

Summer 2022

## Kenyon College Magazine - Summer 2022

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.kenyon.edu/kcab>

---

### Recommended Citation

"Kenyon College Magazine - Summer 2022" (2022). *Kenyon College Alumni Bulletin*. 302.  
<https://digital.kenyon.edu/kcab/302>

This Alumni Bulletin is brought to you for free and open access by the College Archives at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kenyon College Alumni Bulletin by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact [noltj@kenyon.edu](mailto:noltj@kenyon.edu).

David Bukszpan '02 wrote  
this Kenyon-themed  
crossword puzzle just for you.

(We promise it's okay to mark it up.  
Clues are on the back cover.)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15					
16				17									
18				19				20					
21				22			23		24		25	26	
27			28			29		30			31		32
			33	34	35		36		37	38			
39	40	41				42							
43								44					
45					46		47			48	49	50	51
	52		53	54		55		56	57		58		
			59		60		61				62		
63	64	65				66				67			
68										69			
70						71				72			

### 43022 Day

On April 30, 2022, the Village of Gambier and the entire Kenyon community celebrated a once-a-century occasion: 4.30.22 Day. Here, parade participants gather in front of the Village Market before starting on their route.



BRIAN KAISER

### CONTENTS

# Summer 2022

VOL. 44 NO. 01

2 Correspondence

### THE 43022

4 Icebreaker, The View, 60-Second Syllabus, Student Voice, Lost and Found, and more campus commentary.

### 12 The Many Lives of Bexley Hall

The puzzling past and promising future of one of Kenyon's most storied buildings.

### FEATURE

### 18 Piercing the Fog of War

Kenyon alumni and faculty share their thoughts about the power — and the limits — of storytelling in the fog of war.

### THE BULLETIN

### 28 Finding the Right Words

A Q&A with New York Times-published crossword puzzle writer David Bukszpan '02.

33 Annotated

34 Book Shelf

36 Class Notes

62 In Memoriam

72 Back Talk

**On the cover:** An original Kenyon-themed crossword puzzle by David Bukszpan '02. Write your answers directly on the cover (if you dare!) and send photos to [editor@kenyon.edu](mailto:editor@kenyon.edu) for a chance to appear in the next issue. For a printable version of the puzzle visit [bulletin.kenyon.edu](http://bulletin.kenyon.edu). Puzzle answers are on page 72.



# Spring 2022

## Re: “Prompt from Michael Kischner ’62: Which professors changed your lives?” (Spring 2022)

One of the things I have always been astonished by as I look back on my education at Kenyon is just how many exciting, illuminating and charismatic teachers I had — and how few most of my friends who attended similar or even “better” colleges had.

Denham Sutcliffe was dead when I arrived at Kenyon in 1966, but Gerrit Roelofs was very much alive and filled my life with kindness, knowledge of Chaucer, and dirty jokes. His fellow lecturer in British literature, Galbraith Crump, opened the world of Milton and the 17th century to me — but also the doors of the Bishop’s Palace, where he then lived. I’m almost ashamed to remember how readily I would accept his and his wife Joan’s invitations to dinner. I knew nothing of German literature, but Bruce Haywood taught an astonishingly well-subscribed class on Thomas Mann that was considered a necessary, if arduous, stage of a Kenyon education for ambitious juniors and seniors. How I now wish I had studied the language itself with Herr Hecht and perhaps with Haywood himself.

My two greatest undergraduate teachers were William McCulloh and Eugen Kullmann. With McCulloh I read Homer and Sophocles; with Kullmann I read (in the original languages) Plato, Homer, Virgil, Plotinus and even some Dante. Between Kullmann’s profound immersion in the culture of the German and Swiss gymnasium and McCulloh’s in the great Oxonian classical tradition, I was the inheritor of intellectual riches I have yet to exhaust.

— **Reed Woodhouse ’70**

Please allow me to address two issues. Concerning professors who changed, or at least significantly influenced our lives, Gerrit Roelofs would rank highest. From a composition course my freshman year through Beowulf and Chaucer and Spenser and Milton and dozens of poets, he made English interesting and oftentimes exciting. His home was a preferred lodging for dates on dance weekends thanks to the his hospitality and that of his absolutely charming wife, Janet. Although he was at Kenyon only during the academic year 1962-63, Ron Berman was the perfect professor for the comprehensive Shakespeare course.

As for athletic team nicknames, Lords seemed rather humble when we went against the Heidelberg Student Princes and quite tame against the Fighting Lutherans of Capital or the Battling Bishops of Ohio Wesleyan. Relatively speaking, Lords sounded fairly good. I appreciate the way the magazine addressed the issue and look forward to its resolution. — **Robert A. Legg ’65**

## Abbreviations need explanations

I am enjoying reading the Spring 2022 edition of the Kenyon Alumni Magazine. It is a wonderful collection of writing. I am surprised to discover the too-frequent practice of writers using an abbreviation without initially presenting what it stands for. “In Tales from the Underworld,” the writer uses “YA” several times yet never tells us what “YA” is. Please help old-timers like me by instructing authors to at least help us by using the unabbreviated form of an abbreviation at least once, preferably at its initial appearance in an article. Long live Philander!

— **Richard A. Dickey ’59**

*Editor’s response: The most inclusive practice would have been to state “young adult” on the first YA reference. We will be more sensitive to how and when we use abbreviations.*

## Philander Chase’s “Other College”

I was delighted with the Adam Gilson article on Jubilee College in the Spring 2022 edition of the Kenyon Alumni Magazine. When I became a faculty member at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois, in 1964 (some 70 miles west of Peoria) one of the first trips I took to explore the area was to Jubilee State Park to see Philander Chase’s “Other College.” This was long before the restoration efforts described in the Gilson article. I was struck by two things: the building looked like Chase’s attempt to reconstruct Old Kenyon with limited means — though the picture on page 25 of the article shows that Chase had a vision for a building far grander than Old Kenyon. Incidentally, I lived in “New” Old Kenyon for 3 years — the first group to enter it after the fire of 1949 and the reconstruction of 1949-50. The second thing is that Chase had found a rare high spot in terrain that is mostly flat so that he could climb another hill and found another college.

— **Jeremy McNamara ’63**



## TO OUR LETTER WRITERS

We welcome letters of 300 or fewer words. Letters to the editor may be used for publication unless the author states the letter is not to be published. Letters may be edited for style, length, clarity, grammar and relevance to Kenyon issues.

PLEASE ADDRESS SUBMISSIONS TO:  
Editor, Kenyon Alumni Magazine, Office of Communications, Kenyon College, 221 N. Acland St., Gambier, Ohio 43022. Letters may also be submitted to editor@kenyon.edu.

**STAY IN TOUCH**  
bulletin.kenyon.edu

## CORRECTIONS:

An obituary for Hunter Wright ’09 in the Spring 2022 “In Memoriam” section contained two factual errors. A corrected version can be found on page 68.

# Hot Takes

Kenyon's social media expert Carolyn Ten Eyck '18 scours the Kenyon web so you don't have to.

## MAY THE BLUE MILK BE WITH YOU

In celebration of May 4, what many call Star Wars Day, this year Peirce Hall celebrated by serving a niche delicacy:

### blue milk.

In the canonical world of Star Wars, blue milk is produced by the yak-like bantha, and enjoyed on many of the planets on the outer rim of that particular galaxy far, far away. The Peirce Twitter account shared photos of bemused-looking diners with the beverage du jour alongside the caption: "May the 4th be with you!"



## A FREE-FOR-OWL

Despite winning with a clear majority of the vote, social media had its share of naysayers regarding the choice of Kenyon's new moniker, the Owls. How did the pro-owl contingent respond?

With many, many hoots.

## THE ALL-STU GAMBIT

"DESTRESS WITH CHESS" reads the subject line of an email from Kenyon's chess club to the all-student listserv, entreating students to take their minds off finals with a nice, relaxing game of chess in the basement of Peirce. To quote the email, "I know how much you love chess, dreaming about fianchettoed bishops, passed pawns, and pigs on the seventh."



## PAWS ON PARADE

On the last day of spring semester classes, the Epsilon Delta Mu sorority brought cheer (and a flock of wagging tails) to Middle Path by putting on a dog parade. Faculty, staff and community members brought over a dozen canines to march across campus in a mood-lifting promenade. As Assistant Professor of Biology Natalie Wright noted on Twitter, "The dogs had to stop every few feet to accept pets from students."

## COLOR COMMENTARY

To celebrate the once-a-century holiday of 4.30.22 Day, Kenyon's social media accounts posted archival photos of Gambier, all in black and white, honoring the village's history. In the comments of a 1996 photo of the Red Door Cafe, one alum wrote,

**"We had color film in the '90s. I'm not THAT old."**

## STAFF

EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
Janet Lape Marsden

EDITOR  
Elizabeth Weinstein

DESIGNER  
EmDash, Austin

CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
Megan Monaghan

PRODUCTION  
EDITOR  
Adam Gilson

ONLINE EDITORS  
David Hoyt '14  
Emily Lindo

STAFF WRITERS  
Molly Vogel '00  
Carolyn Ten Eyck '18

CONTRIBUTORS  
Patty Burns  
Birhanu T. Gessese '21  
Yvonne Johnson  
Dannie Lane '22  
Katelyn Ratajczak  
Joshua Smukal  
Thomas Stamp '73

FEATURED WRITER  
Erin Peterson

FEATURED ARTISTS  
James DeCamp  
Jordan Hollender  
Julia Holton '22  
Anna Ivanenko  
Brian Kaiser  
Howard Korn  
Jodi Miller

BOOK SHELF  
Mandy Shunnarah

CLASS NOTES AND  
IN MEMORIAM  
John Deever

COPY EDITOR  
Kirk Arnott





ICEBREAKER

# Geetha Iyer

MELLON SCIENCE AND NATURE WRITING FELLOW, 2020-2023

Twitter: @Geetha\_Iyer

**Hometown:** It's no longer home, but I grew up in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**What is your favorite place?**

Toss-up between Ann Arbor, Michigan, and any rainforest hiking trail within three hours of Panama City, Panama.

**How would you describe yourself in a sentence?**

I am the sort of nerd who will spend weeks observing a single backyard animal, read everything scientists have published about the species, hyperventilate when I try to explain why I'm obsessed with it, and then try to put it all into a poem, story or essay.

**Books that changed your life?**

Gerald Durrell's "My Family and Other Animals" (in middle school), Paulo Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" (as an undergrad), and "Spider Silk" by Leslie Brunetta and Catherine Craig (two years ago, when the pandemic hit). "Spider Silk" tracks the evolutionary history of spiders using their silk as a narrative (and genetic) thread. Reading that during lockdown anchored me to something true and wondrous I could observe right on my windowsill or under my cupboards, when nothing else in the world felt reachable, sensible or joyous.

**What's the best advice anyone has ever given you?**

My mum: "It's not going to come out the way you want it to when you're frustrated, so walk away and try again later." Works for drawing, writing, negotiating bedtime with my toddler, finding lost keys and responding to the news.

**What else would you like people to know?**

I alternately pine for big cities and wild spaces because that is where diversity (cultural or biological) is at its richest.

—ELIZABETH WEINSTEIN

BRIAN KAISER

# The 43022

## If These Walls Could Talk

On college campuses, buildings of all sizes take on lives of their own. They have personalities shaped by history, time and usage. They hold memories, secrets and ghost stories that span generations.

Whenever I pay a visit to my alma mater, I drop by the little yellow house I lived in for a year with my closest college friends, lingering just long enough to try and catch a glimpse of the current occupants.

Which one of you lucked into the downstairs bedroom with the attached private bathroom, I wonder? And what ever happened to the oversized hammocks we kept on the front porch, only to leave them behind when we graduated? Did they get passed down to the next residents, or discarded?

Our digital content editor, Carolyn Ten Eyck '18, has long been fascinated by the psychology of college buildings — so fascinated that she wrote her English honors thesis, "Being Here: Safe Spaces, Empty Rooms, and the Ephemeral Present at Kenyon College," about Kenyon's most storied buildings. "The spaces we inhabit shape us even as we shape them. Though we may paint over old traditions and knock down interior walls, buildings, new and old, have lives that often outlast their inhabitants," she wrote.

A large section of Ten Eyck's thesis focused on Bexley Hall, which at the time sat mostly unused. Renovations have recently begun on the building, with plans to turn Bexley into a suite-style living space for students by August 2023. In "The Many Lives of Bexley Hall," on page 12, Ten Eyck and photographer Dannie Lane '22 revisit Bexley Hall (pre-construction) and find it filled with artifacts from its past lives (office chairs, scraps of wood, artworks, an abandoned hat, colorful graffiti).

Studying the scene, "I thought of all the words I'd seen etched, penned, printed and painted around campus," Ten Eyck wrote. "Names and years scratched into the wood of the Old Kenyon belltower, proof of a successful break-in. Evidence of late-night capers and the desire to prove you were there."

Readers: Did you leave artifacts, in any form, behind when you departed Kenyon? Something to say, "I was here"? We want to hear from you. Email editor@kenyon.edu and share your stories.

— Elizabeth Weinstein

EDITOR, KENYON ALUMNI MAGAZINE



“I do not remember a time when I was scared to do anything. I just did things, some things came out wrong, and I got feedback from my mentors.”

— **Beimnet Beyene “Happy” Kassaye ’23**

STUDENT VOICE | Q&A

# Happy Days

A conversation with **Beimnet Beyene Kassaye ’23**

Beimnet Beyene “Happy” Kassaye ’23 has been a joyful presence on campus, in the biology lab and at the pool. The molecular biology major received the Elmer A. Graham Endowed Scholarship during this year’s Honors Day ceremony. The scholarship, established to honor a former chairman of Kenyon’s Board of Trustees, covers tuition costs for the recipient’s senior year.

Birhanu T. Gessese ’21 spoke with Kassaye about his journey from Ethiopia to Gambier, the origin of his nickname, his passion for science and more.

**Let’s start by demystifying your names, Happy. I call you Beimnet because it is in Amharic, our mother tongue. But Happy is the name many know you by.**

That is a very long story (laughs). Apparently, Beimnet was not the name given to me at birth. My mother tells me she thought, “this baby is a happy baby, so we are going to call him Happy.” Then I went around by that name for a few weeks before my family decided to call me Beimnet.

**In our Ethiopian culture, we intend a special meaning by giving names. What does Beimnet mean?**

As you know, in our culture we use first names and middle names (a child’s first name plus their father’s first name). My middle name, Beyene, means “he passed judgment,” and my first name, Beimnet, means “by faith,” so my full name translates to “he passed judgment by faith.”

**Tell us about how you got to Kenyon.**

Our guidance counselor at St. Joseph School mentioned Kenyon, and I applied. I was one of the top five scorers on the national university entrance exam, so had the chance to go to the prestigious Black Lion Medical School in the capital, Addis Ababa. But I saw myself doing more hands-on research and helping people on a larger scale.

**Tell me more about your research.**

During my first semester, I took Biology 116, where I met my faculty and research advisor, Joan Slonczewski. I joined their lab and began to work as a scientist. One of the reasons I fit in well at Kenyon is the research we do, and the pace with which we conduct it in the lab.

When I joined the lab, I started by sterilizing and preparing culture media. Then the pandemic happened, and everyone had to go back home, but as an international student I stayed on campus. Luckily, our lab was open during that time. I worked hands-on and led a few microbiology projects through my sophomore year. Then I completed a summer internship at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital.

**Were your skills in the Kenyon lab transferable to Icahn?**

The level of sophistication was different, but the basics were the same. I tapped into the skill sets I gained at Kenyon over the years, but the application was different. I do not remember a time when I was scared to do anything. I just did things, some things came out wrong, and I got feedback from my mentors.

**You also spent a semester abroad in Denmark. What was that experience like for you?**

I went on the DIS Copenhagen program, where my core coursework was in biotechnology and drug development. Denmark is an interesting place because it has Medicon Valley, which is similar to Silicon Valley in the U.S. Medicon Valley is known for its biopharmaceuticals, drug development and company startups. During my internship, I met people who were able to take their work out of the lab and capitalize on their knowledge. I was able to visit research laboratories, research groups and biopharmaceutical companies.

BIRHANU T. GESSESE '21



**What do you enjoy doing outside of the lab?**

I would say I am good at learning new languages. I got a formal education in French and also spoke it at home with my parents. When I was in Denmark, I was speaking conversational Danish. I am also a member of the Black Student Union, the African Student Association and the Men of Color. I enjoy the shared culture in these groups.

**How did you decide to try out for Kenyon's diving team?**

My swimming and diving friends, Cherantha De Silva '23 and Andrew M. Albrecht '23, had an influence. Andrew and I have the same major and took many classes together. One day he took me to train with him and Coach Ron Kontura was there and said I could join if I would give him my 100 percent. Then I slowly worked my way up.

**What are your plans after Kenyon?**

I hope to pursue a doctorate in neuroscience, and try to keep in touch with my friends, professors and advisors. Life has a tendency to take you on a different route after you finish a segment of it, but when important dates come, you look back, recall and reconnect.

*Birhanu T. Gessese '21 is an English major from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He wrote this as an associate in the Office of Communications. He is pursuing an M.F.A. in creative writing from Western Kentucky University.*

**QUOTED**



“Bridget Brink is being sent to one of the United States’ most important postings. How the Ukraine war is resolved will affect the fate of security and democracy in Europe and more broadly for a generation or more.”

– **David M. Rowe,**

DIRECTOR OF KENYON'S CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, in a Columbus Dispatch article about President Joe Biden's nomination of Bridget Brink '91 as the United States' ambassador to Ukraine.



“I have come to expect that race will be weaponized to undermine not only a leader's authority but also that leader's very humanity and sense of belonging.”

– KENYON PRESIDENT

**Sean Decatur**

in a Chronicle of Higher Education essay on the invisible toll of racist harassment.



“You are what our species needs. Fresh thinkers; brave souls; explorers of ideas. Wayward birds, venturing into unknown skies, unafraid of unconventional thinking and uncommon wisdom.”

– INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST

**Sheila Coronel H'22**

addressing the Class of 2022 at Kenyon's 194th Commencement.



**THE VIEW**

## Mind the Gap Trail

Cyclists Dannie Lane '22 and Katarina Yopez '22 enjoy a leisurely ride on the Kokosing Gap Trail in May. Lane's photography of Bexley Hall appears in a story beginning on page 12.

PHOTO BY HOWARD KORN



“Ultimately, the meaning of death is about the meaning of life.”

— Assistant Professor of Religious Studies **David Maldonado Rivera**

60-SECOND SYLLABUS | RLST 330

# Meanings of Death

TUESDAYS, 7-10 P.M., GUND GALLERY 101

TAUGHT BY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES DAVID MALDONADO RIVERA

Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies Royal Rhodes may be retired from teaching, but the legendary course he taught for more than three decades, “Meanings of Death,” lives on. “In ethos and spirit, it’s very similar,” said Assistant Professor of Religious Studies David Maldonado Rivera, who now teaches the class. “I’ve made the course my own but am also aware that it’s something that had an incredible success before I arrived.”

The biennial course always has a waiting list, and was so popular this spring that an extra iteration is being offered in the fall. Despite the weighty subject matter, Maldonado Rivera noted that the seminar is “completely the opposite” of sad or depressing, with students from all academic disciplines finding the material compelling. “It’s incredibly multidisciplinary, and students from all kinds of intellectual interests see so much reward in it.”

“It’s a very eclectic group,” he said, adding that he starts off the semester with an intro to the field of religious studies for the benefit of the non-majors in the room. The wide variety of backgrounds is reflected in the formats students choose for their final projects, ranging from podcasts to artwork to musical compositions. Maldonado Rivera encourages students to “play to their own strengths; do something completely different you’ve been dying to try.”

As many less-traditional practices become more common in the funeral industry — with the deceased sometimes choosing to be converted into compost or pressed into a diamond — the course also benefits from proximity to



the Kokosing Nature Preserve. Maldonado Rivera is planning a field trip to Gambier’s own green burial cemetery this fall so students can explore the growing popularity of natural burial practices — no chemical embalming, ornate caskets and concrete vaults. “This is a lively trend in the United States,” Maldonado Rivera said, “not just a quirky thing that environmentalists are doing.”

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed more than a million people in the United States, has also impacted rituals around death. “Technology has definitely changed how we mourn,” Maldonado Rivera pointed out, sharing that students in the course have discussed experiences with attending funerals on Zoom, and that ideas of non-linear grieving and “ambiguous loss” are closely tied to the pandemic. He believes that the fascination with, and fear of, death are topics that will always be worth exploring. “Ultimately,” he said, “the meaning of death is about the meaning of life.”

— DAVID HOYT '14

RECOMMENDED READING:

**“From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death,”** by Caitlin Doughty

**“American Afterlives: Reinventing Death in the 21st Century,”** by Shannon Lee Dawdy

**“Generations: A Memoir,”** by Lucille Clifton

SHUTTERSTOCK

## Behind the scenes

Over the span of just 10 days in May, Kenyon played host to unprecedented back-to-back Commencements for the Classes of 2022 and 2020, then welcomed a record-breaking

**1,626**

registered guests to campus for the first in-person Reunion Weekend since 2019 — the largest gathering of alumni in Kenyon history. We ran a few of the numbers to illustrate the scope of the challenge tackled by hard-working Kenyon staff.

**12,500**

Kenyon.edu webpage views of the Commencement speech by investigative journalist Sheila Coronel H'22

**9,000**

folding chairs for Commencement sites on Samuel Mather Lawn and inside the Lowry Center (plus 2,000 more for meals in a dining tent and at Lowry)

**5,500**

hours of labor recorded by custodial and maintenance teams to set up and tear down events, turn around on-campus housing, and more

**5,331**

views of the Baccalaureate and Commencement livestream videos

**21**

kegs of beer served at Reunion (all free, thanks to the generous underwriting of the Class of 1995)

**63**

different class years represented at Reunion (from 1957 to 2022)

**480**

paper lanterns lining Middle Path during Reunion

**950+**

people served by AVI in less than 33 minutes during the Saturday night all-alumni Soirée

## Lost and Found

The end of the spring semester is always a flurry of activity, so it's no surprise that things occasionally get misplaced. All-student emails provide instant access to Kenyon's digital hive mind, and those missing cherished items (usually AirPods or earrings) often turn there for help. Among this semester's lost things were:



### A visiting professor who strayed too far from Hayes Hall.

The guest academic thankfully returned unscathed to the Science Quad, but not before the student tutor tasked with keeping an eye on him deputized the campus with an informal search-and-rescue request via email, writing, "He responds to Frankie."



### "LOST FISH."

A misplaced aquatic earring was described as such in the subject line of an All-Stu. "I was hoping, foolishly, it would swim back to me," the email read. "It must miss its mate madly, and I suspect, it misses me too."



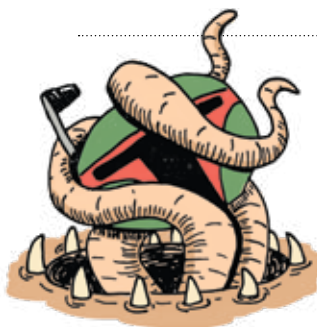
### Backpack decor.

"It's a little stuffed chocolate covered strawberry and it's my favorite clip."



### A girlfriend's jacket.

Lost in the Ganter, where coats are notorious for going missing, this student added a visual reference of the L.L.Bean garment by photoshopping its likeness onto the back of a milk carton.



### A Boba Fett AirPod case.

"Last seen around the Ganter," reads the email. Hopefully there are no hungry Sarlaccs in the area.

The 43022

# The Many Lives of Bexley Hall

The puzzling past and promising future of one of Kenyon's most storied buildings

BY CAROLYN TEN EYCK '18

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DANNIE LANE '22

I BROKE INTO BEXLEY HALL DURING finals week of my last semester at Kenyon. A few friends and I climbed in through a window, left cracked open to let in the May evening air. By that point in the year, ending up in places where I oughtn't be was something of a habit. I'd written an English thesis on hidden (and not-so-hidden) places at Kenyon, and had crawled and climbed my way into multiple closed-off spaces of campus, including the Old Kenyon bell-tower and the roof of Ascension.





A wilted plant (a casualty of Bexley Hall's "musical chairs" years), sits near the building's beloved oriel window.



Most of the places I entered without permission wore their neglect loudly, covered in layers of dust or graveyards of dead mice and insects. As I learned stumbling over half a deer carcass while walking behind the unoccupied Psi U lodge at 2 a.m., death and dust were the best indicators that I was in a space not meant for my presence.

Not Bexley, though. Climbing in through the window and creeping into the large open space of the second floor, we were given the unexpected impression of a welcoming waiting room. No beer cans, no mouse skeletons. The space wasn't derelict or decrepit. We played Go Fish, did cartwheels, crowded together on the lip of the oriel window for pictures. Eventually, we climbed back out through the window, dispersed to find whatever other wonders awaited in the warm night of early summer.



Objects left behind in a room once used for art classes in Bexley.

COLLEGE BUILDINGS — ESPECIALLY ON A campus like Kenyon — project a dual sense of tradition and modernity. Beautiful gothic exteriors paired with interiors full of clean, filtered air and eco-friendly toilets. Members of the Kenyon community live and work within the architecture created by past generations of Gambier residents: buildings crafted with an eye toward the future.

Predictions can look quaint and limited in retrospect. They leave the generations that follow with a puzzle: how to take those visions and bring them into the context of today's realities. Bexley Hall is one such puzzle. A relic of a school that no longer exists (at least not here, but more on that later). An antique too beautiful and history-laden to raze, but too specific to be easily repurposed. It sits on the north end of Middle

Path, waiting for reinvention. It won't have to wait much longer.

## Bexley's Beginnings

In any institution that's been around as long as Kenyon, misremembered facts and stories are woven into the oral history passed down from senior to first-year, preserved from generation to generation of Kenyon students. Example: Middle Path is a mile long. (It's closer to  $\frac{3}{5}$  of a mile.)

Another half-truth? Kenyon originally was founded as a seminary. "That's not true," said College Historian and Keeper of Kenyoniana Tom Stamp '73. "From the very beginning, Philander Chase was envisioning three cooperative institutions: the grammar school, the college and then the seminary, for those graduates of the college who wanted to go on to careers in the church. But the seminary really didn't exist until Charles Pettit McIlvaine, the second president, came in." One of McIlvaine's goals, Stamp explained, was to get the seminary up and running, so he solicited the funds from Nicholas Vansittart in England, who was Lord Bexley, the building's namesake.

"Bexley was still under construction at the point when Middle Path was installed," said Stamp. "The first part of Middle Path was [built in] 1842 but the later part, the part that connected from the gates up to Bexley, wasn't until 1860. But from the very beginning, Chase envisioned Old Kenyon being at one end of the campus and the seminary at the other. So it wasn't an accident that they ended up being the two termini of Middle Path."

Both buildings served as tent-pole locations for their respective schools. Both have caught fire, housed generations of Gambier students and been covered in, then stripped of, ivy. But while Old Kenyon remains a social hub, with students streaming in and out of its basement and bulls-eye rooms until late in the night, doing laundry in the basement and smoking outside its side doors, Bexley remains quiet.

Old Kenyon, often cited as one of the first examples of collegiate gothic architecture in the United States, retains its original use as a residence hall and social space for students, and as a prominent visual symbol of the College. Despite being gutted by fire in 1949, its purpose as a space remains the same. Not so with Bexley. Like a less popular sibling, it sits patiently on the edge of campus, unsung and left to its own devices.

Bexley's building plans came from Henry Roberts, an English architect whose Evangelical leanings often inspired him to design buildings with a philanthropic focus. Bexley Hall is his only building in the United States, and he provided the plans free of charge.

"The instruction is Churchly and conservative, but does not shrink from discussion of those critical questions of the day," notes the



1910-1911 course catalog from the seminary, which goes on to highlight the area of study: “Bexley Hall, the home of the Divinity School stands in its own park of several acres. It is a three-story building of pure Elizabethan architecture, erected in 1839, and contains a chapel and recitation rooms, and partly furnished suites of rooms for twenty-four students.”

Not yet a century into its life, Bexley was starting to show its age. A 1913 *Collegian* article titled “Bexley Hall Scene of Desolate Ruins” paints the familiar picture of the cycle of repair on campus: “The effect of seventy-four years of constant use had been to wear out the interior of the building.”

Years later, another *Collegian* article reflected on the building’s first major renovation: “The cost has been about \$80,000 and the renovated building is stronger, better and more beautiful than the original structure. While only the walls and roof timbers have been retained, the beautiful exterior ... is quite unchanged.”

During the renovations, the seminary students moved temporarily to the middle of Hanna Hall, cohabitating and mingling with Kenyon students. This makeshift move brought new

intimacy between the students of both schools, foreshadowing the closeness to come. Together, they played bridge and basketball against Kenyon teams in intramural tournaments, went to parties and attended proms at Gambier’s Harcourt Place boarding school for girls. Once the renovations were complete, the seminary students went back to the new, modernized Bexley.

### From Seminary to Studio

In 1968, the seminary disassociated with Kenyon and moved to Rochester, New York. There, it affiliated with Colgate Rochester Divinity School (now Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School). Thirty years later, in 1999, Bexley re-established an Ohio campus, partnering with Trinity Lutheran Seminary of Columbus, in the city’s suburb named (what else?) Bexley.

There were several reasons for the move. As Kenyon’s president at the time, F. Edward Lund, put it, the future of “a little seminary in the woods of Ohio looked pretty bleak.” The rural area did not provide a reasonable training ground for priests who would likely work in suburbs or cities, he noted, and the lack of ecu-

Clockwise from left to right: Photo of an archival image of Bexley Hall, by Dan McMahon; a painted hand print above a Bexley door, held open by coasters; and drawers holding letters for a press kept in Bexley Hall.



Graffiti on the stairs leading down to Bexley's basement.

menism at the Episcopalian seminary was out of step with the “modern church.”

“It is a mark of changing times,” noted a 1967 Collegian article, “that Bexley has taken theological education to the thriving city and left Kenyon behind to carry on its secular education in Gambier’s wooded retreat.”

Space being one of the most highly coveted resources of a college campus, discussion quickly turned toward the future of the building the seminary left behind. It was a period of transition at Kenyon: The women’s college was freshly established, and the selection of a new Kenyon president was underway.

An editor’s note titled, “A Time of Crisis,” from a May 1968 Collegian emphasized the turmoil. “Much must be done to insure the survival and success of an outstanding college community in Gambier,” wrote the editor. “The vacating of the ample rooms at Bexley Hall provides an opportunity for vast improvement in office space for all organizations.”

And various offices did fill the space, for the next few years. “I remember going to pay my tuition bill at Bexley Hall,” said Stamp. “So the finance offices were there for a couple years.”

Meanwhile, the art department was looking for a new home. Originally, classes in what is now known as the Department of Studio Art were taught in Chase tower of Peirce Hall for extra credit or no credit at all, according to Professor Emeritus of Art Greg Spaid ’69. Once Joe Slate, the founder of the department, arrived, classes moved to the basement of Rosse Hall. “That’s where I took my first course,” said Spaid. “There was a painting room, and there was a drawing room. They were very small.” The buildings across from the Kenyon College Bookstore on Chase Avenue were also used as art spaces for a few years. But before art students and faculty could move into Bexley in 1972, more renovations had to be made.

“One of the magnificent things about Bexley was this grand staircase that went up the build-

ing and that had to be torn out when they had to renovate for the art department to move into it,” said Spaid. “According to code, you couldn’t have wooden stairs.” The ornate wooden pews, ascending in elevation in the tiny Bexley chapel, were also removed to create the photography classroom where Spaid taught.

Associate Professor of Art Read Baldwin ’84 took classes as a student in Bexley Hall and later, taught there. “I will always feel more attachment to that building than any other on campus. I suppose that speaks to the influence of architecture on youth,” he said. “Everything about the building made housing and creating art a challenge,” he added, citing the unpredictable heating system and tiny classrooms.

When it came to breaking down canvases to relocate them, the small rooms and narrow hallways of Bexley proved slightly less arduous than the staircases of Peirce tower, but they still presented a challenge to the studio art department staff.

Thanks in large part to the activism of then-Assistant Professor Terry Schupbach, a lift was installed to make the building marginally more accessible.

“On average, I had twice the number of students than we would currently have in the studio art class,” Spaid said of teaching in the chapel-turned-photography classroom. “I mean, people had to sit on the floor. They had to sit in the windowsills whenever we had a critique, but somehow it worked.”

Many of the professors’ offices were on the first floor of the building. “The darkroom was next door to where my office was. I would get people bringing in their wet, dripping trays with photographs from the darkroom, asking for advice,” Spaid said. “But the proximity worked really well. I could just run in there if anybody had a question.”

Colburn Hall, the old seminary library attached to the back of Bexley by a Tudor arch, became the art gallery, the high ceilings and open space making it the logical place to display the art harbored by the connecting building. However, the lack of accessibility remained an issue. So too did the fact

“I will always feel more attachment to (Bexley Hall) than any other building on campus. I suppose that speaks to the influence of architecture on youth.”

— Associate Professor of Art **Read Baldwin '84**

that, simply by virtue of its location, fewer people were likely to stumble in to enjoy the art.

The art department's new home, Horvitz Hall, was designed by Graham Gund '63 in collaboration with the art faculty. State-of-the-art ventilation and large, bright classrooms proved a big contrast from the cramped halls and antiquated heating of Bexley Hall. And so, in 2012, studio arts packed up and headed south, to their new building behind Storer Hall. Freshly vacated, Bexley remained on the far north edge of campus, its future once again uncertain.

## The “Musical Chairs” Years

On a campus always negotiating its real estate, Bexley offered space: A building in search of its purpose, auditioning for different roles. Non-academic offices slowly populated the empty rooms, on and off.

The building was quiet, save for the antiquated HVAC systems struggling to keep pace with the changing seasons.

“If you would talk to most students, they'd say that it was spooky,” said retired Instructor of Art Ellen Sheffield. “Because it was this big hulking building with nobody else in it.” After the departmental move to Horvitz, she brought her classes to Bexley to use the letterpresses that remained in the lower levels, the walls spray-painted with messages vaunting the power of art.

The abandoned feel of Bexley after dark provoked mixed reactions from Sheffield's students. “Some of them wanted to explore the building and others were literally shaking, going, ‘No, I can't go. Don't leave me here alone,’” she said. Having inhabited a basement office in the space for years, Sheffield did not share in their hesitation. “The building is filled with good vibes and good spirits, in my opinion.”

Jim Steen, the head swim coach at Kenyon for years, moved into an office in Bexley after he retired from coaching in 2012 but continued his work with the College through public relations and development.

Steen worked in Spaid's old office, on the ground floor. “I really loved my office in Bexley,” Steen said. “It was quiet and comfortable and somewhat off the grid — perfect for a retired guy who was in the ‘thick of things’ over the previous 36 years.” Until 2017, he used the office sporadically. “There were a few other people with temporary offices in Bexley,” he remembered. “Faculty on sabbatical, various administrators ... the building had a nice feel to it, with a small selection of people quietly going about their business.”

All this is not to say that there weren't plans in the works for the building's future. A 2004 trustee-approved master plan, helmed by Gund, proposed Bexley's transition into housing. It also proposed the demolition of Caples Residence Hall, which almost 20 years later still stands

proudly above all other buildings in Gambier. Change is slow, until it isn't.

## Finding New Purpose

A housing study completed in 2020 proposed renovations and new builds, including three South Campus residences currently under construction that were funded by a \$100 million gift. When a larger-than-expected class led to a housing crunch, Bexley was moved up in the renovation sequence plans after an anonymous donor agreed to pay half the construction costs. Bexley will return to a suite-style living space by August 2023. More inclusive, accessible and eco-friendly housing — no small endeavor.

“It's a major undertaking,” said Stamp, “but the envelope of the building is in good shape.”

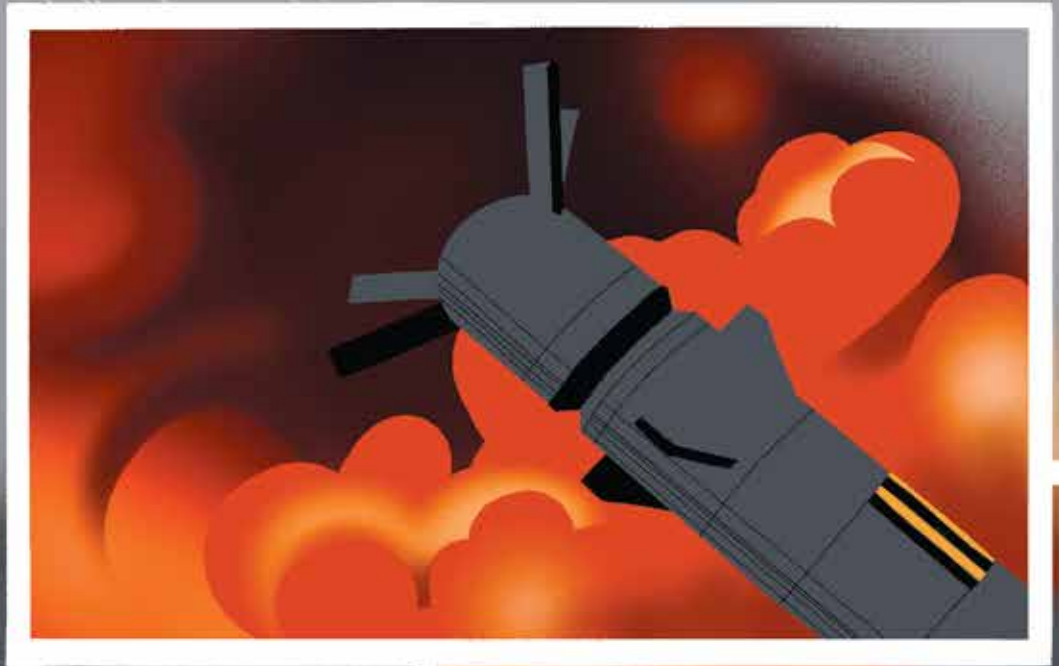
Ceilings lowered in the mid-20th century are being removed, as are the false walls in Colburn. The hope is that the original architectural paneling is still there underneath, in restorable condition. A lot of materials are unusable and will need to be torn out or modernized. But the final look, according to Stamp, will honor the look of the original Bexley Hall.

There'll be no grand old wooden staircase that defies every fire code ever written, no beautiful-but-inaccessible chapel on the east side, where morning sun must have bathed the tiny pews in gold. But there will be people there, living and working. Students crowding together for pictures and sitting on the floor. Students reading texts both similar and wildly different from the ones studied by seminarians decades earlier. It won't be quiet anymore.

.....

BEFORE RENOVATIONS BEGAN THIS SPRING, the building retained an air of artful neglect. The essentials had been packed up and moved, while the everyday, mundane objects remained. Desk chairs, name badges, loose bags of English breakfast tea. Relics from the studio art department: drop cloths, drawers of letterpress type blocks and graffiti everywhere. In the stairwell: “All Art, No Matter What.” On the stairs to the basement: “When Artists Dream They Dream In Color.” On the basement walls, painted faces, anarchy symbols and crescent moons.

Touring the space years after my late-spring senior escapade, I thought of all the words I'd seen etched, penned, printed and painted around campus. Names and years scratched into the wood of the Old Kenyon belltower, proof of a successful break-in. Evidence of late-night capers and the desire to prove you were there. These things fade, as they always do: Painted over, knocked down and reimagined anew. But their stories remain just beneath the surface, taking up new residence as half-truths in the grand tradition of Kenyon lore. κ



**PIERCING THE**

# FOG OF WAR

**BY ERIN PETERSON**

**ILLUSTRATED BY ANNA IVANENKO**

The flood of news from war in Ukraine — unrelenting, ever-changing and sometimes of dubious provenance — highlights the difficulty of separating fact from fiction during tumultuous times. Kenyon alumni and faculty share their thoughts about the power — and the limits — of storytelling in the fog of war.



# W

HEN WAR CONSUMES A NATION, THE DISRUPTION it causes can make it extraordinarily difficult to know what's actually happening. That's true not just for those fighting on the ground, but also for the leaders mapping out larger strategies, and for the rest of us trying to keep up with the news.

The sudden and fierce conflict in Ukraine reminds us anew that despite the fire hose of information in the news, on our social feeds and in our daily conversations, much remains opaque. How do we sort reality from illusion — and is it even possible?

Journalist and war correspondent Vicki Barker '78 has brought a skeptical eye to her reporting throughout her career, which has spanned from the first Gulf War to terror attacks in Paris and Brussels. "There are so many extra layers of verification that you have to do," she said.

Still, she also knows that there are ways to sidestep the sometimes unreliable official channels to get an unfiltered view of war's impact. While

covering the Lebanese war in 2006, she visited a neighborhood pharmacy in Beirut. "A pharmacist will tell you if they're filling more prescriptions for sleeping pills and anxiety medications," she said. "It's a Rorschach test of a local community."

To illuminate some of the challenges of getting to the truth of war even as it is happening, we talked to faculty and alumni journalists, researchers, writers, artists and historians whose work involves helping people make sense of war and conflict. They shared their behind-the-scenes perspectives about the Ukraine war, as well as the larger lessons they've learned from their own experiences with, and studies of, previous conflicts.

## MEET YOUR GUIDES



### Eliza Ablovatski

is an associate professor of history at Kenyon and teaches classes on Europe from 1500 to the present. Her book, "Revolution and Political Violence in Central Europe: The Deluge of 1919," was published last summer.



### Monica Cure '02

is a writer, translator and dialogue specialist who is a two-time Fulbright Award winner. She was a child refugee from Romania who grew up near Detroit and has been living in Bucharest, Romania, for the past three years.



### Alexa O'Brien '95

is an analyst and writer focused on intelligence. Her work has been published in the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, the New York Times and the Cairo Review of Global Affairs.



### Jeremy Stern '11

is news editor of Tablet magazine and a non-resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council. He has written for publications including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Foreign Affairs.



### Vicki Barker '78

is a London-based writer and broadcaster. She has done on-the-ground reporting during the terror attacks in Paris and Brussels in 2015 and 2016, the 1991 Soviet coup and the first Gulf War.



### Jen Judson '04

is the land warfare reporter for Defense News. She is president of the National Press Club.



### David Rowe

is director of the Center for the Study of American Democracy at Kenyon. He teaches political economy, comparative politics and international relations.



### Darya Tsymbalyuk '13

is a researcher and artist from Ukraine. She earned a Ph.D. from St Andrews in Scotland in 2021, and wrote her dissertation on war and stories of displacement from Donbas, Ukraine.



## The “fog of war” is real.

German military strategist Carl von Clausewitz is credited with identifying the concept known as “the fog of war” — the uncertainty and confusion that exists among participants in military operations, and the challenges that it creates as states seek to achieve larger political aims through combat.

“When you’re on the battlefield, literally fighting for your life, it’s hard to keep a clear overview of the things that are going on, much less achieving military objectives,” said political science professor David Rowe. “Warfare will always be surrounded by a high degree of uncertainty.”

With confusion reigning from the very source, it is only natural that those farther away from the center of the conflict would struggle to gain clarity on the situation. “The things we’re seeing (through the media) come to us through many different filters,” said Rowe. “We have to assemble a broad overview from different snapshots, in an environment where there are many actors trying to spin what we see.”

Still, there are ways to pierce that fog: For example, journalists have fact-checked claims by by pairing videos taken by Ukrainian residents with publicly available satellite images; and amateur radio enthusiasts have tapped into the unsecured communications of Russian tweets.

Sometimes, a single sentence can snap the stakes into clear and heartbreaking focus, like this March 16 tweet by Ukraine native Darya Tsymbalyuk ’13: “Once, (colleague Iryna Zamuruieva) and I were planning to organise an environmental summer school, and instead, we are campaigning for more military aid for our homeland Ukraine.”

The tweet linked to a story on openDemocracy.net, an independent international media platform, that was co-authored by Tsymbalyuk and Zamuruieva. In it, they wrote: “Our home is under attack: though we now live in Scotland, both of us grew up in Ukraine and our parents and friends remain there, hiding in basements and metro stations, where their health is deteriorating from cold and lack of sleep, or defending their hometowns in territorial defence units. ... Nowhere in Ukraine is safe at the moment.”

## Uncertainty can also be used as a tool of manipulation.

Manipulated information reported as truth is anything but new: experts have identified staged war photos from at least as far back as the Civil War. But there’s no question that today’s manipulators are more skilled than ever.

Defense News reporter Jen Judson ’04 said she’s seen her own outlet’s credibility twisted into misinformation: A website that was designed to fool readers into thinking it was Defense News featured fake articles — but used “bylines” from real reporters at her publication.

“It was dispiriting that my flagging of several dozen individual posts as ‘false news’ through Facebook’s own notification system had no immediate effect,” Judson added. “Only after Defense News and Memetica contacted Facebook did the memes disappear en masse.”

If there is one silver lining, said analyst Alexa O’Brien ’95, it is that news professionals are a bit more savvy about the ways open-source information can be used subversively. “I’ve





been pleased to see how news professionals — and even the public — have gained information literacy in the last decade, in terms of understanding that open-source information is prey to signaling and deception,” she said. Indeed, a 2019 Pew survey found that 89 percent of Americans say that they “sometimes” or “often” come across made-up news or information, and more than half have changed the way that they use social media as a result. “I think the techno-utopianism of the information age of the early 2010s blinded some of us to this type of manipulation, and some of us are more discerning now.”

**Our desire for coherence nudges us to lean on historical stories and plot points — at our peril.**

Associate Professor of History Eliza Ablovatski has spent decades studying World War I, and she is frequently surprised by how resonant the themes of the century-old war remain today.

“In war, there is often a shortage of information,” she said. “And when we lack good information, we still want to make sense of things — so we often use (the building blocks of) stories we already know (to create meaning).”

During World War I, for example, media reports leaned on analogies that compared the events of the day to those of the French Revolution and Paris Commune — stories that were well-known to readers at the time. Because readers were familiar with these larger narrative frameworks, they could use familiar plot points to imagine what might happen in the future.

In much the same way, Russians have leaned on the stories of World War II and Nazis to frame their own actions and violence, while Ukraine has used the heroism of that same war experience as inspiration to defend itself. “Everyone thinks it’s the Second World War all over again — but nobody thinks they’re a Nazi,” said Ablovatski.

This extreme framing can lead to extreme actions — beyond what the actual circumstances would seem to require, she said. “If you know that horrific things have happened in the past, it’s easy to believe they might be happening again — or even to try to prevent those things from happening by doing crazy, violent things yourself. If (Russian) soldiers really believe that there are Nazis hiding in a (Ukrainian) basement, what things would they be willing to do that they otherwise would never do? The (influence of stories from the past) is powerful, and they are part of the motivation that (can lead) people to commit war crimes.”

## To get at the truth, war correspondents and journalists must be resourceful under difficult circumstances.

As a journalist who's covered conflicts around the world for more than three decades, Vicki Barker '78 knows all about the swaggering bravado that some war correspondents bring to their work. She's not among them. She believes that there are often better ways to get meaningful stories that shed light on a war's trajectory and toll.

In 1990, when she was in Saudi Arabia for more than a month after Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, she methodically built a friendly relationship with an Air Force colonel over the course of weeks — even as she watched other journalists badger him with demands for his time. Ultimately, her approach paid off: “I was the one who got the phone call at 1 a.m. from (the colonel), telling me that there was a bus in front of the hotel (taking a group to the Kuwaiti border) in 15 minutes,” she said.

Still, many reporters do their work from afar, which requires a different set of skills. Reporter Judson said she's built her own tool kit considerably in recent months. “I get all kinds of weird emails and messages from social media these days,” she said. (How often? “Almost every hour,” she sighed.) She knows how to do deep dives on social media profiles — from analyzing follower counts to reading months-old tweets — just to see if a source is legitimate. She's learned to use Yandex (Russia's primary search engine) and is skilled at using Google's reverse image search. “You've also got to be careful of TikTokers who pretend to livestream from Ukraine, which happens a lot,” she said.

Barker said that no matter the circumstances, war reporting takes its toll, and it's one that a news audience can't understand on the same visceral level. “I am in awe of the journalists who are doing live shots for hours every single day, because I know that they probably slept in a smelly, noisy shelter for maybe three hours before they had to get up and be as lucid and in control of the facts as ever,” she said.

And while she hasn't typically felt unsafe during her reporting, the dangers thrumming just beneath the surface are very real. “When you're a war correspondent, you have to recalibrate your sense of risk. If you cover war, there's a chance you're going to be killed.”

## Journalism can sometimes miss the biggest stories.

There's no question that journalists these days have a robust toolbox to do meaningful war reporting. But Monica Cure '02, a writer who lives in Romania, believes that journalism isn't designed to fully capture war's reality. “In traditional reporting, emotion is often excluded for the sake of objectivity,” she said. “We can talk

about accuracy, but ‘the truth’ also requires a kind of emotional accuracy.”

Cure, for example, has found a meaningful connection to Ukraine from the writing community she's been part of on Twitter. Through that community, she discovered a writer and translator, Kate Tsurkan, who lives in the Ukrainian city of Chernivsti. Since the war started, that writer's tweets have become a window into the Ukrainian war through her own lived experience. “She has so many important things to say,” Cure said.

That immediate, visceral perspective made Cure much more diligent about finding Ukrainian writers — not just journalists — to follow on Twitter as the war has progressed. Indeed, she says, it may often be best to use trusted connections you've already built to find the kind of emotionally honest perspective you might not find elsewhere.

Cure particularly appreciates the tweets of Andrei Kurkov, a Ukrainian writer in Kyiv. Often, she said, the tweets share details that might be considered too trivial for a news report, but that say worlds about the state of a city or the mindset of the country.

One, posted about a week into April, stuck with her. “It was ‘Georgian and Japanese restaurants are open again near Kyiv's Main Railway Station,’” she said. “It gave a feeling that some of the danger had passed. That feeling was so palpable, understandable and relatable.”

## Ambassador Brink



On April 25, Bridget Brink '91 was nominated by President Biden to be U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. She was confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate on May 18, and arrived in Kyiv on May 29. During her confirmation hearings she urged Congress to move quickly on economic and humanitarian assistance, and said it would be a “personal priority” of hers to make sure justice was served for Russian war crimes. “The world has to know, and those who commit these atrocities have to know, that we won't stop. We will be relentless in our pursuit.” Read more about Ambassador Brink at [bulletin.kenyon.edu](http://bulletin.kenyon.edu).

**“We need to remember that the content we’re consuming online isn’t always a perfectly accurate reflection of reality.”**

— JEREMY STERN '11, TABLET NEWS EDITOR

### **And “experts” may be anything but.**

Ukrainian citizen Tsybalyuk admits that the speed with which her home country has become the center of the world’s attention can sometimes feel disorienting. “I’m grateful for the support, because we need it,” she said. “You’ve seen Russia on a map.”

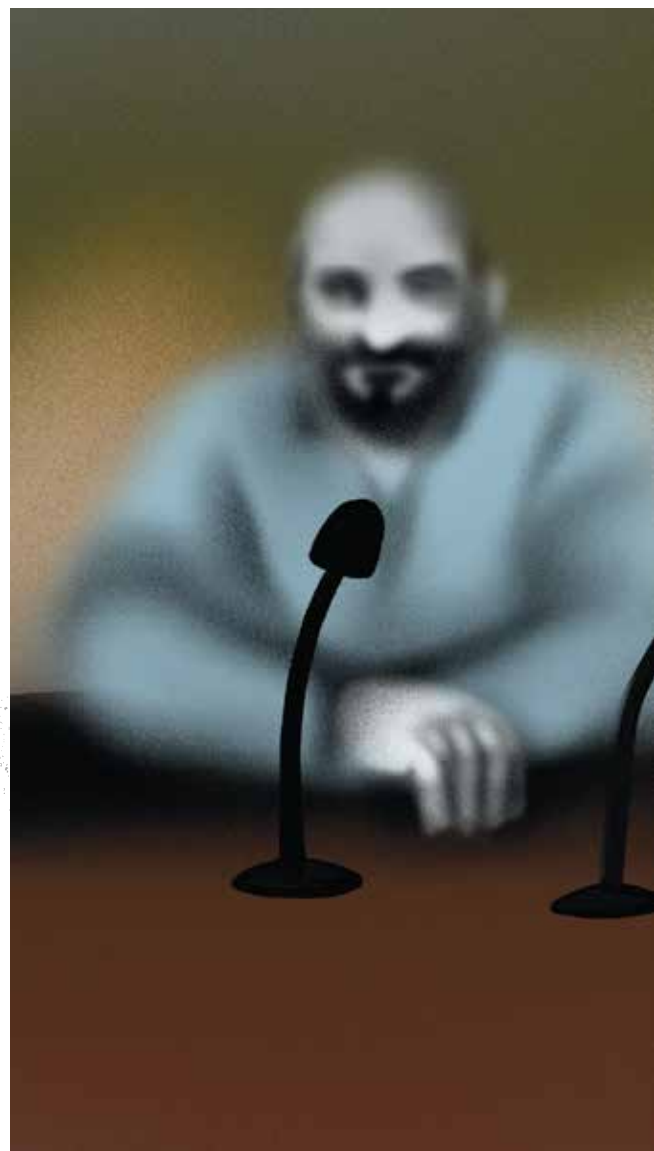
Still, she acknowledges that she can also sometimes feel frustrated by the sudden attention. “Everybody’s an expert,” she said. “Within a week of the escalation, I saw people organizing panels about Ukraine without inviting a single Ukrainian.”

Often, she said, such panels feel divorced from the reality she knows Ukrainians are experiencing. She’s watched conversations turn to debates about NATO versus Russia and China — without a single word about Ukraine.

Tsybalyuk said she has declined invitations to participate in such events because of what she sees as the often clinical, removed position of the participants. “I realized I didn’t want to be fighting with people who have no connection (to this war), for whom it’s all just a political game and a moment to shine as an expert with a hot take.”

### **Our biases are real — but often invisible.**

After many punishing years of polarization in the United States, the war in Ukraine seemed to offer a point of agreement across the political spectrum. Left, right and center, nearly everyone



seemed to support the Ukrainian desire for sovereignty against Russia’s invasion. And there has been plenty of evidence Ukraine is putting up an exceptional fight.

But Tablet news editor Jeremy Stern ’11 cautions against trusting too much in any narratives that align so closely with our desires. “It’s a natural reaction among Americans to cheerlead for Ukraine,” he said. “If you’re on a platform like Twitter, and frequently liking or engaging with videos showing Ukrainian forces to be triumphant, you’re more likely to be exposed to even more content showing the Ukrainians winning and the Russians losing, which may or may not be what’s actually going on in a given situation.”

Stern said this type of engagement isn’t necessarily bad, as long as we recognize what’s actually happening: “We need to remember that the content we’re consuming online isn’t always a perfectly accurate reflection of reality.”

To see the world as it really is, however, often requires us to spend time feeling true discomfort. “The unpleasant but necessary thing you have to do is follow news outlets and other sources of information that you don’t like and that you find objectionable,” said Stern. “It’s not



always good for your own personal happiness.”

For example, he recommends that supporters of Ukraine also follow media outlets and individuals sympathetic to Russians, and vice versa. And while the outlets and individuals you follow might not share your values or even be acting in good faith, you’ll still be more likely to see useful information you may not find elsewhere. “You can’t get a holistic picture of reality without it,” he explained.

Though it is a natural reaction to turn away from difficult truths, it is also an obligation that Americans must take seriously, said Rowe. “As citizens in a democracy, we bear responsibility for what our governments are doing.”

### **We all benefit when we can bring our sense of humility and humanity to our understanding of war.**

Every field has its own framework for collecting and analyzing facts — and each has limitations, said O’Brien. “Journalism, intelligence, law enforcement — they all depend on functional truths and fulfill social roles like doctors or

lawyers,” she said. “Intelligence is historically about decision advantage and geopolitical competition, and by its nature it often exists within a field of ambiguity. It is reductive to conclude that because humans are not capable of absolute knowledge, all truths are irrelevant. We need these functional truths to survive and thrive.”

From a faraway perch in the United States, it can be easy to believe that this war is something that is “over there” — an event that affects some things, like our gas prices, but also can feel divorced from our own reality.

But we are all joined in our common humanity, said Cure. “I am in Romania, and I understand that we really are all interconnected,” she said. “Yes, it’s a story about Ukraine, but it’s also about Russia and the dissidents in Russia. It’s also about the people of Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Germany, who are receiving refugees. It’s their story as well. Ukrainians are creating art and are welcomed into universities and finding jobs in many different places. I hope all of these things will motivate us to search out the news and information, because we see how connected we are to people in different places and from different backgrounds.” ❧

Anna Ivanenko is an illustrator based in Kyiv, Ukraine.

# Bulletin

NOTES FROM BEYOND MIDDLE PATH

## IN THIS SECTION

28

Finding the Right Words

33

Annotated

34

Book Shelf

36

Class Notes

43

One of Us

62

In Memoriam

72

Back Talk



### Cupid Shuffle

A record number of alumni — 1,626 — returned to Kenyon for Reunion Weekend 2022. Photographer James D. DeCamp caught partygoers on the dance floor, mid-“Cupid Shuffle,” at the Saturday night Soiree.







# Finding the Right Words

David Bukszpan '02  
talks writing, puzzling  
and his published  
New York Times crossword

BY CAROLYN TEN EYCK '18

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JORDAN HOLLENDER



“**T**HERE ARE WORDS THAT WE DON'T USE MUCH anymore,” said David Bukszpan '02, author of “Is That a Word?: From AA to ZZZ, The Weird and Wonderful Language of Scrabble,” and an upcoming book on the language of crossword puzzles. “They don't hold a central place in popular culture. But if the word means something to you, if you know about that thing and like it, then you don't mind that word coming up at all. In fact, you feel a little bit of joy.”

I felt that spark of joy while sitting in Peirce Dining Hall the morning of Sept. 20, 2016, at the start of my junior year at Kenyon. As usual, I was doing the New York Times crossword with my friend, struggling through the Friday grid, when we came to the clue “College where Rutherford B. Hayes was valedictorian.” For many solvers that morning, this might have been a source of frustration — a “how am I supposed to know *that?*” type of clue. But for us, as we giddily penned KENYON into the six empty boxes while sitting in the heart of Gambier, it was a source of pure glee.

That glee still returns to me while solving crossword puzzles, often mingled with a kind of exasperated triumph whenever a pun or piece of wordplay clicks in my brain and the answer finally reveals itself on the grid. I felt it while solving the Jan. 4, 2022, crossword, a themed puzzle created by Bukszpan that celebrates (what else?) crosswords, and has the honor of being the first time SEXYELF appeared as an answer in the Times crossword (in response to the clue “Risqué costume for a holiday party”).

Bukszpan's new book, “Crosswordese: The Weird and Wonderful Language of Crossword Puzzles,” is scheduled for publication next spring. I talked to Bukszpan about our shared passion for the “strangely unemotional activity” of puzzling, his undergrad encounter with famed crossword editor Will Shortz, and the differences between writing stories and creating crosswords.

### **First things first: you published a New York Times crossword this year! Any Easter eggs within the puzzle that you can share?**

I did happen to use the answer SHORTS as an homage of sorts to the current editor, Will Shortz. Sadly, the editors changed my favorite clue. While many solvers liked the clue the Times used for SHORTS — [Word after booty or Bermuda] — I preferred what I had originally: [“Men in \_\_\_ are disgusting.”—Fran Lebowitz].

Eagle-eyed solvers might have also noticed that I tried to include other crossword-related answers, like GRID and SAWFIT (and “box” via

BOXKITE). I also thought it was APT and even a bit SUAVE to sort of NAMEDROP or even NESTLE in one of my favorite constructors, Merl Reagle, by including the answer REGALE. And of course, the puzzle, about how crosswords offer a short escape from life's troubles, starts with ESC, which happens to be just where the key is on a keyboard, in the top-left.

### **You were an English major, right?**

I was! I focused in creative writing. I was pretty close with Fred Kluge '64, that mensch. I still visit him when I come back to campus. I got to catch up with him at my 20th reunion this year. Once, driving to New York from Columbus, where I was getting my M.F.A. in fiction at Ohio State University, I wanted to quickly show my wife around Kenyon. I wasn't sure we'd have time to see Kluge and hadn't let him know in advance. But the moment I got to Chase Avenue I had to slam on the brakes: I almost ran him over.

I took “History of English Language” with the late Bill Klein. I'm sure that course laid the foundation for my eventual interest in words.

My senior year, Will Shortz brought his road show to Kenyon. Higley Auditorium was *packed*. He did a version of his NPR puzzle bit: rearrange a state's letters to make a fish and a prize, etc. I answered one correctly and got to keep going until I was stumped, and I put a nice little streak together. It was likely only about a half-dozen answers but I thought, “Oh, maybe I'm good at this.” Looking back, I think I was just a little less drunk than most other folks there. Anyway, I tucked it away. I didn't do crosswords at that time. I've always liked jokes, puns and wordplay, but I didn't really get into crosswords until the pandemic.

### **You wrote a book on Scrabble in 2012, “Is That a Word?” Was that an early interest of yours?**

My parents were teachers. They had a way of tricking me into enjoying educational things. I remember my mother — she was a math teacher — and she'd say, “If you finish all your homework quickly, I'll give you some exercises from the



**A five-letter word for cooler?** David Bukszpan '02, photographed in his Brooklyn, New York, home, where even the fridge nods to his love of wordplay.



math workbook I use with my students who are two years older than you.” She totally suckered me. And as a family, we played Scrabble. When you’re a kid and see a way to potentially beat your parents at something, it’s all the incentive you need.

There was a huge Scrabble fad, I would say, around when *Words with Friends* came out. I was self-employed (read: had recently been laid off) and thought, “What about a book that would give people a fun way to learn some of those crucial, weird, short words and their definitions?” I strung them together in wacky tongue twisters and strange sentences, and the illustrator made hay with the images.

During COVID times, I started solving crosswords and again I noticed that a bunch of odd-ball short answers were the key to success. At first, they were a nuisance: How am I supposed to know the three-letter name of some home-run hitter from the 1930s?

Then I started to understand. Just as Scrabble has its own set of useful words — a sister-tongue to English I like to call “Scrabblish” — crosswords

pull from a lexicon known as “crosswordese.” In the parallel universe of crosswords — maybe we can call it the cruciverse — a ballplayer like Mel Ott is much more famous than Derek Jeter. I started making a list of all the crosswordese I found most useful and interesting and thought, “Oh, I could have some fun with this.”

**Crossword construction seems different from creative writing — it has that analytical aspect. How do you balance those two parts of your writing brain? How would you weigh making a crossword against writing a short story?**

For me, making a crossword comes a bit easier, mostly thanks to its constraints. You know going in just about how many answers it’ll have, how many blocks, and it’s got to be symmetrical. You need to have a plan before you start to build a puzzle. Most crosswords are themed, of course, so you start there.

Having plotted the theme answers, next comes finding the small words — the “fill” — to make everything connect. This is primarily dictated by the shape of the grid and the position of the

answers, so again, constraints help. But within them, surprising opportunities arise to include fresh answers and hatch up original clues.

When I write fiction, I have a much smaller sense of what I'm going to do. The main question is what you want to say, and then how: plot, style, tone, characterization. Something strikes me — an object or an image, a moment or character. Then I build out and the themes take shape organically. I think more deeply about things when writing than I do in the hurry of everyday life. With crosswords, it's not about deep thinking so much as playful thinking. One's an art; the other's a nifty little craft.

Language is central to both. And changing a word can have big repercussions. But the greatest similarity is that each sends the audience on a type of journey, so I think a lot about the reader or solver's experience as I work, particularly regarding discovery and payoff.

**You started getting into crosswords fairly recently. What was the timeline between getting into solving and trying your hand at constructing puzzles?**

Once I started solving puzzles, it wasn't long before I wanted to start building them. I submitted three or four puzzles at first, which were, looking back, absolutely embarrassing. Another similarity between writing short stories and creating crosswords is the rejection! Submitting, then crossing your fingers for months until hearing "no," but then latching on to the "we hope you'll send us something again." Fortunately, the puzzle editors at the Times have been very kind and supportive, pointing out what I was doing wrong and how I could improve.

Writing the book, I thought I'd create a crossword to close each chapter, sort of riffing off that chapter's content. The introduction covers the history of crossword puzzles, and I was researching Margaret Farrar, the first editor of the New York Times crossword. I came across a quote of Farrar's, and it was so spot on. She spoke precisely to something I loved about crosswords; I immediately closed the book and started building a puzzle, using her quote as the theme: "YOU-CANTTHINK/OFYOURTROUBLES/ WHILE-SOLVING/ACROSSWORD."

The theme grew even more meaningful for me than I could have suspected. After I'd submitted the puzzle, my father was diagnosed with stage four pancreatic cancer. I was in Florida with him when the Times wrote to say they were accepting the puzzle, but there were some kinks they wanted me to work out: The first letter of one answer put a strain on part of the grid. As I toyed with alternatives, I lost myself in the work. Though I was constructing instead of solving a crossword, Farrar's words, stuck there in the middle of the grid, rang true.

It feels necessary to have those little escapes in life. It's not mindless, but it's not mindful either. You are with it and also beside it, whether you're solving or creating a puzzle. The process is analytical and creative, yet somehow it becomes almost mechanical.

**I do feel like that's a big reason why a lot of people turned to writing or solving more puzzles during the pandemic. I can focus on this, even if I can't focus on reading or writing.**

Bingo. It can be a strangely unemotional activity. The Times and other editors understand that and so they avoid having certain answers in there, through the so-called "Sunday morning breakfast test." The idea is to not have answers that would put somebody off their oatmeal if they were solving at the table. You'd like to not have to think about deep things, especially grave things. In fact, that's why if there is an answer like CANCER in a puzzle, it will practically always be clued as the astrological sign, not the disease. The puzzle can be a momentary refuge from bigger, let's say, less semantic problems. And man, I think we've needed that a lot the last few years.

Oddly enough, it's also a way to feel connected to other people. Because as much as it's a solitary act to solve a puzzle, you still know you're facing the same challenge as so many others that day. And — crosswordese notwithstanding, once you get it down — there's a common set of things that are reasonable to expect solvers to know: a novel that we may have read at some point, the name of a president, etc.

That reminds me — Will Shortz was once asked to describe his job as a crossword editor. And he said that he was a curator. What he's trying to do is decide, "Oh yeah, that deserves to be in a puzzle because enough people know about it." The underlying idea that we're all in this together, sharing the same cultural touchstones at the same time. Perhaps it helps explain why Wordle became so popular at this moment, too.

**Do you think having a Kenyon education helps make a good crossword solver?**

If you have a liberal arts education, you've at least dabbled in history and the classics and poli sci, and it opens you to getting a lot out of puzzles. Or at least recognizing what should go in them.

For instance, ILLIAD comes up a lot. Usually you don't have to remember much to answer the clue. But when you do arrive at ILLIAD, maybe you remember reading it and being moved by it. Or even sitting in Ascension, hearing a lecture on it, seeing the dust mites glow through the slanting (too early in the morning!) light. Suddenly you're back at that desk, breathing that hot, stuffy air. It makes the solving experience so much richer. κ



1. I, like so many others, got my start in theater onstage. Funny enough, I developed near debilitating stage fright while rehearsing my senior thesis play at Kenyon.

2. I straightened my hair for "Oklahoma". I told my mom that I wanted a finger wave and she said "okay" even though she had to have known that it was a bad idea. I remember I sat in a chair in the kitchen leaned back against the sink while she applied the chemicals to my head and made sure that they didn't burn my scalp. My hair was STILL straight six months later. Just long enough to RUIN my senior pictures.

3. My mom had a similar reaction when I was cast as Tom, Phyllis and Leslie in the play "Sylvia" my freshman year at Kenyon. I remember she said, "Phyllis? Isn't that a girl's name?" I accepted the role despite her reservations.

4. Given the confessional nature of much of my work, people often try to guess which parts of my plays are true and which are not. They almost never guess correctly. My mother DID make my costumes in high school. I WAS cast as Atticus Finch, for reasons I still do not understand, but there was no Op Ed... at least, I don't think there was.

5. I tend to write what I know. Or at least, that's how I most often begin a new play. I start with autobiography and fictionalize later. "we are continuous," which is maybe the most personal of my plays, was written in the spring of 2019 soon after I was diagnosed with HIV. Though my diagnosis was a large part of the impetus for the play, the play is not really about HIV. It figures in, of course, but only insofar as it is part of the story of my ever-evolving relationship with my parents, specifically my mother, around the subject of my homosexuality.

COURTESY OF HARRISON DAVID RIVERS '04

## "we are continuous"

AN EXCERPT OF THE LATEST PLAY FROM HARRISON DAVID RIVERS '04

SON When I was a kid, I loved to perform. It started with church plays. And then summer theater. *Babes in Arms*. *Bye Bye Birdie*. *Cinderella*. *Singing in the Rain*. (1) And my mom made all my costumes. She swore she couldn't sew, but every time I was cast, she'd make that Singer hum, and my shit always looked tight.

I remember she made me this plaid outfit when I played Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma*. Orange and red pants with a lime green vest. I stepped out on stage and I got a standing ovation. Or, well, my costume got a standing ovation. Literally, every person in the audience got to their feet and clapped, hooting and hollering for those pants. For that lime green vest. (2)

My mom was the best kind of stage mom because she wasn't a stage mom at all. She made it clear that she was fine with me doing the "theater thing," that she would support me one hundred percent, but that it was on me to do the work. She was hands-off, but she always had my back.

My first year of high school I auditioned for *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. And I knew that there was little to no chance of my being cast — freshmen almost never were — but it was experience, a chance to be seen, to lay the groundwork for the future. Now there were only two Black roles in the play. Jim, of course, and some other guy who was only in one scene and who basically entered, called himself the n-word, then exited. That was it. I read for Jim. Was called back for Jim. Gave the audition of my life for Jim. And got cast as the other guy. The n-word guy. And I remember I told my mom that I was the only freshman to be cast. And I told her which part. And she was like, "nope, I don't think so. No child of mine." (3)

My senior year, I was cast as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Atticus fucking Finch. And people lost their goddamn minds. Bumping me in the halls. Saying nasty things like, "you're gonna ruin the book" and "who the hell do you think you are"? There was an Op Ed in the local paper, "The Desecration of a Classic Text." (4)

I told my mom that this was happening, that people were angry with me, *at me* — though, clearly, I hadn't cast myself — and she was like, "fuck 'em." I mean, she didn't say "fuck 'em." My mom doesn't say "fuck," but essentially, that's what she said. And she went to the school and gave the principal an ear full. And she went to the school board and gave them an ear full. And she wrote to the local newspaper and gave them an ear full. And folks shut up. Because my mom is fucking scary. And because she was right. And I was really good as Atticus. Like really, really, good. Like standing ovation good. And not for my costume either. (5)



HARRISON DAVID RIVERS '04  
PLAYWRIGHT

**About Annotated:** Kenyon alumni create books, poems, magazine articles, songs, plays, screenplays and much more. Here, writers annotate their work, line by line.

### Meandering on our way to truth

Harrison David Rivers '04 is an award-winning playwright, librettist and screenwriter based in St. Paul, Minnesota. His recent play, "we are continuous," was commissioned by the Williamstown Theatre Festival and had its world premier in Williamstown this summer, Aug. 2-14. "we are continuous" is a three-character play: SON, MOTHER and HUSBAND. The story unfolds in a series of monologues which are delivered directly to the audience.

"As a writer, I'm very interested in the rhythms of things. In the words we use. The things we say and the things we don't say," Rivers explained. "I'm interested in how we tell stories, how we get from point A to point B. How it's rarely a direct line. How we meander on our way to truth ... to clarity."

— ELIZABETH WEINSTEIN

## NEW RELEASES



### Alone Out Here

BY RILEY REDGATE (RIOGHNACH ROBINSON '16)

Redgate's thrill ride fourth novel is a futuristic update of the classic "Lord of the Flies" set in space. The year is 2072 and the ultimate climate crisis is nigh: a volcanic eruption that will make Earth uninhabitable. Knowing the end is coming, governments around the world have commissioned scientists and dignitaries to develop a state-of-the-art spaceship that will allow humans to survive until they reach another habitable planet. But when disaster strikes earlier than anticipated — as the children of the world's foremost scientists and politicians are touring the spacecraft prototype — Leigh Chen, first daughter of the U.S. president, makes the difficult choice to save those she can while leaving everyone else on Earth behind. With gripping action and wave after wave of palpable tension that will make your heart race, "Alone Out Here" is both timeless and modern. (*Hyperion*)

### Your Nostalgia Is Killing Me

BY JOHN WEIR '80

Lambda Literary Award-winning author Weir is back with his latest book, "Your Nostalgia Is Killing Me," a collection of linked short stories that follow a middle-aged gay man who survives high school in the 1970s and the death of his best friend due to AIDS in the 1990s. Weaving through time in a non-linear narrative, our narrator details the experiences of being bullied as a gay teen, the struggle to find love in the big city and falling for all the wrong men. In expert tragicomic style, Weir will have you alternately laughing, crying and contemplating the brilliant insights about life and love revealed in these stories. (*Red Hen Press*)

### Faces of Homelessness

BY JEFFREY A. WOLIN '72

Photographer Wolin often asks viewers to confront the faces of the most neglected members of our communities. From Holocaust survivors to veterans to people living in public housing, Wolin's work fosters empathy for people who are forgotten and ignored. His latest project and accompanying photography book, "Faces of Homelessness," is a continuation of this necessary work. By pairing portraits of unhoused people with their own words, Wolin amplifies the voices of people whom we as a society must acknowledge, and listen to, as our neighbors. (*Kehrer Verlag Heidelberg*)

### The Berserkers

BY VIC PETERSON '86

When a woman dressed in a Norse Valkyrie costume is found stabbed and frozen in a lake, it's up to the police records clerk and Viking heavy-metal band musician Grammaticus Kolbitter to find the killer. Blending the crime and science fiction genres, "The Berserkers" is an experimental and evocative romp through an adventure novel unlike any other. (*Hawkwood Books*)



**Editor's Note:**

Have you published a book in the past year? Email [editor@kenyon.edu](mailto:editor@kenyon.edu) and tell us about it.

**The Right to Repair:**

Reclaiming the Things We Own  
BY AARON PERZANOWSKI '01

With the recent passing of France's law requiring companies to be responsible for the entire life cycle of their products, from manufacture to landfill, Perzanowski's latest book, "The Right to Repair," is timely. As consumers become increasingly concerned with how shopping affects the environment, more people are seeking to repair the devices they have rather than buy new ones. However, because this hurts companies' bottom lines, many companies, especially in the technology industry, have made it difficult (if not impossible) to repair products, thus forcing consumers to buy, buy, buy. Perzanowski, a lawyer, dives into "planned obsolescence" and how laws have eroded consumer rights — as well as how laws can be implemented to restore that most essential right to repair. (*Cambridge University Press*)

**Ahab Unbound:**

Melville and the Materialist Turn  
BY MEREDITH FARMER '05 AND  
JONATHAN D. S. SCHROEDER, EDITORS

This sweeping collection is an in-depth, eye-opening look at a character most people think they already know. Captain Ahab's quest for the great white whale was made infamous in Herman Melville's "Moby-Dick." Since then, Ahab has been seen as the prototypical single-minded tyrant, a man unwilling to abandon his hunt despite the human cost involved. However, literary scholars are rethinking past conclusions about who Ahab is as a character, and what readers can take from his singular obsession present-day. Featuring 16 essays from literary scholars, "Ahab Unbound" examines the captain in a new light by imagining him as a man transformed by his environment — a "product of his raising," if you will. (*University of Minnesota Press*)

**Like a Complete Unknown:**

A Novel  
BY ANARA GUARD '78

Guard's fourth book and first novel, "Like a Complete Unknown," follows Katya, a runaway teen with a dream of becoming an artist, and Dr. Lewis, a physician who wants to help her. Guard brings these seemingly disparate characters together to explore friendship, with a satisfying redemption arc that makes the story unforgettable. While at Kenyon, Guard received the John Crowe Ransom Poetry Prize, so it's no surprise that even her prose is filled with artful, poetic language that proves she's expert in both crafts. (*New Wind Publishing*)

— MANDY SHUNNARAH

# Bulletin | Class Notes

**Share what's happening in your life.** We want to hear from you! Submit your note at [kenyon.edu/class-note-form](http://kenyon.edu/class-note-form).

## 1950s

**1951**

**The Rev. Keith D. Briggs**, Brookville, Pennsylvania, and his "old roomie" **James Horace Jones** phone each other at least once a week. Darr also speaks often with Deb Kunhardt, daughter of Henry (deceased) and mother of **Aidan K. Biglow '23**, now a Kenyon student.

**1952**

**Allen B. Ballard Jr.**, Clifton Park, New York, writes, "They say no news is good news, and that's my situation. Just dealing with doctors, medical appointments, exercise and some good reading. Like an old buddy once

**1957**

**Donald A. Fischman**, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, updates, "For the past year and a half, **Ronald E. Kendrick**, **Bill R. Abbott**, **The Rev. Ron E. Greiser**, **Jim D. Morgan**, **Al N. Halverstadt Jr.**, **R. Brad Bennett**, **Henry J. Steck**, **Bob B. Kohn**, **Ernie A. Norehad**, **Phil W. Fox** and I have been meeting monthly by Zoom. It's brought us together in many unexpected ways. As might be expected, politics intruded on some discussions, but usually we found common ground that cooled tempers. What I found most interesting was how often we returned to our Kenyon education when

hasn't been updated for 20 years. But I enjoyed applying all the skills and knowledge I worked so hard to achieve since medical school, training and private practice years. By the grace of God, I haven't lost my marbles yet and am able to continue this satisfying work."

**1958**

**Martin A. Berg** moved to Boca Raton, Florida, last October, where he and Adrienne are near their youngest grandchildren. Marty retired as the oldest high school football coach in Ohio, he reports. "Great experience. I am hoping to do something here. Great things are happening at Kenyon. I am proud to have been a part. The Lowry Center is the best — Bill was a teammate and a friend." **Andrew R. Graham**, Buffalo, New York, reports, "Ann and I continue to enjoy retirement by supporting Karen immigrants in Buffalo and keeping our fingers on the pulse of our community. I have found the Buffalo News usually publishes my letters, so I have spoken out about such issues as the need for vaccination, gun control and historic preservation, and against API discrimination. So far, our good health allows us to climb our mountain in Maine and me to continue crewing in Buffalo Harbor Sailing Club races on Lake Erie."

**1959**

**Max M. Bermann** returned home to Canton, Massachusetts, from a monthlong trip to Boynton Beach, Florida — "longest vacation away from home I've ever taken," he notes. "Life has been good

to me. My health has been good, and I keep busy volunteering at a local golf course, which provides all the free golf I want. My other happy place is my garden and yard, where I spend as much time as weather will permit. The current crisis in Eastern Europe reminds me of the student from Hungary whom Kenyon fostered in 1956 during that revolution. It seems incredible that such turmoil is happening again."

**Robert J. Clawson**, Acton, Massachusetts, was a featured speaker on "An Oral History of Anne Sexton and Her Kind," broadcast online by Harvard's Woodberry Poetry Room in December. "In that I knew Anne well, and taught with her, I'm also being interviewed for an article, a documentary film and a new biography. I suspect I'll not be fully retired till I've expired." **Fred C. Mench**, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, teaches Latin at Middle Tennessee State but is "figuring to wind up next year when my adjunct successor has had a chance to teach all four courses in our sequence. My wife of 22 years, Mary, and I live two doors down from her granddaughter and two great-granddaughters." **Brig. Gen. Roger C. Smith**, Moneta, Virginia, shares, "I continue to have great nostalgic moments of Kenyon, which prepared me for a successful life. I stay involved with Air Force and civic endeavors and became vice president of a new Virginia political action committee, the Proud Patriots of Smith Mountain Lake. I'm grateful to have expanded our

**"I continue to have great nostalgic moments of Kenyon, which prepared me for a successful life."**

— **Brig. Gen. Roger C. Smith '59**

said, 'Been better, been worse.' Oh — I'm enjoying baking and eating various kinds of scones. Take care, fellows!"

**1953**

**Ronald R. Ryan** has called Jupiter, Florida, home for 30 years and enjoys good health. "I have just stopped playing tennis, but Mig and I both play golf two or three times a week."

**1956**

**John G. Hartong**, Crystal River, Florida, writes, "Bobbe and I now have grandchildren graduating from various colleges!"

arguing different points of view. Considering that we graduated 65 years ago, it's an impressive validation of the Kenyon education."

**Ronald E. Kendrick**, Columbus, Ohio, reports he is "living proof of the adage that retirement isn't all it's cracked up to be." Ron retired from orthopedic practice 16 years ago but still serves the Social Security Administration as a medical expert advising judges in disability determination. "Not the road to riches," he explains, "since the fee allowed for medical experts

membership to over 100 members in just a year. For fun, we continue to enjoy our antique Chris-Craft boats on the lake, with many friend and family visits."

## 1960s

1960

**Richard M. Regnante**, Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, recalls "many fond memories of my days at Kenyon. After 50 years of practice as a cardiologist, I retired two years ago. Living on Cape Cod. Skiing in the winter, sailing in the spring and summer in Newport, Rhode Island, waters." **John E. Rusing**, Findlay, Ohio, updates, "Judy and I are 83, married happily 55 years. Judy had total hip replacement and is healing nicely. Three daughters and five grandkids — Maxwell in his third year at West Point. We attended a monthlong family reunion in Norway that began with a 10-day visit to Paris but no more cruises, as Judy gets lost. We are happy, reasonably well financially, but will most likely not be visiting any more class reunions. **Jim Hawk**, my best friend from Kenyon visited 'the Island' several years ago, and I miss him greatly. As **Barry Auger** once posted, 'He was one of the good ones.'"

1961

**Daniel O. Holland**, Waynesboro, Virginia, shares, "I always knew I would be grateful for attending Kenyon. However, not until I retired and could compose poetry to my heart's content — and to the dismay of my Facebook friends — did I realize the magnitude of my indebtedness to

our alma mater, in particular to Mr. Ransom and Dr. Roelofs!" Dan is active in a poetry group and Shenandoah Valley Trout Unlimited. "Virginia continues to confirm our decision to flee Wisconsin winters. Out of the blue, Patty got a call begging her to teach bassoon at Virginia Tech. So now each week she drives two hours to teach for an hour. She is not complaining. The Feb. 20 Waynesboro Symphony concert was an absolutely triumphal affair; her being able to play both bassoon and contrabassoon with such a marvelous orchestra brings us great joy." **David E. Lenz**, Columbus, Ohio, updates, "Betty and I have spent the past half year at home, vaccinated and boosted, limiting our contacts both for self-preservation and to help reduce transmission of the COVID virus. Over Labor Day 2021 we did visit our son and his family in California and in November 2021 our daughter and her family in Georgia, on our way to a weeklong Caribbean cruise. It had been 16 to 22 months since seeing our children and grandchildren. The cruise was a taste of what we remembered as normal, on a ship carrying a third of its passenger capacity. All went well — a welcome change. Now back home resuming our quiet existence. Betty revised a book chapter and I continue to serve as a consultant, so some mental stimulation occurred."

1961

**Byron S. Dunham**, Chicago, shares memories of Kenyon: "During freshman year,

about 20 of us were assigned rooms on the third floor of creaky old Bexley Hall, at the farthest north edge of the campus. We felt very special! I bought a secondhand English Humber bike for \$15 for getting to class and meals at Peirce. People were always 'borrowing' it. My second year landed me and another fellow in West Wing with the Dekes, although we were not Dekes, and my ride was a 1951 Studebaker convertible painted fire-engine red — also often borrowed." Byron joined the Collegian, Student Council, Social Committee and Pre-Med Club, leaving the Hill for the U.S. Army, Northwestern University and a journalism career with the Toledo Blade and The Rotarian International Magazine. "Today I live with my marriage partner, retired architect Dick Hanna, in Chicago's Lincoln Park and Skidaway Island, Georgia, depending upon the weather," he concludes. **Patrick Eggena**, Carmel, New York, reports, "Our old black walnut tree no longer stands out front; it fell with others in the tornado of 2018. Its history is inscribed in the sculptures: the insults from droughts, storms, man and diseases — engraved for us to see with lines that show the years which suddenly came to an end. Our black walnut tree was planted around the time our democracy was formed. Both stood straight and tall for all these years until they have now been weakened by disease and threatened by insurrection. These were my thoughts as I

cut and sanded, trying to capture the feelings and emotions of the pandemic and the social unrest created by an inept response by our government. I have taken a few of the 75 wood sculptures out to pasture where visitors can reflect on what has been happening to them in this COVID memorial exhibit." **Harvey F. Lodish** received an honorary degree last year from Case Western Reserve University and, as a Kenyon trustee emeritus, also spoke at Commencement before watching his granddaughter **Emma Steinert '21** graduate. In December, he was honored with the Wallace H. Coulter Award for Lifetime Achievement in Hematology by the American Society of Hematology, which recognized his five decades of research. A short film featuring two Nobel Prize-winning students of his, recognizing his career, is available on YouTube. **Robert K. Stevens**, San Pedro, California, reflecting on war in Eastern Europe, remembers a moment from 1968 when he was a young foreign service officer, just returned from his first posting in South America. He found himself attending a dinner party whose guest of honor was Secretary of State Dean Rusk. "During cocktails before dinner, someone dragged me over to Rusk to introduce me as one of his minions. Small talk was interrupted by the screeching tires of a black limo, which drove up on the lawn. A Marine officer in full dress jumped out and ran over to Rusk holding

a sheet of paper. Rusk read it, turned to me and showed me its one sentence: 'The Russians have just invaded Czechoslovakia.' And then everyone — the entire top echelon of the State Department — went back to drinking and chatting as if it were inconsequential. A half-hour later, when the secretary was inside the house changing into black tie for dinner, my wife, carrying our baby with a very dirty and smelly diaper, having been told it was the changing room, burst into the bedroom where Rusk was standing in his underwear. He said hello and suggested she use the bathroom while he finished dressing. His security guard then escorted her back to the party. Needless to say, we did not get a repeat invitation."

1963

**James P. Keyes**, Columbus, Ohio, recalls his Kenyon days with laughter: "From time to time, the jokes and other odd things I did at school make me break out laughing. Like the time throwing Brussels sprouts across the dining hall led to a memorable food riot. Or the time a waiter carrying a tray with all twelve settings started to walk very fast until he got to the kitchen door, which someone had locked: The tray — along with the language — went flying. Or, while someone else was showering, reaching and turning off the hot water. Ah, those were good days. It was Dr. Roelofs, I believe, who told us that 'a little nonsense every now and then is relished by the best of men.'" **Neal M. Mayer**, Millsboro, Delaware, writes, "It



“I guess that means it’s still too soon to relax and retire!”

— **Stephen B. Goldenberg '64**,  
on being elected to three recent volunteer and board positions

is hard to believe next year will be our 60th, the 64th year from our arrival in September 1959. Jane and I have gotten through the pandemic, notwithstanding that we missed travel, family and friends. In November we were delighted by the visit of our four children and 12 grandchildren who, for Thanksgiving and to celebrate my 80th birthday, came from Houston; St. Louis; Atlanta; Johns Creek, Georgia; Poolesville, Maryland, and New York City. I had a knee replaced in mid-December and am making a terrific recovery. I am still getting work from clients and enjoy the mental exercise, and Jane is still making her pottery. We hope to play golf again when the weather warms.”

**Eric A. Wagner** calls his Gainesville, Florida, retirement community “terrific.” Writing mid-February, he reported “sitting on my screened porch, with a small lake just a few feet away, enjoying an almost 80-degree day full of sun. Ducks, egrets, herons, wood storks and other birds are here virtually all the time. It is a nature lovers’ paradise. Mostly I play bridge and water volleyball, and represent my building on the resident advisory forum.” Eric has visited 170 countries, all the

continents, including Antarctica several times, “and the North Pole on a Russian nuclear icebreaker,” he informs, “and now my leisurely retirement. Life as a professor emeritus is good!” **Theodore L. Walch**, Studio City, California, still teaches full-time at Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles: 70 students in three sections of cinema studies and one section of philosophy in art and science. “I plan to spend six weeks in Paris this summer,” he adds, “as a postscript to my last several years researching Truffaut’s ‘The 400 Blows’. I had a skirmish with lung cancer last year but, thanks to Cedars-Sinai, a dogged internist and a brilliant oncologist, I’m completely out of the woods. I thank Kenyon for the kind of education that in its broad strokes prepared me for the work I do today.”

**1964**  
**William C. Cross III**, St. Pete Beach, Florida, reports, “After retirement as a CIO, I found a fascinating organization of people, the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College, where people from all walks of life share their experience and knowledge in a rich continuing-education program. Additionally, I teach a class or two in information technology

at both the graduate and undergraduate level just to forcibly keep up, and I volunteer at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital. We are happily ensconced in our island home.” **Stephen B. Goldenberg**, Naples, Florida, expresses gratitude in hearing that the class of 1964 remains busy and active. “I am still an active attorney in both Florida and Massachusetts.” Stephen was recently elected vice president of the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island, treasurer of Naples PFLAG, Inc. and a trustee for his Falmouth, Massachusetts, condominium. “I guess that means it’s still too soon to relax and retire!”

**1965**  
**David F. Banks**, London, England, reports, “I have had the pleasure of working as a producer on a new ballet production, ‘Nureyev: Legend and Legacy’. A large-scale, gala-styled production with the finest dancers in the world, it will be presented at Drury Lane opening September 5. It is fun but very challenging!” **Robin F. Goldsmith** and Janice Goldsmith of Needham, Massachusetts, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Kennebunk Beach, Maine. **David Long**, a member of their original wedding party, joined the festivities. **Fredrick J. McGavran** shares that one of his best stories, titled “An Invasive Species,” appeared in *New English Review*. “If this isn’t enough, you can hear me reading my satires at [thelaughingsatirist.com](http://thelaughingsatirist.com),” he adds. “I only write fiction when I have an idea to write

about. The rest of the time, I am a chaplain at Episcopal Retirement Services in Cincinnati. Monthly I phone **Bob Pratt** and lunch with **Jim Miller** and fraternity brothers **William M. ‘Bill’ Lamb ‘64**, **James A. ‘Jim’ Sims ‘64** and **William V. ‘Bill’ Coombs ‘64**. We seem to be holding up well. I enjoy what I am doing so much I don’t feel a need for exotic travel or other adventures.” **Alex Valchuk** returned to Greenville, Tennessee — “forever, Karen and I hope” — after moving to Florida in 2017 to care for Karen’s mother. “She passed away in late 2021, which gave us the option of staying in Florida or returning to where we belong. So here we are. We have an almost hilltop home with a panoramic view of the Appalachian Mountains and the valleys between.”

**1966**  
**Alden D. Carter**, McCall, Idaho, reports, “Powder skiing this December was beyond phenomenal. In a 28-day stretch, we had 18 days of more than three inches of fresh snow at 17 degrees or less. Wow! Then on Jan. 6 the faucet turned off.” Writing in March, he wondered if it was too early start to mountain biking. “Real estate has been off the charts since COVID,” Alden adds. **Frank B. Dibble** describes the snowbird life as “slowly evolving.” Back and forth between Rye, New Hampshire, and Cape Coral, Florida, over the winter, with responsibilities as president of his local Rotary Club, Frank was ready for those responsibilities to end in June. Mae remained in

Florida, "wisely avoiding the cold and snows," he writes. "Our latest adventure is a new puppy. Don't ask me why two 77-year-olds would get a puppy!" Their schnoodle — a miniature schnauzer-poodle mix — now house-trained, is "very cute and very smart. We both continue to work part time, I as a Compassus Hospice medical director and Mae in law, primarily estate planning. We are well and hope you are the same." **Denis B. Pierce**, Evanston, Illinois, joined fellow Dekes for a February reunion on Captiva Island co-organized with **Arthur H. Stroyd Jr. '67** and **Walter R. Butler '68**. "Also attending were **R. Barry Tatgenhorst '67** and wife Ann, **Edward B. Gaines '68**, **John M. Capron '64**, **Cray J. Coppins** and wife Peggy, **Michael R. Scadron '68** and partner Jean Hett."

### 1967

**Brian J. Derry** enjoyed winter in Missoula, Montana, having moved there from Colorado in 2006. "Kathy and I have really treasured being a walk away to streams and rivers — the Clark Fork of the Columbia — as well as walking and hiking trails. We have partnered with Missoula Aging Services to conduct workshops on conversations about what you want those close to you to know about your desires for care if/when you cannot speak for yourself." Brian is active with the nonprofit Home ReSource, keeping usable materials out of landfills, as well as Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Montana.

"Our current focus is supporting refugees coming to Missoula and providing shelter, food and counseling to our homeless population," he adds. "A special joy is being involved in the lives of two of our grandchildren, now in high school." **David W. Fey Jr.**, Newport Beach, California, shares this comprehensive note: "After graduation I got married and then reported to Air Force pilot training at Reese AFB, Texas, in July. In September 1968 I started flying C-141 transports, stationed at McCord AFB in Tacoma, Washington, upgrading to aircraft commander. In November 1970 I was in Southeast Asia flying CH-53C special operations helicopters until 1972. In 1972 and 1973 I spent two months flying between Christchurch, New Zealand, and McMurdo, Antarctica, with a brief visit to the South Pole. In 1974 I was transferred to Sacramento to start a new jet program. My daughter Hilary was born in 1975." David subsequently flew for Air California, later purchased by American Airlines, from which he retired "on the last possible day" in 2005 at age 60. "Yes, I flew on 9/11/2001," he remembers, "going from JFK to LAX." A retired Air Force Reserve colonel, he spends a week lifeguarding at a camp for foster children. "At age 66, I renewed the Red Cross lifeguard certificate I first got at Kenyon in 1964," he recalls. "Now it is service organizations, trips to Florence, Italy, with daughter Hilary, and sunsets at the beach with the dog and a glass of wine."

**The Rev. Dr. William C. Scar** enjoys life on a little horse ranch in Aiken, South Carolina. "Wouldn't live anywhere else now. Built a true age-in-place home, the third house I've had the privilege to design and build. I still maintain a small psychotherapy practice and volunteer in areas of professional development. After two years as a widower, I am about to wed a lovely horsewoman my age who shares my love of old muscle cars. She rescues horses, and we are about to build new stables with living quarters. My osteoarthritis prevents me from running marathons, but I do have new knees

and time with neighbors and family. "We survived several rounds of COVID infection and vaccine doses and are 'over' masks and vaccines and social distancing! Our family has grown to 10 grandchildren since 2020, and we have traveled to see the East and West coast families three to four times in the last two years." Lee is "terribly disappointed" in the movement to replace the Kenyon team nicknames. "I cannot believe that a small minority of on-campus or close-to-campus people are driving this without first consulting the whole of the Kenyon alumni population to determine whether a

**Brown '59** encouraged him to look at Kenyon, "which turned out to be a perfect fit for me," Bill writes. "I found my way into Michigan's dental school and interned at their Center for Human Growth and Development, where I met Robert Moyers, who pointed me to the orthodontic program at the Université de Montréal. I opened a practice in St. Bruno, Quebec, and was a clinical instructor at McGill for six years." Bill moved back to northern Michigan, opened a practice, joined the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontics and has published 19 articles and lectured all

**"Don't ask me why two 77-year-olds would get a puppy!"**

— **Frank B. Dibble '66**

and shoulders and a few other things. Therefore I don't travel a lot now, but I have lots of room for visitors." **Joseph E. Simon**, Fernandina Beach, Florida, still lives on Amelia Island near Jacksonville while working online as a part-time consultant on quality assurance and protocol issues for the children's hospital in Atlanta. "Thinking of a second career as a touring tennis pro," he offers. "Recently pocketed \$160 for winning a 75-and-over tennis tournament. Spent \$2,000 to play the tournament!" **Lee P. Van Voris**, Ninety Six, South Carolina, keeps up outside activities including walking, golf, yard work

majority agree that this change is warranted. I ... always thought that Lords, at least, and even Ladies, were neutral and safe nicknames, with no risk to being offensive or incorrect to anyone. Little did I know, and how naive I was! I hope that everyone comes to their senses on this issue. There is no need for change. This is embarrassing and makes me not proud of my undergraduate alma mater."

### 1968

**William M. Northway**, Frankfort, Michigan, calls his "a lucky life." At the Eastern prep school Williston Academy, a coach and teacher named **Raymond L.**

over the world. "After 45 years of having the best job on the face of the earth, I sold my practice in September 2019, three months before the first case of COVID-19 was identified," he concludes. "For nearly fifty years I had the pleasure of working with people, many of whom would cover their mouths when smiling or laughing but ended up flaunting their smiles. Finally, I am married to the girl of my dreams. Pretty lucky." **Jack D. Train**, Burbank, California, wrote from The Lodge at Little St. Simons Island, Georgia, "a truly unspoiled barrier island closed to development but welcoming to lovers

# Bulletin | Class Notes

of birds and reptiles. Like many of my Kenyon friends, I love what the College and affiliated groups are doing to preserve and enhance nature and sustainability in Gambier and Knox County. Onward!" **Timothy J. Wildman** reports, "For several years now, including during 'safer' times of the pandemic, five Kenyon grads — all Kokosingers — have gathered to sing old and new arrange-

comes wisdom!? Still working part-time as a urologist. I'm not sure why, but I guess I still love seeing patients in the office. I miss my old friends at Kenyon and hope all are well." **Peter D. Lawrason**, Fairbanks, Alaska, continues working as a full-time OB-GYN. "Addie, my youngest, is a freshman at Arizona State in the bachelor's nursing program. Drew is studying at the University of Alaska while living in

wonderful wife, Nitza Ellis." Since retiring after 35 years teaching at the University at Buffalo Law School, Bob has served on the board of the Girls Education Collaborative for eight years, chairing it for five. "We have helped the Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa build and open a successful boarding school for girls in a remote area of Tanzania, and I have been able to travel there three times," he

professor. Kenyon has come a long way since the 1960s, when I was the lone anti-war protester one day in Mount Vernon!" **Charles H. Matthewson**, Tucson, Arizona, updates that in December he had the honor of being memorialized with his father at the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial near San Diego — "a long way in time and space from the commissioning of Kenyon's 'last lieutenants' at the Hill in 1970." **Anthony W. Olbrich**, Boise, Idaho, reports he is "holding up better than ever at an age I couldn't have imagined to see 52 years ago. Over three consecutive journeys, I've hiked 1,200 miles on various routes of the Camino de Santiago across Spain and Portugal. Collectively, they were life-altering experiences. I play tennis most days, trying to represent our generation against millennials and others. **Mark S. Geston '68** is a neighbor, and occasionally we run into each other walking our dogs. Currently in conversation with renowned classmate **Murray L. Horwitz** about an upcoming visit to Boise, where a theater company I have links to will be staging his hit creation, 'Ain't Misbehavin' That's my motto, too." **David Taylor**, Bozeman, Montana, updates, "After Kenyon, medical school led me to the lifelong study of infectious diseases. Tropical medicine training in England led to a fellowship at Johns Hopkins, work in Panama, epidemiology work at the CDC, and then a move to Walter Reed Army Institute of

Research, where I spent the next 20 years, most in vaccine development. Five of those years were in Thailand, another three in Peru. Cholera vaccine work eventually led to a large trial in Peru during a 1990s outbreak. When I retired in 2002, I returned to the public health school at Hopkins, then on to vaccine development for the biotech and pharmaceutical industry. Currently I'm the medical director for clinical research at Bozeman Health. My wife, Joanne, and I, living here for the past nine years, have always loved the mountains. The friendly community has been a perfect place for semi-retirement. Both children live in California, one is married and we have one grandson. Life has been full of good memories, and new memories come with each new day."

**1971**  
**Belinda Bremner**, Oak Park, Illinois, reports that her daughter was married in September and her son will be married in October. "Retired from teaching, busy with writing, theater and volunteer work. The Oak Park Festival Theatre, the Midwest's oldest professional outdoor classical theater and my theater home, suffered a devastating fire in late November just after our last indoor production, and I have been busy fundraising to replace all the equipment we lost. Our friends have been beyond generous, and we are back this summer with 'The Winter's Tale.'" **David A. Caplin**, St. Louis, Missouri, informs that although it is "some-what counterintuitive,"

“Kenyon has come a long way since the 1960s, when I was the lone anti-war protester one day in Mount Vernon.”

— **Donald L. Comis '70**, on participating in weekly protests in Mount Vernon, led by a Kenyon professor

ments for ourselves and occasionally for schools and health-care facilities. **James S. Hecox '69**, the very first Kokosingers musical director and arranger, **Paul G. Keiner '70**, **Eric B. Herr '70**, **Jeffrey A. Walker '74** and I have billed ourselves as the Kokes Classics and gathered mostly at my centrally located home in Concord, New Hampshire. What a joy to create close harmonies again with such good friends from our Kenyon days! For whatever my opinion is worth, we don't sound too bad!"

**1969**  
**Robert G. Fugitt**, Getzville, New York, writes of turning 75, "It's sobering to be this old! But hopefully also

Naples, Florida. Older sons Brad and Alex (with twin high school grandchildren Kelly and Slater) live in New Jersey. My older daughter is a physician living in Durango, Colorado, with her 3 1/2-year-old daughter, Olivia, and husband, Josh."

**1970s**  
**1970**  
**Robert S. Berger**, Buffalo, New York, reflected on his decade of lows and highs: "The lows have been the losses of many friends, including classmates, the most devastating being the 2012 death of my wife, Alice Kryzan. For highs, the births of grandchildren and a second chance at love with my marriage last October to my

informs. **G. Christopher Blauvelt**, Amherst, Massachusetts, is pleased to announce a sixth grandchild, Yusuf Blauvelt, born Aug. 10. A seventh was due in June. "Very blessed!" **Donald L. Comis**, Howard, Ohio, is busy planting trees and prairie plants and hoping to restart a volunteer Nature in the Valley column in the newsletter published by his housing association in Apple Valley, about five miles from Kenyon. "You never know where life's going to take you! Two years after my wife's death, I'm moving into routines, more writing, starting to write my life's stories. A lifelong protester, I participate in a weekly protest/silent vigil in Mount Vernon led by a Kenyon

his plastic surgery practice has thrived during the pandemic. "Current plan is to continue practicing with a wind-down over the next three to five years, transitioning from private practice to academic practice for the last few. I often think back to our years at Kenyon and the many friendships that made those years so special."

**Philip H. Cass**, Dublin, Ohio, defines semi-retirement as "working only on things I want to work on." For him, that's the mindfulness-based Physicians Leadership Academy he founded in 2014, he informs, comprising eight classes that have so far produced 133 meditating physicians. Other consulting work involves physician well-being or resolving conflicts within organizations. He and senior year roommate **Sante Matteo** meet at the Clifton Mill Gorge restaurant for breakfast a few times a year — "join us if you'd like." **Glenn W. Fritz**, Chesapeake, Virginia, reports he is "lucky to be here" after contracting COVID-19 in late 2020 before vaccines were available. "I was in rough shape for about a week. As you lie in bed, between shaking chills and red-hot fever, you have a chance to think a lot about how you got here and how lucky your life has been. I never dreamed I would be so fortunate: a beautiful wife, four great children and seven grandchildren, all magnificently healthy. Kenyon College launched me on this beautiful journey. My professors, my coaches and above all my fellow classmates gave me the energy and knowledge to set my course to try to be the best I

could." **Jack Killen**, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, shares, "Undeterred by the pandemic, a flock of old peeps and assorted hangers-on gathered at Sea Island, Georgia, last October. Epic weekend of dear friends sharing treasured — if sometimes hazy — memories of our amazing years on the Hill, and catching up on 50 years of life since we were last all together there. Present with me were **Dan Pickens**, **Jan S. Ostrovsky**, **Peter Hoover**, **Ransom Griffin III**, **David T. Duff**, **Douglas M. Vogeler**, **James E. Brece III '74**, **John M. Himmel '73**, **Randolph Kent Harrison '73** and many of their spouses. **Sante Matteo**, Oxford, Ohio, teaches film and lit courses for Miami University's Institute for Learning in Retirement via WebEx, allowing people from all over the world to participate, "including my old roommate **Philip H. Cass**," he shares. "He signed up for my film course last fall and my lit course on Italian lovers this spring, and **Joseph Chu** took a course about his beloved city of Paris." Details on how to register are at [miamioh.edu](http://miamioh.edu). **Scott D. Miller**, Pewaukee, Wisconsin, sold the consulting firm he founded in 1996, ESI Equity, to his partners in 2019. "Not quite done with the serial entrepreneur thing, my next chapter includes building a significant portfolio of directorships in ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) companies." Scott serves on seven ESOP boards and is enjoying the seasons in Wisconsin, after he and his bride of 40-plus years, Jayne Ayers, sold their horse farm and moved into

## "I never dreamed I would be so fortunate ... Kenyon launched me on this beautiful journey."

— **Glenn W. Fritz '71**,

finding gratitude for a life well-lived while recovering from COVID

"a blessedly low-maintenance condo" where they can "play with grandchildren and stay focused on the things most important to us." **Christopher A. Myers**, Baltimore, a partner at the law firm Holland & Knight in the D.C. area for 25 years, and his wife, Christine, now approach their 45th wedding anniversary. "Of our three adult children, none are lawyers, although they are all great debaters. We recently moved to Baltimore to be closer to them and are planning a multi-generational household with daughter Caroline and youngest son Byron. We regularly see **Jeffrey C. Franklin '70** and his family and recently met with **David W. Cronin '73** and his wife. We are planning a trip to Asheville, North Carolina, to visit the Franklins and will see **David Greenwood '72** there." **Robert C. Patrick**, Mugla, Turkey, shares that after a career teaching in independent schools, he and Martha took up multiyear positions at the American International School in Egypt and then the Taipei American School. "Overseas life was delightfully varied. As I reached retirement age, we decided to find a home abroad and help

others experience the sense of international community we had come to love." For 17 years, they have lived on Turkey's Aegean coast, serving on the board of the Herodotus Academy of the Third Age. "I lead the group's program of walks and hikes, Martha leads writing groups and handles administrative tasks, and we travel with friends to historic sites, enjoying the people, culture, mild climate and six Greek islands. Kenyon Professor Robert Bennett started me thinking about Turkish coasts during a fascinating classical civilization course."

### 1972

**Steve Zinder**, Ithaca, New York, writes, "In 1974, I got a master's in microbiology from Colorado State University, where I fell in love with the mountains and my wife, Chris. At the University of Wisconsin, I worked with Thomas D. Brock, famous for his work with thermophiles — including discovering the bug that makes the enzyme used for PCR reactions such as COVID tests — and completed my Ph.D. in bacteriology in 1977. On a post-doc at UCLA from '77 to '79, we were almost seduced by southern

# Bulletin | Class Notes

California living, but I spent more than 41 years as a microbiology professor at Cornell." Steve specialized in microbial diversity and environmental microbiology. He retired July 1. "I've been still going in to work most days, trying to finish up some research and publications. I had a good run, and even got an honorary degree from Kenyon in 2014. I guess all that time in the lab as a chem major paid off." Steve visited **Richard B. Ripley** in California and now plans to relocate to Portland, Oregon, where two sons live.

**1973**

**Thomas E. Allen**, Takoma Park, Maryland, is resurrecting his

Fiona. Every day, I feel lucky to be alive! First class of women forever! I wish I could teleport to Kenyon right now and hug every one of you!" **Merrill Tomlinson Carinci**, Queens Village, New York, updates, "I got COVID early on and survived unscathed — except for my taste buds. Then got the Omicron version and got through that easily. I deal with clients who, like most of us, are suffering from systemic trauma due to COVID. Working full time, seeing 25 to 40 a week in private practice as an LCSW. My personal solution to stress was to get a dog. Nova and I run through Alley Pond Park in Queens at 7 a.m. with a pack of people

Virginia. We preserved our first 39 years ago and can't remember how many we've done since then. We swear this one will be our last! It's a very special house. The couple who built it were free Blacks. After they emigrated to Liberia in 1850, the property became the home of one of Lexington's earliest Jewish families. We look forward to seeing who owns it next!" **Mitchell L. Jablons**, Watchung, New Jersey, retired four years ago from his anesthesiology practice. "Life has been busy: another grandchild, tennis, exercise, skiing trips out West with my wife and part-time work as an anesthesiologist, which gave me a sense of purpose during the social isolation of the pandemic. Looking forward to the return to normalcy." **Kurt Karakul**, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, retired as president and executive director of the Third Federal Foundation after 15 years. Kurt worked with the superintendent of Cleveland schools on an award-winning Slavic Village educational program investing in young urban children from pre-birth to graduation from college. He serves on the Kenyon Alumni Council, several nonprofit boards and a project mentoring fourth- and fifth-grade students. He, wife **Mary Beth** and son **Conner '11** and **Trudy V. Andrzejewski '12** returned to the Hill recently, enjoying lunch at the V.I. with **Thomas P. Stamp** who, Kurt reports, "gave us a tour of the amazing new library and other campus improvements. I encourage you to visit

campus to see them yourself." **David L. Landefeld**, Lancaster, Ohio, retired as a judge on the Fairfield County Municipal Court on Dec. 31, 2021, after completing one six-year term. With the Ohio Constitution preventing any judge past age 70 from beginning a new term, David "officially became 'constitutionally senile' and unable to run," he jokes. "So we just returned from a month's vacation in Hawaii celebrating my senility." **Ellen Pader**, Northampton, Massachusetts, who taught at UMass, Amherst, for over 30 years as an anthropologist in regional planning and in public policy, is now "failing miserably" in her role as professor emerita, she jokes. "Since retiring in 2019, I've taught my favorite gen. ed. class on Zoom and in-person (masked), and started an academic editing side gig. Lets me enjoy my wooded view at home. My daughter, Dvora, recently graduated from UMass with a self-designed degree in equine facilitated therapeutics. The one positive about the forced isolation of COVID has been virtual cocktail hours with Kenyon friends." **Jeff Parker**, Boulder, Colorado, sends a heads-up: "Missing those seminars on the Hill? I have been listening to Melvyn Bragg's 'In Our Time' podcast. Few are about anything in our time; a very well-prepared Bragg and three academics dig into some topic — the 'Song of Roland,' the poetry of Thomas Hardy, the mind of Alan Turing — and every week is something

"I wish I could teleport to Kenyon right now and hug every one of you!"

— **K.D. Novak Burnett '73**

musical interests after 40 years working with the deaf. "I performed tenor — I can still manage a high note or two — in a concert performance of the Vivaldi Gloria, and I have sent my clarinet out to be refurbished. The ghost of Paul Schwartz lurks." **K.D. Novak Burnett**, Beaverton, Oregon, "just called to say I love you!" she writes. "After a four-year string of health problems, I am making a big comeback in 2022. ... I'm still working at 70, married to the same old guy (Clint). Mother of Nick, grandmother of Adara and

and up to 15 dogs (off leash) every day." Merrill adds that her long-term interest in labyrinths led her to spearhead the construction of a 50-foot-diameter labyrinth on the grounds of Zion Episcopal Church. "All are welcome to come and walk it. The graveyard of the church is interesting, too, part of it dedicated to a native burial ground of the Matinecock, still an active tribe on Long Island." **Jean C. Dunbar** updates, "Peter and I are celebrating our 40th anniversary by saving yet another historic property in Lexington,



ONE OF US

## Susan Emery McGannon '72

As one of the first women to attend Kenyon in 1969, Susan Emery McGannon '72 is accustomed to blazing trails. After college, she graduated from Vanderbilt Law School and has been a partner in a Nashville law firm, an in-house general counsel for a municipal self-insurance entity she helped create, and then the city attorney for Murfreesboro, Tennessee, before retiring in 2015. Along the way, she has been active in elected and appointed positions with professional and community organizations.

**Major at Kenyon:** Religion

**Hometown:** Westport, Connecticut

**Current Residence:** Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Professional Motto:** On my first day as city attorney, I told my staff that I wanted us to "Do excellent work, ethically, efficiently, and, to the extent we could, enjoyably."

**Personal Motto:** "Be Prepared." (From the Girl Scouts)

**Proudest Accomplishments:** In my first year as a lawyer I decided to organize and host a breakfast for new admittees

to the bar with our state Supreme Court justices. This led, several breakfasts and years later, to the formation of a bar organization focusing on issues of concern to women. The organization, the Lawyers Association for Women-Marion Griffith Chapter, was a model for other such organizations in the state (two of which I also founded), which have been very influential in getting more women on the bench and in other positive changes.

**My closest Kenyon friends would describe me as:** Helpful, quiet, thorough, inquisitive, a good friend to have; calm, constantly and quickly reading; shy, logical, witty; "goody two-shoes."

**Anything else?** There were many "opportunities for growth" (a.k.a. challenges) as one of a few sophomore women at Kenyon in the fall of 1969, and I "grew" as a result. Being the only woman in a classroom made it much easier for me to be the only woman in a courtroom. I will always be grateful to Kenyon for making me a lifelong learner. However, I still regret the things I did not do and the questions I did not ask; don't be afraid of being different/difficult. Moreover, it is seldom convenient to be active in professional, community or political organizations; do it anyway.

## “COVID has refocused many of us, me included, on what matters in life — family, compassion for the world.”

— The Rev. Marylen Marty-Gentile '74

new. He keeps his guests on their toes, and I'm hooked. Only one episode a week, but a backlog of 300 — almost like being at the best seminar you remember, but Bragg never calls on you!”

**David L. Roberts**, Laurel, Maryland, recently published an article in *Convergence*, an online journal of the Mathematical Association of America. The article is titled “Building a Book: HathiTrust, Ancestry.com, Serendipity, and Lifetime Interests.”

### 1974

**Thomas F. Northway**, East Grand Rapids, Michigan, practiced dentistry for 43 years. “My wife and I have been in the same downtown lake house for 41 years,” he shares. “It’s been a great town to watch grow. In 2020 our only daughter, Emelyn, delighted us with the news that she was pregnant. Discovery of a massive lymphoma required immediate chemotherapy and triggered the birth of our beautiful healthy granddaughter, Olivia, 10 weeks prematurely. The chemo was long and brutal but thankfully effective. During her multiple treatments in New York City, we made many trips; it became

clear to me that dentistry was getting in the way, so I retired last July. We were then free to help them during her recovery. We spent six weeks with them during their search for a nanny and look forward to visiting them more in Rowayton, Connecticut.” **The Rev. Marylen Marty-Gentile**, River Forest, Illinois, submits her first ever class note on the approach of the 50th: “After spending 20+ years in parish ministry at a church in Oak Park, Illinois, I retired. My life now mostly consists of being a decent human — trying hard — and an excellent nana to three young boys, with some travel thrown in. COVID has refocused many of us, me included, on what matters in life — family, compassion for the world.” **Elizabeth R. Schram**, Cincinnati, reports, “After 20 years in banking and 20 years as an independent bookstore owner, I have retired. Hope to spend more time with my family and read all the books I have put on my retirement bookcase over the years. I have one grandchild and look forward to more.” **Peter Smagorinsky**, Athens, Georgia, updates that his 2020 book, “Learning to Teach English and

Language Arts: A Vygotskian Perspective on Beginning Teachers’ Pedagogical Concept Development,” has been awarded the American Educational Research Association’s 2022 Exemplary Research in Teaching and Teacher Education Award. **Jeffrey A. Walker**, Lexington, Massachusetts, sings with the Kokes Klassics — **James S. Hecox '69**, **Eric B. Herr '70**, **Paul G. Keiner '70** and **Timothy J. Wildman '68** — performing at schools and assisted-living facilities in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. “We had a little hiatus due to the Omicron variant but performed again this spring. **Karen Handel Walker '77** and I enjoy taking care of our twin 4-year-old grandsons in nearby Somerville and visiting our 2- and 4-year grandsons in Montreal, where our son’s family lives.”

### 1975

**Teresa G. Betts**, Solon, Ohio, celebrates her 47th wedding anniversary with Bill this year. “I am retired from teaching,” she updates, “but keep busy teaching online cooking history classes for seniors through Baldwin-Wallace College’s Institute for Learning

in Retirement, and creating church banners for my business.”

**Michael C. Kulwicki**, Troy, Michigan, has found his “retirement groove” teaching ESL and American culture to expatriate auto executives and Syrian and Afghan refugees, he informs. “I’m also a docent at the Arab American National Museum. COVID has curtailed my travel, but I’ve spent time in Florida during the pandemic. Had the chance to visit with **Marian S. Block** in January. Grateful that I live near and can spend time with my two grandchildren.” **Kevin J. Martin**, Glendale, California, sings, “Time keeps on slipping / Into the future. Here we are, facing 70 and happy to still be here.” Kevin is “happily employed” by **Thomas A. Lucas’** video streaming venture, MagellanTV: “I tried retirement but it didn’t take, and now I write articles (magellantv.com) for readers’ amusement and my own. I’m especially happy with my recent essays on artists Renoir, Warhol and da Vinci.” **Richard S. McGowan** and his wife, Winifred, are retired in Lexington, Massachusetts. “Daughter Rebecca is a performer, choreographer and teacher of Irish dance in the Boston area,” he writes. “My career in speech production research and the related acoustics and air flow ended about eight years ago. I had a brief career teaching mathematics in community colleges near Yuma, Arizona, and El Centro, California, sometimes right on the Mexican border and on a Marine base. That has been mixed with political

campaigning in Ohio, California and Arizona. I am now writing my third book on the mathematical physics applied to phonetics. We travel to the Kingston, Ontario, area in the summers, and I often drive a bee-line to the Southwest in the winter.”

### 1976

**Fran Abby Kurtis**, West Orange, New Jersey, met with **Joanie Schaffner** and **Gillian Teweles Denavit** at MoMA for a quick visit. “Gillian was in from Paris, and Joanie came down from her home outside of Boston, while I came in from New Jersey. Lots of catching up!” **Anne L. (Zilbersher) Sherwood**, Shoreline, Washington, shares, “Still in the workforce ... I’ve been a medical science liaison with pharma company MorphoSys a little over two years. The pandemic hit our family pretty hard, as I lost my mother in April 2020 and my husband, Peter Hudson, on March 29, 2021, to COVID-19, as well as several friends. Still living in and loving Seattle, despite the rain.” **Kim M. Straus**, Santa Fe, New Mexico, updates, “Having worked in college admissions for 12 years, six of them at Kenyon, I looked forward to our son’s college search with a bit of nostalgia for how that process used to work. ... We looked at schools in seven states, and he was admitted to every college to which he applied. Despite a little prodding on my part to choose a Midwestern college, he picked Dominican, a university in California he found entirely on his own.

Wonderful to remember those days in Ransom Hall through our son's quest and decision."

**1977**

**Beshara B. Doumani**, Birzeit, West Bank, Palestine, writes, "Greetings from Palestine. In the hope of making a contribution to higher education for Palestinians, I took a leave from Brown University to become president of Birzeit University near Ramallah: an intense but inspiring challenge. Wish I could beam over to Middle Path for a leisurely stroll with some of my classmates." **Kim Effron**, Brattleboro, Vermont, teaches from home students of all ages who have dyslexia and language-based differences. **Marna Herrity**, Brooklyn, New York, has taught at middle school, high school, college and graduate school for the past 42 years. Many of her former students have attended Kenyon, and she loves hearing about their experiences on the Hill. She looked forward to seeing classmates at the May reunion, as well as her Quaker friend **James D. Morgan '57** and nephew **Stewart H. Kerns '07**.

**1978**

**Christopher D. Barr**, Vail, Colorado, updates, "Retirement is fun! Living full time in Vail now. Went back to Columbus this September and got to see **Timothy G. Glasser '80**, **Timothy M. Bridgham '79**, and Coach Steen and Marcie! Skied Steamboat this winter with **James F. Parker '81** and **Susan (Jones) Oakes '81**. Met an alum, **Theodore C. Taggart '91**, on the tennis

courts this summer ... new tennis and ski buddy!" **Michael D. Sarap**, Cambridge, Ohio, informs he is in his 35th year of surgical practice and 40th year of marriage. "Blessed to have my son-in-law as a partner and my daughter and grandkids in the same community," he notes. "Honored to have held national leadership positions for the American College of Surgeons and the Commission on Cancer, leading to numerous articles and speaking engagements nationally and abroad. I constantly reflect on my years at Kenyon and consider the profound effect the experience and the people had on my attitudes, goals and life aspirations. I left the Hill forever changed in the best way possible."

**1979**

**Elizabeth Mueller Gross** and **Thomas S. Gross**, Washington, D.C., are grandparents. Simon Slade Alushin was born in November to daughter Emma and her husband. "Simon is perfectly wonderful," they submit. **Kathleen V. Kirk**, Normal, Illinois, updates, "In February I performed the role of Babs (exactly my age) in the play 'Life Sucks,' by Aaron Posner, which is 'sort of adapted from Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekhov,' according to the playscript cover and poster. Perfect title for our times! ... This is at Heartland Theatre in central Illinois, where **Scott Klavan** once visited as the judge in a play contest!" **Stacy F. Moseley**, Jacksonville, Florida, writes, "After a life and career in Manhattan, I returned to the South with my husband in 2001. We've

raised two swamp babies who are almost fully launched: one pursuing music in L.A. and the other stepping into event management in Boca. Now, I'm deep into a successful career designing playgrounds, happy as a clam and savoring life as a late bloomer."

## 1980s

**1980**

**Jeremy Bromberg**, Lincoln, Massachusetts, updates, "In 2016, I was working as an independent business consultant, supporting mostly professional service firms. Almost exactly two weeks after my high school 40th reunion, where we talked about transitions, a business contact called me to ask, 'How do you feel about medical marijuana?' So for nearly six years now I've been building

Mexico, reports, "Now retired from teaching and soon to be a grandmother, I had the enormous, if peculiar, blessing of spending an entire autumn and winter in Ohio with my 92-year-old parents and my son **Andrés E. Millan '07**. Medical treatment for breast cancer was interspersed with trips to nature reserves, parks, arboretums, gardens, bogs and beaches, in autumn and again under snow. The Cleveland Museum of Art was a nearly daily treat, with ensuing discussions, internet searches and podcasts about ancient civilizations. We've shared explorations of jazz, observations of the social structures of Wooster, and analyses of love, forgiveness and family. Late-night conversations, casual chats and easy hanging out among the four of

"I tried retirement but it didn't take."

— **Kevin J. Martin '75**

and running cannabis businesses in New England. My newest employer is planning a more national approach, so my vision will expand as well. Two grown sons, one building a novel fintech app called Eco, and the other learning the fine art of cannabis cultivation. Life's pretty simple. Looking forward to hanging out again with **Roger O. Fillion** at industry conferences!" **Virginia Calhoun de Millan**, San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas,

us were unexpected treats. Oh, and the cancer treatment seems to have been successful, too!" **Maria A. Masucci**, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, happily reports, "After five years as associate dean, I am returning to teaching, research and global education. I will be directing Drew's London semester in the fall and a dreamed-of research sabbatical in the spring, including (we hope) a chance to get back to our research



“I’ve fallen in love with pickleball and play it as much as I can. My motto is move while I can!”

— Frances H. “Corky” (Hood) Hebert ’82

station in Ecuador. The pandemic has been brutal there, but friends and colleagues have come through. Would love to connect with any of our class in England!” **Lisa D. Schott**, Mount Vernon, Ohio, looked forward to a June retirement after 37 years working for Kenyon. “My past 12 years with Philander Chase Conservancy and creating Kokosing Nature Preserve have been especially rewarding,” she notes. “The Conservancy, which has helped to conserve almost 6,000 acres in a five-mile radius of Kenyon, was awarded national accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission in February. Our two sons and their families live in Columbus, so we will have more time with them and to enjoy our granddaughters, ages 1 and 2.”

#### 1981

**Kerry Hall**, Wilmette, Illinois, updates, “After 40 years in the classroom, I’ve retired from teaching high school social studies. It’s nice to still be coaching tennis. With more time for travel, family, biking and reading, I’m loving retirement!” **Susan J. Hudson**, Medina, Ohio, and her wife spent winter holidays with their daughter **Cassandra**

“**Cassie**” **K. Hudson-Heck** ’19 — while fighting COVID. “It just gave us more time together,” Sue writes. She directs two programs in women’s health at the Cleveland Clinic.

#### 1982

**Julie E. Berman**, Savannah, Georgia, received her Global TESOL certificate at the end of 2021 and began teaching ESL classes at Savannah Technical College. **Bill Edwards**, Anniston, Alabama, “tentatively embraced the 21st century via purchases of a recently made car and a recently made phone. Apparently those items go together now, like a new overcoat and galoshes.” **Stephen F. Hale** said farewell to St. Louis after 30 years at the St. Louis Brewery, home of Schlafly Beer, he updates. “Time to head back to New England and then move onto our new 44-foot catamaran as a permanent home. Sara and I are picking up the boat in Buenos Aires in September, planning to get to Maine the following summer, and we hope to see many of you along the way! Follow our travels at sailwiththehales.com.” **Frances H. “Corky” (Hood) Hebert**, Lutherville, Maryland, writes, “Forty years? Really. Incredible — I

find myself 62 years old and a grandmother! I consider myself very lucky and blessed. My four kids are all over the country — Arizona, Kansas, New York and Virginia. Still in real estate, 22 years now, and have my own flower-arranging business, Petal Pushers. I would love to retire but not in the cards just yet. Fallen in love with pickleball and play it as much as I can. My motto is move while I can!” **Maryanna (Danis) Klatt**, Columbus, Ohio, reflects, “Time spent at Kenyon has remained a sweet spot in my memory! Four healthy grandkids whom we love — I hope one might land at Kenyon. I became director of integrative health at Ohio State this year, and it has been a wild ride. Our mindfulness program (mindfulnessinmotion.osu.edu) has been adopted by hospital systems/organizations all the way to the West Coast. The reductions in burnout and stress speak for themselves, but the research data is what people want. I especially love seeing college freshmen breathe easier, along with the health-care professionals who have risked their own wellness over the pandemic.” **James C. Nichols-Fleming**, West Berlin, Vermont, took advantage of an early retirement offer from his school district last spring. “I am enjoying a more flexible schedule,” he reports, “but it took some adjustment. I am volunteering as a guardian ad litem for children in state custody, as well as subbing a few days here or there at my former school. Not too much down time, but enough

to walk more frequently, keep up with the local newspaper and do more home cooking.”

#### 1983

**Beth A. Crawford**, Haydenville, Massachusetts, writes, “Last year I threw off the black robe, bought a gigantic hammer drill and began making sculptures from reclaimed granite, concrete and rusty bits of iron.” **Amy McCloskey**, Brooklyn, New York, updates that although she has had some demanding jobs, she’s never worked harder than she did reopening her bar, Madame X, after being closed for 16 months: “Between having to replace nearly my entire staff to dealing with guests who seem to have reacted to shutdown uncertainty by needing to micromanage every detail, it’s been a real roller coaster. Still, NYC nightlife appears to be coming back strong. In some ways it reminds me of what it was like when I first started going out here. Eat, drink and be merry, folks, because who knows what tomorrow will bring? Hoping to divest myself of enough of the day-to-day to visit **Gwen A. Kreager**, **Ellen Leerburger** ’86, **Jocelyn B. Hardman** ’87 and **Joanna E. “Nona” Rubin** ’84 this summer!” **Nancy R. Powers**, Gambier, Ohio, was in Utah for a niece’s wedding when she and her brother, in a Kenyon T-shirt, were walking down an alley. “When a car pulled out, two people, seeing the T-shirt, rolled down the window and asked if we were from Ohio. They were **Laura Read Wood** ’82 and her husband, **Anthony W. Wood** ’82,

on vacation. Laurie and I played on the women's club soccer team together for three years! We all went out to dinner and had a lovely time catching up." **William S. Sondheim**, Fairfield, Connecticut, reports, "2021 was an awesome year for me and my family. My middle daughter got married in the same Rhode Island seaside chapel where I was married 32 years earlier. My son got engaged and will be married this fall. My other daughter got a nice promotion and a new place in Boston. My kids really had a stellar year in adulthood! My new company, Greenfield Media LLC, executive-produced three films last year, and we have five lined up for 2022. I am making modest-budget action films with well-known marketable cast."

#### 1984

**Elizabeth A. Dellinger**, University Heights, Ohio, serves as general counsel and senior vice president for Park Place Technologies. Betsy has two sons, 18 and 19, and stays in touch almost daily with Kenyon friends. **Amy R. McKune** and **Kenneth E. Moncrieff '85** moved into a new home in Kansas City, Missouri, in May 2021. "We have been lovingly renovating it to recapture its mid-century charm," she updates. "We were wed four days later with a very small group of close friends in attendance. Several friends and family joined us via Zoom, including my father, **John E. McKune '52**." **Candace M. Owen-Williams**, Locust Valley, New York, won the Woodridge Award for Great Teachers,

which was presented by her former student, Broadway playwright Jeremy O. Harris on May 9, National Teacher Day. Harris wrote "Slave Play," the most Tony-nominated play ever. Jeremy also invited Candace to the Tonys, and she walked the red carpet with him. **Rolf J. Pendall**, Champaign, Illinois, writes, "When I studied at Kenyon, my dad was on Social Security and my mom worked as a technical editor. Kenyon provided me generous grants and a small loan at 3 percent interest. From today's vantage point, I can see how privileged I was to get an excellent B.A. with practically no debt, then to go on to get three graduate degrees, also with enough assistance to finish without debt. But 1980–84 was also a time when it took a lot less generosity for working-class kids to receive a high-quality college education. Where I teach now, at the University of Illinois, in-state tuition as of 1980 cost \$2,000 in today's dollars. Now it's over \$12K. Out-of-state, it's nearly \$30K. So I spend a lot of time thinking — in a field, city planning, where the default practice credential is now a two-year master's degree — about how to build pathways from high school to community college to four-year degrees and careers for the many young adults who aspire to change the world but can't manage even an affordable liberal arts B.A."

#### 1985

**Emily M. Resnik Conn**, Woodbridge, Connecticut, updates: "The scene: 1. Knowing

my 'baby' would be graduating from college in May; 2. Not knowing when and if we'd be able to take the next family vacation; and 3. Wanting to stay in the country during COVID. Who you gonna call? Classmate **Jan M. Richardson**, travel agent extraordinaire and Disney aficionada! Jan helped us plan the best trip to the Magic Kingdom just before Christmas. It's certainly a different trip to Disney when traveling with over-20-year-old boys, as opposed to when they were school age. This time they couldn't wait to 'drink around the world' at Epcot. And they were up for all the rides — which couldn't be said for their father!" **Stephanie L. Dudgeon**, Columbus, Ohio, has worked on an inpatient psychiatric unit in a 900-bed hospi-

so much more bearable for our family. I am ready for our lives to not feel like a season of 'Ozark' episodes!" **Kristen Moloney Farmer** lives in her hometown, Metamora, Michigan, working as a professional photographer for the last 20 years. "But I am taking a hiatus right now," she shares, "to manage my son's band, Frame 42. It has been a trip! They just got back from a national tour. Yes, I traveled in a tour bus for three weeks with 10 other people. All worth it, because I got to see **Susan B. Berger**, **Megan O'Donnell Patton '84** and **Leslie Ross Choma '84** in Ohio. I spend the rest of my time getting pushed, pulled, jumped on and hugged by my three beautiful grandchildren." **Jan M. Richardson**, Ridgeland, Mississippi,

Last year, he was excited to see his nephew **Liam W. Brodigan '19** in California.

#### 1986

**Margaret S. Callesen**, Avon Lake, Ohio, reports spending a wonderful early November weekend in Chicago with **Christine B. Melone**, **Jill A. Kalish**, **Jennifer A. Cohan** and **Megan Coleman**. "It was fabulous to just connect, relax and enjoy the company of lifelong friends. Bonus was a lunch with **Pamela L. Kalish '89**!" **Katherine Drake Chial**, Chicago, updates, "My husband, our partners and I are entering our fourth year of owning the Montrose Saloon, a live music venue featuring roots-based folk, experimental, pop, rock, jazz, soul, punk and country music, with

“Yes, I traveled in a tour bus for three weeks with 10 other people. All worth it.”

— **Kristen Moloney Farmer '85**, on serving as a manager for, and touring the nation with, her son's band, Frame 42

tal for the past decade. "Two years ago, as the pandemic unfolded," she updates, "our unit remained open. My colleagues and I found ourselves bumped to the front lines. We have worked nonstop for the past two years. A year ago, my beautiful sister **Sonya Dudgeon Broeren '90** died after a three-year battle with cancer. Love and support from members of the Kenyon community made the situation

joined the Keep Mississippi Beautiful office as assistant director in November 2021. "I was honored to receive the Madison County School District High School Parent of the Year award for the 2021–22 school year," she updates. **Josh Welsh**, Glendale, California, continues to work in the independent film world as president of Film Independent and to record music under the moniker of Meatyard.

a large outdoor beer garden in the Albany Park neighborhood. Starting a business the year before a pandemic presented many challenges, needless to say, but we're still here and immensely grateful for it. We've had a number of bands consisting of younger Kenyon alumni, a few of the touring Kenyon capella groups and the Part-Time Lovers — an '80s cover band featuring a couple of Kenyon alums

# Bulletin | Class Notes

— perform at our club, along with numerous local and touring acts.” **Charles E. McClellan** and his wife, Sharon, and their three children live in Dubai, U.A.E., where he is assigned to the U.S. consulate general as chief of the American citizens services section. “It’s hot here in the Gulf! Despite the challenges brought on by COVID, we’re enjoying the ‘superlatives’ Dubai has to offer: the highest Ferris wheel, the tallest building, the longest zip line, the biggest indoor aquarium, the largest

right now. I’m director of the Empathy Project at NYU School of Medicine, where we use media, technology and research to train a new generation of clinicians to value and to practice empathy. If what you’re doing intersects with empathy, drop me a line at [maura.minsky@nyulangone.org](mailto:maura.minsky@nyulangone.org). I’d love to hear how you’re thinking about empathy and find ways to enrich one another’s work.”

**1987**

**Charles C. Adams IV** writes, “Hello from sunny San Diego! I

15 years, and continued to go in each day of the pandemic: “Lab work isn’t easily done from home. The same goes for my husband, a master technician in automotive repair — he also kept going in to work. My son finished his OSU master’s in mechanical engineering in 2020. In early 2021, my father, **Thomas M. Jenkins ’57**, was found to have liver cancer, and I spent the better part of the year as his primary caregiver. His passing has left an odd vacancy in my routines. Caring for our loved ones is

Kenyon friends in Santa Fe — **Beth (Welty) Dreyfuss** visited last week.” **Lisa Sell**, St. Michael, Minnesota, reports, “I am living my same wonderful rural life. My husband is a farm vet, I am a small-animal vet, and we have a flock of 100-plus sheep that keep us busy when we’re not working. Our son graduated from South Dakota State University and now teaches high school animal science and agriculture. One daughter is at Lafayette College in eastern Pennsylvania and one daughter is at Grinnell College in Iowa, so we went two for three on small private liberal arts colleges. Both girls are admissions tour guides (I was a tour guide for three years at Kenyon). Since their schools are both very similar to Kenyon, they’re always excited to tell me when they’ve had a family on tour who has also visited Gambier!”

**1988**

**Justin Lee**, Berkeley, California, works for a tech company that uses virtual reality to treat stroke patients. “They actually have a blast doing therapy with penguins in VR pinball worlds!” he reports. “My daughter, Marnie, is in her third year at UC Davis, and my wife, Sheryl, is a licensed architect who does a lot of home-hardening consultation for wildfires. I still train youth cross-country and track; one of my former runners just won a California state high school championship!” **Matthew C. Pasher**, New York City, works remotely supporting users of the Quickbooks product suite.

Daughter Naomi is a seventh-grader at the Professional Performing Arts School in the theater district. “It’s a tremendous challenge being a parent to a tween,” he observes, “so any offers of support or a shoulder to cry on are appreciated. I am really enjoying reconnecting with lots of Kenyon people through our K’80s website and have started a weekly call on Sunday nights with a wonderful group. Recently caught up with **Sabrina Barr Kotzen** and have had great help procuring hard-to-access books through **Michael K. Zorek ’82**, who works at a wonderful bookstore in the city.” **Lauren (Ewers) Polite**, Chicago, updates, “The A-3 girls took advantage of **Patricia Rossman Skrha**’s exciting news and gathered for a pre-wedding celebration. Congratulations, Pattie and George. In other news, our daughter Tia is now a certified sommelier if anyone needs some wine-pairing recommendations. Son Max weathered the cold as a University of Rochester sophomore.” **Paul Singer**, Boston, informs, “I am helping a local museum divest itself of a bunch of vintage typewriters. Totally coincidentally, my manual typewriter collection has recently expanded. My sentimental favorite remains the 1949 Underwood Leader I used to write my senior thesis at Kenyon. It still has a cartoon from 1985 taped to the front.” **Thomas C. Richardson**, Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, has been producing season three of his outdoor-adventure/destination show “Explore New

“It still has a cartoon from 1985 taped to the front.”

— **Paul Singer ’88**, typewriter collector, on the 1949 Underwood Leader he used to write his senior thesis at Kenyon

(and most painfully crowded) shopping mall. It’s all here! We’ll see where this Foreign Service adventure takes us next!” **Maura S. Minsky**, Brooklyn, New York, reports that her family was matched with a Ukrainian family of eight who moved to Brooklyn. “My head is swimming, thinking of all they must navigate in a new country with a new language while their home is being destroyed. There’s not much for us to do but be present for them. The same week I lost a friend to aggressive lung cancer. We hadn’t been in touch for years, but in his death he reunited a group of friends who met in our 20s and became a family — a family I didn’t know I needed so much

moved here from Santa Monica two years ago, and last September I got married to Jennifer Ouellette, who grew up in Maine 30 minutes away from me in Manchester, Massachusetts. I still manage Semper Fuel LLC. Have taken on a new endeavor as a house painter with a small existing company owned by a good friend of mine and will become owner by the end of 2022.” **Genevieve C. Bates** married **Marshall Garrison ’86**. “We met at Kenyon 37 years ago when we both lived in Watson, and he charmed me with his smile and his awesome ’80s hairstyle.” **Elizabeth (Jenkins) Erb**, Loveland, Ohio, has worked for International Paper for

such a blessing as well as a stressful challenge.” After graduation, **M. Rebecca Kilburn** earned her economics Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and became an economist at the RAND Corp. for 28 years before transitioning to a research professor position at the Prevention Research Center in the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Living in Santa Fe for 17 years — more than 1,500 miles from Gambier and with fewer than 100,000 residents — she finds it remarkable to connect with Kenyon so often: “Close local friends are Kenyon alums, my children have teachers who went to Kenyon, colleagues graduated from Kenyon and so on. I also regularly host

England," which airs on a regional TV network (NESN), as well as on Roku and YouTube. "It has been an interesting journey from editing and writing for print magazines to the film and TV world, but the theme of trying to tell interesting stories remains the same. Plus, it's a lot of fun and way better than a desk job!" Last summer, Tom spent a Florida weekend catching up with **Nina L. Oldenquist, Sarah (Fox) Call, Lori S. (Hewitt) Harrison, Joseph H. Shrum, Thomas A. Gallucio, E. Douglas Thompson Jr. and Donald M. Dowd III.** "We had a blast," he sums up, "although I'm pretty sure the phrase 'I'm getting too old for this' may have been uttered a few times." **Patricia Rossman Skrha,** Cleveland, exults, "It's fun to be a newlywed at age 55! And even better when your Kenyon roomies come to Cleveland to join the celebration. Great to see **Laura Jill Tibbe, Lauren E. Polite, Susanna M. Brown, Susan Lind Quigley, Lynne A. Schneebeck,** along with spouses Blase Polite and **John A. Quigley '89,** and niece **Kaitlin E. Rossman '21.**" **Shelley G. Swank-Anderson** and **Kevin J. Anderson,** Peoria, Illinois, celebrated reuniting with **Bret Frye** after eldest daughter **Kiele L. Anderson '21** moved to Marietta, Ohio, and got a checkup at Bret's dental practice. Middle child **Leah N. Anderson '23,** Kenyon women's soccer goalkeeper, had a blast studying in Edinburgh. Shelley has been busy delivering Meals on Wheels this year. "Some elderly and

shut-ins who count on the program for a daily hot meal are living in terrible circumstances in some cases and complete squalor in others. Support your own local programs to help the poor, disabled and shut-ins!"

### 1989

**Tanya M. Charlick-Paley** updates, "As part of the national conversation about racial justice, law enforcement and community safety, I am using my political science, community organizing and nonprofit development background as the grant manager for an international NGO called Nonviolent Peaceforce. A new U.S. team focuses on combating police and community violence in Minneapolis and anti-Asian violence in New York by providing skills and lessons learned from our work in the Global South. We can create grassroots responses that de-escalate the violence and shift the responsibility to each of us to do what we can in our neighborhoods, nation and world. As part of this new adventure, we have gotten an apartment in Minneapolis and I am loving city life." **Mollie A. Curry,** Asheville, North Carolina, will break ground this year on her straw bale house. "It feels *huge* — exciting and scary at the same time," she informs. "We are acting as the contractors and plan to share our 25-plus years of experience via workshops/apprenticeships along the way." **Erika D. Reiss,** Canal Winchester, Ohio, updates, "This is my first Class Note, so I'll cover the decades

quickly. Immediately after leaving The Hill, I got my education master's from John Carroll, started elementary teaching, got married, had three kids, then one more (at 42!). My kids are currently 25, 22, 21 and 13. I got divorced in 2013. I started my 32nd year of teaching this year (first grade), married the man of my dreams in Maui in July of 2022, and bought my first horse in April of 2022! Lots of dreams are coming true, and I'm currently happier and healthier than I've ever been." **David H. Richards,** Amherst, Virginia, reports, "Jeanne and I are raising two teenagers in central Virginia. I have been doing political commentary for ABC, CBS and Fox affiliates as well as online news outlets while still chairing the University of

Fridays, I don't feel like my brain is on fire."

## 1990s

### 1990

**Dirk A. Beamer,** Farmington, Michigan, is "grateful to Kenyon for many things, but none more than my best friend and the love of my life, **Jessica Faith Becker Beamer '92.** We celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary in August!" **Meredith Pastore Bleveans** writes, "After nine years in Los Angeles, **Lincoln Bleveans '89** and I are moving to NorCal. He took a job with Stanford, and we have been waiting until our youngest finishes high school to move. So we will be empty-nesters, and I will continue to work as a private writing instructor. Happily, the pandemic taught me and my students

**"Lots of dreams are coming true, and I'm currently happier and healthier than I've ever been."**

— **Erika D. Reiss '89,** providing a life update in her first Class Note submission

Lynchburg political science and international relations and security studies programs." **Eric A. Williams,** Indianapolis, writes, "In the midst of the pandemic, three of my chaplain colleagues and I wrote a short book for hospital workers titled 'Staff Care in the Midst of Traumatic Events'. The free e-book is at chaplaincyinnovation.org under resources/ebooks. The pandemic is winding down: On

that we can do great work through the magic of Zoom and Google Docs, so I will be taking them all with me as we move to Half Moon Bay, California." **David E. Elliott** is now artistic director of the historic Cape Playhouse in Dennis, Massachusetts. "It's a rather magical place," he informs, "where luminaries such as Gertrude Lawrence, Gregory Peck and Henry Fonda once trod the boards of the

# Bulletin | Class Notes

beautiful 525-seat theater — not to mention recent Tony winners, two of whom I booked for this summer! I was initially tasked with remounting the 2020 season, canceled due to the pandemic.” The 2022 season kicks off with ‘Grease’, then ‘Private Lives’, ‘Always ... Patsy Cline’, ‘God of

years since moving to Seattle. “For all its changes,” she writes, “I still love to call it home. But this past year I got to spend several months living ‘back home’ in Chicago. One of the best parts of that experience was seeing my dear Kenyon roommates **Lara M. Moutsos** and **Ellen “Sam” Samberg**. I

other side of campus. The bandit didn’t know it wouldn’t go uphill sometimes.” **Melanie Carlos**, Silver Spring, Maryland, treasures precious memories of a mini-reunion with dear Kenyon girlfriends in Wisconsin thanks to the post-pandemic wedding of the eldest son of **Chelsea M. Guillen** and **Christopher Guillen**.

“Staying busy at home with my ‘little dude’ who is not so little anymore — tenth grade! — taking him to cello lessons and crew practice,” she writes. “Recently I was appointed to the board of a growing nonprofit aimed at strengthening the educational outcomes of autistic students.” **Andrew D.**

**Keyt**, Chicago, launched a new family-enterprise consulting firm with two of his closest colleagues last October. “The firm is off to an amazing start, with 10 consultants on three continents,” he reports. **Stephanie R. Klein**, Minneapolis, reports that, after six years with the University of Minnesota, she has returned to the private sector as principal consultant at Explorance.

“Our purpose is helping clients gather meaningful data, understand it and apply the resulting insights to institutional improvements,” she writes. “My role will allow me to continue supporting the higher education community — just from a slightly different angle. Like many others, I’ve been working remotely the last two years. That will continue, albeit with a lot more time zones involved.”

## 1992

**Sara Joyce Corley** and **Stephen J. Corley**, Bellevue, Washington, spent winter break

visiting their two daughters, **Eleanor P. “Nell” Corley ’25** at Kenyon, and Margaret at Davidson. “Nell was one of the Kenyon first-years who had an incredible first semester in Copenhagen,” they write. “She is finally in Gambier. We rallied 12 of our friends to join us at the 30th Reunion this May!” **Julia T. Flotten**,

Duluth, Minnesota, is an oncology R.N., having switched from outdoor education to nursing 14 years ago. “My wife, Alison, and our 11- and 17-year-old explore the Minnesota woods and lakes and trails as often as possible. With our son at a school in Utah this year, we’ve been learning a whole new ecosystem. As usual, Duluth is a great place to visit — our door is always open! Well, not literally, when it’s –25F!” **Justin S. Roberts**, Evanston, Illinois, updates, “It’s been a strange couple of years navigating quarantine as performing musicians. My wife, Anna Steinhoff — cellist and Oberlin alumna — and I have had the amazing distraction of our son Eli, 3, to guide us through. I collaborated with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on a video project for kids, did a bunch of streaming events — it’s really fun to perform to no one in your basement! — and worked on new material. I have a new kids’ album coming out this year called ‘Space Cadet’, featuring bandmate **Liam Davis ’90**, and a new picture book called ‘I’ll Be Your Polar Bear’ that will be released by Putnam in October.”

## 1993

**Hilary E. Bunlert**, Oakland, California, writes, “I finally dipped

## “I won’t miss wearing masks, but I’d love to keep lobbying in jeans.”

— **Claire Lane ’90**, on transitioning back to in-person work as a lobbyist working on federal hunger policy

Carnage’, ‘An American in Paris’, ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ and wraps up with ‘The Fantasticks’ (see [capeplayhouse.com](http://capeplayhouse.com)). **James J. Johnston** is “living the dream in Denver! Three kids aged 9, 10, and 13, and my wife and I are building an urban fruit tree orchard and vegetable farm. Lots of time devoted to Rotary, preparing to be district governor soon.”

**Anthony T. Kopyar**, Dublin, Ohio, writes, “It’s funny how life can come full circle. Our family bought a house at Apple Valley Lake, where we spent considerable time the last two summers. Great timing with COVID taking away summer vacation opportunities. I frequently drive to Kenyon to get coffee (the KC is now a coffee house) and walk around campus. It looks the same, yet different.” Tony adds that **Joseph C. Bline** moved into his neighborhood, so they frequently run into each other at sporting events. **Claire Lane** marks 30

even got to spend a day with **Paul Singer ’88**, who came from Boston to visit me — easier to do in Chicago than Seattle. I work on state and federal hunger policy, so I’ve just finished my second year lobbying Washington state’s legislature — and Congress — virtually. I won’t miss wearing masks, but I’d love to keep lobbying in jeans.”

## 1991

**Whitney L. Balliett Jr.**, Woodbury, Connecticut, is a family therapist in a local school and in private practice. “I spend time hiking with my dogs every day and not enough time catching up with fellow alums,” Whit writes. “I have dreamy thoughts of Gambier, and so many memories. I remember owning a yellow and black (like a bumblebee) 1976 Datsun, with the key stuck in the ignition. One night a security and safety officer called me to retrieve it, driver-side door open, idling on a hill on the

my toe into the waters of publishing with the release of my new paranormal romance series, California Demigods. Curious classmates interested in a racy romantic romp with gods and goddesses are encouraged to check out my author website at [hepayton.com](http://hepayton.com)."

**Trish (Segal) Piliado** moved from the Pacific Northwest back to Ohio, one county west of Knox, in November after 22 years away. "Was super-excited to reconnect with **Randy L. Rock**, **Amy L. McLanahan** and **Jennifer A. Carter**," Trish writes. "I bought my dream horse farm in the small town of Marengo, 30 minutes north of Columbus and 30 minutes from Kenyon! I also have a guest suite I rent out through Airbnb, so if you need a place to stay near Kenyon, keep me in mind. I took a new job with Columbus City Schools as the supervisor of social-emotional and student support services and am excited to be back in the Midwest." **Laura G. Simpson**, Galena, Ohio, updates, "My oldest, Sofia, is halfway through her Ph.D. in physical therapy; my youngest, Natalie, graduated from Butler in May and starts her master's to become a physician's assistant. So proud of both of them studying to help others in the medical field. I'm finishing my 16th year in education and eighth year as a literacy specialist. **Rod H. Simpson '91** and I are having fun with our RV, visiting national parks." **Maryann P. Surrick** became general counsel of The Sentry, an investigative and policy

NGO co-founded by George Clooney and John Prendergast that works to combat genocide by shutting out war criminals, kleptocrats and transnational war profiteers from the international financial system. "I still live in Washington, D.C., next door to **Ann Miller Kaye**, with my husband, Scott; our two boys, Ben (almost 15) and Will (12); our Labrador, Chloe; and our free-range house bunny, Bartleby," she writes.

**1994 Christopher G. Calvosa**, Bronx, New York, updates, "While many of you are contemplating your kids going to or even graduating from college, I'm just getting started. My wife and I were blessed with our second child, a little girl, in mid-February. She and her big brother, who turned 3 in early March, are doing well together, but let's see what happens when she's interested in playing with his firetrucks. I've been taking parenting advice from **Julian L. Boxenbaum**, **Nathaniel P. "Nate" Nonoy** and **Corey A. Goldsand**, and I welcome additional thoughts from any parents who can remember having little kids around the house." **James K. Feuer**, Alhambra, California, just aired his first recurring TV role on "A Good Cop" and is looking to meet with industry alumni in Los Angeles. **Amy (Katz) Leaman**, Pittsburgh, informs, "After leaving the legal field during the pandemic, I now work at an independent used bookstore in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh. We have an online

presence, so our used books can be found on sites such as Biblio.com and Alibris.com. I've been thrilled to fill orders for customers in Gambier! I hope the little notes I've enclosed have made each recipient's day!" **Robert T. Rogers**, Benicia, California, writes, "In September, I married my best friend and the love of my life, Kristen Holmstrand, in our hometown of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Many of our friends — including **Jason A. Creux**, **Katy J. Dettinger**, **Stephanie L. Hartman**, **Bradley M. Hersh** and **Loren R. Lease** — witnessed via livestream as we exchanged rings and read to each other from 'David Copperfield'. **Alexandra Rowley**, New York, reflects, "I love seeing how Kenyon has evolved since graduation, and I'm eternally grateful for all I learned

grateful to be working as an artist and photographer with clients as diverse as Architectural Digest, Weight Watchers and The Sunday Times of London Style Magazine." **Paige R. Ruane**, Ghent, New York, reports, "I am living happily in the Hudson Valley with my husband, Jack, a writer and teacher. Being from Gotham, I never expected to end up in the sticks. It felt like 'The Shining' when I got here, but quickly turned into a 'Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood' dream. A couple of years ago I co-founded an organization called Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley ([climateactionhv.org](http://climateactionhv.org)). I co-direct a program that supports municipal leaders through the nuts and bolts of transitioning to sustainable and regenerative practices. It's a joy to

reports, "and teaching students to sing while wearing masks! It continues to be a wild but very rewarding ride!" Daughter Mia is a first-year pre-med at OSU, and son Leo is in high school, where his soccer team recently won a state championship. **Emma (Mead) Melo's** son **Raphael A. Melo '25** started his first year at Kenyon last fall, she reports. At her home in Louisville, Kentucky, "College acceptances have started rolling in for our daughter Olivia," she writes, "which means next fall the house will be empty for the first time in 20 years. Lots more time to devote to work and projects — and a whole lot less time in Costco and carpool!" **Jill E. Pollack**, Silver Spring, Maryland, received a "pretty big promotion at the Department of Commerce," she

**“While many of you are contemplating your kids going to or even graduating from college, I’m just getting started.”**

— **Christopher G. Calvosa '94**, on the birth of his second child in February

along Middle Path. I would not be a working artist were it not for the broad, creative and mindful education I received from professors **Gregory Spaid '68**, **Melissa Dabakis** and **Mort Guiney**, among so many others. Throughout COVID I've been hunkering down in my hometown of NYC with my husband and 10-year-old son. Very

be in close touch with **Ronald W. Rittinger**, **Darnell P. Heywood** and **Alexander D. Fox**. **1995 Jennifer Anderson Marcellana**, Columbus, Ohio, is in her 16th year teaching in Kenyon's music department. "During the past couple years, this included teaching students to sing via Zoom," she

informs, "and I now lead a team of about 20 people, some of whom I've never met in person," to collaborate on trade enforcement. "I have a new appreciation for local newscasters and others who work onscreen." To her classmates who work as teachers or in education, she offers, "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you've

# Bulletin | Class Notes

done over the last two years. I hope as a society we can bring you the appreciation and respect you deserve.” **Lynne (Jarvela) C.J. Sommer**, Aurora, Colorado, shares memories of “slip-sliding down an icy Middle Path to class” and adds, “time for a second-generation layer: My daughter **Elyse R. Sommer '25** is reliving a few of my memories while she creates some of her own. Getting to class in February is nearly an Olympic sport. Was that a front-side 360 tail grab? Meanwhile, I continue to enjoy 300 days of Colorado sunshine.”

**1996**

**Catherine L. Broadhead**, Palm Beach Shores, Florida, is working hard at her company, NeoHear.com, which serves the d/Deaf and hard of hearing as well as hearing allies. “I am planning on changing it to a nonprofit in the future, and I encourage any alumni who are d/Deaf or HOH to reach out if they are interested in being involved.” **Lisa Cafferata**, Watertown, Massachusetts, had a year of reset, she reports: “After 18 years with Young Presidents’ Organization and a short five-month summer sabbatical, I joined TIGER 21, a network of ultra-high-net-worth individuals based in NYC, as vice president of programming. That

change has allowed me to spend more time on other activities I am passionate about: I led a summer leadership forum at the JFK Presidential Library in Boston, consulted on learning strategy for 50/50 Women on Boards, and advised on strategy for a nonprofit startup, the Knowledge Pledge. Excited to be traveling again — including a girls trip with **Laura Wessel Cornely** and connecting for coffee in San Francisco with **Gillian Kneass**. My kids are now both in high school, and I can’t believe we’ll start college tours next year!” **Pia V. Catton**, New York City, is director of development at Battery Dance, a contemporary dance company. “Every August, we host an outdoor dance festival in Lower Manhattan — come see!” she invites. “The company is known for its storytelling and community-building workshop, Dancing to Connect, which has been shared in more than 60 countries, often in places where people are dealing with trauma or dislocation. In July, we’ll be in Houston working with recent immigrants from Afghanistan.” **John A. Koepke**, Vernon Hills, Illinois, is “back in the theater once again, trying out my acting chops,” he updates. “We are doing an adaptation of ‘La Cage Aux Folles.’

While my wig is a little itchy when I’m sweaty, I love the feel of the heels as I dance and prance through the show!” **Steven C. Radak** and **Amanda S. (Carter) Radak '98**, Kent, Washington, celebrated 24 years of marriage in April. “We survived the COVID years in pretty good shape. My company embraced remote work, so I now happily work from home with my wife. We discovered we still like each other even being together for so much more of the day. Still working on getting to the empty-nest stage. The elder spawn is working her way toward a degree in automotive tech and moving in with her spouse. The younger was a ‘lucky’ high school graduate of COVID and is still trying to figure out what he wants to do next.” **Brandie (Mayes) Wagner**, Cortland, Ohio, celebrated 25 years working for Stellantis (Chrysler). “I remember leaving Gambier right after graduation and starting an internship with Chrysler the very next day,” she recalls. “My son Miles is all grown up with a real job, and Clo, a high school sophomore, keeps me busy with all of her dance, drama and Girl Scout events. I’ve been their Girl Scout leader for the past 11 years and am proud that I have been a Scout for 41 years. I recently

joined the board of the Fine Arts Council of my county and hope to continue bringing the arts to young people. I love taking teenagers to gallery openings and plays.”

**1997**

**Jeremy R. Collins** moved to Cincinnati and started working as the senior network administrator at Shepherd Material Sciences. “My partner has started working at Tri-Health as a laborist, and we are currently looking for a house,” Jeremy updates. “We currently live downtown and enjoyed the Bengals’ playoff run. We are within walking distance of the stadium and enjoyed the sense of excitement that permeated downtown during the playoffs.” **Jose “Don” C. Espanol Jr.**, Washington, D.C., celebrated 20 years working at National Public Radio. **Amanda Mason Gadrow**, Pickerington, Ohio, was promoted to VP of quality assurance and support at RStudio, PBC. Mandy is “excited to contribute in new and interesting ways to our mission to help people understand and improve the world through data.” She also “had an absolute blast” participating in her first USCA curling bonspiel in Detroit in February. **L. Elliott Holt**, New York City, informs that she is “thrilled to be among the 35 prose writers who won 2022 fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. I’m grateful for the financial support and the vote of confidence in my fiction.” **Adam Hunter Howard**, Studio City, California, was recently selected for the Road Theatre Company’s

Under Construction Playwrights residency. Each of ten writers spend nine months working on a brand-new play — they rely on one another for critical feedback and collaboration. At the end of the residency, the completed plays are presented at a public reading in Los Angeles and the company has first option on producing the works. **Amanda K. Berg Wilson**, Boulder, Colorado, is artistic director of the Catamounts (thecatamounts.org) and a freelance director and performer with companies around the state. “Especially excited the world premiere of ‘Theater of the Mind’ will finally happen in September, despite some COVID-induced delays,” she writes. “It’s an immersive theater piece by Mala Gaonkar and David Byrne, produced by the Denver Center’s Off-Center wing. I’m assistant directing and having the once-in-a-lifetime experience of collaborating with one of my heroes.”

**1998**

**M. Lark Cowart**, St. Charles, Illinois, writes, “Remote work options and more time together as a family let us better keep up with all the kid activities. This winter we all got into ice skating, thanks to the public rink in the park behind our house. Sean, 7, finished his first season on a swim team, and Meredith, 5, is eager to follow in his footsteps. Also, I took over as cubmaster for my son’s Cub Scout pack in April. I returned to the Kane County state’s attorney’s office in February to continue my work in child protection, am still

## What changed your life?

For a chance to be featured in this section, email [editor@kenyon.edu](mailto:editor@kenyon.edu) and tell us about the movies, books, music and other things that have enhanced your life.

an adjunct professor of social work and criminal justice at Aurora University, and coach high school swimming.”

**Aaron M. Czechowski** and **Adrienne L. Czechowski '97**, Sammamish, Washington, have been enjoying the Pacific Northwest for the past 10 years. Aaron has been at Microsoft for 15 years, currently leading a team of technical writers for Windows documentation. He’s also active with the Washington Trails Association, writing for the hiking guide and volunteering several times a month to help improve Washington’s expansive network of trails. “We spend lots of time at the new Climate Pledge Arena to cheer on the Seattle Kraken NHL team,” they write. “Oldest son Ezra is in his second year of a program at Washington State University called ROAR, where he’s learning to live and work independently while managing epilepsy. Daughter Sophia, a high school senior, has applied to nine small liberal arts colleges across the country — including one on a hill in central Ohio!”

**Kathryn Kerr Fitzsimmons** moved to Savannah, Georgia, to resume a teaching career. “I missed it the entire six years I lived in Michigan,” she explains. “I teach fourth grade reading and language arts at an independent school on Wilmington Island and absolutely love it.” Her husband, who splits his time between Georgia and Michigan, will move to Savannah permanently in the next year. Since moving, she adds, “I have never had so many visitors in my life. In late

January my five besties, **Megan Grannis Blackmer**, **Kielty Gallagher Nivaud**, **Lauren Crossett Weymouth**, **Kristina Racek Pechulis** and **Alison A. St. Vincent Von Kennel**, came for a long overdue girls’ weekend. We had a wonderful time and began planning travel arrangements for our (gulp) 25th next May!”

**Christine O’Neill** has been spending time in Aptos, California, with the boyfriend she met a year ago “after sharing what felt like a particularly vulnerable Facebook post about what I was looking for in a guy,” she updates. “Working for myself for almost five years now, and that also keeps getting better. I support those who’ve created success on paper but don’t feel successful, and also work with executives and entrepreneurs in creating a deeper, more meaningful experience of life and work ([christineoneillcoaching.com](http://christineoneillcoaching.com)). I’m also currently in a feminine embodiment intensive program, expanding my understanding of myself and others, my capacity for love, and what it really means to follow your bliss. Pretty wild: 40s are feeling fabulous, and I’m very grateful.”

### 1999

**Courtney K. Bambrick**, Media, Pennsylvania, updates, “After more than a decade as an adjunct, I am finishing my first year full-time as an assistant teaching professor at Thomas Jefferson University’s East Falls campus in Philadelphia. I am feeling some survivor’s guilt but really grateful to have this position

## “I’m assistant directing and having the once-in-a-lifetime experience of collaborating with one of my heroes.”

— **Amanda K. Berg Wilson '97**, who has been working on an immersive theater piece, “Theater of the Mind,” by Mala Gaonkar and David Byrne

in a supportive writing department when so many adjunct professors are struggling. I am still poetry editor at Philadelphia Stories, where I coordinate the LitLife Poetry Festival, but I finally have a little more energy to spend on my own writing. Hoping to see more of **Patricia M. McCartney**, **Mary Fran Torpey** and **Krista M. Apple** out and about!”

**Kelly C. (Harkless) Lyles**, Cockeysville, Maryland, reports, “**Robert L. Lyles III** and I and our three kids, 10 to 13, found time to travel and visit friends outside the COVID bubble this year. I have expanded my environmental consulting company, KLT Group, with more employees and states where we do business.”

**Fernando O. Ramirez**, Montesilvano, Italy, on the Adriatic coast, has lived there since 2003. “I have been loving it every day.”

**Richard G. Woodbridge**, Lockport, New York, marked his tenth year owning and operating an organic vegetable and fruit farm near Buffalo, he informs. “The pandemic brought record numbers of customers in search of local, fresh food and an opportunity to reach underserved communities. I had the chance

to create a popular beginning farmer training program for Cornell University, which I teach on the side. There are challenges to living and working on a small farm, but my wife and two daughters, 4 and 8, keep things fun and interesting.”

## 2000s

### 2000

**Apple Plotnick Jannotta**, Lynnwood, Washington, and her husband, Jeremy, announce the birth of their son Luca in May 2021. “He is a delight — laughter, kisses and giggles fill our home.”

**Vanessa Miller-Sims** updates, “In January, my husband, 5-year-old son and I moved into a new home in Novato, California, north of San Francisco. We are enjoying settling in with a little bit more space.” Vanessa teaches high school biology and enjoys swimming in the pool and bay, she writes. “My 5:30 a.m. practices are the highlight of my week: Definitely never thought I would say that!”

**Dan Nemiroff** and **Sarah E. Holmes**, Ardmore, Pennsylvania, live outside Philadelphia with their kids Max, Lilly and Izzy, and dogs Sunny and Midge. Sarah owns



# Bulletin | Class Notes

and operates her own law firm, and Dan works as a project manager for the region's transit authority. **Maraleen D. Shields**, Allentown, Pennsylvania, submits that despite not winning election to a judgeship in Lehigh County, "We ran a successful campaign, and I'm looking to change the face of leadership in my community. I appreciate the support of Kenyon folks along the way: **Michael S. Lewis**, **Nicholas P. Deifel '02**, **Rebecca J. Kent**, **Kristin Ann Meister**, **David M. Cohen '77**, **Arthur H. Stroyd Jr. '67**, **Molly M. Gutridge '99**, **Eugene Peterson '70**, **Susan A. Apel '83** and many more." Maraleen settled back into private practice and is assistant solicitor for the city of Bethlehem. "If our 11-year-old (Cole) and 6-year-old (Sage) don't keep Kevin and me too busy, I work out daily and am developing my Spanish. Starting from nothing in 2019, I am now able to speak with some fluency, which helped quite a bit on the campaign trail here."

## 2001

**Rowan Williams Haug**, Starkville, Mississippi, teaches in Mississippi State University's art department. "Masks off in class today for the first time in almost two

years, and it has been interesting to see how different my students look than I thought they did. The last couple years saw us doing all the pandemic things: baking, making homemade pasta, canning, gardening, getting chickens and other extra pets, and reading." **Brooke E. Hauser** and **Addison D.S. MacDonald** put down roots in Northampton, Massachusetts, where they live with their two children: Marlow, 10, and Sydney, 6. Brooke recently started working as an assistant arts editor at the Boston Globe, and Addie is general manager for performing arts and film at MASS MoCA, in the Berkshires.

## 2002

**Rebecca M. Capasso**, New York City, returned to Bellevue Hospital inpatient psychiatry in March as the associate director of inpatient services. "My two children are both in elementary school now." She enjoys catching up with **Rebecca S. Stauffer**, **Gina M. Sorrentino** and **Sarah Daily** often. **Stephanie S. Hoffman**, Fort Myers, Florida, writes, "I'm finally putting my political science degree to use, getting involved in politics as treasurer of a candidate running for

U.S. Congress while still holding down my day job as an attorney. It has been exciting putting to use all the connections I've built over the last 17 years living in Fort Myers. My daughter Lily was really looking forward to visiting campus for the first time for our 20th and her first official college visit as a rising high school freshman." **Carrie N. Simon**, Ithaca, New York, completed a master's in natural resource management from Cornell in 2019 and an A.S. in graphic design from Tompkins Cortland Community College in 2021. "Currently working at Cornell as a program coordinator for the Lund Fellows Program in Regenerative Agriculture, using my free time for my art and design work, and busy raising my kiddos, who will be 7 and 9 this summer."

## 2003

**Nathan P. Fergus** and his wife, Brittany, are raising three boys (6, 4 and 1) in Charlotte, North Carolina. "My older two, Jonathan and Colin, wore their Kenyon sweatshirts to school for college sweatshirt day," he writes. "They were the only two sporting the purple! They were very proud of being so different in the land of Chapel Hill, Duke and Wake! My wife is on her way to publishing her first children's book, 'Stuck In the Mud', which stars Jonathan as the main character. Look for it on Amazon in a year or so! Ian, our 1-year-old, has the nickname Joey Chestnut, since he eats more than the other two combined. Maybe a future Kenyon football player! I am still a 'bone head' musculoskeletal and

breast radiologist with Charlotte Radiology." **Nathan N. Hara** and his family are enjoying Guatemala City and its "eternal spring," he reports. "The weather is pretty much perfect all year long! I loved catching up with **Eric A. Christiansen** when he literally flew a jet into the country with a couple hundred acquaintances. I'd welcome other visitors before my assignment here ends next summer." **Elizabeth M. Poett**, Lompoc, California, who runs her family's cattle ranch, has a cooking show called "Ranch to Table", now in its second season on the Magnolia Network and Discovery+. Last summer, she enjoyed a visit from **Julie P. Smith** and **Drew E. Seaman**, who have been living overseas for nearly ten years, and in Singapore for almost three. On their epic road trip while home in the States last summer, Julie and Drew covered 11,000 miles over three months, "happy to get a glimpse into the lives of many dear Kenyon friends," they submit. Back in Singapore, Drew helps restaurants market themselves better to "kids these days," while Julie is managing director of the Asia-Pacific region for a marketing research agency. **Stephanie (Todd) Waskoenig**, based near Frankfurt, Germany, discovered a passion for trail running over two years of lockdown and restrictions. "I have run a couple of trail ultramarathons that were harder than my senior thesis," she informs. She ran the Paris marathon in April and in June was to try her first 50-miler in the

**"I have run a couple of trail ultramarathons that were harder than my senior thesis."**

— **Stephanie (Todd) Waskoenig '03**, who discovered a new passion for trail running during the pandemic

Alps around Salzburg. "Loved having **Jeff Bridges** visit a few months ago — slightly crazy to have 'Kenyon' here in Germany."

## 2004

**Michael D. DeLay**, Portland, Oregon, who completed a Ph.D. in biophysics at Columbia University, runs a media group called Demystifying Science with his wife, Anastasia. "Check out our podcast and YouTube channels for illuminating analysis of nature and society! I also make records and continue to perform under the name Shilo Delay." **Ashley M. James** and **Elton M. Hartney James** are located in Atlanta, where Elton worked as the lighting console programmer on last year's *Hawkeye* and is now on to something new — but he won't tell what it is yet. Elton traveled to New Zealand in 2020 to work on the *Blue People* Movie sequels — all very secretive. Ashley creates large-scale chalk art, as well as small-scale cookie art, which accidentally blossomed into a small business. "We just took our kids, Lily and Alice, on their first camping trip. Everyone agreed it was an excellent adventure, despite the temperature falling to 28 degrees on the first night." **Jennifer A. Judson**, Arlington, Virginia, was elected in December as the 115th president of the National Press Club. "I am the 15th woman to serve as the club's president and the first millennial!" she writes. "I took over in January and hit the ground running, working to promote a free press and give important

voices a platform to make news. I am also still working as a full-time journalist, covering land warfare at Defense News, and accepted a media fellowship at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies this year. Husband Jim holds down the fort with our two boys (Frankie, 3, and Teddy, 1)." **Emily S. (Ruffing) Herman** and **Derrick D. Herman** live in Marysville, Ohio, where Emily grew up. A pulmonary critical care physician at Ohio State University, Derrick spent the last two years battling COVID-19 on the front lines. "The demand on ICU staff has been tremendous; cautiously optimistic that the pandemic is beginning to show signs of improvement," they share. Emily home-schools three boys (10, 7 and 5) while working part time as a family practice nurse practitioner. "My cousin was recently accepted to the Kenyon class of 2026," Emily adds, "so we are excited to get to spend more time on campus visiting her this coming year!" **Taryn A. Myers**, Virginia Beach, Virginia, was promoted to full professor of psychology at Virginia Wesleyan University. **Adam L. Selhorst**, San Diego, took on a new role as associate provost of online and blended learning at West Coast University. "My wife, Krista, and I welcomed our firstborn son, Xavier, into the world." **Mary W. Thuell** was promoted in March to commercial counsel and deal desk manager at Quorum. "Happy to have transitioned to in-house corporate practice with a SaaS company," she notes. Her home in

Washington, D.C., is a short walk from her office at Thomas Circle.

## 2005

**Andrea L. Dedmon**, New York, reports, "In September of last year I began teaching religion at St. Peter's Prep, a Jesuit boys' high school in Jersey City. Before joining St. Peter's, I spent ten years directing the children's and youth ministries at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Manhattan. Prior to that, I earned a master's of divinity at Union Theological

in even more outdoor activities with Noah and have more people safely meet him! I currently serve as director of human anatomy at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where I teach gross anatomy, neuro-anatomy and forensic medical and graduate nursing students." **Dan Neidecker** writes, "Eighteen years on, my diploma is finally an adult! These days I'm living in Portland, Oregon, with a dog and a house, working as a

using a wheelchair and being fully dependent on others. Four years of multiple tests, procedures and help from the Undiagnosed Diseases Network finally gave us an answer. Please check out the multiple organizations and foundations around the world that are working on a cure. Despite all the surgeries and multiple procedures, Roman remains a constant source of joy and inspiration. His smile is pure sunshine. We're grateful for every day we have with him." **Tristram B. Warkentin**,

# "Eighteen years on, my diploma is finally an adult!"

— Dan Neidecker '05

Seminary. I still live in upper Manhattan and am thinking of moving to Jersey City so I can bike to work again. I plan to spend most of my summer in northern New Mexico making art at Ghost Ranch or chilling with my father and his wife in Santa Fe." **Joseph H. Freeman** works for Amnesty International's communications team as media manager for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Joe earned a master's degree in journalism at Northwestern University and has spent most of his career as a journalist writing and reporting in and about Southeast Asia. **Guinevere E. Granite**, Bethesda, Maryland, updates, "This year, my husband, Jacob, and I welcomed our son, Noah, into the world. We can't wait for it to warm up to engage

civil engineer. I don't think this is where my daydreams would have taken me had I bothered to try to dream this far out all those years ago, staring into the Ohio sky. I've nestled into a pretty good life, though. Regrets are few." **Sandra R. (Henry) Norris**, informs, "Joe and I are still doing the Navy thing. We've moved from San Diego to Jacksonville, Florida, with our three sons. Roman, our middle child, has a rare disease I want to spread awareness about called infantile neuroaxonal dystrophy (INAD), a progressive genetic disease with no cure that shows up anywhere from six months to two years old as regression in mobility and overall development. Roman went from being able to stand and sit on his own to

Palo Alto, California, reports, "After two years of pandemic house arrest, we're all alive, still! My two daughters Mira (6) and Alex (4) are best friends, while my wife, Danielle, and I continue to do fun stuff at Google. I recently switched to lead product management for Google Brain, where I get to do stuff like build the most capable language models in the world."

## 2006

**Samuel W. Anderson** and **Grace Twesigye**, Brooklyn, New York, describe themselves as "wildly competent parents of a toddler (Xavier)." Grace is head of client strategy and operations at Wiser while consulting for a diversity, equity and inclusion company called Courage

# Bulletin | Class Notes



## A KENYON CLASS CHANGED MY LIFE

The Great Books

My first semester at Kenyon I signed up for IPHS, a Great Books-based course. Plato, Locke, Woolf and other writers and our discussions challenged and awakened me intellectually. Since college, the Great Books have been a part of my leisure reading. Three years ago, we started a monthly book club about “How to live a good life” based on similar selections, and our meetings have been very rewarding with 7-12 people attending each month. The Great Books and discussions have enhanced my life. I would not have been on this rewarding intellectual path for the last 30+ years without Kenyon.

— Paul Baier '88  
BOSTON

Collective, and Sam continues to enjoy working for Cornell as an urban agriculture specialist. “We have now lived in Brooklyn long enough to pass as ‘hip’ or ‘gucci.’” **Rayya El Zein**, Philadelphia, left academia in the spring of 2021 to start at Code for Science and Society, a nonprofit working with open source, digital public infrastructure projects. “Great to see fellow alumni at some virtual events we’ve been running!” she writes. “Eager to connect with folks working in open data or public interest technology: @rayelz on Twitter.” **Ginger Larsen** writes, “My partner and I, along with our feline fur babies, moved to Manhattan in March! After spending the past 13 years in San Francisco, I’m excited for the change and look forward to experiencing all NYC has to offer. Work-wise, I just passed my six-year mark with Facebook (now Meta) and last year started a new role as a game producer — loving it. NYC-based Kenyonites, please hit me up with your recommendations!”

### 2007

**Erin M. Ellingwood** updates, “After nearly six years as Mass Audubon’s statewide web and e-communications manager, I left in late February to pursue a new career as a community naturalist, with a focus on native pollinator-plant-habitat conservation ecology. I’ll spend the next year and a half completing science courses, educator trainings and a graduate certificate program in natural resources management. My husband,

Yuval, and I still love living in Somerville, Massachusetts. Not working means more time to get dirt under my nails in my native pollinator and certified wildlife habitat gardens.” **Lisa A. Hamer**, El Prado, New Mexico, and her husband, Ifeanyi, are enjoying life in the beautiful Southwest, where she remains a public defender for Taos County. They recently discovered the joy of hot air ballooning and canyoneering. **Christopher B. Laco**, North Olmsted, Ohio, and his wife welcomed their third child, Annabelle Rose, in September. “Everyone is healthy and doing well.” **Kristopher D. Magnuson**, Lakewood, Ohio, wrote and produced an experimental rock album, *A Tacit Accord*, with his project Ver Novum. “Streaming everywhere. Head to VerNovumBand.com to learn more.” **Megan L. Maurer** is assistant professor of landscape architecture and planning at the University of Copenhagen. “**Jeremy S. Spater** and I moved with our son, 6, to Denmark, where we enjoy biking, swimming and learning Danish.” **Kelsey C. Ross** has been a physical therapist for almost 10 years, she informs. “Due to the pandemic, being a traveling physical therapist alongside my boyfriend was no longer an option,” she writes, “so we settled down in Vail, Colorado. Happily, said boyfriend became my fiancé in October at 12,500 feet. Being a PT for Vail Health/Howard Head Sports Medicine has been an awesome, crazy adventure.” Kelsey worked with a variety of elite athletes, yet her most noteworthy patient

was none other than the uncle of fellow Chaser **Lowell J. “Tad” Gruman Jr. ’08**.

### 2008

**Rachel S. Dickson**, Chicago, just finished producing a film called *Let the Little Light Shine*, airing on PBS in December. **Delia M. (Turner) Crawford**, Washington, D.C., and husband Charles welcomed a son, Malcolm, last fall. “He is adored and spoiled by grandparents **Joel E. Turner ’76** and **Anne B. Chamberlin ’76** and aunt **Jean E. Turner ’10**. We look forward to visiting campus so Malcolm can toddle down Middle Path. Still working in information management.” **W. Neil Johnston**, Bridgewater, New Jersey, recently accepted a job at Temple University as the associate director for graduate student experience at the Fox School of Business. “My wife and I are looking forward to getting settled in the Philadelphia area and catching up with Kenyon alums nearby!” he informs. **Anthony C. Masterson**, Northridge, California, is in his 11th year working for Fox Sports in Los Angeles as the network’s lead MLB and college basketball researcher. “My wife and I just closed on our first home here in the Valley, and we hope it’ll be a wonderful spot for our 2-year-old son, John, and our psycho husky dog, Zoe,” he writes. **Jessie L. Rubenstein** lives in Phoenix with her wife and kids Helena, 6, and Leon, 2, she writes. “In June I accepted a new position as the religious school director at Temple Emanuel of

Tempe. I also graduated from Hebrew College with a master of arts in Jewish studies and a master’s in Jewish education.” **Sean P. Ryan**, London, Kentucky, and wife Griffin welcomed a daughter, Campbell Grace Ryan, on Feb. 1. **Jennifer S. Sarma**, Bethesda, Maryland, and husband Chris welcomed a son, Walter, to the family in June 2021. “Abigail, 3, is taking on her big sister role in stride,” she informs. “I am approaching my fifth year on Vox Media’s people and culture team, where I focus on employee relations and conflict resolution.”

### 2009

**David L. Brand**, Brooklyn, New York, took a job as director of content at Learfield/IMG after five years making documentaries at CBS Sports and News. Dave submitted that his puppy, Ted, recently ate his wallet — credit cards and driver’s license included. “Fortunately, Ted is a rescue from Puerto Rico and has an incredibly efficient and resilient digestive system,” he adds. **Colleen M. McLellan**, Detroit, bought a house, had a baby named Rosie and joined the advancement team at Detroit Symphony Orchestra. “Shout-out to **Sacha Jowise Schneider ’09** for helping me navigate the career change,” she writes. **Matthew M. Peck** closed on a condo in Chicago’s Roscoe Village area. Matt was a groomsman in the wedding of **Andrew M. “Drew” Schad ’08** last fall. In March, he left the *Locked On Bulls* podcast after 4 1/2 years to accept the position of Bulls content lead at CHGO. “Very excited for

this new venture and can't wait to continue bringing Bulls fans their content in fun new ways, as the team is on the upswing," he notes.

## 2010s

2010

**Caitlin K. Addlesperger**

moved from New York to Sheridan, Wyoming, a few years ago. "My husband and I are thrilled to be back under big skies and closer to family, especially since we welcomed our amazing daughter, Hazel Kay Hoversten, last spring," she updates. "I work for Ucross, an artist residency program on a beautiful ranch at the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains, where I have had the pleasure of meeting several Kenyonite writers, visual artists, composers and choreographers. The shared love of Middle Path is always a bond!"

**Maxwell H. Kelly**, New York City, a plaintiff's attorney in national consolidated mass torts actions, was a central member of the trial team that in January won a \$110 million verdict on behalf of U.S. military veterans injured by defective earplugs designed and manufactured by 3M. **McNeil F. Parker**, East Setauket, New York, sends greetings from Long Island. "My football career has kept my wife, two daughters (3 and 1), and me on the move. We enjoyed our first season as Stony Brook Seawolves and have loved exploring the island." **Andrew J. Pohlman** writes, "Tjena! After ten years in Nevada and California for a Ph.D. and work, I moved to the city of Skellefteå in northern Sweden in early 2021.

Seeing the midnight sun in the summer and aurora borealis regularly in the winter has been a unique experience as I contribute to building the largest lithium ion battery factory in Europe." **Anne K. Severe**, Cincinnati, a social worker at the VA Medical Center and former art major, continues to make regular painting commissions. "My husband and I have a 3-year-old son named James, who keeps us on our toes," she writes. "In December of 2021, we welcomed a baby girl named Emily. I am in regular contact with many Kenyon classmates who make life a little brighter!" **Lee H. (Orr) White** and **Jamie H. White**, London, England, welcomed a daughter, Anna Griggs White, on Dec. 4. "Enjoying life in London and adjusting to navigating the tube with a 'pram.'"

2011

**Ayesha Akhtar** and partner **Joseph J. Johnston '10** are very happily still in the North Bronx, their "pandemic baby now a full-blown toddler," they update. "Aidhan turns 2 in June." **Wesley J. Keyser**, Chicago, recently embarked on a career change, moving from merchandising/marketing into technology as chief of staff for the Walgreens digital product and engineering team. "I would love to network with any fellow technology professionals!" he writes. **Keiko P. Matsuno**, Lakewood, Colorado, reports, "Got married in October! It was a beautiful fall day in Colorado. We got to celebrate in tie-dye with **Kali Bizzul, Ayako Garduque, Gian M.**

## "Now living our best lives as goat farmers in Ashtabula County."

— **MaryElise Topp '11**,  
on moving home to Ohio in 2020

**Garduque '12, Patrick T. DePriest and Eric M. Cameron**. This spring I am excited to get chickens, go birding, hike and run." **Rachel N. Oscar**, Cleveland, shares, "Man, oh man, what a ride these past couple of years have been. In May 2021, **Bryn T. Stole** and I biked the Great Allegheny Passage together, and I got to spend July 4 with the incomparable **Hannah B. Withers** in Portland, Oregon. I capped off 2021 absolutely cutting a rug at **Phoebe E. Hillemann's** wedding alongside **Benjamin E. McMillan, Saul B. Nathan-Kazis, Richard and Mia J. Wylde '12, Tricia M. Shimamura** and many other spectacular alums." **Laura A. Paul**, Newark, Delaware, updates: "I am delighted to report that, thanks to the Bulletin, I reconnected with **Ben J. Stanley '12**; they joined the faculty at the University of Delaware at the same time I started my postdoc here!" **MaryElise Topp** and her husband, James, took advantage of working from home during lockdown to move home to Ohio in 2020. "Now living our best lives as goat farmers in Ashtabula County," she writes. "Come visit baby goats or throw a pot in our ceramics studio!" **Evan A. Weiss** and wife **Katherine C. Warther** will move to Philadelphia

this summer with 1-year-old daughter Ada, he writes. "I have started as an editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer, and Katie will be a pediatrician after finishing her pediatric residency at UCLA in July."

2012

**Faith A. Bell** moved back to northeastern Ohio in January and started a remote job as assistant editor for Merriam-Webster, Inc. **Michael E. Broida** left Johns Hopkins last summer to start a similar post as a (fully remote) senior speechwriter for the CEO of Mayo Clinic. "It's been a good challenge," he writes, "digging into the complexities of health care and doing so from my home in Baltimore. My partner, Rachel, is in grad school for urban planning at University of Maryland, so we'll be in Baltimore for at least another year. Glad to still live around the corner from my old McBride hallmate, **Sarah E. Schulz.**" **Katherine E. Moore** moved to the Northampton, Massachusetts, area to teach math at Amherst College. "I'm teaching the equivalent of 'Foundations' this semester," Kate writes, "so I have Carol Schumacher's textbook on my desk as we speak! In anticipation of our first snow

# Bulletin | Class Notes

day, I explained to a handful of new friends my childhood snow dances, involving ice cubes and dancing; they concluded it must be a Michigan thing, but I'm unconvinced. Regardless, the snow dance definitely worked." **Alexandra M. Patterson**, Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, is in the second year of her

a postponed honeymoon to Tanzania this fall. Ariana pivoted to full-time writing about restaurants and drives the content marketing team for ChowNow, the restaurant-friendly food-ordering platform. Her first novel is still in draft form, but the fact that there's a draft at all is very exciting, she informs. **James F. Dennin**, New York City,

office at our beloved alma mater." **Rachel K. Max**, San Diego, who works as a licensed clinical social worker in her own mental health therapy practice, updates, "I married my husband, Erin Dowrey, in July 2020, and we finally had our wedding celebration in December 2021, with **Michelle G. Birsky** and **Maxwell S. Kalifut '14** attending." **Matthew**

Ecuador: "I'm continuing my work in animal training and behavior consulting. If anyone is in the area, feel free to reach out!" **Christina A. Talierno**, Salt Lake City, Utah, and her boyfriend bought an old house they spend most of their free time renovating. "I have three cats, two of whom came with the house," she reports. "I work for SkyWest Airlines as a first officer on the Embraer 175."

and no COVID infections in attendance." **Kristina Miklavic**, Lillehammer, Norway, updates, "I still work a lot for the Norwegian welfare organization, but I've gotten a new job offer and in June will start at the nearby Equality Center. I'm looking forward to working in an area I'm incredibly passionate about." **Josiah T. Olson**, Chardon, Ohio, is still working as a data scientist at Progressive Insurance, "climbing the corporate ladder," he reports. "Son Elliot is now 5, a fun age. I spend all my free time with Elliot teaching him skiing, skating, fishing, games or just hiking around in parks. Excited to have started reading him his first chapter book series at bedtime, the 'Chronicles of Narnia.'" When **Kelsey T. Rice** graduated from Kenyon, she knew she wanted to make video games but had no idea how. She has since made progress on that front and is a systems designer at Bungie, working on *Destiny 2*. "Living in Los Angeles with a bunch of houseplants, attending a lot of DnD 5e sessions and learned to play the pennywhistle."

## "I have Carol Schumacher's textbook on my desk as we speak!"

— **Katherine E. Moore '12**,  
on her inspiration while teaching math at Amherst College

doctorate in education at Johns Hopkins University. Her dissertation focuses on queer faculty experiences at independent boarding schools. Meanwhile, she is director of library services at Mercersburg Academy, where she also serves as the affinity spaces coordinator.

### 2013

**Jaqueline Neri Arias**, Chicago, updates, "The last few years brought many changes to my life. I celebrated five years of marriage, became a mom to a baby boy, left my job at Kenyon, started a new job at Dominican University and relocated to Chicago. I look forward to continuing my relationship with Kenyon through the Alumni of Color mentoring program." **Ariana R. Chomitz** got married in October in L.A.; she and her husband, Owen, live in Venice Beach with their cat, Butternut, and plan

reports, "I'm still at IBM and still in Harlem with **Heather P. Brennan '14**, but I took a new job last summer as the head writer for our AI communications team. I'm also doing editorial consulting for financial services companies to help them make their personal finance content more inclusive. Highlights of the year were mentoring Kenyon students interested in media who are already more impressive than me, and a birthday weekend in New Orleans with **Thomas P. Brown** and too many other Kenyon folks to list." **Jeremiah J. Jemison**, Howard, Ohio, writes, "My wife and I were blessed with our first child this past year, and it's so hard to believe that he was a year old — already! — in April. He is the main highlight of my life, but I am also proud to be continuing my employment, almost five years now, in the admissions

**S. Metz**, Arlington, Virginia, graduated from Indiana University with his J.D. and M.P.A. in 2019 before moving to D.C. He joined the Justice Department Executive Office for Immigration Review, Office of Policy through the Attorney General's Honors Program, where he worked in communications, legislative affairs, regulatory law and legal training, and became a permanent attorney advisor a year ago. "On a personal note, I got engaged — wedding in June — and just bought a house!" **Samantha M. Sheahan**, Arlington, Virginia, informs, "I've been at One Common Unity in D.C. for the last year as a drama therapist in training. One Common Unity does peace-building and wellness through the vehicles of arts, mindfulness, social justice and nature." **Olivia Marie Sison** sends greetings from Quito,

### 2014

**Charlotte G. Greene**, New York City, recently graduated from Tyler School of Art and Architecture with an M.F.A. in sculpture. They live in Philadelphia and, after work at the architecture firm KieranTimberlake, keep busy cycling, guest lecturing and curating and pursuing art and research in digital media and fabrication. **Chelsea K. (Katzeman) Kwan** and **Christopher Kwan '16**, Beaverton, Oregon, welcomed baby girl Gemma Charline Kwan on December 3, 2021. "She was born at 4:02 a.m., weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and will hopefully be in the Kenyon College Class of 2044," Chelsea informs. **Sydnee M. Lindblom** reports that after a year teaching high school, she returned to "the delightful awkwardness and disgusting smells of middle school." Teaching seventh grade English at the University School of Nashville in Nashville, Tennessee, means Syd coaches swimming alongside **Justin G. Karpinos '03**. "In bigger news," she adds, "after just one delay, **Basil M. Kahwash '10** and I were married in the fall, with plenty of Kenyon alums

### 2015

**Meredith E. Bentsen** was recently promoted to associate, global client development, at Brunswick Group, a critical-issues firm. She lives in Washington, D.C., and enjoys joining classmates at weddings, happy hours and all the shindigs in between. **Elliot L. Cromer** finds himself at the Arizona Renaissance Festival performing with the Wyld Men Show, he

reports. "After a hiatus from a canceled 2021 season, it is nice to be back in the desert, slathering oneself with mud for the amusement of people who have very little firsthand experience with mud." Out of the mud, Elliot works at a brewery in Yellow Springs, Ohio. "Come visit me and **Adam D. Zaremsky** anytime!" **Javier "Jay" Leung**, Helsinki, Finland, joined Salesforce as a solution engineer for marketing tech and is finding his feet in the competitive world of enterprise sales. He and Johanna enjoyed a very snowy winter in Helsinki, which offered great conditions for cross-country skiing. They celebrated two years of marriage in January. **Benjamin S. Levine** finished law school in Los Angeles in May 2021 and spent the year working for a federal judge in Sacramento, where he currently lives with **Sarah M. Cohen-Smith '14** and eats lots of tacos. They visited **David W. Floyd '14** and **Lily Moaba '14** in Mexico City this winter and have had a great time seeing Kenyon NorCal friends, including **Kaitlin C. Donnelly**, **Theodore W. Meyer**, **Jackson M. Wolf**, **Isaac M. Pedisich '13** and **David C. Vick '12**. **Katherine J. Moss** married Jake Payne on Oct. 23 in Chicago, where Katie and Jake met and have lived together the past five and a half years. **Julia H. Greer** and **Emma G.F. Miller** were by her side as bridesmaids. "The majority of Bushnell's 2012-13 residents attended, as did all my NCA 18B/Marx House roommates. As the Class of 2015 has had

two reunions canceled, it was nice to have some of the old group back together," she writes. **Abigail K. Sagher**, Chicago, laughs, "I'm now personally responsible for all your supply chain problems! I work at Uber Freight on problems the industry experiences regularly. More important, I'm recently married — and now we are planning the wedding. I spend most of my time contemplating which pandemic hobby I can pick up and obsess over for exactly three months."

### 2016

**Morgen L. Barroso**, Ann Arbor, Michigan, graduated from University of Connecticut School of Law in May and was elected commencement speaker. Now back in Michigan, she is studying for the bar exam and starting work as the law clerk for the chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Morgen was most excited to get home to her pup, Moose, and to continue training for her first marathon in June. **Lauren Bittrich**, Duxbury, Massachusetts, is a literary agent at Lucinda Literary in New York City. **Monica J. Lee** left the corporate world during COVID to open St. Louis' first Korean dessert cafe in February. "We sold out and were immediately busy!" she writes. "I'm now looking forward to expanding my cafe's hours and offerings." **Mary R. Sturgis**, Arlington, Virginia, graduated in December with a master of science in foreign service degree from Georgetown University and became a foreign affairs officer at the State Department. "I'm excited to continue to

pursue my love of Latin America through my work with the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs," she informs. "In even more exciting news, **Bradley J. Raynor** and I placed fourth at trivia." **Madeline R. Thompson** updates, "My fiancée and I bought our first house, moving from St. Louis to Snellville, Georgia, outside Atlanta. I've never lived in the South, so I'm excited to experience Bojangles, 70-degree days in February and all the food Atlanta has to offer! I also had the pleasure of visiting **Monica**

**Lee's** new Korean dessert cafe, Spoonful, in St. Louis on opening weekend. The line was out the door, and everything was delicious."

### 2017

**Gianna S. (Biaggi) Anderson** and **Oscar L. Anderson** moved back to Oscar's hometown of Licking, Indiana, where they are currently bootstrapping a new business venture, Splat!, which produces high-quality straws used for artificial insemination of cows, an endeavor they've partnered on since 2017.



## Bicentennial Book Seeks Your Kenyon Moments

Whether you're a Kenyon graduate, a parent or simply a friend of the College, you have your own Kenyon stories — anecdotes, memories and reflections that bring to life your sense of connection to this special place. Those stories will help enrich a new book celebrating the College's bicentennial in 2024.

"Kenyon at 200: Place and Purpose" will include essays, photographs and special articles exploring the distinctiveness of the campus, its architecture and its surroundings — as well as the experiences that have made Kenyon feel like home for so many. To complement these features, the editors will select a number of personal stories and memories. Others will have a home on the College website.

It's easy to submit your story to the Kenyon bicentennial book. The website listed below will tell you more about the book and how you can contribute to it. Thank you!

[kenyon.edu/kenyonat200](https://kenyon.edu/kenyonat200)

"Oscar is particularly gifted at understanding cattle ovulation cycles," she writes. "We've also adopted seven small kittens." **Emma L. Brown** spent last year volunteering full-time for Annunciation House, a refugee shelter at the border between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. "I coordinate a warehouse that can provide for the basic needs of up to 500 guests while they begin the difficult process of applying for asylum," she informs. "It's been one of the

**Eleanor J.B. Lopatto** accepted a position as program assistant with the Kennan Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. **Tianqi "Julieanna" Luo** updates, "Had a blast visiting my close Kenyon friend in 2021 and attending another's wedding in March! So grateful for the everlasting friendships that Kenyon brought me. I relocated back to midtown Manhattan for my new job and live on the Upper West Side. Would love to reconnect with

for a nonprofit in town serving at-risk youth and those with housing insecurity, merging it with my empowerment work and developing a program to empower high school students in rural Maine. I'm also an artist, making charcoal drawings (Instagram: @emmaschurinkart)." **Elana S. Spivack**, New York City, is a science journalist for the site Inverse. "I got my master's from NYU in December and still think about hash brown triangles."

on the largest annual event for startups in Scandinavia." **Isabel R. Landers** opened her own hair studio in Pittsburgh in February. "Sam and I also bought a house last year, so I guess we're permanent Pittsburghers now!" **Theuni "Anika" A. Rodriguez**, Colombo, Sri Lanka, laments, "Disney lied. It is not the happiest place on Earth. Kenyon is." Anika adds, "My time at Kenyon was magical — the friendships made and lessons learnt were timeless!"

**"This position has already allowed for many cheese tastings, which is a definite perk!"**

— **Allison V. Beard '20**, on starting a job at culture: the word on cheese magazine, as digital and social media editor

## 2018

**Mary E. Brady** moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in September and enjoys life in Boston. She works remotely as a research analyst for a financial tech company called Symend. "In November," she adds, "I traveled to Raleigh, North Carolina, to run a half-marathon with **Kara M. Braun**. We both crushed our goal times, and even though I dropped my phone down a storm drain — I got it back, don't worry! — it was a great time. I've loved seeing so many Kenyon alums in Boston!" **Rebecca L. Frank** is finishing a third year living in France, now concluding her first year as an elementary school English teaching assistant near Avignon. "I'm continuing to enjoy immersing myself in French culture, perfecting my language skills, exploring the beautiful region and soaking up the sun of southern France!" **Harry E. Justus** writes, "Hej from Denmark! First as a student at the University of Copenhagen and now as a project manager at TechBBQ, I've been helping to put

## 2019

**Henry D. Brill**, Washington, D.C., updates, "After working in the think tank world for two-and-a-half years, I recently started as senior associate at Breakwater Strategy, a strategic communications and insights firm. This fall, I also enjoyed working on a book project involving five other Kenyon alumni and Professor of Religious Studies Vernon Schubel." **Rachel I. Cohn**, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, who completed her master's in library science from UNC-Chapel Hill, is "still loving the Triangle area, so I'm ecstatic that I get to continue living here! I started a full-time job in January as an interlibrary requests assistant at Duke University, and it's going great so far! The schedule challenges me constantly, but I'm slowly finding a balance. These days I'm hard-core appreciating long-distance friendships and audiobooks and my aquatic frogs and my bed. And libraries, of course!" **Grace A. Fuisz**, Nashville, Tennessee, works as a podcast producer for iHeartMedia's NBA

most challenging and fascinating experiences of my life, and I can now speak Spanish about as well as a toddler." **Benjamin F. Grannis**, Ridgefield, Connecticut, was "back east in Connecticut with my folks for a couple of months while I rest my knees, after riding 5,826 miles and raising over \$35,000 to fight distracted driving and to benefit TextLess Live More." Ben went back on the road in April; follow him at EyesUpRide.com and @EyesUpRide. **Kyra A.T. Green**, Arlington, Virginia, works at Georgetown University as the inaugural assistant director of diversity, equity and inclusion for the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

NYC Kenyonites." **Seth T. Reichert** moved to Los Angeles to pursue a master's in urban planning at UCLA. "Enjoyed a winter full of sunny days! During the rare times I'm not studying or working, I like to play Dungeons and Dragons with a band of intrepid adventurers (**Henry M. Quillian IV**, **Katherine L. Connolly**, **E. Chandler Davis** and **Kayla B. Glazer**) and try to make a little music." **Emma L. Schurink**, Farmington, Maine, is an empowerment coach (certified spiritual and life coach), "guiding people to move through limiting beliefs and fears to connect with their intuition and lead a meaningful and authentic life," she reports. "I also work

partnership slate.

**Caitlin Kennedy**, in her second year pursuing a master's in architecture at the University of Colorado, Denver, updates, "I'm currently part of a team working on an intensive pre-fabrication design-build project with our client, NOAA. We're working on a remote research field station located on Cape Shirreff, Antarctica! We'll build the entire project here in Denver, disassemble it and ship it down to be reconstructed. It's been fun including penguins and fur seals in all our drawings so far!" **Jessica M. Kusher**, Spartanburg, South Carolina, became a certified open-water diver in January and traveled to Bonaire "for some of the most unbelievably biodiverse and gorgeous diving left in the Caribbean," Jess reports. "The trip was bittersweet, as it was one of my dad's last field trips as a marine biology professor at Wofford College before retirement — but the memory of getting to share that week with him will stay with me forever. I had close encounters with a devilishly handsome green moray eel, a maroon septapus (an octopus who must've had an accident), a very curious juvenile green turtle and hundreds of shimmering flying fish, which often looked like birds over the waves. It was painful to witness firsthand the reef's destruction by cruise ships that dump trash and human waste into the ocean. In graduate school this fall I'll study marine plastic pollution and neurotoxicology." **Joaquin A. Murrieta** updates, "After surviving a two-year process, I

finally got an opportunity to work for an MLB organization. I'm with the Pittsburgh Pirates as a minor league operations assistant, working this season at the team's academy in the Dominican Republic with a great group of people and players. These past two years have given me ample opportunities to grow and showed me that it isn't supposed to be easy. Go get what you want!" **Elise L. Neidecker** reports, "I am thrilled to share that I've accepted a graduate position at the University of New Hampshire to study food systems and alternative agriculture. ... Eternally grateful for the support of my Kenyon professors in getting me here, and excited to move to New England this summer with **Zachary D. Sawicki '16**."

## 2020s

### 2020

**Allison V. Beard** updates, "I recently accepted a job at culture: the word on cheese magazine as digital and social media editor (culturecheese.com). This position has already allowed for many cheese tastings, which is a definite perk!" **Caroline A. Campos** notes, "I am currently a Girl Be Heard company member, and I've also been accepted into the acting program class of 2025 at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. I hope to bring everything I learned from GBH about socially conscious theater-making with me to New Haven in the fall!" **Nathan K. Gordon** updates, "After teaching English in Israel for

a year, I decided to draft to the Israel Defense Forces, where I will serve for the next few years. I'm currently in an army Hebrew course and will be placed in my permanent unit in the upcoming months." **Jonathan A. Hammond** informs, "After about a year in D.C., I feel like I'm finally settling in. I was brought on full-time at the Eno Center for Transportation to help plan professional development programming as well as write for our weekly transportation newsletter about current policy in Congress. Additionally, I've enjoyed meeting with Kenyon alumni who reside in the area. Reconnecting with old friends and making new ones has truly been a delight." **Elizabeth A. Iduma** shares, "After a few months driving a two-ton truck and a few months video editing in a dark room until 1 a.m., I found a comfortable place to continue growing and learning as an assistant at Diller Scofidio + Renfro in NYC." **Paul S. Sullivan**, Washington, D.C., has had "a hell of a time" since graduating: moved to a new city, found a new job and fought cancer. "Yeah, that last one was a bit of a doozy," he writes. "I was diagnosed with Stage 2B testicular cancer in September. One surgery and three cycles of chemotherapy later, I'm sitting in my apartment, cancer-free. I've channeled my twin loves of storytelling and history into a job at President Lincoln's Cottage, where I educate visitors about the trials and tribulations of America's 16th president. I don't yet

have a career planned out, and I don't know if I'll be living in the same place a year from now. But I'm alive, I'm breathing and I'm figuring things out. And for now, that's enough." **2021** **Jackson C. Fletcher** reports, "After a series of interviews — and a ton of support from the folks in Admissions — I'll be starting work at Carnegie Mellon University

as an assistant director of admission." **Elizabeth W. Stanley**, Williamsburg, Virginia, updates, "I've been working for the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education since July 2021. I am on the student outreach team, and I work specifically on a program that gives students the resources they need to create spaces for civil discourse on their campuses. I love my work."

## Events

You may be a Kenyon student for only four years, but you're a member of our alumni community for life.

### Stay connected

Check out [kenyon.edu/alumni/events](https://kenyon.edu/alumni/events) for our fall lineup of events, including:

NOTE: All in-person events are subject to change based on COVID-19 conditions.

#### Homecoming Weekend

SEPT. 22 - 25, 2022

Activities will include:

#### Gatherings and meetings

for alumni volunteers from the Reunion Planning Committees for 1963, 1968, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, 2018, Alumni Council and Kenyon Fund Executive Committee

#### Several home athletics competitions

An alumni tent with **complimentary tailgate treats**, as well as beer and wine available for purchase

#### Follow us on Twitter:

@kenyon\_alumni



# Bulletin | In Memoriam

## **Richard Henry Timberlake Jr. '46,**

on May 22, 2020, in Athens, Georgia. He was 97. Born in Steubenville, Ohio, Dick was a college junior when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps, he became a B-17 copilot, flying 26 combat missions over Germany and receiving a Purple Heart. After the war, Dick earned a physics degree at Kenyon, a master's at Columbia University and his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, studying under Milton Friedman and meeting his future wife, Hildegard. An esteemed faculty member at the University of Georgia from 1963 to 1990, he continued to write influential work on monetary policy, including as an adjunct at the Cato Institute, co-authoring his most recent book in 2019 at the age of 96. Dick and his family lived for 57 years in Athens.

A devout member of St. Stephen's Anglican Catholic Church in Athens, his motto was "Keep moving, stay or get skinny and breathe deeply," walking up to a mile a day into his mid-90s. "He learned how to play tennis from Hildegard and almost defeated her once in three sets," his obituary read. "Dick founded the Classic City Tennis Club, became its president and meticulously maintained the clay courts at several Athens residences. He could be found on the courts well into his 80s, where his opponents feared his overhead smash."

He is survived by his wife, Hildegard; brother, **Allen B. Timberlake '58;** daughter, Megan; sons Thomas, David, Christopher and Richard III; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

## **The Rev. George Sidwell '49,**

on March 4, 2021, Wesley Glen Retirement Community in Columbus, Ohio. He was 96. After service in the U.S. Marines in World War II, George graduated from Kenyon summa cum laude. He served as a minister in the United Methodist Church for over 40 years, retiring in 1989 after 18 years at Englewood UMC in Englewood, Ohio, northwest of Dayton. He remained active as pastor emeritus and on various boards and committees, both locally and nationally, as well as with many community organizations.

George is survived by a son, David; daughters Donna Rae and M. Kathryn; sister Norma; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

## **Judson T. Bradford '51,**

on Dec. 28, 2020. He was 92. Jud completed his degree at the University of Chicago and soon joined the family business, then known as the W.J. Bradford Paper Co. He rose quickly to become president of the company, a fifth-generation employee- and family-owned business in Holland, Michigan, that manufactures packaging products such as boxes for just-in-time auto parts shipping. From 1973, when he succeeded his uncle as president, until 2001, Jud led numerous community and civic-minded endeavors, such as helping lead an eight-county council that founded Grand Valley State University. Although his children and associates remember

### **SUBMIT AN OBIT**

If you've recently learned of or experienced a loss in the greater Kenyon community, email [editor@kenyon.edu](mailto:editor@kenyon.edu). We will use any information you send us to honor your friend or loved one's memory in a future issue of the Kenyon Alumni Magazine.

CHARLES BRENT OLMSTEAD '51 >

"He was a bastion of compassion and kindness."

him as a wonderful mentor, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren are fondest of his "candy buffets," they write. "We will all miss his easy laughter and charming, sweet demeanor."

Jud is survived by his wife of 69 years, Catharine; sons Jim, Jud and Tom; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

## **Charles Brent Olmstead '51,**

on Jan. 21, 2021, in Elmira, New York. He was 91. Born and raised in Elmira, Brent was a lacrosse player and a member of Psi Upsilon at Kenyon, before completing medical school in 1955 at State University of New York Upstate and pursuing a decorated 35-year career in dermatology. From 1968 to 2013, he consulted at the VA hospital in Bath, New York. Brent was active in numerous local and state medical societies, and received a distinguished service award from the American Academy of Dermatology as well as the American Medical Association's Physicians Recognition Award.

His community involvement extended to the Elmira City Club, where he was honored by having a sandwich named after him — "The Olmstead." He was a violinist with the Elmira Symphony and Choral Society for 30 years, a board member of the symphony, and held leadership positions at the local YMCA, Boy Scouts, United Way and the Elmira Rotary Club. He and his wife, Martha, operated a B&B in the Finger Lakes, where he loved sailing with the Keuka Lake Yacht Club and teaching his daughters to water ski with the family motorboat, aptly named "This is Zit!"

A devout Episcopalian and lifelong member of Grace Episcopal Church, he named Sunday morning services and coffee-hour fellowship as highlights of his week. "Brent was deeply devoted to family, faith and community," his obituary read. "He was a bastion of compassion and kindness, exemplifying selflessness, loyalty, trust, integrity, humility, optimism, resilience and perseverance. He led by example and never wavered from his values. Brent was grateful for every little thing in life, and nary a complaint passed his lips."

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Martha; daughters Anne Olmstead Lonam and Amy Olmstead Brown; a grandson and several nieces and nephews.

## **Charles T. "Mike" Bundy II '52,**

on Feb. 15, 2022, in Altoona, Wisconsin. He was 92. Mike grew up in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, graduating first in the Class of 1947 at the Shattuck School in Faribault, Minnesota. At Kenyon, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Delta Phi. After spending a year in Paris and Grenoble, France, on a Fulbright Scholarship, Mike spent two years with the U.S. Army in Germany and worked briefly in international banking before returning to Gambier to teach for a year. He earned a master's from Columbia University and then served Trinity School in New York City for 17 years as director of admissions and teacher of

Latin and Greek, finishing his career as chair of the Classics Department at the Chapin School, also in New York City.

Upon retirement in 1994, Mike returned to Eau Claire to live in the home built for his parents in 1927. He was a board member at the Eau Claire Historic Preservation Foundation and a member of Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral.

**Grant “Chig” W. Cooke ’52**, on Nov. 15, 2021. He was 91. Grant was born in Columbus, Ohio, and grew up there in the family home on Cooke Road, built on the original 300-acre farm of early settler Henry Cooke. A physics major, track athlete and Delta Tau Delta member, he went on to earn a master’s in engineering from The Ohio State University in 1955 before starting his first permanent job with the family-owned business, Fritz-Rumer-Cooke Co. He later practiced as an engineer and owner of Cooke Consulting Group.

A life member of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association since 1957, most of Grant’s professional life was dedicated to railroad bridges and track construction.

He is survived by his daughter, Allison; two grandchildren and a step-grandchild; and numerous great-grandchildren, step-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**Edward T. Loughridge ’52**, on May 11, 2021, at home in Chantilly, Virginia. He was 92. Born in Mansfield, Ohio, Edward served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during a tour of duty in Korea.

At Kenyon, he swam the 200-meter freestyle and on the 200-meter relay team. An executive with the Mansfield Telephone Co. for many years, he was its president when it merged with Sprint.

Edward served on the board of MedCentral Hospital, the advisory board of Richland Bank and the Ohio Telephone Association, and was active in the First Congregational Church. He is survived by a daughter, Dana; son, William; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

**Sheppard B. Kominars ’53**, on Dec. 16, 2021. He was 89. Born in Philadelphia, Sheppard was a writer and educator. He wrote his first poem at age 11. A philosophy major at Kenyon, he wrote and worked in Europe in the late 1950s and earned his master’s degree at Columbia University in 1959 while working as a copy boy at Time, Inc. At Boston University, he completed a Ph.D. in English language and literature in 1966. Over the course of his long and fruitful career he received two Fulbright fellowships and served as dean of City College Chicago, vice president of Southeastern University, vice president at George Mason University and, finally, professor of humanities at San Francisco’s School of Music and Arts.

“Sheppard was a lifelong journal writer, which helped sustain him through his diagnosis of cancer, his survivorship and this life journey,” his obituary read. A resident of San Francisco since 1986, he taught poetry and journal writing workshops at

SHEPPARD B.  
KOMINARS ’53 >

“Sheppard was a lifelong journal writer, which helped sustain him through his diagnosis of cancer, his survivorship and this life journey.”

UCSF and numerous senior residences and health-care centers. Sheppard shared wisdom gleaned from his journaling over 60 years in “Write for Life: Healing Body, Mind & Spirit Through Journal Writing.” He published three volumes of poetry and wrote two books to support personal recovery, “Accepting Ourselves” in 1989 and “Accepting Ourselves and Others,” co-authored with his daughter, Kathryn, in 1996. Kathryn submitted, “He was a proud Kenyon alum his entire life, wearing his Kenyon sweatshirt regularly in the San Francisco climate.

“Sheppard was deeply involved with the Faithful Fools, a live/work community in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco, dedicated to helping people in need through the arts, education, advocacy and accompaniment,” she added. “He was dedicated to helping others live better.” Sheppard is survived by his children and six grandchildren.

**James P. Bruckmann ’55**, on Feb. 22, 2021, in Cincinnati. Jim died peacefully at age 87 while holding the hands of his wife of almost 50 years, Carolyn, and his daughter, Alice.

Jim — the great-grandson of Johan Caspar Bruckmann, a German immigrant who founded Bruckmann Brewery — loved Cincinnati and his German heritage. He enjoyed giving talks on brewery history and would often lead groups in singing “Schnitzelbank,” a German folk/beer drinking song. Other history talks were titled “The Sad, Sinister Side of Cincinnati” and “Cincinnati Entertainers,” and he was a docent for the Cincinnati Heritage Program at the Cincinnati Museum Center.

Jim completed his degree at the University of Cincinnati and taught history at Gamble Junior High before becoming assistant principal at Western Hills High School and then Porter Junior High School, all Cincinnati public schools. In retirement, he remained in contact with many colleagues and was president of the Hamilton County Retired Teachers.

“He was a man who held to many traditions,” his obituary read. “He enjoyed traveling, Disney, the Cincinnati Reds and UC football and basketball. He loved to play the piano and entertain others by reciting “Casey at the Bat” or an Irish ballad — moments forming some of the fond memories of his nine grandchildren. He always had a smile, hug, and special cookie from the bakery for them.”

**D. Barry Menez ’55**, on March 2, 2022, at his home in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., two days after his 89th birthday. Born in the small town of Benton, Ohio, which had only recently been supplied with electricity, he began his education in a one-room schoolhouse. Barry became the first person in his family to receive a college degree. An Alpha Delta Phi, swimmer and soccer player, he majored in economics and later took a master’s of divinity at the University of Chicago.

As a captain in the U.S. Air Force, in Del Rio, Texas, he safeguarded the controversial U-2

# Bulletin | In Memoriam

spy planes housed there, married his first wife, Maryjane Sidley, and started a family. Forgoing his plans to go into banking, Barry took a job with community organizer Saul Alinsky, fighting to stop banks' discriminatory "redlining" on Chicago's South Side. "Barry was charged with tamping down inflammatory conflicts between black and Irish communities, usually working alone and at night, giving his family reason for relief when he made it home at the end of the day," his obituary read.

A lifelong fighter for social justice, he eventually became vice president of the National Episcopal Church, reporting to the presiding bishop. He ran a special national program in 1965 collaborating with organizations and activists including Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, the Black Panthers and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He supported AIDS research, disaster relief, a vast network of Episcopal schools and the allocation of grant money to deserving underfunded institutions.

When Barry and his wife, Jean, moved to her hometown of Poughkeepsie in 1995, he joined the board of the Mill Street Loft, serving as president for three terms. Providing art instruction and scholarship support for generations of aspiring young artists was a perfect fit for Barry, himself a painter. As a member of Christ Episcopal Church, he added to his lifetime of long-term friendships.

Foremost, however, was his family: In addition to his wife, Barry is survived by six children, seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild, "who was considerate enough to arrive in time to be seen on FaceTime by his great-grandfather."

**Clifford A. Smith '57**, on Nov. 20, 2021. Affectionately called Doc, Clifford was born in Philadelphia in 1934, one of 15 children. At Kenyon, he excelled in football, track and lacrosse, and was a member of Sigma Pi and the Black Student Union, one of eight black students who graduated between 1952 and 1958. He received his medical degree in 1961 from Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he met his beloved wife, Jean Gaskins. After completing his residency in anesthesiology at Albert Einstein Hospital in the Bronx, Doc joined the U.S. Army as a captain and served in Vietnam as the chief of anesthesiology at the 2nd Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) in An Khê, Vietnam.

Clifford and Jean moved to Rochester, New York, where he practiced as an anesthesiologist at several local hospitals, primarily at St. Mary's Hospital, where he became the chief of anesthesiology. President of the Rochester Regional Society of Anesthesiologists and a visiting professor at the University of Rochester, Doc will be remembered as someone who was a gift to everyone he met, an obituary noted. "He was very generous, industrious and had an everlasting thirst for knowledge." He is survived by a brother, Wilbur; sons Clifford Jr., Tyrone, Christopher and Jonathan; daughters Theresa, Jill and Judith Smith; and nine grandchildren.

< CLIFFORD A. SMITH '57

Doc "was very generous, industrious and had an everlasting thirst for knowledge."

**The Rev. Arthur Reed VanDeventer '58**, on Dec. 11, 2021 in San Antonio, Texas. He was 86. He arrived at Kenyon to attend Bexley Hall Divinity School after graduating from Hobart College. Reed was ordained into priesthood at St. Mark's and St. John's in Rochester, New York, in 1958.

He served as rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Huron, Ohio, before moving in 1973 to serve as rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Hibbing, Minnesota, for 16 years. Reed moved back to Rochester in 1989 and enjoyed volunteering at a local soup kitchen, spending time with his corgis, reading and praying for others.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Abigail; daughter, Anne; sons Edward and David; and seven grandchildren.

**Joseph P. Skripek '61**, on March 23, 2022, in Oak Harbor, Washington. He was 82.

At Kenyon, he majored in history, was vice president of Delta Tau Delta and played center for the football team. Joe attended Rutgers Law School, then practiced law and served as town attorney in Fairfield, New Jersey. "He built a beautiful round house on the Passaic River where he enjoyed hosting many class reunions and family parties," his obituary read.

In 2020 Joe moved to Freeland, Washington, to be closer to his family. "He loved to go out to Sunday dinner at Hong Kong Gardens with his family," his obituary noted. "A history buff, he always told stories about world history." Joe is survived by sons Michael and Craig; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**David K. Witherspoon '62**, on Oct. 29, 2021. He was 82. David was a philosophy major and a Delta Phi at Kenyon. He later served as an instructor in the U.S. Coast Guard, attended Longy School of Music, was a lifelong classical music lover and a Los Angeles Dodgers fan.

Widowed in 1992, he married his true love and best friend Lenita McCallum Witherspoon in 2005. In addition to her, he is survived by a daughter, Alyson; stepsons Tim and Bob; stepdaughters Lauri and Megan; and seven grandchildren.

**Michael L. Grella '63**, on Oct. 23, 2021, in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts. He was 84. A retired educator and school administrator, Michael taught English and Latin and mentored countless faculty and staff as head of school at educational institutions throughout the West, including Marin Country Day School, Saint Matthew's Parish School and Palm Valley School in California. He concluded his career at Thomas Academy in Seattle.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958 and studied Russian in the Army Language School in Monterey, California, before deploying to Germany and serving his country by intercepting and translating code. At Kenyon, he majored in English literature, was a Psi Upsilon and was on the editorial staff of the Collegian.

Michael enjoyed the early years of his retirement fly-fishing, reading, cooking, patronizing the arts, traveling and studying Italian. He is survived by a brother, George; a sister, Geraldine; daughters Charity, Rachel and Alice; and one grandchild.

**William A. Shira III '64**, on Nov. 17, 2021, in Beavercreek, Ohio. At Kenyon, Bill was a political science major and an Archon, ran track and took a turn DJ'ing the "Dinner Serenade" program on Tuesday evenings for WKCO. He received his J.D. at Case Western Reserve in 1967. As a captain in the U.S. Air Force, Bill oversaw contracts and other legal matters. He remained an active member of the Ohio Bar until his passing.

Bill is survived by a sister, Marilyn; sons Brian and Chris; five grandchildren; and three nieces and nephews.

**Michael D. Wood '64**, on Feb. 19, 2022, in Wayzata, Minnesota. He was 79. Born and raised in Lancaster, Ohio, he became an economics major, Delta Tau Delta and quarterback at Kenyon. Mike went on to earn an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan School of Business and begin his career in 1966 at the Pillsbury Co. "His lifelong interest in and astute understanding of people shaped the course of his career," his obituary read, "and he ultimately founded the Wood Group, an executive search firm, where he utilized his considerable people skills. A loyal and supportive manager, Mike was beloved by his colleagues, with whom he formed deep and lasting friendships.

"Mike lived an honorable life, defined by his love for and devotion to his family, how he treasured his cherished friends, and his unyielding commitment to his core values."

Mike enjoyed many sports, activities and hobbies, and traveled extensively with family and friends, with a particular love for his second home in Boca Grande, Florida, the setting for so many precious memories with his family. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Judy; brother, Donald; daughters Elizabeth and Susan; son, Benjamin; and seven grandchildren.

**Michael C. Johnston '68**, on March 2, 2022, in Stratham, New Hampshire. He was 75. A drama major and on the staff of the Collegian, Mike studied drawing, sculpture and theater at Kenyon and played piano with his band. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy. In Vietnam, he taught English to Vietnamese sailors and produced radio spots with the Armed Forces Vietnam Network. There, he met and married Jean Bernard, who was teaching on a Fulbright exchange grant.

Mike earned a master's in teaching in 1979 from St. Michael's College and an Ed.D. from UMass Amherst in 1995. As a professor of communication at Southern New Hampshire University and an international consultant on visual communication, his teaching took him to Kuwait, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Burkina Faso and Yemen. He sailed, accompanied by son Eliot, around the world with Semester at Sea in 1997 as an instructor.

KENNETH R. ABRAHAM '69 >  
Ken devoted much of his life to prisoners' civil rights and related issues.

An avid cyclist, over the last decades of his life, Michael could be spotted on long rides along the back roads and byways of the seacoast, pausing to capture whatever scenes caught his eye using his favorite medium, Japanese brush and ink. His drawings have appeared in numerous college textbooks, and his work lives on at michaeljohnstonart.com.

Last year, a note he submitted to the Bulletin read, "Dear friends, I am at the start of what I hope will be a long goodbye. I have stage-four brain cancer originating in my lung. Small cell. No cure. I appreciate knowing you and the people we encountered at Kenyon, who guided us in keeping calm and finding the value and wholeness of the life I have followed. I am happy that I became a teacher, an illustrator and a filmmaker."

Michael was a wonderful husband and father with a big heart, a ready ear and a warm smile, his obituary read. He threw himself into the pleasure of the moment, savoring good food and wine, closing his eyes to sing his favorite songs and "yakking" at length about everything from philosophy to politics to philanthropy and beyond.

Michael is survived by Jean, his wife and riding partner of 50 years; daughter, **Alysoun Johnston '02**; son, Eliot; and a granddaughter.

**Guy Townsend '68**, on Nov. 15, 2021, in Norfolk Virginia. He was 75. He was "a kind, genuine and independent soul, friend to many," his obituary read. Guy was born in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, grew up in Newport News, Virginia, and graduated from Hampton Roads Academy. At Kenyon, he was an Alpha Delta Phi. After serving in the Air Force and completing a Virginia Tech M.B.A. in construction engineering, he worked as a cost engineer for many Tidewater construction contractors, including Warwick Air Conditioning. An avid art collector and lover of old movies, he is survived by sisters Kate and Martha and a brother, David.

**Kenneth R. Abraham '69**, on Feb. 6, 2022. After graduation, Ken attended the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, finishing in 1973, and from 1974 to 1979 was a deputy attorney general for Delaware. Then, in his words, he "spent five years (four unlawfully) incarcerated" on a drug conviction before devoting the remainder of his life to prisoners' civil rights and related issues. As founder and president of Citizens for Criminal Justice in Dover, Delaware, his resume testifies to his expertise in addiction and related behavioral problems — particularly how "punitive drug laws and incarceration only make the problem worse. Treatment is needed, not prison." Ken was an expert in post-conviction litigation and "what America now calls its criminal justice system." An adamant and articulate advocate, he fought for the incarcerated to the very end.

In the Fall/Winter 2020 issue of the Kenyon Alumni Magazine, Ken wrote, under the heading "Thanks, Mom and Dad!" the following words: "I write just to remind all students, faculty and alumni to support Kenyon as much as possible. Don't take Kenyon for granted; it is such an

# Bulletin | In Memoriam

outstanding college. I still am not sure how I got in, but my Kenyon education has stood me well through four career changes. I have been an attorney, business broker, entrepreneur and teacher, and enjoyed every one of those endeavors. I went to Kenyon because (in 1965) I wanted to be a doctor, and Kenyon's reputation was such that if you graduated pre-med from Kenyon you could name your med school. Well, I fell in love with the Constitution while at Kenyon, so I switched to political science and became an attorney. No regrets, and today I raise as much hell about the dysfunctional criminal justice system as legally possible and help individuals nationwide. My parents sacrificed financially to send me to Kenyon, and I shall greatly appreciate it until the day I die."

**Stephen R. Crocker '67**, on March 17, 2022, in Asheville, North Carolina. He was 77. A Delta Tau Delta at Kenyon, Steve often made appearances during fraternity parties as "Delta Man," wearing a costume and cape, claiming to draw his strength from beer. He played varsity football until an injury prematurely ended his career. After graduating from Kenyon, Steve pursued a career as a radio news anchor — first in Akron, then in Chicago at WBBM radio, the local CBS affiliate. Steve was known for his long run on WBBM as overnight anchor and as an Illinois state-house reporter from 1979 through the 1990s.

Steve moved to Phoenix briefly with his future wife and then to Asheville, where he retired. He is survived by his wife, Judy; brother, David; sisters Sharyn and Sara Ann; and one grandchild.

**Michael D. Schlemmer '71**, on Jan. 27, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio. He was 72. Born in Akron, Ohio, Michael majored in philosophy and sang in choir and with the a cappella group The Chasers. He was also in the Delta Phi fraternity at Kenyon. He earned a law degree from the University of Akron Law School in 1974, "famously falling out of a tree and dislocating his elbow instead of attending his graduation," his obituary noted. After working as an attorney for Legal Aid in southeastern Ohio, Michael started a private practice in Mount Vernon.

He then joined the Knox County prosecutor's office as an assistant prosecutor, focusing on family law for the Knox County Department of Job and Family Services. He made his lifetime home in Gambier, where he served as mayor from 2000 to 2003, happily performing marriages, among other duties. A tribute left on his obituary site remarked, "Michael always treated the people he had to prosecute with the utmost respect and dignity. He always tried hard to find the best in everyone. One of the good guys representing the court and Children's Services."

Michael loved reading widely, singing with the Kenyon Community Choir and listening to all genres of music. In his spare time, he studied world history and enjoyed classic movies, including his favorite, "The Guns of Navarone." A loyal friend, he enjoyed many Wednesday nights with

BARTHOLOMEW J. ZIURYS '71 >

Bart enjoyed American and English football (soccer), working in his garden and reading about his favorite historical figure, Winston Churchill.

his favorite people at the Village Inn. "According to his Frisbeetarian beliefs," his obituary read, "his soul was flung up onto the church roof and is unable to be retrieved."

Michael is survived by his brothers, Christopher and Patrick; a sister, Melissa; and daughters, **Molly '08** and Amanda.

**Bartholomew John Ziurys '71**,

on April 3, 2020. He was 70 and a resident of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Bart was born in Annapolis, Maryland, and grew up in Gates Mills, Ohio. At Kenyon, he majored in history, played varsity football and joined Sigma Pi. He studied history and fine arts at the Institute for European Studies in Vienna, Austria, during his junior year, which inspired a lifelong interest in European history, international business and travel.

After earning an M.B.A. from John Carroll University, Bart began working for Bowman Distribution, Barnes Group Inc., eventually spending more than 48 years in the global industrial distribution market. He worked and lived in Mexico City; São Paulo, Brazil; Bath, England; and Chagrin Falls before retiring in 2014 as global manager of business development for Barnes Distribution, North America. Until early 2020, he was vice president of business development for SecuraStock.

A friend from England recalled, "Bart had a unique ability to see all sides of a situation. He had an adept way to find compromise, and all with a great sense of humor."

Bart was a beloved husband and father who enjoyed sports, especially American and English football (soccer), working in his garden and discovering a new book about his favorite historical figure, Winston Churchill. He is survived by his wife, **Carolyn Cirbus Ziurys '74**, and daughter, Christina.

**Michelle L. Merian '73**, on March 19, 2022, in Tampa, Florida. She was 70. Known to most as Mickie, she was part of the historic first class of women at Kenyon. With Debate Society President **Alan Rapoport '71** (former mayor of Cleveland Heights), she organized the Fourth Annual Kenyon Intercollegiate Debate Tournament in 1969.

Mickie became a successful speech pathologist and raised two children. During her career in social services and then risk management, she made many lifelong friends, mentioning many of them in her last days and thinking fondly of her career as her "third child." She moved to Tampa in May 2021 to retire just four miles from her daughter, **Shelby Van Voris-Schoenborn '99**, son-in-law and granddaughter — whom she joined many nights each week for dinner. Mickie deeply loved her new friends in Tampa, who were able to see her in her final days. She loved playing charades during "supper club," going to the movies, shopping and traveling. "Her family will scatter her ashes in Nova Scotia at a later date," her obituary read, "the place she spoke of frequently during her last days." She is preceded in death by her father, **Richard**

**F. Merian '50 P'73 '75 GP'99**, and is survived by brother, **Jeffrey H. Merian '75**; sister, Susan; son Paul; two grandchildren and a niece.

**Robert R. Pontious '76**, on Oct. 14, 2021. He was 67. Bob was born at home in Crooksville, Ohio. At age 17, he was smitten by Renae Drake. They married on June 15, 1974. Two years later, Bob received a B.A. in English from Kenyon, where he played football, basketball and baseball, and was a Phi Kappa Sigma. In 1990, he earned a master's in teaching from Southern Illinois University. "His teaching mesmerized students for over 30 years in Ohio, Illinois and North Carolina," his obituary read. "In 2006 he was honored as North Carolina Teacher of the Year."

Bob was passionate about his family, American literature, Ohio State football and movies. He spent his life in service to others in volunteering, working for and teaching the disabled, poor and marginalized. He was a deacon and Bible teacher at Freedom Baptist Church in Wilmington, North Carolina. Bob was known for his intelligence, compassion, loving nature and pithy sayings. A great storyteller, he also told awful jokes. "Bob was the absolute definition of a doting husband, dad and grand-dad," his obituary noted.

He is survived by his wife, Renae; brothers, Mark, Brian and Dan; sister, Deb; son, Sean; daughter, Michelle; his grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

**Claire T. (Nulty) Schaber '77**, on March 15, 2022, in Fort Worth, Texas, after her courageous third battle with cancer. She was 65. A history major at Kenyon, Claire worked at the Arkansas Gazette as executive assistant to the publisher, then at Kitchen Fair in Jacksonville, Arkansas, and Arlington, Texas, as executive assistant to the president. Claire had recently retired as executive assistant to the president of VCC Construction in The Colony, Texas. That employer posted to Facebook, "So many things we loved about Claire — her zest for life, love of puppies and travel, and her humor. She will be greatly missed!"

With more than 20 years' experience as a company-wide travel coordinator who was experienced in domestic and international travel and hotel negotiations, her passion was exploring the globe: Asia, Africa, South America, the South Pacific, Europe and cruises to all parts of the world. Claire loved her boxers and her many rescue dogs. She is survived by her husband, Donald; sister, Loretta; brother, Neil; and many nieces and nephews.

**Jeffrey R. Bonyng '79**, on Jan. 18, 2018, in Cincinnati. Jeff was managing partner at Sycamore Group Ltd., a past president of the Cincinnati Regional Association and attended the Kenyon Leadership Conference in 1989.

Class agent **Michael Cummiskey '79** wrote, "I was Jeff's roommate for a couple years. We belonged to Delta Phi and lived in Hannah Hall." A psychology major, Jeff was a photographer for

< ROBERT R.  
PONTIOUS '76

Bob was known for his intelligence, compassion, loving nature and pithy sayings. A great storyteller, he also told awful jokes.

the Collegian and ran track. An active alumnus who ran for alumni council, he was a dedicated phonathon and alumni admissions volunteer. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl.

**Joan F. (Friedman) Harris '80**, on April 22, 2021, in Nyack, New York. She was 62. Joan grew up on Long Island. She "began chasing her dreams of helping others by studying psychology at Kenyon and obtaining her master's in social work from New York University," her obituary read.

Joan spent many years as the student assistance counselor at Pearl River High School near Nyack and taught graduate students as an adjunct professor at NYU. She specialized in substance abuse and alcohol/drug intervention and prevention. An advocate for human rights, passionate about integrity and equality, she was remembered as a "caring mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend," her obituary read. "Her mission was to live an exuberant and adventurous life full of music — the Foo Fighters were her favorite band — travel, passion, family and friends."

Joan was the first woman to head WKCO — during her sophomore year — and ran a fund drive in 1978 to replace the station's outdated equipment, hosting a 24-hour on-air marathon that April. She later DJ'd part-time at Mount Vernon's commercial radio station, WMVO, forgoing her passion for progressive rock to play anodyne top ten hits. "There was no way I was going to pass up the opportunity," she explained to the Collegian.

Joan was "an everyday rock star, and her friends and family will remember her as a force to be reckoned with."

She is survived by her parents, Sheldon and Francine; brother, David; daughters, Samantha and Alexandra; and two grandchildren.

**Paul H. Quinn '81**, on Jan. 29, 2022, in Boston.

Paul majored in English and performed onstage, for example, as the aesthetic poet Bunthorne in the Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera "Patience." The Collegian praised his 1981 performance, writing, "For humor's sake, Mr. Quinn stole the show. He often elicited cheers between stanzas of his songs and bursts of loud laughter for his perfectly exaggerated antics." He participated in the Exeter program and Chamber Singers, as a baritone. He is survived by a sister, Stephanie.

**William W. Hirsch '85**, on March 29, 2022, in La Jolla, California. He was 58. An active Boy Scout, he continued hiking, biking, canoeing and spelunking.

Bill graduated with a degree in political science and was a systems analyst with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington, D.C., for 12 years. In 1997, he moved to Connecticut to live with his parents, and then in 2012 to Escondido, California, to be close to his sister, Nancy, and her family. Bill had a large book collection (particularly philosophy) and enjoyed music of all genres, especially rock 'n' roll.

In addition to his sister, he is survived by his parents, Walter and Janette; and two nieces.

# Bulletin | In Memoriam

**D. Peter Ruwart Jr. '86**, in September 2021. Pete was an English major, an Alpha Delta Phi and a good tennis player who went on to earn an M.B.A. from Emory University in 1993. He had been living in Bali, Indonesia, since 2006, and was an entrepreneur involved in numerous businesses there. "Don't need or want a real job," he wrote on his LinkedIn profile. "I'm happy the way things are. Beach, surfboard, shorts 'n' flip-flops, ice cold beer, cool friends — close enough for me."

**Eileen (English) Harris '91**, on June 8, 2020, after a traffic accident in South Orange, New Jersey. She was 52. A longtime resident of Summit, New Jersey, Eileen attended the Millbrook School in Dutchess County, New York, and graduated from Kenyon with a degree in English literature. Eileen started her career as a public relations account representative in Washington, D.C., and then became an account executive in New York City, where she met her husband, Phil. They were married in 1994 in Bermuda.

Eileen left the workplace and moved with her family to Summit after the birth of their first daughter. She was a wonderful cook and an avid reader with a quick wit and a beautiful smile. Along with her husband, Eileen is survived by her mother, Ann; brothers, Michael and James; daughters, Emme, Charlotte and Annabel; and two nieces.

**Hunter N. Wright '09**, on Oct. 4, 2021, after a valiant battle with cancer. He was 35 and lived in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Hunter attended Western Reserve Academy, in Hudson, Ohio, where as a sophomore he met his wife **Katherine "Katie" Wright '10**. He graduated from Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio, with a bachelor of science degree in business and engineering.

Hunter was president of Ariel Corp., where he had worked since 2015. Before returning to Ariel, Hunter worked for Caterpillar in Lafayette, Indiana, and Black Horse, in Houston. He served on numerous philanthropic and community boards, including the Board of Visitors of Western Reserve Academy, the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, the Mount Vernon Nazarene University College of Engineering and the Knox County Airport.

According to a published obituary, Hunter's life was marked by the joy he found bringing people together. He cherished the fun and camaraderie of friends and good company. He lived his 35 years to the fullest, accomplished everything he set his mind to, and was at the heart of the Wright family.

Hunter married the love of his life, Katherine Forbes (Gruman) Wright on Aug. 25, 2012. Together they had a beautiful daughter, Annabelle Wright. He is also survived by his parents, John (Stacy) Wright and Karen Buchwald Wright; grandparents James and Maureen Buchwald; brothers **Alexander (Libby) '05 Wright '05**, Andrew (Jennifer) Wright and Samuel (Tate) Wright; and numerous nieces. Hunter was preceded in death by his grandparents Norman and Jere Wright.

**Michael J. Devine '21**, on Feb. 6, 2022. He was 23. Mike graduated from Kenyon last

MICHAEL J.  
DEVINE '21 >

"There are such great people at Kenyon, but it's very hard to come by the amount of loyalty that Mike had for his friends and that we had for him."

spring with a degree in history. He worked as a paralegal and had just received the news that he was accepted and received scholarships to multiple law schools — his dream come true.

A 2017 graduate of Shore Regional High School in West Long Branch, New Jersey, Michael was part of a state championship football team. As a beloved player at Kenyon, he earned the nickname "The Fridge" from his teammates for his tenacity and formidable presence on the field. Last fall he returned to his hometown Pop Warner league to volunteer as a coach, instilling his love for the game in others.

According to a story in the Collegian in February, "Devine surrounded himself with friends throughout his undergraduate career.

**Niall Regan '21** and **Adam Pollock '21** ... recalled late-night Jeopardy! arguments, spontaneous trips to the Village Inn and frequent sports banter. "Mike was a breath of fresh air," Regan said. "He was such a great friend. For better or for worse, he prioritized friendships and having a good time before all else. There are such great people at Kenyon, but it's very hard to come by the amount of loyalty that Mike had for his friends and that we had for him."

Passionate about his Irish heritage, Mike went to Dublin, Ireland, as part of the Arcadia Abroad Program, studying Irish history in spring 2020. Professor Nurten Kilic-Schubel and Professor Hilary Buxton, who worked with him on his Senior Capstone history project, told the Collegian that Mike had researched Bobby Sands and the 1981 Republican prisoners' hunger strike, exploring how Northern Irish Republicans incorporated themselves into a larger history of martyrdom in Ireland. "It was a great joy and rewarding experience working with Michael on his project," Kilic-Schubel wrote. "His passion for Irish history was contagious. I was especially moved by the way in which he connected with the poetry he used in his thesis, which showed his gentle soul and empathetic nature."

Mike was also a member of Delta Tau Delta.

He is survived by his parents, Kathleen and Donald; sister, Mary Rose; brother, Robert; grandfather, Robert Beyer; and grandmother, Joan Devine.

**Margaret Hyink Clor**, widow of longtime Kenyon political science professor Harry M. Clor H'99 (1929-2018), died June 4, 2022. A resident of Gambier for more than 55 years, she was 84.

A native of Chicago, Margaret met Clor when she audited a course he was teaching at the University of Chicago. When she was no longer his student, Clor asked her out on a date. The two married soon after and moved to Gambier when he accepted a position at the College in 1965.

Active in a number of local activities, Clor was familiar to many Gambier residents not only as a neighbor but also for her regular service as an election worker for the village. In addition, she took on the demanding role of volunteer at the New Directions Domestic Abuse Shelter and Rape Crisis Center in Mount Vernon.

"Margaret always welcomed Harry's awe-struck students into their home with enthusiasm and generous hospitality," remembered **Judy Hoffman '73**. "I greatly admired her calm temperament and positive approach to daily living, which made her a wonderful wife and mother. It seemed there was no problem she couldn't solve by just taking a step back to pause and figure it out."

"Margaret was a fine person who was wholly devoted to her family but also did valuable community work, in particular for the local shelter for abused women," observed Professor of Political Science Fred Baumann, a longtime colleague of Harry. "Harry's health was never great, and with advancing age, it was Margaret on whom he depended. She bore up cheerfully and positively through thick and thin."

She is survived by two daughters, Kate Portzline and Laura Clor; two sons-in-law, Aaron Portzline and Ben Davidson; a granddaughter, Grace Portzline; and two sisters, Toni Knight and Dori Palm.

**William "Bill" Klein H'16**, a member of the College's English faculty from 1968 to 2016, on March 31, 2022. He was 85 and a resident of Portland, Maine, where he and his wife had relocated in retirement.

Born in Dwight, Illinois, Bill grew up in Indianapolis and briefly considered becoming a priest after high school. Instead, he entered hometown Butler University, where he earned his bachelor of arts; worked for a bit in the insurance industry; and then proceeded to the University of Chicago, where he received his master's degree and doctorate.

He came to Kenyon as an instructor of English. He won tenure and promotion to associate professor in 1976 and promotion to full professor in 2001. "Bill's teaching dealt largely with the history of the English language," remembered his friend and colleague **P.F. Kluge '64**. "His interests led to presentations for 15 consecutive years at the International Congress of Medieval Studies."

"I took 'Heroic Literature' and 'Arthurian Literature' with Bill Klein," said **Julie Miller Vick '73**, a longtime friend. "His passion for the books and time period he taught was so infectious that we students became just as excited by it. Bill was a kind man who was always available for discussion during office hours, after class, while walking down Middle Path or by phone to his home. He and his wife, Joyce, were friends to so many students and graduates."

From 1979 to 1981, Bill served as an editor of the *Kenyon Review*, sharing the duties with fellow English professors Philip Church, Galbraith Crump and Robert Daniel. He later took on the responsibilities of associate editor, a post he held until the end of T.R. Hummer's editorship of the *Review* in 1989.

His other interests at the College were wide-ranging. He was twice the chair of Campus Senate, of which he was a longtime member. He also served as both member and chair of the Admissions, Faculty Development and Faculty

<WILLIAM "BILL"  
KLEIN

"The word I most associate with Bill is joy: joy in literature, in the whimsy of creation and in all life."

Lectureships committees, the Committee on Athletics, the Committee on Student Affairs and the Judicial Board. Perhaps the most thankless of all his roles, though, was his eight-year run as Faculty Marshal.

In 2016, Bill retired from the College and became a professor emeritus. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters at that year's Commencement, with a citation written and presented by Kluge. "What I will remember most about Bill is how often I could find him in his office on the second floor of Sunset Cottage, grading papers, preparing lectures," said Kluge. "We all do that. But often he sat there thinking, meditating, reposing in a place he loved. He didn't just work in that office; he lived there."

Kluge included in his citation this reminiscence from a former student: "Some of my fondest Kenyon memories are of Friday afternoons in Bill's office, drinking tea and translating old English, where I learned that serious scholarship need not arise out of seriousness of personality. Whether rapping the opening of 'The Canterbury Tales' or arguing over the proper solution of the Anglo-Saxon riddles, Bill challenged his students to take delight in whatever they studied. The word I most associate with Bill is joy: joy in literature, in the whimsy of creation and in all life."

"Bill was one of the first faculty members I met at Kenyon and one of my professors in my junior year," recalled **Tom Stamp '73**, College historian. "He became a cherished friend after I returned to Gambier as a Kenyon administrator in 1984. Bill was a regular attendee at our gatherings of Friends of Martinis, a convivial local group of which he was a founding member. He had a strong preference for Beefeater's gin."

Bill and his late wife, Joyce Stanton Klein, who died in 2019, were the parents of three Kenyon graduates: **Thomas P. Klein '90**, **Anna M. Klein-Christie '93** and **Michael J. Klein '99**. All three children survive, as do two grandchildren, Eleanor Klein-Christie and Sylvie Klein.

**Alex R. McKeown**, former associate professor of political science at Kenyon, on Jan. 29, 2022, after a long battle with frontotemporal degeneration. He was 66.

"Alex McKeown was a valued member of the department and a valued friend," said Professor of Political Science Fred Baumann. "A tough-minded student of war and political history, he was, at the same time, deeply interested in all human thinking and feeling and happy to share and discuss ideas across the spectrum of human life. He was a fine teacher who cared about his students, a kind man beneath the gruff and bearded exterior. And he was a joyous man, as his love of his wife, Sue, of pickup basketball and of 1930s screwball comedies always revealed. I have missed him greatly since his untimely retirement."

A native of Monroe, Wisconsin, Alex graduated from Monroe High School in 1974 as an all-conference fullback, heavy-weight wrestler and member of the track



# Bulletin | In Memoriam

and field team, throwing discus and putting the shot. He then attended the University of Wisconsin–LaCrosse, where he majored in history, minored in political science and played Division III football for one year. He graduated with honors in 1978.

Before entering graduate school at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Alex worked at Huber Brewery, where he had also worked during college summers, in his hometown of Monroe. He went on to earn his master's degree and Ph.D. from Madison, where he met his future wife, Sue, who was employed by the university.

In August 1986, Alex and Sue moved to central Ohio, where Alex began his career as an assistant professor at Kenyon. He was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in 1992. In June 2012, he was forced to retire from academic life because of advancing frontotemporal degeneration.

"It was my privilege to have interviewed Alex for his position at the College, along with (Professor Emeritus of Political Science) Kirk Emmert," remembered Pam Jensen, professor emerita of political science. "He was a very caring colleague, easy to work with and always ready with an encouraging word. One of my favorite things to do with Alex was a joint mini-class we did each spring, in preparation for 'comps,' that integrated international relations and political theory. Alex had a way with students that encouraged them to voice their opinions in a civil and orderly way."

"Alex was a terrific colleague, whose opinion I often sought out when something momentous was happening on the world stage, like the end of the Cold War or 9/11 or the invasion of Iraq," recalled Professor of Political Science Tim Spiekerman. "His responses were invariably sober, historically informed and judicious. I always came away with a deeper understanding of events and knew that his students were lucky to have him as a teacher."

In addition to his wife, Alex is survived by Sue; sisters Meighan, Peg and Mary; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Mary L. Shaw**, on Feb. 16, 2022, at the Whispering Hills Care Center in Mount Vernon. She was 64. Mary had retired from Kenyon's food service department, where she worked for years nourishing the campus in many ways. She enjoyed riding motorcycles, gambling, and going to garage sales and flea markets. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family. Whenever Mary ended a conversation, she would say, "Just remember I love you more."

Mary is survived by her father, Charles; sisters, Tina and Tammy; brothers, Charles, Rick, Danny, Jerry and Steve; daughter, Michelle; sons, Jason and Jerad; four grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews, including her caregiver, Rachael Glancy.

<MARY L. SHAW  
Whenever  
Mary  
ended a  
conversation,  
she would  
say, "Just  
remember  
I love you  
more."

**Patricia Slate**, on Nov. 13, 2021. She was 91. Patty worked in administration at Kenyon during the years that her husband, Professor Emeritus Joseph F. Slate, chaired the art department. (He died Jan. 20, 2020.)

Born Oct. 9, 1930, Patty graduated from Loretto Heights College in Denver in 1952 and worked as a secretary for the Foreign Broadcast Information Service in Washington, D.C., where she met Joe. After marriage, they were assigned to Santa Rosa, California, and Tokyo. While Joe earned his M.F.A. at Yale, Patty worked as an administrative assistant there.

The Slates then made Gambier their home for 30 years, Joe teaching and Patty serving the College, where a painting studio is named for him. They were married for 65 years. "Patty was loved by all who knew her for her kindness, sensitivity, intelligence and grace," her obituary read.

**Margaret Guilmette Turgeon**, a longtime member of the Kenyon community and the widow of Professor Emeritus of Drama **Thomas S. Turgeon H'08**, on May 17, 2022, in Northampton, Massachusetts. Known to one and all as Peggy, she was 79.

A native of Yonkers, New York, Peggy grew up in Briarcliff Manor, New York, with her mother and stepfather after her father's death in World War II. She graduated in 1964 from Wilson College, majoring in religion, and married Tom, whom she had first met as a child while summering in Friendship, Maine.

The couple moved to Gambier in 1972, when Tom started as an assistant professor of drama at Kenyon. Peggy became a case manager at Moundbuilders Guidance Center in Mount Vernon. The Turgeons, active and concerned citizens and convivial hosts, were quickly recognized as mainstays of the College community.

That grew to be even more true as a result of Peggy's long partnership with her friend Joyce Klein as the College's caterers. Any event for which they provided and served the food, from small receptions to large dinners for visiting speakers or bridal parties, was sure to be a success.

The two became most famous for their "Friday Cafes" during the academic year at the Harcourt Parish House on West Brooklyn Street. They carried on the tradition for 30 years before retiring.

Peggy taught others who loved food at La Belle Pomme Cooking School in Columbus, and she attended classes with fellow chefs at La Varenne Cooking School in Paris.

Active in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Gambier, she served on the vestry for a number of terms and as a lay minister. She also sang in the choir and helped in any and all events involving food. She participated in the programs of Interchurch Social Services of Knox County for many years.

She is survived by her sisters, Mary and Susan; brothers, Peter and William; daughter, **Sarah Turgeon '89 P'21**; son, **Charles Turgeon '93 P'23**; six grandchildren, including **Alex Perry '21** and **Charlie Turgeon '23**; and several nieces and nephews.

## TRUSTEES OF KENYON COLLEGE

Michael Arbour '89  
Rachel R. Berger '11  
Sean M. Decatur, *President*  
Brackett B. Denniston III '69, *Chair*  
Diane Elam '80  
Annie Hanna Engel P'23  
Rose Brintlinger Fealy '84  
James P. Finn '70  
Nina P. Freedman '77 H'92  
Elisabetta Ghisini P'24  
R. Todd Giardinelli '94  
Judith Hoff Gilbert '91, *Secretary*  
Hope C. Harrod '98  
Aileen C. Hefferren '88 H'12  
Pamela Feitler Hoehn-Saric '80 P'10,'14  
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth Jr.  
David W. Horvitz '74 H'98  
Benita Jackson P'18  
Aasem G. Khalil '96  
Joseph E. Lipscomb '87 P'19, *Vice Chair*  
Melzetta Moody '05  
Liz Myers P'17  
James F. Parker '81 P'10  
Densil R. Porteous II '02  
Sonya M. Pryor-Jones '94  
Mark C. Rosenthal '73 H'98  
Brian Selden P'25  
Beth Shuman P'22  
Susan Tomasky P'17  
Matthew D. Voorhees '95  
Matthew A. Winkler '77 H'00 P'13  
Alexander W. Wright '05

## EMERITUS TRUSTEES

David F. Banks '65 H'01 P'96  
William E. Bennett '68 H'11 P'96,'00,'07  
Edwin H. Eaton Jr. '60 H'03 P'89  
Gerald J. Fields '62 H'13  
Pamela P. Flaherty P'00,'04  
Ellen W. Griggs '77  
Cornelia Ireland Hallinan '76 H'91  
David W. Horvitz '74 H'98  
Harvey F. Lodish '62 H'82 P'89 GP'21  
William E. Lowry Jr. '56 H'99  
John B. McCoy H'94  
David R. Meuse  
James C. Niederman '46 H'81 P'76  
Burnell R. Roberts H'92 P'77  
Alan E. Rothenberg '67 H'10 P'96  
Thomas R. Sant '65 H'13  
Barry F. Schwartz '70 H'15  
William T. Spitz P'08  
David D. Taft '60 H'00  
Richard L. Thomas '53 H'72 P'81  
Charles P. Waite Jr. '77 P'06,'10

## KENYON FUND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR  
Mary Schwendener '85

PAST CHAIR  
Maraleen D. Shields '00

CLASS AGENT PROGRAM CHAIR  
Rebecca Hoyt '99

MEMBERS  
Alexander "Sandy" Bryant '02  
Kyra Green '17  
Bradford S. Koles, Jr. '86  
Eric S. Newman '96  
Eugene Peterson '70  
Cody Shankman '12  
Elizabeth R. Siphron '17  
Bi T. Vuong '03  
Terry J. West Jr. '97  
Jason White '01

## ALUMNI COUNCIL

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Janae Peters '10, *President*  
Kimberly Qualls '12, *Vice President*  
Kyla Carlson '89, *Secretary*  
Shawn Dailey,  
*Associate Vice President for  
Alumni and Parent Engagement  
and Annual Giving*  
Annie Gordon,  
*Director of Alumni Engagement*  
Colleen Garland,  
*Vice President for Advancement*

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Liza Brilliant '21  
Thomas Brown '13  
Christopher Eaton '89  
Richa Jha '03  
Janet E. Heckman '76  
Darnell Heywood '94  
Kurt Karakul '73 P'03,'06,'08,'11 H'15  
Ellen Leerburger '86  
Ronald Maheia '13  
Kirolos Mikhaeel '22  
Thomas Moore '72  
Emily Plocki '07  
David Richards '89  
Ann Russell '91  
Levon Sutton '97  
Nicolyn Woodcock '12

## Visit Kenyon online

For up-to-date information on events at the College, visit the Kenyon website at **KENYON.EDU**

Diverse views are presented and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or official policies of the College.

COPYRIGHT 2022 BY KENYON COLLEGE  
Kenyon College does not discriminate in its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical and/or mental disability, age, religion, medical condition, veteran status, marital status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by institutional policy or state, local or federal law. The requirement of nondiscrimination in educational programs and activities extends to employment and admission. Inquiries regarding Kenyon's non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

Civil Rights/Title IX  
Coordinator  
Kenyon College  
Eaton Center  
Gambier, OH 43022



# Back Talk



**(our Table of Contents in reverse)**

Welcome to the end of your alumni magazine journey; we hope you enjoyed it. Or, for those starting at the back and reading forward, please enjoy this reward for breaking the rules. Here are a few moments in the magazine that we wanted to make sure you caught.

## 23

**“Brink” of disaster**

A Kenyon alumna is the new ambassador to Ukraine. In her confirmation hearing she put her own spin on poli-sci’s famous “quest for justice.”



## 11

**Go to college to find yourself**

And lose everything else, apparently.

## 4

**What if “Charlotte’s Web” had it right?**

Mellon Science and Nature Writing Fellow Geetha Iyer recommends the book “Spider Silk,” which tracks the evolutionary history of spiders using their silk as a narrative (and genetic) thread.



## 35

**Ishmael has some notes**

Essayists mull the motivations of the most famous whale hunter in literature, searching tirelessly for insight like ... well, you know.

## 59

**GLORY DAYS**

A new book for Kenyon’s bicentennial invites you to submit reflections on the places, people and even objects that say “Kenyon” to you. (Not literally — unless there’s a talking Philander doll out there somewhere?)

## 36

**Or what a Zoom is**

Donald A. Fischman '57 and his friends couldn't have known 65 years ago that what they were learning at Kenyon would help foster respectful discourse via Zoom.

M	E	G	A	A	L	I	R	O	S	S	E		
I	M	A	X	M	A	R	K	E	T	D	O	G	
D	E	V	E	L	O	P	A	T	H	E	S	I	S
D	R	E	O	L	D	S	I	R					
L	I	T	L	E	O	S	T	I	P	S			
E	L	O	N	G	E	S	O	O	M				
				A	L	L	C	H	A	S	E	R	S
T	I	P	T	O	P	A	T	H	L	E	T	E	S
O	H	I	O	A	N	S	H	A	T				
V	A	X		S	I	T	H	U	G	S			
B	Y	A	D	F	O	P	S	G	R	P			
				N	O	R	G	E	M	A	I	L	
H	O	O	K	S	U	P	A	T	H	A	N	N	A
P	H	I	L	A	N	D	E	R	P	D	A	S	
S	O	L	E	S		F	D	A		P	A	T	H

**No Cheating!!!**

But here are the answers for the crossword on the cover.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HOWARD KORN; JULIA HOLTON; SHUTTERSTOCK



### ONE MORE THING ...

In the weeks leading up to my final farewell with the Class of 2022, I would walk around campus in utter awe, with the bittersweet knowledge that it was the last time I would interact with Kenyon's legendary, breathtaking buildings.

These magical Gothic monuments had drawn me to Gambier over four years ago, and made me feel as though I was a part of something timeless. So, as I wandered, the spring sun finally filtering through the trees, I had the overwhelming feeling that my footprints made a mark on Middle Path, and that I was part of some sacred history. I realized that my enigmatic experiences and profound personal growth had occurred within a 3,600-foot-long gravel path, book-ended by Old Kenyon and Bexley Hall. How could so much life happen in just over half a

mile of land? Bexley Hall, then, became a landmark, both physical and metaphorical, for the completion of my time at Kenyon. Years ago, I had stood facing Old Kenyon, wondering if I would truly be able to call this place home. And what greeted me on the morning of May 21 was a crowd of friends, family, beloved mentors and, of course, Bexley Hall, standing as it always had, as a benevolent beacon when I lost, and then found, my way.

– **Julia Holton '22**, artist  
Read more about Bexley Hall on page 12.

**Kenyon**

Office of Communications  
221 N. Acland St.  
Gambier Ohio 43022

NONPROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

**Paid**

KENYON COLLEGE

“As much as it’s a solitary act to solve a puzzle, you still know you’re facing the same challenge as so many others that day.”

— **David Bukszpan '02,**

reflecting on the social value of crossword puzzles, on page 32

## A Stroll Down Memory Lane

David Bukszpan’s very first Kenyon crossword

### ACROSS

1. Huge
5. “Sting like a bee” boxer
8. Hall with steps to sing from
13. It shows things getting blown up, blown up
14. Something student quarters in Farr Hall were turned into?
16. Do some paper work?
18. Dr. of rap
19. First word of “Kokosing Farewell”
20. Title of respect below Lord
21. Review stuff?
22. William H. Gass and Josh Radnor, by birth
24. They’re left at the V.I.
27. Moneyed Musk
29. Appliances that used to “bring good things to life”
31. Half a tuba sound
33. \_\_\_-stus
36. Kokes alternative
39. Pole-vaulters, momentarily
43. They’re big on spelling their state with their arms
44. Airborne item at Commencement
45. A shot for short—or for some a way to send 33-across
46. Office-hours invitation (or demand?)
48. Reunion armloads?
52. Pair
55. Dandies
58. Frat. or sor.
59. Neither’s partner
61. Thing on a ring
62. Be laid up in bed
63. Has a connection across from Leonard, say
68. First name in Phlings
69. To alums of a certain vintage: Hand-held devices, for short. (To younger alums: Hand-holding and pawing in public, for short.)
70. Shoe features
71. Agcy. overseeing Rx’s
72. With 1-Down, central thing found three times in this puzzle

### DOWN

1. Like English after it was Olde
2. Chef Lagasse
3. Supported the endowment
4. Fireman’s tool
5. Whac-\_\_\_ (arcade game)
6. Teacher’s pet?
7. Glass with glasses
8. Took another swing at
9. Cheri formerly of “S.N.L.”
10. ‘60’s antiwar org. with a chapter on campus
11. “And let me wring your heart; for \_\_\_ shall.” —Hamlet
12. “For example” abbrs.
15. Gold units: Abbr.
17. [U r hilarious]
23. Division
25. Ransom, for instance
26. Achy
28. European defense assn.
30. Emphatic Olin admonition
32. Author’s submissions: Abbr.
34. Hawaii’s Mauna \_\_\_
35. M.D.’s helpers
37. In the style of
38. Brother of Cain and Abel
39. Mazel’s mate
40. “\_\_\_ a great GPA until I took...”
41. \_\_\_ Stix
42. “Yeah, right!”
47. Prepared to go Greek for a night?
49. It’s not near Kenyon
50. Greet with a smile
51. Big display
53. Something one might twist at the Lowry Center
54. Pancakes served with chutney
56. Ancient city in Jordan
57. Letters of online disapproval
60. Gap Trail activity
63. Popular printers, for short
64. Cry of surprise
65. Car fluid
66. E-mail attachment letters
67. Common admission method?