

# Groton School

*The Quarterly* · Fall 2019



# A CALL TO ACTION

SPECIAL SECTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

THE PLANET IS IN TROUBLE.  
MEET GROTONIANS WORKING TO SAVE IT.

Elson Harmon 1940–2019  
Prize Day



# Groton School

*The Quarterly*

Fall 2019 • Volume LXXX, No. 3

## A Call to Action

Meet Groton graduates who are taking action to save our environment.

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Photo by Adam Richins



Mitch Weiss

## Message from the Headmaster

STAR-LIT AFRICAN skies provided a new form of visible inclusion for the Groton faculty and students of the Imagine Scholars program this summer.

After two years of studying various texts together, exchanging poetry, Skype calls, and FaceTime on Wednesday mornings—sharing dance, theater, music, and favorite movies, essentially exchanging cultural norms in cyberspace—the students finally met each other in person: thirteen from Groton, eight from the Maru-a-Pula School in Botswana, and seven from Mpumalanga, South Africa.

As we waited for soft drinks and cookies in the middle of the bush at Madikwe Game Reserve at dusk, a girl from South Africa started a dance-off, showing a Groton student a somewhat sophisticated dance. Fortunately, she picked one of the stars of the Groton dance program, who returned the favor by dancing to the African rhythms with an American flair.

Not to be outdone, Groton boys joined in, and eventually more than a dozen students from each of the three schools and countries were dancing, clapping, and singing in unison—a memory they will not forget for a long time. They kicked up dust under the skies, with only stars illuminating their moves. And that act produced not only dust, but also magic, breaking the ice, opening minds, and dissolving barriers between them.

This simple act of dancing gave a glimpse of what is possible when people of all demographics come together in the spirit of Ubuntu and visible inclusion. The aptly named

Imagine Scholars showed us all what can be accomplished when we open our minds, eyes, and hearts to one another. Imagine Scholars Groton, the newest Global Education Opportunity (GEO), is the vision of Vuyelwa, a Groton English teacher and the other Groton “head parent.”

Elsewhere this summer, other Groton students were opening their minds, eyes, and hearts to new cultures and experiences as well: three went on exchanges to schools in India, twenty-two traveled on an orchestra trip to Spain, and fifteen immersed themselves in Peruvian culture, on one of the school’s oldest GEOs.

As you read this *Quarterly*, which focuses on environmental sustainability, I hope you too will open your minds, eyes, and hearts and imagine a future where we can all dance—after we conquer global climate change, air and water pollution, drought, and famine. From Botswana to Boston, and from the Americas to Asia and Europe, we at Groton stress our global connectedness while acknowledging that Groton is by necessity and intention an American school—one that does not shy away from instilling a global perspective in its students.

Temba Maqubela  
Headmaster

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## FOUR NEW ROLE MODELS to Inspire Students in Schoolroom's Iconic Pantheon

**G**roton's iconic Schoolroom will be stepping beyond its 1904 origins to better represent the school of today.

Four new busts will join the eighteen currently on display, adding diversity and with it, role models to whom more students can relate.

Sparked by student activism and supported by the Board of Trustees, the school plans to add busts of Eleanor Roosevelt, Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, and Mahatma Gandhi to the eighteen now on display.

The bust discussion, long percolating, gained attention in 2018, when a school club known as Groton Feminists began advocating for a female bust in the Schoolroom. The group gathered 180 names on a petition and received 80 percent support for a new bust in a student poll. Headmaster Temba Maqubela remembers Lucy Chatfield '18, Josie Fulton '18, and Layla McDermott '18 asking him for an urgent meeting. "I reminded them that while I had the authority to do many things at Groton, I did not have the power to do them all," he recalled. "To this end, I would put them in front of the Board of Trustees—which I did."

The student conversations with trustees made an impression. "It put this up on the priority list," said Tufts University Professor and Groton Trustee Diana Chigas '79. "I was very pleased students spoke up. It's great that they took the initiative to shape their own learning environment."

Board of Trustees President Jonathan Klein P'08, '11, '18 remembers how persuasive and compelling the students were and supported their cause without hesitation. "With 50 percent of the students female and not all of the students being white boys, it's unarguable that we need more visual representation, and it shouldn't stop at the Schoolroom," he said.

Layla stirred the student and faculty community as well, with powerful words during a April 2018 chapel talk by Groton Feminists. "Newton. Milton. Shakespeare," she began. "Franklin. Hawthorne. Emerson. Hamilton. Lincoln. Washington.



Busts of Nelson Mandela, Eleanor Roosevelt, Mahatma Gandhi, and Rosa Parks will join the eighteen installed in the Schoolroom in 1904.

Homer. Demosthenes. Caesar. Socrates. Dante. Goethe. Scott. Christopher Columbus. These are the names of all the white men whose busts are on display in the Schoolhouse today."

Layla was surprised when she saw how engaged the students in Chapel were. "I looked out and I knew that people were listening," she recalled. "Everybody felt like it needed to change."

Layla had known that for a long time. "I was twelve when I first sat in that Schoolroom. Groton for me has become a home in so many senses of the word. To see women there—to know that there were women moving mountains and changing the course of history, to look up to these women and know they had even more sexist, cultural obstacles in their way—would have been amazing," she said, adding that many teachers provided strong female role models while she was at Groton. "Having female teachers in disciplines where it's mostly male has helped me relate to the subject matter and helped me feel I could succeed in that subject. I think the busts would do the same."

In 2018, adding busts was not a new thought for Lucy either. "I remember standing in the Schoolroom in Third Form and

*continued on next page*



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thinking, "We need to fix this," she said.

Trustees understood that what the community sees day-to-day is important. "I do think that the space that the students are in sends messages," said Professor Chigas.

The Board of Trustees unanimously supported the addition of female role models, and agreed with the headmaster's imperative to "add, don't delete." In light of the diversity of the student body, trustees also decided to add role models who would resonate with students from outside the United States.

The first eighteen busts, chosen by school founder Endicott Peabody with input from Harvard Professor Charles Elliot Norton, represented Western, European thought, said Professor Chigas, an expert on international negotiation at Tufts' Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. "Having some non-Americans there communicates that Groton is engaging with the rest of the world," she said.

One international choice was inspired by a heartfelt suggestion from Grace Mumford '21, during a Global Education Opportunity (GEO) in South Africa. She had just visited Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent eighteen years in prison, and urged Mr. Maqubela to consider a bust of Mandela for the Schoolroom. The idea, she said, "was definitely inspired by what I saw in South Africa, after visiting Robben Island and shaking the hand of our tour guide, who was a prisoner. Inclusivity is one of our main values and Nelson Mandela is the model of inclusion."

It may come as no surprise that the board president, a native of South Africa, believed Mandela was an appropriate choice. "Mandela belongs to the world and is a role model, not just for people from his continent, but everywhere," Mr. Klein said. "When faced with decisions, people would do very well to ask themselves what Mandela would have done."

School archivist and shop teacher Douglas Brown '57, who has taught at Groton since 1970, applauds the changes. "When the Schoolroom was built we were a boys' school. The role models for boys in those days would have been men, and these were supposed to be inspirations to those boys," said Mr. Brown. "To add more people—people who are good role models—who are going to be inspirations to kids that we have here now who can say, 'My God, there is somebody like me who really did something, and maybe I could do something like that too!'

I see no reason to preserve that room precisely as it was in 1904."

## GROTON VOICE at International Conference

Five teachers and administrators joined thought leaders from the world's top secondary schools at the World Leading Schools Association (WLSA) conference in Prague, July 18–20.

The conference theme, "Education for the Human Condition," focused on educating resilient students and future global leaders. Participating in the conference and leading sessions were Headmaster Temba Maqubela, a member of the WLSA's executive board; Assistant Head of School and Director of College Counseling Megan



Nishad Das, Rebecca Stanton, John Conner, Temba Maqubela, and Megan Harlan at the WLSA conference in Prague

Harlan, the WLSA program chair; Dean of Faculty and Spanish teacher John Conner; Director of Global Education and math teacher Nishad Das; and World Languages faculty Rebecca Stanton.

## CLASSICS SCHOLARS Excel on National Exams

Groton's young classicists excelled once again on the 2019 National Latin Exam, with 71 percent of Latin students receiving *cum laude* recognition or higher, and 67 percent of those students earning either *maxima cum laude* or *summa cum laude*. Earning a perfect score were Evan Cheigh '22, Jack Ehrgott '22 (second time), Jasmine Garcia '22, John Rogers '22, Antonia Samwer '23, and Brian Xiao '19 (third time).

The National Latin Exam Committee also recognized Julien Alam '19, Marianne Lu '19, and Sophie Park '19, for achieving *summa cum laude* for five consecutive years, and Joshua Guo '20, Julien Lee Heberling '19, Amy Lu '19, Ademola Ogunsanya '19, Andrew Porter '20, Karla Sanford '19, and Brian Xiao '19 for achieving *summa cum laude* on four National Latin Exams.

On the National Greek Exam, Tilly Brooks '19, Eunice Cho '20, Joshua Guo, Sophie Park, and Andrew Porter received a blue ribbon for superior work; all Groton students enrolled in Ancient Greek received awards from the American Classical League for notable achievement.

Back row, Tilly Brooks, Andrew Porter, Joshua Guo, Ademola Ogunsanya, Brian Xiao; front row, Sophie Park, Jack Ehrgott, Amy Lu, Julien Alam, Eunice Cho, Jasmine Garcia, and Karla Sanford (not pictured, Evan Cheigh '22, Julien Lee Heberling '19, Marianne Lu '19, John Rogers '22, and Antonia Samwer '23)



Gaill Friedman



Sophie Park '19 won the McCormick Library's first annual book plate contest. Her winning entry will be included in all library book purchases this year.

"We are delighted to have such a beautiful and interesting inaugural print in what we hope will be an annual tradition," said Library Director Mark Melchior.

The contest was open to all Sixth Formers, and the judging was conducted by Mr. Melchior and art teachers Jennifer Ho and Melissa De Jesus-Akuete.

## GROTON at Carnegie Hall

In recent months, five students earned their way to Carnegie Hall, three of them performing. Violinist Allison Jiang '22 won a gold medal in the Golden Classical Music Awards and played at Carnegie Hall in March. Derek Chang '20, also on violin, earned a bronze medal in that competition and performed

in June. Nathan Zhang performed on piano there in June, after earning a spot from the American Fine Arts Festival.

Visual artists made it to Carnegie Hall, too: Yici Isabel Cai '21 and Joshua Guo '20 each received a national Scholastic Art & Writing Award there in June. Isabel earned her award

in the painting category, for "We ALL Can Do It," inspired by Rosie the Riveter. Joshua, who also earned a Best in Grade distinction, was recognized in the film/animation category for his documentary, "The Kingdom of Tea," about the fading culture of the Bulang Minority in rural China.

CIRCI TER



Above, gold medalist Allison Jiang '22 played at Carnegie Hall in March; also performing at the esteemed concert hall, in June, Derek Chang '20 and Nathan Zhang '21. Left, national Scholastic Art & Writing Award winners Joshua Guo '20 and Isabel Cai '21; below, Isabel's work, "We ALL Can Do It."



Jennifer Ho



## A VISIBLE DISPLAY of Globalism

Groton began the school year with its annual Convocation, including a bright procession of flags from countries representing students' native lands and family heritages.

This year's parade of flags was the largest since the school began the tradition three years ago: students carried flags from forty-two nations—a visible symbol of globalism in a school of 383 students. Included in the mix was the Groton School flag, representing one homeland shared by all.

Last year, students carried thirty-six flags, and the year before, twenty-eight. Because more than one student asked to carry the flag for some countries, fifty-three students participated in the procession. In some cases, single flags were carried on behalf of numerous students—including the American flag, which represented Groton School students from thirty-two states.

In the weeks before school began, students were asked to share which flags they would like to carry. The procession included flags from Armenia, Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, North Korea, Palestine, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vietnam.

Nii-Ama Akuete '96, a current faculty spouse who was born in Ghana, pondered what a

display of global flags might have meant when he was at Groton. "When you come from a different culture or country, you sometimes feel alone in your diversity, as if you are the only one," he said. "The procession is great because it celebrates all of our cultures and helps us realize the beauty and importance of diversity as a community. It is a time when we are all united in our diversity."

Christopher Temerson



Senior prefects Grace Mastroianni '20 and Lwazi Bululu '20 leading the flag procession at Convocation

## STUDENTS DEMAND ACTION on Climate Strike Day

On September 20, students left second period early to gather in the Forum and participate in the worldwide climate strike. Sustainability Committee co-heads urged fellow students to take action and showed footage from climate events around the world, as well as videos of Greta Thunberg and other activists calling for mobilization.

Sustainability Committee Co-Head Zoe Colloredo-Mansfeld '21 asked students to call their Congressmen and insist on climate action, adding "Vote for people who are committed to the future of the earth." Committee Co-Head Addison Hyde '21 had a stark warning: "We are entering a world with no precedent. We cannot wait longer to act."



Students, faculty, and staff will present *Theater Action for Climate Change*, eight short plays exploring our planetary crisis, on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the McBaine Studio Theater in the Campbell Performing Arts Center.

## Ritta McLaughlin '88

# Muni Educator

A CAREER in the municipal securities market doesn't have to start with a love of finance. For **Ritta McLaughlin '88**, it began with a love of cities. How people flow through them, and have for thousands of years; how policies enable trains, buses, airplanes, and clean water to flow through them, too.

For some people, that fascination might mean engineering the systems that make a city function, or sitting in the executive seat of a government office, utility, or other influential entity. But the role Ritta carved for herself is more that of a mentor, providing education and outreach to the municipal market stakeholders through the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB). In the post-Dodd-Frank world of 2010, the jurisdiction of the MSRB had expanded. There was a clear need for commitment to market efficiency and transparency, and for all participants to understand their roles and responsibilities. What could the MSRB do to really improve stakeholders' grasp of how the bond market works and the rules in place to protect it?

When Ritta joined the MSRB in 2011 as chief education officer, the position had never existed before. She had been an associate treasurer for the District of Columbia, and before that, a public finance investment banker covering the District and other cities and states. Now she was tasked with creating an entity within an entity—and establishing best practices as an educator leveraging technology to teach the public about the municipal bond market.

“My marching orders were to ‘go figure it out,’” she recalled. “Part of being an investment banker is being able to explain particular structures about the market to clients, and to have the ability to translate that information for market participants.” She'd learned over the years that there are many ways people absorb information, and ways to deliver information to reach a wide range of learners. “Some of us absorb information best by reading, some by hearing, and others need a combination of seeing, hearing, and hands-on activity,” she said. “Since we're the steward of regulatory resources, what are the technologies that are going to reach a majority of



market participants?”

The solution, she and her team determined, was a multimedia library of information about the municipal securities market. The MSRB Education Center is a collection of free resources—fact sheets, podcasts (which she hosts), and online courses—designed to help investors and state and local governments make informed decisions. Its centerpiece is MuniEdPro, a suite of interactive online courses designed specifically for municipal market participants. She knew they were on the right track when, just twenty-three months out of the box, the MuniEdPro won a coveted Brandon Hall Technology Award—recognizing excellence and innovation in organizations around the world—for best advances in learning-management technology for compliance training.

Municipalities can't just decide not to provide water and sewer services.”

But her father was skeptical. “What are you going to do with a degree in urban studies?” he said. “Get an additional degree in education. You can always teach.” Ritta remained committed to urban studies, but added a secondary concentration in education—a prescient decision, in hindsight. “It would end up being very useful in my career—knowing how to develop curricula. Now especially so, with greater acceptance of eLearning and technology. We strive to make sure we're reaching people by speaking to all generations about the importance of the municipal securities market.”

After Vassar, Ritta held a variety of fellowships and aide positions in city and state governments, which piqued her interest in budgets.

Treasury, directing all aspects of the District's multibillion-dollar debt management program. In terms of on-the-job resources, it was a riches-to-rags move. “Having been at J.P. Morgan and coming into municipal government was a wow moment. Investment banking has resources that municipal government simply does not. I didn't realize how concierge my life had become. It was quite a shock,” she recalled. “Those who work in government are under-resourced and underpaid, and all the time worried about the red-faced risk that they could end up on the front page of the newspaper for doing their job. It's a balancing act, figuring out a way to really meet the needs of all people. There's an awesome weight of responsibility knowing all that must be provided on a day-to-day basis. It is humbling to be charged with the

## » “When she felt overwhelmed, she recalled the words of her science teacher Hoyt Taylor, who would say, ‘I have full faith in your ability to figure it out.’”

Ritta was “pretty jazzed,” and not just because of the recognition and honor. She was awed by the way her education had come full circle to include both her dream and her backup plan.

When she graduated from Groton she enrolled in Vassar (“a strong, predominantly female, top liberal arts school that molds women into a force of nature in the country? Yes, thank you.”) Her interest was growing in urban studies—understanding the role of government in people's day-to-day lives, developing the unique skill set to make a commitment to the investments of the marketplace, and recognizing its ramifications on hundreds of thousands of people and their generations to come. “There will always be cities, I figured, and they will always need people to run them,” she said. “Companies like Pan Am might be gone, but cities and states don't go out of business.

Next came a turn in the nonprofit development world, before she was lured into the world of public finance—first as a credit ratings analyst of airports, water, and sewer systems for Fitch Ratings, then at investment banks including Royal Bank of Canada, Bear Stearns, and J.P. Morgan. All the while she enjoyed creative writing and parlayed her short stories and sense of humor into a memoir chronicling the dating world on Wall Street. In 2003, Doubleday published *Every Friday Night: My Year of Dating Misadventures*. “One reviewer described the book as Terry MacMillan meets *Sex and the City* with a values system,” she laughed. “Yeah, I really am a Jane of all trades.” (She has now been married for two years.)

Then came the big take-a-deep-breath-and-jump move: back to Washington, her hometown, to work in the Office of Finance and

responsibility to be of service.”

Whenever things became challenging, she found herself recalling the lessons she'd taken from Groton: the value of hard work and maintaining integrity under pressure, and how to present oneself and bear up under disappointment. And when she felt overwhelmed, she recalled the words of her science teacher Hoyt Taylor, who would say, “I have full faith in your ability to figure it out.”

“It's one of my favorite quotations, one that has served me my entire life,” Ritta said. “When the board at MSRB said, ‘Can you figure out that education thing?’ I remembered what Mr. Taylor said, and thought, Yep, I'll figure it out.”

—Níchole Bernier

Robert Cutler '59

# Witness to History



At the Berlin Wall, as it came down: "People were dancing on the Wall. I did what anyone would do. I joined them. Some guy helped me up."

It's not entirely surprising that **Robert Cutler '59** found himself at two of the most historic events in recent decades.

Both happened in 1989—the fall of the Berlin Wall and the protests and massacre at Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Robert's former business, Acoustiguide, provided audio tours for museums worldwide, including in both Berlin and Beijing.

The company had grown dramatically in the late seventies, spurred by the blockbuster "Treasures of Tutankhamun" exhibit. Museums

received a portion of the proceeds from the Acoustiguide tours, in some cases a windfall. When the company expanded internationally, it began in London and Berlin, but eventually also operated in Australia, Canada, China, France, the Netherlands, the U.S., and the Vatican. U.S. outlets were in Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Washington, DC.

Robert was in Berlin on business on November 9, 1989. "It was by complete chance—and good luck—that I found myself in Berlin the night

the Wall came down. I was having a late dinner with the manager of our business in Germany and her husband. After we finished, around 11, she said, 'The idiots who run East Berlin are going start taking it down at midnight—they think no one will be there—want to come?' Would I!"

When they arrived, "it looked like an old-fashioned movie opening," said Robert. "The place was packed with happy people—all smiling and hugging and drinking—and there were huge klieg lights lighting the night sky while boom boxes played 'Ode to

Right: Robert atop the Wall.  
Bottom right: Reaching through the Wall to greet with East Berliners.  
Offered the hand of a once-dreaded East German police officer: "I grabbed it and said in an overdone American accent, 'Guten tag, mein herr, it's really great to meetcha!'"

Joy' at top volume. The same thing was happening on the other side. All Berlin was there."

People were dancing on the Wall. "I did what anyone would do," he said. "I joined them. Some guy helped me up."

"We reached through and shook hands with the people on the other side, who would have been shot dead eight hours before, by the dreaded East German police, called the Vopos. I reached through and stuck my hand out toward a Vopo, in his uniform, who was just standing there with his rifle, watching, stunned. He wasn't very tall and hardly knew what to do, but he put his hand forward and I grabbed it and said in an overdone American accent, 'Guten tag, mein herr, it's really great to meetcha!'"

Earlier that year, Robert had been in Beijing during the Tiananmen Square protests and massacre, and ended up getting to the airport hidden in a laundry truck. He had first traveled to Beijing in 1982 to do a feasibility study for an audio tour of the Forbidden City and launched that tour in 1988, after the country strengthened its tourism infrastructure.

Audio tours were adapted to each museum. For example, Robert used Orson Welles to narrate the King Tut tour in San Francisco.



Robert rewrote the script for Welles, who was well known for his commanding voice. When Robert first heard Welles at the sound studio in Las Vegas where the tour was to be recorded, Welles was bellowing at a terrified sound engineer. "I thought, 'Oh boy. I've had it.' I looked in and saw Welles in a huge chair, overhead mics, large standing airport ashtrays with big cigars going in each, and 20-ounce Pepsi Colas on both sides. This was 9:00 in the morning. He

was wearing striped dress pants and a caftan. I feared the worst but he could not have been nicer. You never know. He did it in one take."

This was one of many acoustic adventures for Robert, who lived overseas as a child and traveled extensively. He gathered stories along the way, and the knack for storytelling distinguished Acoustiguide. "That's what audio tours are all about," he said. "Good ones tell stories."



# A CALL TO THE PLANET IS IN TROUBLE. MEET GROTONIANS WORKING TO SAVE IT. ACTION

Groton graduates have been fighting to protect our environment for years, but today the crisis seems dire.

Overwhelmed and unsure how to help? Find inspiration in the following stories. Groton School alumni are innovating, speaking, protesting, and persuading—they are warriors in the battle to save our rapidly warming planet. And you can be too.

**Sunshine on the Circle** page 14

**How Business Can Save What the Government Won't** page 16

Theodore Roosevelt IV '61

**Battery Genius** page 19

John B. Goodenough '40

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Robert H. Gardiner Jr. '62

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Anna R. Borofsky '95

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Bradford F. Whitman '62

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John M. Storey '79

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Alexander D. Chatfield '79, P'18

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Matthew C. Roberts '84

**Climate Crisis: Nature vs. Human Nature** page 36

Sayles D. Braga '01

**Sustain-able and Sustain-willing** page 40

Robert H. Knapp Jr. '62

»»»  
 A rendering of  
 the solar array  
 planned for  
 Groton School  
 grounds

# Sunshine

## On the Circle

# 320

**students signed a  
 petition in favor  
 of some form of  
 renewable energy**

» Groton will soon install a solar array—thanks in large part to the determination of four recent graduates.

An Nguyen '18, Lars Caspersen '19, Sandra Redjali '19, and Brian Xiao '19—inspired by their Groton Ecology class—started meeting in 2016 to raise student awareness about sustainability. After working with Buildings and Grounds to increase recycling and holding a poster contest to raise awareness, the group set a more ambitious goal: they would persuade the school to install a solar array.

First came extensive research: they explored the sustainability of the Groton Electric Light Department's (GELD) energy portfolio and collected information about St. Mark's, Choate, and Lawrenceville, schools that already had solar arrays. They also met with a representative from a company that had installed solar arrays at boarding schools, and with former Groton Chief Financial Officer Arthur Diaz.

Striving to be as professional as possible, the four recognized that Groton's Board of Trustees would want a full explanation of the array's cost and benefits, and Brian took on that task. "I did most of the financial analysis,"

he said. "The biggest part was trying to figure out the best size so we could show the trustees that investing in solar would turn a profit."

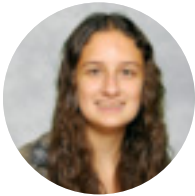
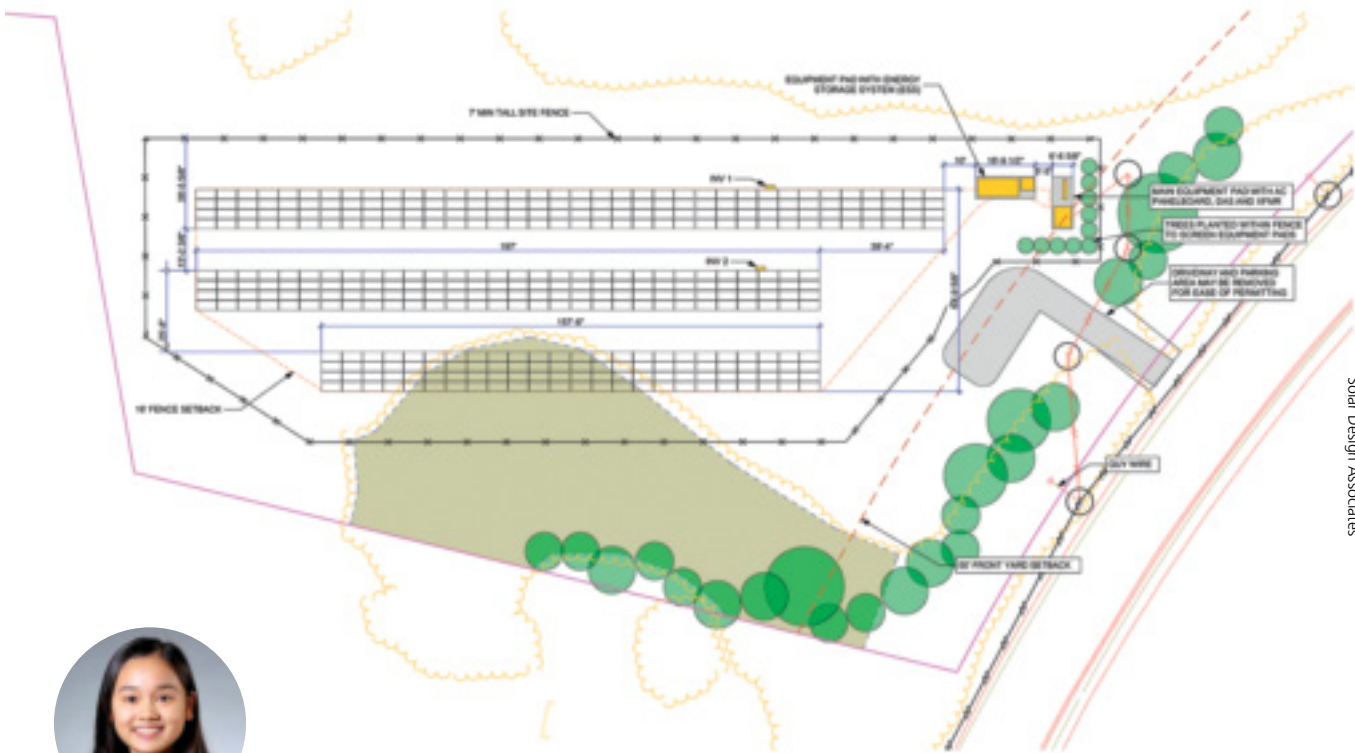
That, it turns out, is especially challenging in the Town of Groton. Much of the town's electricity already comes from renewable sources—largely nuclear power—and is relatively inexpensive.

In fact, poor economics had doomed solar when another group of students brought it to the board about eight years ago, said Trustee Grant Gund '86, P'19, '19. "Groton's very fortunate to be in a town that already has very low rates," he said. "Nearby towns charge much more per kilowatt." When the board considered the earlier student proposal, it also discovered that GELD was already buying

significant amounts of carbon-free power (more than 60 percent). "Based on that," said Grant, "we shelved it."

But when Lars, Sandra, An, and Brian presented to the board in spring 2018, they impressed trustees with their thorough analysis, which covered types of solar arrays, costs, savings, and suggested placement on school grounds. "We practiced a ton," admitted Sandra. "We wanted to have really good data, but we also wanted to show that this was a priority of the student body." That ultimately helped convince the board to act.

The students' passionate plea pushed trustees to look beyond a strict cost-benefit analysis. "I and a few other members of the board really felt it was time and that we should look into it," said Grant. "For me, what makes the idea compelling is: (A) the issue of climate change remains an urgent challenge, (B) there was a petition signed by 320 students which called on the school to



From top, An Nguyen '18, Lars Caspersen '19, Sandra Redjali '19, and Brian Xiao '19; attending or bound for University of Rochester, Harvard University, Yale University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively

install some form of renewable energy, and (C) there was potential for this to be an educational platform.”

In addition, said Grant, “renewable energy and energy storage are growing industries. The more students can learn about their practical uses, the more they’ll be prepared to follow that path.”

The financial payback remained unconvincing—GELD doesn’t allow net metering. “If we generate more than we need, they won’t buy it back,” said Grant, explaining the term. However, an anonymous donor is covering the costs, allowing the school to save an estimated \$80,000 in electric costs per year.

While a solar array in Groton might provide modest savings, the one planned should have substantial impact on pollution—thanks to the board’s decision to include a lithium-ion battery (the kind invented by John Goodenough ‘40). While the battery significantly increases

the cost, it could eliminate Groton Electric’s reliance on a diesel-powered generator, used when the town’s energy demands peak, usually late in the day. By storing energy in the battery, the school can use it during periods of peak power demand, potentially eliminating the town’s need for the diesel generator.

Beyond solar, Groton has taken many steps to reduce its energy use over the years, with help from Richard Faesy ‘79, co-founder of the Vermont-based Energy Futures Group. Richard’s career has focused on energy efficiency for decades; he helped develop an energy rating system that evolved into the Energy Star ratings we see on efficient new homes today.

Richard developed an energy-tracking tool for Groton and most recently has advised on reducing energy use at the campus wastewater treatment plant and in a planned faculty residence. With his guidance,

the campus moved away from dirty #6 fuel oil.

The solar array, when launched, will produce about thirty times the energy that a typical house uses annually, Richard said, possibly supplying enough power for most faculty housing.

Later this academic year, the 122.4-kilowatt solar array, with a 1-megawatt lithium-ion battery, will begin storing energy on a parcel of land near Farmers Row. The students had hoped for a larger array, but the one planned allows for expansion. “We’re installing the necessary infrastructure to allow for more solar in the future,” said Grant.

The four young graduates hope their success with the Board of Trustees has inspired not only cleaner energy on the Circle, but also a more environmentally active student body. “Everyone says ‘I care about the environment,’” said Lars, “but few are really involved.”

—Gail Friedman

# How Business Can Save **What** the Government Won't

THEODORE ROOSEVELT IV '61



» Temperatures are rising, the Amazon is burning, glaciers are melting, and many fear for the world that awaits their children and grandchildren.

If governmental leaders don't step up to save the planet, who will?

**Ted Roosevelt IV '61**, a managing director at Barclays and chair of its Clean Tech Initiative, remains hopeful that innovation and new technologies will be our solution — if they are adopted quickly enough.

Through speeches about clean energy, Ted hopes to inspire leaders in business and finance—and in government—to tackle our environmental perils with urgency. One of his most recent speeches, at the Green Frontiers conference in London in June

2019, summed up three imperatives in addressing climate change:

- To reduce emissions quickly by investing in advanced nuclear power generation, which employs entirely different, and safer, technologies than those used in earlier nuclear reactors
- To build on fledgling technologies which aim to extract greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, from the atmosphere
- To better measure agricultural and grazing techniques and find ways to sequester carbon in soil

"We are at a serious crossroads now," Ted said. "We're like Gulliver in the land of



Lilliputians. We allow ourselves to be tied down, partly by the climate deniers and partly by an incompetent administration. The states and the businesses are moving, and they're way ahead of this administration."

Some activists may find it ironic that big business—often demonized as contributing to climate change—could be key to planetary solutions. But oil companies are making huge investments in renewable energy, and investors are supporting a variety of emerging planet-friendly technologies, which—even if driven by pragmatism and profit—could lower the Earth's feverish temperature and protect our future.

"We are seeing that the business community generally is ahead of the Trump administration," Ted said. "They recognize that this is an issue that has to be addressed." One example, he said, is that Shell is striving to have about 30 percent of its portfolio in renewable energy. "That's a big change," he said.

When it comes to taking action, priority one for Ted is nuclear energy: to destigmatize nuclear power and get governments to incentivize advanced, safer technologies. He says that moving away from the "obsolete" light-water reactor in nuclear power plants is expensive but feasible, but laments that the U.S. is falling behind. "Unfortunately, I'm sad to say, it looks like China may be getting [advanced reactors] up before we will, because they projected in 2021 they'll have a prototype of a molten salt technology operating, which will put them ahead of us," he said. Molten salt is a coolant in the reactors.

On Ted's second priority, extracting CO<sub>2</sub> from the air, more investment is needed to expedite evolving technologies. It is currently possible to remove and purify the gas, he said, and bottling companies, such as Coca-Cola or Pepsi, could use it. Captured CO<sub>2</sub> also could be used to increase oil extracted from oil wells, he said, a process called "enhanced oil recovery."

One Swiss company, he said, is extracting CO<sub>2</sub>, liquefying it, mixing it with water, and inserting it in basalt in Iceland, where it turns solid. "They've got a little prototype. It looks like it's working, but it needs to be scaled up," he said. "And, here's where there's a disconnect between companies like this and ESG

[Environmental, Social, Governance] investors who want to invest—they're a little bit too risk averse. So, we need to find better ways of de-risking this type of investment."

Cleaning up agricultural emissions is priority number three: globally, agriculture accounts for 23 percent of the planet's emissions, Ted said, so flipping farming to sequester—rather than release—carbon emissions is important. New satellite technologies can measure the impact of agricultural and grazing techniques—and governments could reward farms that demonstrate reduced emissions. Some technique changes are straightforward and affordable, Ted pointed out, such as using ground cover, rotating cattle and other grazing animals, and avoiding soil disruption through tilling. "We need to be able to measure what they're doing, and then we can put into place policies that would allow progressive farmers to get paid for the amount of carbon that they actually sequester," Ted explained. "They'd get paid X dollars per ton. And there are a lot of industries, such as the airline industry, that would be delighted to pay for that because they have to find a way of offsetting their carbon emissions."

For skittish investors, Ted believes these planetary salves can be "de-risked." For starters, investors can support or seek funding from so-called green banks, which "will help provide some of the equity that a new technology might need, particularly if that technology will increase employment in the state in which that green bank is domiciled." Green banks, he said, absorb some of the risk, relieving the pressure on investors.

A global tax on carbon—"something that we need to work very hard to achieve"—would also reduce investors' risk. "I think that's something that we could get if the United States would agree to participate and provide leadership," he said.

For example, a carbon tax could help incentivize Brazil's government to stop rampant fires in the rain forest. "We should recognize that Brazil serves as the lungs for the planet. So we should compensate the Brazilians for that service that they provide all of us," he said. "That would require intense negotiations, because they obviously would want to get a lot of money for that. And

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**Shell is striving to have about 30% of its portfolio in renewable energy.**

Imagining what a data center might look like powered by advanced nuclear reactors (center), solar panels (on roofs), and wind turbines (background)

the United States, like a lot of the developed world—we're functionally broke; we are running a very large budget deficit. So, where's the money going to come from? That's a question that has to be answered, and that's one of the potential roles for a carbon tax."

Banks can profit from supporting these emerging technologies, and many are responding not just because it's right, but because of their clients' demands. "Banks do what their clients want," Ted said. "And clients want to know, 'What are we doing about this?' Our investing clients want to be able to invest because their clients, in turn—the people who are saving or investing through the clients—are saying, 'I want to invest where my money is going to help make the planet more sustainable...'"

"I'm sad to say, the European institutions generally are ahead of the American institutions," he added. "But the American institutions are getting up there, which is good."

Ted has been advocating for clean energy for at least three decades, ever since he was asked to raise funds for a climate change exhibition at the American Museum of Natural History. He has spoken on environmental topics with frequency since then, including a speech at the 2000 Republican National Convention on conservation and why a clean environment is essential for the country's economy, stability, and identity. In that speech, he also heralded Republican leaders who have been environmental champions, including his great-grandfather, President Teddy Roosevelt, and Richard Nixon, under whose watch the Environmental Protection Agency began. He has less kind words for the Republican leaders of today.

To illustrate the enormity of the threat to our planet, Ted often asks audiences what the Earth might look like if temperatures increase by three to five degrees. A two-degree rise is predicted by 2035, he said, if policies don't change and dramatically reduce

emissions.

He then answers his own question with another question: "How much colder was it 20,000 years ago when you had ice sheets over the northern hemisphere? What was the difference between global average surface temperatures then, and temperatures today?"

The stunning answer: five degrees. "If five degrees had that much of an impact when it gets colder, what do you think the impact will be if we have five degrees of warmer temperatures—or even three or four?"

Ted believes it is not too late to save the planet, though time is running out. "I think it's close. But I think we can do it. It's going to take unrelenting determination on our part to get this done. And so, we can't give up now," he said. "If we give up, then it is too late. But if we don't give up, and work with the unrelenting determination to make this right, we can get this done."

—Gail Friedman



Third Way/Gensler

**Globally, agriculture accounts for**

**23%**

**of the planet's emissions.**

## JOHN GOODENOUGH '40

John Goodenough, in his University of Texas lab

**BATTERY GENIUS**

At age 97, **John Goodenough '40** still plans to change the world. Don't doubt him—he's already done it once.

John Goodenough's first major invention—the lithium-ion battery that powers our smartphones and computers—led to the digital mobile revolution that we all hold in our pockets.

But his latest discovery might do more than revolutionize the world. It might help save it.

John and a research partner have invented a battery that can recharge more quickly and store more power—safely, without igniting or exploding. His new battery has the potential to transform the automobile industry, making electric vehicles

significantly more efficient and affordable.

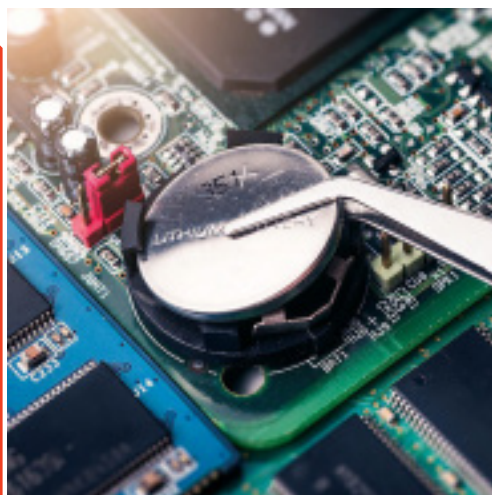
"You'll have a battery that's safe, that will give you at least thirty miles' worth of charge in ten minutes," John said. "You won't have to wait overnight." Currently, electric vehicles take many hours to charge fully at standard voltage. And with the new battery, an electric car will no longer need so many cells to function—John says the Tesla has about 7,000. Fewer cells mean simpler production and lower cost.

Climate change is part of John's motivation to press on, to take the elevator every day to his ninth-floor office in the University of Texas' Cockrell School of Engineering, where he holds the Virginia H. Cockrell Centennial Chair

of Engineering. "My goal is to reduce the distributed gas emissions from the highways and sea lanes of the world contributing to global warming from the burning of fossil fuels," John said. "I don't believe the dependence of modern society on the energy of fossil fuels is sustainable."

John began thinking about energy conservation in the seventies, when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) 1973 oil embargo caused fuel shortages, winding lines at gasoline stations, and President Jimmy Carter's plea that America turn its thermostats to sixty-five degrees. "With the energy crisis in about 1976, the Western world suddenly became alerted

## “I DON’T BELIEVE THE DEPENDENCE OF MODERN SOCIETY ON THE ENERGY OF FOSSIL FUELS IS SUSTAINABLE.”



TimeStopper / Getty Images

Small but revolutionary: the lithium-ion battery, here being placed into a computer motherboard

to its vulnerability, to its dependence on imported oil,” John recalled.

At the time, he was working at MIT’s Lincoln Lab, supported by the Air Force. There, he had helped develop the RAM (random-access memory) for computers, before embarking on energy-related research. But a new regulation required research in a government-funded lab to uphold the government’s mission; the Air Force’s mission wasn’t energy-related, and John found himself back on the job market. He seriously considered an offer to build an energy laboratory in Iran, but instead accepted an offer from Oxford University, in 1976, to head its inorganic chemistry lab. “That’s how I became officially a chemist,” said the physicist. “It was transformational for my career.”

Indeed it was. At Oxford, John developed the lithium-ion battery, methodically determining how to use a layered oxide cathode to increase voltage and energy. “How much lithium can I take out before the structure changes?” he would ask himself. “How much can I

take out before I run into problems?”

Simply put, batteries have positive and negative electrodes inside that are connected by an electrolyte. While his lithium-ion battery, with its lithium cobalt oxide cathode, was itself revolutionary, it is not perfect. The battery can be ignited if charged too quickly. Therefore, the rate of charge is limited, and an electric vehicle powered by the lithium-ion battery must be charged overnight. Too fast a charge plates metallic lithium on the battery’s carbon anode, and metallic whiskers (called dendrites) form on the lithium and grow, during charge, across a thin electrolyte to the cathode to create an internal short-circuit, which rapidly heats to the point of igniting the flammable organic-liquid electrolytes.

So John pondered whether the liquid electrolytes could be replaced—a notion that many scientists considered absurd. He worked with a Portuguese physicist, M. Helena Braga, who had discovered a glass that could replace liquid electrolytes and remove their associated safety risks.

To hear John describe it, the result is a battery that can charge faster and hold more power. And the glass materials are inexpensive, meaning mass production could put clean electric power in many consumers’ driveways. However, a battery company still needs to license their discovery and develop a manufactured product. “I am hopeful it will reach the market, but it will take time,” said John.

A few have greeted this invention with skepticism, but no one dares to ignore a scientist of John’s accomplishment and reputation—one who last spring received the Royal Society’s Copley Medal, perhaps the world’s oldest science prize, and who prior to that was recognized with numerous prizes, including the 2017 Robert A. Welch Award in Chemistry, the 2014 Charles Stark Draper Prize for Engineering, and the 2013 National Medal of Science. “People don’t want to believe it; they said we’re disobeying the law of thermodynamics. We said we *do* understand thermodynamics; they don’t understand heterojunctions ... they don’t seem to know that an electrolyte/electrode interface is a heterojunction,” he said, describing the contact between disparate materials.

John is often referred to as a genius, which his Groton formmates might not have predicted. Groton was not easy for John, who is dyslexic. He still remembers his teacher’s comment on a paper attempting to analyze Shakespeare’s Sonnet 116. “This assignment was too much for you, wasn’t it?” the teacher wrote. To understand poetry better, John, a labored reader, began writing poetry at Groton and continued writing throughout his life, composing poems for his wife’s birthday and on Christmas each year.

John credits Groton for “liberating” him from what he describes as a dysfunctional home. “Endicott Peabody did a lot for me, but he never let on,” John recalled of the school’s founding headmaster. Besides assuring that John had a scholarship to Groton, Mr. Peabody arranged a summer tutoring job to help John finance his education at Yale. “Peabody arranged for me to be able to tutor families in wealthy homes, because I had no home to go back to. I got room and board and had enough money left over to pay for my room during school,” John said. His dream of playing football went unfulfilled because he worked twenty-one hours a week for Yale, earning a meal for each hour of work.



## THERE HAVE BEEN LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGNS TO PUSH THE NOBEL COMMITTEE TO RECOGNIZE THIS INGENUOUS SCIENTIST, WHO CHANGED OUR WORLD AND IS STILL DRIVEN TO IMPROVE IT.

John is eager to talk about Groton and shares precise, eighty-year-old memories: of Peabody riding into town on horseback followed by the Groton boys for a Memorial Day parade; of Mrs. Peabody taking him for a drive to see the autumn leaves when he was sick with jaundice; of a summer trip in 1939 to Finland and Norway, kayaking with six German boys who then headed home to fight for Hitler. “I wish you good luck my boys,” John told them, “but I’m going to fight on the other side.” He punctuates nearly every story with a loud, cackling laugh. It is such a distinguishing characteristic that a profile of John in *Texas Monthly* magazine frequently interrupts the prose with “Ha-hah-hah-HA-HAAA!”

John also credits Groton for his spiritual awakening. Raised without religion, due in part to a father—a scholar in religious history—whom he describes as Freudian, John was moved during services in St. John’s Chapel. “I realized I didn’t understand the symbolism of what was going on in the Chapel, so my Second Form year I

decided I’d better get baptized,” he said. By Fourth Form, he was confirmed. He repeats aloud the words he read each day at Groton on the Chapel’s pulpit: “In His Service, in *His* service.”

“You have to choose what to serve and whom you serve. It’s not in service, it’s in *His* service,” John said. “What you serve determines what you become.”

While John won’t go so far as to describe his life’s work as a calling, he sees no tension between the scientific and the spiritual world.

John’s faith no doubt has helped him cope with some of the injustices during his ground-breaking career. While some of John’s prestigious prizes have carried significant monetary awards, his discoveries have not made him wealthy. The first marketed lithium-ion battery, licensed by Sony, was developed by a Japanese scientist who had studied John’s work. It would not be the first time that John failed to profit from his invention. He received no compensation for the Sony devices that relied on his research.

Currently his college, the University of Texas, as his employer since 1986, holds all of the patents he’s developed while there. He does not seem to resent that.

He takes in stride, too, that he has been considered a frontrunner for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for decades. “I was first put up for a Nobel Prize forty years ago,” he said. “A couple years ago they alerted me and said be ready for a phone call in the morning. I was on the short list.” The call didn’t come.

There have been letter-writing campaigns to push the Nobel Committee to recognize this ingenious scientist, who changed our world and is still driven to improve it.

“I don’t worry about it—it’s wood, hay, and stubble,” John said, referring to a passage in 1 Corinthians 3:12 about what seems important in the moment versus what is truly important. John’s perspective rests upon the wisdom of his years and the spiritualism that has guided his career.

Still, turning pragmatic, he concludes, “If they wait much longer, I won’t be able to go and collect.”

—Gail Friedman

**On October 9, just as the *Quarterly* went to press, we learned that Professor Goodenough was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry—congratulations!**



Professor Goodenough receiving the National Medal of Science from President Obama, 2013

John Goodenough '40 says he learned four basic concepts at Groton, which have helped guide his life:

- *The sacredness of dialogue for learning and reconciliation*
- *The art of metaphor and story for communicating wisdom*
- *The beauty of truth, whether intellectual truth or artistic truth*
- *That the meaning of life is in what you serve*

Most of the residents of tiny Roxbury, Maine saw it as a win-win.

**Rob Gardiner '62** was proposing a wind farm on a nearby mountain ridge that would lower both their electricity costs and their property taxes.

But not everyone saw it that way, and Rob—more experienced in environmental issues than small-town politics—had not imagined just how much influence a tiny minority could wield in a town of less than five hundred.

Until his retirement in 2002, Rob's career was as president of Maine Public Broadcasting, but he had been involved with environmental causes for years, acting as executive director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine and volunteering for the National Wildlife Federation and other environmental groups. From 2004 to 2007, he ran the Conservation Law Foundation's Maine office. From that perch, he had a clear view of what was happening in Maine's alternative energy—and it wasn't promising.

No wind farms existed, and one proposed farm, whose backers didn't know Maine well, was stumbling. "The developer was stepping on all of the land mines and giving wind power a bad name," Rob said. "I got frustrated that the industry was not making the right decisions to get public approval. I thought it was the right energy source for New England."

Determined to prove that it could be done right,

*continued on page 24*

ROBERT GARDINER '62

# SMALL TOWN BIG OBSTACLES

It wasn't easy to convince Roxbury, Maine to install solar power.

Rob decided to do it himself. “I thought I could help guide a wind project to successful approval and completion,” he said. Ultimately, he was right, but the journey to wind power included bitter infighting in town, strained friendships, and two town meetings right out of a 1950s movie.

Rob and his business partner, former Maine Governor and now U.S. Senator Angus King, had done their homework when they chose Record Hill in rural Maine for their first step into alternative energy. An extensive survey of the state’s best places to capture wind energy—avoiding “iconic mountains valued tremendously by recreationalists”—identified Record Hill in Roxbury and Byron, Maine, as the number-one best site for their fifty-megawatt wind farm.

The location seemed ideal: high-voltage transmission was nearby, an

access road could be built, and it was windy. “What we didn’t know is that there were some houses across the pond at the base of the mountain with a view of the ridge,” Rob said. As his company, Independence Wind LLC, systematically built a case for the project, the dogged residents whose vista was about to change built shrewd roadblocks.

“We underestimated the degree of difficulty there,” Rob admitted.

Turns out that in a town like Roxbury, there are no strangers. “Vicious opponents of the wind farm had friends all over town. They said they wouldn’t be friends any more if they didn’t stop the project,” Rob recalled. “It was tearing the town apart.”

Despite the townwide tension, Independence Wind passed its first test fairly easily. Exceeding the town’s height restriction required

approval at town meeting, and in Roxbury, though there were three selectmen, every resident had a vote. By a show of hands, the permit was approved with about 60 percent of the vote—essentially acting as a referendum on the project. This show-of-hands form of government still exists throughout northern New England, said Rob, who called it “democracy at its lowest grassroots level.”

Local and state permits were secured, and Independence Wind had addressed opponents’ environmental concerns. But resistance from the minority remained strong. They brought in a woman who testified that the sound from a wind farm near her home was unbearable—even though Rob had visited with the woman early in the process to understand her situation and ensure that the Record Hill farm would be far

**500**

**free kilowatt hours per month—the average household consumption—for twenty years were part of the deal.**



“We can produce energy without putting carbon dioxide in the air. Can we do it before we create a cascading set of problems?”



enough from homes to avoid noise issues.

“These stories get exaggerated and misrepresent the truth,” he said, admitting nonetheless the power of first-person testimony. “The tearful presentation was much more effective than the mathematical analysis.”

No strategy was too trivial: opponents also filed a complaint about a flaw in how the town meeting notice was published in the local newspaper, alleging that the town vote was thus invalid. “To have this settled in the courts would have gone on for a couple of years,” Rob said. Knowing the town selectmen supported the project, he sought a revote, this time armed with a new weapon: free electricity.

“We needed something positive,” said Rob. Tax savings were significant, but “just not tangible enough for ordinary citizens.” Once residents learned that 500 free kilowatt hours per month—the average household consumption—for twenty years were part of the deal, the majority of residents, who already supported the wind farm, became more vocal.

Small living-room gatherings, hosted by respected townspeople who stood behind the farm, helped solidify support. By the time of the second vote, emotions were

so high that a show of hands was out of the question. More than twice the number who cast the first ballot—“people who’d never been to a town meeting in their life”—lined up to cast a written ballot.

The Record Hill wind project prevailed, 85–78. “I could identify every one of the eighty-five people who voted for the project,” Rob said. “By that time, I had come to know the town of Roxbury that well.”

The opponents had voiced concerns about noise. They feared erosion would affect water quality. Hunters thought the turbines would affect wildlife. “Two years after we built the project, of all the things opponents predicted would be disastrous—not one of them happened,” Rob said.

With the Record Hill success and lessons learned, Rob had hoped to move on to another wind project in Maine. But he didn’t expect a fossil fuel supporter to become governor, bogging the bureaucratic process, nor could he have predicted the plummeting cost of natural gas, making it difficult to turn a profit or incentivize supporters with savings.

“It’s a risky business financially right now, and only companies with big balance sheets are going forward,” he said.

Rob believes that large-scale, industrial-sized alternative energy projects—such as wind and solar farms—are necessary to make a meaningful impact on pollution and climate change. He says he remains hopeful that ingenuity and common sense will help save the planet, but he doesn’t sound all that optimistic. “I believe if there is a better way, we will find it,” he said. “Will we find it in time? Probably not. Will we apply it in time? Probably not. I’m concerned about my grandchildren.”

But the potential for innovation exists, and Rob believes in it. “I know we can do energy renewably and we can do energy more efficiently, and without putting carbon dioxide in the air,” he said.

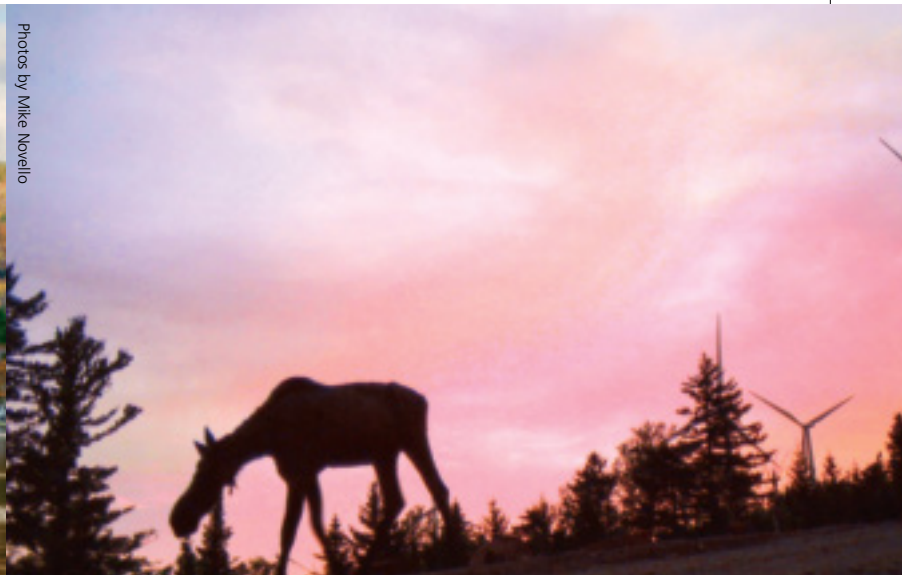
Then he reflected: “Can we do it before we create a cascading set of problems?” To that, he had no answer.

—Gail Friedman

« « « «  
**The wind turbines powering Record Hill in rural Maine; local residents raised concerns about noise, water quality, and wildlife (like this moose), but their fears were unfounded, according to Rob Gardiner.**



Photos by Mike Novello



# ANNA BOROFSKY '95



# CLEAN VIBES

» **Anna Borofsky '95** had always been passionate about two things: music festivals and environmental stewardship. But when she tried to combine them in a senior thesis about minimizing landfill waste at big outdoor concerts, her

University of Vermont professors told her that her paper lacked quantifiable data. Undeterred, she developed the data—and, eventually, a company.

Clean Vibes, incorporated in 2000, provides environmentally responsible waste management for some of the largest outdoor events in North America. Anna and her team have diverted more than 18.5 million pounds of waste from landfills across North America, providing recycling and composting services at events attended by as many as 80,000 people. The company consults with event organizers and vendors in advance, reducing the waste footprint from setup to teardown. On site, Clean Vibes comes armed with a dedicated team of employees as well as a massive corps of volunteers—and uniquely compelling ways to motivate concert-goers to clean up.

Clean Vibes was born out of idealism—if

you can call disgust and disillusionment motivational ideals.

In the late nineties, Anna worked for Great Northeast Productions, which handled grand-scale festivals such as Phish's Lemonwheel in Maine. The work was an amalgam of her favorite things, massive peaceful gatherings of people who love to jam to music outdoors for days at a time. But she couldn't ignore the big downside.

"After Phish's Lemonwheel in 1998, I worked for two and a half weeks cleaning up the unbelievable mess in the rain. And I was so disgusted and disheartened by this musical crowd I loved. These were my people trashing the grounds. That's when I coined the word 'hippiecrit,'" she said. "I remember thinking, I have to either walk away from this scene I love or do something."

Anna worked with Great Northeast to incorporate eco-friendly practices and incentives to their cleanup operation. This included providing each vehicle that entered the campground with bags for recyclables and trash and creating a raffle in which patrons could exchange full bags of recycling for raffle tickets to win autographed band merchandise

**Anna Borofsky and Brandon Merritt, partners in life and work**





« « «

Left, Anna addresses an army of Clean Vibes staff and volunteers at the 2017 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival. Below, her pre-Bonnaroo wedding.

Photos courtesy of Clean Vibes



**18.5+**  
**Million pounds**  
**of waste were**  
**diverted from**  
**landfills**  
**across North**  
**America.**

and tickets to future concerts. As the division grew, the owner of Great Northeast suggested that Anna and her partners turn Clean Vibes into a business.

In 2000, Clean Vibes became its own entity, starting small, with festivals attracting 5,000 to 20,000 attendees. “That first year we only worked five events. It wasn’t enough to support us,” Anna said. “We were just testing the waters.”

But it was enough to test a workable model, and to learn that the business couldn’t be supported only by selling recycled goods to companies that would repurpose them. “In some cities, it actually costs *more* to recycle because the market is in such disarray,” explained Borofsky. Building strong partnerships with major events and securing multi-year contracts was critical for Clean Vibes, which since then has handled recurring events such as Bonnaroo, High Times festivals, the prestigious Outside Lands festival in Golden Gate Park, the San Francisco Rock ‘n’ Roll Half Marathon, and Electric Zoo in New York City. Clinching a preferred-vendor relationship with venues was also important, like the one Clean Vibes holds with San Francisco’s Fort Mason

Center for Arts & Culture. Fort Mason has a constant flow of events on thirteen acres, in spaces ranging from five hundred square feet to fifty thousand square feet, and it lists Clean Vibes as its exclusive green cleaning service.

“It’s typically the event’s responsibility to find the cleanup vendor, but some of our contracts run through the venue. Fort Mason is where we do the most events in the same location,” said Anna. One of her regular Fort Mason clients is Off the Grid, a Bay-area collection of diverse food trucks. “We worked eighty-eight Off the Grid events last year,” she said.

One challenge for Clean Vibes has been staffing a business that’s both transitory and cyclical. Summer is festival season, with as many as eight events in one weekend. “I can’t be at every event,” Anna said, “and it’s often times better if I’m not, so I can troubleshoot from a neutral place.” Over the past twenty years, she says she has learned to cultivate reliable managers and hire a trustworthy core staff to manage the cleanup operations.

This core crew travels with Clean Vibes throughout festival season, with some people doing one or two shows and many working all

## CLEAN VIBES WAS BORN OUT OF IDEALISM—IF YOU CAN CALL DISGUST AND DISILLUSIONMENT MOTIVATIONAL IDEALS.

Keeping the 2012 Asheville (NC) Earth Day Festival clean

season. At most events, the employees work in partnership with a large team of volunteers. Drawn by the mission and camaraderie (and free concert tickets), this janitorial army is now a database 10,000 strong, with as many as 1,000 working a show like Bonnaroo. The volunteers are tasked with far more than collecting and sorting trash. Some volunteers fill the role of “Trash Talkers,” who are stationed at signature waste stations with three different receptacles (recycle, compost, and landfill) and help patrons learn what goes where, and why that’s important.

Almost everything, Anna said, can avoid the black hole of the landfill. “At some events, the only things that have to go in landfill are candy wrappers, chip bags, broken flipflops, and cigarette butts,” she added, “but then Terracycle offered a program to recycle the cigarette butts. So at events where we have the Clean Vibes Trading Post, we’ll collect seven or eight massive, stinky trash bags full of cigarette butts and ship them UPS to Terracycle.”

The “Clean Vibes Trading Post,” operated by staff and volunteers, is the nonprofit arm of Clean Vibes, where attendees trade in bags

of recycling or compostables that they’ve collected for points, which can be redeemed for all kinds of things. “We used to do raffles but realized in 2008 that the American Way is immediate rewards—not just a chance to win,” Anna explained. The storefront carries environmentally conscious products donated by sponsors, as well as merchandise donated by the festival and bands. The only currency is bags of compostable or recyclable waste or cigarette butts. “Some folks spend ten minutes to pick up one bag and get a T-shirt, and others spend time doing thirty to forty bags to get really great stuff,” Anna said. “The program incentivizes people to do what they should be doing anyway. And the visual of patrons picking up inspires other patrons to do it, too.”

Anna’s career path might not surprise her Groton formmates. In her teens, she already had a “mild obsession with live music,” and her form predicted, in the 1995 yearbook, that by their twenty-fifth reunion she would be “some band’s groupie.” She attributes her ecological interest to environmental science classes with teacher David Black. “It was one of the first classes that spoke to me,” she said. “It wasn’t just abstract education; it was action-based education, and there were really solutions.”

Sometimes she can’t quite believe the solution she has created. “I would have never imagined in the early years of the company what we have grown into and the staff that we have,” she said. “I sometimes still think I’m crazy for doing it, because there’s nothing peaceful about it—we’re gluttons for punishment being small business owners in this unpredictable industry. But when I can take a step back and look at all we’ve accomplished—employing people in jobs they care about is a hard thing to do these days—it’s one of the things I’m most proud of.”

For Anna, Clean Vibes is a career, a mission, and a life—especially since she met her longtime partner, in both love and business, at the first Bonnaroo, where he was a volunteer. “We never felt the need to get married. But this year was the last year of Bonnaroo with the original partners who founded it, so we figured this was the year,” she laughed.

They got married on the mainstage on Thursday, the day before it opened for the big bands. Said Anna: “We were the first ever Thursday night headliner at Bonnaroo.”

—Nichole Bernier





## BRADFORD WHITMAN '62

# FIGHTING THE GIANTS

Bradford Whitman called it “the monster we slew.” Reserve Mining turned a mile of Lake Superior into a toxic dump of taconite and asbestos, but the Department of Justice attorneys and a nascent EPA stopped the pollution.



## 60,000

**Tons of taconite were dumped into Lake Superior every day.**

» In 1969, Americans watched on the evening news as the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, coated with petroleum waste, blazed like a pile of wood. In response to the industrial pollution and a long list of environmental atrocities, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) sued the steel companies and obtained court decrees halting the pollution.

Meanwhile, in Minnesota, Reserve Mining Company was dumping 60,000 tons of taconite into Lake Superior every day, contaminating the lake—a source for drinking water—with asbestos. In 1972, the DOJ filed suit on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency. It took three years, but the government won in court and shut down the brazen polluter.

These landmark cases were exhilarating for DOJ attorneys and the field of environmental law. **Bradford Whitman '62** could barely catch his breath.

Brad began at the Department of Justice in 1971, two years after President Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency, a year after Congress

enacted the Clean Air Act, and a year before it enacted the Clean Water Act. “Congress was issuing these laws one after the other,” Brad recalled. “None of this existed before 1970. They needed people in Justice to enforce them.”

Brad worked on both the Reserve Mining and the steel cases. “It was so heady and exciting,” he said. “Nobody had ever done this before. We were taking on these giants of America.”

The giants, busted in lawsuit after lawsuit, were forced to clean up their act. “The steel industry definitely listened to and watched carefully—not just the Reserve Mining case but many other cases,” Brad said. “The American Iron and Steel Institute lobbied and litigated—and learned that it was a new era. Judges appointed by both Republicans and Democrats understood the difference between total environmental destruction and generally supporting American industry,” Brad said.

As important as it was to force the hands of the steel giants, Brad’s most ambitious case may have been against

Allied Chemical, which, through “an attempted corporate shield cynically named Life Science Products,” had been dumping waste from Kepone, a pesticide similar to DDT, into the Chesapeake Bay. “When we came in, it was a horror story,” Brad said. “Workers were neurologically damaged. They were shaking on the witness stand.” Studies had found the sediment below the James River and the Chesapeake Bay, in Virginia and Maryland, so polluted that health authorities had to close down all fisheries in the downstream areas of the river and the Bay.

Brad and his Department of Justice colleagues decided to take an unusual approach against Allied Chemical: they pursued criminal charges against both Allied and the individuals who played key roles in the Kepone dumping.

In the end, although the judge did not convict the individuals, he did accept a plea from Allied that resulted in a historic fine in 1976 of \$13.24 million. “He did it in a dramatic way, with all of our 1,300 counts in the indictment,” Brad recalled, “but he would not hold the individuals criminally liable. He didn’t put anybody in jail, which was disappointing to us.” Nevertheless, the work was pioneering—and the U.S. Attorney General recognized Brad’s efforts by nominating him for a Rockefeller Distinguished Public Service Award.

The federal government and Congress continued to tackle pollution with serious measures. When the Superfund law was enacted in 1980, allowing the EPA to manage the cleanup of the nation’s worst hazardous waste sites, Brad was no longer at the Department of Justice. But he wrote a summary of the law, *Superfund Law and Practice*, which was widely used to educate attorneys and courts about the law.

Today’s EPA is far from the EPA of the seventies. According to Brad, EPA employees have had to back up climate-change reports and “bootleg” them to scientific organizations because of the current administration’s suppression and removal of the critical data upon which scientific experts around the world depend to carry out the United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention—signed by 196 countries minus the U.S. Despite what he calls the “reign of terror” in Washington, Brad believes that enormous progress in environmental law and policy,

beginning with “the environmental Renaissance” of the 1970s, will endure at the federal and state levels of government and within industrial corporations, and that recent damage can be undone.

“We made so much progress on so many fronts,” he said, “and that progress was so deeply engrained in state laws, civil and criminal laws, and in practices by industry.” States at odds with the current federal policies have climate-change coalitions of their own, he added, and even industry accepts the inevitable move toward cleaner energy and cleaner manufacturing processes.

What puzzles Brad most is why no one has sued the federal government

## EPA EMPLOYEES HAVE HAD TO BACK UP CLIMATE-CHANGE REPORTS AND “BOOTLEG” THEM TO SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS.

using a 2007 precedent, *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA must regulate greenhouse gases as “pollutants” under the Clean Air Act. The court, he said, ruled “in the most specific and eloquent terms that these gases presented major, immediate threats to human health and the environment.

“It is the law of the land and to my knowledge has never been reversed or overruled, so I can’t understand why no one has filed an action to mandate that the EPA and its administrator comply. I just don’t get it. I would be willing myself to assist in this action if Massachusetts or any other state filed the case.”

With each day, the need for such decisive action on climate-change becomes more dire. “If you listen to

all the people who spend their lives on the big issue of climate change, it’s accelerating beyond even their own expectations,” said Brad. “It is such a complex interaction of so many different environmental systems and organisms that we didn’t take into account. For example, higher temperatures in the northern forests would enable pine bark beetles to double their reproduction rate and destroy millions of acres of pine forest, thereby removing all that carbon dioxide uptake. Another surprise was the increase in global emissions now pinpointed to Southeast Asia.”

Brad says that the president has gone beyond corrupt influence from big corporations seeking to avoid or eradicate pollution controls. “As we saw at the time of the first major effort to enact climate-change legislation, industry leaders across the country supported taking action because the destruction cannot be disputed, and it is in everybody’s interests to attack the sources aggressively.

“Even big utilities don’t want to spend hundreds of millions building a coal plant that will be a financial and environmental disaster the day it opens, and virtually every carmaker is planning an electric vehicle.”

Brad is not quite an optimist—his latest book, published in 2016, *The Way Out: Retracing America’s Steps to Find Our Future*, explains how our democratic republic has indeed been lost, and proposes ways to restore the fundamental principles that built the foundation of American democracy. That will require a huge educational campaign, constitutional amendments, legislation, and, in his opinion, universal service by all Americans eighteen to twenty-four years of age. But on the issue of climate change, he says he joins Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI) in believing that the moment for action is at hand.

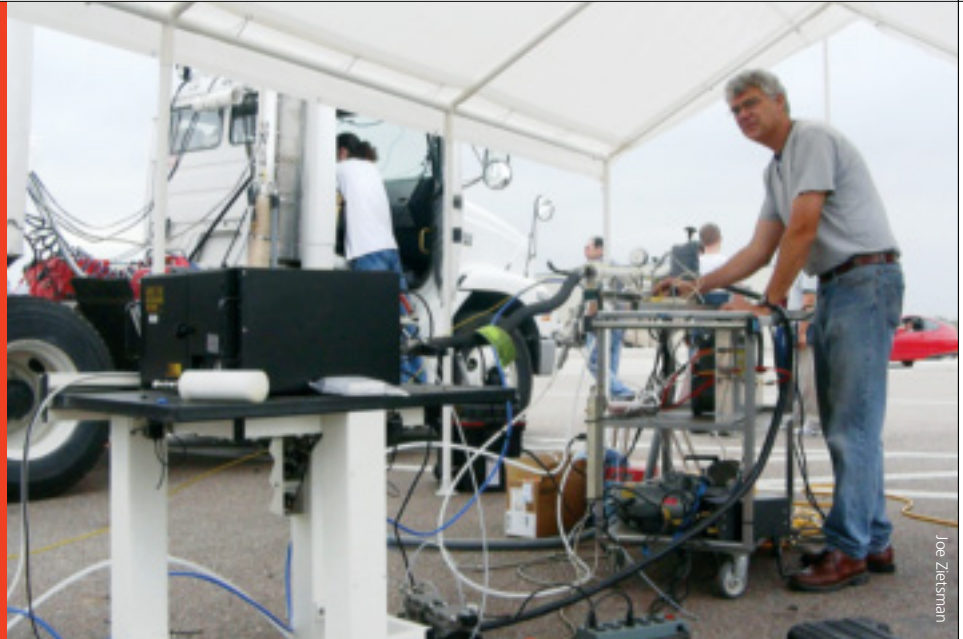
“People’s attitudes change very rapidly,” he said. “There are a lot of political, business, and public-interest groups out there with the public access and financial and technical resources to turn this movement into a popular mandate.” According to Brad, when public outcry makes climate change a mandate—and only then—will there be hope for our planet.

—Gail Friedman

John Storey, measuring exhaust particles  
from trucks in Laredo, Texas

# FUELING CHANGE

JOHN STOREY '79



Joe Zetsman

» **John Storey '79**, a distinguished researcher specializing in engine emissions at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, has every reason to be somber about the state of clean, efficient transportation energy in the U.S. Fracking is rampant. Gas is plentiful and cheap, giving an easy excuse to those who want to drive gas-guzzling pick-ups. The administration long ago dismantled the Department of Energy's (DOE) robust climate science program and, most recently, moved to loosen regulations on methane leaks, in effect pardoning inefficient natural gas operators.

And yet John is optimistic.

"For the first couple of years, we weren't even allowed to say 'climate change,'" he said, referring to the beginning of the current administration. "Now, in a limited way, we're able to say carbon emissions."

If he's being a bit facetious, it's because he sees the big picture. "Over the course of my career, we've seen tremendous advances in the reduction of pollutants. We've already peaked in gasoline consumption, between 2012 and 2014," he said. "I think what's happening now is short term."

He takes the long view because he has perspective on how far energy improvements have come. He remembers the oil crises of the seventies, including the Arab oil embargo, and the skyrocketing costs. "When I was a kid, we'd keep the thermostat at 50 or something horrible like that because the price went up 500 percent in one year," he recalled. "It was a really big deal for us growing up."

After receiving degrees from Harvard, Duke, and Oregon Health Sciences University, John joined Oak Ridge as a post-doctoral research fellow. Soon after arriving there, he was challenged to prove that it was possible to make diesel engines with near-zero emissions. "People said, 'Oh, this can't be done.' My job was to see what was possible," he said. "Emissions were two hundred times higher before these engines were in place, and now the trucks are much, much cleaner." Next John was asked to demonstrate that trucks needed low-sulfur fuel to meet emission regulations; sulfur, he explained, "messed up all the catalytic converters." Before 2006, trucks were using fuel

with 500 parts per million of sulfur. "It became 15 parts per million," he said. "It basically achieved a 95 percent drop."

As the energy industry's attention turned to engine efficiency, John's work turned to heavy-duty trucks, the 18-wheelers that haul 80 percent of goods in the U.S.—using about 29 billion gallons of fuel a year, 22 percent of total transportation energy. In 2010, the DOE launched its SuperTruck initiative to improve freight efficiency by 50 percent, and John was in charge of the emissions measurements for several of the projects. SuperTruck II was next, with the goal of 100 percent improvement over the most fuel-efficient tractor-trailer from 2009.

"My role is 'do no harm.' A lot of times when you increase the efficiency of an engine, you make higher emissions," he said. "So the idea is, can you both increase the efficiency of the engine and make it clean? My part of that whole puzzle was keeping it clean."

Electric cars may be the transportation sweetheart of environmentalists, but John warned that your green car is only as green as the charging station's supplier. "In West Virginia, it comes 100 percent from coal, so you're actually polluting more," he said. "Everyone is excited about electric cars. But people need to know where the energy comes from."

Today, John said, the biggest challenge on the energy horizon is storage. "You have the sun shining brightly five hours a day, and wind blowing intermittently. If you can store that power during the night and between windy days, then the need for fossil fuel will go down," he said. (See page 14 for how Groton is storing energy from its planned solar array, and page 19 to read about the alumnus revolutionizing battery storage.)

From John's vantage point, past innovations suggest future solutions. "The [government's] climate science program isn't functioning, but we still have modeling going on, and a robust biofuel program basically turning wood and weeds into fuel," he said. "I've seen research go from very experimental to actually being used during my career, which is an impressive time frame."

—Nichole Bernier

## ALEXANDER CHATFIELD '79

ACTING **LOCALLY**

Alex Chatfield being arrested in the West Roxbury neighborhood of Boston, at the Spectra Pipeline construction site

» Overwhelmed by the scale of the climate crisis? **Alex Chatfield '79** provides a good reminder that small-scale action can make a big difference.

Almost all of his climate activism has been in Massachusetts—much of it right in his small town of Lincoln. Alex created a climate justice ministry at his Lincoln church, sponsored workshops on how to effectively discuss climate change, and volunteers on a town committee that is helping bring a large solar array to a net-zero public school.

He also works on the steering committee of the Creation Care Justice Network of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts; belongs to the local chapter of 350.org, a climate advocacy group founded by activist Bill McKibben; has protested a gas pipeline under construction in Boston; campaigns for local candidates who make climate

change a priority; and volunteers with two state programs that help citizens make their homes more energy efficient.

Alex's family members influenced his interest in the environment long ago, but attending environmentalist marches in recent years intensified that dedication. Perhaps most inspirational was when he stepped in for his daughter Phoebe when she couldn't attend the 2013 Forward On Climate March in Washington, an effort to get President Obama to finally cancel the Keystone XL pipeline. "I said half joking, 'I could go for you,' and she said, 'Dad, would you do that?'"

Alex called the experience "a watershed moment" in his environmental activism. "Once you go to something like that and you see 40,000 people literally encircling the White House and demanding action from their leaders, you realize there are a lot of people working on the issue, and it's exciting."

In March 2014, Alex joined twenty people from St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Lincoln at the People's Climate March in New York. "For a lot of people, I know it was a very significant moment, partly because there were 400,000 people there and it was ignored by the media," he said. "It also was hopeful and brought together a coalition of people—not just the usual environmentalists." Alex was moved by the wide variety of people marching, from children and labor unions to clergymen and organizations representing indigenous peoples.

He says that march led directly to his formation of a climate justice ministry at St. Anne's.

Since then, helped by Alex's leadership, the church has installed solar panels,

held climate-themed Sundays with guest preachers, divested its endowment from fossil fuels, and started a film series—attended by church members as well as community members unaffiliated with the church—to raise awareness. The climate-related documentaries, on wide-ranging topics, are followed by discussions. It was no accident that the film *Plastic China* aired a month before a town vote on banning plastic water bottles and bags. The measure passed.

Gathering as a community to raise awareness makes the pro-planet fight a bit easier. "Yes, it can be incredibly harrowing to see some of the images in films related to climate change. You're looking at human suffering, you're looking at the suffering of animals, you're looking at the destruction of environments," Alex said. "But it's much better to do that as a community of people rather than trying to do it alone."

Alex also helped his church eliminate its reliance on fossil fuels. He and another parishioner funded solar panels atop St. Anne's, discovering a win-win way for a church to install a renewable energy source. Churches often have significant roof space for solar panels, he said, but face financial roadblocks because churches can't take advantage of federal financial incentives. "If you don't pay taxes, who needs a federal tax credit?" asked Alex.

The solution: Alex and a friend became partners in a small LLC that owns and operates the panels. "If you can get investors to put up the panels, they can charge the church a discounted price for the electricity, and they can personally begin to get paid back from the federal



“The fossil fuel industry would like to turn New England into a fracked gas superhighway.”

Photos courtesy of Alex Chatfield



» » »  
Top, Alex with his daughter Phoebe at the People over Pipeline March in Boston; bottom, Alex (left) marching against the pipeline in West Roxbury

tax credit,” he said. “Two of us could afford to do it. We just did it.”

In his fight to save the planet, Alex has not been afraid to face law enforcement. At a protest in the Boston neighborhood of West Roxbury, he lined up to block a site where a gas pipeline was under construction. He and his wife, Trish O’Hagan, were trained in nonviolent civil disobedience by Resist the West Roxbury Pipeline prior to taking direct action. “Over two hundred people, over many months, stepped onto the construction site and in some cases climbed down into the trench,” he said.

“I stood next to it, and we held hands and refused to leave until we were arrested.” Another time, he and Trish were arrested together blocking the gate at the site of the new gas metering station.

“The fossil fuel industry would like to turn New England into a fracked gas superhighway,” Alex explained. That “highway” would lead to ports and, ultimately, easier transport of natural gas to Europe.

Alex considers those protests successful even though they did not stop the West Roxbury pipeline. “Over the course of months, the residents in West

Roxbury convinced all the local politicians to come out against the project, including the Boston mayor,” he said. Boston refused to permit the construction but the pipeline company successfully sued the city, citing an original permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

However, all was not lost. “It shamed the company. It drew huge amounts of media attention to the issue of whether building new pipelines is a good thing. It drew attention to the danger of building new pipelines,” Alex said. “It got activists involved.”

—Gail Friedman

## MATTHEW ROBERTS '84

» **Matt Roberts '84** may not fit the typical profile of a biofuel company founder. For starters, he isn't a chemist or an engineer, though his father was. He did, however, grow up on family dinner table conversations about alternative energy, and, with his brother **Mark '82**, shared an interest in emerging technologies.

So when Mark—who now works in corporate finance—discovered a local biodiesel venture, he called Matt—then a photojournalist with the *New York Daily News*—and said, "Let's do this."

In 2008, they bought the assets of the

biofuel group and formed Springboard Biodiesel in Chico, California. The technology behind the small-scale production company is straight from the reuse-recycle playbook: take used cooking oil, fifty to one hundred gallons at a time, and convert it to diesel fuel using an automated appliance the size of a refrigerator. At less than a dollar a gallon to produce, the converted biofuel can be used in any diesel engine, including those in pick-up trucks, school buses, and diesel generators. Today, Springboard's systems are running in all fifty states and

thirty-three countries, including ninety-seven universities and school systems.

"It's taken off with schools because they have the used oil on hand from cooking for a large number of students and staff," said Matt, Springboard's president. "It also enables students to study renewable fuel. Here's a piece of equipment that saves money on fuel, is easy enough for a second grader to use, and turns old cooking oil into what the California Air Resources Board calls the 'least carbon-intensive of all the liquid fuels.'"



# COOKING FOOD, COOKING FUEL

» » »  
Mark '82 and  
Matt '84 Roberts,  
biodiesel  
entrepreneurs



Matt said that Springboard Biodiesel has “weathered the changes of an always uncertain market” over the last twelve years. In 2014, after winning a grant from the California Energy Commission, the brothers decided to diversify and began selling fuel they made in a larger system, which converts one thousand gallons of used cooking oil per day. They were selling a little over 250,000 gallons locally, but a 2016 dive in diesel prices made it difficult to compete with market rates. “We mothballed the bigger equipment we’d made,” said Matt, “and returned to manufacturing the smaller-scale machines that make sense for individual organizations.”

Because the machines can handle animal fat as well as oils—such as the drippings from cooking hamburgers—the technology works well for institutions that feed a lot of people. In 2015, Springboard Biodiesel sold a large system to the U.S. military’s Bagram air base in Afghanistan for \$35,000. “According to their sustainability director’s spreadsheet, they’ve saved \$3.2 million since then and are still going strong,” said Matt. “Keep in mind, the cost of diesel is very high in Afghanistan. Since they can collect the cooking oil for free—they’re feeding all those service men and women, so it’s already part of the business model—they can make their own diesel replacement fuel for under a dollar a gallon, in a place where the cost of regular petroleum diesel is upwards of \$10 per gallon. So they’re saving money on fuel costs while reducing their carbon footprint. And,” Matt pointed out, “that’s a lot of taxpayer dollars saved.”

Matt’s education was not always steeped in science. He enjoyed literature at Groton (though his favorite class was Geometry with Robert Gula), and he went on to major in English at Kenyon College. At Groton as well as at Kenyon, Matt always had a camera slung around his neck, so photojournalism was a natural career move. One of his friends from Groton, **Nick Butterworth ’85**, founded an early Internet music guide, and Matt

joined, later moving to *Computer Life* magazine. Through another Groton friend, **Rob Bingham ’84**, Matt learned of a fledgling, daily newspaper in Cambodia and traveled there to become its first photo editor. After two years in Cambodia working for the *Cambodia Daily* and Reuters wire service, Matt returned to the U.S. and joined an Internet start-up called “Citysearch” which later merged with Ticketmaster.

“I knew I was interested in a lot of different things, and just operated on faith that I’d keep moving and pursuing the things that intrigued me,” he said. Working at Citysearch led to the *New York Daily News*, where he was a full-time photographer until his brother’s phone call about biofuel. The timing was prescient: newspapers were beginning to struggle and downsize, which made it easier for Matt to rekindle his interest in alternative energy. “My father, and his love for engineering and science, was a big influence on both my brother and me,” Matt said. “Conversations with him were a launchpad to the possible, and our talks about alternative energy sources were always fascinating. So this was an opportunity worth leaving the excitement of journalism.”

The greatest challenge for Springboard hasn’t been adjusting to the ever changing cost of a barrel of oil. It’s been raising awareness about biodiesel.

“Many people don’t know about it. It’s a smaller industry not at the top of the list of renewable energies, so we have to educate people about the opportunity that’s there,” he said. “I think people are overwhelmed by climate change and don’t know what to do. Making biofuel from cooking oil is something they can do. It’s a drop in the bucket but it adds up and makes a difference, even if it’s small increments over time.”

—Nichole Bernier

“People are overwhelmed by climate change and don’t know what to do. Making biofuel from cooking oil is something they can do.”

**It costs**

**< \$1**

**to produce a gallon of biofuel, converting cooking oil to usable diesel fuel.**

# *Climate Crisis:* Nature Vs. Human Nature

*Essay by Sayles Braga '01*

» I am not a climate scientist, but one need not be a scientist to understand the severe effects humans are having on our planet any more than one needs be a seismologist to understand the practical effects of an earthquake. Each day, we wake up to the reality that the ongoing destruction of our planet represents a major and increasingly likely existential threat to all life, including our own.



The scale and consequences suggest that the issue should be leading the news every single day, but it does not, exactly because of its scale (too large) and consequences (too daunting). While the climate problem can be measured by science, its potential solutions are not as ordered, though behavioral economics—the overlap between psychology and economics—can help begin to better frame the problem and suggest solutions.

Behavioral economics is concerned with the dynamics of financial decisions and behavior driven by social, psychological, and emotional factors; it examines how human nature interacts with market forces. While philanthropy, advocacy, and public policy are all pieces of the climate puzzle, using the lens of behavioral economics provides an initial framework for understanding what we



**IT IS WORTH CONSIDERING WHETHER OUR COLLECTIVE GOAL SHOULD BE TO SOLVE FOR THE BEST OUTCOME FOR THE WORLD'S CURRENT POPULACE, OR TO CREATE A SITUATION WHERE MANY MULTIPLES OF OUR PRESENT POPULATION HAVE A CHANCE FOR A GOOD LIFE IN THE FUTURE.**

An area cleared for cattle ranching in the Amazon rain forest

LeoFreitas / Getty Images

can and cannot achieve regarding our current climate crisis.

Humans are short-term oriented and self-interested; that is unlikely, if not impossible, to ever change. That is why pure advocacy (telling people not to do something they like) or information access (showing people the ultimate effects of their actions) is not enough. Rather than fighting the foundational rules of human nature, we must create a system of incentives that uses these rules to push aggregated behavior in the desired direction, regardless of the knowledge, willingness, or interest of the participants. Even though its victims are not confined to our species, the climate crisis is anthropogenic, so any solutions will have to be as well.

However, before designing a path, one has to define a goal, so our first question must be: is there even an end-state that is desirable and, more

importantly, possible? More specifically, can we imagine a system in which the current basic elements of human existence (energy generation and consumption, infrastructure, habitat, transportation, food production, access to water, etc.) exist in balance with, versus entirely oppositional to, the broader natural world around us? I believe that the answer is yes—even on a planet with a finite surface area and zero-sum dynamics—because we have the technical capacity to create such a world. That is the foundation upon which our hope must be built, tenuous and theoretical as it may be. However, between now and that end-state must come massive dislocation and imposed changes and limitations to all facets of our global existence. Yes, that is overwhelming, but consider the alternative: the even greater disruption brought about by continuing today's practices unchecked, the result of

which would be not a better world, but the end of one. Without coming to terms with that reality, and that the end-state of our current trajectory is a choice, one cannot embrace the right framework for action.

It is important to examine how that dislocation will be felt, who will benefit, and who will be harmed. Almost 8 billion people are currently alive today, and approximately another 100 billion are estimated to have already lived and died. We are collectively and indirectly in control of how many more will get the chance to live from here forward. Though mostly a philosophical question, it is worth considering whether our collective goal should be to solve for the best outcome for the world's current populace, or to create a situation where many multiples of our present population have a chance for a good life in the future. A potential analogy would be

## WE HAVE TO CORRECT THE STRUCTURAL ISSUES WITHIN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM, WHICH IS NO LONGER FUNCTIONING AS A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY.

deciding how best to spend \$1 million at midnight on April 14, 1912: investing in a global education system or supplying the sinking *Titanic* with more caviar and champagne.

As a species, we often pride ourselves on being different than “other animals” because we can reason and understand what exists beyond our individual circumstances; yet if, with this capability, we still choose to maximize self-interested outcomes in the short term, what’s really the difference? We have to make the hard decisions to promote a better life for more people (and other species). Suffering is a fact. That it will be unequally distributed is just as unavoidable. We have to be comfortable that—in this dislocation—millions of workers in obsolescing industries (e.g. oil field services) will lose their jobs, and that the value of the offsetting labor demand (e.g. renewable energy) will not necessarily

accrue to those being displaced. We can partially mitigate some of these issues through programs like retraining and intelligently targeted infrastructure investments, but we cannot be deterred by the lack of a perfect solution. Instead, we must push forward with the best available solutions. It will not be easy, and it will not be inexpensive. But it will be cheap compared to what will happen if we ignore the iceberg.

The strongest opposing force to the systemic changes required is the entrenched recalcitrance of the corporations and individuals that have a vested interest in a status quo that inherently exacerbates our climate crisis. History is nothing if not a constant struggle between those who benefit from the then-current power dynamic, and those who do not. Today, the owners of large corporations are in control, which is a result of the current set of rules that govern our (mostly) capitalist global society. While there is a strong possibility that we are nearing the point beyond which this construct can only be changed through more revolutionary forces, at the moment there exists (at least in our country) the opportunity to transform this dynamic. However, we have to correct the structural issues within our political system, which is no longer functioning as a representative democracy. Without delving into the political aspects in depth, some of the core reforms needed are: (1) the removal of corporate dollars from politics (i.e. reversal of the Supreme Court’s 2010 *Citizens United v. Federal Election Committee* ruling); (2) an end to the gerrymandering that creates the polarization of local electorates and their representatives; and (3) the introduction of ranked-choice voting that could loosen the stranglehold of the current two-party system. While many other reforms are necessary, these three underpin a stable foundation upon which beneficial, forward-looking change could be built.

Before returning to the behavioral

economics of how to actually effect the change necessary to mitigate the climate crisis, we must acknowledge the framework of today’s economic system, which has its roots in the so-called “Chicago School” of economics championed by Milton Friedman and others. Achieving widespread acceptance beginning in the middle of the last century, this economic theory has at its core the belief that profit (financial capital) is scarce and maximizing it should be the main goal of individuals, corporations, and, by extension, society as a whole. Furthermore, under this theory, people (labor capital) and our planet’s resources (natural capital) are merely abundant resources that can be consumed at will and with minimal or no compensation in order to maximize shareholder profit; market forces are sacred and always drive the optimal outcome. This is still how our global financial system functions, despite the fact that financial capital is now oversupplied, natural capital has been exhausted much faster than it can self-replenish, and labor capital is, in most developed countries, nowadays usually thought of as more than a simple input of production.

Given what we know today, there must be a reframing of the balance between financial capital and the natural world, as the historical dynamics have accrued monetary value in the pockets of small groups of people without in any way compensating the rest of humanity and other species for the inputs utilized therefor and the negative externalities thereof. While a form of capitalism is probably the best, or at least the most likely, way to create the necessary solutions to climate change, our current system of capitalism is broken.

How then do we design a system that accepts dislocation, has more of a balance, and is pointed toward better aggregate outcomes? The solution is complicated and dynamic. We must couple various “top-down”



regulatory initiatives (e.g. pricing carbon, removing subsidies for fossil-fuel-related industries, investing in renewable infrastructure, etc.) with the broader reformation of political and economic dynamics to foster success for companies, within the capitalistic framework, that use market forces to incentivize behavior that works to solve the climate crisis. For instance, a company that manufactures affordable, reliable, and appealing electric vehicles should be supported since the aggregated impact of drivers choosing to purchase such vehicles (for any reason, even if not at all driven by concern for the climate crisis), instead of traditional vehicles that rely on fossil fuels, has significant positive environmental benefits for all.

This is not altruism; it is appropriately compensating corporations for creating positive externalities (while at the same time penalizing those who create negative ones). A lot of capital is already being invested in opportunities that can fight climate change, but it is not enough. We can and must break through with the truly defensible message of self-interest: the best way for an investor to allocate a new dollar with the highest chance of returning more dollars in the future is to factor climate solutions into the equation. Not appropriately taking into account the consequences of one's investments, and the likely circumstances that any future potential buyer of one's current investments will be facing, is very likely a failing investment approach.

From today forward, there is more money to be made by investing in renewable technologies than in legacy fossil-based production. One complication is that the organizations best set up to capitalize on these opportunities are the legacy energy companies themselves; they have the infrastructure, the technology and the financial capital. If they were to move to 100 percent renewable energy today, their market valuations would crater, since they are currently

valued assuming they will extract all the fossil fuels they have rights to extract. However, if their management and owners believed they could make as much money investing in renewable energy versus fossil fuels, they would shift their business plan more rapidly. We can therefore drive a better outcome as consumers within a capitalistic framework, by choosing how we fuel our daily lives. We can also drive a better outcome as investors through divestment (i.e. selling the stocks of bad climate actors to force downward pressure on share prices), which makes financial sense since, for many reasons, these same energy companies cannot actually extract all of their "fossil fuel reserves," so their valuations are definitionally inflated. Individuals can, *en masse*, both reward and penalize companies for their behavior.

It is important to discuss pace as it relates to all these issues because while many people acknowledge that the climate crisis is generally concerning, they likewise dismiss it as too far in the future to be seriously concerning. However, the data tell another story: severe climate change is coming to a head so quickly that it won't be unavoidably apparent until the moment to act has passed. People tend to believe that things operate on a linear scale with a steady slope. In the realm of climate change (and technology), we are actually operating on a logarithmic scale with an exponential slope. It is just hard to see the angle of incline when you are living on the curve with time ticking by one second at a time.

So if you have not yet felt the call of Groton's motto, *cui servire est regnare*, now more than ever there is need for service to our country, our planet, and the next generations that will both bear the weight of mankind's aggregated historical decisions and be charged with designing and implementing the solutions therefor. Get informed, get agitated, and get active. Know that it

will be uncomfortable. Are you inclined to make change politically, either as a candidate or an organizer? Are you motivated to design, implement, or invest in commercial solutions that roll up to a better world? Is there something else in the above rudimentary blueprint that resonates with your natural inclinations? Figure out where you can be most helpful and dive in. People make decisions that within the microscope of their lives don't seem to matter much but have massive implications when aggregated over hundreds of years and billions of people.

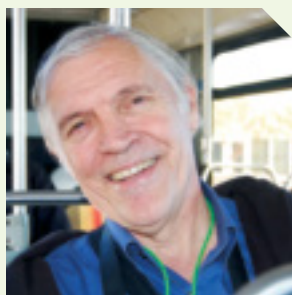
Change of this scale is daunting but it is a given; the only question is whether you will play an active role in shaping the future or be subjugated by someone else's.

**THERE IS MORE  
MONEY TO BE  
MADE BY  
INVESTING IN  
RENEWABLE  
TECHNOLOGIES  
THAN IN LEGACY  
FOSSIL-BASED  
PRODUCTION.**

# Sustain-able and Sustain-willing

*Essay by Robert H. Knapp Jr. '62*

» I have a personal mantra which is close to the surface when I think (or have feelings) about sustainability: “We will only sustain a world we find worth sustaining.” Much of the breadth and profundity of the sustainability challenge is wrapped up in these words.



Consider the little word, “we.” Often uttered casually, to mean “people like me,” “we” must take in a much wider and more disparate group when it comes to sustainability. Here is why. Let us take as given that present environmental, economic, and social practices are unsustainable:

left to itself, this bundle of practices will do itself in. The basic call for sustainability is to make a human world that has a chance of lasting.

No one is sure what combination of big and little changes will work. But whatever they are, a sustainable world will need sustaining. It won't run itself, nor will

robots magically get everything done; people will have to start, stop, load, unload, spread, fasten, repair, test, plan, grow, nurture, fine tune, learn about, and generally deal with things. This is where “we” comes in. The work of sustaining such a world can't be done by a few executives, policymakers, and funders, Grotonian or otherwise. It will take the active engagement of people of many sorts and conditions, temperaments and talents, skills and savvy. In the United States, that means millions, people of all races and genders, spanning a huge range of family histories, heritages, and aspirations.

Here is the point: these millions will only sustain a world they find worth sustaining, and for many of them, the present-day United States does not pass that test. Look past the security, comfort, and good prospects of the 1 percent (or the 5 percent or 10 percent). Look squarely at the difference between mere acceptance of the status quo and

active, whole-hearted participation in sustaining it. Right now, in this country, many more do the former than the latter. Think about availability of health care, gun violence (official as well as private), and child care. Think about gender-biased pay scales and who gets exposed to toxic waste. In ways like these, I believe the U.S. needs important change before its needed sustainers, “we” in the very inclusive sense that is required, will be willing to sustain it.

Another way to put this is to go beyond the usual adjective, “sustainable.” It refers literally to capability. Are we Americans sustain-able? This is a real and important question, but another is equally important (pardon the invented word): are we Americans sustain-willing?

The long-term need is deeper than making good changes and then just keeping the new systems ticking over. Maintaining will not be enough: sustaining is a deeper demand, in the same way that sustenance calls for deeper attention, care, and adaptability than maintenance. Maintenance is about keeping things going as they are; sustenance is about helping things develop and grow as they should. Sustaining this society or this whole planet needs to be in that spirit. And that is why sustain-ability is only part of the story, and why sustain-willingness has to grow and become widespread.

Whether this society can adapt to these realities is not known. It is certainly not under the control of any person or small group, nor do I think any small circle of experts and authorities can divine the answers. My own guesses have a “progressive” tendency, but I am not arguing here for this or that specific policy. I am arguing for a widening of the field of view, and a recognition that such things as race and gender equality and well-grounded expectations of security and basic well-being have as much to do with achieving sustainability as climate science, solar technology, endangered species protection, wastewater treatment, and general technical expertise.

This brings me back to Groton School and sustainability. A significant solar array would be a fine step, especially if coupled with significant moves to reduce energy needs. Great care in purchasing low-impact supplies and materials would be fine, as well. So would other moves that address sustainability. But the school’s major efforts at inclusion, significantly widening the field of who comes and what support they receive, as well as widening the avenues of meaningful contact between 282 Farmers Row and the rest of Massachusetts, the U.S., and the rest of the world—these are fully equal in importance, because they help build well-grounded sustain-willingness, without which the rest will not avail.

**THESE MILLIONS WILL ONLY SUSTAIN A WORLD THEY FIND WORTH SUSTAINING, AND FOR MANY OF THEM, THE PRESENT-DAY UNITED STATES DOES NOT PASS THAT TEST.**





# Prize Day

“We are not in need of more bright people.”

Prize Day keynote speaker Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein P’19, the former United Nations’ high commissioner for human rights, admitted that his statement might sound strange while addressing ninety-three Groton School graduates in a tent full of radiant students and their families.

Lily Delaney and Marianne Lu



“What we need desperately,” he went on to explain, “is smart people with a brilliant and clear conscience who are courageous. We need you!”

On June 2, 2019, Mr. Al Hussein’s speech, stressing the need for moral courage, was one highlight of a joyous Prize Day. Ra’ad Zeid ’19 introduced his father, saying, “Human rights violations are as many as they are terrible, but I have never seen another person throw themselves so fully at such a demanding task and stay so committed to representing the rights of all peoples.” Ra’ad added that his father “made a name for himself at the UN for being outspoken: for publicly calling out individuals and voicing strong opinions.”

Mr. Al Hussein’s talk followed words of wisdom from the headmaster and Board of Trustees president, and a comedic talk by Edward Cho ’19, who was selected by his formmates as the student Prize Day speaker. Viewers tuned into a Prize Day livestream from nineteen different countries and forty-nine states.

Groton Headmaster Temba Maqubela honored a form that has brought honor to the school. “No one,” he said, “can deny that, as individuals and as a collective, you embody the Groton traits of scholarship, service, spirituality, and globalism.”

Board President Jonathan Klein P’08, ’11, ’18, in his welcoming remarks, stressed not only the talent of the Form of 2019, but also their impact on the school as the form “that has been very active in helping the trustees and administration with suggestions in areas including mental health, our environmental footprint, and gender equality. It is thanks to you that we will soon have a solar array at Groton School.”

He said he hopes graduates carry with them Groton’s lessons about living “with judgment and discernment, demonstrating character and service to others, and taking integrity and honesty to every place you go in your lives.”



1



3



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7



8



1. Walker Davey, Aaron Jin, Chris Sznip, Nicole Pollis, Lucy Gund, and Ishana Das
2. Nicole Pollis and Will Torriani
3. Ayanda Tambo
4. Lily Cratsley and Dawit Ghebremedhin
5. Aaron Jin
6. Nicholas Steinert
7. Lucy and Owen Gund
8. Ademola Ogunsanya and Associate Head of School Andy Anderson
9. Shirley Li, Riya Malhotra, and Sara Glawe



# Go Well, and Go with Moral Courage



Keynote speaker Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein P'19

**Keynote speaker Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein P'19, former United Nations' high commissioner for human rights, delivered the following address:**

**H**eadmaster Maqubela, President Klein, distinguished members of the board, distinguished members of the faculty, families of the honorees—otherwise known as the thrilled and the relieved—and the graduating Form of 2019:

A good morning to you all, on this day of celebration and joy! You have somehow done it! Got through all the classes, the quizzes, papers, and exams and will soon be minted as graduates of this important and historic school.

Thank you, Ra'ad, for your warm introduction—I don't know what Groton has done to you, but that's the sweetest thing you ever said to your old man! Temba—my friend, you're performing miracles in this place!

Ra'ad and I both visited Groton in the spring of 2014 and—at the invitation of the headmaster, I was asked to deliver a chapel talk. We were both very much impressed by Groton—what a school! Every student here seemed to have a twinkle in their eye—an impression which has only been strengthened since then.

My wife Sarah and I, and Ra'ad's two sisters, Lula and Zemi—are so proud of him and the entire graduating

form for succeeding in one of the toughest schools in the United States. And, according to Temba, you're the most diverse form yet—a great form! The best form!

Because of the superb instruction from this outstanding faculty—please acknowledge them again—you possess some of the tidiest and most powerful young minds in the country.

And yet, I still have some questions ...

For example, how is it you walk around the Circle with cotton hoodies, T-shirts, bare legs, flip flops?—you all know where I'm going with this, when for much of the year nothing in the outdoor temperature suggests we're even close to regular cold! Stuck instead between bits-falling-off-frozen and hypothermia—and yet all of you seem to think you're in Florida! And all the unused warm clothing we parents have bought for you!

Second point—Johnny Stankard, where are you? Now Johnny, you are a very smart man, but just one little thing. When you and Cho kindly asked me to deliver this address, how did you spell “speech” in your email to me? Speech with an “a”? So Temba and I have arranged with your parents . . . son, you're graduating next year! I'm only pulling your leg of course, we're all thrilled by your achievements here at Groton—and wish you only continued success.

The focus of my chapel talk in 2014 was a little-known—but stunningly courageous—Senegalese military

officer and UN peacekeeper, who saved up to a thousand civilians from certain death during the 1994 Rwandan Genocide against Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Captain Mbaye Diagne searched for vulnerable people in Kigali, hid them in his car, and smuggled them out to safety. It meant he had to negotiate his way through some thirty checkpoints a day. If the genocidaire manning any one of the checkpoints had known what he was doing, they would have killed him and those whom he hid right on the spot. His only defense was his toothy smile—and his enormous charisma. He did this week after week, before he himself was killed by a mortar shell.

I have always found his story to be deeply moving and inspiring. He threatened no one and his physical courage was just eye-watering!

Today, I'll touch on the even rarer variation of courage—moral courage, usually pivoting on what it is you are prepared to say when no one else dare speak for fear of the repercussions—or in the case of Thomas Moore, what he was not prepared to say with respect to the Act of Succession. This is a more deliberative form of courage, because the decision is arrived at slowly. Do you speak up before a tyrannical Sultan or their equivalent, or someone approximating that—and risk everything? Your entire future and that of your family? Or do you remain silent, which may be the more sensible approach, but leaves you well encaged within a form of master-slave complex. By the way, I never liked the phrase “truth to power”—it's



Alison Brown and Mark Bruni; right, Shirley Li, Riya Malhotra, Eliza Lord, Julia Kendall, Sara Glawe, Kochoe Nikoi, and Bridget Cornell

**Self-sacrifice on the basis of principle, or for the sake of others in a wider community, is the indivisible companion of courage.**

horrible, because the power lies in the truth itself.

Only days ago, I had the privilege of attending the Oslo Freedom Forum — the greatest annual gathering of the world’s most prolific trouble-makers: leading political dissidents. One morning, I had a lengthy chat with a friend, a political exile, who said he couldn’t sleep all night because he was in a deeply anxious state. Soon after our conversation, he would be on stage addressing the forum and a livestream audience of 25,000 people (including, no doubt, many security and intelligence officers), and he fretted that, as a result, harm could come to his aging parents still residing in his home country—and yet, the suffering of the wider community he was determined to defend meant his decision had already been taken. And an hour later,

he was on stage and delivered a blistering attack against the authorities of his own country.

Another dissident I spoke to had similarly spoken out against his government’s policies—in circumstances which could spell the end for him, and he knew it. He was extremely nervous, almost shaking when I met him, nevertheless firm in his resolve that he had to continue.

These people are extraordinary because they are so normal and yet willing themselves to action in a manner so rare—ultimately so human. Machine learning, based on vast data sets and discerning group preferences, could never reproduce such an unusual result—that willingness to do something so contrary to our most basic instinct, self-preservation. Self-sacrifice on the basis of principle, or for the sake

of others in a wider community, is the indivisible companion of courage. And the people who are prepared to do this are not witless individuals, slow to comprehend what could happen to them. They understand what sensible is and feel the fear, and it puts them on edge—albeit for a brief moment—but they also have the colossal strength to push it all aside. Because ultimately they know that the preservation of the whole matters too, and someone has to care about it and act on it.

We are surrounded the world over by gutless individuals leading many of the world’s governments who cannot, for the life of them, publicly oppose their counterparts—the many bullies, almost villains, who also lead countries and not just threaten the livelihoods of the most vulnerable within them but global stability, too. This we must change—and it is happening. We have a real leader, for example, in the form of the Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg who, when faced with so much online hostility, carries on undeterred, prepared to continue taking a stand on climate change on behalf of all of us.

It may sound strange for me to say this at a Prize Day ceremony, but we



**When you feel yourself caught in the slipstream of injustice, do not take a step back. Look around—others will feel equally disturbed. Signal to them and then hold your ground together.**

are not in need of more bright people (the world has never had a shortage of them). What we need desperately is smart people with a brilliant and clear conscience, who are courageous! We need you! I was asked recently by some college students: what must they do to become leaders—inspirational, moral leaders? Overcome fear was my response, just overcome fear. “Fear is a terrible advisor,” as a friend of mine used to say.

You’ll now enjoy—in part at least—a restful summer before you journey off to college, a gap year, or a military academy or, in the case of Stankard, repeating a year! You know Johnny, we love you ... you’re going to come and work with me one day!

But I also want you to think of another sort of journey as you leave Groton. In Farid Al Din Attar’s majestic twelfth-century Sufi poem, “The Conference of the Birds,” a group of

birds debate whether, in search of a leader (a *simorgh*), they should expose themselves to the uncertainties of a long and perilous journey. Eventually, many birds do, and take flight toward a leader promised to them, only to find—when they arrive exhausted and bedraggled—that each bird stands before a mirror.

When in college and for many years after it—once you have begun to master something, keep working on it, but also stretch yourself by journeying into some adjacent and new field—with that, the lines by which you identify yourself, perceive yourself, will sharpen until you reach your own *simorgh*. Life should be, and must be, more than some personal public relations exercise; it ought to be more like a search-and-rescue operation: search for the person, the leader that lies somewhere inside you, and rescue those around you who need you.

Whatever you do in college or after college, I appeal to you to therefore ring-fence one part of it and devote that part to defending universal human rights. A chemical engineer from Stanford was interning with me in Geneva last year and he helped us with our IT—gifted yes, but his greatest pride was that he saw himself as a Chinese human rights defender. When you feel yourself caught in the slipstream of injustice, do not take a step back. Look around—others will feel equally disturbed. Signal to them and then hold your ground together.

Perhaps the greatest gift you’ve received while being at Groton is friendship—the friendships you’ve developed with faculty, the administration, all the staff, and with your fellow students. You’ve shared experiences together and been in the company of many very talented people, so maintain these friendships in the future and they will serve you well. Never lose that energy or self-confidence that brought you here and carried you through this remarkable school!

Dispense with fear! Nurture and cradle the blue ball that is our planet. You’re Grotonians—you can do anything! Let’s rejoice! Congratulations!

# Leek Week and Other Memories

**Members of the Form of 2019 chose Edward Cho '19 to deliver the student Prize Day speech.**



Senior prefects Walker Davey, Kochoe Nikoi, Lyndsey Toce, and Johnny Stankard; above, Edward Cho

Students, faculty, family and friends, distinguished speaker, and old people who just show up to these things:

This speech is going to be a little different, a little unorthodox. I'm pretty sure graduating speakers are supposed to give life advice, but I'm not going to do that. I'm just an eighteen-year-old kid. I don't know that much. Like, until last Tuesday, I didn't know you were supposed to spit out sunflower seeds. I just chewed them until the little shards stabbed me in the esophagus. You deserve a better life coach. The last time I tried to give people advice, I failed miserably. I was at poker night and I said to my friends, "Look around the table; if you don't know who the chump is, it's you." Everyone stared at me ... and that's

when I realized I was wearing mirrored sunglasses.

I won't give you life advice, but I will tell you this: we are going to miss the lives we have built here at Groton.

It's been a while since my first Prize Day in Third Form. I remember we were getting ready to say goodbye to the senior class. I was melancholy because our beloved prefects were about to leave, but I was also happy and proud for them at the same time. A week before Prize Day, I heard a muffled sobbing from the other side of the room. My roommate, Lars Caspersen, teary-eyed, was staring at his computer.

"Lars, what's wrong?" I asked.

Lars quivered. Every time he tried to open his mouth he couldn't find the words to express himself. We sat together in silence. After a little bit I spoke. "I guess we just have to remember all the fun we had even though it hurts to think about it."

"Why are *you* sad? The creeper blew me up, not you."

For the past year, Lars had been playing in a high-stakes Minecraft world where death meant an end to everything he had built and explored. Lars practically lived in this Minecraft world. Every Sunday, Lars spent the entire day building his automated cooked chicken farm and milking his *mooshroom* named Mike to make a delicious mushroom stew.

One night, I asked Lars if he wanted to go to dinner with me.

He answered, "Don't you mean breakfast?"

"No, I didn't. You know that most people get out of bed by 7:00 ... p.m."

That one fateful Third Form spring day, Lars' Minecraft career suddenly



## // While we figured out what to do with the leeks, my dad asked, 'Does your dorm want a feed?'

ended. His world, which he had immersed himself in, disappeared as fast as it began. He was sad it had to end so soon. He worked his butt off and grinded many long, difficult nights in the mineshafts, but there were also memories he would always have. However, it was finally time for him to explore the "real world."

If only this story had a convenient parallel to Prize Day. Whatever, I'll think of it later.

We are going to miss the unique lives we have built at Groton. Four years ago, we were dropped into a new school with random people from random places. Out of nothing, we created memories and relationships.

Let me use the following story as an example of the memories we created at Groton. One weekend during Fourth Form, I was driving back to school with my dad from my godfather's house. Before our departure we had grocery-shopped for my godfather. But when we arrived on campus, we noticed something alarming: we forgot to give him his bag of leeks, which were now sitting in the trunk of my dad's car. While we tried to figure out what to do with the leeks, my dad asked, "Does your dorm want a feed?"

So we ate raw leeks that night.

Brian Xiao, Cal Wilson, our prefect Sully Hamdan [17], and I had a lot of fun with the leeks. The first night we sword-fought with the leeks, but to be honest they mostly just teamed up on me and slapped me with the stalks. And it low-key hurt because

the leeks were so firm. Brian, Cal, and Sully took bites out of their respective leeks, and I'm pretty sure Sully's leek was the first vegetable he had eaten at Groton. As time went on, the leeks grew smellier and softer, like limp bananas. But this did not stop them from assaulting me again.

We call this infamous period of time "Leek Week"—a time when my three dormmates slapped me with stalky vegetables and caused me to have an irrational fear of leeks. Brian,

Cal, Sully, and I will never forget Leek Week. We created an eternal memory out of some groceries. I still keep in contact with Sully. Every time he is in the grocery store and he sees a leek, he sends me a picture of it.

We build memories at Groton. For the past several years, we have made all types of memories: funny memories, random memories, and sad memories. We also create relationships at Groton. Take my JV lacrosse team as an example. That year, two players on the team, Chris Sznip and Jack Wilmerding, had a massive beef. During practice they slashed each other to the point where I feared for their lives ... and my own. My teammates and I tried to talk some sense into the two opponents. I asked, "Sznip, why are you doing this?" Sznip responded, "Do I need a reason?"

One fateful spring day, during a JV three-on-three tournament, this conflict climaxed. The birds were chirping, the bees were buzzing, and the boys were dropping passes left and right. During the tournament, Jack scored a goal and did his famous

Patrick Ryan, Max Solomon, Chewy Bruni, Nicholas Steinert, Walker Davey, and Owen Gund



chest-pumping celebration. Sznip was not amused. The next time they battled for a ground ball, Sznip attacked him like a bat out of hell. Everyone cowered in fear. Every time Sznip whacked Jack, Mr. Funnell flinched. At this point, Mr. Fry had had enough. “Sznip!” he yelled. “Jack is a teammate, not the Taliban.”

Sznip and Wilmerding did not like each other in Third Form ... or in Fourth Form ... or even in Fifth Form. But their relationship slowly built up. They grew to find each other amusing and respected each other. And on varsity lacrosse four years later, after our close loss to St. Mark’s, Wilmerding and Sznip hugged each other. I could see the tears in their eyes and the feeling of camaraderie they had built for their friend. They hugged for an embarrassing amount of time. This is what happens at Groton. We build relationships. For the past several years, we have made friends, teammates, confidants.

Our form, like every form before us, went through a series of lasts. Our last formal, last sit-down dinner, last sports game, last chapel, last parlor. Some people experienced their last breakfast this morning; others checked this off one week into Third Form. During our last conference, Chris Sznip came up to me and sadly informed me that he would be eating his last conference cookie ever. But when I saw him twenty minutes later, the crumbs on his mouth said otherwise. These lasts came upon us out of nowhere. They signify the end of everything we have created here, and it hurts to experience them.

This brings me back to Lars’ Minecraft story. And while I probably shouldn’t talk about video games on this day celebrating education, no one censored my speech, so ...

When Lars lost his Minecraft world four years ago, he was sad. Not because he had to stop playing Minecraft (the icon was still on his desktop). Lars could have just started another world if he wanted to. No, he was sad because he lost the unique place that he had created. He missed all the unique things in the world that made

the world *his* world. All the poorly built cottages and the gravel sidewalks and the wheat farms on top of the mountain with a dent in it. His mineshaft peppered with random holes caused by previous explosions.

And now, we are sad to leave Groton. Together, we built experiences and memories impossible to truly recreate ever again. And now, just as Lars’ Minecraft world ended four years ago, our Groton world has suddenly ended. We’ve been molding and shaping it for a major portion of our lives, and now we have to let go.

The other night, I lay in bed reflecting on my time at Groton. I couldn’t fall asleep for several reasons. First, I went to bed hungry that night—because leeks were on the menu. But I also couldn’t fall asleep because I had just begun to realize that we would soon leave Groton. We will miss the relationships we’ve built, the memories we’ve created. We will miss singing in Chapel together, we will miss walking to the Dining Hall together, we will miss checking in together.

We will miss our dorms. At the beginning of the year, we fill our rooms with our stuff. Every morning we open our closet filled with our clothes, every afternoon we hang out on our couches, every night we sleep in our beds covered in our sheets. Every day we look at the walls covered in our posters. But just as quickly as we built our homes, they disappeared. My last several mornings at Groton, it hurt to wake up to blank white walls and an empty closet.

Although leaving hurts, we should be happy that we will have the opportunity to grow out of our shell. When Lars finished his Minecraft world, he went outside and saw things he had never seen before in real life: trees, grass, the sun. They were so much better to experience outside than in a pixelated video game. It is the same for the Form of 2019. Now we must go out and experience things we only imagined at Groton. Now we must do what we’ve been itching to do.

Although we are sad that Groton

had to end, we should also be glad. We will do great things outside of Groton. All the things we’ve learned at this place will help us in the real world, except for maybe Latin. I was going to end this speech by quoting our school motto, but it’s in Latin. So instead I will read a passage from one of my favorite Doctor Seuss books:

*Congratulations!  
Today is your day.  
You’re off to Great Places!  
You’re off and away!*

*You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself  
any direction you choose.  
You’re on your own. And you know what you know.  
And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go.*

*You’ll look up and down streets. Look ’em over with care.  
About some you will say, “I don’t choose to go there.”  
With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet,  
you’re too smart to go down any not-so-good street.*

*And you may not find any  
you’ll want to go down.  
In that case, of course,  
you’ll head straight out of town.*

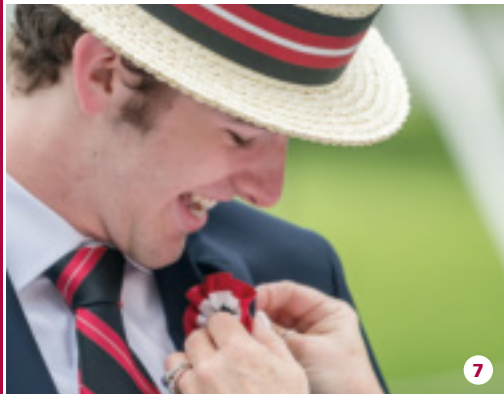
*Out there things can happen  
and frequently do  
to people as brainy  
and footsy as you.*

*And then things start to happen,  
don’t worry. Don’t stew.  
Just go right along.  
You’ll start happening too.*

*From Oh the Places You’ll Go by Dr. Seuss*



1. Land Tantichot
2. Chinese teacher Shannon Jin and her son, Aaron
3. Amy Lu
4. Julien Alam
5. Ademola Ogunsanya and Gabe Scholl
6. Sandra Redjali and Max Solomon
7. Bobby Meehan
8. Montanna Riggs
9. Marianne Lu, Sophie Conroy, Charlotte Pontifell, Karla Sanford
10. Clement Banwell and Ra'ad Zeid



# 2019 Groton School Prizes



## THE CHARLES LANIER APPLETON PRIZE

Awarded to members of the Sixth Form who have greatly served the school

*Kochoe Akosua Aflasu Nikoi  
John Joseph Stankard*

## THE BISHOP JULIUS ATWOOD LITERATURE AND HISTORY PRIZE

Created by the late Right Reverend Julius Atwood for the best scholar in the combined fields of history and literature

*Tilden Elizabeth Brooks*

## THE ROGERS V. SCUDDER CLASSICS PRIZE

Given in memory of Rogers Scudder, a distinguished teacher of Classics and a much loved member of this community

*Leo Dixon McMahon  
Sophie Meejin Song Park*

## THE PERRY HISTORY PRIZE

Given by Mrs. Eliza Endicott Perry to the best scholar in the field of history

*Leo Dixon McMahon*

## THE THORPE SCIENCE PRIZE

Created by Mrs. Warren Thorpe for the member of the Sixth Form who has been the most successful in developing an appreciation of the spirit and meaning of science

*Alison Martin Brown  
Brian Xiao*

## THE BUTLER PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH

*Ishana Sen Das  
Marianne Lu*

## THE DENNIS CROWLEY DRAMA PRIZE

Given by Todd C. Bartels '01 to a member of the Sixth Form who has made the greatest contribution to the theater program

*Julien Gregoire Alam  
Lily Abha Cratsley*

## THE ISAAC JACKSON MEMORIAL PRIZE

Awarded to the best mathematics scholar in the Upper School

*Brian Xiao*

## THE WORLD LANGUAGES PRIZE

CHINESE

*Brent William Gorton*

FRENCH

*Charlotte Henrietta Ives Pontifell*

SPANISH

*Sarah Robbins Conner*

## THE HUDSON MUSIC PRIZE

Given by the friends of William Clarke Hudson '56 to recognize effort and progress in music during the school year

*Julien Lee Heberling  
Gloria Kaiyi Hui  
Andrew Lei*

## THE PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

*Julia Antonia Kendall*

## THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT DEBATING PRIZE

Given in memory of Franklin D. Roosevelt 1900 by W. Averell Harriman 1909

*Julia Antonia Kendall  
Yichuan Shi*



*Morayo Fernandez and Becker Han*

## THE ENDICOTT PEABODY MEMORIAL PRIZE

Given in memory of the Reverend Endicott Peabody by the Sixth Form of 1945 for excellence in the field of religion and ethics

*Raad Zeid*

## THE REGINALD FINCKE JR. MEDAL

Given by the Sixth Form of 1928 in memory of First Lt. Reginald Fincke Jr. and awarded to a member of the Sixth Form who has shown in athletics his qualities of perseverance, courage, and unselfish sportsmanship

*Bennett Oliver Smith*

## THE CORNELIA AMORY FROTHINGHAM ATHLETIC PRIZE

Given by her parents and awarded to a girl in the Sixth Form who has demonstrated all-round athletic ability and has shown exemplary qualities of leadership and sportsmanship

*Lyndsey Catherine Toce*

**THE TRONIC AWARD**

Given in honor of Michael G. Tronic and awarded to a member of the Sixth Form who has made especially good use of the resources of the library and has shown strong interest in the life of the mind

*Sophie Meejin Song Park*

**THE ELIZABETH AND MARGERY PEABODY AWARD**

Given to a member of the Sixth Form, other than a school prefect, whose contributions to the community demonstrate sensitivity, strength of character, leadership, and integrity

*Julien Gregoire Alam*

**THE ASMA GULL HASAN 1993 CIRCLE VOICE JOURNALISM PRIZE**

Acknowledges outstanding leadership in creating, editing, and producing the school's newspaper

*Lily Abha Cratsley  
Marianne Lu*

**THE CARROLL AND JOHN KING HODGES PRIZE**

Given in memory of Carroll Hodges, Form of 1905, and John King Hodges, Form of 1910, to a Sixth Former who has distinguished him- or herself in a capacity to be designated by the headmaster

*Montanna McKenzie Riggs*

Tilly Brooks, Morayo Fernandez, Dawit Ghebremedhin, Dagla Rodriguez, Montanna Riggs, Kochoe Nikoi, Ademola Ogunsanya, Katherine Brown, and Autumn Johnson



**THE WILLIAM V. LARKIN '72 AWARD**

Given to the Groton student who best exemplifies uncommon courage and perseverance in meeting a challenge or overcoming adversity

*Bennett Oliver Smith*

**THE LAURA J. COOLIDGE '85 POETRY PRIZE**

Given in her memory by her husband, Peter Touche, to a member of the Upper School who has shown a love for the power of poetic expression and a sustained interest in writing and reading poetry

*Alison Martin Brown*

**THE NEW ENGLAND SCIENCE TEACHER'S AWARD**

*Sandra Cutler Redjali*

**THE CHOIR CUP**

Awarded to the Sixth Form chorister who has exhibited musical growth in sight reading and vocal technique

*Clement Godwin Banwell  
Jeong Hyun Kim*

**THE BERTRAND B. HOPKINS ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES PRIZE**

Given by the Form of 1948  
*Sophia Beaumont Sewall Conroy*

.....  
*The following awards were presented on the Saturday evening before Prize Day:*

**THE GEORGE LIVINGSTON NICHOLS PRIZE**

Awarded for the best essay on a historical subject

*Alison Martin Brown*

**THE ANITA ANDRES ROGERSON DANCE PRIZE**

*Neha Chandra Agarwal*

**THE HEARD POETRY PRIZE**

*Mikayla Bea Murrin*

**THE GROTONIAN CREATIVE WRITING PRIZE**

Given by the Grotonian Board of 1946 to a member of the Upper School for the best example of prose fiction written in the past year

*Beatrice Agbi*

**THE JOHN JAY PIERREPONT PRIZE**

Given to the best mathematics scholar in the Lower School

*Amelia Ziqiang Lee*

**THE LOWER SCHOOL STUDIO ART PRIZE**

*Tyler Jack Feng Weisberg*

**THE LOWER SCHOOL SHOP PRIZE**

*Julia Long Lin*

**THE LOWER SCHOOL CREATIVE WRITING PRIZE**

*Jared Kyle Gura*

**POTTER ATHLETIC AWARD**

*Sarah Robbins Conner  
Walker Leigh Davey*

**THE ROSCOE C. THOMAS MATHEMATICS PRIZE**

Given by the Form of 1923 and awarded to a member of the Fifth Form for excellence in mathematics

*Derek S. Chang*

**THE REVEREND FREDERIC R. KELLOGG UPPER SCHOOL ART PRIZE**

Given in his memory in recognition of distinguished work in art

*Sophie Meejin Song Park  
Yici Cai  
Yuen Ning Chang*

**THE MONTE J. AND ANNE H. WALLACE SCHOLAR**

Given to a student who has completed the Fourth Form in recognition of scholastic excellence, as well as those qualities of character and commitment so important to the Groton community

*Zoe Liesl Colloredo-Mansfeld*

**THE RICHARD K. IRONS PUBLIC SPEAKING PRIZE**

Established in 1972 by McGeorge Bundy '36 and Arthur T. Hadley '42 in honor of their teacher Richard K. (Doc) Irons, presented to the student who most logically and effectively presents his or her ideas during the R.K. Irons Speaking Contest, held at Groton each spring

*Samarth Sanjay Agrawal*

**UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER HONORARY SCIENCE AWARD**

Given to the member of the Fifth Form who demonstrates exceptional promise in the sciences

*Cara Jinna Chang  
Alan Du*

**THE RENSSELAER MEDAL**

Awarded to a Fifth Form student who has distinguished him- or herself in mathematics and science

*Isabel Westall Brown*

**THE FELS SCIENCE PRIZE**

Given in honor of Stephen B. Fels, Form of '58, awarded to a member of the Lower School who has demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm for and proficiency in the experimental aspects of scientific inquiry

*Evan Young-hoon Cheigh  
Noemi Iwasaki*



Finn Lynch and Halle Livermore

**THE O'BRIEN PRIZE**

Given by the Hoopes family to a member of the Lower School who has shown qualities of integrity, loyalty, enthusiasm, and concern for others

*Anthony Christopher Wright Jr.*

**THE GADSDEN PRIZE**

Given in memory of Jeremiah Gadsden of the Form of 1968 by his classmates and friends to a member of the Fifth Form who has demonstrated inspirational leadership, encouraging social and interracial understanding in the Groton community

*Lwazi Alwaba Bululu*

**THE HARVARD BOOK PRIZES**

Awarded to two members of the Fifth Form who exemplify excellence in scholarship and high character combined with achievement in other fields

The first Harvard Book Prize, given by Harry Eldridge 1920 in memory of his brother Francis H. Eldridge 1924

*Lwazi Alwaba Bululu*

The second Harvard Book Prize, given by Mark A. Medlinsky '76 in memory of his father

*Cara Jinna Chang*

**THE WILLIAMS BOOK PRIZE**

Given to a member of the Fifth Form who has demonstrated intellectual leadership and has made a significant contribution to the extracurricular life of the school

*Derek S. Chang*

**THE JEFFERSON BOOK AWARD**

Given to a member of the Fifth Form the faculty considers to best represent the Jeffersonian ideals of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship

*Yumin Vikrant Shivdasani*

**THE DARTMOUTH BOOK AWARD**

Given to a member of the Fifth Form who is of strong character, has made a positive impact on the life of the school community, and has excelled in at least one non-academic area

*Joshua Andrew Guo*

**THE WELLESLEY BOOK PRIZE**

Given to young women who have been top scholars in high school as well as talented performers in extracurricular areas

*Neha Chandra Agarwal*

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO BOOK PRIZE**

Given to a member of the Fifth Form the faculty considers most dedicated in deep intellectual inquiry in a range of academic disciplines

*Isabel Westall Brown*

**THE FREDERICK GREELEY CROCKER MEMORIAL AWARD**

*Steven Socrates Anton*

*Autumn Johnson and Tilly Brooks*



# The Form of 2019

Julien Gregoire Alam  
*summa cum laude*

Clement Godwin Banwell

Sabrina Barrett Blanton-Rich  
*cum laude*

Tilden Elizabeth Brooks  
*summa cum laude*

Alison Martin Brown  
*summa cum laude*

Katherine Alyssa Brown  
*cum laude*

Mark Chapman Bruni  
*cum laude*

Andrew Robert Burke  
*cum laude*

Meghan Joan Carney  
*cum laude*

Lars Francis Wheeler Caspersen  
*magna cum laude*

Jaden Alexander Cheeks

Edward Jaewon Cho  
*magna cum laude*

Sarah Robbins Conner  
*magna cum laude*

Sophia Beaumont Sewall Conroy  
*summa cum laude*

Bridget Eleanor Cornell  
*magna cum laude*

Lily Abha Cratsley  
*magna cum laude*

Ishana Sen Das  
*magna cum laude*

Walker Leigh Davey  
*magna cum laude*

Lily Kate Delaney

Morayo Deborah Fernandez  
*cum laude*

Theodore McCormick Gardiner

Dawit Ghebremedhin  
*magna cum laude*

Sara Elise Glawe  
*summa cum laude*

Jonah Joji Gold  
*magna cum laude*

Evaline Finlay Gomila  
*summa cum laude*

Brent William Gorton  
*magna cum laude*

Grant Owen Gund

Llura Blair Gund  
*magna cum laude*

Becker Coen Heechull Han  
*magna cum laude*

Angelika Julia Hillios  
*cum laude*

Gloria Kaiyi Hui  
*summa cum laude*

Frances Brinton Hyde  
*cum laude*

Yunona Iwasaki  
*summa cum laude*

Aaron Jin  
*cum laude*

Autumn Lynne Johnson  
*summa cum laude*

Noah Jared Kader

Julia Antonia Kendall  
*summa cum laude*

Rajit Singh Khanna  
*summa cum laude*

Jeong Hyun Kim  
*magna cum laude*

Shane Jaemin Kim  
*cum laude*

Abigail Anne Kirk  
*magna cum laude*

Jacob Neill Alexander Kissell

Alexandra Berkeley Kogler

Julien Lee Heberling  
*magna cum laude*

Andrew Lei  
*cum laude*

Shirley W. Li  
*summa cum laude*

Halle Mae Livermore

Elizabeth Dwight Lord  
*summa cum laude*

Amy Huijie Lu  
*summa cum laude*

Marianne Lu  
*summa cum laude*

Finn Doggett Lynch  
*magna cum laude*

Vladimir Malashenko

Riya Devi Malhotra  
*cum laude*

Faiz Ahmed Malik

Emma Rose Matthews  
*magna cum laude*

Seamus Michael McAvoy  
*cum laude*

Leo Dixon McMahan  
*summa cum laude*

Robert Francis Meehan

Kochoe Akosua Aflasu Nikoi  
*magna cum laude*

Ademola Adedeji Ogunsanya  
*cum laude*

Anders Johnson Orr  
*cum laude*

Sophie Meejin Song Park  
*summa cum laude*

Steven Benjamin Perchuk

Nicole Maria Pollis  
*cum laude*

Charlotte Henrietta Ives Pontifell  
*magna cum laude*

Sandra Cutler Redjali  
*summa cum laude*

Morrie Reiss

Montanna McKenzie Riggs  
*summa cum laude*

Dagla Samira Rodriguez

Thomas Patrick Ryan III  
*cum laude*

Francisca Saldivar Palacios  
*magna cum laude*

Karla Marie Ponder Sanford  
*summa cum laude*

George Anthony Schiavone IV  
*cum laude*

Gabriel William Scholl  
*cum laude*

Yichuan Shi  
*summa cum laude*

Brandon Slawaska  
*cum laude*

Bennett Oliver Smith  
*magna cum laude*

Maxwell Newman Solomon

John Joseph Stankard  
*magna cum laude*

Nicholas Ransom Steinert  
*magna cum laude*

Christopher Hudson Sznip  
*cum laude*

Ayanda Shantani Tambo  
*magna cum laude*

Kittipak Tantichot  
*magna cum laude*

Frederika Dunning Tobeason  
*cum laude*

Lyndsey Catherine Toce  
*cum laude*

William Torriani

Augustinius George Vratos  
*magna cum laude*

Helena Jewell Weatherly

John Christopher Wilmerding Jr.  
*cum laude*

Joseph Calvin Wilson

Brian Xiao  
*summa cum laude*

Andrew Sean Yang  
*cum laude*

Ra'ad Zeid

<i>College</i>	<i>Number attending</i>		
Harvard College	• • • • •	Connecticut College	•
University of Chicago	• • • • •	Cornell University	•
Georgetown University	• • • • •	Dartmouth College	•
New York University	• • • • •	Duke University	•
Yale University	• • • • •	Elon University	•
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	• • •	Emory University	•
Wesleyan University	• • •	Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo De México	•
Boston College	• •	Kenyon College	•
Columbia University	• •	King's College London	•
Georgia Institute of Technology	• •	Reed College	•
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	• •	Saint Michael's College	•
Northeastern University	• •	Scripps College	•
Northwestern University	• •	Trinity College	•
Princeton University	• •	Trinity College Dublin / Columbia University	•
Skidmore College	• •	Tulane University	•
Stanford University	• •	United States Military Academy, West Point	•
George Washington University	• •	United States Naval Academy	•
Tsinghua University	• •	University of California, Los Angeles	•
Tufts University	• •	University of Central Florida	•
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	• •	University of Edinburgh	•
University of Pennsylvania	• •	University of Oxford	•
Washington and Lee University	• •	University of St Andrews	•
American University	•	University of Texas, Austin	•
Brown University	•	University of Vermont	•
Carnegie Mellon University	•	University of Virginia	•
Colby College	•	Virginia Tech	•
Colorado College	•	Washington University in St. Louis	•
Concordia University—Montreal	•		

It was a weekend of reminiscence, friendship, and sunshine as about five hundred alumni and family members convened on the Circle for Reunion 2019.

Alumni from graduation years ending in 4 and 9 returned on May 10–12, spanning the years from 1949 to 2014. Three returned for their seventieth reunion and thirteen for their sixty-fifth, while fifty reconvened for their fifth.



# REUNION WEEKEND 2019



The Triangle Run

An important highlight of Reunion Weekend is the headmaster's welcome and the presentation of Groton's two most esteemed honors, the *Cui Servire Est Regnare* and the Distinguished Grotonian awards.

Sarah Sewall '79, P'19 received the *Cui Servire* Award for her career of service, including her work as Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights during the Obama administration. She accepted with humility, explaining the challenge and lure of her work. "The place of violence in international politics: if we can't eliminate the state's reliance upon military power, how can we make it less awful? The institutionalization of prejudice, hatred, and oppression across the globe: if it remains part of the human experience, how can we expose, educate and reduce it?"

She said she never had to search for her passion: "I was simply lucky or blessed to be steered toward what others might one day label a contribution."

Distinguished Grotonian Gardner Mundy '59 delivered a humorous speech, recalling comments by his Latin teacher, Hugh Sackett, who diplomatically referred to Gardner as a "useful" member of his class. To Groton School, he was indeed useful, and then some. Gardner spent forty-two years as a form agent, writing letter after letter to keep his fellow 1959 graduates engaged with the school. And after he stopped, he became a sounding board for Headmasters Rick Commons and Temba Maqubela, frequently providing feedback on material they would send him.

Other Reunion Weekend highlights included a Groton Women's Network panel, the traditional Triangle Run, athletic games, receptions, and a gallery talk by former art teacher Beth Van Gelder, whose exhibit, *Gathering Beauty: Tribal Artifacts & Textiles*, was on display during spring term in the de Menil Gallery.

Saturday afternoon also featured the annual Athletic Hall of Fame induction, this year welcoming cross country and track standout Aaron Cooper '94, as well as members of the undefeated 1950 football team, the 1978 boys varsity soccer team, and the 1994 girls varsity squash team.



1



4



2 3

2 A 1974 welcome hug from Will Bundy along with Peter Erichsen, David Palumb, Allene and Robin Pierson 3 Naomi Stewart '99 enjoying a tasty treat 5 Lisa Eklund '94 (unseen in the coxswain's seat), Jay Mather '94, Seppi Colloredo-Mansfeld '09, Nason Hamlin '64, Ryan O'Hara '04, Nate Reeve '07, unidentified, Nathaniel Lovell-Smith '09, and Cole Papakyrikos '09



Allison Macbride

Thanks to all the alumni who returned to the Circle for Reunion Weekend! *Forms ending in 5 and 0, mark your calendars for May 8–10, 2020.*

5



## GROTON WOMEN'S NETWORK



Panelists Morgan Pagliocco '14, Louise Denny '04, Mimi Sotiriou Raygorodetsky '94, Teebie Bunn Saunders '94, and moderator Holly Green Gordon '89



1

**1** Lee Liebolt '59 and Madeline Wilkins at the Gammons Memorial Recital



2

**2** A 1999 clan catching up: Aaron Snyder, Raksmev and Herman Gaskins, Amy Baughman, and Alston Ramsay



3

**3** 1989s Zack Gund, Roland Reynolds, Peter Everett, Jeff Kim, Jed Webber, Gar Ragland, Lucas Hatch, Hylton Jolliffe



4

**4** Lowell Laporte '49



5



6



7



8



9



10



11

**5** Kate Van Der Meulen, Mike Snyder, Lizzie Manganiello, Rudy Hersh, John Murphy, Chris Wu, Adaner Usmani, and Dan Van Der Meulen, 2004s

**6** Cary Allen Ullman '94 with her sons Max, Teddy, and Miles

**7** Louise Denny and Clelia Zacharias finding their names on the 2004 graduate panel

**8** 1969s Win and wife Marilyn Minot with Rob Lawrence

**9** 1979s Eliza Storey Anderson, Crystal Norris, and Sarah Coe

**10** John Niles '54 and Phil Tilney '59 in the Schoolhouse

**11** 1964s Sam Pease, Thurston Clarke, and Nason Hamlin

**12** 2014s reunite: Andrew Popp, Matt Pompa, Axel Brown, Will Groves, Jack Tyler, Jamie Thorndike, Bijan Oviedo, Matt Borghi, Bobby Min, Henry Bator, Austin Stern, and PJ Johnson.



12



1 2

**1** 2014s on the Circle:  
 Ross Coneybeer,  
 Christian Fogarty, Daniel  
 MacDonald, Chris  
 Higginson, and Liam  
 Cashel

**2** 2014s under the  
 tent: Morgan Pagliocco,  
 Hadley Stack, Sofi LLanso,  
 and Deki Namgyal

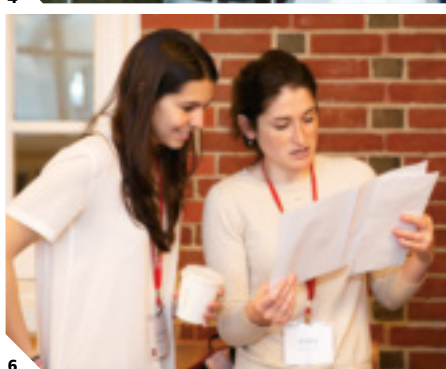
**3** The 1969s at their  
 dinner: top row, Peter  
 Chandler, Rob Sedgwick;  
 second row, Win Minot,  
 Rob Lawrence, John  
 Hauge, Steve Bundy,  
 Larry Masland, Doug  
 Bewley, Steve Prudden,  
 Josh Metcalf; third  
 row, Charles Lane,  
 Donald Murchison,  
 Peter Williamson, Alan  
 McDonald, Curtis  
 Sitterson, John Baldwin  
 Seated: Arnold Whitridge,  
 Peter Gardiner

**4** Ashley McMillen and  
 Francis Ahia '09, Rebecca  
 Stanton P'09, and Julian  
 Bloom '09

**5** Sylvia and Joe  
 Frelinghuysen '59

**6** 2009s Liliana Urrutia  
 Ripoll and Kerri McKie

**7** 1979s Nick Gideonse  
 and Tony Borden



6

7

*Cui Servire Est Regnare* Award

## Sarah Sewell '79, P'19

Sarah Sewall '79, P'19 received the *Cui Servire Est Regnare* Award—named for the school's motto, which celebrates a long-engrained ethos of service—for her dedication to public service, including her work as Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights during the Obama administration.



*Sarah accepted the Cui Servire Est Regnare Award with these words:*

**T**HANK YOU, Temba. It is humbling, and a deep honor, to feel the school's hand on my shoulder in this way. Yet the *Cui Servire* Award refracts most brightly toward the school itself.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that to whom much is given, much will be required. I don't think that particular passage was one that my Groton formmate Alex and I taught in Sunday school to our collective passel of daughters and their friends. But I know that somewhere along the way, most likely right here around the Circle, that notion embedded itself within me. I am indebted to Groton for its role in shaping me in the crucible of the wonderful Form of '79 that reunites here today—far older than we imagined possible, if not as wise as we had hoped.

Yet it's a bit disconcerting to receive an honor that seems not to fit. The award feels large and heavy and shiny, like a helmet that is too big or an overly dramatic garment. That is because I think of service as demanding sacrifice, which is not how I have experienced my professional life.

I did not have to search for my passions; problems and puzzles sought my attention and captivated me. The place of violence in international politics: If we can't eliminate the state's reliance upon military power, how can we make it less awful? The institutionalization of prejudice, hatred, and oppression across the globe: If it remains part of the human experience, how can we expose, educate and reduce it? Today, I hope to shape the role of emerging technology in these arenas, as well as the challenges it poses for democratic governance, and even America's place in the world. None of this could be helped. I was simply lucky or blessed to be steered toward what others might one day label a "contribution."

Yet service comes in an infinity of forms. In our Form of 1979, I am awed by Tony's dedication in creating an organization to bring accountability to war, awed by Trish's work as an ER nurse, awed by Alex's commitment to helping young children overcome developmental delays.

Perhaps more important, many of

the most essential daily acts of service receive little recognition: mentoring the wayward neighborhood kid, or just keeping an eye out for him; volunteering in a homeless shelter; caring for aging parents; serving on the local school board. I am awed by every single parent raising children on his or her own, and grateful for every parent struggling to raise kind and thoughtful children in today's world. Frankly, the very act of listening openly to those with whom we profoundly disagree is an act of service. These acts are often invisible to our collective conscience, even as they are the essential threads in the tapestry of the world we want to create.

I feel fortunate to have been shaped by a school that fuels this commitment to service, manifest not simply in what this award might recognize today but in the countless acts undertaken daily by the broader Groton community.

We have been given much. In our world, so much is required. Thank you for what you do every day toward our larger purpose.

Distinguished Grotonian

## Gardner Mundy '59

Since 1977, Groton School has presented the Distinguished Grotonian Award to a graduate whose life of highly distinguished service reflects the essential values of the school. This year's Distinguished Grotonian, Gardner Mundy '59, has shown unwavering devotion to the school in many ways, including forty-two years as a form agent.

*Gardner accepted the Distinguished Grotonian honor with these remarks:*

**H**EADMASTER, members of the faculty, fellow graduates—especially members of my form because, as I am about to show, it is you who set me up for this—and others gathered here; I am honored to be standing before you.

Before I start, let me say that it is apt that this space has a Latin word in its name, "Sackett Forum," because from my perspective down here looking up at all of you it has the aspect of the Coliseum in Rome. If any of you wants to know how the Christians and lions saw things, just find me afterward and I'll tell you.

I believe that the two seminal events in my journey to this podium occurred while I was still an enrolled student here. I say this because, by a remarkable coincidence this past winter, while sorting through some family records, I came across my grade report and teacher comments from my Third Form year. I have them with me—yellowed paper and all. Remember how dreaded these things were?

The first event took place in my

Third Form Latin classroom. Hugh Sackett, for whom this magnificent space is named, arrived on the Circle the same time I did—in 1955. He was my Latin instructor and had the challenging task of teaching the Third Form C Division, which was the repository for my form's Latin dummies. We found the subject difficult and sometimes were raucous in class. I felt sorry for Hugh because our deficiencies as Latin scholars weren't his fault, and he didn't deserve poor behavior in his classroom, so I tried to set an example of good behavior by creating the illusion of being serious and studious.

Hugh apparently wanted to thank me for this because in his year-end comment slip he wrote cryptically: "Mundy... has been a useful member of this rather slow division." Note that word, useful, because you will be hearing it again in these remarks. Jack Crocker's overall summary comment was also cryptic and stated that I had made "satisfactory progress during the year." So, there you have contemporaneous written evidence

of how inauspiciously my Groton life actually began: as a satisfactory Grotonian who also could occasionally be a useful Grotonian, but certainly not a distinguished Grotonian.

Things got a little better by Sixth Form year, when the second event occurred at a meeting of the Sixth Form in Jack Crocker's study shortly before Prize Day in 1959. Jack informed us of the existence and purpose of the Annual Fund and described the role of form agent, a position which until then I didn't know existed. Among other things, he explained that the form agent's job was to write letters to his formmates each and every year for the rest of his natural life to request donations to the Annual Fund. In those days, the position was filled by vote, and when my name was put forth, I got nailed. This happened because my formmates had seized on the letter-writing aspect of the role and knew that I was the only one in the group who owned a typewriter.

And write letters I indeed did. For many years, they were typed on the

Sarah Sewall '79, P'19;  
Headmaster Temba Maqubela;  
and Gardner Mundy '59

same typewriter that I had here. In an effort to make them interesting, I informed myself about behind-the-scenes stuff at the school, including its finances, and shared that information with my form. I felt that if I was asking people to donate money I should explain why it was needed and how it would be used. My form thus became exposed to some of the school's inner workings. It must have found this information interesting and useful because it always responded well to the annual appeal. We consistently had participation rates in the range of 75 to 80 percent.

I continued writing letters to my form for forty-two years, until I finally gave up the form agent role shortly before Bill Polk retired. However, that doesn't mean I stopped writing letters. I simply found new victims: the school's headmasters. During Bill's remarkable twenty-five-year run as headmaster, he and I corresponded periodically, but very little of it was about substantive issues, because I didn't know anything about the school that he didn't already know ten times over. I couldn't be useful to him in the way that I learned I could be to his successors, Rick Commons and now Temba, because, unlike Bill, they arrived on the Circle as newcomers. Rick started a practice, which Temba has continued and greatly expanded, of giving me stuff to read. It took both of them a while to realize the grave risk of giving me something to read about Groton, which was that I would actually read it and then write a comment, sometimes in a lot of detail. I was always careful to avoid being meddlesome and acted only when invited, but they kept the invitations coming, because apparently they found my comments useful.

Now, I have to tell you that my good wife, Diana, hasn't always approved of this activity. She would see me at my desk reading or writing something instead of doing what she thought I should be doing and would demand to know why I was spending so much time at the computer. I would

always answer nonchalantly with words like "Oh, it's nothing. Temba just sent me this thing to read and I'm trying to give him a few thoughts that he might find useful." One day she finally expressed her true feelings in a stern voice: "You know, I've come to realize something. You have two wives: me and Groton School."

This involvement with Rick and Temba exposed me to many of the consequential developments in the school's recent history. Selfishly, I like to think it has been good for me by slowing the aging process, because it has kept the little grey cells active, but that's not really why I did it. I did it for the same reason that every graduate here today comes back to a reunion. Of course, we return to see old friends. But another reason is that we believe deeply in the school's ethos and in the sense of worthwhile purpose that it imparts to its students, causing so many to apply themselves in their later lives to the service of something larger than themselves. We want this experience to remain available to future generations. By returning here, we signify our support for all that Groton School is and does.

Well, there you have my Groton story, very highly abridged, but I think it explains why I am standing here. If there is a lesson in this story, it is that, yes, we who are fortunate to attend this school should all try to be distinguished in whatever we do after we graduate. But if we can't be truly distinguished, then it's OK to be merely useful.

Temba, before returning the podium to you, I would like to shift attention away from me and back to where it really belongs—on you and all other members of the school's remarkably talented, committed, and dedicated administration, faculty, staff, and trustees, as well as the predecessors of all of you.

There's a line in the school's Graduate's Prayer which has stuck with me all these years. It starts with the words "Watch over our School, O Lord, as its years increase." My form hasn't



exactly watched over the school the way a deity does, but we have kept an eye on things. This is because we consider it our school—not in the sense of dominion or possession—but because of the unbreakable connection that we have with it and through it with one another. We have been doing this for sixty years now. That nearly 75 percent of our surviving members are here this weekend attests to how much we cherish this connection. Were it not for medical issues and other commitments, our turnout would be even larger.

It also attests to how strongly we applaud and thank you, along with everyone else who works with you in the endeavor, for keeping Groton's preeminent standing in American secondary education so acknowledged and secure. This is a truly remarkable human accomplishment. It hasn't happened by chance. It has happened because of hard, diligent attention to the tasks of each day and the imagination to see the possibilities and the necessities of the future. Your success ensures that the ranks of Groton's graduates will continue to increase; and that sixty years from now, a future Distinguished Grotonian will be able to stand here and say the things I am trying to say today; and then again in another sixty years, and again and again, for as long into the distant future as the Groton experience—which my formmates and I were so fortunate to have during our formative years on this Circle sixty years ago—remains relevant and needed in a constantly changing world.

Great job. We're with you all the way.

# Athletes Inducted into Groton Hall of Fame



The 2019 inductees into Groton's Athletic Hall of Fame include members of three undefeated teams and a standout runner and all-around athlete.

Front row: Bill Chauncey '51, Al McLean '51, Brantley Turner Bradley '94, Mary Helen Trent Kelt '94, David Wilmerding '79, John Steinert '79, Jay Hass '79 Back row: Mike Lay '51, Aaron Cooper '94, John Tulp, Tom Bator '79, Digger Faesy '79, Tom Hoopes '79, Steve Higginson '79, Phil Blood '82

## 1950 FOOTBALL TEAM

Until 1950, only seven Groton football teams had played undefeated seasons. The 1950 team, with its T-formation and extraordinary record, easily became the eighth. On the gridiron, the team rolled up 225 points in a seven-game schedule, averaging thirty-two points per game and never scoring fewer than four touchdowns.

In the fall 1954 *Quarterly*, Coach Larry Noble wrote this about several players from the Form of 1951: "Frank White, Ray

Walker, and Bill Chauncey were all fast, triple-threat backs, and quarterback John Rhineland was not only a deft ball handler and accurate passer, but a real student of football strategy and a cool thinker under fire. Their best weapon was the wide pitchout to White or Walker, with the option to run or pass. This was effective on both sides as White was a left-hander. Bill Chauncey's off-tackle slants and thrusts through the middle were devastating. Gordon Gray was a great end, and Al McLean one of the three best centers of my time."

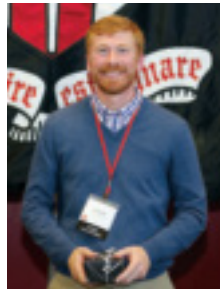
## 1978 BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

In 1978, boys varsity soccer had an outstanding season. Only the second team since 1958 to have a perfect Gummere Cup league record (10-0), it was also the first Gummere Cup champion to participate in post-season, losing in the semi-finals 1-0 to Williston-Northampton, the eventual winner of the WNESCTournament.

The team defeated key rivals—Middlesex, Belmont Hill, Brooks, Noble & Greenough,

Milton, and St. Mark's—by a 19-4 margin, including a 6-1 drubbing of St. Mark's, and set a new Groton team scoring record (forty-one goals in thirteen games). The steady development of the defense (two goals allowed in the last five games and fourteen altogether) played as important a role in the overall success of the team as did the outstanding offense. Nine core players were able to build on the success of the prior year's team, which ended its season in second place due to an overtime loss to Belmont Hill, making the two-year league record

18–2. Six players from the fall 1978 team were awarded All-League honors, including Stephen Higginson '79, Jonathan Rich '79, and David Wilmerding '79 on the First Team, and Mike Curtis '80, Tom Hoopes '79, and John Steinert '79 on the Second Team.



## AARON COOPER '94

Much of the credit for this team's success goes to Hall of Fame Coach Mark Blood '50, a star athlete in his own right. He brought his unique, analytical, and highly motivating teacher-coach style to the field, which his players say made all the difference.

Aaron Cooper '94 earned nine varsity letters during his Groton days, including four in cross country, three in baseball, and two in cross-country skiing. As a runner, he was a member of the New England champion team in 1990 and was recognized on the All-ISL and All-New England teams in 1992 and 1993. He capped off his Groton running career by winning the New England Championship in 1993 as a Sixth Former. He was voted co-captain by his teammates in both 1992 and 1993.

## 1994 GIRLS VARSITY SQUASH

It was an unforgettable, undefeated 12–0 season for the 1994 Groton girls varsity squash team, which placed second out of twenty-five teams in the NE Interscholastics. Thanks to the exceptional coaching of John Tulp, there was great depth in the team that season, led by Leah Ramella '95 at #1 (who lost only one game all season) and Sarah McGowan '95 at #2. Both of them placed second in their respective spots in the NEI. Undefeated Co-captain Brantley Turner Bradley '94 also placed second in the NEI, in the #3 position, while Co-Captain Mary Helen Trent Kelt '94 was New England champion for the #4 spot. Rounding out the team were Viveca Gruen '95, Robyn Schmidek Lippert '96, and Mihee Kim '94.

After Groton, Aaron went on to run at Haverford College, where as a senior he captained the cross country, indoor, and outdoor track teams, which were undefeated in conference championship meets during his entire college career. He was also a three-time All-American in cross country and track and received Haverford's Alumni-Varsity Club Award for his contributions to athletics.

After graduation, Aaron went into education as a middle school teacher and coach and then as an administrator. Aaron is currently head of school at New Canaan Country School in Connecticut and points out that he gets to walk to school every day with his daughters, Julia and Charlotte.



From top: Varsha and Mahesh Sardesai '94; LuAnn Polk and Tom Hoopes '79; 1979 formmates Amy Cunningham Atkinson, Ernie Tracy, and Eliza Storey Anderson

## 1949

First row: Fred Rhinelander, Noble Welch, Lowell Laporte

Second row: Patty Rhinelander, Joan Perera, M.G. Foster, Ann Laporte



## 1954

First row: Derek and Sally Mali, Bob and Nancy Faesy, Jim Brown, Charlie and Jeanie Chapin, Jina Ford, Nancy Crocker, Keir Nash, Joy Shaw

Second row: John and Carol Crossman, John Niles, Charlie and Harriet Day, Nancy Brown, Gordon Shaw, Charlie and Sarah Hudson, Alvah Crocker



## 1959

First row: Mike Huxley, Brent Spears, Maggie Hill, Laurence and Susan Channing, Ping Xiao

Second row: Dick Anthony, Colin Hill, Sylvia Frelinghuysen, Nicoll and Charlie Brinley, Eddie Lawrence, Pen and Bev Williamson, Todd Sullivan

Third row: George Sharp, Lee and Suzanne Liebolt, Joe Frelinghuysen, Diana Mundy, Susan Lawrence, Sally Zunino, Birthe Francis, Ron and Jay Perera

Fourth row: Chink Cutler, Phil Tilney, Madeleine and Martin Wilkens, Gardner Mundy, Jack Lawrence, Tony Zunino, Bart Francis





### 1964

First row: Peter Clark, Antonia Bullard, Zach and Missie Rennie Taylor, David Eckel, Sam Pease, Barry Armour and Margaret O'Hanlon, Wendy and Jon Staebler, Ian Gardiner

Second row: Jane Whitesides, Sarah Pease, Marilu and Peter Sherer

Third row: Eileen Shields and Robin West, Steve Pierce, Kay Barned-Smith and St. John Smith, Thurston Clarke, John Pyne, Nason Hamlin, Tom Moser, Mike Knapp, Lawson Whitesides, Joe Potter, Harry Spence



### 1969

First row: Doug Bewley, Bill Loring, Donald Murchison, Marilyn and Win Minot, Larry Masland, Kimball and Patrizia Chen

Second row: Mary Loring, John and Meg Hauge, Charles Lane, Rob Lawrence, Kinnon and Peter Williamson

Third row: Curtis Sitterson, Peter Gardiner, Arnold Whitridge, John Baldwin, Steve Bundy, Steve Prudden, Rob Sedgwick, Josh Metcalf



### 1974

First row: Peter Erichsen and David Palumb, John Barker and Anna Staebler, David Shontz, Andy Post, Alex Garthoff

Second row: Henry Utter, John Tenbusch, Beau Grenier

Third row: Allene and Robin Pierson, Jim Yannopoulos, Juergen and Christiane Huetting, Paula and Will Bundy, Bobby Higginson, Ned Childs

## 1979

First row: Jay Hass, Claudia Lewis, Sarah Sewall

Second row: John Steinert, Kate Lewis, Tina Trim, David Wilmerding, Peter Fleming, Mark Jacobson, George Critides and Sarah Coe, Suzy Keating Lukens, Crystal Norris, George Jacobs, Sarah Alexander MacEachern

Third row: Mirna Goldberger, Tom Hoopes, Gayland Trim, Rebecca Halperin, Sean Egan, Tony Borden, Steve Higginson, Miranda Townley Christoffersen, Andrea Krahmer Cross

Fourth row: Will Packard, Digger Faesy, Tom Bator, Andy Kennedy, Ernie Tracy, John Storey, Minturn Osborne, David Rimmer, Volker Brandt, Alex Chatfield, John MacEachern, Nick Gideonse



## 1984

First row: Peter Harper, Russ Werkman, Henry Davis, Bobby Han, Matt Briger, Dave Chapin, Chris Wagner, Chris Wilmerding, Chris Rhoads, Renee Noto

Second row: Dexter Mead, John Linn, Lanny Thorndike, Lucian Snow, Stacey Symonds, Dominique Saint-Louis

Third row: Peter Cawley, Alec Casey, Sam Chapin, Chris Alexander, Hutch Robbins, Tack Simmons, Bill Pennoyer, Christian Luthi, James Socas, Joy Frelinghuysen



## 1989

First row: Jason Wood, Steve Oh, Ben Sheffner, Abbott Lawrence, Gar Ragland, Lucas Hatch, Ed Davies, Roland Reynolds, Lilly Oates, Diana Montgomery, Hylton Jolliffe

Second row: Jeff Kim, Sharon Thompson, Phil Dundas, Amanda Lawrence, Kimbrel Bunn Morris, Margot Whinery Pearce, Zoe Jolliffe, Ian Schmidek

Third row: Zack Gund, Jed Webber, Peter Everett, Helen Blair, Bill Getty, Al Chandler, Miguel Triay, Leah and Fritz Foley, Wyatt and Alex Schmidek



## 1994

First row: Sahngmie Lah Graven with Ranger and Aspen, Andrew Hunter and Janet Lau with Andrew, Ben and Christine Armontrout Jenkinson with Ellery and Hollis, Crockett Marr, Ann and Phillip Fox with Phillip, Jamie Earl, Iris Rojas (with banner), Anne Dodge and Gordon Kindmann with Janie and Freddie, Mary Helen Kelt, Tara Mohr with Ivy, Alexander Choi, Max, and Miles Ullman

Second row: Lydia Tower, Mahesh and Varsha Sardesai, Amy Whitesides, Ivy Rojas, Lisa Eklund, Brantley Turner Bradley, Mimi Sotiriou Raygorodetsky, Gena Lavallee with Caroline Choi, Cary Allan and Edmund Ullman with Teddy

Back row: Ryan Graven with Storm, Antonia and Kit Peabody with Aliki and Finn, Robert Miyahara, Andrea and Sam Markham with Sylvia, Ben with

Taylor Milner, Jay Mather, Brooke Philpott, Ricky Rojas, Aaron Cooper, Teebie Bunn Saunders, Sam Nitze '91, and Claire Trask Nitze with Everlee and Milo



## 1999

First row: Michelle Canero Davis, Emily Cuthbertson and Dan Stockbridge with Caroline, Jenny Stybel with Patrick and Liam Connorton, Alston Ramsay, Naomi Stewart, Kate Reibel, Hunter with John Dantzier-Wolfe, CP Hsia with Lando

Second row: Penn Davis, Aaron Snyder, Jack

with Jake Claghorn, Morgan Tingley and Phil Blumenshine, Kristen Craft, Ann Collier, Andrea Lee Dantzier, Sandra Feliz, Carolyn Kouri, Ripley Hsia, Christine Ciampini with Philippe

Third row: Abby Perkiss, T'ien Corum, Wells Bullard with Harding and Hall Dowell, Maddie with Gardner Ellner, Allen Feliz, Gray and Henry

with Brian and Slater Gray Gillin

Fourth row: Brent Freedland, Jake deGrazia, Matt Hession's daughter Nell, Matt Corum, Matt Trowbridge, Mayo Shattuck, Arthur Kinsolving, Ryan Kam, Kent Ho, Brian Cohen, Amy Baughman and Ted Wiley with Ella, Herman and Raksmeay Gaskins with Earl

## 2004

First row: Jennifer Palazzo and Ashley Cura, Kendall and Devin Correa-Spain LaSane, Naa-Sakle Akuete, Emma Bloomfield and Alberto Means with Winnie

Second row: Martin McWilliams, Dan Van Der Meulen, John Murphy, Kyle Healy, George Razook '03 and Christina Guthrie Razook, Louise Denny, Kevin Considine, Binny McNamara Rubeor with Madeleine, Mill Scott

Third Row: Tess Russell, Jack Lysohir, Rudy Hersh, Mike Snyder, Adaner Usmani, Chris Wu, Ryan O'Hara, Clelia Zacharias



## 2009

First row: Nora Bundy, Fiona Jevon, Katie Mello, Joelle Julien, Inan Barrett, Gabriella Flibotte, Ripley Hartmeyer, Christie Colley, Katie Nichols, Lily Hoch Butler, Nathaniel Lovell-Smith, Lorcan McGonigle

Second row: David Wilmerding, Cole Papakyrikos, Ud Okorafor, Lila Wilmerding, Ali Maykranz, Liliana Urrutia Ripoll, Perin Adams, Mari Tabata, Aaron Primero, Liz Kachavos, Arjun Aggarwal, Ames Lyman

Third row: Seppi Colloredo-Mansfield, Henry Mumford, Evans Grenier, Alistair Cummings, Peter Taylor, Billy Larkin, Reed Simmons, Charlie Bolton, Adam Reeve, Luke Deary, Francis Ahia



## 2014

First row: Chelsea Alexander, Elizabeth Salisbury, Charlotte Gemes, Morgan Pagliocco, Jessie Ewald, Brittani Taylor, Ade Osinubi, Talia Horvath

Second row: Hayes Cooper, Erik Nadeau, Wyatt Prill, Ross Coneybeer, Bobby Min, Evan Long, Andrew Popp, Will Groves, Jamie Thorndike

Third row: Christian Fogarty, Ycar Devis, Bijan Oviedo, Chris Higginson, Charlie Oberrender, Hadley Stack, Deki Namgyal, Austin Stern, Matt Borghi, Jack Tyler, Matt Pompa, Robert Beshere

Fourth row: Daniel MacDonald, Shangyan Li, Liam Cashel, Addie Ewald, Sofi LLanso, Hannah Conner,

Lucy Brainard, Lucie Oken, Reed Redman, Mimi Fiertz, Diana Sayegh, PJ Johnson, Joe Gentile, Axel Brown



A CHAPEL TALK

by Ayanda S. Tambo '19

May 17, 2019

# Forgetting the Flowers that Didn't Grow

*I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended.*

—*Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela*



Ayanda on the Circle

Today is the seventeenth of May 2019. We are a mere sixteen days away from Prize Day. For me, and I am sure for much of the Sixth Form, this term has felt simultaneously like the longest, the shortest, the happiest, and the most heart-wrenching period of time we have ever experienced. To me, Sixth Form spring feels like a painfully prolonged breakup of a two-year relationship with a very needy girlfriend called Groton School. And as breakups sometimes do, for me this one has sparked a whole lot of confusion.

The quote I chose for the reading is from former South African President Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. If we are to use Mandela's metaphor of hills representing the biggest moments of one's life, then I agree that there is a point when, after reaching the summit, we do take a moment to rest. Sometimes it is voluntary, and sometimes it is not, but regardless, most phases of life must come to an end. As we descend from the hill into the valley below that awaits us before the next great hill, we look around, observing and reflecting on the journey. Now, I know this may be starting to feel like a very far-fetched metaphor, but stay with me

“After I put on my white dress and boater hat, receive my diploma, hug over three hundred people, and leave some of my closest friends behind, what will happen?”

here. In a little over two weeks, the Form of 2019 will have climbed one of the greatest hills of our lives so far: the end of secondary education. And I know I am not the only one for whom this milestone is causing self-reflection. In Ethics class the other day, we had a discussion about how we, as seniors and as people, have been feeling lately. One student expressed confusion about how much she should invest emotionally in other people. Another revealed a worry about what the legacy he leaves behind here will be. I for one have been wondering what moving on will or should look and feel like. More specifically, I have been daydreaming about Prize Day. After I put on my white dress and boater hat, receive my diploma, hug over three hundred people, and leave some of my closest friends behind, what will happen? What does it do to an individual to separate from something that has been so integral to her existence?

Coming to Groton definitely was not as easy as I thought it would be when I arrived on the Circle in September of 2017. If you interact with me often, you have probably heard me talk about how much I do *not* recommend coming to this school as a new Fifth Former. Coming here was also hard for me because of my own personal circumstances. I would be over three thousand miles from home. I am black and female. I was used to being able to coast through most of the school year, and know that doing well on the exam was all that mattered. It sounds ridiculous, but the prospect of being continually graded for my work intimidated and terrified me. I knew almost nothing about the American college application process, and I didn't even know this school had Saturday classes until I got here.

During my interview in January of that year, I started crying when asked about my relationship with my mother and whether it was going to be hard living away from home for the first time. Afterward, I looked back on it and laughed about it, and lightheartedly I scolded myself for being dramatic. And yes, every time I could go home I was glad to. But real homesickness did not truly hit me until fall term this year. I was overworked and even more sleep deprived than usual. I was also starting to realize that the phase of my life when my mother and

I spent more time with each other than anyone else was well and truly over. I was scared that my hard work was too little and too late and that not getting into the same prestigious U.S. colleges as my peers meant that I had wasted the opportunity presented to me by coming here. Some of the hardest moments I have ever had at Groton and beyond have been the ones that have taught me the most. But there are also so many moments of joy. I have built relationships with students and faculty alike from all over the world. In the classroom at this school, I have learned about everything from female representation in African legislative bodies, to how to find the antiderivative of a function, to air pollution in New Delhi. In the words of Charles Dickens, Groton has truly been the best of times and the worst of times, and I think so much beauty lies in this contradiction.

For a long time, I have wrongly thought of life as a series of pit stops at each of the aforementioned hills. I have made myself feel that if the view at the top is not what I think it should be then I have either failed or missed out on something. I thought that if I could be accepted as a boarder at Wycombe Abbey School, then I would be happy. If I had grown up with two married parents, then I would be happier. If my mother would buy me those super-cool, knee-high, lace-up, Chuck Taylor Converse boots, then I would be happy. Looking back, I see how short sighted this way of thinking is. If I had gotten into that school ten miles from my house, I would never have crossed the Atlantic to come to this one. I would never have had dinner and rose tea with Madame Stanton. I would never have choreographed a dance piece for the CPAC stage to Beyoncé's "Upgrade U," or worked on sharpening my steps with a group of girls that never fail to make me laugh—shout-out to [the]Essence [step dancers]. I would never have spent a year sharing a room with Liliias, or practiced my broken French with Hutshie. I would have missed out on forming some of the most genuine friendships I have ever had. And seemingly negative experiences have had positive effects in my life outside of Groton too. If I had grown up in a typical two-parent family, maybe I would not be as close as I am with the woman who raised me. Maybe I would have grown up in a home that appeared perfect from the outside but was deeply unhappy at its core. And honestly, looking back, those knee-high Converse were really ridiculous and my mom probably saved me from looking even more wrecked than I already did in middle school.

These days, when I reflect on my time on the Circle, I try to focus on the idea that life is not just about reaching the end of each goal and grabbing onto some sort of tangible reward. Unmistakably, the journey to graduation at Groton has been one of the most formative experiences of my life. I thank God for placing me here, and I am constantly trying and struggling to follow one

Right, Ayanda with friends after her chapel talk; below, Katherine Brown '19, Kamsi Onwochei '20, Hutshie Faugas '20, Ayanda, and Morrie Reiss '19



“Stillness to me is not stagnation, but rather the ability to let go of fear and trust that I am in God’s hands.”

of my favorite Bible verses, Psalm 46 verse 10, which says, “Be still and know that I am God.” Stillness to me is not stagnation, but rather the ability to let go of fear and trust that I am in God’s hands. You don’t have to be a Christian to be still, either; I truly believe that we can all find peace in gratitude for our journey and not just for our successes. Of course, it is very easy for me to stand up here and say all this during my senior spring the day after my last AP ever, and if you are listening right now thinking I am delusional and that life just sucks, that’s fine. The purpose of this talk is not to teach all of you some sort of eternal truth or change the way you think. I am just a girl, standing here sharing my thoughts—because I have not been at this school for long, it will not be long before I leave, and I do not really understand yet how I feel about it all.

When it is time to say goodbye, it will be too soon, and it won’t be soon enough, and I think that’s okay. I think it is okay that we will leave this place with

multi-dimensional emotions, because this has been nothing if not a multi-dimensional experience.

So yes, we have sixteen days left. At some points during this journey, I have felt like Meryl Streep crying and running up to the church belting ABBA’s “The Winner Takes it All” in my favorite movie, *Mamma Mia* ... or like the physical embodiment of that crying Michael Jordan meme. In any case, I am learning to appreciate all of these experiences equally. I am trying to realise that things do not have to be perfect to be valuable. So, here I am: taking a deep breath ... admiring the view ... and preparing to move forward.

Form of 2019, we are at the end of an era. On June 2, some of us will cry. Some of us will smoke that cigar, and some like me won’t smoke it for fear of triggering an asthma attack. But all of us must get ready for life’s next great big hills. Because in the wise words of Madiba, our long walk is not yet ended. And truthfully, I don’t believe it ever will be.



A CHAPEL TALK

by Grace E. Song Park '86, P'19, '21, Trustee

April 26, 2019

# The Strength of Quiet Leadership



Adam Richins

There it was: an email from Mr. Maquibela, glowing at me from my iPhone. I had a feeling I knew what was in the email. I took a deep breath and clicked it open. Sure enough, it was a request to give the upcoming trustee chapel talk.

So many thoughts went swirling through my mind: There was a reason I never gave a chapel talk while a student ... I hated public speaking ... What was I going to talk about? ... I didn't want to embarrass Sophie and Zoe ... I was so much better at listening to chapel talks ... All the Sixth Formers wanted to give talks and there was a shortage of slots so I would just donate my slot ... I haven't cured cancer ... I wasn't the CEO of a high tech start up ... I couldn't say no, could I? ...

It took thirty-three years, but here I am, standing in the pulpit, finally giving my chapel talk.

Congratulations to the Sixth Formers for completing the gauntlet that is college admissions. You are all so much more sophisticated and thoughtful about the process than I was. I hope you are exhaling and truly savoring your last term here.

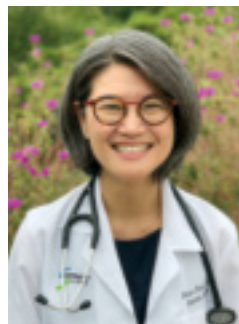
I am going to make Mr. Maquibela and the whole college counseling office cringe with my next statement. When I was applying to college, I really wanted to go to Harvard. I know what you are thinking: Grace's parents must have told her to go to Harvard. What self-respecting Korean parent wouldn't tell their child to go to Harvard? The funny thing is that my parents never told me to go to Harvard. In fact, my father talked about everywhere but Harvard: Washington University in St. Louis (his alma mater), Brown, Williams, Pomona, Tufts, Northwestern, Rice ... But that's a topic for another talk.

Back to Harvard. Harvard used to send a real, live admissions officer to interview applicants from Groton

“Then she asked, ‘Why are you not in more positions of leadership?’”



Adam Richins



Above, Grace with her daughters, Sophie '19 and Zoe '21; left, Dr. Park; far left, Grace, Zoe, Dr. Soonhi Song, Matthew, Sophie, John, and (seated) Dr. Ja Song, on Prize Day

on campus. Of course I signed up for an interview—it was my first choice. I remember sitting across from the Harvard admissions officer and feeling like my interview was going fairly well. Then she asked, “Why are you not in more positions of leadership?”

One of the things that make Groton unique is the expectation that all of its students will be leaders. Every Sixth Former is a prefect of some sort. This was one of the reasons my parents sent me to Groton. But some prefects are more equal than others: senior prefect ... head chapel prefect ... head admissions prefect. My lone head-among-equals position was yearbook editor. I was perfectly happy with this. To me this was quite the accomplishment. You see, when I arrived on the Circle as a new Fourth Former, I was completely covered in my introvert shell. I wish there had been a Groton embrace when I arrived. To be honest, Groton felt stern and cold. I felt like my parents had thrown me off the deep end and I was barely treading water. It was the first time in my short academic life that I had no idea what was happening. Even English class seemed like a brand new language—never mind the AP French class that I had been placed into, where I was surrounded by Fifth and Sixth formers who seemed impossibly cool and chic. Deer in the headlights—that was me. Madame asked

me to introduce myself to the class, in French of course, and I could not make a sound; I just sat and helplessly stared at her. Thankfully, I was literally saved by the bell. Somehow, I made it through the week, the month, the term. “Grace needs to be a more vocal participant in class” was a familiar phrase in my teacher comments during my three years at Groton.

Back to the interview and the question. I blurted out, “I’m comfortable in a supportive role and helping out wherever necessary. I don’t enjoy being in the spotlight.” As soon as I finished my answer, I knew I had just blown any chances of admission. GAME OVER. I had just told Harvard, I am a follower, not a leader, and oh, by the way, I have no ambition either. Yikes. Harvard doesn’t want followers! Harvard wants leaders! What was I thinking? Sure enough, I did not get the coveted large, thick envelope from Cambridge in my mailbox.

That interview haunted me during college—in a good way. The memory of it poked and prodded me to seek out positions of leadership and try things that I was not comfortable doing. It made me become a more assertive person. I put together a new literature class. I held leadership positions in student groups. I became head of the freshman academic advising program. Gradually the interview faded away.

**“As life progressed, I lost my early aversion to leadership positions. I met effective leaders who were more like me. I saw that being quiet wasn’t a weakness and listening was my strength.**

Eventually, I went on to medical school and then to a residency in internal medicine —at Harvard, finally! Residency is a crash course in leadership. It is a melting pot of leadership skills, good and bad.

If you have ever watched a TV medical drama you have probably seen a code. A patient’s heart stops and someone yells Code Blue and a phalanx of perfectly coiffed doctors descends on the patient. Someone yells clear; someone shocks the patient; someone injects something; the patient’s chest is cracked open to massage the heart and miraculously two minutes later the patient lives, and no one has broken a sweat. That is not what really happens during a code. In my residency, the intern and residents who were rotating in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit were the designated code team. That meant that you had to drop whatever you were doing and run to wherever a Code Blue was called. Sometimes that meant running up twelve flights of stairs—you were not allowed to use the elevators: too slow. My first code as an intern happened on my first day in the ICU. Code Blue blared over the public address system and we all got up and ran to the orthopedics floor. When we got to the patient room, it was total chaos. The hulking orthopedic resident was screaming incoherent orders to the rest of his team. The nurses were yelling at him that the patient was getting worse and what did he want them to do? Everyone was running around like chickens without heads. In the midst of this, the patient was lying unresponsive on the bed. My heart was pounding and I felt like I would be the next patient coding. Then, my four-foot-eleven senior resident very calmly stepped to the base of the bed and began to firmly tell everyone to do very specific things. Grace, start chest compression. Andy, get the ambu bag going. Dianne, get me a readout of the heart rhythm. She didn’t yell and spoke in an even tone. She gave everyone a job and the room became almost quiet. The chaos stopped. The code lasted for what seemed like an eternity, but in reality lasted maybe thirty minutes. Finally, we got a heartbeat back and were able to get the patient down to the ICU. By exuding calm, Gwen had managed to focus

everyone’s energy on the patient.

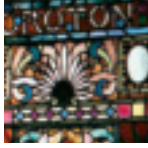
The best leader I had as a resident was Paul Farmer. Paul was the fellow in charge of my Infectious Diseases service. By the time I met Paul, he had already founded Partners in Health—a nonprofit health organization dedicated to improving the health of Haitians in Haiti—and won a MacArthur genius grant. He had every reason to be self-important, but he was the most humble, unassuming, generous, kind, brilliant, and fun person I met. Being on service with Paul did not feel like work, even though we were working just as hard as on the other services. He made work fun and stimulating and you wanted to do your best for him. He truly listened to everyone and made everyone feel valued. He never passed judgment. He wasn’t motivated by personal gain. (I highly recommend googling Paul Farmer or picking up Tracy Kidder’s book *Mountains Beyond Mountains*.) Paul showed me by example that leadership didn’t have to be loud and flashy to be effective.

As life progressed, I lost my early aversion to leadership positions. I met effective leaders who were more like me. I saw that being quiet wasn’t a weakness and listening was my strength. Once I became a mother, I wanted to show my kids that anyone can be a leader. I started with volunteering to be a parent representative at Sophie and Zoe’s daycare center at the National Institutes of Health. This eventually led to my becoming the board chair during Zoe’s last year at the center during a major teacher crisis. Staving off the loss of half the teachers at daycare took all of the skills I had learned in residency. By listening to numerous teachers and hundreds of parents, all of whom had different opinions and big egos, I got everyone to see the situation from a different point of view and we managed to prevent the dissolution of the center. This wouldn’t have been possible if I had imposed my own ego on everyone else.

Ever since then, I’ve actively continued to volunteer, especially in schools. My husband even calls me a serial volunteer. I can’t seem to help myself: I have been a trustee at three private schools, chair of interviewing networks, chair of multiple annual funds, and head of multiple parent associations. In all of these positions, I have tried to lead by example, make good choices, be generous with my time, and listen wholeheartedly.

Thirty-four years ago, sitting in that chair during my Harvard interview, I thought that there was only one way to be a leader: the flashy, gregarious, attention grabbing, top-of-the-heap kind—and that wasn’t me. I didn’t appreciate that leaders come in many different forms. Being senior prefect or a tri-varsity captain or head of the SAC isn’t the only way to be a leader. We can all be leaders in our own unique way.

In the words of Winnie the Pooh: You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.



A CHAPEL TALK

by Steven B. Perchuk '19

December 4, 2018

# Embracing my Heritage

If you take a good look at me, you might see my radiant skin, or my piercing hazel eyes, or my lustrous hair. Or, you can be like the majority of people and focus on one thing: my eyebrows.

Yeah, I know. Pretty impressive, right? Contrary to popular opinion, they have never once been waxed or trimmed, and while my barber asks if I want them fiddled with every single time I get a haircut, I make sure they stay *au naturel*. Regardless of how many extra minutes they add to my morning routine, I like them just the way they are.

For those of you who don't know me, I can assure you I am a lot more than a pair of eyebrows. My name is Steven Benjamin Igrovich Perchuk, and I am from North Andover, Massachusetts. I love soccer and photography, I am left-handed, and I play backgammon regularly. I am Jewish and ethnically Russian: both of my parents were born in the former Soviet Union, and the rest of my family is from there as well. I grew up with Russian culture: it was the language of my first word and is the language spoken at home. Holiday celebrations are grand and extravagant, somehow managing to attract all Russians within a twenty-mile radius. To understand the culture, however, you need to look deeper. They are, for the most part, a friendly, fun, and loving group of people that are very welcoming, contrary to what many people think. The label "Russian" has been following me around my entire life, despite being born in Boston and never setting foot in Russia. My ethnicity and culture has been the source of so much happiness and joy, yet it is



Steven (second from right) with his father, Igor; sister, Maya; mother, Juliana; and grandfather, Dmitry

something that I have also struggled with for a long time.

In preschool, I spoke English for the first time. My early years were spent with a Bulgarian babysitter, and combined with my first language, asking to share crayons was a challenging task. Slowly, I grew accustomed to the language and to the culture. (No other society in the world has as much of an obsession with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as this country, as I soon found out.) Back then, it didn't matter where we were from or who our parents were. Society hadn't yet reached us and filled us with all of these preconceived notions and stereotypes on how people should act or what they should say. The



“ In my eyes, the people I once looked up to were no longer heroes, but rather villains that I wanted no part of, simply because of a language.

Steven with his sister, Maya; and playing soccer

only thing we had to be wary of then was the dreaded Ms. Christine, my preschool teacher, who still pops into my nightmares every once in a while.

After a long yet uneventful stint in elementary school, I entered North Andover Middle School, ready to meet new people and learn new things. It got off to a good start: I was playing travel soccer with many of my new classmates, I was enjoying my harder classes, and I was making friends fast. I even made the finals of my class spelling bee, only to lose on the word poetry. Maybe that's why I groaned every time I heard the word poetry in English class. At that point, life was good.

One day in 7th grade, however, everything changed. I was at my table eating lunch when I felt that familiar rhythmic vibration in my pocket. My mom was calling me. I picked up the phone and began to speak with her. After a few words back and forth, I hung up, ready to continue the conversation we were having before the phone call. However, I was met with silence. I turned toward my friends to see that their jaws had literally dropped. “Oh

boy,” I thought to myself. It was the first time they had heard this foreign gibberish from me, and they were shocked that I was different than them. A few of them asked me about it, my face getting redder by the second. “Have you always been able to do that?” “Whoaaahhh, that's so weird.” “Teach me every single swear word you know right now.” This last one was and still is infuriating, as to me it makes no sense. What can you possibly gain from learning a swear word in another language? If you happen to say the word in front of a person who actually speaks the language, then you are just asking for a broken nose.

All of a sudden, my heritage was put into the spotlight. It started off slow; a few jokes here and there, and I would laugh along, thinking that it was just an innocent joke that wouldn't lead to anything serious. Over time, these jokes spread to more and more people until everyone started seeing me as a “Russian” instead of myself. I hesitantly laughed along as people, some of whom I barely knew, cracked jokes on how all Russians loved violence, drank absurd amounts of vodka, and were spies that worked for

the KGB. In eighth grade, I was no longer laughing. I would dread going to school, interacting with people I used to call friends, and I couldn't wait until I escaped the hallways of my prison. Doubt crept in me as I wondered if they were right. Was I only a Russian? Did that define who I was, or at the very least take priority over my other traits?

So, with my newfound despising of all things Russian, I began to distance myself from it. I no longer anticipated Russian holidays with the excitement of previous years. I began to speak less with my parents in my mother tongue, switching to English and correcting their accents at every possibility. I watched more and more action movies, the ones that always seemed to portray a poorly-accented Russian as the villain. In short, I did everything to not be myself.

My family also suffered as a result. I could only communicate with many of my older relatives in Russian, and so I didn't hesitate to cut them off. In my eyes, the people I once looked up to were no longer heroes, but rather villains that I wanted no part of, simply because of a language. It didn't exactly help that everywhere I turned, it was either the American media bashing all things Russian, or my friends making jokes about me. I wondered why God had placed this *burden* on me, and why I couldn't be like everyone else. I was isolated, and I pushed the people closest to me away.

That summer, things finally started to look up. I visited the country of Israel, the resident nation of my entire extended family. Coincidentally enough, Israel has a massive Russian population, and there I was able to rediscover my roots, freeing myself from my peers' grip. I found similarities and funny moments with family that I had not wanted to talk to for a long time, enjoying every minute of it. That's when my great-grandfather taught me how to play backgammon, and the game has never been the same to me since. I also saw many photos of me when I was younger, and I marveled at how different I looked. Sure, physically my younger self bore a pretty strong resemblance, but it felt completely different. When I was young, I couldn't fully appreciate how innocent and free I was, but I would give anything for that now.

My old high school was a very strange place. For one, it had almost four times the number of people as are in this Chapel right now. Every class was thirty-plus and we didn't even know about the luxury of a free period. The idea of having a bagel cafe never crossed our minds. Throughout freshman year and sophomore year, things got a lot better. I started to accept that my heritage was something I could not change, and I would be better off if I embraced it. All of these experiences, both positive and negative, have made me who I am today. The challenges I overcame made me stronger, I now feel the most confident I have ever been, and the lessons I took away have made me kinder.

Looking back, I understand that it is in human nature for people to group together and push the minority down. It was hard for me to blame these people for pushing me down for their benefit. I would like to stand here before you and say confidently that I would have been different, that I would have been better, but the truth is if the roles were reversed I don't know what I would have done.

This thought is pretty scary to me, and to probably all of you too. Here at Groton, we pride ourselves on making positive decisions that benefit everyone, regardless of what we have to give up to achieve this goal. We all would like to think that we are the best and are fundamentally good. However, Chewy's chapel talk last Friday proves that the majority will always try to make a bumpier and harder path for the few. Sandra's talk yesterday also touched upon the flaws of our Groton community, and many others have done so throughout this past fall. It is pretty obvious that there is a pattern, and by the multitude of these talks, the problem is still prevalent.

So, let me put it into perspective. What is the end goal of going to Groton, or any high school for that matter? The light at the end of the tunnel for any high school student is going up on that stage and getting your diploma. That diploma will lead us into the largely unknown and chaotic landscape of the real world. So what is the point of entering our adult life if we are all going to be narcissistic and selfish when we get there? In a place where little of society's influence affects us, we need to develop good character so we will be better off for the rest of our lives. We need to stop labeling each other. We need to be more empathetic to one another. We need to make Groton an inclusive space for everyone, and real change starts with you taking the initiative right now.

Some of you may have seen a rather burly Irish man walking around the Schoolhouse that goes by the name of Dave Pedreschi.\* You all might be wondering, what does he do here? Does he teach? Is he part of the administration?\* As a member of his advisory for over a year, I too have that same question. In all seriousness, I owe so much to Dave. I wouldn't be here standing in front of you or be the man I am today without him—so, Dave, thank you.

To the boys soccer team, I can't think of a better twenty-three to share all the highs and lows with. Switching schools junior year is never easy, but the past two years have been the best seasons I've ever had. The Ireland trip will be one of my favorite moments of Groton, most notably Eskimo. Tear it up next year.

To my family both on Facetime and here in person, I can't thank you enough for everything that you have done for me. To my sister, Maya, be proud of where you came from, who you are, and who you'll be. It's worth it.

\*Dave Pedreschi is a faculty member in Groton's Academic Support office and boys soccer coach.

new releases

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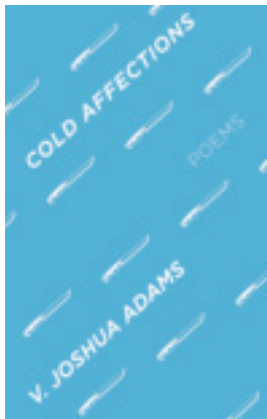
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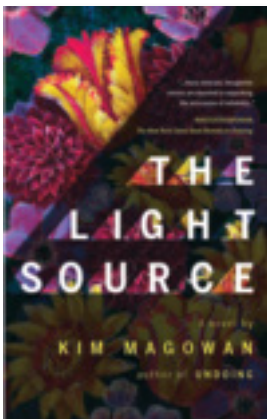
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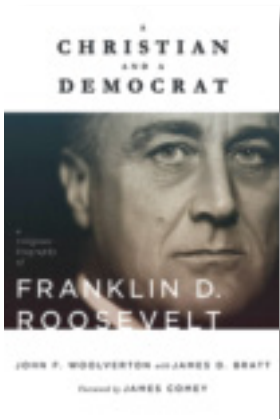
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► Please send information about your new releases to [quarterly@groton.org](mailto:quarterly@groton.org).

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**James Boyd White '56**  
*Keep Law Alive*

What is law at its best? How does it work? What does it offer to, and require of, all of us, both lawyers and citizens? And what would it mean to lose it? James chose to write the book at this time in history because he believes the law, as we know it, is subject to serious threats. *Keep Law Alive* elaborates those threats, explicitly and implicitly.

②

**Ben Coes '85**  
*The Russian*

Two leading U.S. politicians are assassinated on the same night, within moments of each other. In response, the U.S. Supreme Court authorizes the CIA to create a covert unit on American soil, an “exfoliation team” with pre-emptive presidential pardons and license to hunt down and kill those responsible. Ex-Navy SEAL Rob Tacoma is one

of two men selected for the Top Secret team, but when his partner is murdered, Tacoma must fight alone against an enemy with tentacles into the highest reaches of government and a seemingly endless capacity for violence. Tacoma embarks on a bold mission that takes him to the heart of it all, Russia, then back to America, hunting the monster behind it all, a mysterious figure known only as “The Russian.”

③

**Julia W. Haney '11 and  
Morgane I.E. Richer La Flèche '11**  
*A Lemon Invitation*

*A Lemon Invitation*, a collaboration between poet Julia Haney and artist Morgane Richer La Flèche, invites the reader on a playful journey to discover what it means to create spaces that can truly sustain us. Born out of Julia and Morgane's friendship, the book explores the human connection to place and the dynamic relationship between written and visual work. An original collection of poems and watercolor illustrations, *A Lemon Invitation* features a foreword by Anne Hawley, director emerita of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Proceeds from book sales will go to World Connect and Planned Parenthood.

④

**V. Joshua Adams '96**  
*Cold Affections*

A collection of lyric poems, *Cold Affections* addresses how language transforms emotion into art. Joshua is a poet, critic, translator, and English professor at the University of Louisville (KY). His works have been published in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Chicago Review*, and *Harvard Review*, among other publications. *Cold Affections* is his first published poetry collection.

⑤

**Kimberley I. Magowan '85**  
*The Light Source*

The relationship between Heather Katchadourian and Julie Howe is complicated. Over the past two decades, they've been just about

everything to each other: boarding school roommates, best friends, lovers, rivals, even co-parents both together and estranged. Will they find their way back to each other, or have they inflicted too much damage along the way? Reminiscent of the work of Meg Wolitzer, *The Light Source* is a prismatic portrayal of what everlasting modern love looks like; it reminds us that what's meant to be becomes harder to define with age. Author Kathy Fish called it "a deeply honest, emotional powerhouse of a debut," adding that "it is because Magowan's people are so real, so flawed and funny and smart and hurting, that they compel us so."

⑥

**John F. Woolverton '46**  
*A Christian and a Democrat:  
A Religious Biography  
of Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, when asked at a press conference about the roots of his political philosophy, responded simply, "I am a Christian and a Democrat." This is the story of how the first informed the second—how his upbringing in the Episcopal Church and matriculation at Groton School, under legendary educator and minister Endicott Peabody, molded Roosevelt into a leader whose politics were fundamentally shaped by the Social Gospel.

A work begun by John Woolverton (1926–2014), a religious historian, and recently completed by James Bratt, *A Christian and a Democrat* is an engaging analysis of the surprisingly spiritual life of one of the most consequential presidents in U.S. history. John's account of FDR's response to the toxic demagoguery of his day will reassure today's readers that a constructive way forward is possible for Christians, for Americans, and for the world.



**Hopkinson K. Smith '65**  
*Mad Dog*

*Mad Dog* contains solo lute works by Renaissance composers John Johnson, Anthony Holborne, William Byrd, and John Dowland—each having obtained their fame some time during Elizabeth I's reign (1558–1603). On the prize-winning album, Hopkinson balances jovial dance-like works with more melancholy and weighted selections.

Ben Jones '22;  
opposite page,  
Elizabeth Girian '20



# SPRING SPORTS



## Boys Tennis 17-1

It was another memorable season, with the boys proving again why they are, year in and year out, one of the best tennis teams in New England. The squad finished in second place in the ISL with a record of 14-1, and defeated Andover, Deerfield, and Exeter in non-league matches. They won the Kingswood-Oxford Tournament, placed second in the New England A Division Championships, and entered players who won their respective draws in singles and doubles at the NEPSITT tournament at season's end.

The Sixth Form captains, Gabe Scholl, Andrew Yang, and Aaron Jin, set the tone for the squad. Their combined twelve years of experience in the Groton varsity tennis lineup gave the team a competitive

edge. The squad, in almost every match, dug deep to find a way to pull out a victory. Groton was particularly punishing in doubles, winning every doubles point in dual matches.

At the top of the lineup, Matt Kandel '20 had another brilliant season, beating all opponents except one. He was named to the All-League squad for the second consecutive year and won the NEPSITT individual crown. Gabe and Andrew also earned All-League honors, with Gabe on the first team, and Andrew with an honorable mention.

Two Third Formers, Jared Gura and Ben Jones, were key ingredients in the team's success. The tandem formed an unbeatable doubles team, winning every ISL match played, as well as every match in tournament play. They were the NEPSITT

doubles champions. Their singles record was equally impressive, with Ben winning all matches, and Jared winning nearly every one.

Fifth Former Powers Trigg was also a powerful force, playing electric doubles and very strong singles for the Zebras. The team was completed by new Fourth Former Noah Bay, whose solid play and wonderful team spirit helped tremendously in the 2019 campaign.

This squad was simply remarkable. They came within a whisker of winning the league championship and the New England A Championships. In both contests, a tie-breaker going for Groton would likely have sealed the deal. Yet the boys proved their resilience and accomplished a great deal. And in thinking



Above, Josephine Alling Graney '20; below, Clement Banwell '19, Joey O'Brien '20, Finn Lynch '19, and Johnny Stankard '19. Opposite page, runner Joshua Guo '20 and baseball player AJ Colarusso '22



about this group of Sixth Formers, they formed a key part of a squad that had a two-year win/loss record of 35–1, one league championship, two second-place finishes in the New England As, two K-O tournament wins, and NEPSITT titles as well.

It was a wonderful ride this year. Stay tuned: 2020 should prove to be a very exciting season as well.

—Coach John Conner P'11, '14, '16, '19

## Girls Tennis 10–6

With a solid core of returning players, two up from last year's JV squad and one new to the school, the varsity girls team came together in early April to test the waters of New England tennis. What they found was an especially large number of very

strong opponents, with the perennial powerhouses still on top but a few much-improved teams also stepping forward. In this context, Groton's 10–6 record represents a very strong campaign.

From the very beginning of the spring, the leadership of Captains (and five-year varsity players) Gloria Hui '19 and Marianne Lu '19 ensured that this year's team was as close and committed as ever. The players improved throughout the season, working hard in practice and spurring each other on as they competed for each other in matches. Without fail, they played tennis at a high level and represented Groton with pride, even managing the occasional testy opponent with confidence and maturity. The most visible improvement was in doubles, where Gloria and Marianne reunited and grew

into one of the best pairs in New England. At the same time, Elizabeth Girian '20 and Sobenna Egwuekwe '22 showed, by season's end, that they will be a team to be reckoned with in the years ahead.

One match stands out as a highlight of the season. Groton went to Middlesex for a showdown between two teams with identical records. Confident, aggressive singles play by Elizabeth, Marianne, and Sobenna brought us out of singles deadlocked at 6–6. In doubles, Elizabeth and Sobenna kept the Groton ball rolling with an 8–2 win, but the other two doubles matches were as close as could be. The team victory was eventually secured when Isabel Brown '20 and Amelia Lee '22 stepped up to close their match out at 8–6, just minutes before Gloria and Marianne added an extra point with a



terrific 9–7 win.

In addition to the players mentioned above, Leah Pothel '21 and Annabel Lee '21 were instrumental to the team's success, both competing with great focus and success throughout the season.

With the graduation of Gloria and Marianne, there will be big shoes to fill on next year's team. Nonetheless, with a terrific group of returning players and the ongoing spirit of Groton tennis, hopes are already high.

—Coach Dave Prockop P'15, '17

## Baseball 11–6

Varsity baseball had one of its strongest seasons in recent memory, finishing 11–6 and 10–5 in the ISL. After weathering a tough schedule at the start of the season

with a 4–4 record, the team exploded with a 7–2 record in the month of May, outscoring opponents by twenty-nine runs in our final six games.

The team also shone in tight games, going 4–0 in one-run contests. A 3–2 victory over Thayer gave an idea of the team's heart; after spotting them two runs in the first, Pitcher Josh Nam '20 shut down Thayer for the rest of the game, while the team battled back to take the lead on a double by Walker Davey '19 in his first varsity start. Two weeks later, the team would battle back from a 4–0 early deficit to grab a 6–5 victory over Brooks, then followed that with another stellar pitching performance from Josh in a 1–0 victory over Middlesex.

St. Mark's Day brought the most exciting single play of the season, as

Walker Smith '21 broke a scoreless game in the top of the fifth with an RBI single to right field, then took off for second when the throw headed home. When St. Mark's tried to throw him out at second, the throw caromed into the outfield, allowing Walker to scamper all the way around for a Little League–style home run. That play seemed to ignite the offense, as they piled on five more runs in the last two innings, while Josh dominated once more on the mound in a 7–0 victory.

The team was fortunate to have four outstanding Sixth Form leaders this year. Drew Burke, in his fifth year on the team, stepped into the role of catcher halfway through the year and did an excellent job behind the plate; he truly set an example of doing whatever the team needed. Bennett Smith, a four-year starter, not only



Left, Matt Kandel '20; below, from left, Russell Thorndike '21 and Montana Riggs '19

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Leah Pothel '21; Freddie Tobeason '19, Cassidy Thibodeau '21, and Grace Mumford '21; Annie Fey '20, Bridget Cornell '19, Sophie Park '19, and Zoe Colloredo-Mansfeld '21



had a stellar season at the plate but also was constantly encouraging teammates and sharing his considerable knowledge of the sport. Shane Kim, also a four-year starter, was a major contributor on the mound, in the field, and at the plate; he was devoted to the team, always focused and working hard. Walker Davey joined us for the first time this year and made an immediate impact with his excellent defense in right field as well as timely hitting and speed on the bases.

The team ended with All-ISL recognition for shortstop Luke Beckstein '20, Bennett, and Josh, as well as an honorable mention for Shane.

— Coach Preston Bannard '01

### Girls Crew 11–1–1

Spring came late to the Nashua River this year, but a full squad of athletes returned for preseason in March nonetheless. We were lucky to have so many returning rowers, which set us up for a fairly deep team. This enabled us to get rowing well quickly and to beat many of our early competitors.

One highlight of the early season was our late April race against Deerfield, Taft, Pomfret, and Dexter-Southfield. The Groton girls finished first in all but the first boat, which lost to Deerfield by one second. After the long weekend we had a tough race against Nobles, St. Mark's, and Lincoln School, with all crews succumbing to Nobles in a heavy tailwind and less than ideal conditions.

The team didn't let the loss get them down, and after making some switches, all boats continued to gain speed. First boat had an amazing race in very rough water, beating Brooks, Choate, and NCDS in a nail-biter. First boat had been down the whole race but took off with a sprint to win in the last ten strokes. Fourth boat had a great win as well, beating all crews by open water. All four varsity boats qualified for championships and were looking forward to testing their speed. First, second, and fourth boats made finals with fourth-place, fourth-place, and third-place finishes, respectively. Groton girls crew finished fourth overall as a team in New England.

— Coach Tiffany Doggett P'17, '19, '22



## Boys Crew 10–5–2

It was a tough spring for rowing in New England. The stormy weather meant high winds and often near-unrowable conditions. Rowing on the placid Nashua River, our crews get accustomed to water conditions that are uniformly excellent, and it is rare that we have winds. Chop and white caps are unknown. So, when we do have rough water at away races, it is quite an adjustment for our crews. Not that other schools like bad conditions, but they are more used to them than we are.

Predictably, we struggled this spring on some of those bad days. Our crews did manage to hold their own through most of the races. Nobles beat us on three successive weekends, while Deerfield and Belmont Hill each took us down once.

We beat St. Mark's twice, and also won against Middlesex, Choate, Taft, Derryfield, Dexter, and Pomfret, while splitting races with BB&N and Brooks.

The NEIRA was a disappointment; Groton finished in fifth place overall of the twenty-eight schools that entered the regatta. Through it all, the boys worked hard, improved their rowing, and had fun. It's always great to be out on the water, even when things don't go exactly the way you dream they could. Our captains this spring were Sixth Formers Clement Banwell, Finn Lynch, and Johnny Stankard. They kept spirits high, and their passion and enthusiasm set a high standard for the team.

—Coach Andy Anderson P'15, '17, '20

## Track and Field

As I reflect on the 2019 track season, two meets jump out at me. First, the boys' victory in the meet for schools that don't have tracks, including Rivers, BB&N, Lawrence Academy, Middlesex, and Nobles. We won again this season, leading the scoring with 134 points. BB&N came in second with 117, Lawrence Academy next, with 108, followed by Rivers with 72, Nobles with 46, and Middlesex with 6 points. Big bragging rights go along with winning this meet.

Some of our top individual scoring highlights came from P.K. Kenyon '20, the only athlete to win two individual events—the 1500-meter and the 800-meter. Our captain, Brandon Slawaska '19, won the 300-meter hurdles, and our other



Clockwise from top left Nick Steinert '19, Shane Kim '19, Freddie Tobeason '19


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captain, Leo McMahon '19, won the 3000-meter run. In the triple jump, five students placed second through sixth. Another strong event was the 300-meter hurdles, in which we placed first, second, and third.

In another impressive meet, the girls took sixth place at the New Englands. We traveled to Newport, Rhode Island, with only thirteen track athletes, all of them talented. Of twenty-one teams, our girls came in sixth, higher than I had dreamed of. Remember—there are seventeen different track and field events and we had only thirteen girls. We cannot even cover all the events. When the meet ended and they announced the scores, we had beaten fifteen teams. As a coach I could not have been prouder.

Kochoe Nikoi '19 took second place in the 300-meter hurdles, edged out at the

finish line by less than 0.5 seconds, which broke my heart. Our 4 x 100-meter relay team of Kochoe, Montana Riggs '19, Evie Gomila '19, and Madelyn Son '21 placed third with a time of 0:53.66. Montana took third place in the 100-meter hurdles in the same race, and Kochoe took fourth. Kochoe was not finished: she placed sixth in the 100-meter sprint. Finally, Josephine Alling Graney '20 placed sixth in the 1500-meter run, clinching sixth place for the team overall at the New England Championship.

Our track team is moving in the right direction and growing. Team members' times and distances improved weekly, and we started to make a little bit of noise at some of the ISL track meets. What was most difficult this year was to say goodbye to a great group of Sixth Formers. The good news is that the team, particularly the

boys, has big numbers at the freshman and sophomore levels.

—Coach Jamie Lamoreaux

## Girls Lacrosse 8–9

The girls varsity lacrosse team enjoyed a fine 2019 season, reaching several milestones along the way. The team more than doubled the number of wins from 2018, also notching five league victories over Tabor, BB&N, St. George's, Lawrence Academy, and Middlesex (the Zebras' first win over Middlesex in more than a decade). Finally, for the first time, the 2019 team was ranked seventh in the ISL and competed in the championship bracket of the league tournament.

With just five healthy Fifth and Sixth

Formers, we relied heavily on our younger players: twelve Fourth Formers, one Third Former, and two Second Formers. One fantastic aspect of this team was that players made significant contributions across the board—every one was a part of our success. From scoring goals to playing tough defense to being strong practice players, twenty girls gelled together to form a cohesive unit—and that was really at the core of our success.

The attack was well balanced, led by top scorers Lyndsey Toce '19 and Christina "Teeny" Oelhafen '21 (60 points each) and Freddie Tobeason '19 (48 points). Also adding significant scoring punch were Grace Mumford '21, Kaylie Keegan '21, Allie Kandel '23, Neve Ley '21, and Eleanor Dunn '20. Grace was the team's draw-control leader, with an impressive sixty-six possessions this season.

The defense played a tough zone, anchored by Margot Ferris '21, Chiara Nevard '21, Kate Clark '21, and Cassidy Thibodeau '21. These four, along with the midfielders, held back our opponents' attack and kept our goalies, Charlotte Davis '22 and Katie Stovall '20, protected from the

toughest close-up shots.

The future looks very bright for Groton lacrosse, as we return all but two starters next season. Having met our goal this year of making the tournament, next year we aspire to reach the prestigious final four of the ISL.

—Coach Annie Kandel P'20, '23

## Boys Lacrosse 8–9

Carrying on a tradition of exemplary leadership, Co-captains Pat Ryan '19 and Anders Orr '19 (each four-year, varsity letter-winners) led a young team to the next level of ISL competitiveness, while continuing a team culture of unselfishness, sacrifice, toughness, work ethic, camaraderie, and fun. As a result, we stood up to some nationally ranked programs face-to-face, competing relentlessly on every ground ball, every possession. Our coaches emphasized strong, fundamental lacrosse, as well as basic tactical concepts.

Lack of depth, however, once again hampered us in the close contests, where three starters were sidelined in some cases. Still, a "next man up mentality" enabled other players to accept and face exciting

challenges. Thrilling wins over Belmont Hill, Roxbury Latin, and Thayer were balanced by nail-biting losses to Nobles, St. Mark's, Milton, and Middlesex. Six losses were determined by two goals or fewer.

Navy-bound Pat Ryan quarterbacked the defense, while Anders, flanked by two Fourth Form defensemen, provided steady, experienced leadership. Their fellow Sixth Formers were invaluable, as each made important contributions on a daily basis: Ed Cho, Brent Gorton, Becker Han, Nick Steinert, Chris Sznip, and Jack Wilmerding. Several returning impact players will lead a talented corps of hard-working teammates, who will pick up where the Form of 2019 left off; 2020 Tri-captains Henry Hodde, Anthony Romano, and Russell Thorndike are ready.

Many thanks to team managers Sara Glawe '19 and Shirley Li '19, as well as all the coaches—Jamie Funnell, Peter Fry, Greg Hefler, Aram Jeknavorian, and Caddy Brooks—for their support and dedication. Every day we practiced together—and had fun—as a program. Our positive parental and alumni support are second to none.

—Coach Bob Low

### BASEBALL

Most Valuable Player  
Luke Beckstein '20

Pitcher of the Year  
Josh Nam '20

Coaches' Awards  
Drew Burke '19  
Bennett Smith '19

All-ISL  
Luke Beckstein '20  
Josh Nam '20  
Bennett Smith '19

All-ISL Honorable Mention  
Shane Kim '19

Captains-Elect  
Luke Beckstein '20  
Josh Nam '20

### BOYS LACROSSE

Most Valuable Player  
Patrick Ryan '19

Fred Beams Coaches' Award  
Brent Gorton '19  
Anders Orr '19

Most Improved Player  
Chris Sznip '19

All-ISL  
Ronan Doherty '21  
Patrick Ryan '19

All-ISL Honorable Mentions  
Shane Dennin '21  
Anders Orr '19  
Anthony Romano '21  
Russell Thorndike '21

Captains-Elect  
Henry Hodde '20  
Anthony Romano '21  
Russell Thorndike '21

### GIRLS LACROSSE

Most Valuable Player  
Lyndsey Toce '19

Coaches' Award  
Freddie Tobeason '19

Most Improved Player  
Eleanor Dunn '20

All-ISL  
Grace Mumford '21  
Lyndsey Toce '19

ISL Honorable Mention  
Freddie Tobeason '19

Captains-Elect  
Eleanor Dunn '20  
Ambrey Hayes '20

### BOYS CREW

Captain-Elect  
Joey O'Brien '20

### BOYS TENNIS

All-ISL  
Matt Kandel '20  
Gabe Scholl '19

All-ISL Honorable Mention  
Andrew Yang '19

Captains-Elect  
Matt Kandel '20  
Powers Trigg '20

### GIRLS CREW

Five-Year Rower  
Sophie Conroy '19

Captains-Elect  
Mary Collins '20  
Annie Fey '20  
Annabel Kocks '20

### GIRLS TENNIS

Most Valuable Players  
Gloria Hui '19  
Marianne Lu '19

Most Improved Player  
Sobenna Egwuekwe '22

All-ISL  
Elizabeth Girian '20

ISL Honorable Mention  
Gloria Hui '19  
Marianne Lu '19

Captains-Elect  
Isabel Brown '20  
Elizabeth Girian '20

### TRACK & FIELD

Most Valuable Players  
Kochoe Nikoi '19  
Brandon Slawaska '19

Coaches' Awards  
Montanna Riggs '19  
Aroon Sankoh '21

Most Improved Players  
Caroline Messina '22  
Nathan Zhang '21

Captains-Elect  
Josephine Alling  
Graney '20  
Papa Baffour-Awuah '20  
Gili Canca '20  
Sofia Dieppa '20



DANCE





**PERFORMING IN THE  
SPRING DANCE RECITAL:**

Neha Agarwal '20, Beatrice Agbi '21, Julien Alam '19, Naomi Boateng '22, Tai Campbell '21, Caroline Drapeau '21, Sobenna Egwuekwe '22, Morayo Fernandez '19, Jane Park '21, Angelica Parra '21, Edwina Polynice '21, Alesandra Powell '22, Eliza Powers '20, Dagla Rodriguez '19, Alexis Steinert '21, Ayanda Tambo '19, Janice Zhai '21, and exchange student Devangana Prasad



# Christopher Carey Brodigan Gallery

FALL EXHIBIT

The Brodigan Gallery, located on the Dining Hall's ground level, is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays (except school holidays). It is free and open to the public.

## Looking

Prints by Kevin Pomerleau  
Through November 17, 2019

**K**evin Pomerleau, an artist/printmaker from West Springfield, Massachusetts, brings works representing contemporary textiles to the Brodigan Gallery. Inspired by spaces throughout Western Massachusetts, the textiles are represented "both literally and as exaggerated motifs from my imagination," according to Mr. Pomerleau.

"My intention is to give the viewer a glimpse of these intimate instances without ever letting them fully enter the scenario," he said. "This work is my pursuit to understand the life that has come before me as well as prepare myself for what I have yet to learn."

The artist has shown his works at various locations, including at the International Print Center in New York. He currently is an administrator and curator for the Art Salon and a shop technician at Zea Mays Printmaking, both in Northampton, Massachusetts.



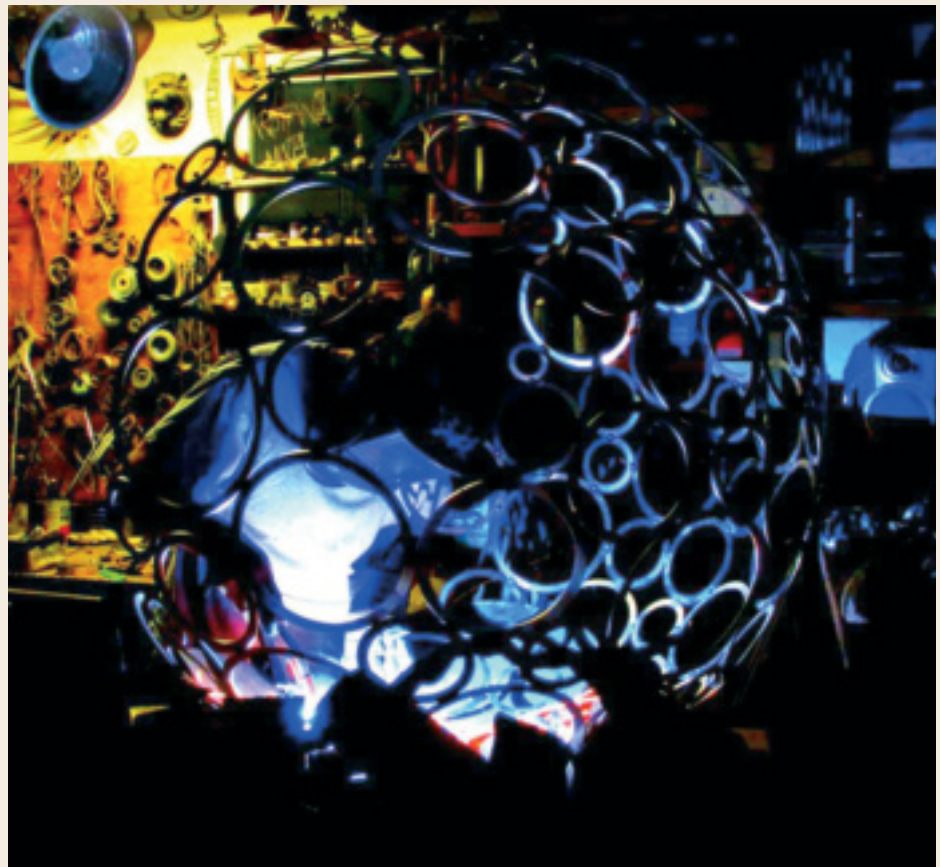
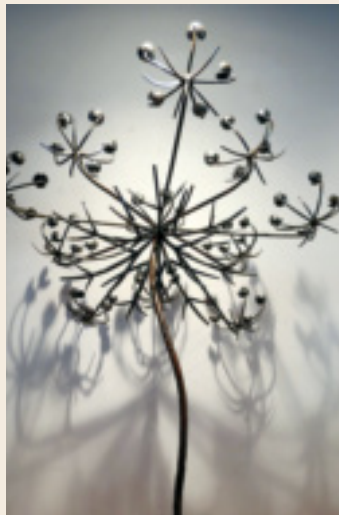
Sun Burn Beach

de Menil Gallery  
FALL EXHIBIT

The de Menil Gallery is open 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays (except Wednesdays) and 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on weekends (except school holidays). It is free and open to the public.

## The Fat of the Land

Metal sculptures by Gints Grinbergs  
Through November 18, 2019



**S**culptor Gints Grinbergs welds metal into natural forms and creates entire environments with them. The Fat of the Land transforms the de Menil Gallery into a world of metal flowers and found-object creatures, a geometric and contemporary homage to nature.

in various museums and galleries, including the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Massachusetts. The artist earned a BFA and a BA in architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design and also studied at Massachusetts College of Art and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Grinbergs' sculptures—many of them large-scale, outdoor works—have been on display

# Jane Morrison Moore Harrell '21

August 16, 2001 – August 5, 2019

by Alexandra Karr '21, Christina Oelhafen '21, and Walker Smith '21



As Alfred Lord Tennyson once said, “I am a part of all I have met.” Jane Harrell is a part of everyone at Groton, and even though she is not here, the Groton community will always carry her in our hearts. While Jane’s time at Groton was short, she made a deep impact on the community by shining her bright light. She was a loving friend, thoughtful student, and an encouraging teammate.

In the dorm, Jane spread her contagious laugh even on the coldest of winter days. She would often share hilarious and embarrassing stories at check-in that filled the room with laughter and joy. Jane was the light that cheered everyone up and brought happiness to our lives.

For some reason, funny things were always happening to Jane, and as a result, Lincoln’s Dorm never had a dull check-in. Not only was Jane fun and playful, but she was also an incredible and dependable friend. Whether it be for a hug, advice, or some snacks from her large snack bin, Jane was always there and ready to lend support. In fact, in the middle of a norovirus outbreak between Thanksgiving and Christmas break, she provided Emergen-C for the dorm to keep us all healthy. During study hall, Fourth Form dormmates would congregate in Jane’s room while snacking and chatting about life.

One winter night, many of the Fourth Formers went out to the Circle to have a snowball fight and enjoy the newly fallen snow. The snowball fight turned into people chasing each other and rolling around on the ground. By the end of “the fifteen” everyone was coated from head to toe in snow. As the harsh winter wind hit our faces, the ten o’clock bell rang and everyone ran to check-in. Jane entered the dorm with snow trailing behind her and a big smile on her face. It was especially on nights like those when Jane brought light to the dorm. She radiated happiness and positivity. Jane was the light that everyone needed.

Jane’s selfless attitude and caring spirit could also be felt on the JV field hockey field. From practices to games,

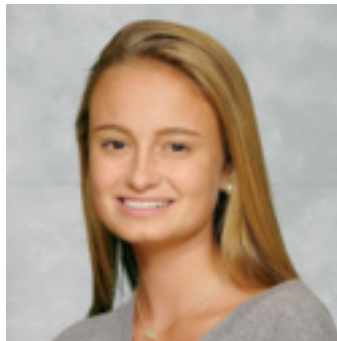
Jane was always our most enthusiastic cheerleader. She gracefully held the team together, including new Second Formers and quiet Third Formers, all while being a new student herself. Jane never hesitated to go the extra mile, sharing jackets on chilly November afternoons and bringing hair ribbons for the entire team for game days. In the smallest moments, Jane’s contagious happiness shined the brightest.

After classes one Saturday, Jane and a few friends set out on a walk, hoping to enjoy some fall foliage. The ground was wet from recent rain, and someone slipped down a hill, sliding in the mud. Seeing this as an opportunity for fun rather than an unfortunate mess, Jane quickly sat and slid down the hill too, unafraid of the large mud puddles below. Within minutes, everyone was sliding down the hill, covered in mud and fallen leaves and laughing at the spontaneous situation.

At Jane’s “celebration of life” service, Headmaster Maqubela shared a letter that Jane wrote to Mrs. Maqubela during her first year at Groton. Jane opened the letter by asking Mrs. Maqubela how she was doing after a foot injury. Jane was always putting other people first and never focusing on herself. Later in the letter, Jane

mentioned how the Christian Fellowship Club affected her transition to Groton and helped her find a community in which she could grow her faith. In his speech, Mr. Maqubela also told stories about how Jane’s smile touched everyone in the community and how her light shined no matter how bad a day she was having. The wristbands given out at the celebration of Jane’s life said “Shine Like Jane” and had a Bible verse telling everyone to shine our light and have an impact on people the way Jane shined her light on so many people.

Concluding his speech, Mr. Maqubela mentioned the words that Jane told her parents after her initial diagnosis with brain cancer: “Keep Living Life.” So, in the words of Jane, we must keep living life and shine our light as Jane shined her light.



## Elson Harmon, Faculty

August 26, 1940 – July 18, 2019

by John M. DeStefano III '97

I met Elson Harmon on the first day of Second Form, and our relationship lasted almost three decades. He largely defined my time at Groton. He was my advisor all five years and my English teacher for two. He directed me in three Dramat productions. And we always kept in touch. I left Massachusetts and moved out west after college but would never return home without seeing Elson.

One of his greatest lessons to me was to resist the obvious and delight in the offbeat. In a chapel talk, he made sure we all knew Robert Frost was poking fun at a cliché and not actually urging us to take “the road less traveled by.” Reflecting on St. Mark’s Day, Elson quipped that Groton was “the only school in the world where we go around cheering on the buildings.” He loved recounting favorite senior pranks, like the time the Chapel was emptied of its seats and converted into a tropical hotel lobby. Our outings to the theater included *Richard III* performed backwards and *A Midsummernight’s Dream* staged as a food fight between superheroes. He was the only theater person I have ever met who refused to watch *The Sound of Music* because too many people had seen it.

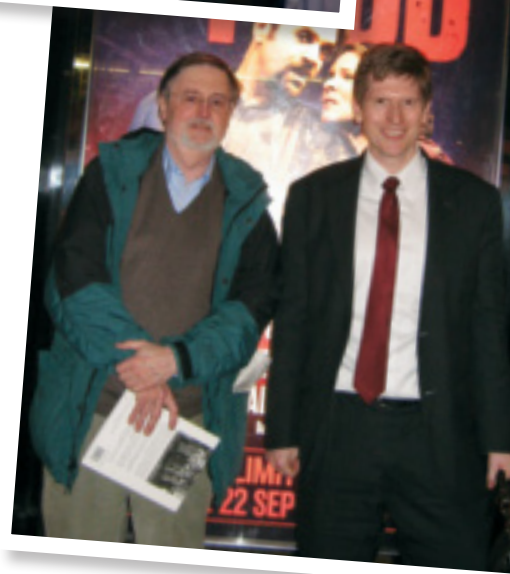
Yet there was nothing ironic about the joy Elson took in teaching. He once told me, with a distant look and a twinge of a smile, that he loved the movie *Dead Poets Society*. The parallel to a spirited English teacher at a boarding school who inspires his students to love the written word seemed too easy and obvious, but it was real. A sign on the wall of his classroom told writing students to “spend it all, shoot it, play it, lose it, all, right away, every time.”\* Seize the day. In lecture, he rhapsodized on the worlds inhabited by Dickens, Shakespeare, Dante, Cervantes, and Goethe—illuminating for us their masterpieces. Elson’s Ph.D. in English was always evident, but (to paraphrase the writer Clive James) he taught in a way that said not “look how much I’ve read” but “look at this, it’s wonderful.” Students would often remark on how they started his class half-interested but left fascinated and wanting more.

He always had more to give. My senior year, he made Chaucer sound so enticing that I asked him to lead a

\*Annie Dillard, *The Writing Life* (1989)



Elson Harmon with Kendra Borowski '97 and John DeStefano '97, leads in *Sweeney Todd*, directed by Mr. Harmon at Groton in 1997, and—fifteen years later—John and his former advisor seeing the play in London



tutorial on Chaucer that spring. Elson loved the idea, but the Deans’ Office told us the deadline for registering a tutorial had passed. So each Friday afternoon for the rest of the school year, Elson and I sat in his classroom.

Week by week and off the clock, he taught me to read Middle English. There was no grade, term paper, or final project. The only record of that class ever happening is the well-worn copy of *Chaucer’s Complete Works* that I see on my bookshelf today.

As the head of Dramat, Elson championed a theater of growing up, of new beards and hairdos and new ways of being. Non-singers learned to sing and shy students

shined. Elson staged ever more complex shows in the creaky old Hall like he was responding to a dare: *Noises Off*, that fugue of British slapstick with a two-story rotating set, and (my senior year) *Sweeney Todd*, with Sondheim's murderous score and razors made to order in the Groton shop. We could have had no surer guide through the historical nuances of Shakespeare (there is a correct way to pronounce "doth") or the haunting moments of *Our Town* (where he magically synchronized the Schoolhouse bell to match the action). At showtime, Elson was famous for leading the crowd in applause and laughter, and he never forgot a performance. Fifteen years after I graduated, he and I made good on a long-postponed plan to meet for theater in London. We saw *A Midsummernight's Dream* and *Sweeney Todd*, the two winter plays he directed me in at Groton.

Elson's advisees were especially loyal and grateful, with good reason. He treated us to many meals, kept a watchful eye on our progress, and offered nothing but honest insight and—when needed—firm correction. He would celebrate our successes and remind us of our shortcomings. In trying times, he was our advocate and our refuge. He kept in touch with many students, performers, and

MY FAMILY has known Elson Harmon for thirty years – a number that looms so large in my mind that it's incomprehensible. The first Ramsay to meet Elson was my oldest brother Jute '93, who arrived on the Circle in 1989. After three weeks, Jute's assigned advisor had yet to make an appearance, which was less than ideal for a pea-green Third Former straight out of the North Carolina hinterland.

Assistant Headmaster Mary Drinker discovered the situation and told Jute she knew the right man for the job. A few hours later, Jute emerged from Third Form Geometry to find Elson patiently waiting in the hall. They had dinner at the Bull Run that very evening and our family's Groton experience would never be the same.

Elson quickly became Jute's favorite faculty member—and, simultaneously, my mother's. He would field an endless stream of her calls over the next ten years; it was a *fait accompli* in her mind that, right as Elson was ushering Jute out the door, he'd take on another Ramsay: Burke '96.

In North Carolina, Burke had been an academic all-star, so you can imagine how low he was after his dive-bomb 69 in Warren Myers' Latin I. Elson was there to pick up the pieces, to gently encourage Burke, and, we suspect, to work Warren behind the scenes to give a little extra care to the kid with the Southern twang.

By the time I showed up at Groton in 1995, I had known Elson since I was nine. *He was always...just...there.* That feeling has never wavered.

Burke and I once overlapped with him in Florence.

advisees for life. After my graduation, Elson and I joined Hugh Sackett's archaeological tour of Greece, exchanged postcards from other travels, emailed regularly, and shared a never-ending dinner conversation about life, letters, teaching, politics, and the state of the world that he was always ready to resume.

Elson and Groton appeared to be inseparable. He gave himself fully to his school and his students. He decorated his own house with student artwork. When I saw him in later years, he could never resist pulling out a student's essay or exam and reading a favorite line. Then he would say, "Isn't that *ex-troordinary*! Can you imagine a *Fourth Former* writing that?" When I toured the new Schoolhouse with him in the spring of 2017, he introduced one of his very last students to me. He was beaming as though she were his first.

I expected to see Elson on my last trip to Massachusetts in July, but he passed away the week before I arrived. I lost my father when I was a young boy. Losing Elson, I lost him a second time. Elson last wrote to me in April. Reflecting on his health problems and the end of his teaching career, he found another line from Clive James that seemed apt: "He loved the written word and told the young." May Groton always remember Elson's love.

Possibly one of the greatest classes ever taught by any Groton teacher was in Dante Alighieri's home, with Elson as our Virgil, leading us down through the fires of the Inferno, synthesizing the life of one of mankind's greatest artists with his literary work *nonpareil*—*in the actual place where it was written.* Mind. Blown.

I will miss the intellect that knew no bounds, but I will also miss: the fall pilgrimages to remove his window AC units, followed by an advisee feed of beef stew; the grousing about the school musical even though we all knew he secretly loved it; and the Elson shuffle from foot to foot if he got particularly animated about a given subject.

I don't think our relationship changed all that much as I passed through my twenties and thirties. There was a distinct reason for that: Elson's default mode was to treat students like adults. High school was not the time or place for coddling. It was not a warm-up lap for the marathon of adulthood. It was the beginning of the race.

Likewise, Elson held us to adult standards. And by God, if you let him down, you were going to know it—precisely and matter-of-factly. He would be disappointed in you, and ipso facto, you'd be disappointed in yourself. My final advisee letter from him at graduation is a case in point:

*[A]lthough I was genuinely disappointed in some of your actions this year, I very much value you as an intelligent and thoughtful young man...[T]here is an extremely fine line between hypocrisy and compromise, and very few if any of*

Art Durnity



Elson Harmon, beloved English teacher, Dramat director, and friend

*us are far from the edge...You are an excellent analyst of the ideas and achievements of others and are particularly good at spotting their weaknesses. Please don't overlook their strengths. The habit of liking actually feels much better in the long run...*

The only real change age brought to our relationship was richer conversations, and, on my end, a greater appreciation for genuine friendship with a teacher with whom you could pick up a conversation left open years earlier.

The last time I met Elson was a month before his death, and his mortality was clearly on his mind. He had to focus on step-oriented tasks, but when unencumbered by his physical limitations, his mind soared. We set out on our metaphorical stroll with the first subject that always had to be addressed during any visit: what, in Elson's (strong) opinion, Groton was doing wrong. From there, we moved on to the Democratic primary, with references to sixties and seventies counterculture. Then Elson had me read a couple poems from recent *New Yorkers* to get my take on them. (I probably broke out in cold sweats since this was like a pop oral quiz with an English-lit PhD.) Afterward, he pulled up a YouTube clip of two modern-day teens trying—and failing—to figure out a rotary phone. The irony wasn't lost on him as he struggled with his email and web browser to find the clip. Cue the Elson chuckle.

We even wandered through his house to count how many bookshelves he had—the single-level, glass-front ones stacked neatly atop each other. The final tally

was right around seventy-five. Which, by my rough calculations, and adding in the giant paperback collection stashed in the basement, would conservatively yield around 2,000 books.

Elson's main concern was what to do with them when he was gone. He knew full well that they were but temporary vessels for the infinite horizons of the human mind. And he knew that even if the vessels were one day discarded, their magic would live on in those who had taken the time to know and truly appreciate them.

All the same could be said of Elson Harmon.

—Alston Ramsay '99

(with Julius Ramsay IV '93 and Burke Ramsay '96)

MR. HARMON wore beautiful, thick sweaters to class. There may have been dozens each of the patternless dark reds, greens, or blues—or just one of each color that shone differently depending on how the light came through the one window in his cloistered basement classroom. It's easy for me to fixate on his sweaters here because of how absorbingly he talked about poems and books like *The Sun Also Rises*, *Ironweed*, and *Heart of Darkness*. His position as a Fifth Form English teacher required yearlong preparation for our upcoming AP exams in addition to his regular curriculum, and though we were well-prepared, it was clear that the tests were far-wide of what we were there to do (in life as much as in the classroom).

His was the rare class that I always looked forward to. To his U of students he imparted a philosophy of enjoying and studying literature that was radically empathetic and

exactly intellectual. Assignments like writing a practice chapel talk showed that he cared about us as young people as much as students. Learning to read closely with him, eating dinners with him off-campus, and talking about how fiction and poetry call out to us and how to respond to those calls are some of the greatest gifts I have been given in life.

We kept in touch regularly after Prize Day and I updated him on how I was studying English and creative writing in college. This fall I'm starting my MFA in poetry writing at Vanderbilt, in no small part due to his friendship. I will be thinking of him and how he once wrote to me that even if I can't make much of being an English major directly in a future workplace, "it will have immense impressionable value life-long. In other words, it will have made something of you." I will hope to keep being made in his example.

—Hayes H. Cooper '14

ELSON AND I came to Groton in the same year, 1986, and lived across the hall from each other in the first-floor suites in Parents House, where we ran kind of an open house for the younger teachers in residence on the upper floors. I'm sure that others will talk about his confident teaching and his extraordinary work with drama productions in the Hall, making a wonderful silk purse of the sow's ear of that theater. My happiest memory is that we had an exceptionally convivial English Department in those years in which Elson's was a thoughtful and literate presence. A moment many of us recall was modest Elson's surprisingly risqué contribution to one of the departmental poetry readings with which we opened our meetings. He delighted us. He made us laugh. He was our generous colleague and friend.

—Judith Klau, *English Faculty 1986–98*

I WAS privileged to know Elson quite well as for a number of years he and I were the Drama Department. These were the days before the construction of the theater, and the old auditorium, the Hall, was quite an inadequate venue for theatrical productions. We had to make the best of it though, and many were the circumstances that led to out-of-control laughter. We remembered well the bat that was flying around in the audience during a Parents Weekend performance, occasionally grazing the heads of the Craig Smith Madrigal Choir, provoking screams among the singers while Elson ran around trying to get the bat back to its home in the rafters. Another time the electricity went off during a performance of *The Royal Family* and in the ensuing silence, we heard the desperate howling of Jack Smith's large French poodle, an actor in the play, panicking in the dark. Elson and I were in the basement, he trying to fix the problem while I held the flashlight! It was fun reminiscing about these times with Elson, and personally, I want to remember Elson laughing!

—Catherine Coursaget, *Modern Languages Faculty 1987–2010*

I HAVE vivid and fond memories of Dramat days with Mr. Harmon. While other formmates were skating furiously after the hockey puck or lashing the wall of the squash court with their volleys, our motley crew of dramatists stood in a circle, Mr. Harmon leading us through tongue twisters with passionate intensity. That was his way, always, with all elements of a production. Maybe governing that intensity—at least in part—was a concern that we weren't going to take the plays seriously enough. Maybe that's why taking on a musical when I was in Sixth Form felt especially risky. This was decidedly outside his comfort zone. Though the root causes were likely different, I remember sensing his anxiety alongside my own. But through those afternoon rehearsals, through the challenges of staging ensemble numbers and songs banged out on the piano, I could feel him pushing his own boundaries as he urged us to push our own. And how often do you get to have that kind of experience, students and teacher together, accepting a challenge and emerging triumphant on the other side? I'll always remember him for that.

—Emily J. Spiegelman '93

MR. HARMON and I both came to Groton in the fall of 1986: he as a newly hired Dramat teacher, me as a nervous Fourth Former. I was among his first group of advisees and will always remember the walk we took together during our early days on campus. He was checking in like a responsible advisor should, asking about classes, roommates, sports, and how I was adjusting to life away from home and family. This last bit tripped me up; I was nearly nauseous with homesickness, and the only moments I thought I might cry were those in which some well-meaning person asked me how I was adjusting to life away from home and family.

When Mr. Harmon saw I was upset, he began to talk to me about his own doubts about this new situation. He, too, wasn't exactly sure how this gig at a New England boarding school was going to work out, or whom to sit with in the Dining Hall, or how to navigate the more Byzantine customs of life on the Circle. This made me cry harder, which made him understandably panicked that he'd said the wrong thing. We laughed about that moment for thirty years; at every reunion I attended, he would find me at some point to apologize for having been a green advisor, way back then. He didn't need to apologize; as an advisor, educator, and person he was unfailingly kind, thoughtful, and compassionate. He took his students seriously, and never condescended. From that first walk together to our last conversation at a reunion, I had a friend; and, though he didn't know it at first, Mr. Harmon had a true home at Groton, where he would spend the rest of his career lending his intelligence, discernment, talent, and humanity to every student in his care. I will miss him, and I thank him.

—Heather N. Clay '89

I FEEL blessed to have shared a classroom and workspace with Elson in the last decade of his career. He was my very first mentor at Groton, and he always supported everything we did in the theater, even when it was challenging to his particular sensibilities. After each production, he would seek me out with both his compliments and his careful critiques. I came to look forward to these chats and understand that Elson was at his best when he was teaching through sharing his experiences. Elson's love of literature was so deep that he couldn't help but seek and share knowledge wherever he went. Elson could also identify nearly every piece of clothing or furniture that we used in on stage! After all, he is the one who bought and gathered so much of what is still in our collection. He loved to tell me the histories of these pieces, and I loved to hear those stories. I already miss him.

—Laurie Sales, Director, Groton Theater Program

I MET Elson in 1975, when he came to teach English at St. Louis Country Day, where I was teaching history. Both of us loved teaching. Elson had a remarkably keen intellect and a gift for inspiring his students. He got the best out of his students and maintained close contact with many of them after their graduation, and followed the careers of many.

One of Elson's favorite classes was his elective on satire, analyzing *Gulliver's Travels*, and other similar classics. He loved *Don Quixote*, which for some of us is intimidating, but it appealed to Elson's sense of humor. When a new headmaster restricted elective offerings in order to make time for the Advanced Placement curriculum, Elson moved on to teach English at Groton.

Elson acquired a vast library over the years, which I enjoyed sampling, as well as an impressive collection of paintings and collectables from his travels to Europe and his wonderful collection of pottery. On short notice, we were always welcome at Elson's. Even our dog was welcome. He loved to share his teaching experiences or expound on politics and current events. He was extremely well informed and a shrewd observer. He has been a close friend whom I will greatly miss.

—Whitney Lloyd '60

ELSON HARMON was a gentle man, and also a gentleman. He was dignified, and unfailingly respectful. He was also just a little bit silly—in an incredibly endearing way. When he got excited, it could overtake

him physically. He would bounce on his feet and raise his fists—sometimes in frustration, sometimes in triumph. His memory was astonishing. When I visited him a few years ago, he still remembered every play he'd directed me in thirty years earlier—including funny moments in rehearsals, his favorite directorial flourishes, things he wished he could have changed. I have no doubt he remembered all of his work equally well.

Elson came to Groton School soon after I did, in the mid-1980s. The theater director he replaced was something of an institution, and it took a while for Elson to win over the drama students. He didn't help his cause by casting a sophomore in a mainstage play, which was traditionally supposed to only include seniors and the occasional junior. I personally thought it was a great move, which made sense since I was the sophomore he cast. The production itself turned out pretty well, and Elson gradually wore down his detractors through the sly strategies of patience, warmth, and consummate professionalism.

I did six plays with Elson over three years, and he became an unofficial mentor to me. He cast me in a pair of challenging two-character plays: *Zoo Story* and *True West*. These types of plays weren't being done at Groton at that time—at least as far as I had seen. They had mature subject matter and adult language—such a thrill for a sixteen-year-old kid. In both cases, I was sure I was right for one part, and Elson cast me in the opposite part.

Both times I started out frustrated and grouchy, and by the end I admitted Elson had chosen correctly. *True West* in particular remains one my favorite experiences of my acting life. It was hugely influential on my future, as was Elson himself.

By the time I graduated in 1990, I considered Elson as much a friend as a mentor. We stayed in touch regularly for the first few years, but as my life took me farther away from Groton, we made contact less and less.

Years later I visited. Elson was a little grayer, and a little thinner. His voice had become even softer. But he had all the old Elson energy. As he unleashed his remarkable memory, he still raised his fists in triumph, and he still bounced lightly on his feet. I think that disarming, energetic bounce is what I'll remember most about him. Unlike most people who dedicate their lives to the theater, Elson himself wasn't theatrical—except in that one modest way, because his love for his work filled him from head to toe. And sometimes it couldn't help but dance out of him.

Rest in peace, Mr. Harmon.

—Alex A. Manugian '90



In Greece, June 1997

# J. Gregory Smith '85

November 10, 1966 – April 20, 2019

by Nina Simonds Trowbridge '85, P'22



Valery Kelly



(OK, sometimes during classes too, which made it all the more fun). In Sixth Form, as a Brooks House dorm prefect, he was a caring role model for the younger kids. He worked hard as an editor of the *Circle Voice* and served as a chapel prefect. Greg was down to earth, honest, and brave enough to be deeply human, to a level that most high school kids, even adults, usually hide from the world. This may be why he was such a powerful actor, and why he connected so profoundly with the music and words of his beloved Bruce Springsteen. James Cherry and Chauncey Hood, Greg's lifelong friends from Third Form onward, describe endless hours in the dorm together spent talking, laughing, and listening to The Boss. At Groton, above all, Greg had the wisdom to know what really counts; he always found time to hang out with friends and connect with people, creating the love and memories that matter most to us from our time there together.

**T**his past April, the Form of 1985 unexpectedly lost our beloved formmate and friend, Greg Smith.

Greg was a loving husband and father of two boys, a caring brother and son, a cherished colleague and leader at work, and a friend to many. To his high school class, he was that lovable, brilliant, kind, talented, and wickedly funny kid who touched us all and lit up our close little world during those profound, growing-up years at Groton. His loss was felt dearly by all of us, and emails came pouring in, full of memories and stories, some of which are shared below.

At Groton, Greg was that rare kid who thrived in so many settings. He played football and baseball but was also a great actor and loved theater, performing in numerous plays. He sang in the choir and a cappella group. He aced the most challenging courses but was best known for his comedy routines, riffing on himself and the world at large during free periods and after classes

Greg went on to Columbia, creating even more lifelong circles of close friends, including best Groton buddy and formmate Ben Coes. In New York he was at the epicenter of the acting world, and after graduation he jumped in to follow his passion. Those of us who lived in New York in those years saw him at times in person but also daily when walking past bus stops with giant posters of Greg's face, playing different roles. These always made me smile! They were all related to issues of public service; no surprise. Eventually he focused his creative energy through the other side of the camera, choosing a career in advertising. He had also fallen in love with Emily Robertson; they married and moved to Maine, near both of their close families.

While he and Emily raised their boys, Nate and Elias, Greg worked as chief creative officer at The Via Agency, the advertising company in Portland that he helped to build over many years. Colleagues describe him

Greg with his wife, Emily, and sons, Elias and Nate



as the creative heart of the company. They recognize him for bringing Via to the national stage, designing powerful campaigns for clients such as Welch's, Klondike, Samsung, and LL Bean. He fostered an inclusive, upbeat culture, and he led Via in programs giving back to the community, such as their work with a local soup kitchen. Living in Maine as well, I was lucky to catch glimpses of grown-up Greg in recent years. I'll never forget running into Greg one day on a ferry boat in Portland harbor; he was taking the Via employees on a team-building trip to an island non-profit. That day, before I saw him, I heard his laughter. I stepped around the corner to see Greg, head back and eyes bright, telling one of his fabulous, funny stories, surrounded by a rapt group of colleagues. Just as at Groton, he was engaging fully with life and with people,

and, as always, with his signature dynamic, hilarious spirit.

Greg's generous spirit and connection to others seems even more courageous as we have learned that there were times when he suffered within, struggling with depression. In one of those moments, this past April, he took his own life, and his presence on this earth was stolen from us all. Our hearts go out to Emily, Nate, Elias, Greg's parents, and to all those who love Greg. We hope that the outpouring of fond memories from our form has reached him, and that he knows that we carry his laughter and courage to be human forward into our own lives, out of love for him.

*Greg's spirit is still coming through. I sat my students down for our end-of-year talk and told them why I was in Maine a few weeks ago. I told them that through all the sadness, I was so uplifted by all of the comments from our formmates. Even those who didn't know him well commented about how kind he was. The funny, boisterous, full-force personality he had didn't overshadow the truly kind person he was. I wish I could walk the Circle with him one last time. All I have now are the memories. And they're good. Really good. Thank you, Greg, for being a part of my life.*

JAMES CHERRY '85

*When I just sit back and think about him, I smile. I just want to talk to him. I miss my friend. I wish I could call him to tell him so.*

CHAUNCEY HOOD '85

*I have encountered a precious few people on this planet as brilliant AND lovable as Greg.*

JOHN WRIGHT '85

*He was hilariously funny when he said French words without even knowing what they meant. I made a portrait of him that I'll always remember; his eyes were so full of feeling.*

VALERY KELLY '85

*He was so funny, so creative, so smart, and so charismatic. Whenever I watch a debate, I think of his antics and how he could literally have the whole room laughing before even taking the podium. And whenever I meet anyone who can raise one eyebrow and give you “a look” I compare it to Greg’s one-eyebrow face. Greg’s always wins.*

ELLEN BOISELLE '85

*He was spontaneous, expressive, loud with life. We talked a lot about music and art, while listening to Springsteen, Reed, or Carroll. He was great at relating with people. A hugely gifted creative. Smart, funny, generous, finding light in life.*

HANK ROGERSON '85

*Even though he was incredibly well-liked and cool, he was unusually kind and inclusive toward everyone. That meant so much in those years, and I’ll always be grateful for him.*

CARTER BUNDY '85

*He was a larger-than-life guy who leaves a larger-than-life gap. That warm smile, his wild humor, his openness. He seemed to go about the school shouting with total exuberance, all the time, everywhere. I envied that then and celebrate it now: his voice will always be heard.*

PEGRAM HARRISON '85

*Greg helped me as part of one of my favorite experiences at Groton, the Barbershop Quartet. The few performances we gave were just a part of the fun, since the rehearsals were where we really got to interact. Thank you, Greg.*

DAVID FENNER '85

*He was such a talented guy, and he wore that talent so lightly and gracefully.*

KIM MAGOWAN '85

*Greg was incredibly bright, successful, exuberant about so many things, insightful about life, and funny as hell.*

TOMMY SUTRO '85

*Greg introduced me to the musical stylings of Bruce Springsteen. Sporting his hallmark combo of jean jacket and black Greetings from Asbury Park t-shirt, he once said to me sardonically, “The Beatles, really? Sit, listen, and learn, boy.” I admired the humorously paradoxical prism through which he viewed things, and his seemingly fearless zest for life.*

WILL KNUFF '85

*... exuberant, funny, outgoing, friendly, and creative; the years hadn’t changed him. He made the best mixtapes of 80’s songs for our reunions, and we joyfully danced into the wee hours.*

KRISTIN PRISCAK '85

*He was truly a bright light for so many of us.*

CHRISTINA BASERMAN '85

*The world is left a bit less joyful without him.*

ANDY CROSS '85

*My memories of Greg will always include his wavy dark hair, loud laughter, wit, and always a smile! As we all get older and our hair now sprinkled with silver, may we all keep our memories of Greg, as he will never be forgotten.*

ERIC WALSH '85, P'18

## Robert Wooster Stallman Jr. '64

May 12, 1946 – May 12, 2019

by Stephen B. Pierce '64



*“He was a passionate musician of the highest caliber whose energy and enthusiasm never wavered for an instant, a musician of immense culture.”*



Bob Stallman died the day after our fifty-fifth reunion ended. We knew he was ill, and close to the end, so we included him in our prayers for departed formmates at a service in the Chapel. The most appropriate way to remember him was through a recording of one of his many wonderful transcriptions. We sat in silence and were thankful for his great talent.

Bob was a world-class musician, recognized as such by his peers. To quote Denis Verouste, head of the Jean-Pierre Rampal Foundation, “Bob Stallman was not only a formidable flutist and a superb artist. He was a passionate musician of the highest caliber whose energy and enthusiasm never wavered for an instant, a musician of immense culture. Those qualities made him a remarkable teacher.”

Bob entered our lives in September 1959, when he arrived as a “newbie” Second Former. He and I immediately hit it off; Bob had lived in Italy and France, and spoke good French, which immediately gave us something in common. But, more importantly, he loved classical music, which created a stronger bond. We were thrown together as two thirteen-year-olds in Mr. Moore’s Sixth Form French class, reading Victor Hugo’s *Notre-Dame de Paris* with Sixth Formers, which set us immediately apart. We often rode together with Mr. Gammons to Friday afternoon Boston Symphony concerts to hear the music we loved. Both of us were at the symphony the day President Kennedy was killed; the weeping orchestra played the second movement funeral march from Beethoven’s “Eroica.” It’s a moment none of us will ever forget.

Bob’s primary passion was the flute. He talked ferociously about all aspects of music, but was particularly loquacious about all things flute. His flute was made of silver, but his heart’s desire was to one



**Above, Bob Stallman with renowned flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal:** When his father took Bob to hear the renowned flutist, while the family was living in Strasbourg, France, they approached Rampal afterward for an autograph. Two years later, when the flutist performed at Groton, Bob turned music pages for the piano accompanist. In 1962, when Bob attended Rampal's summer course in Nice, the maestro wondered aloud why Bob looked familiar. "Groton School," Bob replied. Rampal later recommended Bob for a Fulbright. Right, Bob on the Greek island of Rhodes, 1969; his music (Debussy's "Syrinx") attracted the goat.



day own a gold or platinum flute, such as those played by leading soloists. He played me "Density 21.5" by Varese in reference to the density of the platinum used in such a flute, all the while explaining it was not right to play it on a silver instrument.

Bob made regular trips into Boston for lessons with Doriot Anthony Dwyer, first chair of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. That impressed us, but not as much as when she came with her platinum flute to play a concert at school. Suddenly we collectively realized that we had a star amongst us. We were extremely proud of his ability, as if it were some kind of shared talent, and for many of us that has continued throughout his life. Bob's love of music was infectious, and most of us caught the bug.

Former faculty Russell Young, who had convinced the school that it needed a harpsichord, communicated his love of baroque music to Bob, and one could often hear the happy sounds of the two of them rehearsing. Had anyone our age heard of Georg Philipp Telemann before they introduced his music to us? Huguette Dreyfus, the

great harpsichordist, came to Groton with a chamber orchestra, and Bob turned pages for her. Years later they made Bach recordings together. Jean-Pierre Rampal, the famous French flutist, became his mentor when Bob was at the beginning of his professional career. Bob was a consummate musical networker.

His career was international: Bob played with major international orchestras, soloing at chamber music concerts. He made transcriptions for the flute of major composers' works, taught master classes, and recorded many works. Bob was unable to keep still, always busy with new projects. The music world was the beneficiary.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Hannah, and by his immense musical legacy, his recordings and transcriptions. He remains fresh in our memories, but generations of music lovers in the future will wonder at his talent. We should all be grateful.

*Search "Magic in Marblehead" on YouTube for a documentary about Robert Stallman.*

# FORM NOTES



Form Notes are now password-protected.  
Members of the Groton community may read them online  
by signing in at [www.groton.org/myGroton](http://www.groton.org/myGroton).



English teacher John Capen P'17, '22 and Julia Lin '22 at GRACE

## GRACE: A Summer of Growth

The 2019 GRACE (GRoton Accelerate Challenge Enrich) summer program was the largest ever.

Thirty-six rising Fourth Formers took advantage of the four weeks of academic challenge, designed to fill preparation gaps and propel students to advanced courses.

“This was by far the largest group of GRACE Scholars yet,” said GRACE Program Director Dave Prockop P'15, '17. Attendance jumped by about 60 percent compared to past years. Twenty-two students participated in the first summer of GRACE, and twenty-one attended in each of the following two summers. The school is in the process of raising funds to fully endow the GRACE summer program.

Most GRACE Scholars take two courses, choosing among math, chemistry, English, and Latin. Besides those courses, they work in Groton's art studios and Fab Lab during free periods, and take theater workshops. Afternoons

and weekends are filled with summertime activities and excursions.

GRACE 2019 had a new feature—teaching assistants (TAs), many of whom attended GRACE themselves during its inaugural 2016 season. These tutors and mentors understood GRACE's value firsthand. “I realized how far I've come in my academic journey at Groton by helping chemistry and Latin kids with concepts I once struggled with but now can execute without thought,” said Montanna Riggs '19, one of the teaching assistants.

The TAs also got a taste of teaching. “It's fascinating to watch someone else move through the steps of learning, from introducing a concept to practicing it and finally (hopefully) getting to a place of proficiency,” said Montanna, now a freshman at Stanford University. “I have a newfound respect for all the teachers I've ever had.”

# Groton School

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CIRCLING BACK



In 1893, Groton School's masters posed for this photo. School founder Endicott Peabody is seated second from left. Can you identify any of the others?  
(*Hint:* A small library in the Schoolhouse is named after one of the mustachioed men.) Send your IDs or guesses to [quarterly@groton.org](mailto:quarterly@groton.org).

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