Elk and deer roam our yard a few times a week; we can ski 90 minutes away and then cycle the next day back at home. The mountains are great! I’m finishing year 27 with Deloitte, a few more to go; I’m managing the firm’s AWS business in the U.S.; crazy busy but a ton of fun.

**Robert B. Brackenridge** • On Jan. 8 of this year, my Dry Bar Comedy special was released on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/ne1qwOmY9gg> It can also be seen on the Dry Bar app. It’s called “Rob Brackenridge Legend Dairy.”

**Andrew S. Burnett** • Groundhog year continues! Charlie and I are very happy to be safe and healthy. He got his first COVID-19 vaccination last week, and we have no idea how long it’ll be until I can get mine. But we’ve got masking and social distancing down, so we’re not overly worried. We lost my father, **John F. Burnett ’52**, to COVID-19 in April last year and are hopeful our family will be able to gather in the coming year to remember him. I’ve been doing some consulting work since I retired in July 2018, and we’re hopeful that 2021 will bring an opening and allow us to get back to our normal summer activities of car shows and triathlons!! Hope all my classmates are safe and healthy!

**Charles F. Hunter** • Still in Washington, D.C., with my husband of six years, Ramadan Caysever. He’s on social media—I’m not—see [www.ramochai.com](http://www.ramochai.com). Over the past couple years, I worked as an assessor on the State Department Board of Examiners and then as senior advisor to the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs before retiring in November 2020 after about 31 years in the Foreign Service. I may do some part-time work for the State and have applied for a non-governmental job overseas, but I will be just fine with full-time retirement if that’s how things pan out. Was proud to have a fourth generation of the family (my cousin’s son) graduate from Lawrence in 2020.

**Paul O. Jenkins** • My fourth book was recently published by the West Virginia University Press. *Bluegrass Ambassadors: The McLain Family Band in Appalachia and the World* tells the story of a groundbreaking and innovative band who left a mark on the world through their vivacity and spell-binding performances. It’s available via Amazon.

**Heidi Johnston Ling** • Heidi Johnston Ling returned to the Badger State four years ago, having lived and practiced law in Southern California for 20 years. She is proud to now call Door County home, where she and husband Bob live with their Aussie, Macallan. They have three adult children in Seattle, Washington, D.C., and Milwaukee. Heidi is a very active board member of Northern Sky Theater, Fish Creek, Wis. She is quick to point out that three Lawrentians sit on the Northern Sky board. During “Safer at Home,” Heidi curated, edited and was the publisher of *It’s How You Catch the Light*, a book of poetry, prose and photography by her mother, Charlotte Johnston. Another highlight of her summer was driving her family’s historic car in the Aug. 26 car parade commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

**Richard H. Miller, Jr. P’24 & Pamela Wolfe Miller P’24** • I finally decided to take more control of my destiny and dive into real estate. It has been a great experience, and I have landed now at what I believe to be a pinnacle company in the real estate industry—Keller Williams International. It is an incredible operation that is not only a national company, but it is now growing worldwide. The opportunity is unlimited. So now I want to do something with my new career and be able to provide an avenue of skilled industry information on many different levels and in beneficial ways to help fellow Lawrentians find the most proficient and successful realtor(s) in your area to help you in any kind of real estate move! I would like to be a helpful “light” and a guiding alumnus. Please reach out to me anytime from anywhere—here is my contact information: [richmiller@kw.com](mailto:richmiller@kw.com) or [azhousehound86@gmail.com](mailto:azhousehound86@gmail.com), 602-502-9686 is my mobile. Be well.

**Patricia L. Quentel** • I have been in Charleston, S.C. for over 30 years, and I love it here! I retired as a staff attorney with the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina and am enjoying the beaches and outdoor activities (while socially distancing). I hope all my classmates are staying safe and well. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at our next reunion!

**Allison M. Schultz P’11 & David D. Schultz P’11** • Still a librarian, but with much changed obligations/ opportunities during the pandemic. Learning new web skills constantly! Daughter **Maggie Schultz ’11** is in her fifth year of teaching. Biggest news: grandson George Peter Schultz, born April 20, 2020, to our son, Pete, and his wife, Sarah.

**Einar H. Tangen** • One-fourth of my life has been in China. This is my 11th year as a political and economic affairs commentator, more than the hobby it used to be.

My son and daughter graduated from universities in the U.S. but have chosen to pursue career

opportunities in Beijing. Proud of their ability to combine their talents and interests in their work. I continue to think fondly of Lawrence, my friends and the professors who made it memorable. They gave me the keys to understanding our humanity, its history, philosophy and frailties, the ability to think critically, express my ideas in written and oral form and to always define myself by my actions. For this, I am profoundly grateful.

**Lynn M. Westphal** • In 2019, I became professor emerita at Stanford University, where I still do some teaching and medical school admissions. I am currently the Chief Medical Officer of Kindbody, a women’s health care start-up.

**Denise R. Wills** • Doing great living in NJ for the past 25 years; my work in the health care industry involves managing global clinical trials in oncology and infectious disease. I had the great pleasure to join peaceful protests in Philadelphia in November 2020; it was thrilling to see so many young people involved and participating in our democracy. Surviving the pandemic and hopeful the many years of viral medical research continues to be successful towards COVID-19 and other global viral diseases. I’m hopeful that America will turn a new page in 2021.

1985

**Renee Goral Boldt** • I’m happy to report that all is as well as can be expected, particularly on the Lawrence campus. COVID-19 has upended all our lives, but Main Hall still stands as a beacon along the skyline, and students, although masked, are still crisscrossing campus and accomplishing amazing things. I’d love to connect post-COVID-19 if you find yourself in the Appleton area. I recently connected via Zoom with **Dawn Draeger Schroeter ’85, Kristi Ross-Clausen ’85 and Chuck Ray ’85**. We were meeting as the new members of our Class Leadership Team! We’d love to have you join us, so let me know if you’re interested.

**Ann Buschhaus & Allan L. Ries ’87** • I’ve changed professions and am now an associate researcher at the Wisconsin State Cartographer’s Office.

**Stephen J. Edwards** • Hope everyone is doing well out there—my day-to-day is pretty similar to pre-COVID-19—working in the studio most days, writing music for visual media—challenging times for everyone in the business, because it’s difficult logistically to shoot scenes with multiple cast, extras, crew, etc. My second documentary, *Syndrome K*, is being released early 2021 in Europe, Asia and the Middle East—still no domestic deal but playing many Jewish film festivals in the U.S., including Boston, Miami, Albuquerque, N.M., NYC and several foreign ones upcoming including Melbourne, Sao Paolo, London, Paris, etc.—I’m doing Q&A sessions after the screenings via Zoom—no travel for me yet. Drop me a line when you visit LA!

**Tanja Scribner Felton** • The Peloton bike (for Tanja) and Zwift (for Tom) have added virtual travel excitement to what would have been a pretty boring vacation calendar in 2020. We also took up golf over the summer, and we dusted off our old cross-country skis to enjoy the golf course over the winter too. Our son, Alec, continues to love life in

Minneapolis. Nicole started graduate school and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration at Marquette University. We wish all of our wonderful LU classmates good health in 2021.

**Tammie L. Follett** • I am very lucky to be working at my dream job! As the executive director of Literacy Matters Foundation, I am using my combined experience in the business world and nonprofit world with my passion for children and literacy. Please check out [www.literacymatters.org](http://www.literacymatters.org). For the last six months, I have been spending my time between Minnesota and Arizona with family. My incredibly amazing mother passed away in December.

Thank goodness for Zoom calls with friends to keep in touch. Looking forward to a 2022 trip to Japan and the COVID-19 vaccine. Stay healthy and safe!

**Jon C. Hofer** • Jon is Chief Information Officer for Unified Women’s Health care, the largest women’s health care company in the U.S. Jon splits his time between Delray Beach, Fla., (near where the company is) and Farmington, Conn., (where his wife and three children live). Looking forward to our Utah ski trip this winter with fellow alums **Chuck Ray ’85, Tom Martens ’85, Jeff Johnson ’85 and Mike Bergman ’87**.

**James D. Houser** • Jim Houser left the federal government after a 33-year career in education policy, with his last position being in the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education for 13 years. He has moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he started a college advice consulting firm, Educ8Fit Consulting ([www.Edcu8Fit.com](http://www.Edcu8Fit.com)). Jim received a college counseling certificate from UCLA in 2020. Jim’s volunteer activities include serving as treasurer for the Congressional Chorus, interviewing prospective students for Duke University and advising Duke students on their honors theses. His bachelor’s degree at Lawrence remains the underpinning for his graduate education and his career.

**Curt W. Laumann** • I’m still living in the center of Tucson, Ariz. A bit of my time is spent volunteering with the Universtiy of Arizona Amateur Radio Club. As the station manager, I maintain and improve the radio station equipment and design various activities for the students.

**Sean McCollum** • The year 2020 started in Edinburgh and ended in Ecuador (with stops in the Czech Republic, New York and Scottsdale, Ariz., along the way) as Charles and I chased house-sitting gigs in the time of COVID-19. Along the way, I published my first middle-grade basketball novel *I for All*, won an award for the picture book manuscript, *We CAN’T Go Outside*, and started a full-time position writing for online educational publisher Achieve3000 after 25 years of freelancing. Fingers crossed for a whiff-and-whack golf rendezvous with **Tod Olson ’85 and Richard “Doc” Olson ’53** while the calendar still reads 2021. Lastly ... “Hi, Mom and Dad!”

**Charles E. Ray, Jr. •** I remain in Chicago and work at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. My wife, Laura, is also an academic interventional radiologist and works in Atlanta—we are doing our best to live in the same time zone, if not the same city! My daughter and her family (two children) live in Denver,

and last year was difficult with not being able to travel to see them. I hope all of you remain well in these crazy times—we will get through it!

**Kristi A. Ross-Clausen** • Starting with my contribution to the Event Safety Alliance’s Reopening Guide, I’ve spent much of 2020 Zooming with people who work in theatre and other live events all over the globe. Through my work with AVIXA, USITT, the Stage Managers’ Association, KCACTF and my two unions, Actors Equity and the IATSE, I advocate for safer venues everywhere while encouraging more women and BIPOC folks to pursue careers backstage and in AV. Don’t have time to retire—there’s lots more work to do!

My husband, Brian, and I have a lovely old home near the LU campus and enjoy walking in the neighborhood. Our son, Alexander, spends most of his time with his girlfriend, **Amalie Ludwig ’15**, whom we adore.

**Timothy M. Sievers** • 2020 certainly was a challenge. As an anesthesiologist, I have spent the year in a N100 respirator and face shield in the thick of COVID-19. Now fully vaccinated with a fresh administration in charge, I am hopeful for 2021! Looking forward to things eventually opening up and allowing travel. My family has remained healthy through the pandemic which I’m grateful for. One more kiddo to get through college. My wife, Jenna, is very busy with her new role as a realtor. Show me the money!!! Hope everyone is well and happy!!!

**Susannah Lurie Taylor** • Susie (Lurie) Taylor and husband Ed live in Madison, Wis. We recently moved from the home we raised our boys in to a fun condo and are enjoying not having to shovel snow, among other things. I work with the Wisconsin Athletic Department in corporate partnerships in support of the 900+ student athletes on campus. It is both fulfilling and fun. Our boys are at least semi-rooted in Boston and New Orleans. While we miss them, we love having a reason to visit them in these wonderful cities. I hope all of my classmates are doing well and wish you all the best in 2021. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/susie-taylor-7851021/> • [@hockeymomsbt](mailto:@hockeymomsbt) [@hockeymomsusie](mailto:@hockeymomsusie) [hockeymomsusie@gmail.com](mailto:hockeymomsusie@gmail.com)

**Edward F. Thomas** • After careers in geology and law, I’m 13 years into working for myself with my astronomy equipment and services business, Deep Space Products. One child off and married with a son, one a second-year in veterinary school, one a double-major junior (sophomore) in college, and the youngest a junior in high school. So far, everyone still lives with us or in the Phoenix area. Contemplating being an empty-nester in just a few years.

**Sandra Wilson** • As a high school teacher, 2020 was a challenging year! Encouraging AP history students to engage over Zoom was frustrating at times. My usually talkative sociology students became reticent over the computer screen. I’ve mastered new technologies, as most of us have, but the experience has certainly been a study in patience. My husband and I adopted a puppy—chalk it up to COVID-19. We haven’t had a dog in many years and are remembering all the joys of having a canine baby in the house. Hope you are all staying healthy!

1987

**Michelle D. Bauer** • I have been working in banking since graduation and have worked the last 10 years with U.S. Bank Wealth Management as VP Private Banking. Personally, we (my husband, 15-year-old daughter and I) live in the Fox Cities. My stepson has blessed us with two grandsons, ages 4 and 2. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next reunion!

**Ann Oestreich Bur** • COVID-19 restrictions encouraged teaching violin lessons in creative ways. I was able to teach curbside! I also played chamber music sessions in parks and driveways. What fun it was to have people bring out their lawn chairs to take in an evening of us playing old favorites. I imagine even our laughter during less-than-stellar sight reading attempts was enjoyed! Via the computer, I learned more about improvisation, attended my first reading circle and embraced more knowledge about the environment and equity.

**Bradford T. Graham** • I have always said I’d like to do a “take my kids to work day”...but I never expected it to be something like this!! Having been on lockdown since March, I’ve been busy running our team’s insurance and financial services business with New Mexico from the home office while the kids have been e-learning in their respective rooms. The kids have asked me, “Do you ever stop working!?” Nonetheless, we’ve found some fun along the way, and my wife, Margot, and I started biking routinely from our house up to Wisconsin (about 60 miles round trip) many weekends this past summer. Continuing to stay in touch with Lawrentians through calls, emails and Facebook, and blessed by the friendship we share.

**Ava E. Grover** • Ava, Minneapolis, is a mental health practitioner counseling mostly refugees who are victims of torture. She is finishing her supervised hours to become a licensed professional clinical counselor. She still sings, not as much classical but as the only Caucasian member of a Black/Brown gospel church choir (now on hiatus). She wishes everyone a much happier and healthier year than the “Annus Horribilis” of 2020, which made practically everyone need a therapist.

**Julie A. Horst** • I am enjoying life in Madison, Wis., despite the fact that it is -2 degrees Fahrenheit outside as I write. My 17-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter have been navigating virtual school since March of 2020, and my husband and I have been working from home since then as well. Very cozy! I feel fortunate that I’ve been able to continue my work as a research project manager at UW–Madison on a virtual basis. I’ve enjoyed connecting with Lawrence classmates via Zoom, an occasional phone call and even a dog park get-together. Last summer I joined the board of JustDane, a great organization seeking to inspire hope for persons returning to the Dane County community after incarceration.

**Jeffrey A. Jolton** • Perhaps the most notable thing in my life in the last year is that I have gone from about 70% business travel to 0%. Not only has this allowed me to be home for us to manage a first floor remodel of our home (how many light fixtures should one person have to look at before a decision is made? ... way too many), but also enjoyed the return of



our children for extended visits caused by college shutdowns (Josh is at University of Nebraska) and just not wanting to be living alone (Eddie is living in Minneapolis). I do miss seeing my PwC work colleagues and clients, so I do look forward to some future travel, but more so, I fear my wife is going to pursue a second floor remodel if I don't get out of the house soon!

**Anne Rupert Lamps** • We sent our youngest to college this fall and got our oldest back (graduate school is online). We planned a big international trip to reward ourselves, but instead drove to Yellowstone for a week of outdoor enjoyment. I've been teaching some piano lessons and keeping busy with knitting, cooking and bike riding.

**Amy Bell Lavalley** • I am still hanging on in the print world of journalism at the *Post-Tribune* as of this writing, continuing to make friends, enemies and frenemies along the way. My husband, Andy, is freelancing as a photographer for the paper so we often get assignments together. Son Joey is a junior at Purdue University, on an Air Force ROTC scholarship, majoring in astronautical/aeronautical engineering with a minor in German. Daughter Anna is a freshman in the honors program at DePaul University, majoring in international studies with a minor in business. She is taking German as well, allowing her and Joey to speak freely about Andy and me in a language we don't understand.

**Diane E. Pellowe** • Our household is grateful to have stayed COVID-19-free, and my heart goes out to all who have suffered from the pandemic in so many ways. While basically staying put for the last year, I've enjoyed Zooming with Lawrence friends across town and across the country. My pet portrait business enjoyed a small business boomlet as folks stayed out of shopping malls and looked for different sorts of gifts this holiday season. I do my portraits from reference photos and work primarily in colored pencil and watercolor. As an artist, I am probably my worst critic, but I love the challenge and creative outlet art provides.

**Julie Stoker Purdum & Stephen C. Purdum** • Steve and I continue to live in Grand Rapids, Minn., where I work as a public health nurse, and we continue to own and operate Camp Mishawaka, the camp Steve attended as a child. This marks our 30th year! We were not able to operate in 2020 due to the pandemic but are on track for opening this summer. We were able to take a Boundary Waters canoe trip this summer with **Rick '87** and **Mona Sykora '88 Patterson** this summer.

**Jonathan D. Roe P'21 & Ann Spellman Roe '88 P'21** Looking forward to our daughter's graduation from Lawrence this June. And I'm enjoying a challenging and interesting pediatric practice in Janesville, Wis.

**Mark W. Sachs** • But we made it through with a lot of support and prayers from family and friends. My glioblastoma brain tumor was identified and surgically removed on Jan. 24, 2020. It is now a year later and I am still tumor free—a miracle! Gwen and I are now empty nesters as our daughter, Alyssa, is running her own photography business, and our son, Mike, is in college at Minnesota State University

at Mankato. Hoping 2021 brings COVID-19 relief, allowing some social interaction and travel! Thanks for all your prayers and support.

**Karin J. Sconzert** • I am chair of the education department at Carthage College, and trying to place future teachers in schools during a global pandemic has been a multidimensional challenge as students, student teachers and teachers cycle in and out of quarantine. I've also interviewed teachers, parents and other education professionals about COVID-19 effects for Education Matters on **WGTD.org**.

**Eileen R. Sliwinski & Frederick R. Slater '86** • Fred Slater and Eileen Sliwinski live in Seattle. Fred works remotely as an architect (F5 Networks) and continues to play keyboard in Massy Ferguson (**massyfergusonband.com**) ...a showcase band for the 2020 Americana Association of the U.K. Festival. Eileen “guest” taught in person plus ran an Airbnb until 2020. Now she “guest” teaches, mentors young educators and teaches private art students (all via Zoom), while also creating healthy gourmet recipes and developing her art practice. They take Zoom Spanish classes, spend time outdoors rock climbing/hiking/skiing in remote places and designed a house in the Methow Valley (broke ground, spring 2020).

**Alexandra Howe Stevenson P'20 & Thomas J. Stevenson P'20** • I've used this pandemic time to pursue my passions. I'm involved in developing an urban farm in my township, complete with a community garden, chickens and native plants. I also chair the board of Pets in Need of Greater Cincinnati, a nonprofit veterinary clinic for low-income clients. I've taken advantage of having more time to go hiking and camping this past year, exploring the wild areas of Ohio and Kentucky. My daughter, **Madeleine '20**, who graduated (remotely) from LU last spring, is in a Ph.D. program in pathobiology and molecular medicine at the UC College of Medicine. My son, a riverboat captain, bought a historic house in Bellevue, Ky. My husband biked over 5,000 miles last year!

**Tammy J. Teschner P'20 & Patxi Delgado Rodriguez P'20** • 2020 wasn't all bad, with our older son **Aidan '20** graduating from Lawrence! We are proud parents: magna cum laude in chemistry and has gone on for a Ph.D. at Berkeley in physical chemistry. We were really sad Aidan missed playing his senior tennis season, and his class had to have a virtual graduation due to COVID-19. Now our younger son, Dylan, begins this fall (probably a physics major), so we are excited to add another Lawrentian to our family. I am mentally preparing for my encroaching empty nest! The pandemic has hit the tourist economy hard in Torrevieja, Spain, where we've lived since 1997. I look forward to reconnecting with classmates as we visit campus again these next four years. Go Vikings!

**James D. Wagner** • My wife, Laura, and I binged the television series *The Americans*, vacationed by the pool and met my daughter, step-son and his significant other in Breckenridge, Colo., where we cooked, hiked, watched movies and played *Pandemic*. (It's an actual game, a cooperative one that we loved playing). Fall came and brought hybrid learning to my school. We turned the garage into the COVID-19 Cafe and entertained couples in our bubble by candlelight amongst the power tools as we gazed at the stars

beyond the open garage door, wrapped snug in blankets. We harvested honey, learned how to make pumpkin puree for pies from scratch, worked out in the basement and tamed a feral cat.

**Silagh Chiappetta White** • This might not be on the same level as marriage, new career or new child. This is an update that rather expresses my undying gratitude for Lawrence and how the connections made during my time on campus helped sustain my sanity during COVID-19. **Brian '86** and **Leila '87 Pertl's** open invitation to Deep Listening sessions offered wondrously new insights. Sharing the *Great British Bake-Off* technical challenges with Lawrentians on Facebook encouraged me to complete 95 recipes in under one year. Best of all the things this year was a letter exchange with Bob Levy and a phone call with Marjory Irvin. Let a faculty member know how much they've impacted your life. They'll love it.

**Lewis E. Winkler** • I am still teaching seminary (mostly online!) in Singapore. In 2020, my wife, Barbara, and I celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary. We wanted it to be a family reunion with the three kids and their spouses in the U.S., but with COVID-19, we were forced to remain in Singapore. Instead, we celebrated for two nights in the honeymoon suite at the famous Raffles Hotel. While the rest of the world is still wrestling with the virus, Singapore has kept it under control, but at the cost of restricting most travel in and out. Our son is expecting our second grandchild (a girl!) in March. Our first grandchild, Zion, turns 2 in August. May God grant us all grace to endure this challenging time.

**Janine M. Yanisch P'22 & Christopher J. Jankowski '84 P'22** • Greetings, fellow Lawrentians! I've been living in Rochester, Minn., since 1993 and am now directing the First Players band program, a before-and-after school band and lesson program not tied to any school. It's great—lovely students and no grades:-) My household during the pandemic has consisted of daughter, **Maria Jankowski '22**, niece, Bernie, and best-dog-ever, Biscotti, who faithfully “sings” along when I practice saxophone, always finding the pitch. Hang in there, everyone, and stay healthy!

**1989**  
**Jennifer Wilkinson Albrecht & Stephen L. Albrecht '86** • For the past 21 years, Steve Albrecht and I have lived in my hometown of Indianapolis. Our daughters are college students, and our oldest will graduate this spring! I have been a paralegal for many years and have found it to be rewarding, meaningful work. I enjoy yoga, reading, camping, hiking, biking and spending time with friends and family. This year has been a challenge, but the pandemic has helped me prioritize my relationships and appreciate life in a new way. I look forward to traveling again when it is safe to do so...maybe a return to Lawrence.

**Elizabeth A. Bast P'20** • Happy to share that I'm in my 12th year as a school librarian, despite the pandemic redefining what teaching and learning look like. Also proud to share that my son, **Ben Schultz**, graduated from Lawrence in June 2020 as a history major and is now pursuing his master's degree in history at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. My daughter, Nora Schultz, graduated as valedictorian

of her high school, also in June 2020, and is now at the University of Chicago. My husband and I recently decided getting a new puppy would make our empty nest/pandemic pod a bit livelier, and we were right.

**Catherine Bunch Daniels** • I am back to my career as an artist in Chicago. I “retired” from painting to raise our children, but have now been back for three years. Check out my website, **www.daniels.design**. I have a studio at The Fulton Street Collective, a place which fuses music and art and where my work has been shown in several exhibitions. I've also had several Lawrentians buy pieces from me, and I want to thank you so much for that. The rest of the family is good: our oldest is a junior at Kenyon, our middle is starting Lawrence this fall, and our youngest is a junior at Wolcott College Prep in Chicago. And Bryan (husband) is getting his master's degree in biotechnology at Johns Hopkins University.

**Siri J. Engberg** • Siri is living in Minneapolis with husband Marty Broan and working at the Walker Art Center as Senior Curator and Director of Visual Arts, where she heads a busy curatorial department and oversees exhibitions and collections initiatives. She spent much of the pandemic working on a new book project, to be published in 2021. Daughter Eliza has been enduring her senior year of high school online, and will be joining her brother Simon, age 20, at Colorado College in the fall. At that point, Siri and Marty look forward to more frequent travel adventures to escape Minnesota winters!

**Allen E. Estep** • Our family lives in DuPont, Wash. I work in Olympia on the Capitol Campus as an assistant division manager for the Washington Department of Natural Resources, managing the agency's Uplands Habitat Conservation Plan and researching and monitoring implementation programs, as well as the Uplands slope stability, cultural resources and forest certification programs. My wife works in our community at the high school, and both our sons are enrolled at Washington State University.

**Jayne Warnke Heun P'14, 14 & Robert M. Heun P'14, 14** • We live in our old farmhouse in Port Washington, Wis. Bob teaches and heads the science department at University School of Milwaukee. I decided it would be a great idea to fight COVID-19 in Texas for a bit with my RN experience. I work with a company that sources for FEMA in Texas. I am in the Laredo, Texas, area at this writing.

**Ashley '14**, our oldest, has her own business and works at USM as well. Dylan is a mechanical engineer, no travel to Japan for a bit now. **Lily '14**, got her master's degree in nutrition and leads R&D for a third party chemical developer. Austin graduated in atmospheric sciences and can be heard on MKE radio. Hayden is an ME as well and is pursuing his master's degree at MSOE.

**Jennifer Merrill Johns** • Even though we don't go out as much as we used to, it seems we're keeping very busy. My youngest, Michael, just turned 20 and is a freshman in the engineering college at RIT in New York. My oldest, Kit, is 24 and is looking for a remote job while living at home. My husband, Andy, still works at Denison University as the TD for the Eisner

Center for the Performing Arts—not an easy job these days! I am still teaching sixth grade language arts, which has had its challenges over the last year. I have also taken on the role of theatre director for the district this year. I am directing my first play since I was at Lawrence! Zoom rehearsals are definitely different! But life is good.

**Katherine E. Small** • I am still working as an occupational therapist and certified hand therapist in Durango, Colo. Grateful to have a job and good health and be outdoors during this tough last year. I was sad to miss our big reunion last summer. Can't believe it's been over 30 years now. Hope we can all get back to campus at some point!

**Greta Hildebrandt Watson & Sloan D. Watson** • An unexpected bonus of 2020: it prompted me to do something I've been wanting to do since graduating—sell my artwork. I found myself furloughed for five weeks last spring and opened an Etsy store, **GretaWatsonDesign**, which has been so fun. Another bonus of 2020 ... Sloan has been working from home for almost a year now, and it's great having someone at home who can throw dinner in the crock pot. We're loving the empty nest routine.

**1991**  
**Kirstin A. Baum** • I'm grateful to be living a quiet life during these difficult times and hold everyone in my prayers. In 2003, I devoted myself to the Buddhist path and study under several Tibetan meditation masters in the Nyingma and Kagyu lineages. In 2014, I designed and built a small, passive solar home in rural southwestern Wisconsin, where I currently live in lifelong retreat and am a humble steward to 8.025 acres. When not in meditation, I'm restoring woods and prairie, in the studio or writing poetry as a personal practice. I maintain connection with a handful of friends and my parents who are persevering through their 80s. To learn more about my life/work, visit **www.tsoundu.com**. Peace and blessings to you all.

**Bliss Elizabeth Cohen** • Greetings.  
As with most people, the pandemic has radically changed our lives. Since my husband, Paul, is high-risk, we have been especially careful. We are hopeful that vaccines and treatments will allow us to celebrate all the good stuff happening in 2021.

Our daughter, Nora, and her husband, Matt, are expecting their first child, which means I am going to be a grandma! And then there is their overdue wedding celebration in California in late October. Meanwhile Paul continues to teach at LU. I switched careers and am now working as a data analyst contractor. It's all new and hard, so I take fish oil every day hoping my brain won't hurt so much. But perversely, I love it.

Stay well and take care.  
**Alec J. Dunkel P'24** • My wife, Mary, is reaching new levels of home cooking excellence during the COVID-19 isolation. My daughter, **Annika '24** (18 years old), is trying to survive her freshman year at Lawrence University (and doing great so far). My son, Aidan (18 years old), is at Augsburg University, and his riot-girl punk band, Rigby, is just finishing their first album. I am working for MHealth Fairview in Woodbury, Minn., as an internal medicine primary

care provider. Now 22 years in practice. Wow, I'm getting old.

**Sally Glasser** • I'm still working at Hofstra University (in New York) as their serials/electronic resources librarian. It's been quite a ride since things shut down last March, but I'm grateful to have a job in these trying times, and one I enjoy to boot. My son graduated high school last June and voted for the first time in November (yay!). He's a talented tinkerer currently in an aircraft technology program learning how to maintain turbine engines. My daughter entered high school in September (hybrid) and is finding it totally void of joy; we are hoping for a more typical high school experience next year and beyond. My running club keeps me sane with hours of outdoor fun in all weather. Stay well, all.

**Sarah Haywood** • Hi all! My husband, Scott, and I, after returning to the U.S. from Spain, began living and traveling in our converted school bus in 2019. We landed first in North Carolina, then spent some time in Florida and have now been in Delaware for the past year or so, riding out the pandemic. Our kids are doing well in their various locations around the states, and our youngest will be graduating from college in May. Stay healthy and live your fabulous lives! Much love to you all.

**Cheryl Koca Heber** • This June, my husband, Dave, and I will be married 20 years! We live in Hebron, Ill., which is just south of Lake Geneva, Wis. We have two children. Evelyn is almost 15 and is a high school freshman. Nicholas is 12 and in the seventh grade. I work as an associate research scientist for Fresenius-Kabi USA. It is a German company which bought the division of Baxter Health care where I worked previously. I specialize in immunology and work in development of cellular therapeutics, primarily using T cell lymphocytes to enhance or modulate a patient's immune response.

**Elizabeth Keckonen Hejl P'15** • Despite COVID-19, I was able to complete my classes and tests to become a falconer, and my husband, Martin, joined me in the endeavor. We are now (February 2021) waiting for Germany's lockdown to end and hardware stores to open, so we can begin building an aviary in our yard. We plan to combine our fascination with owls and birds of prey with photography, writing and education. I am still co-teaching German to immigrants and substituting in integration courses at the community college when the schools are open, and I truly enjoy teaching adults.

**Kristi R.C. Hendrickson** • I am currently an associate professor of medical physics at the University of Washington Dept. of Radiation Oncology, where I have been for the past 16 years. I am the program director for our clinical medical physics residency training program and the Faculty DEI Lead for the Dept. of Radiation Oncology. My current struggle is to find time to do my paid clinical job between administrative and committee meetings! My daughters, Claire and Amelie, are currently homeschooled with fabulous interdisciplinary (liberal arts for the elementary set) curricula as virtual online school wasn't working for them. I have now lived in the Seattle area for 30 years. The temperate climate is what keeps me here.



**Amy Hockenberger Hochkammer & Karl A. Hochkammer '92** • My husband, Karl Hochkammer, and I have spent the past year in Michigan mostly quarantining with our children, Jenna, who is a junior at the University of Miami, and Max, who is a senior in high school. Jenna came home in March and spent the spring and summer with us but returned to school in August for some in-person classes and some online. What else can I tell you? Karl still works for Honigman Law in Detroit, and I am a school board trustee for Birmingham Public Schools, which is a tough job during COVID-19! We have all been healthy throughout the pandemic, but we miss traveling! Hoping that we will be able to take a trip towards the end of 2021!

**Steven A. Houghton** • The global pandemic has ravaged the international education industry. Sadly this included my position of 11 years at the Institute of International Education. As I explore opportunities to continue my professional passions, I am taking advantage of my status to spend time with my young family with four children under the age of 7! Also, in light of the vastly different COVID-19 realities around the world, we decided to make the trek to Japan for three months to allow our children to get some immersive in-person schooling.

**Chris Naumann** • After 14 years as executive director of the Downtown Bozeman Partnership, I embarked on the next chapter of my professional career as a senior planner with Sanderson Stewart. Thus far I am enjoying the new challenges and talented team of coworkers, but I am humbled by how much I have to learn. This spring I will be studying to take the American Planning Association's AICP exam to become a certified urban planner.

My wife, Laura Ryan, and I are still fortunate to call Bozeman, Mont., home. Our son, Christopher, is a student at Montana State University here in Bozeman. My parents recently moved to Bozeman after 25 years in Laramie, Wyo. I am thankful for having my family so close. Be well.

**Heidi Nibbelink & Nathan P. Nibbelink** • Nate Nibbelink has been named Associate Dean for Research at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia.

**Mariela Nunez-Janes & Joseph E. Janes '93** • Most of my life is now fully remote. The launch of my new book, *Eclipse of Dreams: The Undocumented-Led Struggle for Freedom*, was a live webinar broadcasted on YouTube and Facebook. The start of my term as president-elect for the Council on Anthropology and Education was on Zoom. And I am teaching all of my classes online. I have been working from home as a full professor of anthropology at UNT and teacher to our 10-year-old daughter who is attending school online. There have been changes yet also opportunities to connect with family and community while leaning into discomfort. For me, this new era is about ushering transformation. I'm glad to have Joe and amazing co-conspirators around me.

**Karen Park** • In fall 2019, my husband, Martyn Smith, and I lived in London with our two youngest children while Martyn supervised the Lawrence London Studies Program. While there, our 13-year-old daughter attended a girls school in London, and

our 16-year-old son did virtual school in between exploring museums, music venues and protests. It was an amazing experience for our family, made even more memorable in hindsight since just a few weeks after our return the whole world shut down. I continue to teach religious studies at St. Norbert College where I have been for 15 years. Our four children are in graduate school, college, high school and middle school—navigating their new realities with hope and resilience.

**Michael P. Willis** • In the fall of 2018, my wife, LeAnn, and I divorced after 10 years of marriage. We sold our house in Dubuque, Iowa, I quit my job at the University of Dubuque, and I accepted a new job as the courtroom technology specialist at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa. My oldest daughter, Maddie, is finishing her senior year at Coe College, and she's been accepted into the public health program at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Katie (11) is developing into a talented manga artist, and my youngest, Libby (8), is looking forward to setting up her lemonade stand at the end of the driveway come summer (socially distanced, drive-thru lemonade, that is).

**Thomas R. Zoellner** • My book, *Island on Fire: The Revolt that Ended Slavery in the British Empire* (Harvard University Press), was named a finalist for best nonfiction book of 2020 by the National Book Critics Circle.

1993

**Patricia M. Ellis** • I just came across a picture of several friends from our 25-year reunion in 2018. Great memories! In spring 2019, Matt and I spent two weeks exploring Spain, Portugal and France. In November 2019, we welcomed a granddaughter into the family. Fingers crossed we will get to return to France, as well as experience Budapest and Vienna, in fall 2021. We've been living in the South Atlanta metro for five years, and now I get to see **Gail Nankervis '93** any time since she moved here in 2020! I currently work part time as a PA in an orthopaedic urgent care and also have plenty of volunteer pursuits including community theatre and dog rescue.

**Rashné R. Jehangir** • Rashné Jehangir lives in St. Paul with her family, Mike Stebleton and kids Riya (14) and Rohan (10). The newest member is Gobi (“cauliflower,” in Hindi), the dog. Rashné and Mike are professors of education and teach first-year seminars (like *Freshman Studies*) and are in the master's degree and Ph.D. programs in higher education at the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on students who are first in their family to go to college and the intersection of race, class and immigrant status. We survived 2020 by walking Gobi, cheering Riya at cross country, humoring Rohan's love of all facts and sports trivia, watching *Monk*, deconstructing the Electoral College, enjoying outdoor fires and drinking robust red wines.

**Eric N. Jurgens** • Eric has been full-time faculty at the College of Menominee Nation since the Fall of 2010. They have taught classes in a wide variety of subjects, from English composition, to U.S. and American Indian history, to anthropology. They have presented at several national conferences over the past five years and are slated to present on panel discussions

at the CCCCs, NCORE and IWAC conferences in 2021. Eric continues to dabble in music and in the appreciation of their partner's amazing art.

**Seth Lindenfelser** • I have been back in school, part time, for 2.5 years which will hopefully lead to a career change. I have enjoyed being a student again (mostly). We are surviving the pandemic by doing as much as we can outdoors as a family. Silver lining? I finally get to coach my son's ice hockey team and have loved reading some of my favorite books from my childhood with my daughter. My son is in the same school and grade as classmate **Rashné Jehangir's '93** son, which has been a wonderful bit of chance. I hope everyone is well.

**Sarah E. Meyer** • Sarah and her husband moved to Tunis, Tunisia, in October 2018. If anyone wants to come visit this beautiful, tiny, friendly country (after the pandemic) on the northernmost tip of the African continent, we have a spare bedroom.

**Elizabeth Blackwell Nelson** • I soldier on as one of the few Cubs fans here in St. Louis Cardinals territory over the last 28 years, where I work as a telemedicine social worker for the Mercy Virtual Care Center. I was working from home via phone and video setup long before COVID-19 made that cool, and I love it. I can also keep an eye on our 16 and 18-year-olds, as they struggle with distance learning. We all volunteer in a program I help run for transgender and non-binary 5–18 year olds, and I've spent the last four years being politically active. I just fixed my clarinet so I can play with our kids (cello and violin). Dave and I binge watch BBC mysteries, and I'm so thrilled my mom, **Sally Trump Blackwell '65**, and dad just relocated here!

**Jose Luis Rodriguez-Jimenez** • 2020 was a year of TRANSFORMATION for me and my my family. I was challenged with a BIG lifestyle change after 22 years in high-intensity global finance positions. My way of thinking, my diet and sleeping hours changed, plus guided morning yoga practice and evening Zen meditation made it to my daily PRIORITY schedule. My life partner was/is one of the soldiers at the front of the COVID-19 war working as a nurse. In 2020, he stepped up to head of floor operations, managing the work of all nurses and participating in clinic management meetings and decision-making. It was a CHALLENGING year in humble Japanese words. The family business grew from two to 11 members globally! We need rest lol.

**Rustam Roy** • I work as a freelance commercial lawyer in the U.K. after being in and out of private practice/ in-house. I am married with two girls. To better times!

**Scott C. Spiegelberg** • As a member of DePauw University's COVID-19 Task Force and Mitigation Team, I've been helping craft policies to keep our community safe while fulfilling our mission to provide a transformative liberal arts education. This is on top of my other duties as the dean of academic programs, which includes shepherding us through a successful accreditation review last summer.

**Kristin A. Wensing** • Like many, COVID-19 has brought some big changes to my life. My job was eliminated in March 2019, so I have been navigating a job search during the pandemic—not something I recommend! Zooming with Lawrence friends and

participating in Lawrence's “online” programming have been welcome distractions.

**Kurtiss G. Wolf** • Since Reunion, I squeezed out one more year of my “half-time break,” thereby guaranteeing another amazing summer with my family and an epic downhill ski season. Outside of outdoor adventures with family and friends, I formally and finally wrapped up my role and ownership of Envision Business Consulting, finished standing up the Denver Metro ACPM Chapter (a professional networking and education nonprofit focused on change management), and led my son's boy scout troop on a bunch of adventures. I also launched another consulting company with a few partners (including my wife, Renee) a year ago and am grateful we made it through 2020 and successfully launched. The last 12 months we've seen disruption like never before. Throughout it all, I have been grateful for my family and friends, and for the worldview and critical thinking skills I picked up at Lawrence. As a family, Renee, Liam (14), Alexandra (12) and I still head up to our cabin outside Winter Park, Colo., as much as possible to play outside and travel as much as COVID-19 allows.

**Barbara J. Zabawa** • In 2020, I wrote a book called *The Tug: Finding Purpose & Joy Through Entrepreneurship*, being published by Henschel Haus publishing in early 2021. I also founded Pursesuitz LLC a mission-based fashion company bringing equal opportunities to women through fashion, starting with the Pocketwear Tank Top. Check it out at **www.pursesuitz.com**. My law firm, the Center for Health & Wellness Law LLC, has expanded to a team of seven lawyers. In March 2021, I was nominated by the National Law Journal as a Health Law Trailblazer. I founded the Lemonspark podcast (**www.lemonspark.com**). I also teach full-time in the master's degree in hHealth care administration program at UW–Milwaukee.

1995

**Margaret M. Choice-Hermosillo** • I am currently living on the north side of Denver, although I may be moving back to Chicago to take care of my mother within the next two years. I recently finished my Ph.D. in school psychology and am waiting to hear if my original research has been accepted for publication. In the meantime, I am employed as a school psychologist for Boulder Valley Public Schools; however, I also teach graduate-level classes as an adjunct professor from time to time, am a social-emotional learning consultant for a school district on the north side of Denver and enjoy spending as much time as possible with my two teenagers.

**Rachel Williams Hopper & Joshua A. Williams '96** • I continue to live in Minneapolis with Josh Williams, our three kids, two cats and dog. We have a 15-year-old and 9-year-old twins. I am the visitor services and outreach manager for Minnesota State Parks and Trails at the Department of Natural Resources. In this role, I lead a team that is responsible for public relations, interpretation of natural and cultural resources and introducing new and diverse audiences to state parks and trails. I've worked at DNR for 15 years. Our life is busy and chaotic but always full of fun and laughter.

**Kirstin Jansen Johnson** • From February to August of 2020, I was incredibly fortunate to be able to take a six-month sabbatical from my job as head of the Music and Performing Arts Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign where I am an associate professor. I worked on my first book (about music library collection building and management) and recharged—even in the midst of the pandemic. Jumping back into my work role for Fall Semester of 2020 was possibly one of my biggest professional challenges yet, but here we all are. And by that, I mean we are all here, staying in our house, kids, spouse, me and the dog, plus my husband's dog daycare rotating cast of clients!

**Carrie Naumann Korb & Ryan M. Korb** • Ryan and I are in Appleton, making music and encouraging others to make music, making art and encouraging others to make art. After more than a year of cancelled concerts and shuttered galleries and theaters, we are hungry for in-person art experiences, and we hope you are too! Please support local artists. Attend performances and visit exhibitions. Buy art. Hire live musicians. (Nothing against zombie orchestras, but live musicians have more soul—ha!) Also, give yourself permission to pursue your own creative endeavors. Be well!

**Dr. Dawn M. Magnusson** • Hi, everyone! 2021 marks our five-year anniversary in Denver, and we couldn't be happier! Much of our time is spent hiking, biking, skiing and spoiling our one-eyed wonder dog, Rusty. We traveled as much as our jobs would allow pre-COVID-19 and look forward to realizing planned trips in the near future. To help support these hobbies, I serve as an assistant professor of physical therapy at the University of Colorado, and my partner serves as the accountant for Scientia Omicron, a company that specializes in surface science and nanotechnology. May 2021 bring you health and happiness!

**Carey Cook Petersen** • My little family has been living in Lincolnwood, Ill., for 10 years. My husband, Greg, continues to work for the Keystone Alliance, a group providing services for adults with intellectual disabilities. Our twins, Henry and Nellie, are 12 in March. Sixth grade doesn't really look the way we thought it would, but we're making the best of it. Until the pandemic hit, I'd spent a few years working at our local library. Currently, I'm overseer of remote learning, and when I'm not talking to the kids about school or *Fortnite* or what the @\$% to make for dinner, I'm messing around at my sewing machine, sewing quilts and foisting them upon family, friends and neighbors.

**Scott F. Rice** • I am currently a working film and commercial director in Austin, Texas. I own the production company, Two Shot West. I also am a professor at the University of Texas at Austin and co-teach a course with Academy Award-winning actor Matthew McConaughey.

1997

**Rebecca Briesemeister Abbott** • I have been married to Scott Abbott, a pilot of American Airlines, for 18 years. We live in Bayside, Wis., and have two children, Alena, age 15 (almost 16 and driving!), and Colin,

age 13. I have had my own acupuncture practice in Mequon, Wis., for 14 years.

**Stacci Cook Barganz** • I live with my husband, Todd, and our four kiddos in south central Wisconsin, and I serve as the K-12 Gifted and Talented Coordinator for Fort Atkinson schools. In December 2019, I achieved National Board certification and have mentored several other teachers through the National Board process. I am serving my second term as president of my professional organization, the Southern Lakes Advanced Learners Network. I am also a past member of my state board.

Our oldest child is starting to look at colleges, as he will be graduating in 2022. His very first college visit was to Lawrence, where he got to meet **Cathy Statz '96** (who was touring with her nephew, who is also my student)! #BeTheLight

**Benjamin W. Bernsten & Mary McNamara Bernsten '98** • We live in Rockford, Ill., with our four children. We enjoy the demands and challenges of nonprofit leadership—Ben is president/CEO of Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois, and I am the executive director of the Rockford Area Arts Council. We have three children in high school with a sixth-grader as our caboose. Needless to say, our grocery bill is astronomical with four boys! We are eager to reunite with our fellow Vikings—we've had a couple of raucous reunions and look forward to more post-COVID-19.

**Junyi Chen** • I moved to Toronto, Canada, in 2001 after I completed my Ph.D. in chemistry from Yale University. I attended the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and have been practicing intellectual property law for over 15 years. I am now a partner at Blaney McMurtry LLP and married with two young kids.

**Crystal L. Cullerton-Sen & Abir Sen** • Hello Lawrentians! Abir and I celebrated our 25th anniversary this year. Our wedding was held in the basement of Sage Hall in 1995. We were juniors at that time and friends chipped in to celebrate by bringing boxed wine, having a beer keg and setting up music for dancing. Today, we live in Minneapolis with our beloved German Shepherd pup. Abir continues to start companies in health care and grow them. I (Crystal) am working with a group of people to start an interactive museum focused on compassion. We miss traveling, exploring new places and visiting old friends. As a solution, we rented an RV this summer and cruised the western part of America. Wishing you all well.

**Jolie J. Jacobus** • In early 2020, I sold my apartment condo on the east side of Madison, Wis., at a nice profit. My husband and I were able to buy a cute house in downtown Columbus, Wis., on W. Mill Street. Despite the pandemic we both kept working, and we have stayed healthy.

**Catherine S. Walby** • I know many have had a difficult year, but my year has brought many sources of joy as well. My piano teaching moved mostly online for the spring and summer which meant the addition of internet at my house. I now count my sister (**Joan Walby Olson '00**), nephew and niece as piano students. A visit from my brother (**Chad '99**) and his



wife included a delightful afternoon at Björklunden, lunching by the fish boil pit and then exploring the many expanded and new trails on the property. Christmas brought time with my parents (**Sue Fortney Walby '58**), reminiscing about Best Loved and other '50s traditions on campus. I look forward to seeing many of you at our 25th reunion and hope you find joy each day.

**Erin K. Westphal** • I started a blog five years ago to track my quest to run all six major marathons. The pandemic hit after I reached the halfway mark (nine marathons total) in New York City, and my blog has evolved to tell my journey as a mental health advocate and warrior. I also started to host #blogsandcoffee every morning on Twitter, sharing the blogs that inspire and touch me as I drink my morning coffee as a way to connect with the world in such an isolating time. You can read more about my journey at **6in10.blogspot.com**.

1999

**Dr. Robert A. Cramer, Jr. & Kari Heikkilä Cramer '00** Robb and Kari continue to live in the Upper Valley of Northern New England with their three boys, Andrew (12), Thomas (10) and Joseph (4). In 2020, Robb was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology for his research on the human fungal pathogen *Aspergillus fumigatus*. Robb was also named co-director of the Current Approaches to Molecular Mycology course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass. Robb and his lab continue to host Lawrence students for summer research internships at Dartmouth through the LU-R1 program.

**Sarah A. Hunt** • I'm heading into year two of being a questioning farmer (yes, it's a thing) at Amador Hill Farm & Orchard, part of Women's Environmental Institute in North Branch, Minn.—on the farm crew and also branching into our broader work (alongside many collaborators) of cultivating an equitable and resilient regional food system. Maintaining a small consulting business on the side doing customer research and strategy work for organizations. And still occasionally sitting down at the piano.

**Erin Oliver Velasco** • I have been working for an Appleton location of Hunter Douglas for almost 16 years and am currently the supply planning manager. My husband, Damien, has been with the LU ITS department for almost 22 years. Our Boston Terriers, Ani and Livy, enjoy keeping him entertained while he works from home, and I continue to be in my office throughout the pandemic.

**Rachel Edie Warrick & Jay W. Warrick '01** • I live with my husband, Jay Warrick, and our two children, Clara (13) and Otis (9), in Madison, Wis. I own and operate a private voice studio, teach kindergarten and first grade music at Eagle School and sing professionally with ensembles in Madison and Chicago. My family and I love to swim, play tennis, cross country ski, hike, cook and play games together.

**Wendy S. Wegenke Berglund** • In 2019 I started a new career as a legal assistant. The COVID-19 pandemic helped my husband Robert and I to decide to leave Minneapolis and move to the Tampa, Fla., area in 2021. I'm excited for new (and warmer!) adventures!

2001

**Alison B. Hayes** • I am now running a blog and coaching business to help people with disabilities better manage their medical care and/or use the U.S. disability/social welfare system. Please check it out! **www.thrivingwhiledisabled.com**

**Janine S.S. Larsen** • I am in my seventh year teaching at United World College in Singapore as head of primary music. We are fortunate to be teaching in person, but with no singing or wind instruments, it's like building a program from scratch again. I've presented a number of workshops on inquiry-based learning and student-led conferences at music education conferences. I also had the honor of being selected to present a workshop on diversity and equity in music programs for the International Society for Music Education, but that conference was cancelled due to the pandemic. At this point, I'm just grateful that my two kids and I are able to go to school in person, and we are in a safe place in this weird time!

**Michael S. O'Brien** • I am an associate professor of ethnomusicology at the College of Charleston (in South Carolina). Last March I was awarded tenure, and the world immediately shut down for a global pandemic. This January, I was named chair of the music department, and the next day there was a coup attempt on the U.S. Capitol. For all of our sake, I seriously hope I'm never promoted again. My wife, Julia, my daughter, Aurelia, and I spent a good part of quarantine life perfecting our recipe for key lime pie. We also adopted Zoe, a sweet, stinky hound dog who thinks we're pretty OK people, but should be more generous with bones.

**Stephen M. Rodriguez** • My wife, Lori, and I welcomed our second child, Ella, this past September, and even though having a baby during a pandemic was not what we expected, we are thankful to be healthy. Big brother Aidan is adjusting nicely and entered kindergarten this fall.

I started a new role at Harvard, still working in development, but with a slightly broader scope and scale of responsibility. I am also roughly 60% through an MBA program at Syracuse University, and even though it's been over 20 years since my time at Lawrence, I was bit by the lifelong learning bug and am really enjoying being in the classroom again.

**Elizabeth K. Surles** • I was promoted with tenure at Rutgers University-Newark in 2020 as archivist at the Institute of Jazz Studies, where I've worked since 2014. Our most recent big acquisition was the William "Count" and Catherine Basie papers and artifacts, very exciting! I bought my first house in East Orange, N.J., after getting tenure and look forward to cultivating the garden plot in my yard when the weather warms up. Otherwise, I've been slowly making the house my own and frequently hitting the hiking trails of North Jersey and upstate New York to avoid losing my sanity during the pandemic. Singing in virtual choirs also helps. Hope to see LU Class of '01 friends at this summer's online reunion!

**Zachary W. Walker** • My wife, Meredith Holladay, and I welcomed our second child, Sawyer Guthrie, on New Year's Eve! While 2020 has been a rough year, it was a great way to lean into 2021.

2003

**Andrew A. Cashner & Ann Miller Cashner '05** • I teach music history at the University of Rochester. I published my first book, *Hearing Faith: Music as Theology in the Spanish Empire* (Brill, 2020), and two volumes of choral editions, *Villancicos about Music from Seventeenth-Century Spain and New Spain*; a forthcoming article deals with music's role in colonialism and slavery in Mexico. I lead the worship and arts ministry at New Hope Free Methodist Church. My wife, Ann, is balancing work for UR admissions, starting a master's program in school counseling and getting our kids, Ben (10) and Joy (almost 7), through remote schooling, while leading our church's small group ministry and reading new fiction voraciously.

**David A. Chidsey** • Hello! Everything is going well considering the struggles that we all face with COVID-19. I purchased a home in Rock Hill, N.Y., a few months ago, and I've been spending my time with that. I'm teaching high school general music and elementary guitar lessons and this is my 12th year in the district I'm working in. Time really does fly. I'm also a member of the New York City Classical Guitar Orchestra and spend my time teaching and learning through the New York Classical Guitar Society and Tonebase, an online learning platform for guitar and piano. Tonebase is a really fantastic service and I'm extremely grateful for it while waiting for the vaccine.

**Valerie Curtis Cross & Joshua D. Cross '01** • My husband, Josh Cross, and I welcomed a baby boy, Soren Archer Cross, on May 28, 2020. Soren joins his sister, Zola (age 3.5). We live in beautiful Flagstaff, Ariz.

**Rebecca H. Dirksen** • I am a tenured associate professor at Indiana University and an ethno-musicologist who divides my time between Bloomington, Ind., and Port-au-Prince, Haiti. I am presently on sabbatical as a 2020–2021 Fellow at the Yale University Institute of Sacred Music. My first book, *After the Dance, the Drums Are Heavy: Carnival, Politics, and Musical Engagement in Haiti*, was published with Oxford University Press in 2020, and I'm working on an ongoing project on environmental justice. My husband and I recently celebrated eight years of marriage.

**Mandy C. Halpin** • It has been a very challenging time working many long hours as a nurse practitioner in San Francisco's Department of Public Health during a pandemic. I have so much respect for my colleagues and work community, which includes many outspoken and brilliant voices for health equity. I am proud of us. My lactation consulting work has taken a backseat during the pandemic. My kids, Ezra (10) and Caleb (5), are learning from home and doing fine. Lots of changes in family life, too; I am no longer married, and my former spouse is now named Coyote (they/them). I hope for a lighter-hearted 2021.

**Courtney A. Hanna-McNamara & Jason K. Hanna** • Jason and I continue to live, work and raise our two daughters in DeKalb, Ill. Jason was recently promoted to the rank of full professor and was appointed as chair of the philosophy department at Northern Illinois University.

**Shauna Lohr Kaplan & Bryan Kaplan** • We are excited to announce the birth of our son (Noah) in 2020.

**Clara C. Muggli-Toyloy** • I live in Decorah, Iowa, with my husband, Darryl, and children, Olive (6), Zeno (5) and Dahlia (newly arrived on Oct. 27). I work part time at Luther College as an administrative assistant, own a small cut flower farm and floral design business (Oak & Olive Flowers) and help my husband with his new restaurant/bakery (301 Eatery).

**Hillary K. Nordwell** • In 2019, we moved to the Seattle area to be closer to family—serendipitous timing, to be sure! The musical education world thrives here, and I am happy to teach a full piano studio, as well as collaborate with many young cellists, including my daughter. With performance venues on hold, I've sorely missed performing chamber music but am looking forward to forging new professional collaborations and being able to travel again to perform with beloved colleagues.

**Erin M. Pryor Ackerman & Albert E. Reiser '02** • Albert and I brought Ellison "Ellie" Reiser home from her three-month NICU stay in February 2020. We had three weeks before pandemic isolation requirements kicked in. The last year has involved lots of doctor appointments, Ellie getting to know her big sister, Zadie, and the incredible privilege of working from home. I also left Wyoming Humanities for a position at the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock—a national progressive philanthropic giving program I am delighted to be a part of.

**Sarah Krile Radermacher** • Due to COVID-19, I ended my job of 15 years over the summer to become a stay-at-home mom. It has been challenging and rewarding—and much more the “toughest job I've ever loved” than my Peace Corps stint! My son started kindergarten in the fall, and my daughter is a full-fledged toddler. My spouse is learning the world of working from home that I had been doing for the previous eight years. I'm amused that I left the world of Zoom just when everyone else seemed to enter it! We are doing as well as can be in a pandemic as our parents age and our children grow.

**Katie A. Reimer** • I graduated in May 2020 from Union Theological Seminary (New York) with a Master of Divinity degree (concentration in interreligious engagement). Also, the Mimesis Ensemble released a new chamber and vocal music album on Oct. 1 titled *Dancing Circles in the Night*. This recording follows the journey of walking through the night as a foundational metaphor for embracing the fullness of life. The album features music by Edith Alomar, Alexandra du Bois, Moses Hogan (arr.), Jorge Lockward, Jessie Montgomery, Judith Kurka Nagel (my aunt), Astor Piazzolla, Huang Ruo, Dave Schnackenberg, (a fellow LU alum) and Heitor Villa-Lobos. **mimesisensemble.org/cds**

**Gustavo A. Setrini** • After five years as assistant professor of food studies at NYU, I moved to Paraguay in 2019 to build an academic career and contribute to economic development and social transformation there. I have since become a faculty member at FLACSO Paraguay and a researcher for the United Nations Development Program's Accelerator Laboratory. I am also the proud dogfather of three.

**Jessica K. Spicer** • Jessica Pahnke Spicer and Peter of Waunakee, Wis., had a son, Seager Dawson, on March 19, 2020.

**Jordan L. Webster** • After 15 years of teaching at the middle school level, I made the leap to high school band, orchestra and Spanish for this zany, online school year. Additionally, I am the director of two ensembles with the Golden State Youth Orchestra and director of the Summer Conservatory. While I miss seeing my students in person, I've relished the extra family time at home with my husband and 2-year-old.

2005

**Jaime Nodarse Barrera** • My husband, Gus, and I welcomed a baby boy, Santiago Nodarse Barrera, to our family on Feb. 22. We are completely in love with him and enjoying these early days at home together.

**Tracy Marie Buck** • Hello, classmates! It's been a crazy year of 2020! I made and donated over 1,000 masks during the summer and donated \$1,500 for CASA of Fox Cities and the Lawrence chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta (which I advise). Had child number four in August, my husband started a new job in September, and we're moving back to Appleton in February. All while homeschooling a first-grader, kindergartener and pre-K child.

**Michelle C. Fitzpatrick** • My husband, Dan Peterson, and I moved to Orland Park, Ill., in August 2020. We welcomed Isabelle Harriet Peterson to the world on Dec. 22, joining her big brother Jackson who turned 2 this past January. The kids are keeping us plenty busy. I am still working in the health care industry, but as I write this, I am enjoying my maternity leave.

**Natalie J. Hall** • On Oct. 10, I married Matt Erspamer in a tiny outdoor backyard wedding at our home in Palos Hills, Ill. We had to scale down our wedding plans due to the pandemic, but it ended up being perfect, and we are very happy. For the last six years, I've been working as the technical services coordinator at Moraine Valley Community College Library. I also teach for Dominican University's Graduate School of Information Studies, in the LTA program at the College of DuPage and for many professional development workshops for librarians and library staff through Library Juice Academy. This year, I was very proud to receive the TBS Inc. Technical Services Award from the Illinois Library Association in recognition of my work. I've been very fortunate to mostly work from home during the pandemic, but I'm looking forward to finally being able to go on my honeymoon once the vaccine is widely available.

**Kyle A. Hewitt** • My wife, Sarah Anne, and I welcomed our daughter, Simone Laura Hewitt, into the world on Feb. 1, a full month earlier than expected. Everyone is happy, healthy and tired. Simone is excited to have just barely arrived before the deadline for this edition of *Lawrence Magazine's* Class Notes.

**Kassandra L. Kuehl & Mark J. Determan '06** • For those of you who remember my daughter, Samantha, who was nine-months old when we matriculated and had not yet turned five when we graduated, toddling around campus during our LU years, here is an update! After weighing offers from numerous

colleges, she was ultimately torn between attending Lawrence and Wellesley College. Although it was a very tough decision, she is now thriving at Wellesley, where she lives in Hillary Rodham Clinton's old dorm and is pursuing a double major in peace and justice studies and theatre. She'll be spending Spring Term in Amman, Jordan, and Fall Term studying at the University of London. She has come quite a long way from her “rope child” days!

**Miranda J. Munro & Daniel Casner '06** • Daniel Casner and I moved out of the suburbs and onto a 10-acre rental property. We are working on purchasing a rural property on which to build a holistically-managed, biodiverse, regenerative homestead.

**Ellen E. Renker** • I'm still living in San Diego with my husband, Patrick, son, Liam, and two cats, Patch and Ollie. We have been lucky and able to telework since March 2020. We've been enjoying our backyard garden with our son who loves to pick ripe tomatoes and eat them on the spot. I'm still an associate environmental planner at Caltrans, utilizing my LU studies to advance transportation projects through the environmental process. Currently in my 12th year with the State. I am still loving my job and the variety of projects I get to oversee, including the construction of a new port of entry with Mexico.

**Elizabeth C. Spoden** • Liz Spoden survived her first year as a new nurse. She earned her BSN from the University of Rhode Island in December and in February is starting a new job at Newport Hospital on the COVID-19 unit.

**Jacob P. Teichroew** • After spending a few months in Door County, my family drove back to NYC with a new baby. He is now eight months old and has no idea that there is anything unusual about wearing masks and avoiding other people. His older brother (4.5 years old) is too consumed with learning about the entire solar system to care much about the state of any single planet. We have been fortunate to be able to work from home, and although the collision of work and family life occasionally sends us out of orbit, we are thankful to be safe and healthy. I am teaching music remotely and recording music and photographing birds in my sparse free time (Nikon D610, Sigma 50-500mm f4.5-6.3).

**Deanna Wanner Wheaton** • Deanna Wheaton (Wanner maiden name) resides in Seattle with her husband and 13-year-old daughter. She is currently a data scientist at Zillow Group and just accepted a pricing manager position at T-Mobile. Her daughter is taking guitar lessons, loves art and writes music. Deanna continues to write and record music as well and released a single during the pandemic called Coronavirus City which can be found on Spotify, iTunes, etc. Her family enjoys hiking and skiing, and in non-COVID-19 times, she takes flying trapeze lessons with her daughter.

2007

**Nikoma L. Baccus** • I currently reside in Waltham, Mass., with my Cavapoo puppy, Ollie, and Devon Rex kitten, Lucille. I am an executive coordinator at Takeda Pharmaceuticals where I support the human resources department. In my spare time, I can be found running marathons, visiting the lake house at





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*I decided to give through the Legacy Circle because the past few years have reminded me that it is imperative to sustain liberal arts institutions. I want to ensure that beyond my annual giving to Lawrence and volunteer work through the alumni office, that Lawrence is part of my final acts of generosity. This will not only help sustain the university but continue to sustain my commitment to what Lawrence offers to current, former, and future Lawrentians.*

—Maggie Schmidt '12

Join Maggie in the  
Lawrence-Downer Legacy Circle.  
Visit [legacygiving.lawrence.edu](https://legacygiving.lawrence.edu)  
to learn more.



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Lake Mascoma in New Hampshire, skiing or creating new craft cocktail recipes at game night with my friends. I am looking forward to when it is safe to travel abroad again—I am sure the beaches in Mexico miss me too. I hope everyone has stayed safe and healthy!

**Heidi R. Crossley & Robert W. Crossley '08** • Rob and I were fortunate that he was able to smoothly transition to working from home last spring, and that I was already accustomed to homeschooling/living life with our three boys, so our adjustments to pandemic life were not as momentous as they might have been. I'm looking forward to many things, including the community choir I sing with being able to rehearse together in person again someday. For now, our Zoom rehearsals (with everyone but the director muted) are a surprisingly satisfying substitute. I'm grateful for video chats, including weekly conversations with dear friends from Plantz Hall, circa 2003–2004.

**Kelsey D. Grubbs** • I am a shamanic and reiki practitioner. Specialties are holistic energy cleansing, negative energy extractions, soul and power animal retrievals, past lives, healing personal and ancestral trauma, medicinal plant therapy and aromatherapy, intuitive coach, guided meditations and crystals: [www.anthroangel.com](http://www.anthroangel.com).

**Grant A. Isaac** • My wife, Maria, and I recently welcomed our fist child, Weston “Wes” Anthony Isaac, who arrived with the luck of the Irish on March 17, 2020.

The three of us and our giant schnauzer, Stanley, call the High Park area of Toronto home, where we live in the same house that served as the set of our very own episode of HGTV's *Income Property* (Season 10).

Maria is a freelance marketing copywriter who specializes in digital copy and UX, while I work as a portfolio manager at FrontWell Capital Partners, a private commercial debt fund headquartered in Toronto focused on commercial lending to mid-market clients in diversified industries across Canada and the USA.

Stay safe everyone!

**Micha V. Jackson** • Hi, LU! In 2009 I moved to Australia, and for six years, I worked with Aboriginal rangers in remote communities, supporting land management and conservation work. In 2016, I started my Ph.D. at the University of Queensland, which I finished last year. I researched migratory bird species and the coastal wetlands they depend on between Australia and far northern breeding grounds. I recently started a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Adelaide, working on the management of a large coastal wetland system called The Coorong. I feel hugely fortunate to be working on projects I am passionate about and living in a place that was spared from much of the suffering related to COVID-19. Sending best wishes and good thoughts to everyone who is coping with and recovering from the pandemic.

**Carly A. Monahan** • Persistence and creativity spurred by adversity have been themes of the past year for many of us, myself included. I'm grateful for a 2020 that was also full of celebration.

After calling northern Vermont home for the past seven years, my husband and I found our forever home(stead) on 10 wild, off-grid acres in April, and we began clearing a homesite and planting a garden and orchard.

In August, I had the honor of officiating the small, socially distanced wedding of two dear friends.

And my LU roommate, Colleen, defended her master's thesis after many seasons of hard work! Props for being a great role model for young women in fisheries and conservation biology; congrats schmoomie!

**Taylor R. Pamperin** • Taylor graduated with her Master of Education in student affairs in higher education in May 2020. She continues to work at Marquette University, although now in the role of graduate program advisor in the College of Nursing. Taylor and Chris have continued to embrace their love of the outdoors through pandemic-driven endeavors into kayaking and winter hiking. Chris continues to pursue his passion for visual art, and they both have used this year to expand their at-home recording studio. Their dog, Bowie, is a huge fan!

**Joseph W. Pfender** • Greetings! In 2019, at New York University, I defended my musicology dissertation titled “Oblique Music: American Tape Experimentalism and Peripheral Cultures of Technology, 1887 and 1950.” After that, I have taught music theory, history and appreciation at NYU, the New School and Queens College, CUNY. Since March of 2020, I've been working for the Aspen Music



Christopher '13, Cameron, and Finnegan Skinner.

Festival and School as program book managing editor. My partner, Julia, and I are happily enjoying the spectacular landscapes (and sparse population) out in Colorado!

**Emily A. Saltzman** • My partner, Jen, and I moved in together this year right before nationwide shutdowns set in—we were very pleased with our pre-planning! Jen will be finishing her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology at the University of Minnesota this spring—we're hopeful for some (COVID-safe) travel to celebrate this accomplishment!

**Joel P. Schneider** • Hey there fellow Lawrentians, It certainly has been a turbulent stretch for our country, but I humbly report that my life and career in NYC are steadily flourishing. After several years of navigating the entertainment industry as an assistant director and producing my own projects, I finally got the opportunity to write for TV on the History Channel show, *The Food That Built America*. I couldn't have predicted that my history major would lead to this opportunity, and I still endeavor to write comedy television, but I couldn't be happier with our work on the show. I've also found the love of my life and look forward to marrying her later this year. Be well everyone!

**Cynthia D. Stocum** • I married Benn Stocum Aug. 11, 2018. I am the proud bonus mom of his now 6-year-old daughter. We moved to Greenville, S.C., last year and are loving it; it's a beautiful city with lots to do. I obtained my LPC-A last year and now work for a private practice. I hope to open my own private practice in the future.

**Dr. Gabriela A. Szeinberg** • I continue to live in St. Louis, and I have been promoted to assistant dean at the College of Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. I am very happy for this career growth! I am fortunate to keep up with many friends from Lawrence, some who live in the St. Louis area, and I hope to organize alumni events once it's safe to do so again.

**Jesse A. Weinberg** • Jesse and his wife, Katie, welcomed their “pandemic baby,” Clara Jane Weinberg, in June of 2020. Although eager to have her meet more family, they have been enjoying close family time with her and brother Felix (3). Jesse continues to work as manager of choral publications at Hal Leonard and is looking forward to a time when choirs can reconvene and sing again.

## 2009

**Jayce E. Apelgren** • My wife, Katee, and I purchased a dental practice in Eagan, Minn. Apelgren Dental has been our focus throughout the last year. 2021 will center around a new project as we purchased land and are building a house!

**Emily May de Moraes** • Our little family is still in Austin, Texas, and doing well despite the year that it's been. I started a new job running digital marketing for a small company that sources and delivers food from local farms. Our beautiful little boy, Nico, turned 2 in October, and he's been a source of joy and positivity throughout this entire pandemic and lockdown. We can't wait to travel to see our families and friends once it is safe!

**Chelsea Wirtz Girard** • In July, my husband, Jeremy, and I welcomed our second child—a beautiful baby boy we named Charlie.

**Imtiaz S. Khan** • I am very happy to share that I married Pearl King in New York City on Feb. 20.

**Caitlin White Magel** • I completed my Ph.D. in Integrative Biology from Oregon State University, studying estuaries in the Pacific Northwest. I'm now working (remotely) as a post-doctoral researcher for the University of Washington. My husband, Chris, and I hope to make a move north post-pandemic!

**Stephanie M. Martin & Dustin A. Zimmerman** • Dustin and I bought our first house in Milwaukee in October 2019, just in time to move in and enjoy it before pandemic life set in. We have a dog and two cats in our cozy space, and we're looking forward to putting in lots of veggies in our backyard this spring. I (Steph) work from home as a health care consultant, currently assigned to help Children's Wisconsin with their new tool to help long-term kids get great hospital care. Dustin is practicing and being a #petdad and very much looking forward to regular ensembles starting up again.

We're both very excited to travel once it's safe to do so and we can't wait to see lots of our Lawrentian friends all over the country and world.

**Erin V. Moore** • Erin Moore completed her master's degree in music education in May 2020 from Georgia State University and is now teaching middle school band at Austin Road Middle School in Stockbridge, Ga. She and her husband, Connor, just purchased their first house in a suburb of Atlanta and are looking forward to starting a family together. On the weekends, Erin and her husband work as birthday party characters for Dreamfriends Entertainment and perform weekly in a shadowcast of the Rocky Horror Picture Show at Atlanta's historic Plaza Theater. Erin is also excited to have played Lucinda in Creative Artists Theatrical Studios' production of *Into The Woods* this spring.

**Rachel J. Roberts** • In the summer of 2020, I finished my master's degree in art psychotherapy, and soon I will be moving from Derby to London to begin work as a practitioner in child and adolescent mental health services in the NHS. Having taken a circuitous route to find work I find truly fulfilling, I am excited to finally work as a full-time therapist and looking forward to exploring London once it's safe to do so.

**Frances S. Steiner** • Frances Steiner and her husband, Kieran Coe, welcomed their first child, Bradley Coe.

**Elaine Kathryn Beckett Tipping & Bradley J. Tipping '06** In May, we had our first kid, Bryce Beckett Tipping! We also got permanent residency in Japan and bought a house. It overlooks sakura in the spring and rice fields in the summer.

As of December 2020, I signed with a literary agent, Claire Draper of The Bent Agency, and I'm looking forward to all the work we'll do together!

The pandemic has kept us home for most of the year and it hasn't been easy with work and baby, but 2020 also brought us a new little guy to love and opened some doors for me with my comic career, so it has been an experience for sure. Here's hoping 2021 will be kinder to us all!

**Kimberly J. Vachon** • I am currently working through my fourth year in an education Ph.D. program at UC–Santa Cruz where my research focuses on whiteness, anti-racist policy and teacher education. I'm hoping to be done with this program someday, but in the meantime, my partner, Ian, and I have been enjoying the opportunity to be in the outdoors and explore the many natural wonders nearby. I'm trying to keep in mind the many reasons to be grateful during this dumpster fire year, one reason being the ability to connect with Lawrence friends via Zoom for birthdays, baby showers and impromptu happy hours. Wishing safety and health to friends near and far!

## 2011

**Kelsey E. Bettridge & John T. Bettridge '10** • I graduated from Johns Hopkins with my Ph.D. in biophysics in 2019, then got a job as a post-doctoral research fellow at the NIH. In early December, I welcomed my first child into the world, a boy named John Luc! Been married to fellow LU alum John for 7.5 years now and life is good.

**Sally Konzem Burns** • My husband, Andy, and I welcomed our daughter, Molly Ann Burns, on March 20, 2020.

**Kyle M. Payne & Rachel Payne '10** • 2020 was an exciting and bittersweet year for us. My wife, Rachel Payne, and I started the year in the heart of Seattle. Rachel was finishing her medical training at Harborview Medical Center, and I was an assistant attorney general working in child protection. We spent weekends whale watching in Puget Sound, hiking (with masks) around Mount Rainier and taking friends to our favorite local restaurants (pre-pandemic). In September, we said some hard goodbyes to our friends and coworkers and moved back to Minneapolis. Rachel is now a trauma surgeon in Minneapolis, and I am practicing civil litigation. Happy to be COVID-19-free and closer to family.

**Andrew R. Hawley** • I moved to Milwaukee in 2018 to further my career as a floral designer. Flowers for Dreams offered me an opportunity at that time as a wedding and event floral designer. As of 2021, I am now their Lead Designer in the Milwaukee area! In other news, I found a great friendship and love with someone right before the pandemic hit. Eric and I will be joining households in the spring in the historic area of Greendale, Wis. We will be a blended family of two dogs (his) and two cats (mine).



**Ann E. Kaiser** • I am close-quarantining in Palo Alto, Calif., with my partner, Aaron, and 2.5-year-old daughter, Nora. Aside from juggling work at Cisco and the energy of a precocious toddler, I am excited about learning the piano and planning to travel. . . anywhere, as soon as it's possible!

**Mary Lawler** • I was promoted to vice president of marketing at Telnyx, located in Chicago.

**Katherine R. Meckel & Bruce A. Stickle** • I won a prestigious travel award to the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies biennial conference in Glasgow, Scotland. COVID-19 derailed what would have been my first trip out of the country. I comforted myself by sharing Scottish tea and biscuits with my partner, Alex Stickle, as well as cuddling with our new cats, Data and Lore.

**Chelsea M. Melamed** • Hello, classmates! I recently celebrated the first birthday of my daughter, Hannah. I now live in Toronto with my husband, Alex. If you knew me at Lawrence, then you knew I wasn't a huge fan of the cold. However, it is in cold places that I have made great friends and fallen in love, so the cold is growing on me :). This past year hasn't been easy for many of us, and I am looking forward to being able to see friends and family more easily and often. I hope all are staying well. Thinking of you.

**Hannah Sawitsky Ristorcelli** • We welcomed a daughter, Juniper Brecken, on Dec. 18, 2019. The bright spot of 2020 was watching her grow and focusing on time with family. We are looking forward to connecting more with friends near and far in 2021.

**Sarah R. Young** • Since the last reunion, I've bought a condo, adopted a cat and started attending graduate school part time to get a master's degree in library and information science.

2013

**Emily A. Bablitch** • Emily graduated with a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago and currently works as an energy consultant in Chicago.

**Vivian L. Burnette** • I received my master's degree in higher, postsecondary and continuing education from UW–Madison in May 2018. After five years of working in higher education as a learning support services coordinator, an instructor and an academic advisor, I returned to pre-college work in July 2020. I'm happy to be back supporting K–12 students and having the opportunity to craft and teach creative writing courses for middle/high schoolers. I married Gil Caspi in Door County in February 2020, right before the pandemic came swooping in. We bought our first house in Madison, Wis., in May 2020. Since then, we have been spending lots of time with our cat, Moses, who is delighted that we both work from home.

**Philip J. Bushbacher** • Playing my eighth season of professional hockey and serving as conditioning coach for Les Rempart de Tours in the French first division.

**Ezra P. Cahn** • I am the marketing and communications project manager at RepRisk AG in Zurich, Switzerland.



Max Loebl '17 receiving an award of achievement and appreciation in Vienna, Austria, from Ambassador Jim Gilmore, the former Governor of Virginia, for my time with the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

**Matthew W. Cawley** • After seven AMAZING years in Minneapolis, I moved back to Colorado with my partner, Tim. We have an adorable puppy, Maple.

I am working in my ceramics studio full time, with goals of opening a teaching studio and gallery in the next five years. Any alumni support would be greatly appreciated!

[patreon.com/matthewcawleyceramics](https://patreon.com/matthewcawleyceramics)  
[etsy.com/shop/mcawleyceramics](https://etsy.com/shop/mcawleyceramics)

**Robert G. Goodwin** • I graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in May 2020, passed the Colorado Bar Exam in October and started clerking for several judges in Fort Collins, Colo. I plan to work in employment law or civil rights law going forward.

**David Harrison & Maire Clement '14** • Davey Harrison and I (Maire Clement), both alumni of Lawrence University, became a songwriting folk duo a few years ago when we were based in Boston. We are The Boston Imposters ([TheBostonImposters.com](https://TheBostonImposters.com)). We released our first album in 2020 with plans to do a tour around the Midwest. Of course, you know what happened: on March 14, we had to change all our plans. Instead of doing a live tour, we switched to weekly livestreamed concerts through Twitch. Twitch is a streaming website for gamers, but it is becoming more and more popular for musicians to stream. If you are ever available on Fridays/Sundays 8–9:15 p.m., check us out: [www.twitch.tv/boston\\_imposters](https://www.twitch.tv/boston_imposters).

**Kaye Herranen & Johnny Greene** • In late 2019, I visited Quebec City, Quebec, with **Sarah Slaughter '13** and **Molly Meister** (formerly **Grosskreutz**) '13 to celebrate our 10-year friendiversary. The trip marked 10 years since we became fast friends in the fall of our freshman year at Lawrence.

**Andrew H. Kraemer** • I'm still in Texas. I have a dog now. I haven't gotten a haircut since before the pandemic.

**Zachary A. Kulig** • Courtney and I are excited to welcome Baby Kulig into the world in March of this year. Can't wait to meet our future little Lawrentian!

**Mike Kumbalek** • Adopted a wolfdog hybrid. He runs the house now.

**Gaelen C. Lombard-Knapp** • I am currently living in Denver with **Jason Dunn '13** and we are excited to announce that we are engaged! Over this past Thanksgiving, we traveled to Moab, Utah, to visit the national parks (socially distanced and masked

up, of course!). Jason proposed in beautiful Arches National Park, to which I undoubtedly said yes! The occasion was followed by happy tears and lots of champagne cheers. We are certainly enjoying the bliss of engagement and look forward to getting married in late spring of 2022.

**Jared M. Marchant** • **Jared Marchant '13** and **Morgan Arshonsky '15** postponed their November 2020 wedding to a year later. We recently got a collie puppy named Aila who keeps us busy and having a ton of fun. Jared will also start business school at The University of Chicago Booth School of Business in the spring.

**Karl H. Mayer** • I live in Boulder, Colo., and work as a physicist for a team at Honeywell that is trying to build a quantum computer. In my free time, I like to ski, read books and play the saxophone, mostly to maintain my *And How!* repertoire.

**Jeff A. Mollet** • I am happy to share that I am a current J.D. candidate at the University of Wisconsin Law School, Class of 2023. On Wisconsin!

**Nhi Q. Nguyen** • Hi, friends! I am a travel nurse and moving to California in a few months. I've been living in Fairbanks, Alaska, with my husband for the last six months! 2020 is a crazy year, y'all ... I hope everyone is doing well. I also just somehow logged myself back into Voyager, so this is very exciting! Go Class of 2013!

**Anna L. Perantoni** • Anna lives in Sacramento, Calif., and works as a senior prospect research analyst in the University of California-Davis' Department of Development and Donor Relations (many thanks to **Lucas Brown '02** for welcoming her to the research field as an intern in LU's Development Office during her senior year on campus). She was recently elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the California Advancement Researchers Association.

**Dan Perret-Goluboff** • I'm finishing my third year at Discover Financial Services, where I work as a lead digital infrastructure specialist. I've been fortunate to spend the pandemic working from home in Chicago in relative comfort. I'm trying to transform myself into a distance cyclist and am training for the Door County Century in September. I haven't gotten a haircut in far too long.

**Micah J. Price** • I've been having lots of fun as a data scientist in the Dallas area for the last four years. I'm itching to move somewhere with mountains and outdoor adventures that are less than a five-hour drive though, so please tell me where I should go. Also itching to work on issues of bias and unfairness in AI so send those opportunities my way as well. My heart goes out to anyone who was hit hard by the pandemic, I hope you were/are able to find the human support you need. I was quarantined at LU for two weeks, and I thought I had it rough.

**Jon A. Ransom** • I live in Hartford, Conn. My girlfriend and I live in our new house with our pitbull, Eva, Siamese cat, Robert, and our 5-year-old son, Ryo.

Currently a DevOps engineer for a place called Insurity. Making software easier and more functional to insurance. After Lawrence, went back home, turned myself around, got my degree. Even became

a Zumba instructor for five years. Don't have the energy anymore but still got the moves :) Northeast ain't nothing like the Midwest and liked it way better in Appleton than in Hartford. Happy for all future Lawrentians and current. I made some of my fondest memories there and hope they create some good ones too.

**Michael R. Russell** • I am currently working as a user experience and interaction designer for a sport gaming company. Slowly but surely getting through the pandemic. I am currently residing in Chicago.

**Anna C. Shea & Elizabeth Tracey** • We are currently living in Arvada, Colo., with our two dogs, a hamster and a growing collection of house plants. I completed an MS in organizational leadership in December of 2020, and Elizabeth started an MFA in creative writing this January, both at Regis University in Denver. The highlight of our year remains seeing a giant moose while hiking in a state park.

**Paige Koebele Silber** • In 2020, I enjoyed spending my first year of marriage spending almost every moment with my husband, Zack. We both learned how to work from home and take turns playing with our goldendoodle puppy, Ruby, throughout the day. I started a new job at a startup called Alinea, which has been an amazing opportunity! In September, we decided our puppy needed a backyard so moved out to the Madison, Wis., suburbs. While this year brought many challenges, I feel very blessed and continue to find creative ways to stay connected to friends and family.

**Christopher R. Skinner** • Cameron Finnegan Skinner and I moved to Charlotte in August of 2020, where I began working at Truist Securities, and we purchased our first home. In the first half of the year, Cameron and I were married on the steps of the rotunda at Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia (UVA) in a socially distanced ceremony, and I graduated with an MBA at UVA's Darden School of Business. While we are sad we have not been able to continue our "globetrotting" ways this year, we are enjoying family life in Charlotte, N.C., safely visiting family in Charlottesville, Va., and planning ahead for future travels.

**Kirstin A. Stangel** • Hello everyone! I am the 4K–12 general music teacher and choir director for Potosi School District. I live in Platteville, Wis., with my husband, Ed, and two kitties, Al and Felix. I'm wishing you all a happy and healthy 2021 (and beyond)!

**Andrew P. Stuart** • While it has been a tough year for many due to the pandemic, my wife and I have been incredibly lucky. I have been promoted again and now work remotely for my organization's national office as a systems architect and integrator. My wife and I are about to enter our third year in our first house (Twin Cities) and are in the process of planning major renovations. Between our great jobs, two quirky cats, charming pupper, fledgling saltwater fish tank and our energetic horse, life has been hectic and fantastic!

**Aaron H. Wright** • Aaron recently started a new position as a vehicle design and mission analysis specialist at NASA, got engaged to **Lauren Challinor '20** and has adopted both a dog and a cat.

2015

**Rachel J. Arnow** • My fiancé and I have weathered the pandemic so far by finding safety in our home in Marshfield, Wis. Neither of us has owned a house before, and it has offered us some peace and sanity through the extreme temperatures and political views of central Wisconsin. I have begun to plan our wedding, though 2020 has shown that predictions of the future are fragile, and uncertainty is our only friend in these wild years. Still, I maintain hope for my future by bearing down on bad habits, such as overthinking or speculation. I spend my frigid afternoons inside my warm home, accompanied by NPR podcasts and paleontology videos on YouTube. Big-picture thinking holds me steady.

**Brienne C. Colston** • Excited to share that my nonprofit, Brown Girl Recovery, has been awarded our first six figure multi-year grant to continue our youth justice fellowship, Healing Our Hoods, in the Bronx, N.Y. We have also been awarded two new contracts with the NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene to continue our racial equity and liberation work in various departments. Thank you to all who donated to our grassroots Giving Tuesday campaign! To donate to BGR, please visit [www.browngirlrecovery.com/support](https://www.browngirlrecovery.com/support).

**Elena C. De Stasio Stabile & David R. De Stasio '16** • My husband, **David '16**, and I moved to Minneapolis, so I could start my DMA in voice performance at the University of Minnesota! Additionally, in partnership with several other singers and composers, I have started a contemporary opera company called Strange Trace, which has premiered several new digital works in the last year.

**Devin T. Ditto** • Hey, everyone! I recently left the law firm that I was working for in St. Louis and have since become a public safety dispatcher with the St. Louis County Police Department! It is challenging, but nothing LU didn't prepare me for. Still rocking the fur babe mom life!

Hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy!

**Weronika D. Gajowniczek** • In the fall, I was able to follow through with my dream by moving to Boulder, Colo., to work as a veterinarian at a cat-only clinic!

**Linnea Garcia** • Despite the chaos and destruction of 2020, I experienced many joys. I became a homeowner in June and finished drafting my 10th manuscript as I continue to pursue traditional publication. Wishing all my friends and family a hopeful and bright 2021!

**August W. Geise V** • Contrary to popular belief, I am not the same person as **August Geise '79**. Hi, Mom.

**Brandon T. Kreuder** • I began 2020 performing with my viola/piano duo, Vis-A-Vis, on the Holland-America cruise line Grand World Voyage. In March, just after visiting Sydney, Australia, the cruise line was shut down. We floated out at sea in the Indian Ocean for over 10 days awaiting a port to allow us to disembark. Eventually the port of Perth opened to us, and everyone was flown back to their respective homes around the world. Since then, I have been living with my parents in Wisconsin and saving money towards purchasing new instruments. Believe it or not, I still hope to return to cruise work!

**Amber J. Latimer** • I am delighted to share I've returned to LU as Lawrence's first practices fellow for Spiritual and Religious Life. I work alongside a fabulous team in the Esch Hurvis Center (formerly Sabin House), which looks and feels a lot different from when it housed Greenfire during my time as a student!

**Laetitia Meghan M. Lehman-Pearsall** • Laetitia Lehman-Pearsall and **Julian Delfino '13** got engaged on Sept. 9. Julian made the ring himself! They are very happy together and look forward to celebrating their marriage whenever it is safe to do so. They continue to live on Bainbridge Island, Wash., Laetitia as a piano teacher, Julian as an editor, and love learning about gardening and homesteading together.

**Zoe E. Psarouthakis** • Kia ora. I am still living in New Zealand. At the start of 2020, my partner, dog and I moved from Wellington to Dunedin for me to go back to school for a master's degree in marine science at the University of Otago. Dan (partner/husband/best friend!) is working at the microbiologydepartment at the university also. Though the year has been a bit crazy, I consider myself incredibly lucky to live in New Zealand with the response to CCOVID-19 being taken seriously and now being able to move without restriction within our borders. I am very excited to be entering my second year of the master's program and already considering continuing with a Ph.D. here, but who knows what the future will hold.

**Luke Patrick Rivard** • My partner, Haley, and I are living in a cozy apartment in South Minneapolis with our dog, Olive. I decided this year to take full advantage of quarantine life and dove into a career in user experience (UX) design. As a working musician and active educator (thank you, Lawrence), I'm excited to exercise my skills in problem solving, research and leadership. If anyone is a UX practitioner, please get in touch!

My band, Porky's Groove Machine, a band born and raised at LU, is releasing a new EP entitled *Sticklers for Specificity*. I am continuing to stay busy doing other freelance music work in the Twin Cities, and hopefully when the pandemic dies down, touring will resume again.

**Marina C. Rosenquist** • We welcomed Caspian Arthur Rosenquist (below) on Christmas Day in 2019. A great joy it is to see his growing love in listening to and in playing music, his serious thoughtfulness, and to know his laughter. Our son gives light to every day! Soli Deo gloria.





**Conor J. Sexton** • Transitions continue! Just as I was getting fully settled into a new career and home, the pandemic struck. After a period of unemployment, I was lucky to find a position as a contract software engineer with Best Buy here in the Twin Cities.

My partner and I also moved from downtown St. Paul across the river to Minneapolis (North Loop) for a bit more space to accommodate working from home. Hoping to reconnect with more friends and classmates in 2021!

**Rebecca P. Shuman** • **Marshall Yoes '15** and I got engaged on Jan. 8 after seven years of dating! We're excited to have a very musical Lawrentian wedding sometime in 2022 or 2023 when it's safe to gather again.

**Emily E. Zawacki** • I am in the final stages of finishing my Ph.D. in geological sciences at Arizona State University and am looking forward to defending and graduating this spring or summer! I have been enjoying living in sunny Tempe, Ariz., with my partner, Stefan, and our two cats, Mica and Selex.

2017

**Emily C. Bandon Kovar** • Emily Bandon Kovar is currently teaching elementary music full-time in Phoenix. Emily is currently anticipating finishing her DMA in piano performance under the instruction of Dr. Liza Stepanova at the University of Georgia.

**Angela M. Como** • I have been working in the College of Education at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, since I completed my Master of Natural Resources there in 2018. I am honored to work alongside American Indian/Alaska Native educators and educators-in-training on culturally sustaining land and community-based educational programming for teachers.

My husband, Daniel, and I are enjoying exploring the Idaho wilderness via backpacking, skiing, running and camping. We will be welcoming a baby girl to our family this spring and can't wait for our first family camping trip!

**Jacob R. Dalton** • Jacob Dalton moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in acting, writing and producing. He has now produced two short films as well as won several awards in screenwriting. He is currently working as an administrative assistant at Caltech and is producing his award-winning short, *Dangerous*, which he plans to shoot in September 2021.

**Megan N. DeCleene** • Life since graduating from Lawrence has been nothing less than transformative. When I graduated in 2017, I had many great plans and almost none of them came to fruition in the way I expected! Life is full of twists and turns. My time at Lawrence may not have prepared me for that reality, but it certainly prepared me to face challenges head-on and embrace growth. Some high points in my journey thus far have been completing my Master of Arts in Hispanic linguistics at Indiana University-Bloomington, meeting my husband through our mutual love for Latin dance and moving to his home country of Brazil to start our lives together.

**Michael S. Deremo** • After returning home stateside from my stint in the Peace Corps, I found a job

working for the United States Soccer Federation in my hometown of Chicago. I am part of the small finance department where my role as an accountant ranges from reporting and tracking organization-wide operations to supporting the federation's larger, international events such as the World Cup and Olympics. A fitting result for my time at Lawrence as an economics major and member of the soccer team! It has been an incredible experience so far to work with people who are as passionate about growing the game of soccer in America as I am.

**Dylan E. Geary** • I moved to Chicago in the fall for business school so I can see **Michael Deremo '17** and **Peter Winslow '17** on a weekly basis. I will be interning for a strategy consulting firm this summer.

**Max R. Loeb** • I graduated from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, focusing on international public diplomacy in 2020. After spending the last four years working, researching and traveling across four different continents, I returned to Wisconsin to serve as a communications director for a congressional campaign and to assist with organizing efforts for the presidential election. Currently, I reside in Milwaukee and work as chief political strategist for a public strategy and campaign management firm. I live with my newly rescued dachshund mix, Bean, and very much look forward to resuming travel, Sunday league soccer and visiting my brother who is a freshman at Lawrence.

**Sierra B. Parker** • I am close to completing a master's degree in speech-language pathology and look forward to starting my career as a school speech therapist next year!

**Shana T. Pike** • As a lifelong Wisconsinite, this year I left Appleton and my nonprofit career in domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy to pursue a master's degree. I was accepted to Tilburg University in the Netherlands and am currently pursuing a research master's degree in social and behavioral sciences with a sociology focus. If starting a graduate program wasn't enough excitement, making an international move during a pandemic certainly was! My partner, puppy and I are now safely in our new home and adjusting every day. Although I am unsure if I will pursue a Ph.D. program after my master's, I am excited about where this program is taking me academically, personally and geographically!

**John E. Plasterer** • Hey, Vikes!

Since I graduated from Lawrence, I returned home to Madison, Wis., where in the fall of 2017, I embarked on a three-year GIS (Geographic Information Sciences) Capstone certificate through UW–Madison.

I finished up the program this past August and am looking for work in the field. In the near future, I am also looking to pursue my master's degree in GIS.

In addition to the capstone program, I have been working at a tech company called Starkweather Association Services as a programmer and informational material designer.

Although it wasn't my major, I am grateful to the computer science department for putting me on the right foot to pursue graduate degrees in technology.

**Timothy R. Platt** • I am currently living in Chicago, where I teach for Chicago Public Schools in the North Lawndale neighborhood at Crown Community Academy of Performing Arts. I teach K-8 general and AP Music Theory to high schoolers. After a day of jamming with kids on Orff instruments, I am usually hanging after school with the ukulele ensemble or the jazz ensemble!

**Mahmoud Shaar** • 2020 was definitely a mixed bag! I am very grateful that the pandemic has not affected me or my family directly. Work has been very fulfilling, and I've picked up a few new languages and technologies since starting my current job. I am working on getting a cloud certification at the moment and hoping to take the test in the next few weeks. However, I am very anxious for the vaccine rollout, so I can go back to visiting friends and family, playing indoor soccer and being in a crowd of people without feeling guilty.

**Shaye N. Swanson** • After Lawrence, I returned home to Los Angeles and earned my master's degree in music composition at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music. While a student, I scored the award-winning documentary, *Faith Alone*, which premiered at the CSU Media Arts Festival in Los Angeles as well as Translations, a film festival in Seattle that supports LGBTQ Filmmakers. In 2020, I scored my first feature film, *Road to 50 Miles*, which premiered at La Femme International Film Festival in Los Angeles. Currently, I'm scoring a miniseries as well as the movie, *Isolation*, by another Lawrence alum **Alexcia Jellum**. I'm so grateful to be doing what I love.

**Lauren A. Welton-Arndt** • I am currently a fourth-year pharmacy student at the University of Texas at Austin. Right now, I am in the process of applying for residency programs. If any students have any questions about pharmacy school, please feel free to reach out to me at [laurenweltonarndt@gmail.com](mailto:laurenweltonarndt@gmail.com).

**Bailey S. Reiners** • After Lawrence, I moved to Italy for a bit before returning stateside to Chicago, where I interned at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and found housing, income and good company, working as a live-in caregiver for a 95-year-old woman.

Then I worked as a writer for a tech company and traveled to Japan to conduct a second interview with a contemporary artist I first interviewed for my senior capstone at LU.

In 2020, I traveled to Vietnam with **Tahnee '16** just two weeks before Chicago shut down. A month later, I lost my job and moved home to Colorado to earn my pilot's license. Now I am back in Chicago, where I adopted a cat and am starting a new job as a search engine optimization strategist.

**Cate B. Schubert** • In 2020, I started a master's degree program in optometry at the Chicago College of Optometry, and I will start my first practicum this summer, focusing on diagnosing and treating cataracts. I also moved out of a house with my two brothers and in with two Lawrentians!

**Sarah F. Diamond** • After graduating, I transitioned from being co-president of LU's Food Recovery Network (FRN) chapter to working at the FRN

national office in Washington, D.C. I then went backpacking (there were some busses along the way!) from Vancouver, Canada, to Baja California, Mexico. I met some incredible people, and it made me realize what I really want to do.

I moved to London to work at a nutrition and mental health clinic and au pair'd for a British family on the side. Here, I realized I love the work of helping people heal the root cause(s) of their chronic health conditions, so I returned to Boston and started school to become a functional nutritionist.

This year, I am living in Chicago, where I am running my own holistic nutrition business focusing on women's gut, hormone and mental health and working at a local health clinic as a nutritional therapist. In the fall, I will move back to Boston to start graduate school at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy to pursue my Master of Science in global food security and applied nutrition.

2019

**Umer Amer** • Got a soccer team together recently and been kicking around since. It's no ASC, but it helps to not play your games after a trip to the Viking Room.

**Mikaela L. Bolker** • I have spent the last nine months deployed overseas in the Middle East with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. I am part of the mission Operation Inherent Resolve/Spartan Shield. I work in flight operations, where I help track MEDEVAC missions and other flights. I have learned a lot, made great memories and met wonderful people. Something cool that happened while I've been deployed is that a video of me fiddling in an aircraft hangar went viral on Twitter! The Sergeant Major of the Army retweeted it, causing many others, including celebrity chef Robert Irvine, to retweet it as well. Five minutes of fame, ha! I return home this summer and am so excited to start a new chapter of my life.

**Anna C. Cohen** • In the fall of 2020 I relocated to Evanston, Ill., to begin my Ph.D. in art history at Northwestern University, with a focus in medieval art, architecture and material culture. In February, I presented a paper at the 2021 Newberry Library Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference which was based on research begun in a seminar at Lawrence.

**Sydney A. DeMets** • I will soon be saying goodbye to Los Alamos National Lab and starting my Ph.D. in information science at UW–Seattle. I will miss living and working next to a nuclear stockpile situated on a sunny supervolcano. I hope that rainy Washington's fires and tsunami threat can keep me interested.

**Amanda M. Fetters** • I have enjoyed finding work as a full-time editor (remote due to the pandemic) and narrating a total of three audiobooks in 2020. The past year has offered so many growth opportunities with its challenges, and I'm happy and grateful to be where I am now.

**David C. Fisher** • David Fisher graduated from Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University in May, receiving a Master of Music in composition and music theory pedagogy.

**Natalie M. Galster-Manz** • **Neil Krzeski '19** and I will be getting married June 19 in Richford, Wis.!

**Lainey M. Harrison** • I made a snow ramp in the backyard.

**Noah B. Hochberg** • I am currently working for Eli Lilly as a pharmaceutical sales representative promoting their diabetes portfolio. Due to the pandemic, I have been staying in Virginia with my parents while I work remotely.

**Shengting Hou** • Pursuing a master's degree in the MSPE program at University of Illinois–Urbana/Champaign.

The program includes taking classes every day, same as Lawrence. For me, I just changed places but kept studying. The diversity of my classmates is simple: most of them are Chinese, and I had lots of fun when I got to spend time with them. Champaign has a warmer climate than Appleton—we only had few light snows this winter. It is new for anyone who comes from Wisconsin, and even I am still getting used to it. Also, Champaign has more and more super good restaurants, with types of foods from all over the world.

I like Champaign, but I love Appleton.

**Craig D. Jordan** • I am currently in the first year of my Masters of Music in piano performance at the University of Miami Frost School of Music. It has been very interesting, to say the least, starting school during the COVID-19 pandemic, but I am extremely lucky to be at a school continually offering on-campus, in-person instruction.

What I'm most looking forward to this semester is performing as a concerto competition winner on a piece titled *Seaborne* by Lawrence graduate **Garth Neustadter '10**. *Seaborne* features a chamber group of two vibraphones, two marimbas and two pianos, and it will be accompanied by the Frost Symphony Orchestra.

**Siyu Liu** Hi, Lawrentians! My name is Siyu Liu, a double-major in gender studies and studio art. I am currently based in Shanghai, working as an advertising coordinator at a WeMedia company called Intown Video. You might not have heard about us, but we are one of the most influential gender and sexuality video creators in China. Our content focuses on comprehensive sex-ed, gender equality and LGBTQ+ recognition. We yearn to equip young people with better sexuality and gender knowledge. Please feel free to contact me if you're interested in online collaborating! My email is [siyusibylliu@gmail.com](mailto:siyusibylliu@gmail.com)!

**Jack D. Lucas** • Oh! How far I have fallen. If I'm being honest—and I'm sure many Larry-Uites can relate!—2020 really ground me down. I'm sad to say that in my case I mean it literally. That's right, my much-talked-about height augmentation surgery was a flop. Long story short, my “surgeon” (I'll spare you the invectives) decided to skimp on the cartilage, leaving bone grinding on bone until I was a shadow of my former self. Like Icarus, I risked it all for a short-lived moment in the 6-foot-plus sun, and like him, I fell short. Every movement grates bone against bone, every day I am shorter than the last. Alas ... new perspectives come at a price. Please get in contact if you had similar experience to join class action suit.

**George C. Mavarakis** • <https://youtu.be/oCc6oM6QRkM>.

**Cameron M. Montgomery** • I moved from Minneapolis to Tacoma, Wash., with my fiancé, Rowin Breaux. During the pandemic, I have taken a break from my acting and directing career and am now working with Brookdale Senior Living Communities in activities. We absolutely love the area and have had a lot of fun exploring the beauty of the Pacific Northwest!

**Jennifer J. Nelson** • I'm currently living in Denver and am applying to master's programs in public health!

**Sophie J. Penniman** • Since graduating from Lawrence, I worked at Björklunden for a year, and I'm now in my first year of an MLIS (Master of Library and Information Studies) program at the University of British Columbia. I started off taking classes online from my bedroom in Appleton, and in January, I finally was able to move out to Vancouver (where I'm still taking classes online from my bedroom but am now surrounded by mountains and forests and the ocean). Also, I just made a nice big pot of lentil soup that was pretty tasty.

**Claudia J. Peterson** • Happily engaged to **Madison Whitehead '19**.

**David A. Philyaw** • I am excited to announce my on-screen debut in *Danse Macabre* as part of the 16th annual HUMP! Film Festival 2021 World Tour. HUMP! films are funny, thought-provoking, artistic, outrageous and sexy (18+) shorts designed to showcase the full range of human creativity and erotic imagination. (More info at [HumpFilmFest.com](http://HumpFilmFest.com).)

I wishes to thank **Helen Boyd Kramer** for being an incredible role model of queer empowerment, **Rob Neilson** and **John Shimon** for inspiring me to push my artistic boundaries, **Margaret Paek** for teaching the importance of feeling “at home” in my own body, and **Mark Phelan** for pushing me to examine pornography through a philosophical and artistic lens.

**Nicolette G. Puskar** • This fall I will be attending the University of California–Berkeley to begin my Ph.D. program in physical chemistry.

**Alexanna E. Quinn** • I'm applying for unemployment! It's great to have skills for a gig economy and graduate into a pandemic.

**Binita Rajbhandari** • Since graduation, I worked at MicroInsurance Centre at Milliman for a year. Fall of 2020, I started my master's program at DePaul University in Chicago. My classes have been online since I started the program. Looking forward to going to classes in person in the future and getting the real experience of my master's journey.

**Daniel A. Vaca Arboleda** • I am currently offering language conversational courses through Zoom including Spanish, English, French and Italian so I encourage anyone interested in getting some practice to contact me! :) [danielvaca96@gmail.com](mailto:danielvaca96@gmail.com)

**Ines Valencia-Graul** • After graduation, I moved back home to Barcelona with the idea of probably returning to the U.S. at some point in 2020, but then



the pandemic hit, so I'm going to wait a little longer. This past summer I got a gig as a remote part-time art editor, writing for the art section of an up-and-coming entertainment website based in New York, and it feels so great to be doing something in my field of study! In October, I decided to also further explore my interest in fashion, so I started an internship-turned-job at a small sustainable fashion brand, and I have designed two bags for them which will be released soon (thanks **Karin Kopischke** for teaching me how to sew!).

**Madison S. Whitehead** • Engaged to **Claudia Peterson** '19.  
**Noah B. Whiteman & Rachel E. Lewis** • This year, I began work as an immunology researcher at Harvard Medical School with the Wesemann lab. My group is studying B cell and antibody dynamics in patients recovering from COVID-19 and in COVID-19 vaccine recipients. Through the difficulties of the pandemic, I am encouraged watching the incredible speed with which our understanding of the situation grows, and the level of collaboration between scientific communities helping us move toward solutions. It has been an honor learning immunology during such a critical point in history, and I am excited to share our findings in an upcoming publication on which I am an author.

**Nina Wilson** • Last summer, mid-pandemic, I decided to leave my job in Chicago to return to my Illinois hometown to be near family and to accept a position as an Illinois JusticeCorps fellow at a courthouse in the community. In this role, I assist self-represented litigants navigate the often confusing legal system. I love this work and hope to continue it for another year! Praying for the return of dance parties.

**Nicole D. Witmer** • I moved to London to start my master's program in publishing media. I was lucky enough to stay employed with my publishing company while I'm in school, which means I can be normal poor instead of dirt poor.

**Sarah M. Woody** • I am following my dreams to become a conservation biologist by pursuing a Master in Biology at the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh.

**Xinrui Yang** • After graduation, I relocated to work at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center at Tampa, Fla. I am currently working on developing targeted therapeutics to combat human colorectal cancers and am moving forward with exciting preliminary results. I hope this project will be the start of my lifelong journey to explore fascinating realm of human biology and eventually progress into a cure for cancer :)

Since I am physically working in lab, I also got the Moderna vaccine. It only gave me minor arm pains that went away very fast.

**CORRECTION:** **Valerie R. Nelson Ray** '12 and **Caleb Ray** '12, Austin, Texas, a daughter, Sigrid, October 16, 2019. In a previous listing, Caleb's name was not bolded and class year was not listed. We regret the error.

MARRIAGES

**Natalie J. Hall** '05 and Matt Erspamer, Palos Hills, IL, October 10, 2020.

**Imtiaz S. Khan** '09 and Pearl King, New York, NY, February 20, 2021.

**Theresa C. Iacullo** '10 and **Jonathan D. Steffen** '16, Neenah, WI, October 10, 2020.

**Taylor A. Tomaszewski** '14 and Zoe Tomaszewski, Neenah, WI, January 19, 2021.

**Jaclyn M. Jenks** '15 and Caleb Jenks, Fond Du Lac, WI, August 16, 2019.

**Abbey G. Henderson** '18 and Andrew Henderson, DeForest, WI, June 15, 2019.

**Emily H. Hunt** '18 and **Jacob T. Lueck** '17, East Aurora, NY, July 25, 2020.

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

**Stephen M. Rodriguez** '01 and Lori Ioannone, Reading, Massachusetts, a daughter, Ella Julie, September 19, 2020.

**Zachary W. Walker** '01 and Meredith Holladay, Overland Park, Kansas, a son, Sawyer Guthrie, December 31, 2020.

**Jaime Nodarse Barrera** '05 and Gustavo, Corpus Christi, Texas, a son, Santiago Nodarse, February 22, 2021.

**C. Fitzpatrick** '05 and Dan Peterson, Orland Park, Illinois, a daughter, Isabelle Harriet, December 22, 2020.

**Kimberly Stabile Calden** '08 and Joel, Ashland, Massachusetts, a son, Miles, October 20, 2020.

**Kelsey K. McNellis** '08, San Francisco, California, a daughter, Madolyn Olivia, November 19, 2019.

**Chelsea Wirtz Girard** '09 and Jeremy, Appleton, Wisconsin, a son, Charlie, July 11, 2020.

**Elaine Kathryn Beckett Tipping** '09 and **Bradley** '06, Nishio City, Japan, a son, Bryce Beckett, May 20, 2020.

**Amanda Engle Watson** '09 and **Andre** '09, Houston, Texas, a son, Aiden Lawrence, January 22, 2020.

**Christopher R. Skinner** '13 and Cameron, Charlotte, North Carolina, a son, Finnegan, October 24, 2019.C

DECEASED ALUMNI

**Harriet Carman Moore M-D'42**, Rochester, NY, April 25, 2020.

**Doris Woodruff Burgess M-D'43**, Holmen, WI, December 16, 2020.

**Marjorie A. Day** '44, Oconomowoc, WI, December 27, 2020.

**Margaret Lally Burton** '45, Niagara, WI, December 5, 2020.

**Virginia R. Cassin** '45, Baxter, MN, October 16, 2020.

**Warren Eckstrand** '45, Springfield, OH, September 2, 2020. Family includes **Katherine Warren Holtz** '45.

**Faith Nelson Sanders** '45, Frankfort, MI, February 18, 2020.

**Suzanne Pasteur Sweet M-D'45**, Greensboro, GA, December 18, 2020.

**Billie Kolb Youngblood-Knolle** '45, Pasadena, CA, December 13, 2020.

**Ellen Hanson Brammeier** '46, Port St. Lucie, FL, October 31, 2020.

**Marjorie Black Carroll M-D'46**, Mendota, IL, March 3, 2021.

**Margaret Dunn Grimm M-D'46**, Englewood, FL, July 21, 2020.

**Earl W. Jackson** '46, Appleton, WI, January 26, 2021.

**Rolland L. McBain** '46, Grand Marais, MN, November 26, 2020.

**Dr. Betty Thompson Messenger** '47, Columbus, OH, September 15, 2020.

**Emy Cheney Van Dusen** '47, January 21, 2021.

**Mary Trautmann Bloede** '48, Englewood, CO, May 4, 2020. Family includes **Dr. John R. Ranck II** '76.

**Roberta Pasteur Hypki** '48, Fredonia, WI, May 1, 2019.

**Harriet Zinneman Levy M-D'48**, Silver Spring, MD, December 22, 2020.

**Mary Port Mehring M-D'48 P'73**, Milwaukee, WI, November 5, 2020. Family includes **Barb Mehring Hess** '73.

**Betty Van Horne Richards** '48, January 7, 2021.

**Lois Huyck Snorf** '48, Mesa, AZ, May 2, 2020.



educator inspired generations of Lawrentians,” said Brian Pertl, dean of the Conservatory.

Below taught nearly 1,200 Lawrence students. His teaching included piano studio work and classes in music history, literature of music, theory-analysis, and chamber music, among others.

In addition to teaching, Below performed on stages in Appleton and across the United States, as well as in Europe and Latin America. He performed often with Lawrence colleagues and appeared as a concerto soloist with numerous orchestras, among them the Fox Valley Symphony and the San Francisco Symphony.

He also composed more than 50 works, many of which have been performed through the years by Lawrence.

**Ruth Andersen Wacholtz** '48, Reedsburg, WI, October 18, 2019.

**Dorothy Wullschlegler Edwards M-D'49**, Jefferson City, MO, November 17, 2020.

**Ruth Johnson Goecke M-D'49**, Osakis, MN, November 16, 2020.

**Janice Laney Haire** '49, Orlando, FL, October 22, 2020.

**Barbara Isely Kamerling** '49, Brookfield, WI, December 4, 2020. Family includes **Elizabeth Isely Ferrari** '72; **Susan Isely Widell** '74.

**Dolores Olson Lewis** '49, Cleveland, OH, November 1, 2020.

**June Kutil Olson M-D'49**, Gurnee, IL, July 19, 2020.

**Gloria Heller Peterson** '49, Edina, MN, February 3, 2021.

**Joyce Raasch Ramstack M-D'49**, Milwaukee, WI, November 7, 2020.

ROBERT BELOW

**Robert Below**, a retired piano professor who taught in the Conservatory of Music for 32 years before retiring in 1996, died Dec. 16 at home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was 86.

Besides being a force in the classroom, Below is remembered as a prolific performer and composer.

“Robert’s virtuosic abilities as both a performer and

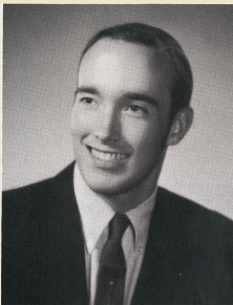
BRUCE MAITLAND BROWN ’69

**Bruce Maitland Brown ’69** passed away in Bryn Mawr, Pa. On December 18, 2020.

A true embodiment of the liberal arts, Bruce had a lifelong love of both language and soccer; at Lawrence, he was a member of both WLFM Radio and the men’s soccer team.

Bruce remained deeply connected to Lawrence after graduating with a government major, serving as a member of the Board of Trustees from 1993–1997, a member of the Lawrence University Alumni Association Board of Directors, and in numerous additional volunteer and leadership positions.

He went on to earn an M.A. in political science before embarking on a career dedicated to philanthropy, ultimately creating his own philanthropy consultancy. At Lawrence, he established the Bruce Maitland Brown Fund for Study Abroad, which provides support for first-generation college students to have a study abroad experience.



**Joan Donaldson Sept** '51, Bloomington, IN, September 29, 2020.

**Gene P. Simon** '51, Flossmoor, IL, November 30, 2020.

**Nyla Hoener Verisario** '51, Wheaton, IL, December 18, 2020.

**Charles C. Wilson** '51, Moline, IL, December 29, 2020.

**Theresa Bradt Ferreira** '52, Southborough, MA, December 18, 2020.

**Raymond C. Miller, Jr.** '52, Paris, ME, January 10, 2021.

**William V. Cerny, Sr.** '53, Wausau, WI, October 21, 2020.

**Patricia Robertson Cress M-D'53**, Colorado Springs, CO, December 30, 2020.

**John R. Landis** '53 **P'89 '86 '84**, Appleton, WI, December 10, 2020. Family includes **Bob Landis** '62; **John R. Landis** '84; **Sandra P. Landis** '89; **Sally Landis Springer** '86.



**Meredith Holmes Montross '53 P'85**, Glenview, IL, October 3, 2020. Family includes **Peter H. Montross '85**; **Phillips M. Montross '51**.

**Jean Reynolds Pooler '53 P'77**, Appleton, WI, February 26, 2021. Family includes **Sarah L. Pooler '77**; **Donald A. Severson '71**.

**Karen Kuhlman Beatty '54**, Genoa City, WI, October 17, 2020.

**Elizabeth Rodgers Sawyers M-D'54**, Waterford, MI, July 12, 2019.

**Alice Stevens Hecker '55**, Indianapolis, IN, October 21, 2020. Family includes **Gregg O. Dawley '77**.

**Dr. Ralph E. Johnson '55**, St. Petersburg, FL, April 18, 2020. Family includes **Dr. David C. Johnson '57**.

**Donald L. Vorpahl '55 P'90 '88 '86**, Appleton, WI, January 11, 2021. Family includes **Kristin Vorpahl Erickson '86**; **Amy Vorpahl Townsend '90**; **David L. Vorpahl '88**.

**Kay S. Kerst M-D'56**, Sun City, AZ, October 31, 2020.

**Kenneth K. Kuether '56**, Santa Barbara, CA, February 23, 2021. Family includes **Carol Anderson Fessler '76**; **Laura M. Fessler '04**; **Dr. Richard G. Fessler '74**; **Betty Kuether Gast '59**.

**Philip A. Rickey '56**, Arlington, VA, January 25, 2021.

**Russell C. Babcock, Jr. '57**, Salt Lake City, UT, February 8, 2021.

**M. John Dyrud '57**, September 13, 2020. Family includes **R. Eric Dyrud '67**.

**Sharon Draheim Harwood '57**, Johnson Creek, WI, February 5, 2021.

**Tom J. Klingbiel '57**, Moline, IL, February 4, 2021.

**Mary Walters '57**, Gloucester, VA, December 23, 2020.

**David R. Anderson '58**, Glendale, AZ, May 14, 2020.

**James L. Fetterly '58**, Minneapolis, MN, October 5, 2020. Family includes **Judith Walsh Fetterly '59**; **Lynn E. Wiese '83**.

**Merrily Watters Thomas '58**, Flat Rock, NC, January 1, 2021.

**Robert W. Thurow '58**, Woodstock, IL, September 9, 2020.

**Carolyn Lohman Johnson '59**, The Villages, FL, March 1, 2021. Family includes **Dr. Ronald C. Johnson '57**.

**Sarah A. Keller '59**, Bokivo, CA, December 24, 2020.

**Verna Andresen Magee '59**, Lake Geneva, WI, March 12, 2021.

**Lucy Staack Perez '59**, Appleton, WI, September 20, 2020. Family includes **Hilary Staack Armstrong '90**; **Della K. Schroeder '01**; **Hans R. Vittinghoff '87**.

**Elizabeth McNeil Haeberle '60**, Dunwoody, GA, January 12, 2021. Family includes **Kenneth E. Haeberle '60**.

**Dr. Penelope Kegel-Flom '60**, El Cerrito, CA, September 20, 2020.

**June Goldschmid Thiesen M-D'60**, Rhinelander, WI, February 13, 2021.

**Fredrick R. Hodges, Jr. '61**, Deerfield, IL, February 1, 2021.

**Priscilla Parsche Matheson M-D'61**, Winston Salem, NC, November 18, 2020.

**William K. Bond '62**, Roscoe, IL, January 16, 2021.

**Don B. Lichty '62**, Honolulu, HI, May 17, 2020.

**Rebecca Framke Post M-D'62**, Bay City, MI, December 11, 2020. Family includes **Chad W. Skaer '14**.

**Thomas W. Matchett, Jr. '63**, Little Silver, NJ, January 31, 2021. Family includes **Lucy Bridges Matchett '63**.

**Judith King Peterson M-D'63**, Seattle, WA, April 1, 2020. Family includes **Dr. Carolyn King Stephens M-D'62**; **John W. Stephens '87**; **Stephanie C. Stephens-Sutton '91**.

**Susan Schneider Stewart '63**, Rockford, IL, September 27, 2020. Family includes **John U. Schneider '73**; **Martha Schneider Wade '67**.

**Jacqueline Brown Yocum '63**, Atlanta, GA, December 24, 2020.

**Walter N. Chapman '64**, Janesville, WI, November 17, 2020.

**Marcia L. Miller '64**, Glen Ellyn, IL, January 2, 2021.

**Gretchen Akers M-D'65**, St. Louis Park, MN, November 5, 2020.

**Paul G. Clark '65**, The Villages, FL, December 2, 2020.

**Jo Robbins '65**, Valley Cottage, NY, January 31, 2020.

**Robert P. Hansen '66**, Scottsdale, AZ, October 26, 2020.

**Robert E. Hunn '66**, Wisconsin Rapids, WI, August 19, 2020.

**Peter Stone '66**, Bradford, VT, August 14, 2020.

**Dr. Gerald O. Gatzke '67**, Prescott, WI, October 8, 2020.

**Dr. Charles H. Lord '67**, Lexington, KY, March 4, 2021. Family includes **Suzanne Heileman Lord '68**.

**Helen Barshell Nemacheck '67**, December 7, 2020. Family includes **F. Brooks Nemacheck, Jr. '59**; **Ned K. Nemacheck '66**.

**Robin E. Wallace '67**, Waukesha, WI, February 12, 2021. Family includes **Pamela Winquist Wallace '69**.

**Dr. Philip E. Berghausen, Jr. '68**, Portola Valley, CA, January 30, 2021.

**Bruce Maitland Brown '69**, Bryn Mawr, PA, December 18, 2020.

**Thomas R. Eastman '69**, Edgerton, WI, December 27, 2020. Family includes **Jack B. Eastman '66**.

**Douglas S. Lash '70**, Omaha, NE, October 7, 2020.

**Gary L. Schlei '70**, Madison, WI, June 23, 2020.

**Elie Williams '70**, Chicago, IL, October 10, 2020.

**John D. Cushing '71**, Essex, MA, February 10, 2021.

**J. James Dyer '71**, Newburyport, MA, November 13, 2020. Family includes **Julia Dyer Holmes '80**.

**Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird '71**, Wilmette, IL, June 27, 2020.

**William C. Albright '74 P'11**, Cottage Grove, WI, March 1, 2021. Family includes **Dr. David R. Albright '69**; **George H. Albright '72**; **Catherine Albright Crawford '11**.

**Kathleen M. Krull '74**, San Diego, CA, January 15, 2021.

**Mark A. Sternburg '74**, Brookfield, CT, January 27, 2021.

**Christopher D. Stack '75**, Montclair, NJ, November 15, 2020. Family includes **Martha Serrin Stack '75**.

**Robert B. Herber '77**, North Salem, NY, October 30, 2020.

**Ann M. Routier '77**, Afton, MN, February 4, 2021.

**James A. Tiemstra '77**, Oakland, CA, October 30, 2020. Family includes **Eliza T. Greene '77**.

**Gregory E. Hanner '82**, Dublin, OH, February 18, 2021.

**Lisa K. Nadziejka '83 P'14**, Grand Rapids, MI, January 29, 2021. Family includes **Brynley M. Nadziejka '14**.

**Sara B. Helke '86**, Eagle River, WI, November 26, 2020.

**Jeffrey J. Divjak '03**, Wausau, WI, January 17, 2021. Family includes **Angela N. Wein '02**.



JOHN KOOPMAN

John Koopman, the founder of Lawrence's opera program and a longtime voice professor in the Conservatory of Music died Dec. 22 in Appleton at age 88. Koopman joined the faculty in 1960 and continued to teach until his retirement in 1994.

“Professor John

Koopman influenced generations of Lawrentians and created our wonderful opera program,” said Kenneth Bozeman, emeritus professor of music who worked with Koopman for more than a dozen years and maintained a friendship through the years. “We are so grateful for the immense impact he had on our Conservatory.”

Koopman served for many years as chair of the Voice Department. He forged a second career following retirement, becoming a widely published opera journalist, with his writings appearing in publications around the world.

It was his deep love of opera that brought him to Lawrence more than 60 years ago and set him on his journey to create an opera program within the Conservatory, an endeavor that has since grown into the robust and renowned program it is today.



JULES LAROCQUE

Jules LaRocque, a professor in Lawrence University's Economics Department for nearly four decades, passed away Nov. 30 at his home in Marlborough, New Hampshire. He was 87.

He joined the Lawrence faculty in 1963 and continued to teach until his retirement in 2001. He chaired the Economics Department during several stints in the 1970s and 1980s. He also was a frequent instructor in the *Freshman Studies* program, served for many years as the campus coordinator for the then-named Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows Program (now the Visiting Fellows Program of the Institute for Citizens and Scholars),

and provided leadership in the early years of the London Centre. LaRocque focused his work in the areas of economic history of the United States, economic development, economies in transition, political economy, and financial institutions.

After retiring from Lawrence, LaRocque moved back to New Hampshire, where he enjoyed teaching adult enrichment classes at Keane State University.



JOHN MIELKE

Dr. John Mielke, an iconic leader and philanthropist in the Fox Valley whose passion for education and health care has left a lasting impact on the community, died Nov. 4 at the age of 87.

John and his wife, Sally, partnered on multiple health and education initiatives aimed at leveling the playing field for Fox Valley residents. A number of those partnerships, via the Mielke Family Foundation, involved Lawrence, including establishing two endowed

professorships, launching the Mielke Summer Institute in the Liberal Arts at Björklunden, and providing a multi-million-dollar gift that broadened opportunities for education students interested in teaching in elementary schools. In recognition of the Mielke family's decades of support, Lawrence's education department is named for them, the Mielke Family Department of Education.

“The hundreds of Lawrence graduates both past and future who become educational leaders are a testament to John's passion for learning, community, and educational access for all,” Lawrence President Mark Burstein said. “I will deeply miss John's counsel and friendship.”

DECEASED FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIENDS

**Professor Robert Below P'84 '81**, Los Lunas, N.M., December 16, 2020. Family includes **Andrew C. Buelow '84**; **Alison Below Fredericksen '81**.

**William G. Broeren P'91 '89**, Appleton, WI, January 14, 2021. Family includes **Dr. Alicia M. Broeren '89**; **Nancy Broeren Leschke '91**.

**Constance Grabow**, Appleton, WI, October 2, 2020.

**Irene Janos**, Menasha, WI, July 26, 2020.

**Ruth De Young Kohler**, Kohler, WI, November 14, 2020.

**Professor John Koopman P'79 '77**, Appleton, Wis., December 22, 2020. Family includes **William W. Koopman '79**; **Nancy M. Stowe '61**.

**Professor Jules N. LaRocque P'83**, Keene, N.H., November 30, 2020. Family includes **Marc A. La Rocque '83**.

**David R. List**, Appleton, WI, February 21, 2021.

**Dr. John E. Mielke**, Appleton, WI, November 4, 2020.

**Professor George R. Saunders P'02**, Appleton, WI, September 17, 2020. Family includes **Amy Hetzler Day '02**.



# The Big Picture

Laurie A. Carter, a strategic, engaged, and experienced leader in public and private higher education, was named a new president of Lawrence University on March 5, 2021.

Here, she and outgoing President Mark Burstein share a moment while recording a conversation and Q & A for the Lawrence Community in Main Hall's Strange Commons.

To read more about President Carter's appointment, visit [go.lawrence.edu/welcome17](https://go.lawrence.edu/welcome17), and stay tuned for the fall/winter issue of *Lawrence* to get to know her better and to celebrate her investiture.





There's nothing like those first days of spring on campus. Lance Juridico '24 took advantage of the warm weather to set up the perfect study "snoel." Photo: Danny Damiani



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