

Winter 2021

# Marshall Alumni Newsletter



Marshalls and Location

# Editors



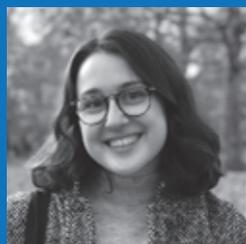
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Managing Editor  
(UC Berkeley, BA 1991; Trinity College, Cambridge, MA 1993; University of Chicago, PhD 1999)  
Stanley is a mathematician at Wellesley College, where he has been teaching since 2001. He is currently writing a research monograph on topology.



**Nicholas Hartman**  
Deputy Editor  
(Pennsylvania State, BS 2003; Darwin College, Cambridge, PhD 2008) Nicholas is the Head of Solutions at CKM Analytix in New York City and lives in Westchester.



**Nicolas Altemose**  
Co-Editor for Class Notes  
(Duke University, BS 2011; University of Oxford, DPhil 2015; UCSF & UC Berkeley, PhD in progress) Nick Altemose is finishing a PhD in Bioengineering at UC Berkeley and UCSF, in which he is developing new technologies to study how proteins bind DNA to regulate genes. Since this is his second PhD, he plans to apply directly for professorships in the coming year. He lives in Oakland with his husband and two cats.



**Klaudia Jazwinska**  
Co-Editor for Class Notes  
(Lehigh University, BA 2018; Cardiff University, MSc 2019; LSE, MSc 2020)  
Klaudia is back in New Jersey after completing her MSc in Data and Society at the LSE. Her ambition is to explore the impacts of technological change on society as an investigative reporter.



**Avery Willis Hoffman**  
Co-Editor  
(Stanford University, BA English & Classics 1999; Balliol College, Oxford, MSt 2001; Balliol College, Oxford, DPhil 2006) Avery Willis Hoffman was recently appointed the inaugural Artistic Director of the Brown Arts Initiative and Professor of the Practice at Brown University.



**Diana Coogle**  
Profiles Co-editor  
(Vanderbilt, BA 1966; Newnham College, Cambridge, MA 1968; University of Oregon, PhD 2012) After writing a dissertation on Old English poetry, Diana finished her long teaching career at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass, OR, with retirement in 2017. She continues to live and write in her little house in the Siskiyou Mountains of Southern Oregon, hiking and cross-country skiing as often as possible.

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Newsletter design: Lara McCarron

Views represented in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the AMS or the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC).

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In this issue of the Marshall Newsletter, some of our alumni share their experiences in certain locations to which many of us have never traveled. We also list some of the Marshall Scholars who have been devoted to combating COVID and to helping those most affected by the pandemic. A more complete list can be found in a recent digital Marshall announcement. If you too wish to share your experiences from the last nine months, please write to us and we will gladly print your story in the next issue.

Since many restaurants are closed and many of us are left fendng for ourselves in the kitchen, the next issue will be about food and drink. Do you have any experience with food production, and the manner in which food travels from the farm or factory to our shelves? Are you knowledgeable about a certain kind of food or drink that you would like to share with us? Are there foods unusual to the American palate that you appreciate but others may not (e.g. durian)? Do you have a story about a particularly disastrous recipe? Have you been involved in work regarding nutrition or food science? What is your opinion on haggis, offal, and spotted dick? Please let us know.

The Marshall Newsletter editorial staff wishes you and your family the best of health.

Stanley Chang ('91)  
newsletter@marshallscholarship.org

# Update from the AMS Executive Director

Nell Breyer

Marshall Scholars have been helping at the forefront of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their work is advancing scientific discoveries, medical responses, and remedial measures across health care, public policy, business, education, and other sectors. One important example of these efforts is the work being done by Dan Barouch ('93) at the Barouch Lab at Harvard University, partnering with Johnson & Johnson to develop a COVID-19 vaccine for global distribution. The current newsletter shares some of this work, and, in addition, the AMS has compiled a report for the British Government with details. A short summary can be found on our website: <https://marshallscholars.org/news-and-updates/covid>.

The Marshall Scholarship has continued in the United Kingdom despite the challenges presented by the pandemic. This fall, while the orientation program was offered remotely and travel to the UK required a 14-day quarantine, ninety-eight Americans enrolled in universities and colleges across the United Kingdom where they will be studying through the Scholarship. The AMS is pleased to be continuing its "Marshall Xtra" grant for each currently enrolled Scholar in the amount of 1,000 GBP. The grant supports Marshalls in their ability to deepen their experience of British life and culture during their Marshall Scholarship program years.

"I have felt so, so grateful for the Marshall Xtra Stipend this year because the additional funding helped me navigate the uncertainty of the global coronavirus pandemic. In making decisions about my housing and safety in the spring, it was great to have had more financial flexibility than I would have had on a Marshall stipend budget. Plus, for the past few weeks, I was able to use some of my remaining funds to go on a trip to Scotland. Taking time away from London to rest, read, and hike around

the highlands was restorative, and helped me feel happy and grateful again to be living in the UK." Porter Nemon ('18)

"One of the greatest highlights of having access to this additional stipend is that I was able to consider purchasing tickets to attend events in London that have been crucial to my journey as a Marshall Scholar, where I otherwise would not have been able to. The Xtra Stipend allowed me to attend literary events around London, including many workshops, readings, and poetry prize ceremonies held at esteemed venues such as the Southbank Centre, the Poetry Cafe, and Wilton Music Hall." Janel Pineda ('19)

"One way I put these funds to use was my participation in the Oxford University Clay Pigeon Shooting Club, for which I was ultimately selected as a member of the Ladies Blues Team ... As someone whose area of study is rural policy and rural issues, this really allowed me to reconnect to my rural roots outside of the classroom and gain a further appreciation for the countryside and rural living in the UK." Victoria Maloch ('18)

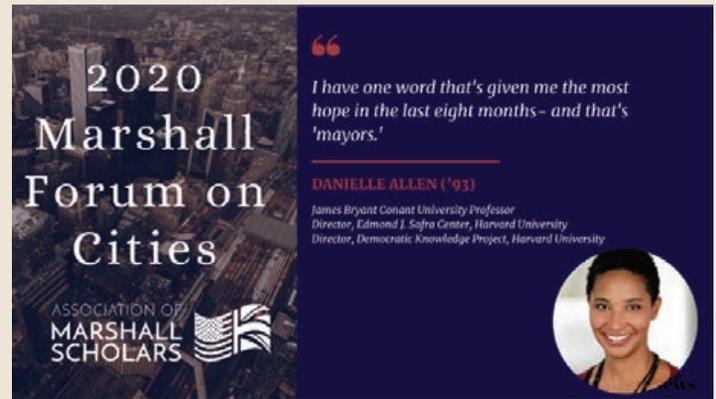
For alumni, the AMS has turned to online opportunities during the pandemic for Marshall Scholars to hear from each other through virtual programs, class reunions, and short briefings with members of the British government. Having started in March, the monthly *Marshall Arts & Humanities Series* has featured a wide range of speakers and performances, including



Photo credit: Porter Nemon (2018)



Photo credit: Katie O'Neill (2019)



a poetry reading with Joyelle McSweeney ('97); discussion of a podcast on espionage and pop music during the Cold War between award-winning staff writer for the New Yorker, Patrick Radden Keefe ('99) and former Deputy Associate Director of the CIA Joseph Gartin; a conversation on Women and Constitutional Amendments with authors of *We the Women*, Professor Julie Suk ('97) and Kathleen Sullivan ('76); and a musical performance with classical guitarist Michael Poll ('12), composer Elizabeth Ogonek ('12), and artists Emi Ferguson, Juan Jofre, and Nicolas Namoradze.

The series will continue through the fall and winter with performances by Metropolitan Opera Singer Wendy Bryn Harmer and Elizabeth Harmer Dionne ('92); discussion on the politics of storytelling with Marty Kaplan ('71), Rebecca F Kuang ('18), Craig Pearson ('14), and Garrett Turner ('12); and a conversation with National Book Award Finalist and bestselling novelist Nicole Krauss ('96) on her most recent work, *To Be A Man*, with Robert Harrison, Professor in French & Italian Literature at Stanford University.

In October, the AMS hosted its 2020 Marshall Forum on Cities via Zoom. The event featured: Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University, Professor Danielle Allen ('93), Mayor Andy Burnham (Greater Manchester), Mayor Kevin L Faulconer (San Diego, CA), Mayor Kate Gallego (Phoenix, AZ), and Mayor David Holt (Oklahoma City, OK), on local responses to the current crises and the new social contract. Editorial Page Editor for the Los Angeles Times Sewell Chan ('98) and long-time foreign policy advisor Tom Fletcher CMG (Principal of Hertford College, Oxford University) also discussed transatlantic ties and diplomacy today and findings from a newly commissioned US UK National Opinion Poll:

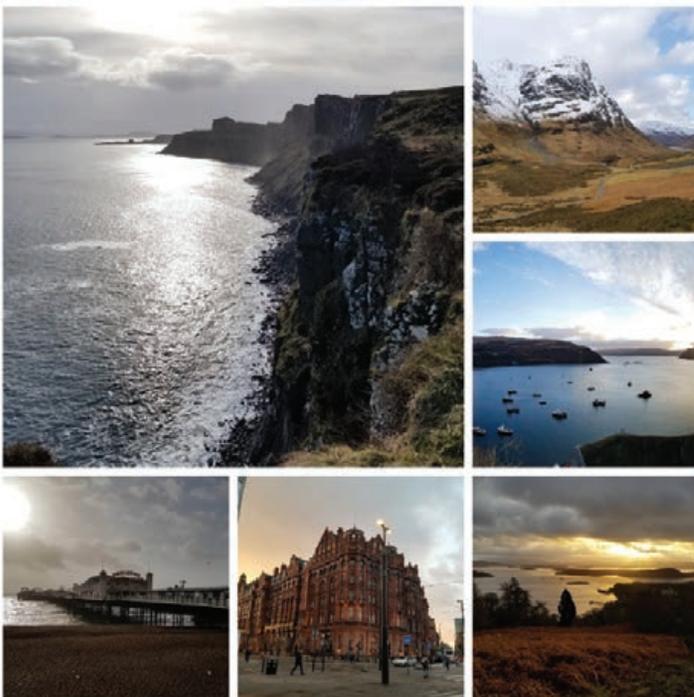
<https://marshallscholars.org/news-and-updates/2020-poll>

Finally, the AMS has announced a significant fundraising campaign called "Marshall 2020" to help fulfill its mission to strengthen the Marshall Scholarship, build a vibrant and visible Marshall community, and support ties between the United States and the United Kingdom through scholars and their broader networks. Our goal is to raise at least \$7.5MM to support these initiatives over the next five years. With the early support of philanthropists and alumni worldwide, the campaign has already passed its halfway mark.

Through a generous anchoring challenge grant by Reid Hoffman CBE ('90) and additional matching grants and new donor matches made by Bill Janeway CBE ('65) and Anonymous ('83), we were given the opportunity to match up to \$2MM of campaign. Thanks to those who took advantage of this catalytic generosity and philanthropic leadership.

We remain enormously grateful to the 300+ alumni volunteers who help support the Marshall Scholarship in many meaningful ways and, in particular, to the AMS Newsletter writers, editors, and Managing Editor, Stanley Chang ('91), who are bringing you this current issue of the Alumni Newsletter. We hope you will enjoy this current issue on travel, location, and place.

Thank you.



# Scholar Testimonials about the “Marshall Xtra” Grant

Joining the Caius Giant Band may have been the best decision I made this year. The days I spent with the Caius Humongous Band are some of the best ones I had in Cambridge. So I would like to thank the AMS for the extra stipend, because I don't think I would have made the decision to rent a trumpet in the first place without it.

—Radha Mastandrea ('19)

I joined the Oxford University Lacrosse team this year. Typically, this is an expensive endeavor, paying for club fees, travel money, equipment. However, with the Marshall Xtra I was able to partake comfortably in the entire season on and off the field!

— Nick Schwartz ('18)

I had a wonderful use for my extra stipend! Of course it was very helpful for cost-of-living in London, and I also saved some of it. My partner and I used that savings to go to Edinburgh for the weekend, and while we were there, he proposed!

— Erika Lynn-Green ('18)

Having the Marshall Xtra stipend put me at ease, especially in the first month through all the stress of moving to a new home. Within the first weekend, I was able to get things like bedding and other necessities that I did not have space to bring with me ... I truly believe this extra stipend saved me from a lot of stress in an incredibly crucial first few months in the UK.

— Dina Eldawy ('19)

The Marshall Xtra stipend enabled me to take a road trip around the island of Britain with two other Marshall Scholars, circling the whole island from London, to Cornwall, to Brighton and Cardiff, through Wales, to Manchester, Glasgow, the Scottish Highlands and Isle of Skye, Aberdeen, and York.

— Abby Lemert ('18)

Most exciting was becoming part of the tap dance community at UCL through Dance Society. I needed a new pair of tap shoes, which the stipend helped me afford. I took weekly classes and performed in three shows in tap and stomp pieces.

— Morgan King ('19)

This year I pursued an MPhil at Cambridge, and the stipend was an amazing way to stay connected with my friends in London. Having attended Royal Holloway, University of London, last year, I was very close with the London Marshalls. For me it was particularly wonderful because my partner (whom I met at Royal Holloway) moved to Croydon this year to work. The extra stipend funds allowed me to visit him every other weekend.

— Jack Chellman ('18)

I primarily spent the stipend on purchasing an Indian classical percussion instrument known as the tabla. I have been playing tabla since I was seven and was devastated that I was unable to bring my tabla from home to the UK. After buying my tabla, I gathered some of my housemates together to form an Indian classical fusion band ... I also met several other Indian classical musicians including a harmonium player, violinist, and vocalist, and we played together several times. The second experience I was able to enjoy as a result of the stipend was traveling to Stonehenge on the winter solstice ... a surreal experience, especially seeing the sunrise through the stones. It was also cool from an engineering perspective.

— Shomik Verma ('19)

I was able to visit London for the TRUST Conference, one of the premier conferences for human rights, journalism, and digital rights put on by the Reuters Foundation. My two days were packed with ideas from around the world.

— Lucy Mahaffey ('19)

Through Marshall Xtra funding I was able to see parts of the UK I might not have otherwise seen. I participated in my Philosophy Department's reading party in the Scottish Highlands, where I hiked a munro and listened to department members give talks on their philosophical research.

— Mallika Balakrishnan ('19)

Marshall Xtra gave me the financial security to stay in London during the pandemic and make sure that I could devote more time to being class secretary. I don't think any of us have really grappled with the trauma of the past few months, but being able to devote multiple hours a week to planning digital events, answer questions and concerns that the class had, help people move, help people make plans to return to the US, check in on people, all made the world feel a little bit less large and terrifying and hopefully made a bit of difference for the 2019 class as well.

— Sarah Nakasone ('19)

For many scholars, the Marshall stipend is not sufficient to pay all the costs of the year... I and many other scholars took on part-time employment during the school year, but for several scholars amid the COVID-19 and racism pandemics, this still was not enough. At least one scholar was on the verge of dropping out of the graduate program and the Marshall Scholarship ... in order to pay their bills and avoid homelessness for their family. For this reason, a few other scholars in the 2019 class and I organized the Marshall Mutual Aid Network. I donated my entire 1,000 pound Marshall Xtra Stipend to the network, and this redistribution of money allowed the scholar mentioned above to remain in the program instead of dropping out.

— Nina Finley ('19)

# THE AMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS' COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

## Zachary D Kaufman ('02)

Member, AMS Board of Directors

Chair, AMS Board of Directors' Communications Committee

Member, Marshall Scholar Regional Selection Committee for Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana

The Association of Marshall Scholars' Board of Directors' Communications Committee, which I have led since 2014, works closely with AMS Executive Director Nell Breyer and other AMS committees on multiple aspects of the AMS's communications strategy and activities. First, we participate in developing, updating, and monitoring the AMS's communications policies, social media accounts, and electronic discussion groups. Second, we recommend new ways for the AMS to keep the Marshall community connected and to engage other interested parties, such as the public and the press. Finally, we oversee the AMS Newsletter, our alumni magazine that is written, edited, and produced by Marshall Scholars and published electronically and in hard copy multiple times per year. A subcommittee of our Committee focuses on political communications. This subcommittee, staffed by committee members who have significant professional experience in diplomacy and communication, is convened on an as-needed basis to craft the Board's rapid response to politically sensitive matters.

The all-new AMS website is an updated, refreshed, expanded platform for our community to stay connected and receive and share news. Features of the website include a list of all Marshall Scholars by class year, profiles of Marshall Scholars, news, AMS Annual Reports and Newsletters, and information about events (including the annual Marshall Forum and periodic regional events), as well as AMS outreach and diversity initiatives.

Our social media accounts have grown and proliferated over the past few years. We now have active AMS groups on four social media platforms: Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/marshallscholars/>), LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/43473/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/MarshallAlums>), and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/marshallscholar/>). Hundreds of Marshall Scholars have joined each group. We use these platforms to share news, photos, and videos about Marshall Scholars and the Marshall Scholarship as well as announcements about events and job opportunities. If you haven't joined one or more of these groups, you are warmly invited to!

Our electronic discussion groups have similarly expanded over time in number and activity. These groups include

the Marshall Scholars Job Listserv (managed by Michael George ('15)), which shares professional opportunities, and George's Tuesday Salon (managed by Shea Houlihan ('13)), through which Marshall Scholars recommend articles, podcasts, or other media from the past week. As with our social media groups, if you'd like to join either of these listservs, please do!

As an example of a policy that our Committee developed and implemented, in 2016 we partnered with three recent Class Secretaries, Benjamin Daus-Haberle ('15), Rebecca Farnum ('12), and Samantha Olyha ('14), to propose that incoming Marshall Scholar classes add an officer position of "Communications Secretary" to work alongside the "Class Secretary." Recognizing that communications within and on behalf of a Marshall Scholar class have grown in frequency and complexity, we believed that the Class Secretary should have a designated partner for those crucial activities. Since that policy was adopted in 2017, we have invited the Communications Chairs of the most recent few years to serve as *ex officio* members of our Committee.

Current Communications Committee members include: Lisa Barron ('84), Tarun Chhabra ('05), Stanley Chang ('91), Aaron Eske ('07), Nancy Fairbank ('17), Nicholas Hartman ('98), Duncan Hosie ('16), Klaudia Jazwinska ('18), Sariah Khormae ('06), Michael Li ('07), Aroop Mukharji ('10), Ushma Savla Neill ('99), Anna Sappington ('19), and Jia Xu ('04).

Senior Editors of the AMS Newsletter include: Managing Editor Stanley Chang ('91); Deputy Editor Nicholas Hartman ('98); Special Features Editor Ushma Savla Neill ('99); Class Notes Co-editors Nicolas Altemose ('11), Klaudia Jazwinska ('18); and Profiles Co-editors Diana Coogle ('66) and Avery Willis Hoffman ('99).



# Turquoise Dreams

by Jonathan David Farley ('91)

Image credit: weezeygn/istock.com

I got the message when I was in the picturesque Czech town of Olomouc, having been invited by a professor at Palacky University to give a talk there. The sender was a girl I had met in the Siberian city of Omsk a few months before. We'll call her "Ilona." At the time, I did not even know how to pronounce her name.

She told me that her parents (we'll call them "Tatiana" and "Artur") had recently moved from Omsk to Turkey, and Ilona asked if I would like to meet them.

I had heard rumors about Turkish jails, about tourists being tricked into spending a lot of money in bars and being arrested for non-payment. I had always thought that Turkey, a nation petitioning to be a member of the European Union, must be some benighted Third-World country where one had to watch one's back.

In fact, from the moment I went to the modern Sabiha Gökçen airport (which put JFK in New York to shame), I developed a sense from what I saw in Istanbul, that this was a First-World country, and I wondered why they even felt the need to join the EU. I saw something new and exhilarating that Europe could not show me.

As someone who has visited over twenty countries, and lived in four or five (I lived in Mumbai for two and a half months; does that count?), I had become somewhat jaded when it came to cathedrals. Sure, Notre Dame has (had...) a marvelous exterior, but I thought at the time, "If I never see another cathedral in Europe, I would not care." What I saw in Istanbul when I stared out the windows of my transport made me realize "ordinary" city architecture still had the power to charm, even amaze, me. Despite having seen that jewel of Muslim India, the Taj Mahal, I had never before seen in person mosques like those I saw in Istanbul. I liked the curves, the spires, and, no, don't you dare try to psychoanalyze me!

The Blue Mosque, besides having a wonderful name, was a wonder to behold.

During one of my three trips to Turkey over the course of seven months, Ilona and I went inside both the Blue Mosque and its neighbor, the Hagia Sophia church. (Well, there is some dispute over its status.)

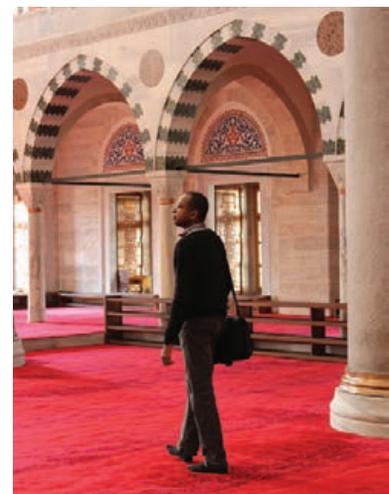
As a tourist attraction, of course, there were a lot of people about (the picture doesn't give the full story), but another mosque had a more beautiful interior, and Ilona and I had



Ilona in front of the Blue Mosque



Jonathan and Ilona inside of mosque





Above images: Interior views of mosques



Dolmabahçe Palace



Istanbul Aquarium



Whirling dervishes

it all to ourselves. Unfortunately, I cannot quite remember its name, but it was relatively close to some ruins where you could see pre-Ottoman Christian frescoes, proving that you can go back to Constantinople. You would love the calligraphy in the background.

There was a cistern we went to (I believe the Basilica Cistern) but it was probably too dark to take good photos; you may enjoy visiting it. You can see it in the old “James Bond” flick, *From Russia with Love*. (I brought my own Russian agent.)

The call to prayer in the secular country seemed never-ending. Of course, there are not only churches and mosques in Istanbul—there are also harems! You will find one at Topkapi Palace.

We also went to Ataturk’s home, Dolmabahçe Palace.

A hike from there to a museum with centuries-old scientific instruments was not worthwhile.

Ilona had a fascination with sharks, so we went in search of the Istanbul Aquarium. We had a couple of false starts: it turns out Istanbul has a mall called the Aquarium, which isn’t anywhere near the aquarium, but we eventually found the place with the fish.



Istanbul Sapphire building



Shooting balloons

We had heard about a fish market (different from the Aquarium), which we went to, and we also went to a site where there had been some protests around that time. It was near a famous area for shopping, İstiklal, which I recall was a long avenue that you could walk down.

We also shot at balloons (I assume it was balloons, and not infidel invaders) and visited other landmarks. We also saw whirling dervishes.

Image credit: Denchikbigstock.com



Eating at restaurant above the river



Tatiana, Jonathan, and Artur



Horseback riding excursion



Left: Bike riding along the coast. Center: Jeep safari. Right: Artur, Ilona, Tatiana, and Jonathan

A famous tourist attraction which you need not go to is the Istanbul Sapphire. It's just a tall building.

Ilona and I went to the city to which she said her parents had moved, Alanya, in the region called Antalya. It used to have a different name, but because a telegram misspelled it, Ataturk renamed the city.

Tatiana and Artur had a flat about one hundred yards from the Mediterranean. I recall the water was cold, but the city was warm. If I remember correctly, the operator of Tour

Alanya told me that I was the first American he had seen in ten years.

Despite what I said about the First World earlier, it was hard to navigate the streets of Alanya, which seemed not to always have signs. Many store signs were even in Cyrillic. The different towns near Alanya weren't that close to each other, so you'll want to make sure your hotel is near one of the main beaches. During my first trip, I stayed at a hotel near a landmark called the Red Castle. Ilona and I rented bikes from



Above images: Ilona and Jonathan parasailing



ATV riding and sightseeing

a German shopkeeper so we could travel along part of the picturesque coast.

Tatiana and Artur treated me to a “jeep safari.” Some of the tourists occasionally sprayed water at the other jeeps. The tour finished at a restaurant above a river.

One of my favorite photos shows me with Tatiana and Artur. Tatiana is the one wearing a Confederate flag T-shirt! Given that Artur didn’t know English and Tatiana only knew a little, I doubt that they knew what it signified.

Ilona and I went on other excursions in the region, including by horseback.

On another occasion, we went to a Turkish “Sea World,” and on still another, we drove ATVs. I lost control of mine and

had to crash it into a boulder or tree to avoid injury—well, worse injury. The impact caused my toe to bleed.

On one of those trips, I noticed that the water in Turkey had an unusual color; I would almost call it turquoise.

We invaded some caves, went whitewater rafting, celebrated the Russian Old New Year with a meal that Ilona cooked, rode motor scooters, and ate various fruits near an orange orchard.

We played miniature golf and went parasailing. It was only when we were in the air that I wondered, “Is this safe?”

This was without question the high point of my trip.

*Jonathan Farley is a mathematician at Morgan State University.*



White-water rafting, caving, and celebrating Russian Old New Year



# Carol F Lee ('76) Visits to my ancestral villages in China

**I**n November 2015, my husband and I sat with a group of local Chinese Communist party leaders and village elders in the reception area of the party headquarters in I Gong (Dagangcun). My paternal grandfather had emigrated to Canada in 1893 from this village in the Toishan (Taishan) district of Guangdong province on the coast of southern China; my grandmother and their eldest son had followed him in 1909. My visit, accompanied by two guides, was arranged by My China Roots, a genealogy service for overseas Chinese like me. With the help of these guides, one fluent in the village dialect and Cantonese, the other in Cantonese and English, I was hoping to find traces of my grandparents.

On the first day, this quest was unsuccessful. Instead, I was shown the imposing home and family pavilion of a distantly-related branch of the Lee clan who had helped my less-privileged family in Montreal. Unlike my father's family, these

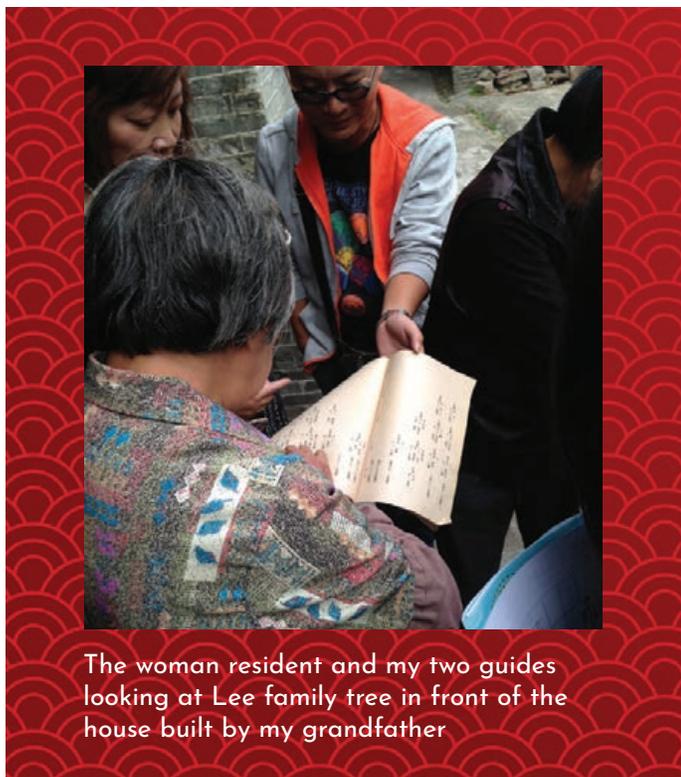


Carol and David (her husband) with villagers in front of the party office

relatives had contributed generously to public works projects in the village.

On the second day, to my astonishment, the guides told me that the woman in her 80s who had guided us on the previous day was offering to show me my father's house. Since my Canadian-born father had never set foot in the village, I thought something had been lost in translation. It turned out that the woman had received a letter from my father's youngest brother in 1995, written in my father's name as well as his own. The letter had offered to donate their father's house for use by the village school. Somehow my uncle thought that, after his parents' emigration, the Japanese occupation, and the Communist takeover, he and my father still owned the house. The village leaders sent a polite reply suggesting that they donate the house to the family who lived there. We were escorted to the house, which was locked. While we were taking photos, an elderly woman arrived and unlocked the door. After a lengthy discussion in which the village family tree was consulted, my guides ascertained that she was the daughter-in-law of my father's second cousin. She showed us the ground floor of the house my grandfather had built around 1900, including an indoor well. She told us that the well water tasted better than the piped water from the village system. I was very moved to see the place where my grandparents had lived more than a century earlier.

The Lee clan was the largest of several clans in I Gong, a fairly large village dating back 600 years. The Lee ancestral hall



The woman resident and my two guides looking at Lee family tree in front of the house built by my grandfather



Exterior ground floor of the house built by my grandfather ca. 1900

had been converted into the Communist Party headquarters in 1966. After the party moved out in 1989, the building was used as a workshop for making watchbands. By 2015, it was deserted. A stone lintel with a carved inscription honoring a Lee ancestor lay on the ground; the Communist Party's five-pointed star took its place above the entrance. We were told that Lee family members would be welcome to purchase the building.

Apart from the middle-aged party leaders, the village was populated by the old and the young. Since the village had no factories, working-age residents had to find jobs elsewhere. Many of the houses were uninhabited, locked, and barred. The village still seemed to claim jurisdiction over women who lived elsewhere. Upstairs in the party headquarters, a chart listed statistics that were used to enforce the population control policy: the number of village women capable of bearing children, those who were married, those who had not yet given birth to any children, those who had borne one, two, or three children, and the numbers of women in each category who had been sterilized or were wearing an IUD.

Older people tilled the fields. We were visiting just after harvest time. Most of the paved surfaces in the village, including the roads, were strewn with rice husks drying in the open air. While I focused my attention on communicating with the villagers through my two guides, my husband looked around him as we sat in the office and walked around the village. He noted that most of the villagers were plainly dressed but that the party leaders wore conspicuous jewelry. He observed that there was a piece of dried fruit and a single Chinese character above the door of most of the houses. We were told that the character meant "prosperity."

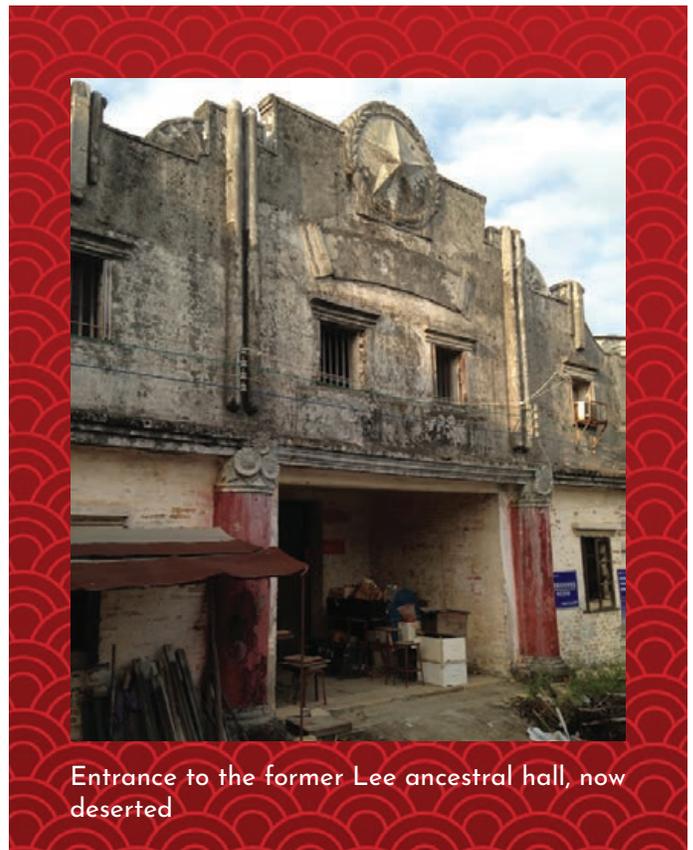
My paternal grandmother came from a nearby village, Seng Gai. I wanted to see the place, but did not expect to find any traces of my grandmother, born into the Chung family, because she had left the village around 1900 when she married. In traditional Chinese culture, daughters were not included in the family tree because they would marry and join their husband's family. I had given my guides the names of my grandmother, her older brother, and three of



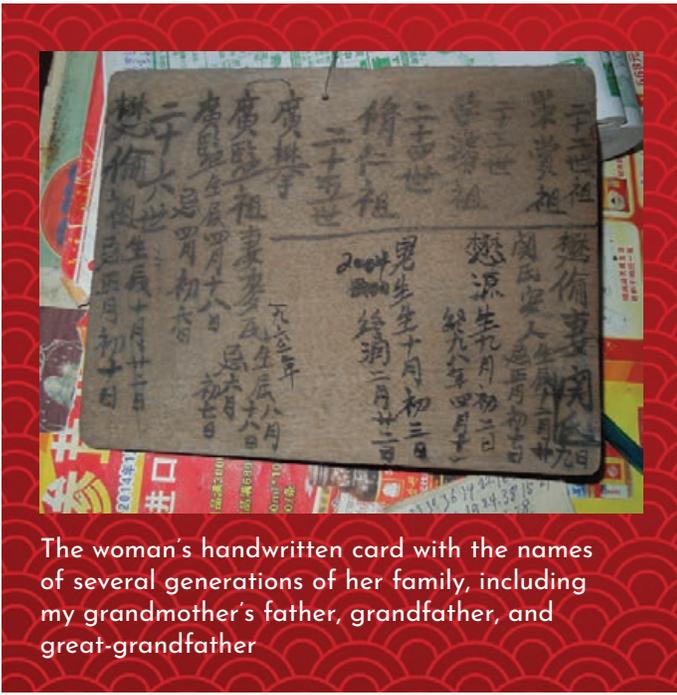
Lintel of the former Lee ancestral hall honoring an ancestor, now lying on the ground

his descendants, which I learned from my 90-year-old uncle. While we looked inside the restored Chung ancestral hall, my guides talked to a number of elderly Seng Gai residents, asking if they recognized any of these names. By sheer luck, one of them knew of the grandson of my grandmother's brother, who had moved to Hong Kong. Some of his relatives lived in the adjacent village, Ha Ngai.

We were led along a narrow lane in Ha Ngai village and ushered into the main room of a house, whose most prominent feature was a shrine with gold inscriptions on hanging red boards. Large oval photographic portraits of a man and a woman were displayed on the wall. We were introduced to the elderly woman who lived there. My guides and I tackled the challenge of figuring out how she was related to me. My questions were translated from English to Cantonese to the village dialect, and the answers were translated back.



Entrance to the former Lee ancestral hall, now deserted



The woman's handwritten card with the names of several generations of her family, including my grandmother's father, grandfather, and great-grandfather

My husband, who couldn't follow very much of the lengthy translated conversation, noticed that water pipes and electric wires were visible along one of the interior walls.

The man in the large oval portrait turned out to be one of my grandmother's two older brothers. My uncle had met one brother in Hong Kong but had never heard of the other brother. The village woman, however, recognized my grandmother's name and knew that she had emigrated to Canada and had six sons. Back in the 1950s, my illiterate grandmother had sent the family some money along with a letter someone wrote on her behalf. The old woman, who



Rice husks drying on the ground in front of village houses



My husband, David, and I with the elderly widow of the grandson of my great-uncle. The great-uncle's portrait is above David's head.

had learned to read and write at school, remembered a letter she had read more than 60 years earlier. She also showed us a card on which she had written the names of family members, including three generations of my grandmother's ancestors. Thus, my visit to my grandmother's village produced serendipitous new information about my family tree.

My 2015 visits contrasted with another village visit I had made a quarter century earlier, in August 1989, when my mother and I visited her family's village. Fong Yeung Lai, in the Hoiping (Kaiping) district of Guangdong, is about 40 miles from I Gong and Seng Gai. Mom's father and brothers had regularly sent money to the relatives who remained in the village. In 1936 and 1937, Mom and two of her brothers (all born in Canada) had spent school vacations in this village while attending boarding school in Canton. When we visited in 1989, Mom knew three of the older relatives. They understood where Mom fit into the family, although she was not in the family tree. They welcomed us warmly. Mom could speak the village dialect and translate for me.

My mother's ancestral village was much smaller and more recently founded than my father's, but less modern. All of the 100 inhabitants had the surname Quan. The nearest party headquarters was in the next village. Electricity was only available during the daytime. After dark, the family used kerosene lamps for lighting; the scene reminded me of a chiaroscuro painting. The village did not have running water. The family heated water very slowly over a straw fire for us to bathe. They gave us plastic pails so that we wouldn't have to find our way to the outhouses at the edge of the village during the night.

The village had been founded by Mom's grandfather and his two brothers in 1911, adjacent to the larger village where they were born. Many people, including Mom's grandfather

and father, had emigrated to Canada, others to India, South-east Asia, Cuba, and Hong Kong. The emigrants sent back remittances to support their families and to assist the village. Mom's father was among the donors whose names were carved on a plaque in the former village school.

The houses of Mom's grandfather and the other founders were located at the front of the village, across a plaza from the village pond. Other houses were located along narrow lane-ways. The founders' houses had turrets with gun slits, used to defend against bandits. Mom's widowed grandmother acquired land with money sent from Canada, becoming one of the largest landowners in the village. All the land was confiscated after 1949 and our relatives became "class enemies." The relatives who remained in the village lived through the Great Leap Forward, when communal dining was mandatory and there was not nearly enough to eat. (At 5'3" and 120 pounds I loomed large in the group photo.) During the Cultural Revolution, the urns containing the ashes of Mom's grandparents were about to be destroyed. The family was tipped off, recovered the urns in the middle of the night, and buried them secretly. They asked Mom to have her brothers, male descendants, send money to set up a gravestone.

Economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping had brought a measure of prosperity to the village. Residents were allowed to raise ducks and sell them on the free market. Ducks were kept in coops beside the village pond and roamed freely around the village. The family also raised a pig in a pen beside the house and kept chickens in one of the front rooms, which they could sell on their own account. Mom was struck by some changes in social practices since the 1930s. On an excursion to the nearby market town, the young husband and wife walked beside one another. In the 1930s, a wife always walked several steps behind her husband. When we hosted a banquet for the family and some of the other villagers, the family's daughter sat at a table with her father and brothers. That would not have happened in the 1930s.



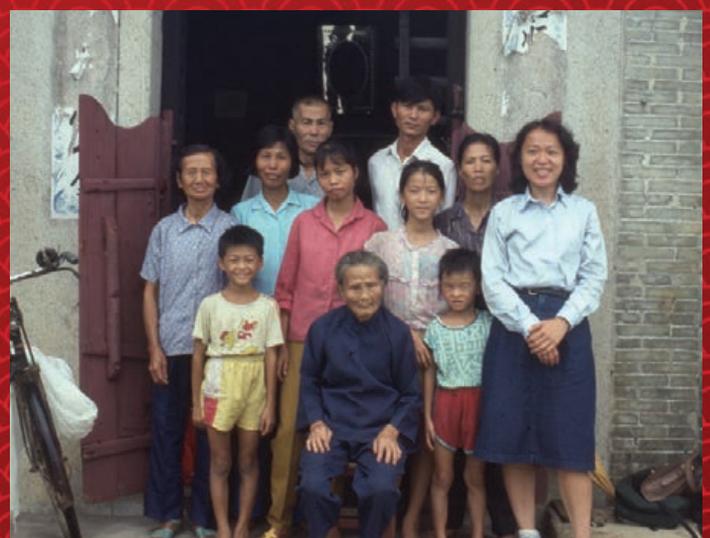
Great-grandfather's house, Fong Yeung Lai

Visiting my grandparents' villages was a fascinating experience for me. I had never learned Chinese, though Mom had told me stories about her family history when I was growing up. As a history major, I was eager to know more. Visiting my ancestral villages gave me a much better sense of the distance that separated my grandparents' birthplaces from the Canadian cities to which they emigrated. Life in the villages involved grueling hard work, limited horizons, and inequality for women. My grandparents had the courage to leave familiar surroundings to move to a foreign place filled with prejudice, again requiring very hard work, but offering greater opportunity. I am profoundly grateful to them for making it possible for me to enjoy a very different life from theirs.

*Carol Lee is a lawyer in New York City who spends her spare time on the work of the American Law Institute and on family history research.*



Mom and relatives under village gate, Fong Yeung Lai



Four-generation family photo including Carol (right), Fong Yeung Lai

# Andrew Bulovsky ('14)

## A Frozen Conflict in Eastern Europe



I landed in Chişinău, Moldova, eager to explore Europe's poorest state. I had spent the summer at a law firm in Rome, Italy, practicing international arbitration, so I longed for a less glitzy excursion. With Eastern European roots of my own, I enjoyed the prospect of traveling to an uncommon and under-explored destination. Beneath Chişinău's rough surface, I found vibrant restaurants and bars, with locals speaking Moldovan (a derivative language similar to Romanian). But I also heard smatterings of Russian, which reminded me of the country's past—and present—relations with the authoritarian country to the east.

The tension between Russia and Moldova is most acute in the conflict over the Trans-Dniester Republic (typically referred to as Transnistria), a Russian-backed separatist enclave in eastern Moldova. After the Russian Revolution in 1917, Moldova seceded and joined Romania. The USSR did not recognize the union of Moldova and Romania; instead, the USSR took control of a thin strip of land in eastern Moldova and established the "Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic," which is now Transnistria. Moldova held its first free elections in 1990, but Transnistria pledged loyalty to the Soviet Union and declared its independence from Moldova. In response, Moldova sent armed troops into Transnistria, but Russian economic and military aid, along with a threat to invade Moldova, prevented Moldova's attempt to reclaim Transnistria. This conflict ended as a ceasefire in July 1992, a ceasefire that stands to this day.

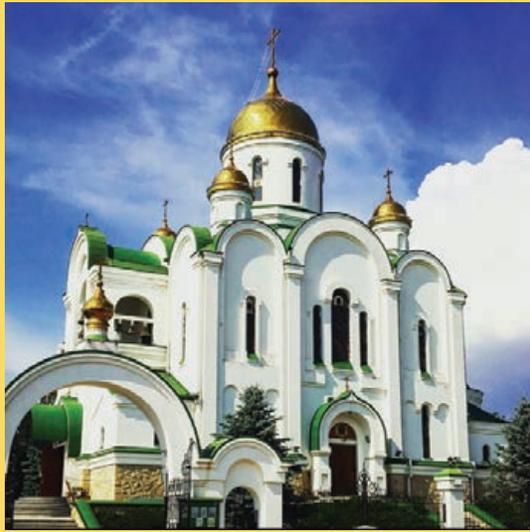
The international community recognizes Transnistria as part of Moldova, but I noticed for myself that the territory operates relatively autonomously with its own border crossings, currency, passports, and flag. On my second day in Chişinău, I boarded a small bus that would take me to Tiraspol, the capital of Transnistria. The two-hour bus ride ended at the border between Moldova and Transnistria, where I was eligible to secure a visa that was valid for eight hours. The eight-hour window printed on my visa was precise down to the second. I exchanged my Moldovan leu for some Transnistrian rubles

and headed into the center of the city. I enjoyed a meal of pelmeni and borscht at the Cafe-Bar Volna, before heading to the Museum of Local History.

Tiraspol is a small city of around 130,000 inhabitants, and the main road through the city is Soviet-esque: wide and



Andrew Bulovsky poses with bottles of wine at the Cricova Winery, which features 1.3 million bottles of wine and over 75 miles of underground tunnels for storage.



Orthodox church



Statue of Lenin at the parliament building

lined with several Russian T-34 tanks around governmental buildings. Most of these aging buildings are adorned with a statue of Lenin and stand beneath a Russian and Transnistrian flag. While I felt tension in the air, locals enjoyed themselves by sunbathing in the city parks and were seemingly unfazed by the fact that they were in the middle of an international conflict.

Moldova and Transnistria have been in a “frozen conflict” for nearly 30 years. In contrast to its aggressive annexation of Crimea, Russia’s strategy in Transnistria has been relatively passive, revealing Russia’s use of disruption and secessionism as a political weapon. For Russia, the existence of Transnistria is an end-in-itself. Russia’s recalcitrance in negotiating a settlement shows little hope of changing because Russia’s influence in Transnistria gives

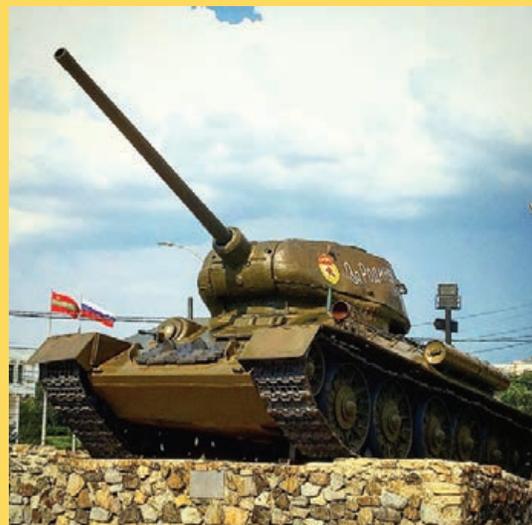
Russia influence over Moldovan policy, which inhibits Moldova’s ability to implement reforms necessary to integrate into the EU and NATO. Russia has stated this in no uncertain terms: in 2013, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin cautioned that Moldova “would lose Transnistria if Moldova continues moving toward the European Union.”

My trip to Moldova and Transnistria was a fascinating look into a current conflict in international affairs, one which led me into a career in international law. As it stands, the frozen conflict does not seem likely to thaw any time soon.

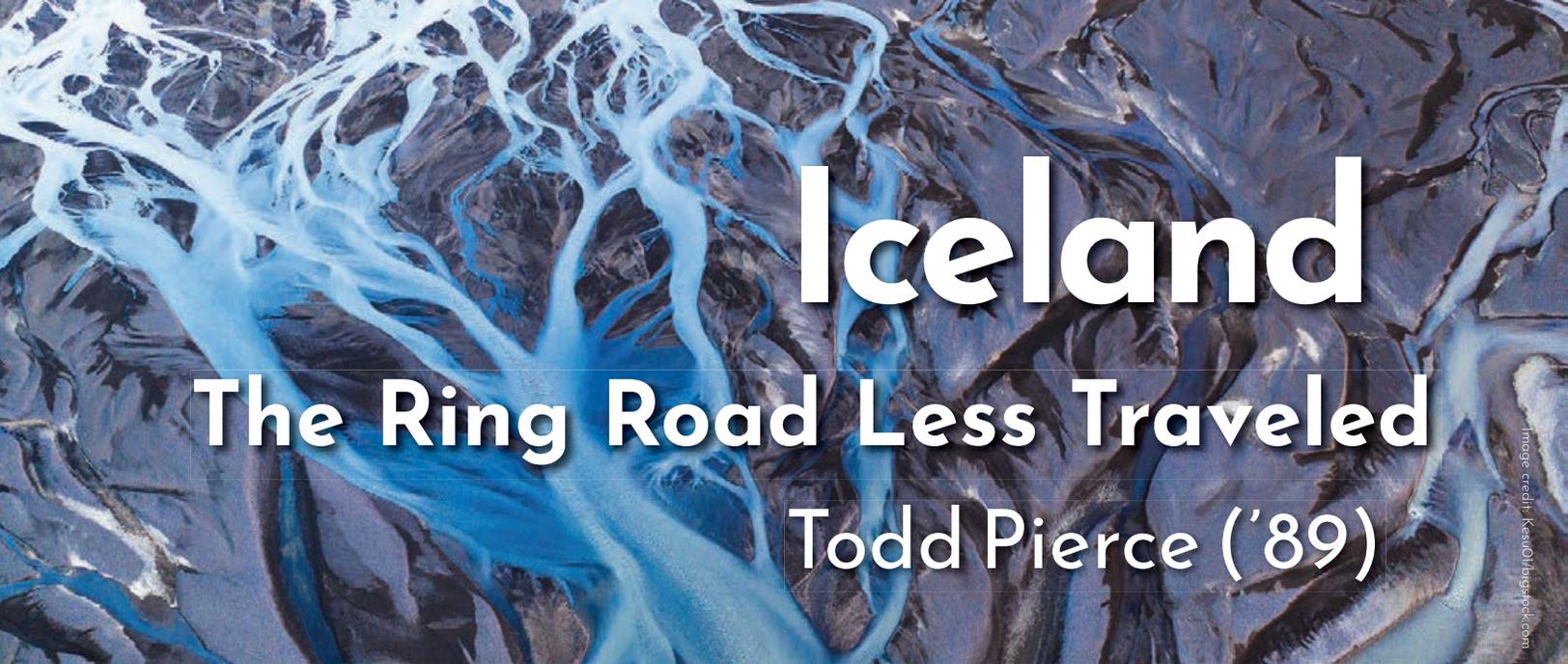
*Andrew Bulovsky is a 2014 Marshall Scholar (LSE and Oxford). He is an Associate in the Dispute Resolution Group in the Washington, DC, office of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.*



Statue of Alexander Suvorov



Russian T-34 tank



# Iceland

## The Ring Road Less Traveled

Todd Pierce ('89)

Image credit: Ken01/istock.com

**K**eflavik Airport, 6:30 am, June 2019. My family and I get off a crowded plane and follow the surge through immigration and customs to baggage claim, where we see a giant puffin breaking through the ceiling. Yep, we're in Iceland.

In June 2019, I took my wife and two college-aged sons to Iceland. I'd wanted to visit Iceland for many years, and we finally took the plunge last year to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. In 2019, approximately two million other tourists visited Iceland, which is home to about 365,000 residents. Many of the visitors stay in the more populous southwest region centered on the capital Reykjavik. This area contains the busy "Golden Circle" route that takes day-trippers, camper vans, and tour buses past the majestic Gullfoss waterfall, stunning Strokkur geyser, and historic Thingvellir park. In contrast, the eastern and northern regions get roughly a quarter of the tourist traffic seen in the southwest.

Rather than plunge right into the tourist melee, we spent four days driving the Ring Road (Route 1), the 1332-kilometer main highway that circles the island. Most tourists who venture from Reykjavik on the Ring Road go only as far as Vik in the south or Akureyri in the north, as both towns are just within the limits of a reasonable overnight trip from the

capital. In contrast, much of the two-lane road between Vik and Akureyri sees only locals and those tourists making the effort to visit less travelled parts.

### Keflavik to Vik

At Keflavik Airport, we rented a car and took the Ring Road towards Vik, bypassing the crowded areas. Our first stop this day was near Selfoss to tour a lava tunnel that had formed during an eruption about 5,200 years ago. It was magical to walk for an hour into the tunnel and back out, with only our headlamps showing the bright red and orange rocks. Our second stop was Skogafoss, a lovely 60-meter waterfall that has appeared in multiple films as well as Game of Thrones.

At lunch this day, I was rudely introduced to Icelandic prices. Fellow Marshall Scholars may remember feeling burned by high exchange rates in the UK, but that was mild compared to in Iceland. High tourist demand, plus the need to import many common items, contribute to eye-watering prices. Our four hot dogs and drinks totaled \$50. The hot dogs were good and are an Icelandic specialty, but we still felt the sticker shock. After a couple days of dropping \$60 for lunch and \$100 for dinner, though, we learned to just roll with it and enjoy the trip.



Iceland's Ring Road (Route 1)



Airport puffin



Lava tunnel tour



Skogafoss waterfall



Black sand beach at Vik

In the afternoon we visited the black sand beach at Vik; the sand comes from eroded basalt lava. This beach has sweeping views of the Atlantic and several sea stacks off the coast. It was much less crowded than the Reynisfjara beach a few miles away and also less dangerous. Several tourists have been swept into the sea at Reynisfjara due to fast-moving “sneaker waves.” We wandered in relative safety at Vik, but we still stayed far from the water.

### Vik to Hofn

After spending the night at an inn in Vik, we took the Ring Road east. As the miles went by, the number of tourists dropped, and we started to enjoy the isolation. Just east from Vik we drove past miles of barren lava that originated in the 1783 Laki eruption. This event produced lava flows covering 565 square kilometers along with clouds of poisonous gases that killed half of Iceland’s livestock. The resulting famine reduced the human population by a quarter. Nothing grows these days on the lava flows except fragile layers of moss. Further along at Dverghamrar (the Dwarf Cliffs), we walked among hundreds of hexagonal basalt columns, formed during the Ice Ages when the ocean met cooling lava.

As we drove further east, the scenery became dominated by Vatnajökull, Iceland’s largest ice cap, which sits atop several active volcanoes. Multiple glaciers run off the ice cap. When volcanic eruptions melt glacial ice, the resulting floods (called jökulhlaups) destroy everything in their path, leaving miles of barren moonscapes. We stopped at the Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, where icebergs break off from the glacier and float to the Atlantic Ocean. At the nearby aptly named Diamond Beach, with icebergs sparkling in the sun, we saw seals playing along the shore. Just down the road at Hofn, we had a dinner of hearty sub rolls stuffed with langoustines, the locally caught lobsters.

### Hofn to Akureyri

We spent our second night near Hofn at an isolated but cozy cabin. Past Hofn, the Ring Road winds sinuously along multiple fjords, passing small harbor towns, until it heads inland to Egilsstaðir. This part of the road is probably the least traveled and can be a challenge to city folk used to multi-lane paved highways. We had to navigate many one-lane bridges, steep slopes, sharp curves, blind hills, and seemingly



Laki lava flow



Dverghamrar



Landscape after jökulhlaup



Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon



Seals at Diamond Beach



Meandering sheep

suicidal sheep meandering in the road. At the head of one fjord, the Ring Road just gave out and became a dirt road for several miles. Phone and data coverage was spotty or non-existent outside towns. The loneliness on the road accentuated the majesty of the scenery, snow capped mountains, fields of wildflowers, and steep coastal cliffs, and increased the chances of seeing wildlife, such as a reindeer grazing near the sea as the day ended.

The Ring Road became busy again after Egilsstaðir, the largest town in the eastern region with about 2,500 inhabitants. The Road left the fjords and crossed the desolate interior on its way to Akureyri, the second largest city in Iceland. Along the way were craggy hills, small waterfalls, and extensive lava fields. About an hour before Akureyri we entered Mývatn, a popular resort town centered on the volcanic Lake Mývatn. This area is very geologically active, and we stopped to explore the Hverir geothermal area with smelly fumaroles and boiling mud pits. Just past Mývatn we visited the beautiful horseshoe-shaped Goðafoss. While not



Road in eastern fjords



Ring Road near Stöðvarfjörður



Hverir geothermal area

the tallest or most powerful waterfall in Iceland, Goðafoss is conveniently right off the main road.

### Akureyri to Reykjavík

The 7.4-kilometer Vaðlageiðargöng tunnel took us into Akureyri, where we spent our third night south of town at an inn located on a working farm. We had a delicious dinner at the inn and were served meals made from fish, lamb, and vegetables raised or caught on the farm property. I also drank a shot of Brennivín, the Icelandic schnapps sometimes called “svarti dauði” or “black death.” The name is not wrong; I felt like I was inhaling diesel fumes!

With roughly 19,000 people, Akureyri seemed like a booming metropolis after the isolation of the road from Hofn. Even though Akureyri is only 100-kilometer from the Arctic

Circle, the town’s location at the head of a long fjord creates a rare “cold-summer Mediterranean climate” that supports mild weather and a lovely botanical garden.

As we continued west past Akureyri, the Ring Road became busier and the scenery less wild. We spent this day just driving back to Reykjavík to spend the night. We then took two days to see the usual sights in the capital and along the Golden Circle. While we enjoyed this final part of our visit, we actually felt anxious and irritable to be among so many people again. We missed the isolation and quiet beauty of the road from Vik to Akureyri.

And by the way, sadly the only puffin we saw was the one at the airport!

*Todd Pierce is a programmer and educator with a passion for data visualization that helps to explain key environmental issues such as climate change and sustainability.*



Grazing reindeer near Djúpivogur



Goðafoss



# Bill De La Rosa ('17)

## Reflections from the US-Mexico Border

I was born in a small American border town known as Nogales, Arizona, but raised on the Mexican side, Nogales, Sonora. Shortly after my birth, my mother's visa to enter the United States expired. In turn, my parents decided to raise my older brother, Jim, and me in Mexico.

As a child in Sonora, I never understood why the two Nogaleses, known in Spanish as Ambos Nogales, split into two towns. The people on both sides of the fence, after all, seemed similar, spoke the same languages, and enjoyed identical foods. Why was there a wall between them? Why did only people from Mexico require *papeles* (papers) to enter the US and not the other way around?

I have vivid memories of crossing *la frontera*, the border, with my brother at dawn to attend elementary school in Nogales, Arizona. While waiting in line, my grandmother, a tough, fair-skinned lady with short, golden-brown hair, always reminded us in Spanish, "You live with me. Remember your name and age." One morning, a towering immigration officer pulled Jim and me aside for questioning. Jim, who was already in the second grade, understood English well enough



to answer the navy-blue uniformed man's questions. I, on the other hand, only spoke Spanish. When he pointed at my grandma and asked me who she was, I froze. Frightened, I hid under my school's maroon collared shirt and began to cry. I was only six years old.



The US-Mexico border dividing Ambos Nogales

The US-Mexico border dividing Ambos Nogales looks considerably different today from *la frontera* I crossed as a child. Back then, it was normal for people to queue for a few minutes and answer a couple of questions at the port of entry. Entering the US was, for the most part, a simple process. Today, "normal" is waiting in line for hours, answering copious questions, and submitting to arbitrary and unchecked inspections. The fence has also radically changed; it has become more palpable and more imposing. The fence is now a 30-foot-high concrete and steel wall enveloped in razor wire. The border consists of stadium-type lighting, fixed surveillance towers, cargo scanners, drug-sniffing dogs, thermal and infrared sensors, biometrics, and other security technologies, painting a toneless portrait of two countries at war, two sister cities in conflict.



Mexican residents await a bus in Nogales, Sonora.

As I grew older, I began to comprehend the changes happening in the two Nogaleses. For one, although a recent phenomenon, *la frontera* separating both sister cities has become one of the world's most militarized borders. In the mid-1970s, the US deployed a "low-intensity conflict doctrine" (a military strategy used to control insurgent revolutionaries in Central America) along the southern border as part of the unsuccessful campaign in the War on Drugs. Various military instruments—helicopters, night-vision equipment, ground sensors—poured into the Southwest.

Then, in the 1990s, the Clinton administration took extraordinary steps to address widespread anti-immigrant fervor. In addition to signing the most punitive immigration reform bill into law, President Clinton endorsed the implementation of a border enforcement strategy called "Prevention Through Deterrence" (PTD) to stop undocumented migration. In short, PTD augmented security in urban locations, such as Ambos Nogales, in a deliberate and systematic attempt to funnel undocumented migrants into remote regions of the border, where crossing conditions are much tougher. PTD not

only accelerated the militarization of the US-Mexico border, but it also contributed to the deaths of more than 5,000 people in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona.

In 2000, my mother, lacking papers, could have become another death in the desert when we immigrated to Tucson, Arizona. Fortunately, she never had to make that perilous journey; she was smuggled through a drainage tunnel beneath the border. For years, she lived in the shadows of Tucson's cityscape, selling food and cleaning motel rooms for a living. Then, on October 13, 2009, while applying for a green card, my mom was torn apart from our family and barred from returning to the US for ten years. She was banished from the US as a result of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, the punitive reform that President Clinton supported along with PTD.

The Clinton administration is solely responsible for neither the militarization of the US-Mexico border nor the adoption of harsh immigration policies. President Clinton may have set the process in motion, but all three of his successors have participated, to varying degrees, in the construction of an ever-growing immigration enforcement machinery. One need not look beyond the US Border Patrol's annual budget to visualize this growth. In 1990, for example, their budget was \$262,647. By comparison in 2019, the US spent nearly \$4 billion on border enforcement.

At the same time, however, the US is not unique in fortifying its borders and struggling with pervasive anti-immigrant sentiments. Western liberal democracies in North America, Europe, and Australasia are wrestling with the forces of increased globalization. The rapid flux of political, economic, and technological exchanges at the end of the millennium has facilitated global integration and, in the process, escalated the movement of people. According to the International



The streets of Nogales, Sonora, buzz with traffic.



Top: Mexican migrants are removed from the United States  
Center: A man grills corn on a cob in Mexico  
Bottom: The US-Mexico border from Nogales, Arizona

Organization for Migration, the international migrant population increased from 84 million in 1970 to nearly 244 million in 2015, a great portion of which came from developing regions to more industrialized countries in the Global North. In response, Western liberal democracies, the United Kingdom, Greece, Italy, Australia, and others, have relied on border enforcement measures and strict immigration policies to manage and control mobility in a globalized era.

Among other border regions, global capitalism and social transformation deeply affected Ambos Nogales. In 1994, for instance, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) drastically reduced trade barriers between the US, Canada, and Mexico. By lowering agricultural tariffs and quotas, NAFTA damaged Mexican rural economies, as agricultural subsidies in the US made an uneven playing field with Mexican farmers, even with maize production. The displacement of hundreds of thousands of farmers unable to survive economically affected millions of families across Mexico.

NAFTA also facilitated the exportation of US labor to Mexico. American corporations built countless *maquiladoras* (factories) along the Mexican shores of the US-Mexico border, in cities like Nogales, Sonora, to pull cheap labor. In doing so, Nogales drew many Mexican rural displaced families in search of economic opportunities. Today, Nogales, Sonora, with nearly 250,000 inhabitants, is densely populated. In contrast, only 20,000 people reside in Nogales, Arizona. People on the Mexican side consistently experience water shortages, public health concerns, and depressing low economic wages compared to their American counterparts.

Looking back at my childhood, I never imagined that my life would revolve around Ambos Nogales. After the US banned my mom for ten years, she returned to live in Nogales, Sonora. Over the past decade, she has been living a block away from where she raised Jim and me in Mexico. My siblings (three of them now) and I have visited her as often as possible. I have closely witnessed the evolution of the US-Mexico border during these visits. Indeed, *la frontera* is no longer the border I knew as a child, and neither am I. I now see it differently. I now recognize the historical, economic, and racialized conditions that led to its construction and expansion.

*Bill De La Rosa is a DPhil Candidate in Criminology at the University of Oxford.*

Image credit: photobyphotoboy/bigstock.com



# Go East: 10,000 Miles from London to Mongolia Mike Norton ('14)

In 2016, as the 2014 class was nearing the end of our Marshall experience, together with a few members of the 2013 class, along with friends, friends of friends, mere acquaintances, and mere hangers-on, we embarked on a tiny, small, barely-registering-on-the-odometer, 10,000-mile journey from the island we called temporary home en route to Mongolia and to finish in Ulan Ude, Siberia, covering 17 countries in all across highways, country roads, and dirt paths. Split between Oxford and London, one contingent of the team went through the arduous process of acquiring, registering, insuring, and kitting up five cars, all legally under the name of one Michael Norton (which, we soon learned, while efficient, convinced most border guards that I was an organized crime boss, or at minimum the operation's fall guy). The other contingent charted our route and ushered everyone through the visa processes for various countries, particularly Turkmenistan which required at least 10 steps, lest a subversive evade President Berdimuhamedow's defenses. And together everyone fundraised over \$8,000 for the Against Malaria Foundation and Cool Earth.

After the initial hurdles of teaching most of the group how to (somewhat) drive a manual, British car, first on the left side of the road and quickly then after on the right side, we settled into a well-worn pattern of travel. We camped about half of our days, usually with the property owner's permission but not always (certainly aided by our one Russian speaker, Mark). We entered Turkey just over a week after the failed coup against Erdoğan. We played limitless rounds of liar's dice with Russian truckers ferrying across the Caspian Sea with us. We drank warm sparkling water purchased by our Andover/Yale-educated ringleader and classmate. We also nearly drank non-potable water when our only Russian speaker finished his part of the trip (right before Russia, mind you). And most of all, we had what felt like a flat tire per day.

I don't know if we found ourselves, but we found something, mainly that Nick Picon (Cranfield/Oxford '14) will never, ever finish that video of the GoPro footage.

*Mike Norton recently worked for the Biden campaign as the deputy voter protection director in Arizona, and is completing his JD at Stanford Law this spring.*



Mike Norton (Oxford '14), Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14), Nick Picon (Cranfield/Oxford '14), Brandon Liu (SOAS/LSE '14), Shea Houlihan (Sussex/Oxford '13), and Brandon's undergrad friend and sole Russian speaker on the team, Mark Krass, in Vienna's Volksgarten near the beginning of our journey.



Ringleader Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14) discusses logistics with other teammate Matt Slotkin in our boardroom while we cross Georgia.



Most of the crew pictured in Georgia. Pictured back row: Brandon Liu (SOAS/LSE '14), Nick Picon (Cranfield/Oxford '14), Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14), Magd Lhroob, Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14), David Kemper, Matt Slotkin, Sid Banerjee, James Campbell, Stephen Grugett, Maddy Sharp. Pictured front row: Mark Krass, Owen Phillips, Lauren Rose, Juan Fernandez, Michael Holkesvik, and Mike Norton (Oxford '14).



Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14) finds his prized camel skull in Turkmenistan, which stayed on the roof of the SUV, codenamed Yankee, for the duration of our journey.



Crossing the Caspian Sea by ferry. Billed as little more than a day, it ended up taking about 2.5 days which we passed by paying endless games of liar's dice while Mark chatted in Russian with truck drivers ferrying across with us.



Outside Gates of Hell, Turkmenistan. Pictured back row left to right: Brandon Liu (SOAS/LSE '14), Bryan Vadheim (LSE/Bristol '13), Michael Holkesvik, Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14), Matt Slotkin, James Campbell, Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14), Mark Krass, Maddy Sharp. Front row: David Kemper (standing), Owen Phillips, Nick Picon (Cranfield/Oxford '14), Bay Gross, Sid Banerjee, Mike Norton (Oxford '14), Stephen Grugett, Juan Fernandez.



A few of our tiny cars lined up outside Gates of Hell, Turkmenistan. The dominant Mongol Rally rule was that all cars needed to be under 1.2L, which all but the support SUV followed (which we found highly necessary in pulling cars out of mudholes and sandpits in Mongolia while also keeping on schedule).



Mike Norton (Oxford '14), Sid Banerjee, Ethan Butler (Imperial '13), Michael Holkesvik, Mark Krass, Brandon Liu (SOAS/LSE '14), and Stephen Grugett in front of Gūr-i Amr, the mausoleum of Timur, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.



The stars above our roadside campsite in Kazakhstan.



A common occurrence, this time a dire leak from an engine temperature sensor that was leaking oil somewhere between Almaty and Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan. Luckily, a local mechanic bored a new hole in the engine to replace the former temperature gauge with a new bolt.



Team mechanic Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14) found ways to cope with the stresses of his job, as seen here in Onguday, Altai Republic, Russia.



Along the Katun Rivervalley in Altai Republic, Russia. Pictured back row: Brandon Liu (SOAS/LSE '14), Sib Mahapatra, Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14), Stephen Grugett, Michael Holkesvik, Matt Slotkin, Juan Fernandez, Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14). Front row: Nick Picon (Cranfield/Oxford '14), Owen Phillips, Mike Norton (Oxford '14).



Occasional smoke breaks, this time in Mongolia while Mike Norton (Oxford '14) drove.

Background image credit: Olga Turkasbigstok.com



The team outside Ölgii, Mongolia, at sunrise before we trekked through the most scenic and untouched section of the nearly 10,000-mile journey.



East of Ölgii, Mongolia



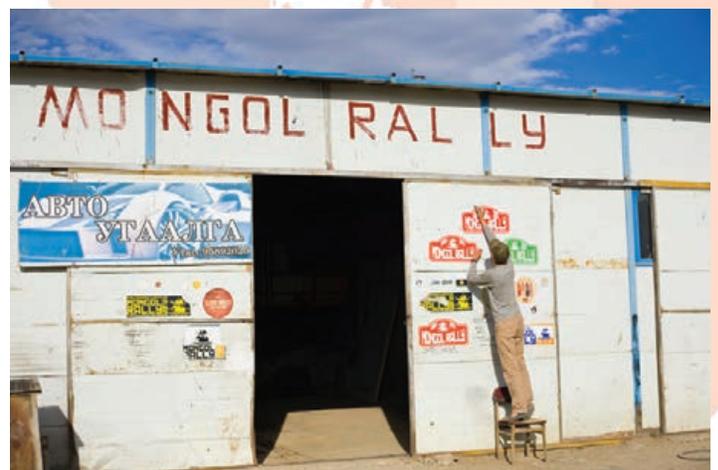
Favorite picture for team photographer and paperwork specialist Mike Norton (Oxford '14) in the morning drive on our first full day in Mongolia, east of Ölgii, Mongolia. Pictured left to right: James Campbell, Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14), Michael Holkesvik, Brandon Liu (SOAS/LSE '14), Juan Fernandez, Sib Mahapatra, Stephen Grugett, Mike Norton (Oxford '14), Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14), Matt Slotkin, Owen Phillips, Nick Picon (Cranfield/Oxford '14).



Running in for a grocery run in Khovd, Mongolia. In the turquoise car window is Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14).



The hills east of Ölgii during our first full day in Mongolia.



This shop in Altai, Mongolia, was so used to receiving broken down Mongol Rallygoers that they'd collected stickers of teams over the years. Mike Norton (Oxford '14) added a 2016 sticker while Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14) worked with the mechanics on rigging a shortened accessory belt to one of our cars (which ensured that car had no AC for the remainder of the trip but at least had power steering).



Running five cars down sandy roads often led to completely inhospitable dust. Mike Norton (Oxford '14) and Michael Holkesvik navigate through a cloud east of Khovd, Mongolia.



Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14) gets fitted up by some Mongolian sheepherders in our last day in Mongolia, while Nick Picon (Cranfield/Oxford '14), Brandon Liu (SOAS/LSE '14), and Stephen Grugett look on. These farmers were immensely welcoming and nice. While we originally stopped to fulfill a bet from Nick to Phil entailing a sheep ("an animal larger than a chicken") riding along in a car with Phil for 30 minutes—explained by illustration in the next picture by Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14)—they welcomed us with milk vodka, likely bewildered by what 12 folks in 5 cars were doing at their farm but graciously hosting us for an hour.



Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14) tries milk vodka during our last day in Mongolia.



The finish line in Ulan Ude, Russia. Pictured left to right: Michael Holkesvik, Brandon Liu (SOAS/LSE '14), Nick Picon (Cranfield/Oxford '14), Stephen Grugett, Mike Norton (Oxford '14), Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14), Sib Mahapatra, Phil Maffettone (Oxford '14), Matt Slotkin, Juan Fernandez, Owen Phillips. In the foreground is the Cone of Shame—awarded to our team for having the SUV (a shameful affront to the rules)—which Phil unceremoniously lit on fire to the chagrin of the Mongol Rally organizers and the ozone layer.



Teddy Collins (Cambridge/LSE '14) illustrating to our Mongolian sheepherder hosts what we were trying to accomplish.

# Hiking the Dolomites: Impossibly Difficult, Impossibly Beautiful

Diana Coogle ('66)

Diana on the trail, Day 11

“Hiking the Alta Via 2 ranks as one of the great achievements of my life,” I wrote in my journal on September 12, 2015, the day Mike and I finished the 13-day, 98-mile, hut-to-hut trail in Italy’s Dolomite Mountains. “Day after day; up mountains and down; six, seven, eight, nine hours a day; via ferrata across vertical rock walls, leaps over chasms, razor-edge hiking up one pinnacle after another – the dizzying heights – the marmots and chamois – the flowers purple and yellow – the rifugios – the impossible passes – each place demanding its own memory but each memory isolated from the whole. At which rifugio? On which day? Up which pass? Which canyon, which magnificent view, which ferrata, which impossible climb, which impossible descent? It was all impossible – impossibly steep, impossible to climb that slope, impossible to work that hard and love every minute, a walk that has made us impossibly strong, impossibly fit, impossibly ecstatic, and maybe, tonight, impossibly tired.”

Mike and I met in the spring of 2014, hiking. That fall Mike was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. After undergoing chemo and surgery, he was declared cancer-free by the summer of 2015, so we decided to hike the Alta Via 2, the most difficult trail in the Dolomites, the following summer. We would be hiking at an altitude of 6000 to 9800 feet, climbing an average of 2,271 feet a day for a total elevation gain of 29,530 feet. Some days, the guidebook told us, we would be ascending a 1400-foot pass, descending that amount, then

doing it again — sometimes three times in a day. No, we thought. That’s impossible. There’s something wrong. We made a mistake with calculations from meters to feet; the guidebook made a mistake. They wouldn’t ask us to do that. That’s impossible.

In the end, we did the impossible.



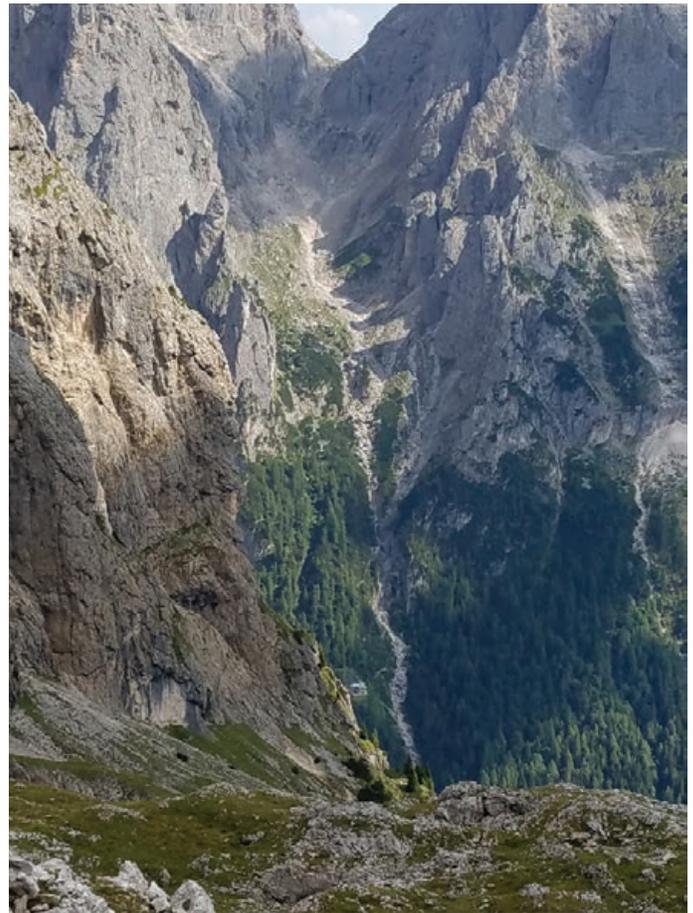
Mike and Diana at Rifugio Boz, Day 11



Top: Diana, Day 6. Center: An example of the rock work occasionally found on the trail. Note the rifugio behind it. Bottom: Mike, after a difficult, long via ferrata

The trail was thrilling, challenging, and often breathtakingly beautiful. Peaks were needle-sharp, trailsides plungingly steep, grasslands lusciously green. Sometimes we walked along World War I roads, once through a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We passed beautiful rock towers, too architectural to be called simply cairns.

The dangers were not insignificant, including getting lost because you missed a trail sign painted on a rock, getting so



The descent to Rifugio Treviso, visible in the bottom center of the photograph

tired you stumbled, or making a misstep that sent you over a sheer drop. Mike figured that 50% of the time a fall could result in serious injury or fatality. We occasionally passed memorial plaques to hikers who had died on the trail.

The guidebook ranked trail difficulty between 1 and 3 but called the day that ended with a two-and-a-half mile, four-hour-long, 4000-foot descent to Rifugio Treviso a 3+ day. It was impossibly long. The pounding on the feet was so intense I hiked part of the trail barefooted. The scrunch of Mike's boots sliding on scree behind me was rhythmically frequent. "Sometimes steepest, sometimes steeper, always steep," Mike said. At most points a fall would send the hiker over a cliff, but when Mike did actually tumble off the trail, he was on what was probably the only grassy bank on the whole long descent. Mike said that as he fell and rolled, he was so relieved not to be walking any more he would have been happy just to keep on rolling. But he gathered his wits, crawled back to the trail, and on down we went.

That descent was the hardest hiking I had ever done. At the rifugio that evening I was gratified to hear three other hikers say the same thing when they came in.

With my hallux rigidus, Morton's neuroma, and bone spur, I had to stop many times in those thirteen days to take off my boots and rest my feet. I wore Ace bandages on both ankles.



Diana on the descent to Rifugio Treviso, hiking barefooted

On the road to Passo Cereda, where I was again walking barefooted, Mike said that with my hiking poles, bandaged feet, and backpack, I looked like a soldier returning from the war.

One of the most fun things about hiking the AV 2 was the via ferrata, or “iron way” — passages outfitted with cables, iron ladders, or U-shaped iron steps driven into the rock as hiking aids for climbing up cliffs, traversing steep slopes on



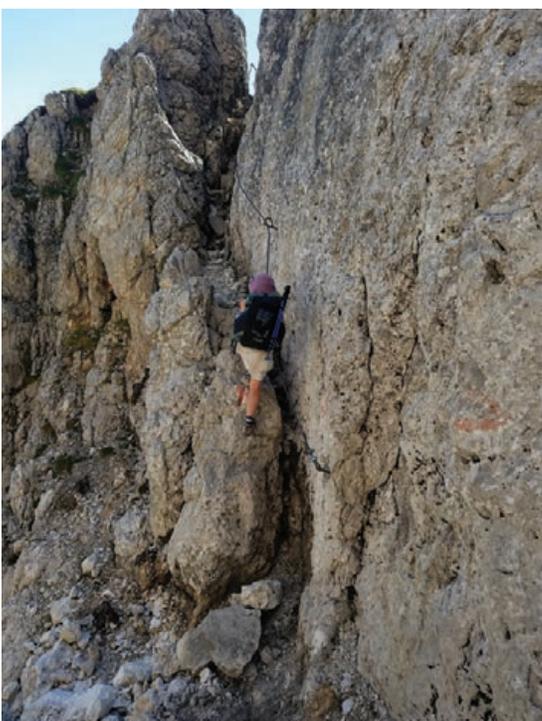
Mike coming up a section of via ferrata

crumbling terrain, or navigating otherwise impossible parts of the trail.

I asked one veteran hiker what happened if you met people coming towards you on a cable along a cliff? How would you pass?

“Kiss,” he said, which was pretty much true, as the one time when it happened to us, the oncoming hikers passed us, hand over hand on the cable, close enough to kiss.

I read in the guidebook that Dolomite hikers wear lurid colors and that we should take our gaudiest clothes. But I don’t like to wear bright colors when I’m hiking, and, after all, the guidebook was old, and what if the fashion had changed? So I took my usual beige hiking skirt and a couple of shirts in subdued colors. But the guidebook was right. People wore



Left: Diana on a via ferrata part of the trail  
Right: Hikers coming towards us on a via ferrata trail. Note the bright clothes.



Diana at a pass above Passo del Comedon (6988 feet). Note the subdued colors of the clothes and the bandaged and bare feet.



Top: Rifugio Boz, Day 11. Center: Rifugio Mulaz.  
Bottom: Rifugio Piscadú, with lake for water supply

bright pink pants, neon chartreuse jackets, gaudy yellows and reds, and there was good reason for it. Those hikers, if they fell, would be easy to find. I, in my grays and browns, would blend right into the landscape.

We carried backpacks with basic supplies: rain gear, a change of clothes, shoes for the rifugios, a Kindle, a travel sheet, stuff like that. My pack weighed 20 pounds, Mike's slightly more.

It was always a pleasure, at the end of a day, to walk into an inn with a bed and a dinner waiting. It was a pleasure to drink a beer on the deck in that unbelievable landscape, to take a hot shower (worth the expense!) and change into a long skirt. It was a pleasure to relax with a book or talk with other guests, to sit cozy inside while a storm raged at dinner time, and no matter how crude the accommodations, it was a pleasure to sleep in a bed every night.

Many rifugios were set in dramatic wildness and were eighty or more years old, with photographs of mountain climbers and hikers from days past. Accommodations were usually bunk beds with eiderdowns, often in dormitories. Mike and I were frequently the first hikers to arrive, so we got the best beds. We were also the first to leave the next morning.

Most toilets were the usual kind, but one rifugio had a squat toilet: a ceramic hole in the floor, with a flush. I thought it was awfully hard on elderly people whose knees had been working all day. But I, at 71, was the oldest person hiking the whole route, so maybe the oversight can be forgiven.

Water at the rifugios came either from snowmelt or from a small lake (no swimming!). Supplies were helicoptered in, so fresh food was rare, but meals were usually good, German-influenced at the northern end of the trail, more Italian as we walked south. Breakfast was invariably café au lait, served in large bowls, and bread with butter and jam. Mike and I bought a lunch from the first rifugio, but it was so bad we ate from our supply of energy bars from then on. There were no stores along the way; our supply allowed each of us half a bar each day.

Wildlife was scarce, but we saw a lot of cows and sheep. In various places their bells were a musical accompaniment to our walking. We saw one snake, a poisonous viper, though I don't count poisonous snakes as one of the dangers of the Dolomites.



Stone steps on the trail, Day 12. Mike is visible in the foreground. Diana is close to the top.

We occasionally saw a marmot, and we did finally see one of the Dolomites' famous chamois, a big goat, the size of a deer.

On the other hand, there were lots of people. The Tyrolean area of the Dolomites supports a thriving hiking culture, especially among the Germans. Trails run around every mountain bend, zigzagging up hills so steep you would think no one would be crazy enough to take them, yet hikers were everywhere — strong young people, families with children, robust senior citizens. The first few rifugios were crowded,



Day 12, at Rifugio G dal Piaz. Celebrating!

and hikers thronged the trails, but by the time Mike and I reached the end of the hike, either because it was later in the season or because Italians don't hike as much as Germans, we were hiking pretty much alone. Only one other person, Carina, a Scot, also finished the trail in thirteen days. She, Mike, and I were the only guests at the last two rifugios.

When the guidebook said that the last two days (not counting the brief walk out on the thirteenth day) were the hardest, I thought it was too bad the hardest part didn't come at the beginning, when we were fresh, instead of at the end, when we were spent. But the opposite was true. By the time we had been hiking for ten and eleven days, we were so fit and strong those two nine-hour days of difficult, scary, dangerous, attention-demanding stuff were just another challenge eagerly met. Day 12 ended, unbelievably, when we had descended what we thought was the final pass of the day, with a steep climb up the other side of the valley, our third such pass on this, our last day. But just past the top was Rifugio G dal Piaz, the last rifugio on the AV2.

Carina, Mike, and I walked into dal Piaz exhausted and exhilarated. When we said we wanted a room, the man at the bar said, "Do you want to see the room first or have a beer first?" No contest. We sat down with our beers. When he heard that we had completed AV2, he gave us each a second beer, on the house.

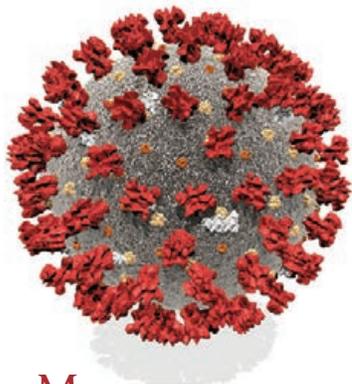
All evening, Mike and I kept looking at each other in amazement, saying, "We did it! We hiked the Alta Via 2."

That was September 12, 2015. On May 18, 2019, Mike and I got married. Almost a year later, on May 7, Mike died of a fast and aggressive return of his cancer. During the six years of our relationship, hiking was the activity we most enjoyed together — in many Wilderness Areas, on Applegate trails near home, in southern Oregon and northern California, on the Oregon coast, on Corsica's GR20. Of all our trips, we agreed as we reminisced during those three weeks of hospice, the Alta Via 2 in the Dolomites was the best.

*Diana Coogle performs verbal acrobatics from her home in Applegate, Oregon, and has just published a book of poetry, From Friend to Wife to Widow: Six Brief Years. Follow her at [dianacoogle.blogspot.com](http://dianacoogle.blogspot.com).*



Mike and Diana, Day 3, atop a series of via ferrata climbs



# Marshall Scholars working on COVID-19

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marshall Scholars have been helping at the forefront of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their work is advancing scientific discoveries, medical responses, and remedial measures across public policy, business, education, and other sectors. This report provides a snapshot of the range of Marshall Scholars' work being done, and highlights perhaps the most significant of these contributions: the work by Dan Barouch (1993) at the Barouch Lab at Harvard University, which has partnered with Johnson & Johnson to develop a COVID-19 vaccine for global distribution.

### SCIENCE & MEDICINE

#### Dan Barouch (1993)

Principal Investigator, Center for Virology and Vaccine Research, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School; William Bosworth Castle Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

- Dan is collaborating with Johnson and Johnson to develop a non-replicating adenovirus COVID-19 vaccine candidate which entered clinical trials (stages 1&2) in July 2020 and is one of the five major vaccine efforts supported by the US government.
- The Ad26.COVS vaccine started a phase 3 efficacy trial in September, enrolling 60,000 participants. This vaccine is one of several candidates that could be made available to the public, pending clinical trial outcomes and FDA approvals, by late 2020 or early 2021.



#### Edward M. Hundert (1978)

Dean for Medical Education, Harvard Medical School

- Under Ed's leadership, the students and faculty at HMS have developed a number of key resources related to COVID education, including a student-developed and faculty-reviewed COVID curriculum now used in over 100 countries and translated into over 30 languages.
- The MD program at HMS was the first in the nation to announce that it would open virtually for the 2020 entering class, giving the faculty multiple months to prepare an innovative virtual curriculum, including the teaching of clinical skills through telehealth visits with patients. The COVID curriculum is available at <https://curriculum.covidstudentresponse.org/>.



#### Aimee M. Crago (1995)

Surgical Oncologist, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

- As chair of the Society of Surgical Oncology's Sarcoma Disease Site Work Group, Aimee was asked by the Society to co-author a report to provide recommendations for managing care of cancer surgery cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The resulting article was published in the *Annals of Surgical Oncology*.



#### Ben Reis (1996)

Director, Predictive Medicine Group, Harvard Medical School and Children's Hospital Informatics Program; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School

- Ben is an expert in developing predictive public health monitoring systems, a specialty critical to controlling the spread of COVID-19.
- Ben has identified Internet search patterns that reveal and predict the spread of COVID-19 in 32 countries.



#### Ramy Arnaout (1997)

Assistant Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School; Director, Arnaout Laboratory for Immunomics, Harvard Medical School and Department of Pathology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

- As the pandemic hit the US, Ramy recognized the challenge that a nationwide shortage of swabs would pose to testing for COVID-19.
- In response, he coordinated an effort to 3D-print swabs on a massive scale. The result is a new industry consortium able to produce up to four million swabs a week.



#### Robert W Yeh (1997)

Director, Richard A and Susan F Smith Center for Outcomes Research in Cardiology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

- Robert co-authored a study on the variation in COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths across New York City.
- The study found that lower income and minority communities bore the burden of COVID-19.



### **Gabriel Brat (2001)**

Assistant Professor of Surgery and Bionformatics, Harvard Medical School

- Gabriel led an international consortium of 96 hospitals across five countries to address critical clinical and epidemiological questions about COVID-19.
- Using electronic health record data, the consortium was able to establish a framework to capture the trajectory of COVID-19 in patients and their response to interventions.



### **Esther Freeman (2002)**

Director, Global Health Dermatology, Massachusetts General Hospital; Assistant Professor of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School

- Esther has led an initiative to create an international registry that collects information on dermatologic manifestations of the COVID-19 virus from healthcare professionals and patients.
- She has found that “COVID toes” are often a symptom of mild cases of COVID-19.



### **Claire Clelland (2006)**

Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of California, San Francisco

- Claire consulted on the design for face shields and N95 masks mass produced by D6 Inc, the US's largest industrial 3-D printer.
- Claire advised D6 Inc on how N95 masks function and on the medical criteria that products would have to meet.



### **Rishi Mediratta (2009)**

Clinical Instructor for Pediatrics, Stanford University School of Medicine; Pediatric Hospitalist; Stanford Children's Health | Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford

- Responding to medical students' interest in learning about COVID-19, Rishi put together a course in 10 days—something that normally takes months—and offered it as an elective in the spring term at the School of Medicine.
- The course focused on transmission and clinical symptoms of COVID-19.



### **Bianca Mulaney (2016)**

MD Student, Stanford University School of Medicine

- Bianca co-led a study on the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies amongst the population of Santa Clara County in California in early April.
- The study estimated an infection rate between 2.5% and 4.2%.



## **ADVOCACY**

### **L Ann Thrupp (1981)**

Director, California Food Is Medicine Coalition

- Under Ann's leadership, CalFIMC has fed Californians struggling in time of COVID-19.
- CalFIMC received an \$100,000 from CVS to deliver thousands of meals to people sheltered in place and those in demographics particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.



### **Angela Duckworth (1994)**

Founder and CEO, Character Lab; Christopher H Browne Distinguished Professor of Psychology, University of Pennsylvania

- An expert on helping children thrive using scientific insights, Angela has lent the public insight into how to cope with living in the pandemic.
- Angela has advocated using persuasion, not coercion, to get people to wear masks during the pandemic.



### **Julia Rafal-Baer (2006)**

Chief Operating Officer, Chiefs for Change

- Julia has been a strong advocate for digital connectivity in students' home, a prerequisite for remote learning as COVID-19 shuts down schools.
- She has worked to help members of the organization's network navigate difficult questions of how to operate amidst so much uncertainty.



### **Becca Farnum (2012)**

Assistant Director for Outreach & Engagement, Syracuse University London

- Becca played a critical role in emergency repatriating nearly 300 students to 15 different countries when borders closed suddenly.
- Becca's teaching then transitioned to support students in virtual engagement, using the pandemic to tackle issues of equity, collective responsibility, and global justice through custom-made online classes and community outreach projects.



### Erika Lynn-Green (2018)

Marshall Scholar, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science

- Erika has advocated for the need to foster trust in a coronavirus vaccine.
- She identifies the lack of trust as a barrier to developing herd immunity.



### Theodore L Caputi (2019)

PhD Student, Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Theodore has led research that has called attention to the rise in gun sales in the US as Americans are stuck at home.
- Theodore and his team found a 158% increase in gun preparation searches on Google between March 8 and April 11 over what would be expected if not for COVID-19.



## EPIDEMIOLOGY

### Nancy Cox (1970)

Former Director, Influenza Division, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Having served in this leadership position for 22 years, she oversaw the division's response to the 2009 swine flu pandemic.
- Nancy has called attention to the need for early detection of infectious diseases like COVID-19.



### Jennifer L Kasten (2002)

Assistant Professor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

- A pathologist with training in infectious disease epidemiology, Jennifer has been a vocal advocate of the importance of lockdowns, testing, and wearing masks.
- Posts from her public Facebook page about COVID-19, including one refuting the "Plandemic" conspiracy, have garnered thousands of views.



### Annina Burns (2003)

Public Health Policy Expert, Office of the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Her areas of expertise include data modernization, Health IT, public health surveillance systems, laboratory testing, and the intersection between public health and healthcare in improving population health.
- In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Annina has worked on Congressional hearing preparation and technical assistance related to public health data modernization, health IT, and lab testing for a series of bills passed by Congress this year.



### Jeffrey W Eaton (2008)

Senior Lecturer in HIV Epidemiology, MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis, Imperial College London

- Jeff co-authored three of Imperial's influential COVID-19 reports.
- These reports have helped public health officials better understand the novel coronavirus.



### Jeremy Ratcliff (2019)

DPhil Student, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford

- An expert in cellular recognition of virus infection, Jeremy rapidly co-authored several reports with the onset of the pandemic on SARS-CoV-2 RNA, which causes COVID-19.
- He also provides back-end support to the Johns Hopkins University's COVID-19 dashboard, one of the most high-profile public resources to track the pandemic.



## HUMANITIES

### Frank Snowden (1968)

Andrew Downey Orrick Professor Emeritus of History & History of Medicine, Yale University

- His most recent book, *Epidemics and Society: From the Black Death to the Present*, published in October 2019, has received a great deal of high-profile media attention with the onset of COVID-19.
- Frank draws upon historical lessons from past epidemics to warn that we should beware the terrible societal costs of fearing the other amidst COVID-19.



### Danielle Allen (1993)

James Bryant Conant University Professor, Harvard University; Director, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University

- As Director of the Edmond J Safra Center for Ethics, Danielle has overseen the publication of over two dozen papers and policy guides as part of the Center's Rapid Response Impact Initiatives focused on COVID-19.
- The report *Roadmap to Pandemic Resilience*, published in April, was the first of its kind in the US to lay out a comprehensive plan to reopen the US economy in the face of COVID-19.



### Jennifer Tucker (1988)

Associate Professor of History, Wesleyan University

- Jennifer is a visual historian who has imagined what a public history of COVID-19 could look like.
- She observes that imagery of quantitative information like graphs and orders to shelter in place will in part define this era and could be featured in a future museum exhibition.



## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### William J Burns (1978)

President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

- Bill warns that the US faces a geopolitically more competitive world following the pandemic.
- He has urged policy makers to reject nationalism and embrace working with allies to navigate the international landscape.



### Audrey Kurth Cronin (1981)

Professor of International Security, School of International Service at American University; Director, Center for Security, Innovation and New Technology, School of International Service at American University

- Audrey emphasizes the need for strategic planning for the US to address effectively the threat that COVID-19 poses to Americans.
- She says that the key to the strategy for both short-term and long-term success is to rely on the US's democratic institutions.



### Sophie Rutenbar (2007)

Mission Planning Officer, United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti

- Sophie has helped coordinate the UN's internal efforts to respond to COVID-19 in Haiti.
- She has identified ways to reduce the UN's risk profile in the country, sought ways to ensure that UN front-line responders receive effective medical care, and provided advice to agencies and their staff on dealing with the changed professional environment.



## TECH, FINANCE, AND ECONOMICS

### Peter Orszag (1991)

CEO of Financial Advisory, Lazard Freres & Co LLC

- Through his role as a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, Peter has helped people understand how the pandemic is affecting business.
- He has brought attention to the complex underlying factors that affect governmental economic interventions to counteract the financial crisis caused by COVID-19.



### Seema Jayachandran (1993)

Professor of Economics, Northwestern University

- Seema has advocated for the widespread economic benefits of raising pay for low-wage workers.
- She argues that, if essential workers doing their jobs through lockdowns are paid more, consumers would be able to enjoy high quality service resulting from increased productivity.



### Bryan Leach (2000)

Founder and CEO, Ibotta, Inc

- Under Bryan's leadership, Ibotta is now one of the fastest growing private companies in the US.
- Bryan has led the company's efforts to help shoppers support businesses during the pandemic, especially when it comes to buying groceries.



### Rajaie Batniji (2006)

Co-Founder and Chief Public Health Officer, Collective Health

- Under Rajaie's leadership, Collective Health launched Collective Go, an app that helps employers screen, test, and monitor COVID-19 in order to facilitate a safe working environment.
- The app has helped thousands continue working in the pandemic, including UrbanSitter's 150,000 workers.



## SCIENCE ADVISING AND MEDIA

### Elisabeth Rosenthal (1978)

Editor-in-Chief, Kaiser Health News

- As contributing Opinion writer for the New York Times, Elisabeth has addressed fears and the human costs of COVID-19 from January 2020 onwards.
- When Elisabeth's mother died of COVID-19 but was not counted as a victim of COVID-19, she brought attention to the need to have a more accurate nationwide system of tallying COVID-19 cases.



### David Roberts (1999)

Co-Founder, 110th Street Films

- Formerly the US Ambassador's science adviser in Tokyo during the post-Fukushima recovery, David contextualized the risk of dying from COVID-19 in New York City compared to other types of risks.
- He explains that the chances of dying from COVID-19 in New York City are comparable to the chances of dying while hiking Mount Everest.



### Ambika Bumb (2005)

Health, Science, Technology Advisor, Crisis Management and Strategy, US Department of State

- Ambika's job now focuses on the State Department's response to COVID-19.
- Her team was responsible for the high-profile evacuations of US citizens that took place around the world.



## HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

### Ushma Neill (1999)

Vice President of Scientific Education & Training, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

- In response to President Trump's announced visa freeze for foreign workers in June, Ushma argued that the move would harm the US's response to COVID-19.
- Ushma notes that non-American scientists, in addition to doctors and nurses, are critical not only to the scientific response to COVID-19 but also to STEM research in the US in general.



### Meena Seshamani (1999)

Vice President of Clinical Care Transformation, MedStar Health

- Meena led MedStar Health's efforts around the care that they have provided for their communities during the pandemic.
- One of the organization's major innovations has been its increased use of telehealth to bolster the provision of services.



## MATHEMATICS

### Chris Bauch (1994)

Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Waterloo

- Chris led a team of researchers to create a mathematical model that helps explain how class sizes and student-to-teacher ratios affect rates of infection.
- The model provides an effective tool for Canadian officials to use in deciding how to reopen schools.



### Yun William Yu (2009)

Assistant Professor of Mathematics, University of Toronto

- Yun has helped the Canadian government develop a contact-tracing app.
- While recognizing the importance of such initiatives, Yun also calls attention to the need to balance privacy concerns.



## POLITICS

### Derek Kilmer (1996)

US Representative for Washington's 6th Congressional District

- Derek has supported legislation to provide various COVID-19 relief funds.
- He has committed to making deals with Republican colleagues in order to avoid a situation in which Congress provides no relief.



### Kenzie Bok (2011)

Boston City Councilor, District 8

- Kenzie has focused much of her recent efforts while in office on helping residents in need.
- She has helped initiate food delivery programs and has urged Boston University and Northeastern University to hold classes online in the fall to prevent further spread of COVID-19.



ENGINEERING  
BACTERIA AND PLANTS  
TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS

Katherine E French ('12)

In July 2020, the Japanese ship MV Wakashio spilled roughly 1,000 tons of oil in Mauritius after hitting a coral reef. The result was ecological disaster, the extent of which caused outrage and social unrest. Sadly, this story is not uncommon. Major oil spills affect sensitive ecological communities every year. Just two months before the Wakashio spill, a Russian fuel storage tank failed and released over 17,500 tons of oil into the Norilsk river. In February 2019, the Solomon Trader ran into East Rennell, the largest raised coral reef atoll in the world, releasing over 70 tons of crude oil into a UNESCO world heritage site. All of these spills negatively affect ecosystem functioning, by disrupting food chains, destroying habitats, and disrupting metabolic and physiological processes such as reproduction, growth, and digestion, all of which add up to a loss in biodiversity. These spills also pose a risk to human health: airborne petroleum hydrocarbons irritate respiratory systems, and consumption of contaminated food or water leads to cancer and developmental defects in children.

Oil spills are notoriously difficult to clean up. Marine-based spills are usually cleaned up using skimming, burning, or the application of surfactants. These processes are unable to capture all of the oil, which can drift down the water column and settle on the sea floor (and coral reefs) over time. Land-based spills are even harder to clean up because petroleum hydrocarbons become attached to soil particles. Common approaches include soil capping, soil excavation and removal,

and chemical oxidation. The first two approaches simply cover or remove the problem without solving it; the latter is effective, but destroys soil microbial communities and can contaminate ground water.

Our research uses synthetic biology to develop bacteria and plants that can degrade petroleum hydrocarbons in the environment more quickly than natural attenuation and more benignly than chemical oxidants. We recently developed a new technique of flooding indigenous soil and marine microbial communities with beneficial enzymes highly effective at degrading petroleum hydrocarbons (such as the monooxygenase p450cam) (Figure 1). This approach relies on natural processes of horizontal gene transfer among bacteria to spread our genes of interest. The result is creation of a natural ecosystem with an augmented capacity to degrade crude oil. In soil ecosystems, 46% of petroleum hydrocarbons are degraded in 60 days; in marine ecosystems, 56% of hydrocarbons are degraded in 45 days. We are also working on a more ambitious project: to engineer plant roots to degrade petroleum. This approach relies on a mix of synthetic biology, computational biology, and enzyme engineering. While still under development, synthetic biology-based approaches to remediation could provide novel solutions to cleaning up the environment in the near future.

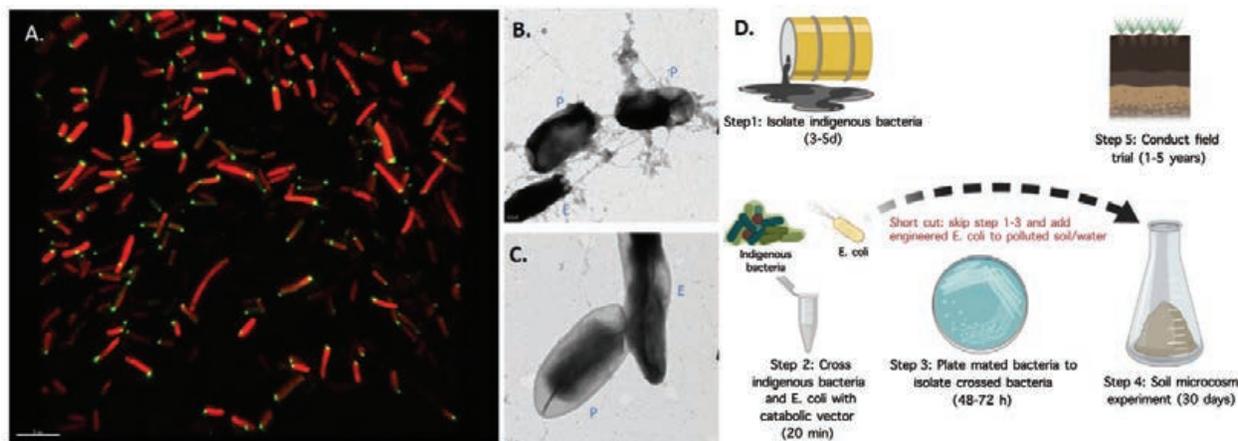


Figure 1: *E. coli* expressing p450cam tagged with the red fluorescent protein mcherry (A). Horizontal gene transfer of the vector carrying p450cam from *E. coli* (E) to *P. putida* (P) using nanotubes (B) and mating pair bridges (C). Overview of workflow for flooding indigenous microbial communities with genes involved in petroleum degradation. Images modified from French et al. 2020 *Sci. Rep.* 10:15091.

## Calligraphy

*And the crack in the teacup opens  
A lane to the land of the dead.*

— W.H. Auden

They had served me in a perfect teacup,  
The saucer shining, silverware sparkling,  
And I behaved as I should—I knew the rules.

Since I felt the crack before I saw it,  
I averted my eyes, my smile precise.

When I could I looked, and it surprised me—  
A line a calligrapher might have turned  
The quill in her hand a bird in flight.

And I wondered as I left the mansion  
Should I tell them? (Of course, they would manage.)  
Would they understand their priceless service,  
Now imperfect, was a cup of beauty?

## Conversion

*Remembering W. H. Auden's "The Shield of Achilles"*

Daydreams as a little boy I recall  
In bits and pieces, tricorns and sabers,  
Jolly-Rogers's, coon-skin caps, and ribbons  
For my sweetheart when I came a-courting.

Whether a sailor or a frontiersman  
I was always the one people looked up to  
Since a man can't bear people should look down on him.  
This I understood from a very young age—

I saw the men who could not lift their heads,  
I saw the men who would not lower theirs,  
I saw the men who had to favor a limb,  
I saw men die as men before their bodies died.

You see, I was born just after the war  
To one of them who came back maimed inside  
Who could do nothing but drink and rewind  
And could not hope for help and no help came.

When I was old enough to read the poet  
And understand the wrath of Achilles,  
I was too young to be lashed to the mast:  
My appetite for sex swelled and drugged my will  
As it hardened my flesh against my mind—  
I would have capsized as the gods laughed at me.  
My tears, I could see, would water no change,  
No more my words, though wrung from my heart.

So the poets taught me, the makers of song,  
The strong iron-hearted man-slaying Achilles  
Would not live long, but they did not teach me  
How to think with ribbons no man should wear.

# Poems

By R Allen Shoaf ('70)

alshoaf.com



## The Bells of St. Peter Mancroft

I would visit the town center Sunday evenings  
And dream of the worlds in the church's bells  
As they rang so high they must have been heard  
By the angels who blessed them centuries ago  
As well as those now on their way to evensong.

Sitting on the square where tomorrow's market  
Would host hundreds of shoppers bags in arms,  
I listened once more to the sabbath silence  
As loud as the earthquake that rent the veil  
When the temple fell on the wooden cross.

But then St. Peter Mancroft begins to peal  
And, though I no longer believe in myths,  
I listen to joy I feel to this day,  
The joy of men aspiring to beauty  
They can never possess but only serve.

"Change-ringing" it's called: tuned bells in sequence  
Ring out from their changes thousands in number  
Sounds of order that measure the universe  
In music at once forgotten and familiar  
As from a time before time marks today.

I was so young and full of emptiness  
Longing for I know not what and afraid  
Of what I might do if I found it—  
The terror of freedom: you have to choose.  
But who would be a slave? Wrong choice be damned.

So are the bells the angels of freedom:  
εὐαγγέλιον! Hear the good news they ring!  
Men and women live in bodies that have to die,  
But their bodies build beauty still and again  
From the same starfire they evolve from themselves.

Listen to the bells as I in youth once did.  
Have mercy on all who live in fear and darkness,  
Which is everyone listening to the bells  
Who hopes his heart is free of fear and darkness  
When his changes ring for the final time.

## 1956

*These profiles were submitted earlier in the year but overlooked in the Summer newsletter. Please accept our apologies.*

**Robert Faulkner** writes that he is retired from his professorship in Political Science at Boston College as of 2014, but is still active on panels as “research professor” and at college as leader of various graduate student reading groups. This year’s (Academic Year 2019–20) text is Francis Bacon’s *New Organon*. (Robert has written on Bacon’s project of progress). His writing now has turned to Plato, especially focusing on a couple of dialogues on beauty and nobility. And he reports that his “health is not bad, for a geezer, and the fooling around with Plato, especially, seems to keep me in humor.”

Once again **Stephen Schneider** has written an eloquent account of his current life. Apologies, Stephen, for reducing your eloquence to my more barebones style. Congratulations to Stephen, on his recent (2018) marriage to a lady “originally from rural Jiangxi”. They live in Bordeaux, which Stephen describes as a generous city and one in which he continues his writing although “its distance from English publishers and from the chattering classes generally, imposes on an old English-speaking writer more than a few problems in staying connected. A book-length work completed last spring is roam-



Bruce Babbitt



Marty Budd

ing about begging for a publisher.” However, I am delighted to report to you that we can find some of Steve’s works at the following link: <https://raritanquarterly.rutgers.edu/issue-index/author-index/klonimos-samuel>

**Shirley Johnson-Lans** writes: Like Robert, I am retired from my Vassar professorship in Economics but have until this year continued to teach the occasional seminar, most frequently my “Political Economy of Health Care.” Health economists are much in demand now, given the controversies over expanding (or ending) Obamacare and “Medicare for All,” so I occasionally write a piece on this subject or appear on a panel on health care reform. I am still editor of the Palgrave/Macmillan book series, “Global Perspectives on Wealth and Distribution” and am now planning a volume on the effects of the pandemic on Inequality in Income, Education, and Health Care.

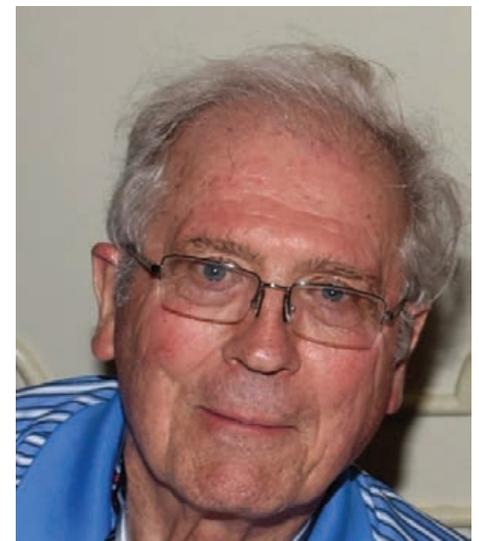
I spent mid-March to mid-June of this year sheltering at home in my New York City apartment, meeting friends and family outdoors in Central Park, but now have returned to driving back and forth between the City and my Hudson Valley home. In Mid-March, I began contributing to the Anglo-American and European Health Policy Network blogs, covering New York State and New York City’s response to the pandemic. Reports on the pandemic from about 50

regions around the globe are available at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/tag/country-responses-to-the-covid19-pandemic/>.

## 1960

On June 8, the Marshall Class of 1960 had a virtual Sixtieth Reunion via Zoom. Ten attended: Bruce Babbitt, Marty Budd, David Campbell, Jon Fuller, Patrick Henry, Gary Hufbauer, Judith Plotz, Harrell Smith, Guy Stevens, and Jim Trefl. Nell Breyer, AMS executive director, was a welcome guest. It was an opportunity to “catch up” after six decades and to reminisce about time in the UK. The class recommends such an event to all other classes!

**Bruce Babbitt** reports that the Marshall Scholarship upended his life. In his second year of geophysical research at Newcastle he was offered an opportunity for field work in South America, taking geologic transects along the front ranges of the Andes. Suddenly a new world opened up as he encountered vast panoramas of political unrest, poverty, and social chaos. He began to wonder about his aptitude for research science. He came home and enrolled in law school as a default option while continuing to search out a life path, a path that included attorney general and then governor of Arizona, and secretary of the interior in the Clinton administration.



Patrick Henry



Jim Trefil

**Marty Budd** in his senior year at Dartmouth studied the works of Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. The study impressed upon Marty, a Jew, the great similarities between Christianity and Judaism. Some 25 years later the Dean of Hartford Seminary was his apartment house neighbor. On the elevator, Marty and the dean often chatted about Niebuhr. He joined the seminary’s social justice discussion group. A year or so later the president of the seminary asked Marty if he would join the board. Hartford Seminary has the oldest center for Christian-Muslim relations in the United States. The president was going to ask two Muslims to join the board, and she thought it would be appropriate to have two Jews as well. Marty was eventually asked to chair and did so for six years. He has been on the board for thirty years and currently serves as chair of the investment committee.

**Patrick Henry** has a new book, *Flashes of Grace: 33 Encounters with God*, that will be published in February. It is available for preorder from the publisher (eerdmans.com) as well as at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and elsewhere. The book is touted as “wise and grounded, earnest and light, faithful and quirky.”

**Jim Trefil**, a Robinson Professor at George Mason University, has published sixty books, many for educating a lay public about science. Among his more

recent ones are *Cosmic Questions* (with Neil deGrasse Tyson); *Imagined Life* (with Michael Summers); *Exoplanets* (with Michael Summers); *Space Atlas* (Second Edition); *Story of Innovation*; *The Sciences: An Integrated Approach* (with Robert Hazen, eighth edition); *Science in World History*; *Einstein’s Relativity*.

## 1971

**John Bruer** says, “During my senior year in high school (1967), each of us had to write a paper on a major political or philosophical movement. Being one of the better students, I was assigned Logical Positivism. I did not know what it was. Neither did the instructor. Living in a small town in northwestern Wisconsin pre-Internet, it was not easy finding material on a group of philosophers who met regularly in 1920s Vienna. I went to the library at the local state university and found a single book entitled *Logical Positivism* that contained many of the fundamental papers of the Vienna Circle. Until today I was unaware of who edited the volume. It was Sir A.J. Ayer. Four and a half years later, I was his graduate student at Oxford. Didn’t see that coming! But then didn’t see the Marshall coming either.”

## 1976

**Mary Edgerton** is President of the Association of Pathology Informatics. Recognized for her contributions to pathology reporting, Mary was selected to chair the Pathology Electronic Reporting Committee for the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the Informatics Cluster, along with membership on the Council on Scientific Affairs. With nearly 18,000 members, CAP advocates best practices in the laboratory. She has also been selected for an advisory committee to the CDC on laboratory medicine. On another front, Mary contributes stories at



Mary Edgerton

the Houston Moth (live storytelling), the largest Moth gathering in the country. Last year she was a story slam winner. She is a rotating host on “So What’s Your Story?” once a month on KPFT.org, and has enjoyed having several Marshall Scholars as guest storytellers.

**Jeff Modisett** has spent the last 4.5 years as founder and CEO of the Nextlaw Referral Network (NRN), a pioneering and innovative referral network for high-quality law firms around the world. Jeff worked with Dentons, a leading global



Jeff Modisett, Nextlaw Global Referral Network banner, Sydney 2017



Eleanor Dickey

law firm, to design and implement the network. Admission to NRN is based on quality, not payment, and does not offer geographical monopolies. NRN grew to become the largest legal referral network in the world, with more than 720 law firms in 195 different countries, including minority- and women-owned firms and a global pro bono clearinghouse. It has won numerous industry awards, including Referral Network of the Year. Jeff retired from NRN effective April 1, 2020, and will remain Senior Counsel at Dentons as a member of the State Attorney Generals Practice.

## 1989

**Stacey Christian** has been in North Carolina for more than 20 years. Currently she lives in Raleigh and works at SAS Institute, directing R&D for the Financial Risk Division. Her son is a Data Scientist at Fidelity Investments in Durham, and her daughter is an Air Force pilot stationed at Ramstein AFB, Germany.

**Eleanor Dickey** is professor at the University of Reading in England; she is married to Philomen Probert and lives in Oxford. In her spare time, she runs an annual re-enactment of an ancient school. She writes, “It is an insane amount of work,

but also loads of fun. I attach a picture of me in ancient schoolroom costume last week. I’m not supposed to sit down, though in this picture I am improperly usurping the head-teacher’s chair.”

**James Wiley** is in education technology, focusing on the world of higher education. He has one son, who attends the University of East Anglia.

**Todd Pierce** has been in Asheville, North Carolina, for 21 years now, working as a GIS specialist for Locus Technologies. He also teaches a graduate course at UNC Asheville on visualization for climate change data. He and his wife, Ginger, have two sons. Robert graduated in 2019 from UNC Chapel Hill and is working as a software developer, while Stephen studies communications at Western Carolina and aims to be a screenwriter. In 2019 he took a long anticipated trip to Iceland with his family.

**Thuy Phung** says, “It is great to reconnect with my fellow Marshall Scholars! I was able to return to England last year for a pathology conference and had the good fortune to visit Oxford and beloved Linacre College, where I did my post-graduate studies. Oxford has changed a



Elizabeth Harmer-Dionne



Thuy Phung

lot over the years, but still retains its magic and beauty. I have recently relocated from Texas to Alabama to serve as Medical Director of Pathology at the University of South Alabama. If any of you are in the Gulf Coast area, please feel free to contact me. I’d love to see our fellow Marshalls. My contact is [thuyphung27@yahoo.com](mailto:thuyphung27@yahoo.com).”

## 1992

**Elizabeth Harmer-Dionne** says, “In addition to my public-interest legal work (Massachusetts Advocates for Children) and my involvement in Belmont Town government (Town Meeting, Warrant Committee, Community Preservation Committee), I am embarking on my fourth year as Co-Chair of the Annual Fund for the Association of Marshall Scholars. Nell Breyer has done remarkable work as Executive Director of the AMS, and I am excited to see the organization’s growing impact on trans-Atlantic relations.”

## 1993

**Dan Barouch** expanded his ongoing research on virology and vaccines this year to include a major effort to de-



Dan Barouch

velop a COVID-19 vaccine. He started this work on January 10, 2020, which is the same day that the SARS-CoV-2 sequence became available, and he partnered with the pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson for research and development. His vaccine technology uses a de-activated common cold virus called Ad26 as a vector to transport the gene for the COVID-19 spike protein into human cells. He demonstrated that this vaccine, termed Ad26.COVS.2, was highly immunogenic in small and large animal models and protected against COVID-19 challenge with just a single immunization. Phase 1/2a clinical trials started on July 22, and a large phase 3 efficacy trial started on Sept 21 in 60,000 individuals worldwide. At the time, it was the only single-shot COVID-19 vaccine candidate that was being tested. His work has been widely covered this year by various media sources.

**Susan Domchek** writes, “I have been at the University of Pennsylvania since 2001 as an oncologist with a specialty in breast cancer genetics and run the Bassler Center for BRCA. I have enjoyed academic medicine although the last 9 months have been quite challenging. My sons are 22 and 17 which is beyond strange – not quite sure how I got so old.”

**Eileen Botting** has two books coming out this winter: *Artificial Life After Frankenstein* (Penn Press, 2020) and a two-volume set *Portraits of Wollstonecraft* (Bloomsbury Philosophy, 2021). She is beginning a new book titled *Mary Shelley and the Spectre of Pandemic: How Her Plague Journals Generated the Uncanny Predictions of Post-Apocalyptic Fiction*.

### 2003

**Michael Hoffman** was kept busy during the pandemic isolation period by adding six new student researchers remotely to his computational genomics research group at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto. He is in the Departments of Medical Biophysics and Computer Science at the University of Toronto, where he was recently promoted to Associate Professor. Earlier this year, he and his wife, Meg Olson, passed their Canadian citizenship exams with flying colors (20/20) and are awaiting the resumption of citizenship processing. It doesn't seem like things are going to get any less busy, as Michael and Meg are expecting their first child at the end of August!

### 2007

**Neir Eshel** moved to Harvard Medical School to complete a combined MD-PhD after two fabulous years in London. While there, Neir met his husband Rowan, a Medieval historian, and doubled down on his obsession with all things ‘brain’ and decided to become a psychiatrist and a neuroscientist. In 2016, the couple moved to the West Coast to take up positions at Stanford. Neir now spends one day a week treating patients at a new LGBTQ+ mental health clinic, and the rest of the time running a lab focused on the neural circuits of social behavior. He loves catching up with other Marshalls and reading the newsletter every quarter. He encourages AMS to keep up the good work!



Neir Eshel (left) and his husband, Rowan (right), enjoying California's Route 1 when it is not smoky

**Lisa Martin** and her husband, Nik, are enjoying life out in the country south of Kansas City. Their sons are now 6 and 4 years old. The family has two Scottish Highland steers, Moose and Gordie, who provide Lisa and Nik with daily reminders of their time in the United Kingdom.

**Christopher Campbell** relocated from Edwards Air Force Base, CA, to Washington, DC, last summer to work for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff following an exciting assignment flight-testing the F-35. He then accepted a temporary liaison role at NASA Headquarters. Although COVID-19 stay-at-home orders cut this appointment short, he hopes to return to a role with



Gordie, one of Lisa Martin's Scottish Highland steers

# CLASS NOTES



Left photo: Anna Quider with her husband, Brian, and daughter, Elaine, at the ceremony where she received her high school's Distinguished Alumni Award. Right photo: Anna Quider (left) and Tamara Broderick (right) at MIT.



NASA in the future. He notes that applications opened for a new astronaut class earlier this year and has crossed his fingers in hopes that he and other Marshall Scholars who applied will be able to connect during the interview stages. In the meantime, the Secretary of Defense has sent Christopher to the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies to pursue a degree in strategic studies. This program will allow him to branch out from science and engineering to history, strategy, and policy. Christopher was also selected for early promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and "pinned-on" the new rank this October (he was too humble to note that he is one of the youngest to achieve this accomplishment in Air Force history). Next up will be squadron command, most likely

of a flight test. Christopher's family is also doing well while they wait for orders. His wife Melissa is enjoying her work near Capitol Hill, and their five-year-old daughter Charlotte is having a blast in kindergarten. The family wishes everyone health, safety, and happiness.

**Yoonhee Ha** lives in Philadelphia. She has been volunteering at *VotER* with Madeline Grade (Class of 2012), an emergency medicine resident at UCSF. *VotER* (<http://vot-er.org>) aims to bring voter registration to the health care system.

**Kate Weber** moved to the Bay Area in 2019 with her husband, Justin, and son, Isaac. She now works on AI research and innovation policy. The couple welcomed their second son, Lukas, in September 2019.



Kate Weber, with her husband, Justin, and sons, Isaac and Lukas

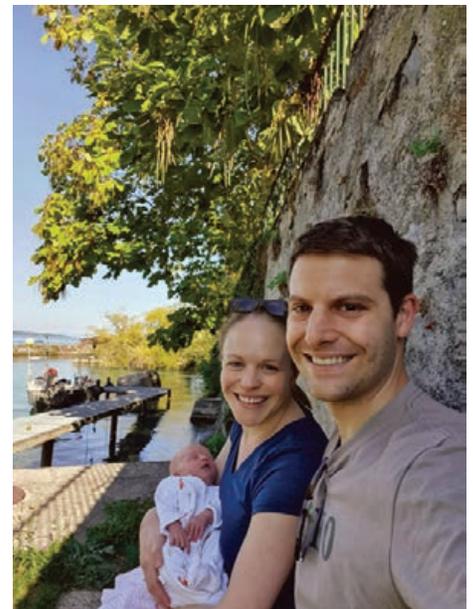
**John Kennedy** was recently based in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where he was deployed to the US Fifth Fleet. He was serving as a Deputy Commander for a Navy task group conducting Explosive Ordnance Disposal, diving, mine counter measures, and exploitation operations all around the Middle East. He wrote, "It has been a tremendously rewarding experience leading 150+ sailors who are making strategic-level impacts every single day." How-

ever, John was also excited to get home to his wife, Missy, their son, Oliver, and their new daughter, Cora, whom he met for only two weeks before deploying. The family recently learned they will be staying in Norfolk, Virginia, for an additional two years and would love to welcome visitors.

**Michael Li** recently sold his start-up and moved to Seattle after his wife got a job at Amazon. He is now running local Association of Marshall Scholars events in the Pacific Northwest.

**Anna Quider** is Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations at Northern Illinois University. In March 2019, she became the youngest female graduate of Grand Island High School to receive its Distinguished Alumni Award. Anna met up with Tamara Broderick, who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in November 2019.

**Sophie Rutenbar** moved to Port-au-Prince in November 2019 to work for the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, also known as BINUH, its French



Zak Kaufman and his wife, Elise, with their daughter, Claire Skye Kaufman



Left photo: Shanti Ali Zaid graduated with a dual PhD from Michigan State University. Right photo: Shanti Ali Zaid's daughter, Kiluna (second from left), graduated from kindergarten.

acronym. After more than six years living in New York City, she is enjoying the change and chance to explore a beautiful new country.

**Matt Stone** and his wife, Nehal, welcomed their second son, Eliyas, in October 2019. Their first son, Sufyan, is now three years old. Matt was elected Partner at McKinsey & Company in London at the end of 2019.

**Shanti Ali Zaid** graduated with a dual PhD in Anthropology and African American & African Studies from Michigan State University (MSU) in 2019. His daughter, Kiluna, graduated from kindergarten at the same time. Shanti continues to teach at MSU.



Daphne Ezer

## 2010

**Anna Jo Smith** relocated to Philadelphia for a fellowship in gynecologic oncology. She is enjoying running along the Schuylkill with her husband, operating a ton, and exploring the Philly take-out scene. She writes, "Let us know if you are ever passing through!"

**Zak Kaufman** and his wife, Elise, are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, Claire Skye Kaufman! This little blond ball of light was born late Friday night in Geneva, Switzerland. Elise and Claire are both doing great! Claire is eating like a champ and teaching her parents a lot every day. She gets her middle name from the beautiful Isle of Skye in Scotland, which Zak and Elise first visited during his Marshall years. The social enterprise Zak co-founded, Vera Solutions, had its 10th birthday in September, having grown to a team of 80 across five countries and have helped over 320 non-profits improve their data systems. In July, Elise hit her six-year anniversary working for The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria, where she serves as a Strategy and Policy Specialist.

**Bill Dougherty** was recently selected by the American Academy in Rome as a recipient of the Rome Prize to support independent work and research in the arts and humanities. Bill is among 22 Rome Prize winners and won the award for music composition. His fall 2020 start date in Rome was sadly postponed due

to COVID, though he looks forward to moving back to Europe in the new year.

## 2012

**Daphne Ezer** recently joined the faculty at the University of York, where she is leading a research group in quantitative plant biology. Dr Ezer's group investigates how plants respond to environmental conditions caused by climate change and how to transfer genetics knowledge from model organisms

to crop species. Daphne and her husband had a baby girl named Dalia in February 2020. She is happy, healthy and likes to chew on everything, but given COVID conditions, has met virtually no one other than her parents at this point. They are grateful to have settled down in York, a beautiful historic city in the north of England, even though they have yet to experience it fully, due to lockdown. Daphne would like to share her awe of the bravery that Marshalls have shown in promoting health, well-being, justice, and equality during this time: "while I've just been trying to get something accomplished each day!"

**Garrett Turner** married Bonita Jackson on April 25, 2020, in Florence, Alabama.



Garret Turner

## 2017

**Erin Simpson** followed her time as a Marshall Scholar at the Oxford Internet Institute by hiking 2,653 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail from Canada to Mexico. Erin and her partner, Amy Belloch, completed a southbound thru-hike in the summer and fall of 2019, traversing the mountains, forests, and deserts of the Pacific Crest. Their next journey was a mid-pandemic move to Washington DC, where Erin started a new role as the Associate Director of Technology Policy and Advocacy at the Center for American Progress. She is looking forward to connecting and reconnecting with Marshalls in DC and beyond.



Erin Simpson



### Join the Class Notes Team

The Marshall Alumni Newsletter team is currently looking for additional class secretaries (including potentially covering multiple class years) to ensure that all classes are fully represented. If you are interested in volunteering for this role, please contact us at [newsletter@marshallscholarship.org](mailto:newsletter@marshallscholarship.org).

Contact Nell Breyer ([nell.breyer@marshallscholars.org](mailto:nell.breyer@marshallscholars.org)) with any questions about membership, profile updates, address changes, or annual dues.

Further information is also available on the AMS website at [marshallscholars.org](http://marshallscholars.org) or by calling +1-917-818-1267.



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