

SCOPE

A BIENNIAL SHOWCASE OF SKIDMORE COLLEGE PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS

FALL 2020

The promise of the future

The liberal arts as
a roadmap during
tumultuous times

- President Conner's first semester
- Skidmore's Racial Justice Initiative



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THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE: THE LIBERAL ARTS AS A ROADMAP DURING TUMULTUOUS TIMES

Never have the interdisciplinary, solution-oriented lessons of a liberal arts education been more needed than in confronting the exceptional challenges of 2020. Skidmore's dynamic curriculum is offering students such as Lila Norton '24 (right) tools to tackle the daunting challenges of the future.

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The year 2020 has been filled with the unexpected. Members of our immediate and extended community have experienced disruptions and tragedies associated with COVID-19, economic challenges, the national fallout from festering systemic racism, and a particularly polarizing election year.

During this period of uncertainty, Marc C. Conner assumed office as Skidmore's eighth president and invited each member of our community to come together as we waged our own battle against the pandemic. Supported by comprehensive health and safety measures, Skidmore students heeded the president's call to make heroic choices, making it possible for the College to offer a residential fall semester experience to students under unusual and sometimes difficult circumstances.

In this issue of Scope, we cover President Conner's first semester on the job and Skidmore's success in implementing its plan for the fall semester. At the same time, we look at

the remarkable progress President Conner has made toward his bold vision for the future, including the launch of the Racial Justice Initiative, part of a concerted effort to build a community of trust at Skidmore.

The challenges of 2020 will not go away quickly, but we believe there is reason for hope: The lessons of a liberal arts education afford us the tools to confront current and future challenges in creative new ways.

As we enter this holiday season, I hope we can each find inspiration in the heroism that Skidmore's students, faculty, staff, alumni and the entire community have embodied throughout these trying times, and discover in the liberal arts the lessons to lead us toward the brighter days that lie ahead.

Happy holidays!

— James Helicke

SKIDMORE
COLLEGE

SCOPE FALL 2020

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**On the cover:**

From left, Chelsea Knoll, Luke Eisman, Chris Arnold and Kevin Langyintuo, members of the Class of 2024, enjoy a stroll on campus this fall.
(Photo: Sarah Condon-Meyers)

CREATIVE
THOUGHT
MATTERS



In early February, I stood on the stage of Arthur Zankel Music Center before Skidmore College students, faculty and staff and expressed how very humbled and proud I was to be invited to serve such an outstanding liberal arts institution and work with such a wonderful community. Little did we know then of the urgent challenges to come, but as I reflect now, approaching five months into my presidency, I continue to feel gratitude and optimism above all else. As we face these great challenges together, I could not have asked for a more dedicated, creative and caring community than the one I have found at Skidmore.

The manifestations of this community's strength have been numerous and profound. When our students have needed help covering emergency expenses or replacing some of the opportunities lost as a consequence of the pandemic, our alumni, parents and friends have been there for them. When COVID-19 forced us to adjust our courses and teaching methods, our faculty and staff have gone above and beyond in developing innovative solutions for virtual, in-person and hybrid learning. When this historic moment required us to support one another, keep each other safe and appreciate what unites us and what makes us different, our entire Skidmore community responded with remarkable kindness and courage.

It has been tremendously gratifying to see so many of our students return to Skidmore for the fall semester and receive the residential liberal arts experience we all value so dearly. Students, faculty and staff have been working diligently to protect the health and well-being of our campus and local communities and to ensure the continuation of that experience. In my conversations with parents, alumni and community members about College initiatives and our response to the pandemic, many have offered their praise for what we have accomplished so far this fall. It's especially good to hear from many parents who say their students are learning, engaged and happy, despite the conditions imposed by the pandemic. That is certainly what we hope for all our students, and we will make every effort to carry that momentum into the spring semester and beyond.

Before the pandemic, financial crisis and social unrest of 2020 emerged, I shared with the Skidmore community my intention to work together to build a diverse and inclusive community of trust in which everyone feels welcome,

challenged and supported. Our country's public discourse has not given us many examples of such inclusive trust, as we have witnessed so much distrust, divisiveness, tragedy and pain throughout our nation this year. This confirms that the work of a great liberal arts college has never been more valuable or more necessary. Education remains a beacon of hope, and Skidmore's ability to model civil discourse and mutual understanding is essential to that educational work. The change we wish to see in our country and our world can start here.

This is why, in my first message on my first day in office, I announced "A Community of Trust: The Racial Justice Initiative at Skidmore," a yearlong series of projects and programming that will help us take meaningful steps toward lasting healing and change and examine issues of race and justice nationally and globally. Since the specific objectives of the Initiative were shared on Sept. 1, I have been so pleased to see a high level of interest and engagement from students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the College who seek to be part of these conversations and efforts, which complement the larger work of diversity, equity and inclusion at Skidmore. As we undertake these plans, hold these discussions and actively listen to and learn from one another, we are deepening mutual trust within our College and Saratoga Springs communities and strengthening Skidmore as an aspirational example of leadership in the liberal arts.

To be sure, my transition to the role of president and my first several months in office turned out to be very different from what I envisioned in February, in many ways. And yet at the same time, I have found at Skidmore exactly what I expected and hoped to find: a diverse, welcoming and caring community that shares common goals and is willing and eager to work hard to achieve those goals. Every single day I have felt grateful to be in this position, and I am truly honored to be navigating these unusual times alongside all of you. It's been an amazing journey so far, but we are just getting started. As I find ways to get to know the entire Skidmore community — through Zoom calls, video chats, virtual dialogues, emails, masked conversations and the occasional (treasured!) in-person-safely-distanced-outdoors-face-to-face meeting, I am loving the chance to learn more about this remarkable college and community. Thank you all for so graciously welcoming Barbara and me into this community, and thank you for putting your trust in me. I will continue to work as hard as I can to preserve everything that makes a Skidmore education and experience so exceptional, and I very much look forward to building on that foundation of excellence together.

— Marc C. Conner



The Skidmore community used creative thought to provide instruction this fall to more than 2,500 students, including Olivia Knowlton '23, left, and Bella Klosterman '23, who carried their skateboards on their way to class.

A SEMESTER LIKE NO OTHER

Skidmore's campus underwent dramatic changes this fall as faculty and staff found creative ways to allow more than 2,500 students to take classes in person, online and through hybrid means.

With 1,825 students living on campus and more than 400 others in the local community, the College took dramatic steps to keep everyone safe: Students from states and countries on New York's Travel Advisory List participated in a two-week quarantine. The College rented rooms from a local hotel for use as residential space and even erected tents as makeshift classrooms and dining facilities. All students and employees on campus underwent weekly testing for COVID-19 and embraced masks and

social distancing protocols while strict sanitation and health measures were put into practice.

By late October, nearly 30,000 COVID-19 tests had been conducted, and Skidmore had registered only a handful of cases, thanks to overwhelming support from students, faculty and staff. Skidmore proved itself to be a "national leader" in its efforts to contain the virus, said President Marc Conner.

"This is a unique time in our history, but this moment also demonstrates the enduring strength of our entire Skidmore community," Conner said. "We're all in on this effort to protect ourselves and one another — together."

How to access augmented reality features in Scope

This issue of Scope is enhanced with additional content made possible through augmented reality. This technology integrates digital experiences with print, making the magazine more interactive and informative to readers.

To join a guided video tour of Skidmore's transformed campus with President Marc Conner and to explore additional augmented reality features throughout this magazine, visit www.skidmore.edu/AR.

When prompted, please allow the website to access the camera on your cellphone or tablet. Then simply hover over any images in this magazine that include an augmented reality icon (such as the one marked "SK" in the upper left corner of this page). iPhone users should use the Safari browser, instead of Chrome.

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Director of the First-Year Experience Amon Emeka welcomed new students on behalf of the faculty during a virtual Convocation ceremony on Aug. 23.



LOOSENING UP

Strict measures to contain COVID-19 did not spell an end to student life on campus: There were plenty of ways for community members to enjoy time with others safely. Here, Skidmore students practiced yoga outside the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery in September.

AN EXTRAORDINARY WELCOME

“Skidmore College is now and forever your college.”

— ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AMON EMEKA

Despite unusual circumstances and incredible challenges, Skidmore College welcomed 720 members of the Class of 2024, topping the College’s admission target for the first-year class.

“Here we stand ... in the most unusual and probably most challenging fall semester in the history of American higher education. I can tell you, my enthusiasm for this year is higher than ever,” President Marc Conner told the Class of 2024 and transfer students during a virtual Convocation ceremony on Aug. 23. “I am so glad you all are here. I’m so grateful for your commitment to Skidmore. And I am proud that Skidmore is doing all it can to fulfill its commitment to you.”

Members of the first-year class come from 27 countries and 37 states and were selected from a near-record pool of more than 10,000 applicants. Despite enormous challenges associated with the pandemic, Skidmore even managed to exceed its enrollment target by about 10 students, a positive sign during a challenging time in higher education.

Mary Lou Bates, vice president and dean of admissions and financial aid, described the remarkable diversity of the Class of 2024: Fourteen percent are the first in

their families to go to college, and a quarter identify as domestic students of color. They hold citizenship from more than two dozen countries and converse using languages ranging from American Sign Language to Zulu.

Speaking at Convocation, Director of the First-Year Experience and Associate Professor of Sociology Amon Emeka praised the character, persistence and potential of the first-year class.

“Take the responsibilities of community membership seriously and take full advantage of opportunities and resources that membership in this extraordinary community affords you,” he said. “Skidmore College is now and forever your college.”

Although campus looks different this year, the pandemic did not dampen the Class of 2024’s enthusiasm.

“I am excited to be on campus,” said Will Barr ’24 of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. “Although I wish that the pandemic had not interfered with our college experience ... it doesn’t seem to have impacted our time here as much as I expected.”



MOVING IN

Packed with excitement, first-year students arrived for the fall semester.



CREATIVE CLASSROOMS

In addition to online and hybrid formats, some courses were offered in new locations this fall. Professor Jeffrey Segrave taught *Sport, Self and Society*, a first-year Scribner Seminar, in one of several tents. Tents were also used for dining, COVID-19 testing and other purposes.



HANGING OUT

Skidmore took the pandemic seriously, but there were plenty of lighter moments, too. Stella Piasecki '23 rested in a hammock as she was hanging out with friends, including Dorree Ndooki '23.



Jon Bile '21 and Kevin Langyintuo '24 participated in drills for the men's soccer team this fall.

ALL IN TO WIN

Although Liberty League competition was canceled this fall, the Skidmore community continues to rally for Skidmore Athletics. "Athletics teams have continued to practice, and we remain as committed as ever to our teams and student-athletes at Skidmore," said Gail Cummings-Danson, assistant vice president for student affairs and director of athletics at Skidmore.

The annual Friends of Skidmore Athletics Benefit and Hall of Ceremony, which supports Skidmore Athletics, was held as a virtual event in October. And more than 800 donors rallied to raise more than \$245,000 for Athletics as part of the fourth All In To Win crowdfunding effort, which surpassed its previous high by \$80,000. Student-athletes, coaches and alumni volunteers (including Patrick McEvoy '03, Andrew Hughes '92 and members of the new Friends of Skidmore Athletics Leadership Council) helped score the win for Skidmore Athletics!



Schick Gallery Director Rebecca Shepard discusses artwork featured in the exhibition "Indelible: Works in Ink from Pierogi Gallery and Flat Files." Miss the Schick? Visit www.skidmore.edu/AR and hover over this image with your cellphone or tablet.

OPEN FOR ART

In addition to the Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, the Schick Art Gallery allowed members of the campus community to enjoy art in person this fall. The exhibition "Indelible: Works in Ink from Pierogi Gallery and Flat Files" featured pieces of art by 35 artists using ink as their primary medium. "Ink can be a little bit scary. It's permanent, so when you work with it, you have to be a little bit daring and willing to commit," said Schick Gallery Director Rebecca Shepard.



Marc Conner takes a stroll on campus with Molly, the family's Labrador retriever mix, shortly after his arrival.

A FIRST SEMESTER to REMEMBER

President Marc C. Conner is looking toward a stronger future for Skidmore while leading the College through the historic challenges of the present.

On the morning of July 1, his first day as Skidmore College's eighth president, Marc Conner set foot onto a quiet and mostly empty campus. The welcoming, vivid, creative community that had greeted him during prior visits to the College interacted mostly on a virtual plane now, continuing to learn, work and communicate from a safe distance.

He had envisioned walking up to many members of the Skidmore community on that first day, introducing himself and immediately beginning to form relationships. As Conner traversed the deserted grounds and hallways, he reflected on the new reality before him and the path forward in a time of great change and uncertainty.

"Walking past the buildings dedicated to the arts, the new science center under construction, the Scribner Library and the athletic fields, I felt the significance of the vibrant culture of an education rooted in the arts, the sciences and the professions," Conner described in a July 11 Times Union op-ed titled "Inspired teaching and learning will return." "... We are in a moment of present suffering, to be sure. But the essence of the liberal arts education

is not confined to present challenges. It stretches across generations and connects our current moment with the significance of the past and the promise of the future. Ultimately it teaches us how to overcome the present challenges."

In his first few months in office, Conner has led Skidmore through a global pandemic, an economic crisis and a national reckoning over racial injustice and inequality — a series of extraordinary challenges that had not even begun to come into view by early February, when Conner was welcomed to campus as president-elect. But in describing then his vision for a "community of trust" at Skidmore, he outlined the values that would shape his response to the emergencies and related challenges that followed.

"There are many roles to being a president," he said to students, faculty and staff during his Feb. 7 address in Zankel Music Center. "Building relationships is the heart of the work, it's the heart of the mission. When we think about our highest commitment to a community of diversity and inclusion, that really comes down to building a community of trust, a place where everybody feels at home,

"One of my biggest takeaways from the first four months is how well poised Skidmore is for the next decade. This is a ridiculously challenging time for higher education. We will get to the other side, and I intend for us to be well positioned when we get there."

— PRESIDENT MARC CONNER

everybody feels they can thrive and everybody feels safe enough to challenge and be challenged by an education that we know is daring.”

Building on this fundamental priority and his experience as a longtime advocate of diversity and inclusion efforts, Conner introduced plans for a Racial Justice Initiative at Skidmore on the very first day of his presidency. This bold pronouncement was a powerful statement about the College’s commitment to fostering a welcoming environment for all, and the necessity for examining issues of race and justice on campus, in the local community, nationally and globally. Following a summer of intense discussions with all constituencies, Conner put forward the details of the yearlong series of projects on Sept. 1. Many of the Initiative’s specific institutional action items — from filling important diversity leadership positions at the College to the creation of a new Board of Trustees Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion — have been completed or are well underway.

Conner’s collaborative and forthright leadership style has been instrumental in Skidmore’s COVID-19 response, in which he got involved months before he officially took office. He worked closely with then President Philip Glotzbach, College administrators and others to ensure a smooth leadership transition as Skidmore navigated the uncharted territory of the pandemic, and he initiated regular communication with students and their families, faculty and staff throughout the monthslong fall semester planning process — a practice of transparent communication he has pledged to continue as one of the pillars of a community of trust.

After numerous campuswide planning meetings, presentations

and extensive work to gather information and explore potential scenarios, a carefully considered fall reopening plan was developed, and an in-person residential learning experience resumed at Skidmore in late August after being suspended since mid-March at the outset of the pandemic.

Since then, Conner has rallied the Skidmore community around a clear call to action — to make heroic choices in an “all-in” effort to keep the coronavirus in check. He has repeatedly lauded the tireless work done to support a safe in-person learning experience, from the shift made by faculty and staff to offer creative, fulfilling courses in virtual and modified in-person formats, to the massive undertaking of updating campus facilities, to the sacrifice made by hundreds of students who completed a state-mandated 14-day quarantine in August upon returning to Saratoga Springs. Such demonstrations of dedication and perseverance, Conner says — alongside a solid foundation of comprehensive health and safety policies and procedures, including weekly COVID testing for the entire campus — have enabled Skidmore to achieve success where so many colleges have struggled or failed.

Hand in hand with his leadership on racial justice and the COVID-19 response, Conner has placed a strong emphasis on civic engagement. He has been unequivocal in supporting the fundamental rights of expression and assembly, and he encourages members of the Skidmore community to make informed choices, engage in respectful dialogue and make their voices heard, particularly in this historic election year.

“Casting a vote, informed by this process of civic engagement, is a fundamental American right



Skidmore College President Marc Conner speaks at Arthur Zankel Music Center during a live, virtual Convocation ceremony.

and privilege, and we encourage everyone in our Skidmore community to embrace this enormous responsibility and serve our country and democracy,” he wrote in launching the College’s new Election 2020 webpage, which offered resources and Skidmore-sponsored programming to students, faculty, staff and the local community in the run-up to the election.

Conner says his presidential work is centered on the value he places in making and maintaining connections for the betterment of the community. Those connections, he says — whether established through Zoom meetings or masked, socially distanced exchanges — have allowed him to listen and learn about the College from students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and community members and talk about a vision for the future.

“The best part of this exciting job is getting to know people,” he says, reflecting on his first 100 days in office. “We’ve been finding ways to get around COVID, to maintain and even strengthen our fundamental human connections.”

Conner walks the campus every day, often with his wife Barbara and their beloved chocolate Lab,

Molly. He shuttles between his Palamountain Hall office and his home office in Scribner House, and of course makes his weekly visit to the COVID-19 testing tent. But now, in contrast to those early weeks of summer, he encounters students, faculty and staff along the way. He delights in welcoming the admissions tours and seeks out students to chat with and get to know. And though the grounds look a little different — with its tents for study and outdoor learning — humanity has reinvigorated the campus this fall semester.

While many challenges must still be taken one day at a time, Conner is making plans for a promising future at Skidmore.

“One of my biggest takeaways from the first four months is how well poised Skidmore is for the next decade,” Conner says. “This is a ridiculously challenging time for higher education. We will get to the other side, and I intend for us to be well positioned when we get there. I continue to insist that the future is very bright at Skidmore, and that is not just stubborn optimism. It’s rooted in my confidence in this special community and what we can achieve together.”

— Angela Valden

A COMMUNITY of TRUST

In his first message to the Skidmore community on his first day as Skidmore's eighth president, Marc Conner announced his plans to launch the Racial Justice Initiative, a yearlong series of projects that seek to address the realities of racial injustice locally, nationally and globally.

"The time is now to create tangible goals and achieve measurable success in the specific area of racial justice and the lived experience of our Black fellow community members," Conner said on July 1.

Conner, who co-founded and directed the African American studies program at his prior institution, has said Skidmore's commitment to and achievement in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work were among the strengths that drew him to the College.

Since the Racial Justice Initiative's official launch on Sept. 1, when its 12 key objectives were presented, progress has already been made on several of its high-priority action items.

At the institutional level, searches are underway to fill two key diversity leadership positions on campus, and a new Board of Trustees Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been created and began holding its first meetings in October.

"With today's issues at the forefront of social, political and

racial upheaval, the Board of Trustees has found it important to establish the DEI committee to address and support the College's agenda related to social and racial justice and its continuing efforts toward creating a more welcoming campus community for all its members," said Trustee Linda Jackson-Chalmers '73, chair of the new committee.

In seeking to improve and build partnerships between the College and local community, the Saratoga Springs task force on Police Reform and Reinvention, which includes members of the Skidmore community, has met a number of times. Internally, discussions are exploring how best to support and strengthen the College's Campus Safety staff and ensure their relations and interactions with the entire Skidmore community are as positive and supportive as possible.

"Campus Safety staff members are central to our educational mission," Conner said. "They are part of our efforts to support our students, and I want them to be able to fully thrive in that role."

To encourage learning, engagement and education on the "major issues and histories of antiracism, unconscious bias and racial justice," a number of curricular, co-curricular and educational projects are in the works or have been presented to the Skidmore community already this fall.

SKIDMORE'S RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE PRIORITIZES DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND DIALOGUE



Kevin Young, poet, author, poetry editor at *The New Yorker* and the next director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., took part in a one-hour conversation livestreamed to members of the Skidmore community on Oct. 21 as part of the Racial Justice Initiative.

The funding the Initiative provides — a portion of which comes from the Presidential Discretionary Fund and a generous gift from a friend of the College for DEI work, along with a matching grant — is opening the door to new possibilities, said Winston Grady-Willis, professor and director of Skidmore’s Black Studies Program. For instance, he said, planning has begun for a potential spring symposium on “COVID-19 and the Global African World” that could involve other New York Six Consortium institutions.

“I’m often reminded that the individual student will sometimes get as much from a lecture or symposium as they might in a week in the classroom — that those outside-the-classroom experiences can be impactful ones for students,” said Grady-Willis.

This semester, Black Studies co-sponsored — along with Skidmore’s English Department, Arts Administration Program and the Office of Alumni Relations & College Events — a live, hourlong reading and conversation with Kevin Young, poet, author and poetry editor at *The New Yorker*, on Oct. 21. Young was recently named the next director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum



In the keynote address for this year’s *In It 5* series, Janaya Khan, a Black, queer, gender-nonconforming activist and social justice educator, led a discussion about the Black Lives Matter movement.

of African American History and Culture and will assume the role in January 2021. Through an accompanying virtual residency, he held private classes for students in select Skidmore courses prior to the evening event.

On Nov. 9, Skidmore’s Center for Leadership, Teaching and Learning invited faculty, staff, students and members of the greater Capital District community to a virtual lecture on antiracist pedagogy presented by Bettina L. Love, a professor, scholar and author whose research seeks to understand and contextualize the educational experiences of marginalized youth.

Through this year’s *In It 5* series, members of the Skidmore community examined issues surrounding antiracism, diversity and equity through workshops, film screenings, dialogues and other virtual events. The annual series, which is supported by Skidmore’s Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU), aims to raise cultural fluency and strengthen the Skidmore community by taking a deep dive into a different theme each year.

For the 2020 *In It* event, “we really took our cues from the work we did this summer when we held a community check-in and heard a strong theme that people wanted workshops and activities anchored on Black Lives Matter and antiracism,” said Joshua C. Woodfork, vice president for strategic planning and institutional diversity.

In this year’s keynote address, Janaya Khan, a Black, queer, gender-nonconforming activist and award-winning social justice educator, led a discussion about the Black Lives Matter movement. Other sessions

included an examination of how personal choices affect progress toward equity; a discussion of voting rights with journalist and political commentator Ari Berman following a screening of the film “Suppressed 2020: The Fight to Vote”; workshops for faculty, staff and students on how to write an antiracism action plan; and an interactive case study on bias response.

“This is best practices diversity work,” said President Conner. “These programs are so thoughtful and really key to our community and our needs and what we’re talking about and working on.”

Peris Tushabe ’21, a student team member with the Office of Student Diversity Programs, says she found the *In It* programming to be very informative and healing as a Black woman, and she hopes the Racial Justice Initiative can broaden the reach of such events.

“These programs are great, but the downside is that regarding attendance, many of those who do go are either BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) or people who are already actively engaged in equity and antiracism work,” said Tushabe, who suggested that perhaps a first-year seminar or mandatory program for staff and faculty would get more members of the Skidmore community to start actively taking part in diversity and inclusion efforts.

Alison Hart, leadership annual gift officer in the Office of Advancement, has also been active with diversity and inclusion work at the College and connects regularly with alumni about DEI efforts.

“My greatest hope for Skidmore’s Racial Justice Initiative is that we find ways to create meaningful exchanges across generations of

“Alumni voices and stories will strengthen our advancement toward racial justice.”

— ALISON HART, OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT

alumni. I hope they’ll tune in to the conversation this year and in the years ahead,” she said. “Alumni voices and stories will strengthen our advancement toward racial justice.”

While Grady-Willis says the Initiative is an important start, such work is a long-term struggle that will require Skidmore to have more conversations about the best ways to commit resources, bolster the curriculum and support mechanisms, such as CIGU, that are already in place to move social justice forward.

“It’s a very important acknowledgement by President Conner that there are some significant challenges that need to be met,” he said. “The key thing for me is that the yearlong priority becomes a multiyear priority, because this work involves so much on so many levels.”

Conner wholeheartedly agrees. “The best conclusion to the Initiative at the end of this academic year would be to see that all 12 of the goals were completed, and then to renew the Initiative for the next year, with new goals and new priorities to build on the work we’ve accomplished, together.”

— Angela Valden

THE PROMISE of the FUTURE

For members of Skidmore's faculty and leadership, the liberal arts offer a way to navigate through the exceptional events of 2020.

It has been a year marked by crisis, upheaval and uncertainty.

A pandemic, with a reach not seen in a century, has challenged health systems, wrought economic confusion and disrupted the political landscape. There have been forceful demands for racial justice and calls for sweeping reform. The roles of government institutions have been called into question, and the lines of the U.S. presidential election dramatically redrawn.

The issues are complicated, the problems unyielding and often difficult to define. Sides have dug in and become polarized. Trust has waned, and reconciliation often seems implausible. And lingering questions from this year's elections are likely to stay with us for a long time to come.

Is there any hope for the future?

Although their disciplinary perspectives differ, members of the Skidmore College faculty and administration often articulate a similar position: Today's most pressing problems — from COVID-19 to questions of racial justice — will not be solved through simplistic means but instead require deep and often empathetic understanding of a multitude of views: the ability to sift through multiple vantages, to look for harmony

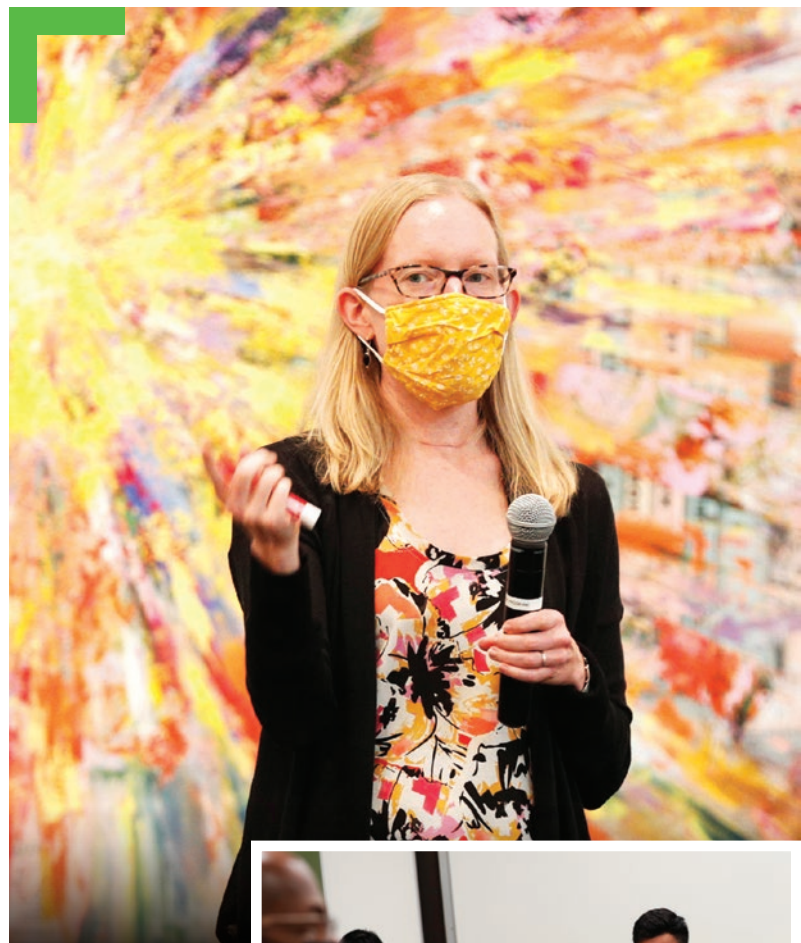
among conflicting perspectives and to derive inspiration from unexpected sources — often across disciplinary lines.

In short, the lessons of a well-rounded liberal arts education give us reason to hope that difficult problems can be tackled and that reconciliation may be found.

"Bringing all the arts and sciences together, along with a range of pre-professional subjects; offering an interdisciplinary education that emphasizes how different fields and subjects overlap and inform each other; giving students a broadly informed education not just in many subjects, but in how very different subjects actually help us understand them all — this is the educational system most in need in America today," President Marc C. Conner told incoming students during a virtual Convocation ceremony this fall.

Even at a time of enormous challenge, the College is moving forward with bold initiatives for the future. Among them is the Center for Integrated Sciences, the single largest academic initiative in College history, whose first phase was just completed and opened. At the heart of the CIS project is an emphasis on interdisciplinary connections among the sciences but also the arts, humanities and social sciences, the belief that

THE LIBERAL ARTS AS A ROADMAP DURING TUMULTUOUS TIMES



Courses have demonstrated extraordinary creativity this fall. Rachel Roe-Dale, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, explored connections between math and art with Malloy Curator Rachel Seligman in their course Math in the Museum. During a year marked by disruption, first-year students in Associate Professor of Management and Business Tim Harper's Industry and Innovation course examined the great innovations of the past as Skidmore looked to the future.



“How do you problem-solve when the problems are such that they seem so insurmountable? This is part of our education.”

— SHELLEY JOYCE, ARTS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

scientific literacy is essential for all students and the conviction that creative crosspollination will drive innovations of the future.

A new general education curriculum, which was approved in 2017 and went into effect this fall, similarly emphasizes integrative learning and making connections among multiple courses, ideas and experiences of Skidmore’s liberal arts curriculum.

Among the innovations of the updated curriculum is a Bridge Experience on Power and Justice. Inspired in part by Skidmore’s First-Year Experience, it encourages second- and third-year students “to ask fresh and timely questions about power, justice and identity in contemporary America,” said Eric Morser, a history professor who coordinates the effort. “Teachers from departments across campus will offer these innovative classes and provide students with a chance to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world problems.”

Years in the making, Skidmore’s Black Studies Program, which includes a multidisciplinary minor, also officially took flight this semester. The timing could not be better.

“Black Studies is particularly equipped for this moment when so many people are demanding racial justice, in part because these courses place the contemporary and historical in conversation with one another,” said Director and Professor of Black Studies Winston Grady-Willis. “I made a conscious effort to reorganize the syllabus for Introduction to Black Studies this semester so that the entire first course block was devoted to Black Lives Matter. Given this moment in our collective history, to not do so would have compromised the integrity of the course.”

Across the College, faculty have transformed the challenges of the current moment into opportunities to tackle these difficult topics through coursework, both in person and online.

Shelley Joyce, managing director of the Arthur Zankel Music Center, restructured a course she offers in the Arts Administration Program to consider the complicated issues raised by the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. “How do you problem-solve when the problems are such that they seem so insurmountable? This is part of our education,” Joyce said.

In the Economics Department, Associate Professor Marketa Halova Wolfe, Professor Peter von Allmen, Assistant Professor Sandra Goff and Assistant Professor Rodrigo Schneider teamed up to deliver a course, the Economics of COVID-19, delving into topics ranging from public finance to health care. “We’re not only providing the courses that students would traditionally have, we are creating new courses about what is in the news,” Wolfe said.

This year’s elections have drawn particular interest. “Especially for young people who don’t have a personal, lived experience of our electoral or political system, the last eight months — from March until

November — are really an open question as to whether the political system we have built is viable to meet the challenges of modern society, whether those challenges are on the public health front or in the deep and profound cleavages that are apparent in our society along racial lines and political lines,” noted Assistant Professor of Political Science Christopher Mann.

Mann’s Introduction to American Politics — a course that Mann calls “driver’s ed for citizenship” — encourages students to put the College’s philosophy of Creative Thought Matters into practice through assignments, including one that asks students to propose a constitutional amendment to meet the needs of contemporary society.

“It’s a very CTM-type of exercise — really thinking through how students would rebuild our government, reform our government to be better able to respond to the pandemic, to racial justice, to the highly politicized nature of the Supreme Court nomination process,” Mann said. “A liberal arts education helps you to grapple with these kinds of conflicting points of view, helping you to understand other people’s points of view and the trade-offs of principles — each one of which seems valuable, good and legitimate, but they can’t all work at the same time.”

The Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery has also played an important role in fostering informed conversations about politics through election-inspired exhibitions (See Page 13), virtual primers before the presidential and vice presidential debates, and a debrief on the questions and controversies in the aftermath of the election.

As part of his Artist Interview course, Dayton Director of the Tang and Professor of Liberal Arts

Ian Berry presented a series of conversations called “Pandemic and Protest, Responses to Now” with photographers Isaac Scott and Danielle St. Laurent, who documented the Black Lives Matter protests and the pandemic, respectively, and Nicole Cherubini, who created masks inspired by her exhibition “Shaking the Trees.”

“What we teach through a lot of the courses and programs at the Tang is exploring that space within arts and ideas that allows all of us to find our own voice, to find our own positions and to have confidence in those positions,” Berry said. “This moment has shown the need for the arts in every facet of our lives more than ever ... We need some healing in this world.”

For President Conner, the liberal arts provide reason for hope by teaching us how to overcome the challenges of the present moment. And the presence of a diversity of views is central to those efforts.

“We’re living in a time when a Manichean worldview dominates. Us versus them. Two warring opposites that can’t imagine the truth or legitimacy of the other ... That is the very opposite of what a liberal arts education teaches us,” Conner said at Convocation. “A great liberal arts college knows that truth depends upon argument; meaning arises through debate and contestation; my being open to the challenge of a different world view shows my confidence, not my weakness.

“And at the very heart of the liberal arts ideal is this conviction: Difference and diversity and multiplicity is the glory of the human condition. Yes, that makes for argument. Yes, it makes for messiness. But it’s also where the deepest beauty, and frankly the most fun, is to be found.”

— James Helicke



An installation view of “If I Had Possession Over Judgement Day: Collections of Claude Simard,” at the Tang Teaching Museum in 2017.



JEREMY LAWSON

THE TANG CELEBRATES 20

Since opening in October 2000, the Frances Young Tang '61 Teaching Museum and Art Gallery has offered a mix of cutting-edge art and dialogues on the urgent issues of our time. The Tang has welcomed more than 800,000 visitors, engaged tens of thousands of Skidmore students through classes and programming — from recitals and site-specific compositions to unforgettable events such as Streb Extreme Action — exhibited work from more than 2,000 artists, produced 250 exhibitions (including faculty-curated “Molecules That Matter,” “Lives of the Hudson,” “A Very Liquid Heaven,” “Sixfold Symmetry” and “FLEX”), earned more than a dozen national awards for its robust publication program, and created a program allowing students to borrow artwork from the Tang collection to hang in their rooms. In celebration of its 20th, the Tang is planning a year of collaborations, such as an ambitious regional collections-sharing project supported by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, which includes partnerships with Saratoga Performing Arts Center, the Academy of American Poets and Shaker Museum. For more information, visit tang.skidmore.edu.

ZANKEL MUSIC CENTER TURNS 10

In 2010, the 54,000-square-foot Arthur Zankel Music Center opened its doors with a concert featuring classical pianist Emanuel Ax. Since then, the music center has become a performing arts hub for Skidmore and the region, hosting the likes of John Baptiste, Dave Brubeck, Ani DiFranco, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Paul Simon and Gloria Steinem, among many others. Core funding came from the estate of Arthur Zankel, a longtime Skidmore trustee, friend and benefactor, who bequeathed \$46 million — the largest gift in College history — for the music center and other initiatives. “The Zankel Music Center has welcomed over 200,000 people into the Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall, within Zankel, to celebrate the amazing offerings of our Music Department and the College, and also serves as a home for regional arts organizations,” said Managing Director Shelley Joyce. “We continue to honor the vision of the Zankel family and celebrate the talent of our students. The best is yet to come!”



Sixteen-time Grammy winner Paul Simon, right, spoke about his life in music with President Emeritus Philip A. Glotzbach at the Zankel Music Center in 2017.

TWO DECADES OF BEATLEMORE

The 20th anniversary of Beatlemore Skidmania, the popular annual concert that celebrates Skidmore students’ reinterpretations of Beatles classics, will be celebrated virtually in November.

Distinguished Artist-in-Residence Joel Brown is working with a committee of students to organize the annual event. The performance is set for release Nov. 20, the last day of fall

classes. “We are proud to continue this event and share it with as many people as possible in the safest way possible,” Brown said.

Visit skidmore.edu/beatlemore for more information. T-shirts can be purchased at skidmoreshop.com. Proceeds benefit Skidmore Cares, which supports community organizations.



MADDY TYLER '21

MARCHING ON

Tang exhibitions reveal the fight for equality is “Never Done”

During this election year, two exhibitions at the Frances Young Tang '61 Teaching Museum and Art Gallery honor the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment as an opportunity to explore how far women have come — and how much more still needs to be done — in achieving equal rights.

Both exhibitions — “We’ve Only Just Begun: 100 Years of Skidmore Women in Politics” and “Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond” — introduce students to new ways of thinking about vital issues of gender, race, sexuality and intersectional identities, whether in Skidmore’s past or through the experience of artists today. These extraordinary experiences have offered students the opportunity to form their own perspectives and practice engaged citizenship during an important election season.

— *Michael Janairo*

“We’ve Only Just Begun: 100 Years of Skidmore Women in Politics” is an online exhibition that tells the stories of notable Skidmore women who have made their mark.

■ Kathryn Starbuck, a professor, administrator and trustee from 1921 until her retirement in 1954, is called the College’s “Suffragist in Chief.” From 1916 to 1918, she was the Saratoga County chair of the New York state Woman Suffrage Party, which helped women to gain the right to vote in the state in 1917.

■ Mabel “Mia” Mouzon McCoy '47, the first U.S.-born woman of color to graduate from Skidmore, founded a chapter of the NAACP at Skidmore and later established a scholarship for Asian American, Latino, African American and Native American students.

■ Elizabeth “Betty” Garman Robinson '60 was an activist as a student and helped organize a picket of the Woolworth’s in Saratoga Springs in solidarity with the anti-racist sit-ins in the South. She was also a member of the Students for a Democratic Society

and in 1964 began working for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

“We’ve Only Just Begun” was organized by political science professors Nathalie Taylor and Kate Graney and students in their spring 2020 course, *Never Done: 100 Years of Women and Politics* at Skidmore College. The exhibition shows how Skidmore students are actively engaged with the urgent issues of their times, from the suffrage movement through COVID-19, during



Students support Democratic candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt and Republican candidate Alf Landon at a 1936 presidential election rally on campus. The photo is part of the virtual exhibition “We’ve Only Just Begun: 100 Years of Skidmore Women in Politics.”

H.B. SETTLE, SCRIBNER LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

election seasons and in protest for greater civil rights based on gender, sexuality and race. These stories are told through the extensive archives of the Special Collections of Scribner Library and include pages from College founder Lucy Skidmore Scribner’s diary, articles from *Skidmore News*, student handbooks, exams and photographs.

“Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond” offers a view of women’s experience through a diverse gathering of contemporary art. The exhibition, which is both online and on view in the museum for members of the campus community, includes art by 100 female and nonbinary artists as a way to expand our understanding of women in the public and political spheres. The exhibition includes an intergenerational group of makers from across the United States working in photography, painting, printmaking, drawing, collage, textile and sculpture. Each artist also contributed a statement that reflects on their work in relation to women’s rights, feminisms, justice and representation, and the legacy of the suffrage movement.

Three of the artists are sharing their perspectives through online conversations with the exhibition organizers, Rachel Seligman, Malloy Curator at the Tang, and Minita Sanghvi, assistant professor in the Management and Business Department.

■ Stephanie Syjuco is an artist born in the Philippines who lives and works in San Francisco. She uses photography, textiles and material culture to create works that interrogate national belonging, civic engagement and radical responsibility.

■ Sonya Clark is a textile and social practice artist known for using hair, combs, beads and other everyday materials to explore American history, race, culture and class.

■ Marie Watt is an American artist and citizen of the Seneca Nation with German-Scot ancestry who creates work that draws from history, biography, Iroquois protofeminism and Indigenous teachings to explore the intersection of history, community and storytelling.

The range of artists, artworks and ideas have attracted numerous classes from across the disciplines — from art to computer science.



“Our bond transcends any official graduation date. Although we are not together in person today, we are together in spirit.”

— JINAN AL-BUSAIDI '20, CLASS PRESIDENT

TRANSCENDING BONDS

Skidmore’s virtual Commencement ceremony celebrated the resilience of the Class of 2020 during an unprecedented moment in history.

The Skidmore College community came together online to celebrate the creativity and resilience of the Class of 2020, whose final semester was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thousands of graduates, students, family members, alumni and friends from across the globe watched as Skidmore conferred 647 degrees in a live, virtual Commencement ceremony on May 30.

“Despite a widespread pandemic that has crippled the world, we’ve made it,” said Jinan Al-Busaidi '20, senior class president. “People have said that the Class of 2020 only got 3.75 years together, but in reality, our bond transcends any official graduation date. Although we are not together in person today, we are together in spirit.”

The tribute included a moving rendition of Skidmore’s alma mater performed by Emma Berkowitz '20 and Lindsay Walsh '20; welcoming remarks by Al-Busaidi; a speech by faculty speaker Jennifer C. Mueller; and an invitation from President Emeritus Philip A. Glotzbach for graduates to rise and move their tassels from right to left, symbolizing the conferring of degrees.

But the unprecedented nature of the ceremony and its historical significance were also clear: Rather than walk across the stage at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC), graduates, many wearing caps and gowns at home, were recognized during a live broadcast. Diplomas were sent out by mail.

The ceremony also came just five days after the killing of George Floyd, which sparked nationwide protests and calls for justice and reform.

In her speech, Jennifer Mueller, associate professor of sociology and director of Skidmore’s Intergroup Relations Program, drew on the work of African American writers James Baldwin and Octavia Butler as she discussed the challenges and importance of change.

“All of us, at one time or another, must confront changes that disrupt and disorient and ‘break apart’ our worlds,” said Mueller, who was selected by members of the Class of 2020 to speak. “Change is a power you hold — to shape not just your world, but the world we all inhabit and share, a world in as deep need of ‘real’ change as ever and people courageous enough to lean in.”

Evoking history, President Emeritus Glotzbach called racism “an even greater plague ... than COVID-19.” He also praised the “flexibility, inventiveness, perseverance and creativity” of the Class of 2020 in handling a final semester that suddenly switched to online learning this spring.

“Yours is arguably one of the most resilient classes in the College’s history — perhaps the most resilient one,” Glotzbach, who retired at the end of June following a distinguished 17-year career at Skidmore, told graduates. “Cherish the confidence and celebrate the strength you’ve gained in dealing with this pandemic.”

In addition to 437 Bachelor of Science and 209 Bachelor of Arts degrees, Skidmore also conferred the College’s final Master of Arts in Liberal Studies to Anna Taft of Ohio.

The ceremony was organized by a working group of faculty, staff and students, including student leaders Al-Busaidi, David Robakidze '20, Isabelle Bleckner '20 and Naira Abdula '20. Skidmore will host an in-person Commencement celebration for the Class of 2020 at a later date.

— James Helicke



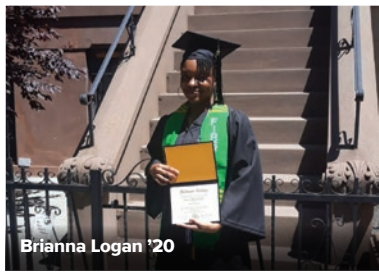
Faculty speaker Jennifer Mueller, President Emeritus Philip A. Glotzbach and Jinan Al-Busaidi '20, senior class president, delivered remarks during virtual Commencement on May 30.



“IN MY HEART FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE”

Members of the Class of 2020 reflect on their own celebrations and what they miss most about Skidmore.

UNSTOPPABLE / *Brianna Logan '20*



Brianna Logan '20

“While watching the virtual ceremony, my mom spoke to me with tears in her eyes.

‘I wish I could have experienced graduating from college, but unfortunately, when I came to this country at 14 years old, I chose to work,’ she said.

‘You are experiencing it because I did this for us,’ I replied.

Thank you, Skidmore, for helping me to grow intellectually and individually over the past four years. Although I am uncertain about what the future holds for me, I am ready to experience this journey because you have prepared me for it. Congratulations to my fellow 2020 graduates and other first-generation graduates. We are unstoppable!”

MY SOCCER FAMILY / *Ted Roach '20*

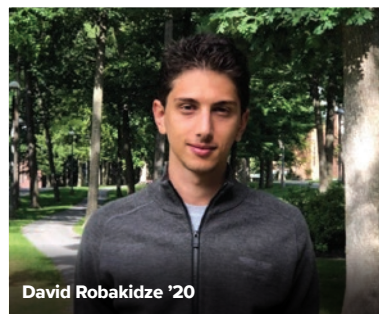


Ted Roach '20 with teammates and housemates Sebastian Bosch '20, Manuel Arango '20, Tenzin Tashi '20 and Alex Ricci '20.

“Where do I start? I will miss the wonderful family I was able to be a part of — the men’s soccer team. I grew up with three sisters, so getting to Skidmore and having 30 new brothers was something I will always cherish. I will miss eating at Spa and D-hall, playing pickup basketball and soccer in the rec and dance gyms, and stopping at Burgess Café for a coffee before heading to a meeting at the library. I will miss taking classes in the Business Department, where I was lucky enough to work with incredible, talented students and professors alike.

To sum it up, I will miss seeing the familiar faces of the people I was lucky enough to encounter during my time at Skidmore. The Class of 2020 is going to go on to do amazing things that will change the world we live in. Our country and entire world are in a pivotal time during which our generation needs to step up and make the changes we know need to happen.”

UNUSUAL YET SPECIAL / *David Robakidze '20*



David Robakidze '20

“On the day of the ceremony, we gathered around the TV and kept in touch with other friends through social media and FaceTime. It was genuinely exciting to see our pictures and names scroll down on the screen, knowing that our families from all around the world were watching the ceremony, too.

Despite the obvious bittersweetness of the moment, we wanted to maintain a positive attitude and simply try to enjoy and reminisce on the beautiful four years we had spent at Skidmore and with each other. All in all, it was undoubtedly disappointing to not have a formal ceremony in SPAC with our families, but I believe that with the right planning and the right attitude, the Class of 2020 managed to create a graduation ceremony to remember. I personally know that the memory of this unusual yet special event will remain deep in my heart for the rest of my life.”



A SILVER LINING to PANDEMIC HURDLES

Skidmore faculty and students discovered creative ways to conduct research together over the summer.

You cannot keep a good researcher down. That might be the motto for Skidmore's 2020 Faculty Student Summer Research Program. There were plenty of pandemic-related hurdles: Students could not be on campus. Laboratories were off limits. Meetings took place not in faculty offices or on campus but remotely from home using online platforms like Zoom and Slack.

But equipped with creative thought, 55 Skidmore students and 30 faculty members met the challenge and were able to engage in a variety of sophisticated, collaborative research projects remotely.

The summer of 2020 stands as a testament to the can-do spirit of Skidmore students and the strong commitment by faculty to the academic enterprise. Many alumni, especially those who have gone on to graduate school, have reported that Skidmore's research experience provided them distinct advantages as scholars.

Associate Professor of Health and Human Physiological Sciences Stephen Ives says he was initially reluctant to proceed on a remote research project considering the effect of succinic acid treatment on metabolism.

"Kendall (Zaleski '22) convinced me to push on, and I'm glad she did because

we just submitted a manuscript for peer review," Ives says. Not being able to use labs ended up providing a "silver lining, a moment of pause and reflection" by allowing the researchers to dig deeper into existing data, Ives says.

Students like Eliana Colzani '22, who contributed to a research project with Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences Kris Covey on tree species distributions and plant-soil relationships on Dome Island in Lake George, transformed their homes into makeshift research stations.

"My parents now know as much about dendrology as I do," jokes Colzani, who analyzed 250 tree core samples from the family's dining room table.

Perhaps no research team met the challenge and opportunity of the COVID-19 pandemic moment and the abrupt transition to distance learning more successfully than Professor of Chemistry Kim Frederick, who led a project to develop and deploy an engaging approach to traditional analytical chemistry lab courses that could also be conducted by students learning from a distance.

The project, which was supported by a Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant, was accomplished in three short



Students like Eliana Colzani '22 transformed their homes into temporary research stations this summer as they participated in Skidmore's Faculty Student Summer Research Program.

months, in partnership with faculty and student peers from the University of Notre Dame, University of Iowa and Oregon State University. Some 25 schools and around 1,000 college students are already benefitting from the project.

"We produced so much in such a short period of time," says Sarah Finnegan '22, one of six students on the project.

Of course, not all collaborative research projects came from the sciences. Other disciplines included business, computer science, economics, history, political science, social work, studio art, and world languages and literatures.

Associate Professor of Political Science Yelena Biberman-Ocakli says she learned alongside Marina Kalaw '22, a political science major with minors in theater and French.

The pair collaborated on a play to shine a light on the complex historical relationship between the United States and Afghanistan.

"It was scary and intimidating. I had no idea how to write a play," Biberman-Ocakli says.

Associate Professor of Political Science Bob Turner, who directs the summer research program, acknowledges he was initially uncertain about remote research.

"When I viewed the final presentations, I never would have guessed that the faculty and students had not been in the same room all summer," Turner says. "Learning how to work remotely on complex, team-based research projects is a valuable skill that will help them long after COVID-19 has passed."

— Peter MacDonald

"When I viewed the final presentations, I never would have guessed that the faculty and students had not been in the same room all summer."

— ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
BOB TURNER



You can watch the conversation between President Conner and Luis Miranda Jr. by using the augmented reality feature associated with this image. Instructions appear on Page 3.

HBO

LUIS MIRANDA JR. SHARES WISDOM and WIT with SKIDMORE

The political consultant and civic leader offers touching and humorous anecdotes about his career, family and the new HBO documentary about his life.

Holding back a smile, Luis Miranda Jr. offered some words of wisdom to Skidmore students: “You need to do things in life beyond studying.”

Miranda — whose life in public service is featured in the new documentary “Siempre, Luis,” which made its debut in October on HBO and HBO Max — encouraged students to take full advantage of the range of courses available through a liberal arts curriculum, but also to be active in extracurricular activities.

“Your main responsibility is to make sure you’re doing well at school. But no education is complete if you’re not serving a community ... if you’re not doing something else beyond the four or five courses you’re taking,” he said during an Oct. 19 conversation with College

President Marc C. Conner that was livestreamed to several thousand students, employees, alumni and community members.

Miranda discussed his own involvement in important civic causes, including recent efforts that raised millions of dollars for COVID-19 relief in New York City and for his homeland Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017.

A prominent voice for empowering Latinos, Miranda stressed the uniqueness of a liberal arts education, which he said offered the opportunity to “sample knowledge.”

“You want to learn as much as you can about everything. And that’s what a liberal arts education does,” said Miranda, who is founding partner of the

government affairs, lobbying and political consulting MirRam Group, and has served three New York City mayoral administrations and many community organizations.

A strong proponent of the arts, Miranda said his son, “Hamilton” creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, often jokes that “he really had no choice but to be in the performing arts since the house was constantly saturated by the arts and music.”

Miranda, guardian of Miguel Towns ’23, also spoke about a moving scene in “Siempre, Luis” that showed the moment when an ecstatic Towns received his acceptance letter from Skidmore. “Skidmore was always at the top of the list,” Miranda said. “We loved what you get from the students and from the faculty, the way people treat each other.”

MIRANDA FAMILY GIFT FUNDS STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

A generous gift from the Lin-Manuel Miranda Family Foundation helped first-generation Skidmore students and students with financial need pursue professional development opportunities over the summer when many internships and job opportunities were rescinded or canceled due to COVID-19.

Through a partnership between Skidmore College’s Career Development Center and Cornell University’s online executive certificate program, the Mirandas’ donation supported 44 students as they advanced their skills in areas supporting their career goals.

“We have changed lives this summer because of the Mirandas,” said Kim Crabbe, associate dean of student affairs in Skidmore’s Career Development Center. In August, a number of the students who benefited from the gift described their experiences to Luis Miranda Jr. and Luz Towns-Miranda through a Zoom call.

“I’m a student who relies very heavily on external funding for my higher education, and during the entire course, I kept telling my friends and family how much I wished more people had access to these resources,” said Nicole Richards ’22, from the Bronx, a double major in Spanish and business who completed the Women in Leadership program. “So from the bottom of my heart, thank you.”

The Mirandas were heartened to hear how their gift was able to benefit the students in so many ways. “The goal is to move forward toward graduation and succeeding and learning as much as possible,” said Luz Towns-Miranda, a respected psychologist, philanthropist and community leader.



Richie Romero ’21 and other students spoke with Luis Miranda Jr. and Luz Towns-Miranda in August about their summer experiences.



The newly completed North Wing is the first of three phases in Skidmore's ambitious CIS project.

“The space here in the Center for Integrated Sciences is truly wonderful ... It’s going to allow us to provide top-of-the line instruction to our students, and it’s also going to be able to support modern research.”

— PROFESSOR DAVID DOMOZYCH

A VISION for the FUTURE

THE CENTER FOR INTEGRATED SCIENCES

The first phase of Skidmore’s Center for Integrated Sciences (CIS), the largest single academic initiative in College history, opened for the fall semester.

The 58,000-square-foot North Wing — the first of three phases of the CIS project — is home to the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. It also houses Introduction to Chemistry courses and the Biology Department’s organismal and field methods classes.

“The space here in the Center for Integrated Sciences is truly wonderful. It’s spacious. It’s modern. It has all the safety controls,” says David Domozych, professor of biology and director of the Skidmore Microscopy Imaging Center (SMIC). “It’s going to allow us to provide top-of-the line instruction to our students, and it’s

also going to be able to support modern research.”

The North Wing features 58 laboratories and classrooms, 21 faculty and staff offices, and resources that are currently spread across campus, such as SMIC, whose collection of microscopes rivals those of larger research institutions.

“We have centered all of our microscopes around our teaching area, which we didn’t have,” said Pat Fehling, associate dean of the faculty and professor for health and human physiological sciences. “Now, when our students come in and they want to learn these sophisticated imaging techniques, we sit here. We talk about the theory, the practice. Then we go to the eight different rooms using these highly specialized microscopes.”

CIS represents Skidmore’s vision for the future of the liberal arts by fostering interdisciplinary connections between and among the sciences, arts, humanities and social sciences.

Madelyn Streb ’20, a senior chemistry major at Skidmore College, says she has appreciated the opportunities to work closely with faculty members at Skidmore and is excited about new opportunities that the space will create for students.

“The building is equipped with public study space and glass-paneled whiteboards, which automatically generate a more collaborative energy,” Streb said. “The lab space is much more open and organized, which excites me for all of the underclassmen who will be the beneficiaries of a space built to optimize instruction and facilitate productive collaborative learning.”

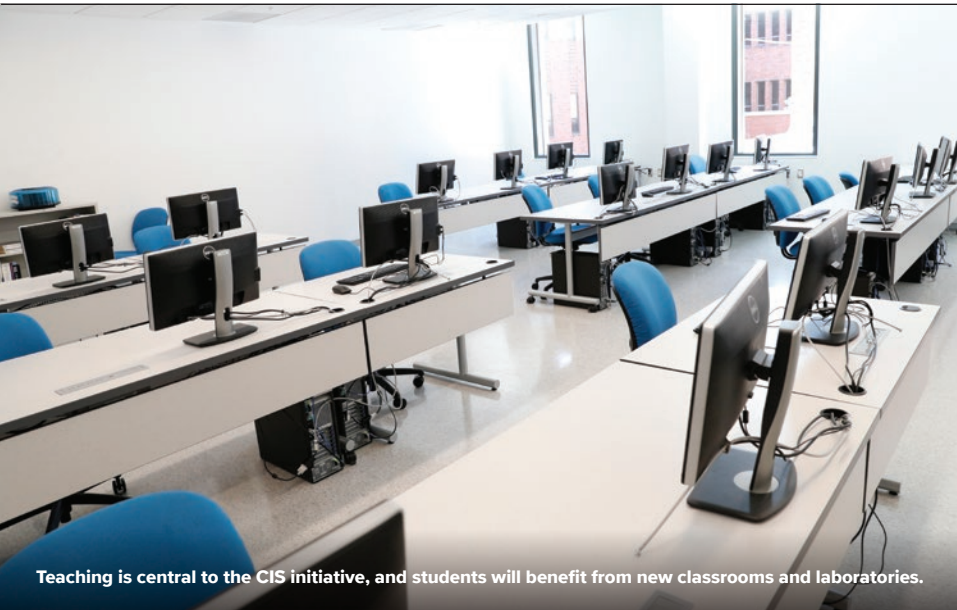
Upon completion in 2024, the CIS will host all of Skidmore’s 10 science departments and programs, as well as more than 90 science faculty members.

The first building in Skidmore’s history to be LEED-certified, the North Wing also embodies Skidmore’s commitment to sustainability. A new underground geothermal system in the North Wing will heat and cool all 200,000 square feet of CIS.

The College has begun construction on the CIS East Wing, the next phase of construction. The East Wing will include a large makerspace, where students and faculty can explore creative solutions to important contemporary issues facing the world, and will feature the grand atrium, the “living room” of CIS.

Skidmore is also remodeling an existing campus building, New Dana, as part of the CIS project.

— James Helicke



Teaching is central to the CIS initiative, and students will benefit from new classrooms and laboratories.



Patricia C. Fehling, associate dean of the faculty and professor for health and human physiological sciences, gives a tour of the North Wing.



New laboratories will improve research and learning opportunities for students and faculty.



The North Wing is home to the Skidmore Microscopy Imaging Center, whose collection of specialized microscopes rivals those of research institutions.



Faculty and students are already conducting experiments in the new science center.

A CHANGING CAMPUS



Earlier this year, Skidmore demolished another campus building, Harder Hall, as part of CIS construction.



In order to house departments during construction, Skidmore opened a new swing space building known as the Annex in time for the fall semester. It currently houses the Department of Physics, the Geosciences Department, the Environmental Studies and Sciences Program, and classes from other departments.



THE CASE FOR INTEGRATION

Calvin Baker, a prominent chronicler of the African American experience and the author of the important new book “A More Perfect Reunion: Race, Integration and the Future of America,” is distinguished writer-in-residence in the English Department.

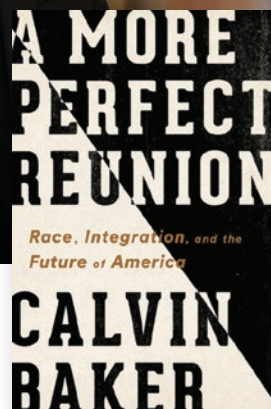
Baker spoke with Skidmore students, staff and faculty on Sept. 22 about the book, which makes a forceful case for the continuing importance of integration in the United States.

“One of the animating questions of this book for me was can this country ever be whole?” Baker asked. “Could America, which is a uniquely combined space — one free and liberal and just and one massively unjust — ever be whole?”

The author of the acclaimed novels “Naming the New World,” “Once Two Heroes,” “Dominion” and “Grace,” Baker previously taught at Yale University, Columbia University and the University of Leipzig.

Professor of English Mason Stokes described Baker’s simultaneous capacity for “radical empathy and impressive leaps of imagination” in Baker’s latest book.

“His careerlong investment in helping us understand who we are, where we’ve come from and where we go from here, his encyclopedic knowledge of the twists and turns of American history — these are the tools that drive Calvin back to the past as he helps us to understand that most radical



and misunderstood of ideas: integration,” Stokes said.

Speaking during the virtual event, Baker described nationwide demands for racial justice in 2020 as an unprecedented moment in the struggle for civil rights in the United States.

“Late in (the Civil War) Frederick Douglass told Abe Lincoln, ‘You know, Abe, when the fighting is done, the work is just starting, because the question is, how do you integrate people in this country?’” Baker said. “We have, in fact, been deadlocked since that war.”

NOTABLE GRANTS

The College and its faculty have received prestigious grants in 2020. Here are some examples:

Juan Navea, associate professor and associate chair of chemistry, received a National Science Foundation grant for \$243,984 for a project titled “Photochemical and OH-initiated Processing of Aerosol Organic Coatings,” which aims to study the fate of atmospheric particles. The grant will support research conducted with Skidmore students for the next three years.



Madushi Raththagala, assistant professor of chemistry, received a three-year, \$448,560 Research in Undergraduate Institutions award from the National Science Foundation for her study “RU: Glucan Phosphatases and Regulation of Transitory Starch Metabolism.”



The **John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative** (MDOCS) has received a \$798,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to foster enduring community partnerships and documentary projects. The four-year grant builds on MDOCS’ record of sustainable, impactful documentary initiatives with the community.

A \$494,240 Sherman Fairchild Foundation grant will allow Skidmore to purchase new scientific equipment — from a Raman microscope to an electron spin resonance spectrometer — to support research and collaboration in the chemistry, environmental studies and sciences, health and human physiological sciences, biology, neuroscience and geosciences programs and beyond.



Sarita Lagalwar, associate professor and director of the Neuroscience Program, Saana Teittinen-Gordon ’22 and Jenna Lucash ’22 participate in a Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience lab in September.

FACULTY IN THE NEWS

Skidmore faculty continue to share their work with the broader scholarly community and in prestigious publications. Here is a sampling of faculty who have recently made the news:

Catherine Berheide, professor of sociology, co-authored an article, "Gender, type of higher education institution, and faculty work-life integration in the United States," in the journal *Community, Work & Family*.

Rachel Cantave, assistant professor of international affairs, co-produced the documentary film *Chèche Lavi (Looking for Life)*, which documents the experience and friendship between two Haitian migrants caught at the Tijuana, Mexico border.

David Cohen, assistant professor of management and business, co-authored an article, "From automats to algorithms: The automation of services using artificial intelligence" in the *Journal of Service Management*.

Jennifer Delton, professor of history, published a new book, *The Industrialists: How the National Association of Manufacturers Shaped American Capitalism*, with Princeton University Press.

Sarah DiPasquale, assistant professor of dance, published a paper, "Reframing Movement Modifications: Integrative Dance in a Collegiate Environment," in the *Journal of Dance Education*.

Eunice Ferreira, associate professor of theater, has been selected by Project Pericles as a Mellon Periclean Faculty Leader and will design and offer a special civic engagement course in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Xiaoshuo Hou, associate professor of sociology and Asian studies and Frances Young Tang '61 Chair in Chinese Studies, published an article, "Whose Legitimacy? China's Drive for Electric Vehicles," in the journal *Sociology of Development*.

Heather Hurst '97, associate chair and associate professor of anthropology, published a chapter, "Maya Mural Painting," in the new book *The Maya World*, published by Routledge.

Andrew Lindner '03, associate professor and associate chair of sociology, co-authored a new book, *All Media are Social: Sociological Perspectives on Mass Media*, published by Routledge.

Evan Mack, senior teaching professor of music, earned honorable mentions for his two pieces, "Up on the Crane" and "News of Victory," at the international iSing 2020 Composition Competition, "Echoes from the Ancients – iSing Offering Tang Poems to the World."

Christopher Mann, assistant professor of political science, partnered with the nonprofit VoteAmerica on its research on mail-in voting. He also spoke to multiple media outlets, including *The Atlantic*, about electoral politics.

Corinne Moss-Racusin, associate professor of psychology, appeared in the documentary "Picture a Scientist," which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. The film tackles longstanding gender and racial discrimination in STEM fields.

Jennifer Mueller, assistant professor of sociology and director of the Intergroup Relations Program, published an academic article, "Racial Ideology or Racial Ignorance? An Alternative Theory of Racial Cognition," in the journal *Sociological Theory*.

Ryan Overbey, Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Assistant Professor in Buddhist studies, published a research article, "Why Don't We Translate Spells in the Scriptures? Medieval Chinese Exegesis on the Meaning and Function of Dhāraṇī Language," in the *Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies*.

Joowon Park, assistant professor of anthropology, published an article, "Voices from War's Legacies," in the journal *Anthropology and Humanism*.

A.J. Schneller and **Kurt Smemo**, assistant professors of environmental studies and sciences, published "Crude Oil Transportation by Rail in Saratoga County, New York: Public Perceptions of Technological Risk, State Responses, and Policy" in *Risk, Hazards & Crisis in Public Policy* with Emily Mangan '16, Christine Munisteri '16, Caroline Hobbs '16 and Colton MacKay '16.

Denise Smith, Tisch Family Distinguished Professor of Health and Human Physiological Sciences and director of the First Responder Health and Safety Laboratory, was one of the leading scientists on a series of studies that earned a prestigious 2020 Bullard-Sherwood Research to Practice (r2p) Award from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for improving firefighter health and safety.

CREATIVE APPROACHES TO COVID-19

In addition to wide-ranging contributions to scholarly fields, Skidmore faculty have also expanded our scholarly examination of the current pandemic. Here are several faculty members' creative contributions:

Gwen D'Arcangelis, associate professor of gender studies, authored an editorial commissioned by the National Center for Institutional Diversity, "The Revival of the Yellow Peril: Culture and Scapegoating During COVID-19."

Nurcan Atalan-Helicke, associate professor and director of the Environmental Studies and Sciences Program, co-authored "Trusting food supply chains

during the pandemic: reflections from Turkey and the U.S." in the journal *Food and Foodways*.

Sarah Day-O'Connell, associate professor of music, wrote a blog post, "In Light of Cancelled Creation, Haydn at Home," that was published on the Cambridge University Press' "Cambridge Reflections: COVID19" blog.

Elizabeth Dubben, lecturer and entrepreneurial artist initiative coordinator of arts administration, and **David Howson**, senior teaching professor and Arthur Zankel executive director of arts administration, participated in a virtual Upstate Arts and Culture COVID-19 Panel to discuss the challenges

that nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in the area face because of the coronavirus.

Aarathi Prasad, assistant professor of computer science, was interviewed regarding her research on privacy and contact tracing. She appeared on WAMC, WNYT-NewsChannel13 and News10 ABC, and was quoted in *The New York Times* and other outlets.

Sheldon Solomon, professor of psychology, co-authored an article, "Coronavirus reminds you of death – and amplifies your core values, both bad and good," that appeared in dozens of publications nationwide.



CREATING OUR FUTURE

The CAMPAIGN for SKIDMORE

“The strong support of our alumni, parents, friends, foundations and other organizations is helping us continue to move forward in this unprecedented time and position Skidmore to emerge from the pandemic in an even stronger position than before.”

— PRESIDENT MARC C. CONNER

CREATING an EVEN STRONGER FUTURE for SKIDMORE

As Skidmore strives to meet today's short- and long-term challenges, *Creating Our Future: The Campaign for Skidmore* continues to provide resources to build a creative, collaborative and community-centered present and future for the College. Since the campaign kicked off in 2013, supporters have contributed more than \$217 million — surpassing the \$200 million goal and heading toward \$220 million — to provide direct assistance to Skidmore students and faculty.

Amid the pandemic and economic uncertainty this

spring, President Marc C. Conner, along with President Emeritus Philip A. Glotzbach, supported a decision by the Board of Trustees and Campaign Executive Committee to extend the campaign through Dec. 31. This extension offers all donors, including those still considering commitments, the opportunity to contribute at a time more conducive to financial participation.

“The investment of nearly 27,000 donors has helped to fund all aspects of a Skidmore education,” said President Conner. “The strong support

of our alumni, parents, friends, foundations and other organizations is helping us continue to move forward in this unprecedented time and position Skidmore to emerge from the pandemic in an even stronger position than before.”

Support to help meet the campaign's priorities continues, and the impact of these gifts is felt by students like Anthony Nikitopoulos '21 every day.

To make a gift or commitment or for more information on campaign priorities, please visit skidmore.edu/COF.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Center for Integrated Sciences

Skidmore Fund

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Tang Teaching Museum & Art Gallery

Athletics, Health and Wellness

Career Development and Transformative Experiences

SUPPORTING our STUDENTS

Anthony Nikitopoulos '21 explains how Skidmore has allowed him to follow all his interests — from the arts to science — while the community has continued to support him in challenging times.

“Creative Thought Matters has played an obvious role in my life at Skidmore, if you simply look at my majors — geosciences and theater. I came to Skidmore knowing I had interest in two seemingly opposite fields. Skidmore not only allows me to pursue both, but the College has wholeheartedly encouraged and embraced my unconventional choice of study.

I have been able to pursue so many different and amazing things, from studying earth systems to singing in an a cappella group — the list could go on.

At the Moscow Art Theater School, I studied acting. I love to act because it is a way of expressing who I am. Our Skidmore theater faculty are top-notch professionals, and my fellow students in the department are kind and fun to be around.

The COVID-19 pandemic heavily impacted the lives of nearly everyone in the world: This includes Skidmore students, and this includes me. The spring and the summer were difficult for me. To leave Skidmore’s campus, where I had developed many deep friendships, without saying goodbye, was heartbreaking.

After the summer, I decided I wanted to come back to Skidmore and be with my friends. Because I was coming from Louisiana, I had to quarantine for two weeks in a hotel room, where we got about eight bottles of water a day. I decided to set up a water bottle drive to donate the extras to a local homeless shelter. I ended up bringing hundreds of water bottles to the Shelters of Saratoga, with the help of two of my friends. It felt nice to help a little bit.

After quarantine, classes began and I got to see the people I missed dearly. I am now back on campus, and even though things are still tough, I feel so much gratitude for Skidmore’s community and the friends I have made in my past four years here.

Like any other semester, I am quite busy, which I enjoy, but I would be lying if I said things feel normal now. We’re still in the midst of a global pandemic. However, I feel so incredibly thankful for the opportunities I have had at Skidmore and the people I’ve met along the way.

I really appreciate Skidmore’s donors for providing me the opportunity to build the relationships that I treasure.”



“We’re still in the midst of a global pandemic. However, I feel so incredibly thankful for the opportunities I have had at Skidmore, and the people I’ve met along the way.”

— ANTHONY NIKITOPOULOS '21
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
GEOSCIENCES AND THEATER DOUBLE MAJOR

“Skidmore was such a life-changing experience for me — I loved, loved my time there.”

— STEPHANIE HON '16

Stephanie Hon '16 was supported by Skidmore's alumni network in launching her company Cadence.



Cadence, founded by Skidmore alumna Stephanie Hon '16, uses recycled plastic to manufacture refillable, magnetized capsules for personal care products.

THE SKIDMORE CONNECTION ENCAPSULATED

The College's alumni network has supported Cadence founder and CEO Stephanie Hon '16 in her entrepreneurial journey and continues to pave paths for students like Natalie Jew '23.

When Stephanie Hon '16 set out to create a movement around sustainability in the personal care space, she found she could count on her Skidmore family and experiences in more ways than she imagined.

And as the founder and CEO of Cadence, a New York City-based

startup that offers an innovative alternative to the single-use travel-size bottles and plastic bags that flood landfills and oceans each year, Hon has become a role model to future students like Natalie Jew '23, who interned as a communications associate with the company over the summer.

From discussing ideas and strategies with Hon, to getting life and career advice from public relations consultant Sophie Dodd '16 of People magazine and learning programs from operations consultant Emily Manges '16 — both part-time contributors at Cadence — Jew has also learned the value of Skidmore's supportive alumni network.

“Steph has been a really great mentor and someone to look up to.

A lot of Skidmore people reach out to her for advice as a CEO, and she tries to answer each one because of how much Skidmore has given to her,” said Jew, a double major in management and business and English at Skidmore. “In one summer, without having done anything in business before, I was in weekly meetings with the CEO, presenting to the entire company and working with publications from Forbes to Parade, People and Us Weekly. I don't know any person my age who gets to do that.”

Hon, an avid rock climber, launched Cadence in 2017 after being inspired by a conversation with a group of women she met on a weekend camping trip. To address the wasteful and cumbersome use of

multiple single-use plastic bags and containers, Cadence manufactures magnetic, refillable capsules from recycled plastic that can be linked together for easy organization and transport of personal care products.

After double-majoring in psychology and dance and minoring in business at Skidmore, Hon took a full-time position as manager and head editor for the Reel Rock film tour after graduating. She simultaneously worked additional side jobs to save up money before making Cadence her sole focus in January 2019.

“Skidmore was such a life-changing experience for me — I loved, loved my time there,” said Hon. “Business majors aren't the only ones who are given the tools to start a company. I think the skills that a school like



“Without having done anything in business before, I was in weekly meetings with the CEO, presenting to the entire company and working with publications from Forbes to Parade, People and Us Weekly. I don’t know any person my age who gets to do that.”

— NATALIE JEW '23

Natalie Jew '23 learned valuable skills from a number of Skidmore alumni during an internship with the New York City-based startup Cadence, led by founder and CEO Stephanie Hon '16.

Skidmore teaches — to be self-sufficient, to work really hard, to hustle, to be really creative and to find unique solutions to problems — are the best tools.”

With an exceptional work ethic and a creative eye for marketing and branding already in her toolkit, Hon reached out to Brianna Barros, a fellow 2016 Skidmore graduate with an extensive business background, for help with Cadence’s investments, financials and inventory. “She’s now one of my closest friends,” said Hon. “She’s just been so incredibly helpful and really took me under her wing, and she is an adviser to this day.”

Hon raised \$400,000 from angel investors last summer, thanks in large part to Skidmore alumna Shira Kates '97, who is a fan of the product line and connected Hon with other supportive New York City angels. Former classmate James McArdle '16 is also among Cadence’s investors.

And yet another Skidmore alumna — Rafaela Iturralde '18 — became involved with Cadence as an environmental advisor after Hon tabled at Skidmore and connected with A.J. Schneller, assistant professor of environmental studies and sciences, to offer opportunities to current students.

Jew reached out to Cadence after a friend forwarded her an email about an open blog position with the company, which evolved into her summer public relations role.

“What we need at a startup is a really driven, smart self-starter who is asking a lot of questions, who can figure things out on their own,” said Hon. “Natalie sought us out, so it’s awesome that she is really thinking outside of the box.”

Although Jew’s summer internship was entirely remote due to COVID-19, she met with Hon, Dodd, Manges

and others at Cadence through Zoom and Google Hangouts to go over marketing, celebrity gifting, writing pitches, product fulfillment and more. “It’s really cool to see how a company works at all levels,” Jew said. “I got to do a little bit of everything. I got to do work that matters and see how it has an impact.”

In addition to having her new Skidmore family in her corner — poised to support her in future endeavors and even bond with her over topics like campus housing —

Jew will be able to draw on her new skills and confidence as she looks forward to the rest of her time at Skidmore and chooses a career path.

“At Cadence, I surprised myself with how much I was able to do,” she said. “So whatever I want to do in life, I have that foundation and I can learn to do anything.”

Learn more about Cadence at keepyourcadence.com.

— Angela Valden

REUNION 2021

We hope to gather for Reunion June 3-6, if it is safe to do so. Please visit skidmore.edu/reunion for the latest information.

LOOKING BACK: RBG VISITS SCRIBNER HOUSE

As the future of the Supreme Court has been drawn into national politics, members of the Skidmore community also recall a less contentious moment — when Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent a day at the races in Saratoga Springs and visited Scribner House.

In August 2000, Ginsburg, an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, was a guest of Jamiene S. Studley, a fellow graduate of Harvard Law School who was president of Skidmore from 1999 until 2003.

Ginsburg, Studley and their husbands attended the Travers Stakes and a gathering at the College president's residence, where Ginsburg chatted about leadership and other topics with a small group of Skidmore students and faculty.

"It was a great honor to meet and share a meal with one of the most effective advocates for justice and equality our country has ever known," recalled Skidmore College Trustee Linda Jackson Chalmers '73. "I'm deeply saddened by her passing, but I am heartened that she inspired countless young people, through whom her legacy will no doubt live on."

Ginsburg, who grew up in Brooklyn and completed her undergraduate degree at Cornell University, said she came to Saratoga Springs



PHOTO COURTESY ERIC PATRIDGE

From left, Professor Emerita of American Studies Joanna Zangrando, former President Jamiene Studley, Eric Patridge '01, Justice Ginsburg and Margaretta Walton '01 at Scribner House.

regularly as a teen and escaped there while working as a camp counselor in the Adirondacks in her youth. "On my days off I would hitchhike to Saratoga," The Saratogian newspaper quoted her as saying.

Ginsburg, 87, spent 27 years on the nation's highest court before her death on Sept. 18.

DO NOT PASS GO...

but **DO** collect this new edition of Monopoly featuring Skidmore!



Ever imagined buying a carriage house on campus? Now you can by playing City of Saratoga Springs Monopoly.

Relive your favorite Saratoga Springs memories with the iconic game — now featuring some of the most charming sites in the Spa City. With a bit of luck, you can "purchase" Skidmore College or collect \$25 from the Community Chest with a card declaring the Thoroughbreds Liberty League champions.

The new edition of the Hasbro classic is perfect for Saratoga Springs enthusiasts, board game fanatics and Skidmore community members. All proceeds from sales of this limited edition benefit the Adirondack Trust Company Community Fund, a Saratoga Springs-based nonprofit organization that supports the needs of local charities.

City of Saratoga Springs Monopoly can be purchased at skidmoreshop.com.

'44 With warmer summers in New Hampshire and everywhere, **Suzanne Keller Talbot** says she “actually misses the snow!”

Maxine Weingarten Donofrio can't believe she's 99 and still going to college; she takes classes in Chinese at a local university.

We send condolences to the families of two classmates. **Virginia Gibbons Welsh** died Oct. 23, 2018, with her daughters at her side. **Barbara Conlon Bulger** died in 2012, but her daughter, Anne Lake, still reads *Scope* and follows Skidmore on Instagram. Barbara was predeceased by her sister, **Adelaide “Bunny” Conlon Pendleton '47**. Anne notes, “Once a Skiddie family, always a Skiddie family!”

Dorothy Roman Guenther
synchrodottie@aol.com

'47 **Ruth “Schlike” Schleicher Kroon** has relocated to Atria, a senior living community in the Marina Bay section of Quincy, Mass. She previously lived in a renovated 1905 high school building, which “historically was fascinating,” but had many limitations. “After a year, I understood why my husband had never wanted to live in one.” She loves being close to the ocean again.

Do Dunkel Jerman
alumni@skidmore.edu

'50 **Peggy Kahles Guyder** lives in a Florida retirement community, Abbey Delray South. Her two children and their families are also Floridians. A proud grandmother of four, Peggy continues to work for women's equality, social justice and animal welfare. She earned two master's degrees, received a National Science Foundation grant and was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in computer science at RPI. Retiring after 27 years teaching math at Skidmore, Peggy worked at the GE Research and Development Center,

where she obtained two U.S. patents on algorithms for automatic milling.

Ellen Kelsey Dubocq lives in a retirement facility in Tucson, Ariz.; two meals are delivered daily to her apartment and transportation is provided. With one daughter in the area and the other in New York state, Ellen feels well cared for. She misses volunteering, group activities and traveling.

Sina Nazzaro Conte has been a wife, mother, teacher and bookkeeper. She lost her daughter Mary Lou to leukemia some years ago. Sina takes great pleasure in her son's three sons. She and her husband recently moved to Cedar Crest, a retirement village in Pompton Plains, N.J.

Ann “Perkie” Perkins Ott is doing “exceptionally” well in Williamstown, Mass., where she volunteers at the local hospital and does a lot of gardening and walking. Her three children have given her three grandchildren and eight grands.

Perkie shared the sad news that her roommate, **Ellen “Woodie” Woodward Rea**, died June 10. Ellen French Bunch informed us that her mother, **Mary Stokes French**, died after a long illness on June 29. We send our condolences to both families.

Jan “Jano” Sutherland Fairservis is “in good health and sound mind” thanks to daughter **Jenny '84**, an acupuncturist and master of Chinese medicine. After a career as a book illustrator, actor and costume designer, Jano paints oils in her studio. The coronavirus kept her from traveling this year, but she teaches a daily exercise class. She has four daughters and a grandson in high school.

Irene Senter
senter2@comcast.net

'52 **Jean Adams Shaw** and Bif have been “locked down” but enjoy daily woodland walks near their residence at Essex Meadows in Connecticut. They take in lectures,



241 Cosmetics, co-founded by Helena Yohannes '04, was recently named one of the 20 Black-Owned Makeup Brands to Watch by PopSugar. Helena (right) and her twin sister Feven, who co-lead the company, were also featured in *InStyle* magazine and Yahoo Life. They also gained the attention of beauty veteran Bobbi Brown, who is now a mentor.

exercise classes and musical performances via in-house television. Excellent meals are delivered by “knock and drop” to their door. The Shaws' daughter and son-in-law live in NYC and Catskill; their son and his wife reside in Bloomfield, Conn. One of their three grandchildren is a graduate student at Yale.

Eric and **Dawn Rylander Spitz** remained sequestered in their Venice, Fla., home, rather than risk a return to Heritage Hills in Sommers, N.Y. They are still singing together. Dawn belongs to the National League of American Pen Women and won a \$100 first prize for her sonnet “Legend of the Trees.” The couple

enjoys walking their “old cocker spaniel” every evening.

Barbara Underhill Collyer is still riding her horse! She is enjoying life in Ithaca, N.Y., and stays in touch with several classmates.

Ann Burchards Botjer was delighted when the pool near her Long Island condo reopened this summer. She loves water aerobics. Her son and his family are avid travelers who live in Florida. Ann is looking forward to our 70th Reunion in 2022!

Mary Lyons Harberg spent the summer contending with the virus and the Houston, Texas, heat. She recently connected with my

STAY IN TOUCH

CLASS NOTES are edited for length and clarity. Visit alumni.skidmore.edu/classnotes for the latest class news.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Contact Mary Monigan, Class Notes editor, at 800-564-0115 or mmonigan@skidmore.edu.

YOUR PHOTOS ARE WELCOME

Please send photos to scope@skidmore.edu.

granddaughter, a principal at one of the city's KIPP elementary schools.

Sandra Buhai Barz left her NYC apartment in June to isolate at her Amagansett, Long Island, home. Still engaged in Inuit art research, she was nominated for a second honorary degree. "Sance" lost her right eye to macular degeneration and suffers from neuropathy, but she says her mind is still with her!

Nancy "Randy" Moore Foster is coping with a new hip and the lockdown at her Connecticut residence. Happily, nearby family members are able to visit on her first-floor deck and their new puppy, Minerva, "keeps everyone laughing."

Ruth "Artie" Trask Mantak enjoys a quiet life in her home of 50 years in Bloomfield Hills, Conn. She is trying to "act her age" and looks forward to a world without the coronavirus.

Cindy Hartwig Gyorgy was unable to leave her Oneida, N.Y., home until late July due to the virus. She is now happily settled in her Wayne, Maine, residence with family nearby. Three family members graduated without in-person celebrations.

Nancy Kress Douglass is still surviving in an "old folks' home" in Pittsburgh.

I was saddened to learn that we lost two classmates. **Nancy Sawin Teare** died peacefully in February with her two daughters by her side. **Joyce Levine Eppler** died June 10 after a long illness. We send our love to their families.

The top of our buffet was covered with greeting cards in celebration of Father's Day, Bill's 94th birthday and our 67th wedding anniversary. Celebrations were mostly virtual; we did manage social distancing on our deck. We are thankful for Zoom, which has kept us connected to family, friends, church groups and PEO.

Bill and I are also thankful for our good health. I hope you have been able to read or listen to incoming President Marc Conner's message. I am impressed and welcome him and

his wife, Barbara, to Skidmore. Most of us are now celebrating our 89th or 90th birthdays.

Betty Johnson Boothe
bettyboothe@gmail.com

'53

Gene and **Til Jones Neri's** daughter Jill relocated from Nevada to a home 10 minutes from them in Connecticut. She arrived just in time to help them move to Masonicare in Mystic and weather the pandemic. Til and Gene now have five families in five states and recently welcomed their fifth great-grandchild. Zoom calls, Til says, are "magic!"

Helen "Hie" Briwa misses dog shows canceled due to the pandemic. Although several competitions based on time rather than judges' opinions were held virtually, "the atmosphere is half the fun."

Grace Ackerknecht Harrigan lives in a gated community where she enjoys beautiful nature walks and occasional outdoor cocktail gatherings with friends. She flew to Nantucket for a month this summer to see her large family, including 14 grands and three great-grands. Grace stays in touch with **Judy McEndy Lynch**.

Dorothy Foster Napoli lives in Northern California with much of her family nearby. Dorothy's daughter is a school mental health counselor. One of her granddaughters is a Pacific Northwest artist and mother of two sons. Dot's son is a history professor at Brooklyn College in NYC; his new book was approved for publication. He has a daughter at Sarah Lawrence and another at UVA. Dot retired from the faculty at the University of Cincinnati in 2004. She stays in touch with **Gabrielle and Gerda Fuchs**, who share a home together in San Francisco.

Throughout the quarantine, **Basha Mon** (Bobbi Grubman) was able to take country walks with her partner and receive caring help from family.



Krista Alba Engler '00 embarked on a "COVID-safe, cross-country road trip via travel camper." Starting in Maryland, she traveled to Yellowstone National Park, where temperatures dropped to freezing in late June. "So glad I had my Skidmore hoodie to keep me somewhat warm," she wrote. "Proud to represent Skidmore in Wyoming!"

She misses painting, especially after the success of her "Hundred Day/ Hundred Painting" exhibition at a New Jersey Art Gallery last year.

I'm saddened to report that three classmates have left us. **Carol Clafin Kurtz** died Jan. 4 in Exeter, N.H. **Jacque Bailey Martin** reflects, "Carol was so beautiful, so intelligent, so much fun and a leader in every way. She enriched everyone's lives with kindness." **Joan Dymond Barnett** died May 23; she enjoyed "a wonderful life of family, friends and travel." In retirement, Joan and her late husband, Michael, developed great friendships in New Orleans' civic, cultural and sailing circles that included Jacque Bailey Martin and **Ann Shaaber Campney**.

Sally Sanderson Cutler, who bravely challenged limitations imposed by a stroke 13 years ago, died June 27. In her community of Abington, Mass., she was known for her love of gardening, birding and friendly competition in golf, tennis and skiing. She enjoyed spending time with her many Skidmore friends. Thomas Conover informed me that his mother, **Susan Wickware Moyer** of Sun City, Fla., died in 2018. He wanted classmates to know she frequently and lovingly spoke of her Skidmore years.

My beach house saw lots of activity.

My UK grandson, who is attending university in Washington, D.C., shared the house to study remotely with shore buddies. His brother, who transferred to his company's NYC office in August, also moved in for the duration. In between, family members were in and out all summer. Good thing we all get along!

MaryAnne "Mibs" Wade Menk
mmenk@verizon.net

'54

Adelaide Warner Minott feels lucky to be in Vermont, where virus cases are few. She enjoyed having her family, fleeing the tumult of D.C., move in with her and husband Addison. The couple were entertained by their wonderful 4- and 5-year-old grandchildren. Adelaide is happily watching them grow and is, as always, busy with the farm.

Rita Goldstein Herber and husband Rolfe live in a senior residence with a panoramic view of Jerusalem. He does research at the Hebrew University and Rita volunteers. After the coronavirus hit, seniors were restricted to their homes. Rita and Rolfe were able to enjoy in-house activities, entertainment and visits from friends and family over the age of 18. Fortunately, Skype and Zoom allow the couple to stay in touch with their younger grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Nancy “Cavie” Cavanaugh Elliott resides in her Portsmouth, N.H., home of 40 years. The historic property has four fireplaces and a kitchen equipped with two Dutch ovens. A granddaughter and her significant other rent one of three attached apartments. Cavie’s daughter is a frequent visitor and great help. A son in Plum Island, Mass., sees her weekly. Her other son is in Los Angeles and visits several times a year. Cavie and her family were bereft when her oldest son died from Glioblastoma in 2018. Today, her five grandchildren are “a joy.” In good health but “kind of creaky,” she was working out at the YMCA four times a week before the pandemic.

Lilli Brunner Kalmenson, husband Sid and their family have thus far escaped the coronavirus. Sheltering in their condo, they have access to a pool and gym in the building. Appropriately protected, Lilli ventures out to the market about every two weeks. She plays bridge online several times a week and she and Sid have completed a dozen 500-piece puzzles. Playing doubles tennis on a private court has given Lilli a sense of normalcy and a chance to connect with friends.

Evelyn “Evie” Smith is relatively content at Seabury, an Active Life Care Community in Bloomfield, Conn. She maintains close ties with the Loomis Chaffee School as an alumna and former dean. A stalwart fan of UConn’s Women’s Basketball, she attended eight games in their Final Four series!

Delsa Walsh Wilson’s son Tim is an artist and poet who shares her home in Harpswell, Maine, where COVID-19 cases are scarce. He ensures that his “high-risk” Mom stays home by handling the shopping. Delsa’s strawberry patch was so bountiful that she and Tim sold berries and donated the funds to a local food bank. She wore the red T-shirt from an early ’54 reunion, emblazoned with the words “We’re the Berries, Not the Pits.”

Rhoda Poetzl Billingsley says that life is much quieter in the center of Rome; she does not miss the tourists. Like everyone there, she adheres to protocols to lessen the spread of the coronavirus. Rhoda’s daughters were particularly helpful during the lockdown.

It is with great sadness that I report the deaths of **Carole McKenzie Coleman** Sept. 28, 2019, and **Margret “Midge” Laydon Sbabo** March 17. **Cynthia Wallace Bernart** succumbed to COVID-19 July 10 and Bruce Wilcox, loving husband of **Ann “Balli” Ballinger Wilcox**, also died of the disease May 13. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families.

As for me, I am in the same boat as all of you — waiting for this craziness to end. I am fortunate to have my family close by and see them often. Stay safe and healthy.

Lydia Pardo McMin
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’55 Rosanne Brody Raab and Ed happily spent last summer with their family in Deer Isle, Maine. They later traveled to Cuba for a holiday with their daughter Barbara. Roseanne, we suspect this summer was somewhat different.

Carolyn “Rusty” Ruscoe Burt stopped traveling before the pandemic; a balance problem affects her ability to walk. She would love to connect with classmates via Zoom or Facebook.

Carol Snyder Woodward also had to give up traveling. She loves living in Vermont with her entire family nearby.

Diana D’Arienzo Pascal revels in the joy of watching children and grandchildren at work and play. She and John frequently host the family at their Long Island home.

Adele Albrecht Wakefield celebrated the graduation of granddaughter Rachel from Georgia Tech, summa cum laude, last

December. She flew to Atlanta with son Peter and daughter-in-law Teresa for the occasion. “I couldn’t have been prouder!” says Adele.

Sue Warren Campbell lives in a senior facility in Florida. She plays “masked” cards four days a week and enjoys a daily cat fix with her neighbor’s friendly feline.

Margo Mound Drucker and her therapy dog, Maggie, really miss their weekly visits to senior communities, schools and libraries. To escape the isolation, Margo and Maggie dressed in what looked like “hazmat getups” and flew to Colorado for a great visit with her daughters and grandchildren. With Reunion rescheduled for next spring, Margo is interested in having a ’55 “Zoom visit.”

Ruth Miller Kwartin and **Carol Werle Deering**, along with husband Allan, enjoyed their own mini-reunion. Both had recently moved to Edgehill, a senior living complex in Stamford, Conn. “We are so happy to find ourselves in the same safe place,” says Ruth.

Nancy Sulkin Marin celebrated her 85th birthday with a big luncheon that included **Bryna Cohen Potsdam**, who lives nearby in Florida. Nancy retired from a 43-year career as principal of a local

elementary school. She enjoys spending time with her three sons and their families. Before the pandemic hit, she also sang in a chorus and worked out at the gym four days a week.

I sadly report the death of **Dorothy Kathan Blakelock Jardine** on April 15, 2019. Dot lived in East House her freshman year. We send condolences to her family.

I am also living in a senior facility in St. Pete, Fla., in a strange state of “suspended animation.” I moved here last year after 25 years in Tallahassee to give family an easier place to fly into for visits. Since March 13, we’ve been in virtual isolation; no family visits, dining out or communal dining nor access to the gym. So, my hope is that you all have found an outlet (I paint) and that you are staying safe. This too shall eventually pass.

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’56 I was housebound, but not alone this spring and summer. My daughter and granddaughter, **Julia Hutson ’13**, both took refuge in my house. Julia continues teaching senior English in a Brooklyn high school via Zoom. My grandson, James Dayton Hutson, completed an



Catherine Hill Millard ’98, Chloe Taylor Langer ’98, Hillary Trish Merritt ’98 and Allison Goldstein Gutstein ’98 reunited in January for a weekend in Austin, Texas.

advanced degree from the University of Virginia Graduate School of Engineering and Applied Science in May. He is a data scientist with Booz-Allen-Hamilton in Alexandria.

Cecile Druss Mark and Arthur live in Warwick, R.I. Both are active at church. Cece volunteers at the East Greenwich Library. Daughters Bonnie and Carolyn and their families reside in Rhode Island. Cece's grandson is a high school senior; his sister is a freshman at Tufts.

Gracia Parkhill Dayton was recognized as a "Master Artist" by the New England Watercolor Society at a reception in Waltham, Mass., last year.

I recently received the sad news that **Mary-Carol Towe Miller** died in Westchester, N.Y., on Nov. 25, 2019. Her husband, Rowland Miller, and their four sons were by her side. We send condolences to the family, including **Joan Towe Diamant '64**.

Averill Dayton Geus
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On July 9, Cecilia Frittelli '80 celebrated the 11th anniversary of the Textile Studio, the business she co-founded with husband Richard Lockwood. Located in Saratoga's Beekman Street Arts District, they sell handwoven men's and women's apparel and accessories. Cecilia was featured in a recent issue of Saratoga Living for designing and producing a line of custom tartan wool for Broadway shop Toga Heritage. Daughter Claire graduated from Union College in June with a bachelor's in biology; son Schuyler is finishing a Ph.D. in chemistry at UMass Amherst.

'57

Margot "Mugs" Cahn Zales enjoys reminiscing about the wonderful times we had at

Skidmore. She has four children, 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The latter group includes 8-year-old Em, 6-year-old Mabel, 3-year-old twins Will and Lucy, and 7-month-old Andrew. Mugs adheres to social distancing and other measures, but misses entertaining and hugging.

Carole Ruberti Kelley's husband Don died last November. He succumbed to Alzheimer's in the Bennington, Vt., nursing home where he had spent the last five years. Carole underwent open heart surgery on May 26 at the Cleveland Clinic; she had two valves replaced, a third repaired and a pacemaker implanted. Now back at home, she is still doing cardiac rehab. Carole's daughter **Jackie '83** accompanied her during the two-week stay at the clinic. However, she was only able to visit her mother on the day of surgery.

Phebe Grauer Appleton says Niagara on the Lake is lovely and relatively unscathed by the pandemic. But residents continue to observe all protocols and, with the Canadian-U.S. border closed, life is quiet. Phebe sees friends in outdoor spaces and stays connected virtually to family, but longs to see loved ones in person.

Joan Firmery missed being with family on Easter, Mother's Day and birthdays, but was able to visit via Zoom. Taking stay-at-home orders seriously, she didn't venture out to the grocery store until mid-May. She shredded old files, maintained her twice-daily walks and checked in with friends by phone. Joan also connected virtually with fellow volunteers involved in a historic recreation project on Long Island Village.

Before the pandemic, **Joan Benninger Nixon** enjoyed get-togethers with **Julie Gaines Phalen** and **Alice "Ally" Vassallo Scott**.

Hope Thompson Kerr lives with her twin in Touchmark, a senior living facility in Bend, Ore., that was locked down for months. Residents' temperatures are taken daily, and they can go out to shop, but guests are forbidden. Thus far, there have been no coronavirus cases. As always, the sisters hiked, golfed and played pickleball. A Skidmore volunteer, Hope was impressed with new President Marc Conner.

Marcia Seymour Hanson highlighted several positive aspects of the pandemic; technology that connects us with distant families and friends; an enhanced awareness of what really matters; and "heartwarming memories that help us cope." Marcia's husband has been in a nursing home with Alzheimer's for the past year; she lives in their Albany condo. Eager to visit family in California, which includes two great-grandchildren, Marcia continues to hike, cross-country ski and teach yoga.

Lee Horner shared that his wife, **Nancy Wyman Horner**, has spent the last eight years in a nursing home in Chatham, N.J. with advanced Alzheimer's. "She loved her time at Skidmore and her many friends in the Class of '57. That special relationship has continued to flourish. Two of our four children and a son-in-law are also Skidmore alumni. Nancy has been a wonderful wife, and we've had a great 'run' with no regrets. The children and I visit her often." Harold "Hal" Douglass informed me that his wife, **Sandra Mokrzynski Douglass**, died June 24, after a long illness. We offer our sincere condolences to both families.

Dotty Wakeman Mattoon
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'58

Beverly Beatson

Grossman and her husband of 63 years, Felix, continue to enjoy

one another's company as they get through the lockdown. As a member of Women's Painter West, Bev is creating artworks for a large show in 2021 that will commemorate the group's centennial. She is recovering nicely from a hip replacement resulting from a fall on the way to her mailbox! Between the pandemic and the nasty spill, she says, she has learned firsthand that "patience truly is a virtue."

Nan Cooper Healy and husband John reside outside Lake Tahoe in Incline Village, Nev. The couple settled there after John retired from Ford Motor Company. In pre-pandemic days, Nan enjoyed playing bridge, serving as treasurer of the hospital auxiliary and running its thrift shop. She was recognized with the Excellence in Volunteerism Award from the Nevada Hospital Association and a service award from a local newspaper. Both on oxygen for health issues, she and John are careful to heed pandemic protocols. Their daughter and son-in-law and a 21-year-old grandson live in Poulsbo, Wash. The Healys' son and daughter-in-law have two children, 5-year-old

Daisy and 2-year-old son William, and live nearby. With a lot less running around to do, Nan says that staying at home has been “fairly enjoyable.”

Maria Bouloukos Cassier was lucky enough to fly to Florida with husband Marc to visit **Naomi Tandet Shapiro** for several days before the quarantine. **Barbara Ward Hayes** joined them and had a fabulous time. Quarantining at home in a locked-down Toronto “was not a wonderful experience,” says Maria. “Virtually abandoned, the city was eerily quiet.” The couple had to postpone a trip to Michigan to see family and stay in touch via FaceTime, email and phone. In addition to her family and Naomi, Maria connects with **Carole Gilligan Mushaw** weekly. She is otherwise busy cleaning closets, sorting through photo albums, reading great books and hoping for a brighter future.

Life in Los Angeles has been quiet for **Susanne Hecht Goldstein**, except for Zoom classes and brief visits from her adult sons and extended family. She awaits a vaccine that will allow “a return to concerts, films and dinner out with friends.”

Naomi Goldfarb Tamerin is sheltering in place in California near her daughters.

Nancy Hoagland Steidl and husband Dan have moved from their home in Rainbow Lake, N.Y., to the Residence at Shelburne Bay in Vermont, with their Golden Lab in tow. After a nasty fall last year, Dan can no longer climb stairs. Nancy will be happy to return to water aerobics, but in the meantime, attends a socially distanced exercise class. “Sometimes you just have to ‘go with the flow.’”

Joyce Gilbert Hood-Jelliff is also philosophical about the current situation. She feels blessed to live in the beautiful surroundings of her Scottsdale, Ariz., home. “Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic health and the political environment, ‘we will overcome.’”

I sure miss everything we all took for granted, but every day is an adventure.” Well said, Joyce.

“Living through the pandemic in NYC has been rough,” says **Esther-Ann Solotaroff Asch**. She delivers restaurant lunches daily to a Harlem day care center and works with Back Pack Buddies, both sponsored by her synagogue. Coronavirus restrictions forced Esther-Ann’s son to close all eight of the bars he owns indefinitely. Esther-Ann is selling her home in Quogue, N.Y., in order to provide her hardworking son and his family with extra support.

Barbara Hawes Wood and husband Scott are recovering from injuries received in an auto accident. They feel lucky to have caring family and friends nearby. Mending and sheltering at home has given them more time with their adorable new Dachshund, Sammy.

Things here in Tucson have been going as well as can be expected. We enjoy our new townhouse, which I have left only a few times since March. I’m reading “The Brothers Karamazov,” teaching art to my youngest grandchildren weekly via Duo, swimming and chatting on the phone with family and friends. Stan’s new recipes, including a few vegan dishes, are surprisingly yummy! I’ve enjoyed speaking with **Jane Goodman Hunter, Mary Anne Groves Carley, Phyllis Atwood Walsh, Barbara Osborne Vulkoff and Vallie Hill Beckwith**. We agree this is a historic moment and hope our country can keep calm, vote and carry on to a new and successful future.

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'60

Who could have imagined a worldwide pandemic that would radically alter our lives?

Coping in a variety of ways, classmates remain, by and large, fairly stoic about “the new normal.”

Snowbirds Aaron and **Elaine Perlman Cohen** lingered in Florida this spring; it was safer there than in their community of Westchester, N.Y. The couple returned in June to find the current “hot spot” had swapped places, with new cases in the sunshine state climbing while greatly diminished in Westchester.

Judy Harmon Miller and Roland also happily tarried on a barrier island on Florida’s west coast. “The weather, water, opportunities to play tennis and read good books distracted us from the chaos of the real world.”

M.A. Hoff Fallon left Florida for the Northeast in September.

Intent on finishing her knitting projects during the quarantine, **Debby Davenport Brooks** admits, “It never happened.” She predicts a spike in the divorce rate, but quips, “at our age, why bother?” She has become a very creative gourmet cook.

Joan Simon Goldfarb is all for harmony at home. Her greatest accomplishment during sequestration has been “not arguing with my husband.” The couple missed their son’s 50th birthday party in Los Angeles and canceled a summer trip to the Berkshires.

For **Mary Winters Cooper**, quarantine yielded a silver lining. She sidelined her jewelry making business and made 50 facemasks for family and friends with a recently purchased computerized sewing machine. After some training, Mary moved on to monogramming and embroidery projects.

Becky Martin Watson’s family had to cancel their Lotus Lake summer camp for the first time in 68 years due to the coronavirus. Undaunted, the creative clan rented out their beautiful property for concerts, outdoor Zumba classes and church services.

Leilani Holloway Eells lost her husband, John, in March. The loving couple married just three years ago. Daughter Robin, who moved in with



Daniel Horwitz '13 and Camille Yongue '14 are in the same general surgery training program at NYU Langone Health Medical Center.

Leilani, was charged by a hornless bull while hiking. Tossed by the animal, Robin sustained multiple broken bones. She is recovering at home and will need several surgeries. The caregiver role was suddenly reversed, says Leilani, but “we are doing pretty well together.”

Happy news arrived from **Anita Brynolf**, who has a wonderful Southern gentleman in her life. A widow, Anita had dipped her toe into the dating scene, unsuccessfully, a few years back. She was content with the company of her beloved dog. Just before the quarantine, she reluctantly agreed to one last date — and met Murray. They have been happily together ever since. “Miracles do happen! It’s never too late,” says Anita.

I am saddened to report the loss of four classmates: **Kathy Kales Austin** in July 2019, **Lydia Wyman Pope** and **Susan Lord Peace** in December 2019 and **Leslie Knight Abbott** on May 24.

I compared notes with **Hadley Sillick Robertson** in May, as we both are weathering the pandemic in a retirement community. “It’s like living in prison with your own furniture!” quips Hadley. I concur, although I have been free to grocery shop while dutifully masked and gloved. I’ve enjoyed using my ample stash of quilting fabrics to sew dozens of masks for friends, family and my community.

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'61

NYC resident **Susan Murley Rietman** described life at the epicenter of the pandemic this spring. Just two blocks from her apartment, “huge refrigeration trucks served as temporary morgues, hospital tents dotted Central Park and sirens wailed constantly.” As protests swept the city, an 8 p.m. curfew was imposed. Despite all this, she recalls spirited residents applauding essential workers at 7 p.m. every night. Susan’s granddaughter and several roommates, recent Boston College grads, contracted the virus in March but recovered. A faculty member at Fashion Institute of Technology, Susan set up a digital video studio to demonstrate mixed media techniques.

Pat Moorhead MacKinnon and husband Dick moved into a continuing care retirement community in Needham, Mass. They feel safe and have not regretted the move. By a truly amazing coincidence, **Linda Collier Kenerson** lives around the corner and **Kay Davis Flynn** is in the same wing. The trio lived in Nelson Hall as freshmen!

Ginny Merola Carter and husband Ted did some serious decluttering this spring. In the 48 years they’ve lived in their Reston, Va., home, “It has never been this clean and the yard never looked so good.” Their children and grandchildren are five minutes away and Ginny continues to play tennis twice a week. The couple spends several hours a day in their yard chatting with neighbors. In another upside, they began experimenting with gourmet recipes, inspiring their 21-year-old grandson.

Judy Brown Tulchin stays in touch with **Mimi Shapiro Weiner**, **Jean Robinson Devinney** and **Joan Horowitz Behr**, all of whom are well. Judy was disappointed when she had to stop walking dogs. She continues to keep up with friends and classmates via Zoom and looks forward to our combined Reunion with the Class of 1960 next year.

Linda Brafman Berke traveled to Saratoga on a regular basis to visit her youngest daughter and two grandsons. But after a problematic hip replacement and bad car accident, she walks with a cane and can no longer golf. She attended a virtual 60th planning session and stays in touch with **Joan Horowitz Behr**, **Sandy Weissman Sheppard** and **Mimi Shapiro Weiner**. Linda had a wonderful visit with **Judy Brown Tulchin** a few days before Judy set off to hike the Grand Canyon.

Peyton Bibb Evans lives in Key West, Fla., and summers in West Yarmouth, Cape Cod. She feels fortunate to have left Florida before coronavirus cases exploded. Peyton is amazed that we will celebrate our 60th Reunion next year. “In my mind, everyone is still 20 years old.”

For **Marian “Cookie” Rapoport Thier**, quarantine brought many “firsts and lasts.” It was the first time she has ever experienced what felt like “house arrest.” She used Zoom to coach, take classes and connect with family. FaceTime conversations with her 4-year-old grandson kept her spirits up. The “lasts” include selling her beloved Austin Healey of 21 years. Cookie no longer drives enough and opted to give someone else “the pleasure of ‘her’ company.” She is scanning hundreds of family photos into online albums.

Paula Rosen Janis continues to reach across generations. In the book, “Sunny Days; the Revolution in Children’s Television that Changed America,” critic David Kamp cites Paula’s show, “The Magic Garden,” broadcast on WPIX-TV in NYC from 1972 to 1984, as one of several groundbreaking children’s television programs. Others include “Sesame Street” and “Mr. Rogers.” Paula, we are grateful that our grandchildren can enjoy your show!

Zelda Jacobson Schwartz sheltered at their summer home in Ogunquit, Maine, and at a residence in Holden. “Early on, our metaphorical image

was ‘sitting on the curb, watching life go by.’ It felt strange to be considered ‘vulnerable.’” Before retirement, Zelda and her husband were first responders. The couple are now “turning the pages” and wondering about the future.

Barbara Connell Howell and Henry made a hasty departure from their Florida residence in May for their summer home in Little Compton, R.I. Eldest daughter Colby lives in London with her husband and two children. She is senior vice president of DeBeers Diamonds. Daughter Nina and her husband, Mike, live in NYC; their two daughters attend Spence and son Henry is at St. Bernard’s. The couple spends weekends and summers on their working farm in Washington, Conn., which supplies produce to the NYC area. Former board chair of the newly renovated Norton Museum in Palm Beach, Fla., Henry is still very involved.

Heather Brodhead moved to the Samarkand, a retirement community in Santa Barbara, Calif., in June. “No one wishes time to fly, especially at this point in our lives, but it will be good to see restrictions end.”

In Saratoga, **Carole Kaspin Polacsek** and her family are adjusting to “the new normal.” A shuttered Saratoga Performing Arts Center canceled summer residencies of the New York City Ballet, Philadelphia Orchestra and Saratoga Opera Company. The Saratoga Race Track was closed to all but the horses and horsemen. Carole’s biggest disappointment was not being able to host grandchildren from Minnesota.

These have been challenging times for **Meredyth Clark Graham** in Media, Pa. This spring, she resigned from a 32-year career teaching ESL at Delaware County Community College. She has busied herself fixing up her home, walking her “spoiled” Labradoodle Julie and spending time with family.

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'62

Steve and **Janice Sachs Davis** celebrated their 56th anniversary with a cruise to the Norwegian Fjords last August.

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'63

With our characteristic can-do attitude on full display, we have more than muddled through these many months of a new reality.

Terry Patterson Robinson and husband Burr were vacationing in the Florida Everglades when Ohio’s shelter order was announced; they lost a week of vacation just getting home. They felt fortunate compared to friends living in senior communities in complete lockdown. The couple reorganized their home and rejuvenated their lawn and gardens. They tried new recipes, read, mastered Zoom and sent cheerful emails. A waistline trimming program was “more or less” successfully completed.

At the start of quarantine in March **Carol Brush Nicholson’s** husband Carlton, developed two intensely painful herniated discs. Deemed “elective” in this new pandemic context, his surgery was postponed until July 1. Carol was nurse, housekeeper, landscaper and anything else required. Fortunately, he is recovering nicely. A self-identified introvert, she never felt bored. She connected with friends by phone and email, attended Zoom meetings and read.

Some of us have the glorious distraction of creating art, like **Lois Sommer Goglia**. Her new series, “COVID-19 Variations,” incorporates photos of brain cells. She presented her work at the JCC in New Haven, Conn. It can be viewed on her website, loisgoglia.net. A member of the New Haven Chorale, Lois received music history and vocal technique lessons from the conductor via Zoom.

Nancy Crook Rhodes and husband Dusty are moving into a new house in Maine. Downsizing allows them more time for golf and walks, and, most importantly, keeps stress levels low. Nancy has happily resumed painting.

Joan Carter Applegate and her husband sold their Center City condo in Philadelphia and moved to a senior community in Kennett Square, Pa., in February. Their dream of trading sirens and city life for bird calls and acres of wooded splendor took a while to realize. The couple had barely settled in when the facility went into lockdown in mid-March. Fortunately, they were able to explore the bucolic surroundings until the campus gradually reopened.

Jane Finneman Hochman lost her husband, Jack, last year. Being isolated at home intensified her grief. But Jane's "can-do" spirit rallied and she was able to handle any business at hand while sharing her feelings honestly. Connecting with friends all over the world has been a special treat. Jane sees her far-flung children and grandchildren on various virtual platforms and "in her dreams." She spent the summer swimming in her pool, spending time (properly masked) with several nearby friends, reading and binge-watching shows for the first time.

With no family living nearby, **Mary Lou Underwood Meyer** and her husband also rely on Zoom get-togethers. To boost Philip's spirits, their two daughters cooked up a wonderful Father's Day surprise. One traveled from Baltimore while the other drove from Burlington, Vt., puppy in tow. Unannounced, the girls quietly pitched tents in the backyard. After being discovered by a delighted Philip, the family dined outdoors and entertained themselves by staging a fashion show with the clothes that Mary Lou had culled from her closet. "It was a hard secret to keep, but everything worked out beautifully."

Also recently widowed, **Dina Schoenthal Butcher** admits to "talking to myself more and more" in recent months. "This is not new," she quips. "I talked to myself through 53 years of marriage!" Dina, you are not alone.

Last December, Dina visited **Chris Hankins Martindale** and husband Steve at their home near Sanford, Fla., before joining her daughter and family for Christmas near St. Augustine. Dina's work with pro-Democracy group BadASS Grandmas clinched the adoption of an ethics reform bill by North Dakota's legislature. While speaking at an associated rally in Northern Virginia, Dina met Starr Calhoun, cousin of the former North Dakota governor and brother of **Susan Dalrymple Wilson**.

Susan Weston Marino believes it's important to "keep laughing while you hunker down." She and husband Ralph decided that cooking together would be fun. "For a man who thought food just magically appeared on the table, he's done remarkably well," says Sue. She stays busy reading and crocheting caps for schools and hospitals. Sue has skillfully reworked arrangements for our mini-reunion in Mystic, Conn. The "post-pandemic" mini-reunion is scheduled for Sept. 20 to 22, 2021. Existing reservations at the Quality Inn will be moved to the new dates. Confirm by contacting the Inn at 860-980-3257 and mentioning the Skidmore College room block. Sue welcomes your ideas for activities at susiem100@yahoo.com.

I am saddened to report that **Tamar Greenhauff Karet** died unexpectedly at her home at Highgate, London, on June 20, her 78th birthday. She was a leading voice for women in publishing.

I want to thank all who contributed for their candor, humor and wisdom. As for me, I want to kiss my children and grandchildren, attend live theater, wander the city streets sans mask and host friends for dinner. I

have become an excellent cook. Stay safe and well.

Susan Blum Loukedis
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'64 Ellen Winnick Sinel continues painting in her studio; her work has been acquired by corporations and hospitals. She and husband Norman are still in D.C.; their two children and their families are in Connecticut and Bedford, N.Y. The couples "takes great joy" in their five grandchildren.

Lynn Stevens Shafer fled the Minnesota cold to winter in Naples, Fla., where she enjoyed visiting with Peabody Hall friends **Judy Pick Eissner**, **Molly Brister Haley**, **Marilyn Bugg Cooper** and **Linda Hamm Adams**. Lynn and Dean drove back to Minnesota in April with full provisions, including sleeping bags.

Susan Lieberman Blaivas and husband Jerry are well and living in Pound Ridge, N.Y.

Lilless McPherson Schilling flew to Italy last fall, touring Naples and Venice before traveling on to Germany with family. Still teaching at East Carolina University, she spends time with 4-year-old grandson Sullivan and 11-year-old granddaughter Sophia as often as possible.

Val Burkhardt Marier shared the happy news that **Carol Rice Lindsay** scored her first major women's golf victory on July 21. Carol won the Net Championship at the 99th Women's Windsor Bowl at Weston Country Club in Massachusetts.

Nancy Harrison and husband Ray Nord are comfortably settled in the house that served as their summer home for 25 years in Naples, Fla. Moving from Stamford, Conn., in the midst of a pandemic was challenging.

Susan Viuker Lieberman only left her NYC apartment for a daily run. She looks forward to her daughter and family visiting and vacationing together at some point this year.

Author and artist **Patricia Dow Beveridge** teaches children to ski at Vermont's Stratton Mountain during the winter. Both of her children's books, "Morgan Hill" and "May of Morgan Hill," are selling well.

Tina Matkovic Spiro and her husband continue running their organic vegetable farm in rural Jamaica. She recently completed a monograph of her artwork and a memoir. Daughter Yasmin is director of content and strategy for the International Interior Design Association and resides in Chicago with her family. Son **Ben Spiro '94** is staying with them in Jamaica. He works online in finance and the bond market.



Judith Testa '65 and Tina Garber Olsen '65 have been friends since their first year at Skidmore. "The photo was taken when Tina visited me BSD: before social distancing," Testa writes.

We send condolences to the family of **Margery Lawton Cooper**, who died July 22.

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'65

The entire class congratulates **Lenore Bethka Wersten** on receiving an Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award. After many years of hard work on behalf of Skidmore and the Class of 1965, it is well deserved!

Emily Gilman Hayden and John have a condo in Wilbraham, Mass. John is semi-retired from a career in manufacturing. A former teacher, Emily earned a master's in psychology and now owns a Christian bookstore. She's in touch with **Pat Dillard Dennis**, **Anne Dubraska Britt** and **Lynn Quellmalz Johnson**. Diagnosed with lung cancer in 2015, Emily has biweekly infusions of the drug Opdivo. Although she tires easily, she generally feels well.

Carol Hochberg is celebrating: After 42 years as trial attorney with the Legal Aid Society and a second career teaching high school English (including at a boys reform school), she has officially retired. The pandemic interrupted her plans to spend time with grandchildren in South Carolina. At home in NYC, she joined demonstrations, properly masked and socially distanced, to "promote a better world for everyone's grandchildren."

Suzanne Delehanty was thrilled to have her exhibition "Sounding" featured in Linnea Semmerling's impressive book on the history of sounding art, "Listening on Display: Exhibiting Sounding Artwork 1960 to Present." Sounding art explores auditory perception and is often complemented by various media.

Like many Long Island residents, **Julie Sparks Parmegiani** is concerned about the burgeoning population of deer, who devastate

trees and shrubs – and spread Lyme disease. Julie plants greenery that they avoid, such as daffodils, vinca and pachysandra. She and Bob enjoy watching nearby waterfowl, especially the beautiful and graceful swans.

Despite coronavirus restrictions, New Hampshire residents **Carole Walter Maeder** and Zack remain active. They are busy cleaning out their 170-year-old house and adjoining sheds in preparation for putting the property on the market.

Eva Meinberg Aviad laments the course the pandemic has taken in Israel. After the initial lockdown was lifted, virus cases spiked again, resulting in the cancellation of visits by family from Toronto and Berlin. Eldest daughter Tammy, who lives in Israel, was also obliged to delay seeing her parents. But the couple were able to attend a granddaughter's beachside bat mitzvah party (masked and appropriately distanced).

Helen Rodd Pasternack retired in 2013 after a wonderful career teaching elementary school art in Scarsdale, N.Y. She is now making prints at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking in Norwalk, Conn. Her work is accessible at helenpasternack.com.

I speak often with **Sandra Koch Prior**, who is also disappointed that Reunion was postponed until 2021. We both have offspring living near Sydney, Australia, and joke about meeting up there, pandemic and our health permitting. I also chatted with **Helen Rodd Pasternack** about all things Skidmore in February — the first time we've talked in 54 years! Harvey and I missed celebrating with family at canceled events including a high school graduation and a bar mitzvah. Stay safe and see you next spring at Reunion!

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'66

As a board member of a nonprofit farm in East Hampton, N.Y., **Jane Aberman Baringer**

coordinates a six-week program of vegetable deliveries to high-risk folks unable to shop. Jane's daughter and son-in-law, both furloughed, moved in with her in March, followed by a farm intern. She and husband Jim miss their children and grandchildren living in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. They took their home off the market, postponing a long-planned move to Vermont.

Marguerite "Mims" Agathon Cushing has reviewed 12 books for the Florida Times-Union since the pandemic hit in March. Her three granddaughters are working remotely from their parents' home. Happily settled in Florida, Mims will not return to Connecticut until Christmas this year. She loved watching Skidmore's Bandersnatchers perform a cappella in Ponte Vedra Beach just days before the country shut down.

Leiah Rubin Bowden moved to Sonoma County, Calif., to be involved in the life of her 8-year-old granddaughter, who lives an hour away with Leiah's son and daughter-in-law. Leiah is part of the core spiritual leadership of a Jewish Renewal synagogue. Coronavirus restrictions have opened up "a time of increased creativity, rest and

refreshment." An artist and writer, Leiah uses her strengths to advocate for a more just and equitable society.

Although retirement has not met her expectations recently, **Laura Henderson** is hopeful that she and husband Roy Johnston will resume traveling to Europe and within the U.S., after the coronavirus is quelled. They relocated from Oxford, Ohio, to Sun City Center, Fla., where Laura was able to spend five years with her mother. She died last year at 104, "sharp and feisty right to the end." Sadly, Laura's brother died suddenly last December of diabetes. Laura serves on the board of the Firehouse Cultural Center in nearby Ruskin, an arts nonprofit. Daughter **Amy Sherman '90** manages an Airbnb and event planning business. Son Jeffrey Sherman is an attorney at the Department of Justice. He and his wife Jenny live in Chevy Chase, Md.

Rhode Island resident **Sandy Merrow Breen** felt the pandemic's impact in early March, when granddaughter **Grace '21** was forced to return from her study-abroad program in Florence. Sandy and husband are retired. Their plan to live in France for three months is now tentative. In March, Sandy approached home confinement "with great zeal." She painted kitchen cupboards, did some artwork and studied French. She misses seeing her kids and grandchildren face-to-face, meeting friends for lunch and hugging.



Grace Diggs '76, Amy Simons Abramovich '76 and Julie Mayne Baker '76 celebrated their birthdays with a trip to Portugal and Spain last year.

Roselle Kline Chartock is grateful for good health and that of her growing family, including three grandchildren. Three of her collages were exhibited in “Unfinished Business: A Women’s Show” at the Bernay Fine Art Gallery in Great Barrington, Mass., in July, and her latest book, “The Jewish World of Elvis Presley,” was released in August. Roselle has used the pandemic as an opportunity to explore and photograph some of the unique features of her region. You can view them on Instagram: @RoselleChartock.

Betsey Wattenberg Selkowitz and a group of classmates reprised their annual June get-together virtually. **Susan Berman Bell, Cookie Wolfe Friedler, Joan Paley Abramson, Steffi Evans Alexander, Ellen Chapin Schwartz, Joan Cottler** and Betsey had planned to spend a long weekend in Asheville, N.C. Gathering on Zoom proved to be a pleasant alternative, which they now enjoy twice a month. **Sandy Berk Jacoby** and **Dale Koslow Berger** have joined a few of the calls. On the downside, Betsey and husband Arthur miss seeing family in Los Angeles; son Adam and his wife Laurie and their kids: Lucy, 4, and Parker, 1. Son Jed and his wife Alana live across the street.

Sherry Brush Geddes was wintering in Belize when its borders closed. Despite scant coronavirus activity, residents are conscientious about wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Sherry scrapped plans for a summer road trip. However, she and a group of friends are taking advantage of great deals offered by local resorts.

I was saddened to learn that **Nancy Pechar Toombs** died Jan. 23 after a brief illness. **Donna Walker Ricketts** informed me that her dear friend and Skidmore roommate, **Aina Olsen Barnwell**, died suddenly in April 2019 while visiting her daughter in Texas. We send our deepest condolences to Aina’s family and to Donna. Nancy’s family and friends are also in our thoughts.

While I personally find the virus threat has limited much of what was appealing about living in Boston, confinement has inspired me to play the piano again after all these years. I graduated as a piano major, but somehow life got in the way. As many of you have expressed in various ways, we have to “make lemonade out of lemons” during this crazy and challenging time. The trick is to find what works.

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'67 I hope you and your families are managing well and staying safe. Many more of you shared news, a silver lining at this difficult time.

“Seniority brings a certain perspective on time,” observes **Pam Scharmann Stewart**. “What we take for granted today – freedom, justice, our own health – could be gone tomorrow, so cherish each moment.” She and Douglas look for “the small joys,” such as connecting with family and friends and little acts of kindness given and received.

Gretchen Smith Brewster retired from a career in residential real estate and moved from Chicago to Evanston, Ill., two years ago. Several months later, she was misdiagnosed with Parkinson’s. Fortunately, she discovered that long-term use of a medication was causing her symptoms. Since then, Gretchen “feels like a new woman.” She enjoys lots of walks with her dog. Her children and grandchildren live nearby, allowing for get-togethers properly masked and distanced from one another.

Bev Harrison Miller and Wayne have been quarantining in Concord, Mass., in anticipation of a visit from their son Noah and his family.

Barbara Feuchter stays positive by writing comedy sketches, which she learned in a course she took at Boston Improv Theater. She performs improv and participates in a play



Chris Wilsey Goodwin '67 shared the sad news that her dear friend, Sudee Sanders '67, died March 26 in Hilton Head, S.C. Classmates may remember the beautiful silk scarf Sudee designed in honor of our 25th Reunion. As a freshman, Chris shared a triple in Salisbury House with Sudee and Sandy White Lorden. Although she battled chronic leukemia, Sudee’s death was unexpected. Chris says, “I was very sad not to be able to say goodbye and miss her dearly.”

writing group. Barbara feels good about making people laugh during these worrisome times.

Susan Gottlieb Beckerman was thrilled to welcome her first grandchild this spring. Penina Constance is the daughter of Susan’s daughter Ruth and son-in-law Karim, who live in Brooklyn.

Sally Huling Hilderbrand’s daughter Elin’s latest novel, “28 Summers,” hit No. 1 on The New York Times and Philadelphia Inquirer best-seller lists this summer. Sally recently enjoyed a 45-minute Zoom call with **Judy Harris Soper** and **Mary Whitaker Taber**.

Abby Stanton Mercer is newly retired from her position as CFO of Bi-State Primary Care Association. She plans to split her time between her home in Meredith, N.H., and Dingle, Ireland. A visit to the UK and Ireland with her daughter and three grandchildren was postponed due to the pandemic.

Sandy Colony’s company, Personalized Odysseys, ran several trips before worldwide border closings. In January, Sandy took her own “bucket-list” trip to Cameroon with two friends. They stayed in a thatched hut in the forest with the Ba’Aka People, which was “challenging, but exciting.” During a

prior sojourn through Bhutan, Nepal and India, Sandy spotted her first wild tiger — a few feet from her jeep.

Judith Ritter splits her time between Montreal and Washington, D.C., where her daughter and family reside. This spring, Judith “Zoom-schooled” her grandchildren, who attend a French immersion school. While there, she got together with **Dale Appleman**. No longer doing radio work, Judith writes for GoodWeave, a nonprofit that protects children working in the rug and textile industries from exploitation.

Like most of you, I’ve stayed close to home, Zooming Spanish and yoga classes and community meetings. I see my grandchildren, daughter Linden’s sons Rorke and Charlie, once or twice a week outside, with masks. Linden and Bryan work from home. My son Tony lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Britt; they too work remotely.

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'68 **Mary Burge Percy** and husband Steve are hunkered down in Aiken, S.C. They had to scrap trips to visit daughters in Colorado and Washington this summer. Mary

recently connected with Texan **Judy Noman O'Connell**; **Lora Ekmejian Coes**, south of Saratoga in Burnt Hills, N.Y.; and **Whitney Vosburgh Selover '67**, who splits the year between homes in Maine and Florida. All are well. Mary encourages us to "stay safe and healthy" so we can celebrate our 55th Reunion in 2023!

The pandemic has changed self-described introvert **Katy Kramer** into "a hermit." A professor of English at Southern New Hampshire University, she took a crash course in remote teaching in order to move her classes online. SNH did not reopen this fall; Katy is hoping a vaccine is available by January 2021. In the meantime, she's been cleaning, reading and "developing an intimate relationship with Zoom."

Debby Mayer had so many indoor projects that the months of quarantine "flew by." She relocated from Hudson, N.Y., to San Diego, Calif., last year in search of a more temperate climate. Debby recently shared her story, "Go West, Old Woman" on the virtual forum "Real People Real Stories." After banishing two-thirds of her paper files to the recycling bin, Debby is sorting photos, "which will probably take me the rest of my life."

Barbara Allen Nearpass found quarantine on Cayuga Lake in central New York "easy." She and her husband maintain a safe distance from others by chatting with neighbors from across their lawns, cycling along the area's back roads and kayaking. Barbara spent hours on the phone checking on friends. That led to reconnecting with **Patty Reynolds**, **Sue Snyder**, **Katie Miller Pryor** and **Sue Sobel Kaufman**. Barbara sees children and grandchildren through FaceTime.

Barbara Roberts Magid and husband Dick cope with pandemic restrictions by sailing on the Chesapeake Bay whenever weather permits. They walk 3 miles daily and love bumping into neighbors to chat. Barbara takes Osher Institute classes

via Zoom and enjoys FaceTiming with her six grandchildren, especially her 2-year-old granddaughter. She and Dick socialize safely with close friends on their front porch.

Louise Diracles spent much of the spring and summer playing "Bridge Base" online, and playing golf and tennis. She also walked 2 miles daily. A Harvard web course on the Pyramids of Giza kept her mind engaged. Like most of us, she escaped into the universe of series on Netflix, HBO and PBS for a while.

Margie Price Lee felt like her "wings have been clipped" by the quarantine order. Undeterred, she spent time gardening and mountain biking on nearby trails. She marched in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and she and husband Anthony joined Elders for Climate Action. Although they long to resume traveling and seeing family and friends, the couple are grateful for their home in Wayland, Mass.

Sherry Brooker Stewart lives in a senior community where communal dining was replaced by meal delivery. A Zoom enthusiast, she plays virtual bridge with good friends and chats regularly with son Charles and his family. She's delving into online art history classes but misses dining with friends, water aerobics and in-person bridge games. One of her son's students, **Quinn Stoddard-O'Neill '23**, is a happy Skidmore sophomore!

In June, **Meryl Nadel Spigelman** retired after 24 years teaching social work at Iona College. Last year, her second book, "Not Just Play: Summer Camp and the Profession of Social Work," was published by Oxford University Press, and one of her articles appeared in Social Service Review. She loves spending time with her grandchildren, ages 6 and 3. Meryl works on anti-racism programming through her synagogue.

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Dodging the coronavirus was not a wild enough ride, so I broke my leg and made it a bit crazier.

The last place I wanted to be during a global pandemic was in a hospital or doctor's office! Otherwise, my family and I are healthy.

Kate Holler Stevenson and her family are well, but somewhat bored. A good laugh helps and Kate shared a doozy. "At the start of quarantine, a colleague drove to a superstore to purchase two large bags of cat litter. As he pulled his truck up to the loading area, an employee asked 'Are you out of toilet paper already?'"

Almost everything **Judy Allen Wilson** had planned was canceled, including a trip to Portugal, a major art sale and a literary festival. But she found a humorous side to the pandemic, thanks to the current "coronavirus cleaning" craze. Husband Randy's former ninth grade sweetheart showed up at the Wilsons' front door with a packet of letters he penned eons ago. Judy had great fun getting acquainted with "young Randy," and his mature counterpart was tickled as well. Judy chairs a nonprofit serving over 1,000 children on the autism spectrum. A government loan allowed services to continue via telemedicine. Judy was also glad

that the annual Pasadena Festival of Women Authors, slated for March, will be held virtually in October via YouTube.

In January, **Karen Johnson** registered for Rutgers Graduate School's Audit Analytics Certificate program. Engrossed in study she found challenging, Karen didn't notice that spring flew by; she only left the house for groceries. She dined out for the first time over July Fourth weekend. "It felt as if I'd never been to a restaurant in my life! Karen is "homesick" for travel adventures in Europe.

South Carolina resident **Dusty Deming Acosta** was in Berea, Ohio, helping her daughter move a few days before the state shut down. Dusty was able to return home "in the nick of time." Her daughter works for the Cleveland Museum of Art. A board member of the local League of Women Voters, Dusty bemoaned the cancellation of events marking the Centennial of women's suffrage. She also had to forego poll work and cancel a vacation in France. Rereading Mark Twain and taking an online course on Buddhism provided solace.

After 43 years, **Laurie Grossman Schwiebert** and her husband Van (Union '67) sold their Vermont farm in 2018. Retired from careers in law and home health nursing, respectively,



Serena Roth Bateman '71 retired in July. She enjoys her grandkids and playing bridge. In August 2019, she and husband Scott celebrated their 41st anniversary in France. It was their first time in Paris; they took in all its charm before heading to Moire in the countryside. Serena hopes to see nursing majors at our 50th!

they relocated to Hilton Head Island, S.C. Both in good health, they enjoy boating, gardening and volunteering in the Gullah community through their church.

Sandy Smith Dovberg is grateful that we celebrated our 50th reunion last year. She and husband Norman are healthy and enjoy long walks. Sheltering at home with her “best friend” has been great, but it helps that Norman loves to cook! Dashed plans include trips to Sicily and Italy and a skiing holiday in the Berkshires. Sandy has been gearing up for a solo art exhibition rescheduled from June to November.

Karleen Erhardt spent freshman year on the third floor of Van Deusen House with a group of Skiddies who have been pals ever since.

Leslie Gardner McGovern, Mary Ann Giddings Eldred, Kay Giles Arthur, Mary Hardman LaPorte, Barbie Herbert von der Groeben and **Marcia Jensen Watson** missed their annual in-person mini-reunion this spring, but were able to connect virtually. Leslie serves as host for twice monthly Zoom gatherings, one of which was a discussion of Lisa Wingate’s “The Book of Lost Friends.”

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'70 We were all disappointed by the postponement of our 50th Reunion, but I hope you are looking forward to a supercharged celebration June 3-6, 2021!

Martha Wakeman Proctor and husband Bob hunkered down in the Italian coastal town of San Terenzo, where they live half of the year. A strict lockdown was imposed in March, so the couple quietly celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Martha recalls “the haunting sounds of a lone saxophone player high up on a terrace.” But she reminds all, “Tutto andra bene! — All will be well!”

Annie Rogers Schliffer feels fortunate to live in a craft and farming

community with nine other residents. During quarantine, they continued preparing meals and dining together. Visitors were not allowed for three months, a difficult time for everyone. A certified yoga teacher, Annie stayed busy creating pottery in one of several craft shops.

Biostatistician **I. Elaine Allen** shared a Peabody Award for Public Service with the Newsday investigative team for her work on “Long Island Divided,” an exposé of racial discrimination in real estate and lending on Long Island. “This is certainly the most impactful research I have ever done,” she notes.

It’s been a pleasure sharing your lives through class notes. I have come to the end of my term as class correspondent and encourage anyone interested in the role to contact Mary Monigan at mmonigan@skidmore.edu.

Barbara Crossman Bell
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'71 One day in early March, I sat home in Bonita Spring, Fla., preparing to host friends from my hometown, Rome, N.Y. Just a few nights prior, Doug and I attended a Skidmore–Naples alumni event celebrating President Glotzbach. I seized the opportunity to share a long overdue hug (imagine that) with **Sibyl Waterman Haley**. From December to March, we enjoyed a delightful but exhausting schedule of parties, recreation, culture and houseguests. When I exclaimed “Stop the world! I need to get off,” I never expected the universe to respond like this. I find peace in meditating, sewing, playing piano, walking and holding tight to wonderful memories, including those of our Skidmore years.

Karen Zefting Alcorn lost her husband of 35 years, Ray, to cancer March 12. A retired Navy captain and jet pilot, he spent more than seven years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. Arranging for Ray’s burial at Arlington National Ceremony was

challenging. Karen, **Dory Hughes Spencer** and I were Moore Hall dorm-mates freshman year. We extend our deepest sympathy to you, Karen.

Jan Murnane Kreidler and husband Chuck are building a new home in a Bluffton, S.C., golf community, Belfair. Engrossed in that process, they also played socially distanced golf. Jan visited with **Martha Merrick Shanahan**, who stopped on route to her summer home on Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks. Martha spends the rest of the year in Deland, Fla. Jan has also been in touch with Portland, Ore., resident **Suki Near**, who promises to make Reunion 2021!

In March, **Susan Tambornini Bethune** and her husband cut short a stay in North Carolina and returned to Connecticut. Navigating a packed airport with little information “was terrifying.” They happily quarantined at home and were grateful to their eldest son, who handled all the shopping. On the upside, the couple were able to attend another son’s wedding in Mexico just before the pandemic. Susan hopes to see classmates at Reunion next year!

Retired Texan **Sally Stueber Merrill** is teaching online to assist other scholars and seeking a publisher for her book, “International Casebook in Construction Ethics.” In it, she presents case studies of sustainable building after climate-related disasters such as hurricanes. Cloistered at her home with her partner, Volker, she walks with a cane. Before the pandemic, Sally volunteered in a tent city in Matamoros, Mexico, helping migrants seeking asylum in the U.S.

It’s been a busy and challenging year for **Sibyl Waterman Haley**. Hospitalized twice for A-fib, she was subsequently diagnosed with breast cancer. In August 2019, Sibyl underwent a double mastectomy followed by five months of chemotherapy. She continued to carry on with her duties as president of the Alumni Association,



Patricia Loftman '71 was appointed to the New York City Maternal and Mortality Review Committee and the U.S. Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality. A board member of the American College of Nurse-Midwives and chair of the Midwives of Color Committee, Pat was honored by the ACNM for her exceptional contributions to the profession in 2019.

College trustee and member of the Presidential Search Committee that brought Marc Conner to campus. Just as coronavirus hit in March, Sibyl moved from her home of 25 years in Portland, Maine, to a newly built residence in Brunswick. In the midst of all this, she turned over the reins to incoming Alumni Association President **Rob Resnick '88**. “It has been the honor of my life to serve Skidmore. We should all be proud of what ‘Lucy’s dream’ has become.”

Nicole Visconsi Mawby’s two daughters visited in January; they had been unable to join their older siblings to celebrate Nicole’s 70th birthday in December. The pandemic hit just as Nicole was visiting her daughters in Ketchum, Idaho, cutting short a side trip to her son’s home in Utah. Back at home in Ohio, she cleaned and reorganized, and as restrictions eased, hosted and attended socially distanced patio parties. With a son and his family just 10 minutes away, Nicole was able to see several grandchildren.

Susan Baxter lives in Juneau, Alaska, where she and her husband



Kimberly Davidson Young '04, daughter of Susan Flanders Davidson '71, moved to Colorado last June. She recently sent photos of her family "field trip" to Saint Mary's glacier in Arapaho National Forest. "Be still my heart!" a proud Susan Flanders Davidson wrote. "There are my grand-kiddos in Skidmore garb! What a burst of pride, joy and hope for the future this provoked!"

already felt isolated among mountains, glaciers and ocean. With summer tourism suspended, the harbor was still. Susan canceled trips to Sicily, France, Arizona and California. This spring, she held "grandma school" online every weekday morning for her 6-year-old granddaughter in San Francisco. The Baxters spent entire afternoons at a nearby wildlife refuge birdwatching, something they had only pursued during trips to Africa, Ecuador and Southeast Asia.

Like many of you, I was sad to not be with my children during this challenging time. In the meantime, mark your calendars for our 50th Reunion, June 3-6, 2021!

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'73

Jennifer Pearman

Lammer's husband had to close his dental office and furlough staff in mid-March. In May, federal funds allowed them to return; they implemented stringent safety measures before welcoming patients in mid-June. Still safe in Brooklyn, daughter Sarah works for a nonprofit that partners with the NYC public school system. A longtime election official in southeastern Pennsylvania, Jennifer was grateful that mail-in voting made the June primary season "safer for everyone." She enjoyed a Zoom "cocktail hour" this spring with **Anne Blodget Holberton, Cathy Offinger, Cynthia May** and **Katie Kunz Duran**. Jen chats with **Terrie O'Donnell** and met up in person with **Carol DeLancey**, properly masked and distanced.

Eleven classmates held their annual mini-reunion on Zoom this year, swapping stories and catching up. **Susan Hayward Donahue** resides in Norwell, Mass., but spends much of the summer on Panther Pond in Raymond, Maine. **Susan Furber Mair** is a retired psychologist and counselor in Durham, N.H. A former lawyer at Goodwin Proctor in Boston, **Kris Hansen Wardwell** is building a retirement townhouse in Millis. **Nancy Reade Everett** continues to be a top Realtor in Rye, N.Y. **Betsy Ward Holm**, who resides in Longmeadow, Mass., has a condo close to Kris' at Sugarloaf, Vt. **Lucia Sontag Johnson**, who transferred to Skidmore from Colby with Betsy, lives in Summerville, S.C. **Susie Hazelett Miller** helps run her husband's Jeffersonville, Vt., medical practice. Some of the crowd lives in South Dartmouth, Mass. They include **Erin McHugh '74** (who was "grandmothered" in), a writer who moved back home after decades in NYC, **Margot Hand Anderson** and **Janet Steinmeyer Egan**. This contingent is rooting for **Beth Gould Parr**, who still works in D.C., but recently sold her home in preparation to join them. Among them, there are 22 children and 27 grandchildren.

Miriam "Mimi" Westervelt

completed a doctorate in human ecology at University College London this summer. The organization she founded, Friends of Loita Forest (friendsofloitaforest.org), benefits Maasai women in southern Kenya. She is still science chair at Loudoun County Public Schools. Mimi longs for a COVID-19 vaccine so she can retire safely in the forest community she has been studying for the past eight years.

Due an abundance of caution, the Army Youth Center in Netzaberg, Germany, where **Diane Delehanty Howard** worked, closed down in March. Diane retired in June and was back home in Virginia by July.

Helaine "Lainie" Damask Modell

and husband Jerry vacationed in New Zealand and Australia

in February. After enjoying the "spectacular" scenery, the couple returned to Englewood, N.J., to quarantine. Laine baked, wrote short stories and finished jigsaw puzzles. A highlight was a weekly Zoom call with **Ellen Turret Ross, Dana Kessler, Karen Greenberg Rubin, Cynthia Krimezis, Liz London** and **Randee Hartz** for "lots of laughs, therapy and love!"

Gary Muldoon and his family live in Fairport, N.Y. An attorney at Rochester law firm Kaman Berlove Jacobstein LLP, Gary continues teaching at the University at Buffalo and writing on legal matters. A new edition of his book, "Handling a Criminal Case in New York," was released by Thomson Reuters.

At the beginning of March, **Zoe Vose Morsette** was at SUNY Oswego lecturing and building props for the show "She Kills Monsters." Two weeks later, campus was all but deserted. At Syracuse airport, Zoe was the sole person waiting for a flight to NYC on March 15. After self-quarantining for 14 days, she is now "just unemployed like every other person who works on Broadway!"

Over the last 20 years, scientist **Dana Kessler** had heard predictions of a coming global pandemic. "None of us anticipated spending our 'golden years' this way." Her family, friends and Princeton, N.J., neighbors are well. Another upside is sharing stories and laughs on Zoom calls with **Liz London, Helaine Levine Model, Randee Hartz, Karen Greenberg Rubin, Cynthia Krimezi** and **Ellen Turret Ross**. Dana continues working from home, walking her dogs and contemplating retirement.

Bob and **Connie Terry Ferguson** enjoy life in Vero Beach, Fla., seven months a year. She wishes her golf game would improve, but enjoys the exercise and companionship of fellow duffers. Visits with children and grandkids are restricted to FaceTime.

Barbara Mintzer Good and husband Howie spent two weeks in NYC

in early February. They packed in a lot of culture, including operas, shows and museums just before the pandemic hit. With further travel plans scrapped, they watched movies, baked and walked Cape Cod beaches. The couple's youngest daughter was married in September 2019; their other children live in D.C., Vermont and New York.

Sally Amend Larmon and husband Wayne left for a 14-day Florida vacation March 8. They had barely unpacked when news of the virus exploded. To avoid being stranded in airports, they returned to Schuylerville, N.Y., five days early. Meanwhile, Sally's mother-in-law broke her leg and required six weeks of rehab. Sally and Wayne handled her care for two months. This summer, the couple dined out for the first time since March at their favorite breakfast place.

Jennifer Smith Linck and Dana spent the first eight days of March watching their four grandchildren at a rented house in Germany. The couple's son and daughter-in-law were in Spokane, Wash., arranging for reassignment to Fairchild AFB. Jennifer and Dana escaped a near tragic accident on the autobahn when the driver of the shuttle bus taking them to Spangdahlem AFB nodded off. The vehicle careened into the left guard rail and across three lanes of traffic before screeching to a halt. Miraculously, no one was hurt! Back home in Maryland, Jennifer "went a bit stir crazy" in quarantine. Her son, a pediatrician, and her daughter, a critical care nurse, are well and continue working on the front lines of the pandemic.

Connecticut resident **Kathie Chwals Milligan** is teaching art classes for adults and children on Zoom. Her adult students made the transition with ease, while the youngsters were frustrated. Already a remote worker, husband Marc saw little change except travel restrictions. The only hardship was missing their children and grandchildren. Happily, the couple's son Matthew and his

family made the 12-hour drive from Cincinnati, Ohio, to visit for two weeks. The Milligans FaceTime with daughter Sarah and her family in California.

Louise Velletri retired at the end of June after a long career in education. Ironically, she had no vacation this summer; sorting through insurance and retirement plans, she says, "is a full-time job." Louise is happily renovating her riverside home.

Retired last year, **Catherine A. Offinger** was in the midst of establishing a new daily routine when the pandemic hit in mid-March. Fortunately, she had canceled a January trip to Hong Kong and was able to attend a yearly curling event in Quebec in March. Since then, she and faithful golden retriever Berkley have walked an average of 3 to 5 miles a day. Although their volunteer jobs were suspended due to the virus, the pair carried on providing smiles for countless people walking by. She ran into **Davien Buckner Gould** several times this summer. In mid-June, Cathy had lunch with **Jennifer Pearman Lammer** and her daughter Sarah, who were staying at a Falmouth Airbnb on Cathy's Road. The trio was joined by **Terry McKee** and together took a road trip to Orleans to see **Cynthia May**, all done with social distancing. Cathy shifted from Zoom cocktail hours with **Katie Kunz Duran** and others to backyard gatherings. Cathy's daughter Heidi, a trauma nurse in Ft. Myers, Fla., stays healthy due to her "strong German genes." On Father's Day, Cathy was able to visit her 100-year-old dad for the first time since January.

Lynn Faight and **Terrie O'Donnell** attended two excellent lectures given by Skidmore's political science faculty. Bob Turner spoke about U.S. Immigration Policy and Reform. Beau Breslin explored the question, "Is it time for another constitutional convention?" Chief Judge in her Montgomery County, Md., precinct, Terrie chats often with **Jennifer Pearman Lammer**, a majority inspector of elections in Narberth, Pa.

Both remind everyone to "exercise your franchise" in November.

Timi Carter was thrilled by the August arrival of granddaughter Cora Calliope Peats-Richards, born to Timi's son **Brad Richards '00** and daughter-in-law Brittany Peats. Cora's big brother was born during our last Reunion.

Elizabeth Blades is now a visiting professor at Alfred University, where she teaches voice classes and serves as choral director.

Joan Halpert has been performing the role of Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the spoken word production of Voices Rising's "Lifting as We Climb" with Boston's LGBTQ women's chorus. Joan, whose brother, **Jonathan Halpert '84**, has an urgent care practice, lobbied for donations of respirators, masks and disposable gloves at the start of the pandemic. She continues to chair her Temple's Ritual Committee; her husband bakes bread and writes poetry. Eldest child **Eric '03** is director of revenue products at Pub Ocean in Manhattan and lives in Brooklyn. Simcha completed their first year of Rabbinic School in Newton, Mass. and worked on a Northampton farm for the summer. Youngest child Olivia was laid off, but still managing, lives in Flushing, N.Y.

Linda Sue Maxson Nilson died at her Cape Cod home in Cataumet, Mass., May 19. A beloved educator, she enjoyed sailing the New England coast. We extend condolences to her family.

As for me, I've been going to my office every day since the start of the pandemic, as attorneys are considered essential workers. Despite state offices being closed, I had to appear in court for a number of emergency cases, several involving juveniles in detention. I am now in court two to three days per week. Taking advantage of the relaxed pace, I communicated with clients and other attorneys and shredded old files. With so many

events canceled or held virtually, Rosie and I enjoyed more time together. Stay safe and well.

Joanne Rubin
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'74 Susan "Su" Johnston Peyton retired to the coastal town of St. James, N.C., after 30 years in Groton, Mass. She and husband Rob celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary this year. Together, they have three children. Su's stepson, Thomas, is a producer working on reality television shows. Youngest son Geoffrey has a career in robotics at Boston Dynamics. He lives in Arlington with wife Julia, an attorney. Su's daughter Meredith lives in Portland, Ore., with her 7-year-old twin girls. The family is faring well. Meanwhile, Su and Rob, (and their two cats) made the most of sheltering in place. The only hardships were canceling trips out



Before the pandemic, clinical psychologist Cheryl Kempinsky '74 flew from Los Angeles to Boston to attend a board meeting of the National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder. While in Boston, she met Louise "Weezi" Mallette '74 for a long lunch at Bistro du Midi. They had not seen each other since 2017, when Louise, an executive coach and HR consultant, was in Los Angeles on business. Both government majors, Cheryl and Louise became close while attending Long Island's Adelphi University's paralegal program.



Laurie, younger daughter of Jerry Katz '76 P'12 P'01, was married July 4 at the family's Lake Winnepesaukee home. Although restricted to immediate family, "it was a fantastic day." Rochelle Katz Segal '12 was maid of honor. Jerry is already planning a big party next summer. He hopes to see everyone next year at Reunion.

west to see family and a summer sojourn to Africa. Converting her sunroom into an artist's studio, Su has resumed painting and sells her work at a local gallery.

Joan Berger and her family left NYC to spend the summer in a lovely rented house in Saratoga Springs. She and daughter **Sara Geiger '11** were able to work remotely, as was Joan's husband Elisha and Sara's boyfriend Zachary Sproull. They sampled new outdoor eateries and walked Skidmore's "beautiful" campus. Joan says Sussman Village, the "new Scribner," is "fantastic." The highpoint of their stay: The July day when Zach proposed to Sara in Congress Park!

While sheltering at home, **Bette-Lynn McIlvain** discovered her inner photographer. She has been writing, reading and taking long walks, but admits to "jonesing" for travel adventures. Find her on Instagram @ wildnature_healing.

For **Jean Wadhams Geller**, pandemic challenges intensified when she moved in with her parents for two weeks to nurse her father through his final days. Jean then arranged for her mother, **Anne Schaaff Wadhams '51**, to come live with her. We send condolences to Jean and her mother on their loss.

For **Laura Lasker** and family, cloistering in their Litchfield, Conn., home "wasn't too bad." The family "pod" consisted of Laura, her children and grandchildren and her mother. They enjoyed conversing with neighbors while strolling in the city's historic district. A minor disappointment was the cancellation of an outdoor dance performance Laura was to participate in.

Kate Ferris is ecstatic that her novel "Finding Lillie" was published by Shires Press. The idea that sparked the story evolved from an American studies paper Kate wrote in 1974. Set in 1903, it takes place in NYC, the Thousand Islands and Saratoga

Springs, where Lillie meets Lucy Scribner, founder of the Young Women's Industrial Club. Creative thought matters — even if it takes a few decades. Congratulations Kate!

Suzanne Shailer Logue moved to the "Ancient City" of St. Augustine, Fla.

Debbie Silberstein and hubby Fred Cantor fled the East Coast for a winter in Southern California. Stranded by the pandemic, they used the stay to meet up with **Cheryl Kempinsky** and her husband, Michael Stich, for dinner March 1. Several weeks later, Debbie and Fred celebrated Cheryl's birthday with a Zoom party. While they enjoyed the West Coast, they worried about their mothers back east, both in their 90s.

Before the pandemic, clinical psychologist **Cheryl Kempinsky** flew from Los Angeles to Boston to attend a board meeting of the National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder. While in Boston, she met **Louise "Weezi" Mallette** for a long lunch at Bistro du Midi. They had not seen each other since 2017, when Louise, an executive coach and HR consultant, was in Los Angeles on business. Both government majors, Cheryl and Louise became close while attending Long Island's Adelphi University's paralegal program.

Regina N. Carbon
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'76 Some of us are retiring, others are welcoming grandchildren — and everyone is coping with the coronavirus pandemic! I hope you will return to Skidmore to swap stories at our 45th Reunion celebration, June 3-6, 2021!

In August 2019, **Nancy Linge Currier** retired from a career teaching children's literacy in SUNY Oneonta's elementary education department. She and husband David spent a week in Cuba in February, their only planned trip to precede travel restrictions. The couple sheltered in their Adirondack home.

Matt Rosen's daughter works remotely for the Environmental Protection Agency in the public affairs department in the chemical spills section.

Grace Diggs welcomed grandson Greyson Meade Diggs in September 2019. She enjoyed weekly trips to Brooklyn to spend time with the new arrival, daughter Christina and her wife. When the pandemic hit NYC, the young family opted to work remotely from Grace's home in Pennsylvania. Last year, she joined **Amy Simons Abramovich** and **Julie Mayne Baker** on a birthday trip to Portugal and Spain.

Susan M. McCormick retired from her clinical practice treating learning disabilities. She and husband Steven Beckwith have two children living in NYC. Daughter Martha is a physical chemistry researcher and son Thomas is a fiction writer.

Cam Miller lives in New York's bucolic Finger Lakes region, where he was busy promoting his latest book, "Cairn, Poems & Essays," released in mid-July by Unsolicited Press. Cam saw **Robin Henderson '77**, **Matt Rosen** and **Bill Scannell** at David Coggeshall's memorial.

Mary Pat Roggenburg helped celebrate the 93rd birthday of **Helen Wigand Bolton '48** at the nursing home where Mary Pat was a candy stripper in 1970. Mary Pat celebrated her own birthday in May with **Nancy Foster Munoz**. In addition to her work at the New Jersey Assembly, Nancy performs COVID-19 testing and has made hundreds of masks and headbands for health care workers. Mary Pat bought tickets to "The Music Man" and "Westside Story," proving that "procrastination has finally paid off."

After years in Los Angeles, **Hilda Stark** moved back to Manhattan last year to work as production designer on the CBS series "The Good Fight." Despite the industrywide shutdown in March, Hilda is happy to be closer

to her 25-year-old daughter, a Brooklyn artist.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at next year's Reunion. In August my son and his bride were married in my backyard. We're planning a big celebration party next year.

Ingeborg Hegemann Clark
iehegemann@gmail.com

'78 Montana resident **Kathleen Herlihy-Paoli** served as resident artist for a program housed in Fort Missoula, the site of an internment camp that held 2,000 Japanese and Italian immigrants during World War II. Kathleen is exhibiting her paintings at three museums and a group show in Bozeman. She has had Zoom sessions with several Skidmore pals.

Greg Hess discovered old letters and cards from classmates during a cleaning binge. He has enjoyed reconnecting with **Liz Bowie Fesperman**, **Priscilla Nawn Adam '78**, **Dede Wood Black '84**, **Walter Bazar** and **Alan Braunstein '75**. Greg drives his old MBG, which still sports a Skidmore parking sticker.

For **Susie Stabler Paneyko**, having all three kids at home was "the silver lining." Daughter Caroline, 29, manages The Laundress store in NYC. Lauren, 25, lives in Los Angeles and works for fitness brand F45.



Jaye Austin "Jay Jay" Williams '78 is assistant professor of Africana Studies and the C. Graydon and Mary E. Rogers Faculty Research Fellow in Performance Studies at Bucknell University.

Julia, 23, a recent graduate of Elon University, works for Citigroup in Dallas. Susie continues to sell a clean skin care line as well as stationery and promotional gifts. She and husband Stephen, a retired banker, play tennis, paddle tennis and golf. Their two corgis keep them busy.

Laura Peck informed me that **Deborah Terzian** died June 11 after a long illness. We send condolences to Deborah's family and friends.

Anne Hardiman Crothers had great losses this year. Her husband of 36 years, George, died suddenly and unexpectedly March 5. Five weeks later, Anne's sister-in-law, Robin, succumbed to cancer. Anne, our hearts go out to you.

As for me, I became a grandmother in April with the birth of my grandson Jack — a joy in the midst of challenging times.

Emily Walker Bracchitta
embracchitta@gmail.com

'80 Well, "20-40-80" is now "21-41-80" and it truly is a whole new "normal." So mark your calendar for June 3-6, 2021, our 40th Reunion Weekend! With two sets of Reunion classes in 'Toga at the same time, we really hope for a great turnout at class events.

Deborah Costa retired from Memorial Sloan Kettering as a certified nurse anesthetist and educator with Columbia University's nurse anesthesia program. When the coronavirus hit, she volunteered to test for the virus and staff a local food pantry in her hometown of Bedford, N.Y. Deborah has been cycling on the Railway Trail and sewing masks for herself and neighbors. She misses seeing Broadway shows and visiting her home in Bermuda.

Cathy Kraye Kimball retired in June after 20 years as executive director of the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art in California. Plans to celebrate the ICA's 40th anniversary had been scuttled. After

four months working remotely, Cathy handed over the reins to a successor. She finds spending time with two granddaughters in Washington state "just as fulfilling."

In mid-March, **Scott Wilson** and his family left Florida for their home in Vermont to ride out the pandemic. He is looking forward to the reboot of our Reunion in 2021.

Since a mission trip to Haiti in 2011, **Lori Pearson** has volunteered for an organization that helps women and children victimized by sex traffickers. Retired from State Farm, she is a substance abuse counselor and staff supervisor for a community-based program for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This year, she completed a master's program in clinical mental health counseling.

Marcie Siegel Shealy survived a bad case of COVID-19 with the support of a Skiddie texting group: **Debbie Genco Powell**, **Meredith Wagner**, **Missy Godfrey Fitzpatrick**, **Betsy Nelson Welke** and **Sheila Lodge Oliver '79**. In May, Marcie retired as director of philanthropy at Planned Parenthood South Atlantic at the conclusion of a \$10 million capital campaign. The effort funded the construction of a new health and education center in Charlotte, N.C.

Elise Plaut Beattie teaches "fearless painting" classes online. Working with various media, "the goal is to allow emotions to mix with inspiration and create a fusion of style." Check it out at beattieartworks.com.

Karim Chichakly's daughter, Amira Chichakly, is an up-and-coming thoroughbred trainer who spent years assisting famed horsemen Gary Contessa and Wayne Catalano. She now oversees a 17-horse stable at Belmont Park and was featured in the industry's Paulick Report.

Artist **Jamieson Thomas** works in a studio collective in downtown Orlando and teaches part time at Valencia College. Her recent



Trustee Bill Ladd '83 of Framingham, Mass., sports his "cool new mask" from Skidmore.

video installation, "Human Eruption; Pompeii Reimagined," was commissioned by the Orlando City Arts Exhibition and the Science Center. Jamieson's painting "Corona Resolve" hangs in a Greek museum. She and her husband welcomed their first grandchild in April. Born at home to their son and his wife in Rehoboth Beach, Del., they finally met the new arrival in June.

Peri Snyderman
specialcat@msn.com

'85 **Patricia West McKay** retired after 27 years as a historian with the National Park Service. She continues teaching public history at the University at Albany.

Tom Brandt and wife Sue have been weathering the pandemic in Stamford, Conn. He has been busy making mountain bike and hiking trails on their wooded property. Inside, Tom is honing his cooking skills. He recently started a new management position at a produce and refrigerated trucking company.

Working from her home outside Atlanta, Ga., **Meg Birnes Champion** decided to shorten her "commute," by moving her office to the first floor. She doesn't miss the two-hour trek to her job and enjoys longer walks with her two dogs. Before the pandemic, she flew by prop plane to an Alaskan town 35 miles north of the



Ronald Santangelo, P'87, Alexander Santangelo (son of Matt Santangelo '87 and Bernadette Uy Santangelo '88) and Matt (right) attend Alex's Navy Officer Candidate School commissioning ceremony. Alex, who is now deployed on the USS Churchill, is the third consecutive generation of Santangelos to serve on a U.S. Navy destroyer.

Arctic Circle. She saw the northern lights and went dog sledding, snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

Georgia Ravitz lives in D.C. with her husband and three kids. When the coronavirus hit, the family escaped to their Virginia farm, where they raise livestock and chickens. Eldest son Jacob is a junior at Emory University; son Etan is a freshman at Yale and daughter Elie is a ninth grader at Sidwell Friends School. Georgia is delighted to have a full nest; both boys take online classes. A longtime attorney practicing regulatory law, Georgia works for California-based law firm Wilson Sonsini.

Anne Gunnarson Hampton graduated from nursing school May 21 and has been an RN in the advanced cardiac wing at Frederick Health Hospital since July 6.

Joan Verducci-Seery and husband Chris welcomed their first grandchild, Joanna Everly Tedesco, June 13. It made celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary July 28 "all the more special."

Elisabeth Huntington Burrow grows and roasts nuts on her 96-acre Ontario farm with her partner and young daughter. Elisabeth and her

sister were on route to their mother's nursing facility in the U.S. when borders closed.

Vinca Jarrett and husband Richard fill their time at home with work, long walks and gardening. She hosts "Vinca Jarrett's Film Family Cinema Conversations on Facebook," a show featuring guest curators from the entertainment community.

I hope you will return to campus June 3-6, 2021, to celebrate our 35th Reunion. Isolation has helped me savor the small moments spent with family and appreciate the privileges I have enjoyed, including my time at Skidmore.

Cindy Pendleton
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'86 **Cindy French** lives in Fairfax, Va., with her wife, Valerie, and pup Cooper. Working remotely from separate home offices, they meet for coffee and lunch in the "break room." A happy Cooper gets four walks a day. The couple spent some time at their Florida vacation home for a change of pace.

Noah Cooper has been cloistered at his Ivy League School and Day Camp in Smithtown, N.Y. He and

wife Margaret quickly learned about remote teaching while their children, Cora and Gavin '21, pivoted to remote learning. Sadly, Noah's mother and stepfather succumbed to COVID-19 within eight hours of each other this spring. They purchased a vacation home in Saratoga Springs several years ago with the help of **Tamara Lupton Valentine '86**. Noah has been in touch with **Steven "Woody" Nacht** and recently saw **Todd Newman** at his daughter's bat mitzvah.

Caroline Ralph Kenlon takes virtual Zumba classes and helps out at her family's bed-and-breakfast, the 1708 House in Southampton, N.Y. Daughter **Caroline Rose Kenlon '20** was senior goalie on Skidmore's women's lacrosse team. She and teammates **Kathleen Hanna '20** and **Amanda Cagnassola '20** rented a house in Saratoga Springs for two months at the start of the pandemic. With all four kids at home, Caroline "went from an empty nest to a full boat."

Elise Phillips Margulis is a freelance writer for local publications, Fit Trim Happy and Fido Friendly magazine. She's enjoyed fun Zoom sessions with **Martha Grady Ucci**, **Holly Hepp Galvan** and **Paul O'Connor**.

Melissa Karstadt Roske sheltered in place with husband Henry, daughter Chloe and Chloe's boyfriend, Patrick. Both are juniors at the University of Chicago. Quarters were a bit cramped but Melissa loved the full nest. She hosted children's book author **Doug Cornett '04** on her author blog (melissaroske.com). Doug's novel, "Finally, Something Mysterious," was released by Knopf Books for Young Readers in April. Melissa, whose first novel is "Kat Greene Comes Clean," is revising her second and brainstorming ideas for a third.

Linda Weiss-King is a learning specialist at The Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. She began teaching remotely April 1, and came to appreciate the "mute all" button. By June, she and her students acclimated to the virtual classroom and were having fun. A reporter for

Yahoo Sports, husband Mike was saved from idleness by the NFL draft. Linda enjoyed weekly virtual happy hour with **Roxanne Felton Rubell** and **Tamara Lupton Valentine** and started training for outdoor road races. She looks forward to a wonderful 35th Reunion on campus June 3-6, 2021.

Cliff Nelson
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'88 **Holly Holleran's** entrepreneurial spirit shines in her new business, Tico's Whoopies. Sold exclusively online, the handmade whoopie pies are made from recipes passed down by her grandmother, "Tico." Featured in a recent issue of The New York Times, Holly's business donates 10% of monthly proceeds to charity. For more information, visit ticoswhoopies.com.

Josh Dorman's latest collection of artwork, "Plague Journals," is on exhibit in the Ryan Lee Gallery's virtual viewing room. Tinged with the influence of medieval artists Hieronymus Bosch and Pieter Bruegel, the images "depict the turbulence wrought by the current pandemic."

Gail Boorstein Grossman continues teaching yoga and holding workshops and trainings. Since the pandemic hit, she's been holding classes on Zoom. She enjoyed a "virtual happy hour" with **Rebecca McFarland Cerutti** and **Jeffrey Cerutti '90**. Another silver lining was the birth of a grandson!



Peter Mendlinger '88 welcomed daughter Olivia '20 to the Skidmore alumni family following her graduation this spring.

Alex Emanuel Grossman is an actor, producer and musician in NYC. His first feature film, “The Incoherents,” is a rock ‘n’ roll comedy featuring **Vincent Lamberti ’87** in a supporting role. **Christine DeZinno Bruno** also makes an appearance. Alex is working on a documentary about his father, noted illustrator Robert Grossman, who died in 2018. We send condolences to you and your family, Alex.

As for me, my oldest child Hudson graduated from Millburn High School and was accepted at Elon in North Carolina. I’m now down to two kids at home. I enjoy staying in touch with **Anne Margiloff Wargo ’89, Margie Ostrove, Christie Burton ’87, Kristen Butler ’89, Steve Thibodeau** and **Mark Davies ’86**. The friendships I made at Skidmore continue to sustain me! I look forward to hearing about more of you.

Clara Rabassa
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’89 Congratulations to **Marguerite Yvars Duplessis**, who graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School as a certified physician assistant. She recently moved to Cooperstown, N.Y., to start a career in cardiology.

Margie Engelman Grodsky has enjoyed sheltering at home with her kids. She is otherwise working in her pottery studio. Margie credits Regis Brodie with inspiring her to pursue ceramic art. Check out her pottery on Etsy at etsy.com/shop/MargieGrodskyPottery.

Richard and Stacey Wessel Jimenez live in Germany, where the coronavirus was largely contained this spring. A high school vice principal, Richard helped implement lockdown orders and transition to online learning. Two of the couple’s three kids live and work in Germany. Their daughter has plans to attend NYU.

Laura Kingsbury Rime got together with **Mary Ellen Maloney** at Arcady

5, a campground in Woodstock, N.Y., owned by **Judy Fisher Sadoff**. The trio arranged weekly Google Hangout sessions with **Kim Davis Koeller, Jenny Ross, Randi Sidman-Moore** and **Alix Hart**.

As for me, after 18 years as a front-line fundraiser at Hackley School, I changed careers in May 2019 and joined Memorial Sloan Kettering’s Development Office as a prospect management analyst. Like most of us, I am currently working from home. While I miss seeing my colleagues every day, I don’t miss the commute to the city. I also got married and sold my house last May: Nothing like three huge life changes in one month to keep life interesting!

Cindy Urick
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’90 **Ross Freedman** is a freelance creative director and content writer in Oak Park, Ill.

When not working, he is renovating his 1914 American Foursquare house and writing songs for his third record. Ross looks forward to our rescheduled reunion and encourages everyone to join our class Facebook group and follow Skidmore_ Classof1990 on Instagram.

Mike SanClemente met up with **Chrissie Polizzi Cochrane** and **Derrek Shulman** for a picnic in Natick, Mass., in early July. “Chrissie and I hadn’t seen each other since graduation. We won’t let that happen again!”

Remember, we’ll celebrate our 30th Reunion on campus June 3-6, 2021. Given the isolation most of us have endured, it should be the best, most meaningful Reunion ever.

Dana Metes
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’91 In the midst of the pandemic, **Jodie Skillicorn** published a book, “Healing Depression without Medications: A



Patricia Cross ’91 founded Rejoice School of Ballet in Nashville, Tenn., to make classical ballet accessible to any interested child. A number of Pat’s students have been awarded scholarships to train with the Nashville Ballet. The school emerged unscathed after a March tornado devastated East Nashville, but was shut down by the pandemic a week later. Undaunted, Pat and her students carry on with virtual classes.

Psychiatrist’s Guide to Balancing Mind, Body and Soul.”

After a brief stint in the legal field, **Jill Fontaine Souza** earned a master’s in education administration. An elementary school principal in Rhode Island, she is now pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Johnson & Wales University. This spring, Jill’s daughters Ava and Riley graduated from Providence College and LaSalle Academy, respectively. Riley attends Sacred Heart University.

Heather Santmire Denkmire
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’93 **Alexandra “Lexie” Marquis** is a beloved high school English teacher who happens to spend a lot of time at the Saratoga Race Course. A former captain of Skidmore’s polo team, the lifelong equestrian assists legendary thoroughbred trainer Todd Pletcher. She is also the owner/trainer at Marquis Stables, located on her farm in Galway, N.Y.

Jenny Herdman Lando
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’94 **Frits Abell** continues to divide his time between NYC and hometown Buffalo, N.Y., where he is

active in revitalization efforts. He invests in real estate and startups and serves on several nonprofit boards. Most recently, he launched materialsIn Inc. (materialsIn.com), a company that helps businesses migrate from toxic production materials to cleaner alternatives.

Sequestered in his Burbank, Calif., home, **Michael McCartney** switched to teaching acting and screenwriting remotely. His first feature film (as a writer-producer-director), the comedy-horror flick “Roommate Wanted,” is in post-production.

Playwright, screenwriter and director **Alex Goldberg** wrote and directed the feature film “Closure,” which co-stars **John Sloan ’95** and features **Michael McCartney**. The film won seven awards on the festival circuit, including the 2019 Manhattan Film Festival. At a recent screening, Alex was “thrilled and honored” when he spotted **Phil Ristaino ’93, Matt Kalman, Dan Caputi, John “Bones” Rodriguez, Katie Bradford Dillehay, Nivav Conty, Jonathan Jacobs ’95, Kelly Van Zile, Rick Kiley ’96** and **Marc Lesser ’96**.

Boulder, Colo., resident **Emily Sellergren** is a mental health counselor in private practice who works with teens and college students. She loves camping and

fishing with husband Pete and their two boys. Yoga, dance and hiking are also favorite pastimes.

Victoria “Vicki” Tisch
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'95 **Phoebe Hunt Smith, Emily Weinberg Zivin and Sarah Spagnola Young** were packed and ready for a road trip to Saratoga Springs this spring. Instead, they settled for a lively Zoom catch-up call from their respective back patios.

Rebecca Bernstein Rubenstein lives in Ridgewood, N.J., with husband Eric and their two sons, Jake and Oliver. A trustee of the Ridgewood Public Library, she serves as treasurer for several local nonprofits.

John Johnston
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'96 **Wendy Wilson** is editor and news director at Black Entertainment Television. A veteran journalist who has held senior roles at the *Grio*, *Ebony* and *JET Magazine*, she has been reporting on nationwide protests against police brutality and the pandemic's outsized impact on African American communities. This spring, Wendy interviewed Tamika Palmer, mother of Breonna Taylor, and



Amanda Maddock '99 has been taking LindyGroove swing dance lessons remotely since March: “Back in April, it was college night, so I represented and danced in my Skidmore green.”

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, who challenged Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp's timetable for reopening businesses.

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'98 **Roy Geiser** is a foreign service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development. After four years in Dakar, Senegal, he has relocated to San Salvador, El Salvador with his wife, **Nancy Magnus '99**, and their two children.

Michele Rothstein
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'99 **Luis Alicea** is working on his second Master of Science in organic chemistry at Seton Hall University, studying for the MCAT and planning to go to medical school next fall. Luis also started a new job as an educational regional sales representative for Revolution Prep. Luis is happy and doing well.

Amanda Bleich works in auditing and compliance at an Amazon warehouse delivery center in Hawthorne, Calif. She is active on the West Hollywood Women's Advisory board.

Artist **Alonzo Clarke** exhibited his paintings at the Hudson Valley Art Association, Cooperstown Art Association and the Adirondacks Exhibition of American Watercolors in Old Forge. Alonzo lives in New Market, N.H., with his wife and 9-year-old daughter.

Eve Elektra Cohen recently relocated to Bluffton, S.C., where she is a small animal general practice veterinarian. Eve lives with fiancé Stephanie Toscano, one-eyed rescue dog Ziggy Stardust and three cats.

Jeff Freedenburg spent the spring and summer revising a compilation of his favorite recipes into a cookbook for family and friends. He reorganized his Baltimore home and has become

a knowledgeable gardener. Jeff is working remotely as a compliance specialist with Duff & Phelps in their D.C. office.

John Miller is a partner at the Massachusetts-based law firm of Hassett and Donnelly. He splits his time between offices in Worcester and Hartford. At home in a small farming community, he spends time with sons Rowland, 3, and Alastair, 10 months. John helps his wife Rebecca coach a high school rowing team. A Skidmore crew alumnus, he returns to Saratoga for the Head of the Fish regatta every year.

Alex “Yang” Wang relocated from Beijing to Shanghai last year to head up a new joint venture between Zanadu, the company he co-founded, and an Australia firm. Launched in December, the new travel company was sidelined by the pandemic a month later. Yang volunteers as a liaison for a group of Chinese parents with children at Skidmore. “Skidmore did an excellent job supporting our international students, especially those who could not return home during this challenging time.”

I am saddened to report that **Julia Cerjanec Lansing** died July 29, after a sudden recurrence of cancer. Close friend **Christine Burgermaster** recalls meeting Julia during freshman orientation. That fall, Julia landed the lead in the Theater Department's production of “Kiss Me, Kate.” “The instant that she stepped onstage, Julia was Kate! Her laughter was infectious, and her smile was sunshine.” We send condolences to Julia's family and friends.

Nancy Magnus
magnusnancy@gmail.com

'01 **David Botti** was recently awarded a Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting. Senior video journalist at The New York Times, he is a member of its Visual Investigations Team, which documented Russia's “shadow wars” — bombings, murders, bribery and

disinformation — across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. In 2018, David spearheaded the visual investigation into the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi by a Saudi hit squad. Most recently, he documented the chaotic scene after federal troops fired tear gas to disperse protesters in Washington, D.C.

Janine Geller Jones
JRgeller@hotmail.com

'02 **Michael Ormsbee** is an associate professor in the College of Human Sciences at Florida State University and recipient of the 2020 William J. Kraemer Outstanding Sport Scientist Award. Conferred by the National Strength and Conditioning Association, it is considered the highest honor in the field.

Kate Nedelman Herbst
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'03 **Joey Mowrey and Kimberly “Kimmie” Remis '15** are engaged. Joey is pursuing a master's in nursing at Johns Hopkins. Kimmie earned a master's in social work last year and is completing a post-grad fellowship. They reside in Maryland.

Bridget Cummings Dorman
bcdorman09@gmail.com

'05 **Lindsey Fyfe** is in her second year at the education department at the Wadsworth Athenaeum Museum of Art, in Hartford, Conn., and board president of the folk music series Sounding Board.

Josh Singer and his wife welcomed their first child, Abigail Charlotte Singer, on May 13. The new arrival is keeping them busy and happy.

Kathryn Wink Gilligan spoke on “How to use Orton Gillingham Approach in the STEM/STEAM Classroom” at the National Science



The Skidmore family continues to grow. Ben and Jamie Sands Ahles, both members of the Class of 2006, welcomed baby girl Orna Lilly on March 26; Joe Cavallaro '07 and his partner, Jamie, and son Crosby welcomed baby Oscar on May 22; and Jed Bonner '08 and Emily Jones '08 welcomed Kenzo McClellan Bonner on Oct. 15, 2019.

Teaching Association STEM20 virtual conference in July. She and her family are well.

Robert Caiazzo
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'06 In the middle of the pandemic, **Ashley Morrison Zink** accepted a position as the director of risk management and performance in the Pennsylvania Governor's Office of Performance Excellence. Her husband and daughter (and three dogs) are well.

Colorado residents Gordon and **Emily Johansson Fournier** welcomed their second daughter in May. The new arrival and her sister Alice are "already learning to hike the mountains and sleep outdoors." Gordon continues to work for National Geographic and Emily is a primary care pediatric nurse practitioner.

Ashly Higgins Nealon is a lead clinical nurse in the surgical intensive care unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She has been treating COVID-19 patients since March.

James Pizzolato is a psychologist at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center focused on health behavior changes and trauma. When the pandemic hit, James volunteered to remain in the

clinic to treat veterans who could potentially require acute care. James is engaged to physician Alexandra Bea. They plan to wed in November 2022. The couple enjoy baking and learning TikTok dances from his 11-year-old daughter, Mila Seraphina. James was featured in the soccer monthly Onze and a French national museum for his work promoting inclusion of the LGBTQ community in soccer culture.

Ben and Jamie Sands Ahles welcomed baby girl Orna Lilly on March 26. "She has been a welcomed distraction during these upside-down times."

Alexandra Ravener Feigman
afeigman@gmail.com

'07 After completing a Ph.D. in comparative literature, **Molly Appel** moved to Las Vegas last year to start her dream job as an assistant professor of English at Nevada State College. Molly continues to work with the college's Anti-Racist Pedagogy Collective. During sequestration, she and longtime partner Matt Hoffman played board games and adopted a kitten.

NYC firefighter **Patrick Bouman** was awarded a medal for rescuing a drowning man in the Hudson River last summer.

Jennifer Hill Kraft graduated from the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Adirondack program. She manages the Taste New York Market at the Adirondacks Welcome Center.

Joe Cavallaro moved to Denver, Colo., this past winter with his partner, Jamie, and son Crosby. The couple welcomed a second son, Oscar, on May 22, Joe's birthday. Joe looks forward to visiting campus with Croz and Oz!

Marisa Falcon provides consulting services to nonprofit organizations in Brooklyn, N.Y. She enjoyed a virtual mini-reunion with fellow Londoners **Cara Bonnington, Regina Circosta, Amanda Platt, Cameron Dunn, Kerry Genese, Alison Hunt McKinney, Kristen Schnibbe Cervantes** and **Jenn St. Mary**. Several of their children made appearances, including Cara's newborn. Cara and her family live in Sydney, Australia.

Working from home afforded **Sarah Jeffery Kelson** the opportunity to spend quality time with her husband and 2-year-old son. Just before the stay-at-home order was issued, Sarah learned she is pregnant and expecting a baby girl in November.

Autumn Bush
autumnbush@gmail.com

'08 **Josh Benjamin** and wife Caitlin are expecting their first child. Josh is a sportswriter for Elite Sports New York, which can be somewhat challenging without televised live sports.

San Carlos, Calif., resident **Andrew Bockus** was promoted to senior scientist in chemistry at Circle Pharma Inc., where he leads the design and synthesis of macrocyclic peptides for use as cancer therapeutics. Andrew has released several albums of original songs centered on topics in science and other subjects.

Jed Bonner and **Emily Jones** welcome their first child, Kenzo McClellan Bonner, on Oct. 15, 2019. All things considered, they are all doing well. The family lives in San Francisco, where Emily is an architect and Jed is a lawyer.

Julie Congress, Ryan Emmons and **Jen Neads** have been using the "unexpected gift" of time to collaborate (virtually) on a new play for their theater company, No.11 Productions.

Paul Gladstone and **Meredith Mowder** welcomed daughter Prudence on April 6, 2019. During quarantine, Meredith finished her Ph.D. dissertation in art history at the CUNY Graduate Center. She is

teaching modern and contemporary art courses for Hunter College and Christie's. A senior software engineer at the women-owned startup Bulletin, he is the sole male employee. Their Italian greyhound Rocco, aka "party boy," is adjusting to life with a toddler but very happy to have his family at home.

Kate Taylor was promoted to team leader and client advocate at Physician's Computer Company, a pediatric-specific EMR and consulting firm. She and her husband live in Burlington, Vt., with 5-year-old Jack and 3-year-old Calvin.

Kelly Genoio
kgenois@gmail.com

'10 Unable to travel, **Rebecca Rawling** stepped up her hiking this summer while living in Denver. She started on Colorado's 58 "14ers" (14,000 foot mountains) this summer, including the treacherous Long's Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park. By day, Rebecca is a professional writer and researcher at litigation boutique Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP. By night she plays flute with the professional quartet Riverdale Flutes.

Joel Amidon is a physician at Prisma Health in Greenville, S.C. He

notes, "Creative Thought Matters has really helped our practice get through these times! I hope everyone is safe and well."

Jake Young received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Missouri this fall.

Starry Krueger teaches theater at High Tech Elementary in San Diego. She is also the founder and artistic director of Imaginary Theater Company, a children's troupe that produces original plays intended to "empower children to be the heroes of their own stories." Starry's script for "Canary, Cockroach, Phoenix" was recently published by Drama Notebook.

Claire Solomon Nisen
claire.a.solomon@gmail.com

'11 **Martel Catalano** is co-founder and executive director of Beyond My Battle, a Saratoga-based nonprofit that supports people living with chronic illness. In 2019, BMB launched mindfulness-based workshops for patients and caregivers and the "Beyond My Battle" podcast. For more information, visit beyondmybattle.org.

Tanner Kaufman
Tanner.Kaufman@gmail.com



Jingling Zhang '17 is working on green building and sustainability initiatives for a structural engineering firm in Portland, Maine. "I started to think about a career in sustainability at Skidmore, worked at the Sustainability Office on campus and have been inspired by professors, staff and students ever since," she says.

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'15 Oncology nurse **Kelly Polhemus** has been working on the front lines of the pandemic, helping to protect vulnerable oncology patients. As a staff member of Yale New Haven Hospital's new ambulatory clinic, she provides rapid-response COVID-19 testing to patients with compromised immune systems.

Kimberly "Kimmie" Remis and **Joey Mowrey '03** are engaged. After earning a master's in social work last year, Kimmie is completing a post-grad fellowship. Joey is pursuing a master's in nursing at Johns Hopkins. They reside in Maryland.

Jess Dunning
jldunning11@gmail.com

'16 **Michelle Lin** is a mental health specialist working in the Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorders Inpatient Program at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass. At the start of the pandemic, patients anywhere in the hospital who showed symptoms of infection were transferred to her unit for isolation. "I will continue to bring attention to the importance of mental health during this challenging time," she says.

My mother had been visiting from Kenya and was due to return at the end of March. Four days before her flight, everything shut down. A two-month trip has become an indefinite stay. But there is a silver lining. This is the most time we've had together in 15 years and it has been a great experience for both of us. I learned to cook Kenyan dishes I had forgotten, and mum enjoys our Sunday skin

care routine. What's better than that while sheltering in?

Stella C. Langat
stellalangat@gmail.com

'17 **Weston Stewart-Tennes** won first-place honors and \$20,000 in the 2017 Freirich Business Plan Competition for Fries First, a food truck venture that sells French fries with a selection of distinctly flavored sauces. After a successful year and a half, he started booking specialty food trucks for venue owners, event planners and the general public. His new business, City Flavor, dispatches trucks from a large network of food vendors in Los Angeles and the Bay area.

Blair Warren
blairshields15@gmail.com

'19 **Temen Kim** is co-founder of Town to Table, a company that provides access to the latest hydroponic container farming technology and operates its own commercial scale farm that supplies produce to schools, restaurants and nonprofits. The Brookline, Mass., native partnered with co-founder and childhood friend Jack Levine, a Clark alumnus who interned at the school's Freight Farm (the container system pioneered by **Dan Marino '06**.)

Desiree Sims
sim188@gmail.com

Visit skidmore.edu/reunion for updates on Reunion.

IN MEMORIAM

Beatrice Swartfigure Sweeney '37 of Greenfield, Mass., died May 16. A history major, she was the city historian for Saratoga Springs, a Skidmore trustee and a member of the Alumni Board of Directors.

Elizabeth Hale '38 of Woodstock, Ill., died Feb. 21 at 102. An English major, she worked in accounting for Time Inc.

Judith Partridge Baird '42 died Feb. 28 in Tofino, British Columbia. A biology major, she was a scholar and researcher of marine biology, neurophysiology and genetics. She is survived by her great-niece, Judith Brewer '07, and a nephew.

Catharine Smith Reid-Murphey '43 of Worton, Md., died May 24, 2019. She was an economics major.

Isabel Sherwin Harris '45 of Longwood, Fla., died June 5. An art major, she was a published illustrator, artist and animal activist.

Betty Spoerl Eckerson '45 of Crozet, Va., died Feb. 3. A textile design major, she worked as a Macy's buyer before her marriage. Trustee of the Early American Decoration Historical Society, she managed Hay Scales Exchange, an artists' cooperative in North Andover, Mass.

Cyrena Parker Konecky '46 of New York, N.Y., died April 12. A nursing major, she was an electrologist in private practice.

Betty Beaton Given '46 of Montclair, N.J., died Oct. 31, 2019. A physical education major, she was a dedicated civic volunteer.

Mary "Polly" Deppen Whedon '47 of West Hartford, Conn., died Jan. 4. A physical education major, she served Skidmore as vice president of the Alumni Board of Directors, class agent and Reunion volunteer. Survivors include her husband, sons and a cousin, Linda White Deabler '68.

Beverly "Nikki" Nicholson Adams '47 of Farmington, Maine, died March 18. An art major, she was chair of the art department at Farmington State College and later at Mt. Blue High School.

Georgene Mulliner Klim '47 of Jamesville, N.Y., died March 30. An art major, she taught in Syracuse Public Schools for 30 years. She served Skidmore as a class agent.

Suzanne Davis Sutton '48 of Vancouver, Wash., died Jan. 31. An English major, she was a staff reporter for the Detroit News before becoming a librarian.

Betsy Bell Condron '49 of Bedford, Pa., died Jan. 10. An art major, she was vice president of the Medical College of Pennsylvania Commonwealth Board. She served Skidmore as vice president of the Alumni Board of Directors, Reunion historian and campaign volunteer.

Averill Grippin Llewellyn '49 of Cohasset, Mass., died April 29. A French major, she taught French before heading the guidance department at Connecticut College and was later a media specialist at William Seeley Elementary School.

Mary Lou Woodruff Street '49 of Hyannis, Mass., died May 12. An art major, she was a legal assistant to Massachusetts Sen. David Locke. She served Skidmore as a longtime class agent, fund chair and Reunion volunteer. Survivors include her husband, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a sister, Nancy Woodruff Morganstern '53.

Elizabeth Klausmann Sangree '50 of Lakewood, Ohio, died Feb. 5. A nursing major, she helped her husband lead United Church of Christ congregations in New York and Massachusetts.

Miriam Eppstein Freeling '52 of Lincoln Park, Mich., died Nov. 22, 2019. A psychology major, she was an occupational therapist at Wayne State University. She served Skidmore as a fund chair and Reunion volunteer.

Joyce Levine Eppler '52 of New York, N.Y., died June 10. A psychology major, she had a 45-year career at Spence Chapin Services for Families and Children.

Rosemary Lawton MacCoun '52 of Highlands Ranch, Colo., died April 16, 2019. She was a physical education major.

Edith Baldwin Wonnell '53 of Saline, Mich., died Dec. 21, 2019. A nursing major, she was founder and director of the Birth Center of Delaware and was instrumental in launching the Bryn Mawr Birth Center.

Carol Clafin Kurtz '53 of Hampton, N.H., died Jan. 4. She was a biology major. She served Skidmore as class president, Reunion volunteer, class agent and admissions contact. She is survived by a daughter and a niece, Sandra Atkinson Wagner '67.

Joan Dymond Barnett '53 of Orleans, Mass., died May 23. A psychology major, she taught kindergarten in Marblehead before her marriage. She is survived by four children, including Lysandra Barnett Lincoln '79, and six grandchildren.

Sally Sprague Marvin '53 of Concord, N.H., died Feb 25. An English major, she was investigated by Sen. Joseph McCarthy for her comments as editor-in-chief of the Skidmore News. Recruited by the

Central Intelligence Agency, she was a journalist for Time-Life in NYC and Jacksonville Daily News in North Carolina, as well as an antiques dealer.

Sally Sanderson Cutler '53 of Keene, N.H., died June 5. A physical education major, she enjoyed a career in physical therapy. She served Skidmore as class president, Reunion volunteer, class correspondent and campaign volunteer. She is survived by three children, including Donna Cutler Jones '81, and eight grandchildren.

Carole McKenzie Coleman '54, P'91 of New York, N.Y., died Sept. 28, 2019. A history major, she taught in NYC Public Schools and at the International School in Hamburg, Germany. She is survived by two daughters, including Elizabeth Coleman '91.

Margaret "Midge" Laydon Sbabo '54 of North Haven, Conn., died March 17. A psychology major, she served Skidmore as a class agent.

Cynthia Wallace Bernart '54 of Raleigh, N.C., died July 10 of COVID-19. A nursing major, she taught obstetrics and pediatrics in the nursing school of the Presbyterian Hospital and later served at the University of Virginia Hospital.

Patricia Evans '55 of Bay Head, N.J., died June 11. A nursing major, she served as chair of Skidmore's Nursing Department from 1973 to 1979 and also

Joseph L. Bruno '52 FORMER STATE SENATOR

Joseph L. Bruno '52 of Brunswick, N.Y., former Republican majority leader in the New York Senate, died Oct. 6. He was 91. Born in Glens Falls, he studied business at Skidmore under the G.I. Bill and served in the Korean War shortly after graduation. A successful businessman, he was state senator for more than three decades, majority leader for 13 years and acting lieutenant governor for three months following the resignation of Gov. Eliot Spitzer. In 2001, he spoke at Commencement and received an honorary degree. He supported the construction of Zankel Music Center, which was completed in 2010. He is survived by his four children, seven grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, five siblings and his partner, Kay Stafford. He was predeceased by his devoted wife, Barbara (Bobbie), and three siblings.

developed the nursing program at Florida Atlantic University.

Nancy Passaro Whittaker '55 of Merced, Calif., died Nov. 17, 2019. A nursing major, she was an obstetrics nurse at Cornell Medical Center in NYC and longtime director of nurses at Mercy Medical Center.

Sarah Cameron Alexander '57 of Middletown, R.I., died Oct. 18, 2019. An English major, she was a journalist for Life Magazine International and worked for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Bonnie Ward Wood '57 of Edgewater, Md., died April 6 from COVID-19. A sociology major, she was an administrative assistant for Trident Engineering.

Mary Bull Madsen '58 of Bloomfield, Conn., died April 11. She was an accomplished fabric artist and co-founded the Strawberry Patch needlework and quilting shop.

Elsie Maxwell Hoban '59 of Winnetka, Ill., died May 6, 2019. An English major, she was a librarian at Cornell University before her marriage.

Carolyn Salminen Konheim '59 of Brooklyn, died Nov. 25, 2019. A history major, she was a partner in the environmental consulting firm Konheim & Ketcham. After founding NYC's Citizens for Clean Air in 1964, she was appointed assistant commissioner of the city's Department of Air Resources and then director of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Susan Lord Peace '60 of West Palm Beach, Fla., died Dec. 21, 2019. A government major, she worked at the United Nations and Chatham University and served Skidmore as a class agent.

Ellen Welles Linn '60 of Wilson, Wyo., died Feb. 26. She was co-owner of Linn Canyon Ranch and a real estate agent.

Lydia Wyman Pope '60 of Cummings, Ga., died Dec. 23, 2019. A home economics major, she

served Skidmore as a Reunion volunteer and class agent.

Leslie Knight Abbott '60 of Harwich, Mass., died May 24. A business major, she founded her own consulting firm. She served Skidmore as a campaign and Reunion volunteer and a member of the Alumni Awards Committee.

Patricia Timothy-Riffle '60 of Harwich, Mass., died March 19. A music major, she was also an artist.

Eloise Jensen '62 of Tucson, Ariz., died Feb. 6. An English major, she was a community leader and gifted storyteller. She served Skidmore as a Reunion volunteer.

Susan Otto Spicer '62 of Mystic, Conn., died April 14. A nursing major, she was a school nurse.

M.E. Cassidy '63 of Rochester, N.Y., died Feb. 26, 2019. A government major, she taught in Pittsford public schools. She served Skidmore as a regional club officer. She is survived by a sister, Kathleen Cassidy Martineau '83, and several nieces and nephews.

Elsie Raymond Maddeus '64 of Scotia, N.Y., died Jan. 22 at the age of 100. An English major and University Without Walls student, she entered college at 41. She was head librarian at the Ballston Spa Public Library.

Margery Lawton Cooper '64 of Hartford, Conn., died July 22, 2019. An art history major, she was director of the publishing department at Northwestern Connecticut Community College and taught art history courses.

Paige Cary Curtis '64 of Hillsboro Beach, Fla., died April 15. A business major, she served as creative director at Yaffe Berline and Curtis Group before founding her own agency.

Nancy Pechar Toombs '66 of New York, N.Y., died Jan. 23. A business major, she worked at People and Money magazines.

Susan Parker Gurney '67 of Darien, Conn., died Nov. 14, 2019. An

American studies major, she worked in banking and finance. She served Skidmore as a campaign volunteer.

Sudee Sanders '67 of Hilton Head, S.C., died March 26. An art-education major, she taught at Cherry Hill Public Schools in New Jersey and the Beck International Baccalaureate Middle School in Greenville, S.C. She served Skidmore as a class agent and Reunion volunteer.

Mary Earl '68 of El Prado, N.M., died May 20. An art major, she was a tapestry artist and jewelry designer.

Jane Johnson '68 of Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., died April 3. A history major, she worked for the U.S. District Court in Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich.

Kathryn Graham '69 of Stamford, Conn., died Aug. 28. An art history major, she served Skidmore as a member of the Tang National Advisory Council and the Presidential Advisory Committee.

Elizabeth M. Hood '70 of Greenwich, N.Y., died Sept. 13, 2019. An English major, she was director of administration at WMHT-TV and later worked for the NYS Education Department. She served Skidmore as an admissions contact. She is survived by her siblings, including Helen Hood '65.

Linda Maxson Nilson '73 of Cataumet, Mass., died May 19. An elementary education major, she enjoyed inspiring generations of young students.

Elizabeth Russell Hochberger '82 of Weston, Mass., died Feb. 2. An English major, she raised her family in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Australia, and was a Realtor and a community volunteer in Weston. She served Skidmore as an admissions and Reunion volunteer. She is survived by her husband, four children, including Andrew '18, Colleen '14 and Marjorie '12, and three brothers.

Elizabeth Schaller-Bhujy '83 of Natick, Mass., died Sept. 15, 2019. She was a business major at Skidmore.

Anita Marshall Hawes '84 of Batavia, N.Y., died March 2. A business major, she operated Travelore Travel Service.

Patricia Cassidy Kater '85 of Barbourville, Va., died June 21, 2019. A business major, she was a freelance marketing specialist.

Jeffrey Sichel '89 of Longmont, Colo., died March 27. A theater major, he staged more than 100 operas, plays and films and taught at Bard College and Catholic University.

Erik Johnson '92 of Savannah, Ga., died May 28. A biology-physical education major, he was teacher, coach and director of sports medicine at the Sayre School in Lexington, Ky., then director of athletics at Savannah Country Day School.

Janine Przybylinski Buckner '93 of West Orange, N.J., died Aug. 24. A psychology major, she was an associate dean at Seton Hall University. She is survived by a daughter and a sister, Jennifer Przybylinski Peluso '93.

Julie Heyl-Rushmer '97 of Chicago, Ill., died May 12. She was a biology major. She is survived by her sister, Molly Heyl-Rushmer Maier '01, and her parents.

RECENT FACULTY DEATHS

Beverly Becker, professor emerita of physical education and dance, died April 20. Becker joined the faculty in 1959 and chaired the Department of Physical Education and Dance, as well as the Education Department. A national figure in her field, she served as president of the National Association for Physical Education in Higher Education from 1986 to 1988. Jeff Segrave, professor of health and human physiological sciences, described her as "a faculty leader ... a champion of Title IX and a visionary who embraced the value of physical education as an avenue to health and well-being." In retirement, Becker continued to serve Skidmore and community organizations.

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