Dear Hiram Friends,

As this is one of the first opportunities to write to you in my current capacity, I wanted to start with a heartfelt “thank you” to those who have wished me well, shared with me what makes Hiram special, and offered their time and treasure to the College since I stepped into this new role on June 1. I am humbled by the groundswell of support and passion that our community feels for Hiram.

One recurrent theme that has emerged through my conversations with alums, whether they are relatively recent graduates or more seasoned professionals, is the transformational impact that Hiram had on them. For some, it was faculty taking them under their wing, for others it was having a staff member challenge them, and yet for others it was the actions of an entire community coming together during times of great disturbance in surrounding communities and around the world. These disparate experiences all tie back to connections with a caring, nurturing, and lasting community on Hiram Hill—one that lasts well beyond one’s years of attendance. Loren Pope long ago recognized this in naming Hiram one of his original Colleges that Change Lives, and despite the challenges small schools like ours face, we continue to transform the lives of our students to this day.

The theme of this edition of the Hiram Magazine is sustainability and the environment, areas where Hiram has long exercised leadership and that distinguish the College. While this theme is not new, I trust you will be encouraged by the continued evolution, both in and out of the classroom, as our community continues to find new and innovative ways to harness and protect natural resources, engage the wider community in understanding the impact of sustainability and things like tree canopy cover, and work with our community partners to enhance not only our community, but the world. I think of the range of individuals engaged in this work, from emeritus professors to first-year students, and how enmeshed these are in Hiram’s DNA. We have also become a full member of Campus Nature Rx, thanks to the efforts of Zachary Fox ’21, Hiram’s sustainability coordinator and Dr. Sarah Mabey, an associate professor of environmental studies here at the College. The organization is a coalition of over 60 colleges and universities and 89 professionals dedicated to connecting college communities with the benefits of both physical and mental well-being that come from spending time in nature.

Finally, I am pleased to report that all these good things about Hiram are evident beyond our community. We were excited to welcome an incoming class of 255 students in August while several external organizations such as U.S. News and World Report, Money Magazine, and Colleges of Distinction recognize the value of a Hiram education. As you read through this edition, I hope you share my pride in the ongoing efforts and help spread the word about the good work being done on Hiram Hill.

Thank you for your continued support of Hiram and our students.

Interim President Rob E. Bohrer II
2023 Nursing Cohort Achieves 100% FIRST-TIME PASS RATE on NCLEX-RN Exam

Hiram College is pleased to announce that Bachelor of Science in nursing graduates from the class of 2023 have achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). This accomplishment is a testament to the dedication and excellence of students and faculty in the nursing program.

The NCLEX-RN exam is a required exam for nursing graduates that must be successfully passed in order to become licensed as a Registered Nurse. The 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam reflects not only the graduates’ mastery of the comprehensive body of knowledge required for nursing but also their readiness to serve on the front lines of health care during complex and challenging times.

To the class of 2023, we extend our sincerest congratulations. Your dedication to overcoming obstacles and upholding the noble standards of the nursing profession inspires us all.

Class of 2023 Nursing Cohort:
- Addison Angerman
- Ashley Cameron
- Ashley Hennen
- Divine Iromuanya
- Joy Ihekwemer
- Alexi Kasper
- Emily Kazimore
- Monika Kepa
- Lauryn Olguin
- Abigail Ries
- Zachary Scalf
- Samantha Thomas
- Sarah Weintraub
- Chloe Welch

Established by the Board of Trustees and named in honor of James A. Garfield, the Garfield Society of Hiram College honors individuals who have demonstrated significant professional achievement and whose efforts have substantially enriched their communities. Fellows are nominated and selected based on both their service to the College and their communities.

The Garfield Society of Hiram College has been in existence since 1971, when William Falgraf, Esq. and the late Howard Bissell, two members of the Hiram College Board of Trustees, envisioned a yearly meeting that would bring together outstanding civic and business leaders, trustees, and Hiram faculty who have earned the rank of full professor. The Society was founded to recognize their interdependence.

2023 Inductees:
- Richard Giesen, Jr. | Trustee
- Debbie Kasper, Ph.D. | Faculty
- James Kercher, Ph.D. | Faculty
- Jennifer (Carnes) McCreight ’03, Ph.D. | Faculty
- James Thompson, Ph.D. | Faculty
- Andrea Welch, Ph.D. | Officer of the College
- Detra West | Staff
- Susan Eisenhower | 2023 Speaker

Eight Members Inducted into Hiram’s Garfield Society

Eight Members Inducted into Hiram’s Garfield Society
Brittany Jackson ‘04, M.A., ’15, Ed.D., online learning and learning strategies manager, helped coordinate and lead the seventh annual College Autism Summit, sponsored by the College Autism Network at Vanderbilt University. At the conference, she presented “The Power of Neurodiversity Project” and co-led a second session titled “Help Me, Help You: How Can Scholars and Practitioners Support Each Other on Research Studies?” Dr. Jackson also serves as one of four members of the College Autism Network’s leadership team. She also received one of several OhioLINK OER Course redesign Grants to evaluate open education resources to be utilized in courses, helping to make them more accessible and socio-economical for students.

Michael J. Rebold, Ph.D., program director and associate professor of integrative exercise science, and Mallory Kobak, Ph.D., assistant professor of integrative exercise science, worked with two students to publish “The Effects of Various Modes of High-Intensity Anaerobic Exercise on Dynamic Balance Performance” in the International Journal of Strength and Conditioning. They also collaborated with faculty from Youngstown State University to develop a new degree completion agreement that creates a seamless progression of academic courses from the Bachelor of Arts degree in integrative exercise science at Hiram College to the Master of Athletic Training degree at Youngstown State University. Additionally, Dr. Rebold and Dr. Kobak attended the Midwest Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine’s 49th annual meeting in Indianapolis with seven students.

Michelle Nario-Redmond, Ph.D., professor of psychology and biomedical humanities, won OhioLINK OER Course Redesign Grant, was interviewed by the Washington Post, the Healing Pain Podcast, and published new original research in Rehabilitation Psychology, the Journal of Research in Personality, and a chapter on Life Satisfaction for Lexington Books. She also served as one of the Distinguished Plenary speaker for the Society for the Teaching of Psychology and discussed the many faces of alexis for the Pennsylvania Inclusive Higher Education Consortium.

Mallory Kobak, Ph.D., professor of political science, published a journal article in Journal of Social Sciences titled “Active Shooter Preparedness: Perceptions of NCAA Division I Athletic Directors and Campus Police Chiefs.” Dr. Kobak was also invited and submitted two chapters for a future risk management journal and presented twice at the 2023 Sport and Recreation Law Association Conference at Florida State University. Her presentations covered a recent study away trip where students compared and contrasted ecosystems in Ohio and North Carolina that supported startup businesses. The Entrepreneurship Department also hosted a special mentor/mentee event for members of the High Performance Program and mentors composed of successful entrepreneurs and business and corporate executives. The event provided a forum for mentors/mentees to meet in a professional setting to further develop their relationships.

Mark Taylor, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, presented “Polymer in confinement: Free energy scaling and finite size corrections” at the 2023 Midwest Statistical Mechanics and Thermodynamics Conference held at Notre Dame University. Dr. Taylor also gave a presentation to the Science Discussion Group at Kendal at Oberlin College titled “Entropy-Smartytron - Who ordered that? Polymer folding in nano-confinement.”
School of ARTS, HUMANITIES, and POLITICS

Elizabeth Bauman, M.F.A., associate professor of theatre, won Best of Show at the Lake Farm Parks Quilt show and Contest for her quilt: “St. Francis and the Animals.”

Judeep Chima, Ph.D., associate professor of political science and international studies, published a book titled “Insurgency in India’s Northeast: Identity Formation, Postcolonial Nation/ State-Building, and Secessionist Resistance.”

Matthew Notarian, Ph.D., assistant professor of classics, published “A Spatial Network Analysis of Water Distribution in Public Fountains in Pompeii” in the American Journal of Archaeology and had another journal article accepted for publication. He also presented a conference paper in New Orleans and conducted archaeological fieldwork with the Tharros Archaeological Research Project in Sardinia, Italy and independently in Pompeii, Italy.

Mary Quade, M.F.A., professor of English, won the 2022 The Journal Non-Fiction Prize, and her essay collection “Zoo World” was published this fall by The Ohio State University Press/Mad Creek Books. Her essay “In Harmony with Nature,” which is included in the collection, appeared in the fall 2022 Issue 11 of The Bennington Review.

Lisa Safford, Ph.D., professor emeritus of art history, taught for Semester at Sea in fall 2022, presenting new courses on Art and Religions of the World and Comparative Architecture West and East. The learning voyage involved travel to 11 countries from Germany to Dubai. Dr. Safford also gave a talk on works on paper by Edgar Degas (her dissertation topic) at the Hyde Museum in Glens Falls, New York, in October 2023.

Vivien Sandlund, Ph.D., professor of history, spent her sabbatical finishing a biography of the Quaker abolitionist, Benjamin Lundy.

ATHLETIC FACILITY UPGRADES

The generosity of alumni and friends through the Hollinger Fund allows our student-athletes to compete and recover at a higher level. To support our Terriers’ playing careers, the following facility upgrades have been completed this year.

HYDROTHERAPY ROOM

Our Terriers train hard and deserve a place to rest and recover. The new hydrotherapy room allows them to do that. Initially a storage space, the summer of 2023 brought changes to the room. Serving as an extension to the training room on campus, the room is now fitted with two cold tubs and a warm whirlpool.

Hydrotherapy is a treatment and recovery method that increases blood flow, flushes lactic acid and inflammation, and soothes sore muscles. “Ice baths and warm baths (whirlpools) have long been used as a recovery tool for athletes,” said Jim Johnston, head athletic trainer. “The addition of the hydrotherapy area allows us to provide flexible treatment opportunities throughout the day as well as maintain a sanitary environment.”

INDOOR GOLF FACILITY

Located near Fleming Fieldhouse, the indoor golf facility is designed to help the men’s and women’s golf teams perfect their skills. Athletes can virtually practice drives, work on their putts, and analyze their swings. “Players are able to not only play virtual golf in the space, but it also makes for a great place to provide instruction, swing analysis, and dive into numbers to improve players where they need it most,” said James Workman ’17, head golf coach. “Simply put, this space will make us better.”

Both golf programs utilize Tanglewood Club in Chagrin Falls, Ohio for home events and practice, but the new facility provides a space to use when the Northeast Ohio weather doesn’t cooperate. The room was repainted and had new lighting installed during the summer, making it ready to use for the 2023-24 season.

STADIUM SOUND SYSTEM

Come support your Terriers and celebrate the new mix! Installed in January 2023 at Charles A. Henry Field at Malmisur Stadium, fans now have an enjoyable listening experience while watching football, soccer, and lacrosse events. This project was made possible through Hiram Athletics and individual team funding.

INTERACTIVE TOUCH SCREEN

You won’t want to miss our interactive monitor, coming soon to the Coleman Center. The monitor will display the Hollinger Hall of Fame, all 23 varsity sports, all-time records, schedules, rosters, and more. Sports fans will be able to scroll through and select items to learn more. Spectators will also notice other new additions including “Ring the Bell” signage around Henry Field at Malmisur Stadium and new shelters for soccer games.

HOLLINGER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Established in 1964, the William H. Hollinger Athletics Hall of Fame is named after beloved coach, athletic director, faculty member, scholar, and colleague, William Hollinger ’43. Hollinger represented the best our campus community offers and to honor his memory, former student-athletes and those who have made a significant contribution to Hiram College Athletics’ history are inducted into the Hall of Fame. This also includes coaches, athletic trainers, administrators, faculty, and support staff.

The Hollinger Hall of Fame recognized seven inductees on October 21, 2023:

Kerry Burke ’77
Caroline Montana ’80
Josh Toot ’99
Jasmine (Kirtley) Cloud ’05
A.J. White ’06
Bill (Howard) Landis ’07
Claire Conner ’11
ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Hiram College is proud to be part of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) within the NCAA Division III. The NCAC is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, as part of the NCAA Division III, which is also celebrating a milestone anniversary. The NCAA Division III has been operating for 50 years, allowing student-athletes to do their best on and off the field.

The 2022-23 North Coast Athletic Conference Honor Roll featured 44 Hiram College student-athletes across 13 varsity athletic teams. This is an increase from the 2021-22 total of 42 featured Terriers. This year, Hiram College sports an incoming freshman class of approximately 175 student-athletes looking to make their mark on the 23 varsity athletic teams this fall, winter, and spring.

SOFTBALL

With arguably their most impressive season to date, the Hiram College softball team reached the NCAA Super Regionals in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Terriers were crowned NCAC Champions during their run and were ranked 21 in the final NFCA Division III Coaches Poll. They finished their season with 27 wins, five All-NCAC Selections, and eight Eastern/NFCA All-America Scholar-Athletes. Darian Kanno ‘25 and Giselle Babena ‘23 earned NFCA All-Region Honors for their outstanding performances throughout the season. Kanno was also named the Most Outstanding Player in the Cleveland Regional of the NCAA tournament.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

The Hiram College swimming and diving teams set a program record in three events this season. Two of the broken records came from Dayne Sauter ‘25, who set the program record in the 100-yard freestyle (47.05) and 100-yard IM (55.25). Jon Hybil ‘26 also set the record in the 50-yard breaststroke (28.42). An impressive NCAC Championships run has the Terriers ready to get back in action this season.

STUNT

In exciting news, the Hiram STUNT program joined the Great Midwest Athletic Conference and competed in the 2022-23 season. They excelled under Head Coach Brittany Powell as she was named a Great Midwest Co-Coach of the year. Also recognized was Julie Le-Quy ‘24, a Great Midwest Elite 26 winner, and four All-Conference honorees — Nina Casalandra ‘24, Reyna Polly ‘25, Ashley Rutkowski ‘24, and Kera Jones ‘25. STUNT placed second in the G-MAC in their first season of competition.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Hiram College swimming and diving teams set a program record in three events this season. Two of the broken records came from Dayne Sauter ‘25, who set the program record in the 100-yard freestyle (47.05) and 100-yard IM (55.25). Jon Hybil ‘26 also set the record in the 50-yard breaststroke (28.42). An impressive NCAC Championships run has the Terriers ready to get back in action this season.

MEN’S VOLLEYBALL

After another great season on the court, Hiram’s men’s volleyball clinched a spot in the AMCC Tournament for the third straight season. The Terriers will also become a member of the Presidents’ Athletic Conference (PAC) beginning in 2024-25 after the addition of men’s volleyball as the 24th league sponsored sport in 2022.

CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK & FIELD

The newly reinstated Hiram men’s and women’s cross country teams have begun their first fall season since 2014. Head Coach Dan Graber brought in an impressive incoming class who are excited to kick off the new season. The track and field team will begin competition in the spring of 2024.

MEET THE NEW FACES IN ATHLETICS

SHANNON SCHAUB

Head Softball Coach

Shannon Schaub joins the Terriers after spending the last five seasons as the head softball coach at Wittenberg. During her time as a Tiger, Schaub led nine different student-athletes to All-NCAC honors. She notably lifted the team to a 22-12-1 record in 2021 and helped the program reach seven wins in 2023, the most conference wins in five years. Prior to Wittenberg, Schaub spent eight seasons as an assistant coach at Division II Ashland University. The Eagles made six NCAA Tournament appearances and never had a losing season with Schaub on their staff.

A graduate of Ashland University, Schaub played pitcher and first base for Ashland from 2005-2009. In 2009, she earned First Team All-Region and First Team All-GLIAC honors after she led her team in batting average (.357), slugging percentage (.429), home runs (11) and RBI (31). Those 11 home runs are tied for the fourth-most in a season in Ashland softball history.
In the first year of its creation, the SDC instituted a composting program in partnership with the College’s dining hall and created a position for a Sustainability Coordinator, which is now held by Hiram alumnus, Zack Fox ’21.

From 2020 to 2023, the compost program collected over 20 tons of food waste and other organic material that have been converted into biologically rich compost for use at the James H. Barrow Biological Field Station. From the collection of food waste, to overseeing the composting process, and delivering the compost, students are in charge of the entire process from start to finish.

Now in its fourth year, the SDC has started a waste diversion program, had Hiram’s campus designated as a Level I Arboretum through ArbNet, and started a pop-up thrift store for students to donate and purchase gently used clothes. With around 20 members, the committee works closely with other campus organizations including the Field Station, Environmental Appreciation Club, and Student Senate to collaborate on initiatives.

This year, the committee is headed by its first female chair, Betty Marin ’24. As a political science major and Spanish minor, Marin has been involved with the committee for the last two years.

“It’s a very hands-on campus experience, especially with giving back to the community. It really has made me a more well-rounded person,” Marin said. “I didn’t even know how composting worked when I joined.”

Even as a political science major, Marin has a love for the outdoors and caring for nature. She has worked at the James H. Barrow Biological Field Station as an animal care steward, frequents Hiram’s Northwoods Field Station in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and can often be found backpacking or exploring the outdoors. There was no question that Marin was on the trajectory to take the reins of the SDC this year.

“People are enthusiastic about projects like composting, it has a lot of profit. It makes you feel good, it makes everyone work together. It really is a passion project of mine,” Marin said. While she has been instrumental in the composting program and the Arboretum designation project over the past two years, Marin’s favorite project she’s been able to work on has been the thrift store that the SDC is developing.

Known as the Secondhand Stand, the thrift store operates out of the TREE House basement and hosts frequent pop-ups across campus. The SDC placed donation bins in residence halls and asked for students to donate lightly used clothing and shoes. The response was amazing, allowing the thrift store to thrive.

Last year, for Transgender Day of Visibility, the Secondhand Stand hosted its first pop-up closet with the help of the Hiram College Library and PRYSM club. This pop-up, referred to as a “closet,” tried to reclaim the term “being in the closet,” aimed to help address identity expression and clothing insecurities.

Marin hopes to establish a permanent location for the Secondhand Stand that is regularly staffed by SDC members this year. She also has big goals for recruiting new members and hosting inclusive, educational events across campus this academic year.

As the SDC Chair, Marin knew she had big shoes to fill. The group is known across campus for its work, as more and more students become interested in what sustainability means to them.

“It deepens my connection with Hiram and deepens my connection with the people in this program. This committee has made my experience at Hiram better because I am so hands-on in the community, which helps with my leadership skills,” Marin said about her experiences so far leading the SDC.

After graduation this spring, Marin plans to continue her education by receiving a post-graduate paralegal studies certificate and entering the career field. Marin hopes to one day find herself back in the sustainability space.
Jaxson McDonald ’25

The James H. Barrow Biological Field Station is one of Hiram’s greatest assets to all students, but especially to those looking to gain hands-on experience and expand their skills. Jaxson McDonald ’25 is one of those students, who chose to come to Hiram specifically because of the opportunity to work at the Field Station.

Aiming to attend a veterinary school with an exotic animal program post-graduation, McDonald recognized the unique pathways and resources Hiram offers students. His classes have already been helpful: “Animal physiology and ecology taught me a lot about the structures of different types of animals, how animals interact with each other, and conservation efforts to support the well-being of animals.”

Knowing his career path, McDonald joined VETICUS as soon as he could. VETICUS is a student-run organization that provides students with help getting into a college of veterinary medicine, experience in the field, networking and job opportunities, and a community of like-minded students. It was through VETICUS that Rebecca Moore, curator of animal programs at the Field Station, reached out to McDonald about working with her.

His work now includes handling different kinds of animals at the Field Station. First, he breeds meal worms and super worms to be fed to some of the animals. Then, McDonald takes care of feeding and cleaning the cages and enclosures of the rabbit, turtles, snakes, cockroaches, fish, ducks, and other various birds and mammals. He also helps Moore give medication to various animals if they’re injured and beginning rehabilitation. Moore remarks, “Jaxson is a wonderful employee and such a hard worker. Due to his experience, this year he’s been able to train a lot of new student workers.”

McDonald enjoys his work at the Field Station, as it has increased his interest in exotic animals. He shares, “I’ve gained valuable information on how to work with different types of animals. The Field Station is a very unique work opportunity that not a lot of college students get. It has so many exotic animals that students don’t get to work with often.”

Kearan Barnett ’24

Kearan Barnett ’24 is someone who loves being outside. “Being in nature is so important for the mind and body. I think sometimes we get so far removed from the natural world that everything feels wrong,” she expresses. Even her favorite memory at Hiram, her experience at Northwoods Field Station in the Upper Peninsula, shows this: “I spent a week totally immersed in the outdoors while at the same time, learning about everything around me. It is a wonderful place!”

Her time at Hiram continues to showcase her passion clearly, from her involvement with the Sustainable Development Committee (SDC), to the research project she led at the Field Station. As a member of the SDC, Barnett made her mark on Hiram. She was involved with starting the composting program that takes compostable food waste from the dining hall out to the James H. Barrow Biological Field Station every day. She explored the Field Station and saw what they accomplished there.

It wasn’t until this past year when she dove headfirst into the Field Station. Barnett learned of her biology professor, Ruth McDowell, Ph.D., overseeing a crustacean ecology internship. “Professor McDowell was a real shining light in my studies and helped me to find my path,” says Barnett. “I was so excited to potentially work with her!”

Barnett soon applied and was offered the internship. She started familiarizing herself with crayfish anatomy and terms, learning how to catch and take care of them. Barnett also conducted a pilot study, researching what crayfish like to eat. “It was really interesting to see how much they ate and how much of each item,” Barnett remarks.

Her internship at the Field Station gave her hands-on experience and taught her how research works in the real world. “Doing research at the Field Station made me fall in love with the idea of research in general.” She hopes to use her psychology degree and interest in environmental attitudes to complete research regarding the conservation of the Earth, the relationship people have with the environment, and the effect of the environment on humans.
NEW RESEARCH at Field Station
FOCUSES ON BEES

Research has come full circle for Jessie (Lanternman) Novotny, Ph.D., adjunct professor of biology at Hiram College. The 2010 alumna of the College spent her days as a biology undergraduate student working as an animal caregiver and research assistant at the James H. Barrow Biological Field Station, which also happens to be the same place she is conducting research today on bees alongside her own students.

Previously, she conducted research on bumble bee diversity, distribution, and flower preferences at more than 300 locations across Ohio with several other project leaders and principal investigators from The Ohio State University, University of Akron, and Environmental Solutions and Innovations, Inc. With ongoing reductions in the amount and quality of pollinator habitats worldwide, the research specifically focused on efforts to improve habitats for bees. The initial project lasted from 2017-2019 and two articles were published from the data collected.

Now, Dr. Novotny looks to bring awareness and further study on the topic to Hiram’s Field Station. Recently, she constructed wooden nest boxes to enable study of the nesting ecology of wild bees. The boxes hold stacks of grooved trays that provide nesting sites for a certain group of wild bees that prefer standing dead and woody boxes hold stacks of grooved trays that provide nesting sites for a certain group of wild bees that prefer standing dead and woody boxes. Most of Ohio’s 100 plus wild bee species dig tiny burrows in well-drained soil to nest. “Bees are such an important part of terrestrial ecosystems,” said Friedt. “They are the main reason why flowering plants are so widespread today. The short-term goal of our research is to develop an effective nest box and soil bucket to collect brood (eggs, larvae, and pupae of honeybees), so the bees can be brought to areas that need more pollinators, such as agricultural areas. In that respect, I feel that the work we are doing is important for not only the bees, but flowering plants as well.”

In addition to the nest boxes for twig nesting bees, Dr. Novotny is experimenting with designs for creating artificial nest sites for soil-nesting bees in baskets filled with loose, sandy soil. Most of Ohio’s 100 plus wild bee species dig tiny burrows in well-drained soil to nest. “This new research seeks to explore non-lethal ways to study wild pollinators beyond the non-native managed honeybee, by learning about what we can do to promote their nesting activities and maintain healthy populations,” said Dr. Novotny.

Inspiration Behind the Research

Dr. Novotny was inspired to pursue botany by the late Matt Hils, who was a professor of biology and director of the Field Station during her time as a student at the College. After her graduation from Hiram, Dr. Novotny worked as a seasonal field botanist at Cleveland Metroparks, where she monitored forest vegetation in the Cleveland forests. From there, she began her own research on plants and pollinator ecology under the guidance of Karen Goodell, Ph.D., associate professor at The Ohio State University, while pursuing her doctoral degree in ecology. Her research was conducted in southern Ohio on how wild bee communities recover over time on former coal mines that have been reclaimed to grassland. Following her graduation, she continued her research in Dr. Goodell’s lab as a post-doctoral researcher and helped lead a statewide survey of Ohio’s bumble bees and their floral preferences. The project primarily focused on the federally endangered species known as the rusty patched bumble bee (Bombus affinis), and whether the species still existed in Ohio. She was motivated to do further research on the species because it was common in Ohio just 30 years ago and has since disappeared, which led her to focus on how to prevent other common species from meeting the same fate.

“Humans have the capability to bring unprecedented amounts of change very quickly to natural systems,” said Dr. Novotny. “Pollinators, like other animals, can have difficulty finding food, mates, and nest sites in the wake of the landscape-scale changes that we make. In addition to habitat loss and degradation, chronic exposure to pesticides negatively impacts many pollinators, not just honeybees.”

Environmental changes create winners and losers, which lead some species to decline and others to adapt and thrive. While Dr. Novotny knows that some bees and other pollinators are in decline from the combined pressure of lack of habitat, increased diseases, and exposure to pesticides, she does not believe that all bees will disappear if we as humans continue to do our part in preserving their ecosystems.

THE BUMBLE BEE BANQUET

Dr. Novotny pointed out several key findings from her collaborative research that may be of interest to nature enthusiasts:

- Bumble bees from across the eight species that Dr. Novotny and her team analyzed, collected pollen and nectar from more than 100 species of flowering plants across the growing season.
- Some native wildflowers that bumble bees relied on included milkweeds, thistles, purple coneflower, fogloves, butterfly weed, and a genus of sunflower relatives that included prairie, milkweed, and cup plant.
- A variety of weeds were also among preferred food plants. The most highly selected plant was a non-native one for most common bumble bee species.

“As humans, we sometimes feel disconnected and forget that the natural world sustains us. To give back in appreciation for that, the greatest tribute I can think of is to try to promote the well-being of species like bees that we rely on. And good environmental choices that will sustain our way of life should be based on high-quality scientific data.”

—Dr. Novotny
From its Founding: Learning Streams International

LSI was modeled on the best practices in education developed over three decades to build learning environments around student-centered, place-based inquiries. Simply put, that means that traditional lectures would not exist, rather students would experience lessons through hands-on experiences that are engaging and fun. The model places collaboration over competition and democratic decision making based on evidence over autocratic decision making based on emotion. And the program itself gives students the opportunity to develop collaborative investigations of the things they find interesting, which helps them to master protocols designed by science to find answers.

Since its founding, the program has sought to engage diverse communities of students with different abilities and interests under a specific theme related to important local, regional, and international water-related issues. In 2014, LSI truly went international, starting to draw learning communities from schools not only in Northeast Ohio, but also regions in Pakistan. And for the first time in 2016, the program was offered to students from the Dominican Republic with an investigative theme of coastal community resilience.

Around that time, Hiram alumna, Lucy Chamberlain ’77, a horticulturist and botanist, returned to Hiram to assist with the community garden project (read about this project on page 22), and she was also asked to assist with LSI because of her extensive knowledge in plant identification, as well as related landscape maintenance and management issues.

In 2014, LSI began a partnership with Case Western Reserve University, with Jim Bader, director of the Center for Science and Mathematics Education as the driving force. For the continuing years under the partnership, the program followed a very specific format: learning communities were formed comprised of five high school students and an educator, mentored by an undergraduate student to teach leadership, decision making, and respect through mentorship. Called Near Peer Mentors, the students leading the group were trained to model discovery learning by teaching biomonitoring protocols to both students and teachers.

The first week of the program took place on the urban campus of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. During that time, students used standardized Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) protocols to evaluate urban streams and rivers near the campus. The data collected from the urban setting would then be used to make comparisons to data collected from rural Hiram, Ohio later in the program. Following a weekend trip to Niagara Falls, participants would spend the second week of the two-week program on Hiram’s campus using the same EPA protocols to characterize local rivers, streams, and wetlands and to explore connections between land and water ecosystems. And in 2017, Professor Taylor was given the opportunity to lead a group of Near Peer Mentors to Pakistan, where they replicated the same program for high school students and educators.

A Revised Focus for the Future

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, LSI returned with a revised focus to respond to the post-pandemic needs of the students and educators attending. The program followed the same learning model, but instead focused on climate change and urban canopy cover. Called “Tree Canopy Solutions to the Impacts of Climate Change” an abbreviated residential (four days and three nights) program took place on Hiram’s campus in June 2023. Students from across Northeast Ohio and the Dominican Republic used the iTree suite of tools to learn how to identify and document urban tree canopy issues and the hosted sessions focused on addressing beliefs about trees, pragmatic discussions on the economic value of trees, and the ecosystem services they provide. Participating students, educators, and Near Peer Mentors had the opportunity to meet with a variety of Green Industry leaders and learn about the roles and responsibilities of those within the Green Industry, as well as career paths available beyond graduation. The program culminated with a night at Camp Asbury in Hiram, and Near Peer Mentors facilitated discussions within their learning communities to develop an action plan on how they would implement the knowledge learned from their LSI experiences into their own communities.

Since its founding, LSI has continually been assessed through self-reported results from all participants, alongside external experts in the field to ensure that it meets expectations and continues to grow into a program that meets the demands of what is happening in the world at large. The program has been funded by a variety of sources over the years, including initial funding from the Ohio Board of Regents and then through a grant offered by the State Department. In the future, Professor Taylor hopes to see the program continue to evolve through other sources of funding and partnerships.

Established in 2007 by Dennis Taylor ’73, Ph.D., now emeritus professor of biology, alongside colleagues from Kent State University and the University of Akron, Learning Streams International (LSI) is a science summer institute built on a collaborative of educators, scientists, students, and local citizens and is dedicated to improving student learning through inquiry into local environmental issues.
Many of the gardens were created in the 1970’s and 1980’s by faculty and staff, under the direction of Jamie Barrow, the wife of the late James H. Barrow, former professor of biology at the College. At the time, the College operated on quarters, making year-round student engagement with the gardens easier, meaning they were often at their best in early summertime as many were around to care for them. Many of the gardens, especially the Hurd Garden, were also designed to have plants that could thrive in all seasons, including winter, to ensure they were always lively. In 1991, Hiram College alumni, Dennis Taylor ’73, Ph.D., emeritus professor of biology and Lucy Chamberlain ’77, took over the volunteer efforts to maintain the gardens, which lasted for several decades.

Chamberlain was featured in a 1975 edition of the Cleveland Plain Dealer about “dorm gardens” at Hiram, her first step into a life-long career as a horticulturalist. As a horticultural botanist with her master’s in landscape ecology, Chamberlain brings extensive experience working on design and landscape management for projects spanning diverse locations.

Professor Taylor, on the other hand, graduated from Hiram College in 1973, and continued his education at Cornell University before returning to the College in 1979 to teach biology. He retired from teaching in 2021. Over the years, Professor Taylor has presented his research within the United States and internationally in Malaysia, India, and Pakistan. He also serves as president of the Hiram Historical Society and was inducted into the Garfield Society of Hiram College in 1997.

Professor Taylor and Chamberlain dedicated years of their time to maintaining the unique garden infrastructure that is so engrained into Hiram’s community and history. At times, the two served as the sole resources for preserving the gardens, and without their dedication, they would not exist to the same extent that they do today.
In 2023, Professor Taylor and Chamberlain were presented with the 2023 Service to Humanity Award at Hiram’s Alumni Weekend. The Service to Humanity Award is presented annually to one or more alumni and is intended for those making outstanding contributions such as volunteerism, philanthropy, community service, or the improvement to world knowledge and understanding, to their communities and the world. The award celebrates those who strive to make a difference for others and, in so doing, have brought honor and recognition to Hiram College.

THE GARDENS TODAY

Because efforts to maintain the gardens were volunteer-based and often required funding to implement, the gardens have gone through many phases of great care and involvement to periods of time where they are overrun by invasive species due to a lack of resources. The efforts to maintain the gardens over the years have taken many different names and formats—what was originally known as the Hiram Public Gardens in 1974 shifted into a college-centered initiative with the Hiram College Garden Society in 1980, with the hopes of attracting more students to become involved with the initiative. And within the last year, Hiram alumna, Anne Haynam ’88, has taken up the project once again, in a community-centered initiative known as the Hiram Garden Club. Since her graduation, Haynam has remained an active member of the Hiram College community and the Village. When she was a student, she studied physical education and classical studies, alongside her involvement as a member of the softball, women’s basketball, and field hockey teams. In 1999, she returned to the Hill to serve as the women’s basketball coach and continued in that role until 2004. She was also inducted into the William H. Hollinger Hall of Fame in 2008 for her career accolades, which include 12 varsity letters and receiving the Petroskey Award in 1988 as Hiram’s Female Student-Athlete of the Year. Since her graduation, Haynam has maintained her role as an active member of the Hiram College community and the Village. When she was a student, she studied physical education and classical studies, alongside her involvement as a member of the softball, women’s basketball, and field hockey teams. In 1999, she returned to the Hill to serve as the women’s basketball coach and continued in that role until 2004. She was also inducted into the William H. H. Hall of Fame in 2008 for her career accolades, which include 12 varsity letters and receiving the Petroskey Award in 1988 as Hiram’s Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

Haynam plans to use the club as a community building tool between the Village community and the College. They hope to host events like walk-throughs of the garden spaces, garden-related field trips, gardener workshops, and public garden socials to encourage community members to get involved.

“It’s one thing for me to go in and weed by myself,” Haynam said. “But it’s fun when there’s a group of us there that day. It’s not glamorous to weed, you’re on your hands and knees, but the communal part and making a difference is really the most rewarding part.”

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and it changes them.
A self-described “plantologist,” Fox’s enthusiasm for sustainability started when he was young and has not stopped. Majoring in environmental studies as a student at Hiram College, Fox quickly became involved with the Environmental Appreciation Club (EAC). EAC helps students find opportunities to emphasize the importance of Earth and its creatures, as well as a place to spread their knowledge and beliefs with others. Through the work of ABM’s landscaping group, Neil Robertson ’23, Zack Fox ‘21, and the Sustainable Development Committee, what started as a staff-led tree catalog expanded into a student-run passion project.

The College’s campus was finally accredited as an arboretum and work began to make the arboretum more visible to the public. The first step was creating signage labeling each tree. Normally, when an arboretum becomes accredited, organizations can buy small metal plaques that list the common and scientific names of the trees. Wanting to accomplish this in a sustainable way, the SDC decided to upcycle unused hall bed frames. Volunteers cut the frames down, planed them to make them smooth, and then stenciled the tree names on them. Once prepped, students across Hiram volunteered to paint them. The signage was installed in summer 2023, making the brightly painted signs visible across campus. “I’m really happy we went with the hand-painted signs. I don’t think anyone would have stopped to read the small metal plaques if we got those,” Fox admits. “But we have these giant, super bright, colorful signs that you can’t help but look at. These signs create an informal education opportunity that happens constantly.”

As another requirement to become an accredited arboretum and to make it more visible to the public, the governing body must put on one community education event per year. Fox’s planning exceeded that within the first few months of accreditation. Before the beginning of the fall semester, Fox conducted two official tours of the arboretum for faculty and staff. Since the beginning of the school year, he has invited students to join an arboretum scavenger hunt and participate in a tree ID contest, as well as inviting the community to sit in on a Library Forum.

Now that the arboretum is accredited and education has begun, what are the next steps? Fox shares, “The big thing is planning for the future. This includes collecting data on the trees; their growth, their health, where they are, what’s planted.” He is already working on a massive tree planting campaign to reinvigorate the trees. There are many trees on campus, but not all are considered healthy. In the next year he will start working with students, collecting data on the trees, brainstorming what trees should be planted on campus based on future climate models, and working to reduce costs of gas and electricity on campus through future tree plantings.

He would also like to facilitate the use of the arboretum by the campus community. This could look like encouraging classes to use the trees for art courses or projects like basic identification. It also includes assisting students and faculty in research projects, like studying the effects of green space and trees on students’ mental health.

The College needed to make it more sustainable and to have a governing body, and an arboretum plan. Through ABM’s efforts, recognizing at least 25 species of trees or woody plants was easy. Eighty species or varieties of trees have been recorded throughout Hiram’s campus. Plans are already in place to continue recording different species and varieties of trees with the aim of reaching Level 2 accreditation, with a minimum of 100 species or varieties recorded.

With the many students involved in EAC, SDC, and the Field Station, having one or more volunteers or employees was easy, but the hard part was sustaining those numbers. Each year after graduation, both organizations and the Field Station would lose students. To ensure the success of the arboretum, as well as other sustainable efforts on campus, the SDC proposed a sustainability coordinator, employed by Hiram. Fox filled the role after his graduation, meeting another ArbNet requirement.

To fulfill the remaining qualifications, the SDC decided it would continue to work in tandem with ABM as the governing body. Lastly, SDC, ABM, and Fox are still working on a detailed arboretum plan, but when submitted for the accreditation, the plan included maintaining the trees on campus and planting more trees than are cut down each year. After applying to become an accredited arboretum, the SDC waited for a response from ArbNet.

“I remember opening the email from ArbNet and being excited. It felt like all the work we had done for the past couple of years was paying off; we got it done!” exclaimed Robertson. “It was nice seeing a project finally stamped, sealed, and good to go. That was really rewarding.”
Paolo Scardina ’70

From his classical training on the piano at a young age to his professional work as a performer and composer, Paolo Scardina has always been a creative at heart. For him, sustainable architecture is just another creative outlet.

Scardina started his journey at Hiram College as a biology major, but quickly found his passions aligned with pursuing a fine arts major. “Education helps you understand where your strengths are and helps you build skills around those strengths, and mine is creativity,” Scardina said.

During his time at Hiram, Scardina explored his creativity and even spent time studying classical architecture and art in many forms across Europe.

He then continued his education with a master’s in fine arts from Kent State University, where he discovered a passion for dance. After spending a decade as a choreographer in San Francisco, Scardina made the jump to receive a degree in interior design from the Western Design Institute. After his time as an interior designer in San Francisco, he moved to Portland, Oregon to start his own practice. For almost 20 years, Scardina built his practice and developed an understanding of sustainable design before moving to Sedona, Arizona. Now, as a resident of the Grand Canyon state for nearly a dozen years, Scardina solely works in the residential design space, where he focuses wholeheartedly on sustainable development.

Scardina seamlessly blends his understanding of architecture and interior design to curate a dwelling that is not only a timeless piece of art, but also a sustainable structure that can be occupied for generations to come. “Sustainability, to me, philosophically, is a balance in all things. Every dwelling system is connected to nature,” Scardina said.

The goal with Scardina’s sustainable design is to keep them looking natural and neutral, while also focusing on the elements that will help withstand the tests of time. One of the main focuses of every design is the age-in-place element. For Scardina, age-in-place design means creating a space that can age with the user. This might include a one-story build to avoid stairs, hardwood floors rather than carpet, and other sustainable changes that have accessibility in mind. This kind of design keeps homeowners in their homes for longer keeping real the idea of a family home.

Along with his continued venture into being an entrepreneur in the architectural field, Scardina also actively pursues his creative outlets of composing, singing, and performing music. In his past, Scardina has spent time performing with the San Francisco Opera and Ballet, San Francisco Men’s Chorus, Portland Opera, and the Portland Gay Men’s Chorus. Now, he spends his time writing and composing his own music and finds inspiration in all places while having a multitude of creative outlets from design and architecture to stage performance.

Collin Himes ’23

Collin Himes loved being an active member of Hiram’s campus community. Whether it be as a two-year member of the men’s soccer team or as a student worker at the Physical Plant and James H. Barrow Biological Field Station, Himes always found a way to keep himself engaged and busy as a student.

During his junior year, Himes made the decision to switch his major to biology with an animal life focus and began working at Hiram’s Field Station. Himes spent his time as a land steward and animal care worker, working on projects like the construction of a raptor cage for the Field Station’s animal ambassador, Barry, the barred owl, or maintaining the Field Station’s many hiking trails. As his work continued at the Field Station, Himes also began to help with on-going research projects like snake cover board surveys, butterfly surveys, and even a beech leaf disease project headed by two other Hiram alumni, Zack Fox ’21 and Henry Schwendler ’21.

“The things I loved most about the Field Station included the people who work there, the opportunities it presented for both research and learning possibilities, and the freedom to explore over 500 acres of gorgeous nature right in our college’s backyard,” Himes said.

As his passions for environmentalism and animal care grew, Himes took up an independent research project of his own studying salamanders. “The goal of the research was to identify if the Jefferson salamanders belonged to a rare population of unusual ambyystoma, a type of salamander that consisted of all female populations that used other species’ genetic material to reproduce,” Himes said. Himes’ research consisted of trapping the Jefferson salamanders in vernal pools during breeding season, then collecting tissue from a tail-clipping, and finally examining the DNA in a lab to analyze the findings.

Through all of his experiences at the Field Station, Himes said that it was the people he worked with and learned from who impacted him the most. “The staff at the Field Station are always welcoming and they work to get people to explore what the Field Station has to offer,” Himes said. “And they do so while maintaining the goals and beauty of the Field Station itself.”

Now experiencing his first year postgrad, Himes is working a seasonal position as a wildlife technician for the U.S. Forest Service in Douglas, Wyoming. A typical workday consists of camping in the Thunder Basin National Grassland, where he works to map prairie dog colonies for conservation and population control efforts. On his days off, you can find Himes in a neighboring national forest fly-fishing for trout in one of Wyoming’s many natural streams.

Eventually, Himes hopes to become an established wildlife biologist. While he could see himself stepping back into the research field at some point, he finds the most joy working in nature. Himes plans to work seasonal wildlife positions for the next few years before returning to school to obtain a master’s degree in wildlife biology.
ALUMNI EXECUTIVE BOARD

As liaisons between Hiram College and the alumni body, the Alumni Executive Board helps the Office of Development and Alumni Relations learn and understand the needs and opinions of its graduates. Members are elected for two-year terms and may serve up to three consecutive terms. The board meets on campus three times per year and members are actively involved with activities, events, outreach, and supporting the Hiram Fund.

OFFICERS
Jared Drummer '08  
President 2022-24
Kristen (Wedus) Ramsey '09  
President-Elect 2022-24
Mollie Patterson '10  
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Kelvin Beacham '77
Lawrence “Lex” Bennett '69
Warren Blazy III ’04
Michael Brickner ’04
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PAUL PORTER ’07
IRENE RAIBER ’87
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RYAN STUVER ’10
AMY (BUETBET) WASHINGTON ’08

Nominate other alumni or yourself to the Alumni Executive Board at www.hiram.edu/alumni-executive-board.

ALUMNI Executive Board Features

JEFFREY ROBB ’22
Circleville, Ohio  
Political Science  
International Studies
Campus Involvement:  
Student Senate, Garfield Center for Public Leadership, Garfield Presidency Scholars, Orientation Leader, Resident Assistant
Career:  
Call Time Manager, Friends of Sherrod Brown
Hobbies:  
Softball, trivia, working on important issues in Ohio, and spending time with friends and family.

TRIA CHARNAS ’10
North Royalton, Ohio  
Biomedical Humanities
Campus Involvement:  
Student Ambassadors, Student Senate, Phi Beta Gamma, Dance Team
Career:  
Senior Manager, Human Resources, Cognizant
Hobbies:  
Traveling, trying new restaurants, and spending time with family and friends.

STEVE MATTHEWS ’71
Middleburg, Virginia  
American Studies and English
Career:  
Steve spent his career working as a public librarian, a library director, and as a high school English teacher.
Hobbies:  
Walking, a habit he built in Hiram, reading, and laughing, which “is the best tonic to keep the path bright and the next step fun and fulfilling.”

LETHIA GRIMES ’95
Cleveland, Ohio  
International Management and Spanish with a minor in German
Campus Involvement:  
African American Students United, Student Ambassadors, Tour Guide
Career:  
Learning & Development Program Specialist at PNC
Hobbies:  
Reading and traveling.

2023 brought another unforgettable Alumni Weekend to Hiram College. The Hill was filled with alumni of all ages sharing stories, reminiscing on their time as a Terrier, and creating new memories in their forever home at Hiram.

Lifetime Achievement Award  
William Heath ’64
Terrier Award  
Tanya Allen ’78
Service to Humanity Award  
Denny Taylor ’73  
Lucy Chamberlain ’77

Don’t miss the fun! Make plans to join your friends next Alumni Weekend, JUNE 14-16, 2024.

2023
A GREEN INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP: an emerging collaboration for Northeast Ohio

By Michael Benedict, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Director of Field Stations

An Idea Begins

In 2021, Hiram College began discussions with several organizations about the need for workforce training and development in Northeast Ohio for careers in the green industry fields. Potential employers have experienced labor shortages with a scarcity of applicants to fill positions. This shortfall has frequently resulted from a lack of skills, lack of specialized knowledge or education, and more broadly, from a lack of awareness about viable career prospects in these industries.

Those discussions involved a broad representation of organizations with ties to the green industries space, including Holden Forests & Gardens (non-profit), Cuyahoga Community College and Hiram College (educational non-profits), and The Davey Tree Expert Company and Arborwear (for-profit businesses).

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Seeing an opportunity to connect a variety of institutions to address the workforce needs, in 2022 these organizations formed an informal partnership centered on three goals:

1. **increasing awareness about career opportunities in the green industries**
2. **facilitating training and career development**
3. **establishing NE Ohio as a hub for green industry workforce development and professional opportunities**

Making Progress

Through early meetings, the group gained traction and the original founding partners recruited two additional members: the City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability (local government), and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (state government). This increased the partnership’s representation to include government organizations; it also increased the partnership’s reach through the networks associated with each of its individual organizations. With the added perspectives from these governmental institutions, we had a wider and deeper understanding of the green industries landscape and a collective set of insights to inform the next actions towards achieving our overarching goals.

The next actions revolved around three general categories. First, we have held regular meetings to discuss and identify our scope of interest and model for workforce development. From that work, we are focusing on a specific section of the green industry in Northeast Ohio, which includes research, conserving, and developing our “plant-based” economy and infrastructure. Our initial model is that of a pipeline that integrates education and training with professional opportunities. This pipeline ranges from high school to certificates to higher education; and the professional opportunity pipeline ranges from entry level positions (including internships) to higher level positions for more established/skilled professionals. Here, students or professionals seeking additional training can connect to the pipeline at their existing academic or skill level and then exit more developed with their additional education/training. The professional pipeline connects workers and potential employers, allowing employers to fill their demand for well-prepared workers, while fostering the workers’ professional development and growth. We envision this structure integrated with, and supported by, professional associations and other community-based organizations, as well as the partnership members themselves through scholarships and other forms of support.

Second, our partnership members have actively engaged with other organizations to explore their interest in joining this effort. At the time of this writing (October 2023), our partnership has 19 member organizations among higher education, public school districts, government, non-profit, community, and private employers. We expect this number of collaborators to continue growing as we engage with more organizations that can benefit from and contribute to our goals.

And third, we have been pursuing various ways to bring this group together and formalize it. Our partnership has been an informal association of organizations that connect around a common vision. And our strategies and decision making have been reached through consensus by the initial group. However, with the progress in developing this collaboration, we identified the need to formally structure our group and its work. We have held two in-person workshop meetings graciously hosted by Davey Tree, the last of which was in late August 2023. With expert facilitation by New Growth Group (a workforce development consultancy from Cleveland), that meeting produced substantial outcomes which can be summarized as follows: We assessed our progress to date; had deep discussions about our goals and approaches to addressing the workforce challenges; explored structures to formalize our partnership; identified areas of connection among our various initiatives and areas of growth; and identified next steps, including potential funding opportunities to support our continued work.

Moving forward

As a result of that meeting, our group submitted an Ohio Industry Sector Partnership grant proposal for workforce development in the green industry sector. This grant was prepared by Holden Forests & Gardens (the lead applicant), Hiram College, and Cuyahoga Community College. If funded, this will support several actions, including some related to structuring the partnership. We anticipate a decision on that grant by early next year.

While we wait for that grant decision, the work continues. We are exploring how our group can connect with other existing partnerships for greater impact, and we are planning combined efforts that can be executed without funding.
Research is the process of discovery. No matter the project, the researcher is doing something no one else has done before.
1960s

Darla Jean (Williams) Brown ’65 writes, “I just celebrated my 80th birthday with family and friends and feel very blessed. I currently serve on the missions’ team at my church after going on two short term trips to Thailand and earlier Jakarta, Indonesia. I have spent the last few years teaching English as a second language to a number of people from numerous countries as a volunteer at Crosspoint Alliance Church in Fairlawn, Ohio. I have been widowed for the past nine years and remain in close contact with my two daughters and their families. A Hiram Hi to all the friends of the class of ’65!”

Kenneth Burton ’66 writes, “I continue to live at the Collington Life Care Community, a CCRC in Bowie, Maryland. I would be delighted to be in touch with any Hiram alum who would like to join me here. I also continue to be heavily involved in Seekers Church, a small progressive Christian community in D.C. My life is full and rich, and I am reasonably healthy and have just celebrated by 78th birthday.”

1970s

John Bennett ’72, Roger Cooper ’70, Peter Mitchell ’69, Bob Benedict ’71, John Bennett ’72, and Paul Ward ’71 consider themselves the ‘Hiram Fantastic Five’ and would like to share their latest adventure with Hiram classmates. They write, “We are all longtime supporters of the College and have the good fortune of maintaining and developing our wonderful 50+ years of friendships that were cultivated by our special time at Hiram. Our latest ‘off the grid’ trip was a four day/three night paddle down the Yampa River in Dinosaur National Monument at the Colorado/Utah border. It’s the last undammed major river tributary to the Colorado River, and contains many class two and three rapids, with even one class four in the mix. We spent time putting oars in the water in our ducks and paddle boats, swapping tales at night while enjoying a beer and/or wine and swatting away mosquitoes, and all the time being in awe of the geologic and wildlife wonders all around us.”

Carla (Phillips) Katz ’72 is a docent at Brandywine River Museum and a volunteer at Winterthur Museum. She is retired from education and became an avid bicyclist, going on many Bike Vermont Tours and riding many miles along the Erie Canal.

David Robinson ’75 writes, “I’ve been retired four years now after working in the Santa Clara County Jails for 33 years. We live in Oakland, California, and love and freedom. I’ve been married to Jo for 32 years. She is retired from San Francisco having worked in forensics and then as the Director of Behavior Health. We have a son, Aaron, who is a Deputy Chief in the San Jose Fire Department. Our grandson, Gabby, is now 14 and a budding softball star.”

Daniel Mason ’79 was inducted into the 2023 Class of the Euclid City Schools Alumni Association. He was also the first teacher/non-graduate to be the winner of the Joe Mayer Community Engagement Award. Daniel spent his entire career in Euclid as a teacher, coach, and athletic director. He even spent time with the Special Olympics and as city pool manager. Friday night football announcer, and Euclid track relays official.

Teresa (Young) Krueger ’79 writes, “I married Rev. Jerry Krueger on October 9, 2021. On June 30, 2023, we both retired from serving as clergy in the United Methodist Church. I retired from Olentoon UMC in Mineral Ridge and my husband in Boardman. We purchased a home in Wauahache, Texas and have settled in nicely. We are looking forward to our first Hiram visit, Linda Pollack ‘80 this fall. Retirement is great!”

1980s

John Titch ’80 writes, “I retired from GM (GMAC/GM Financial) after 40 years in April 2022. Upon retirement, I immediately started pursuing my Sommelier Certification, which after 16 months, I have earned my level three Sommelier Certification and pin.”

Kathryn (Hoech) Griffin ’81 writes, “I moved to Biddeford, Maine, in 2023. Stop by if you are driving through Maine; it’s easy to get here from the Maine Turnpike Exit 8. The beaches here are splendid.”

Jim Hoyssick ’81 writes, “Heather and I are proud to announce the birth of our third grandchild, Austin James Hoysick, in June of this year. Our son, Andrew, and his wife Michelle, are excited about this new addition to their family.”

Paul Orevitz ’82 writes, “enjoying retirement every day.”

Julie (Maston) Weis ’82 and her husband Eric are proud grandparents of seven grandchildren. She is happily retired from the U.S. Department of Labor, having worked there for 34 years. They cherish all the special moments they get to spend with the energetic kids who range in age from nine years to seven months.

Beth Estock ’84 writes, “I moved to Joseph, Oregon last year to serve a little church in the Wallowa Mountains. I continue to work as a master certified leadership coach with clients in North America and the United Kingdom.”

Karen Donley-Hayes ’86, M.A. ’06, writes, “In addition to celebrating my seventh year with Cleveland Clinic Foundation in 2023, my first book, the memoir ‘Falling Off Horses,’ was published in March. My second book, the novel ‘Shoalie’s Crow,’ also went into production for a March 2024 release. My husband, Arnold C. Hayes ’86, has been my champion for decades, as has my mother, Carol C. Donley-Hayes ’80 this fall. Retirement is great!”

1990s

James Ong ’93 was appointed by Ohio Governor Michael DeWine to the position of Judge of the Tuscarawas County Court. He is a 1997 graduate of the University of Akron School of Law.

John Chaich ’95, curated ‘Queer Threads’ for the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles in California. On view from May 12 - August 20, 2023, the exhibition featured more than three dozen works, spanning five decades, by LGBTQ+ fiber and textile artists rooted in and working in the American West, Northwest, and Southwest. ‘Queer Threads’ debuted at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art in New York City in 2014 and traveled to the Maryland Institute College of Art and the Boston Center for the Arts in 2016. The companion coffee table book, designed by Todd Oldham Studio, received the 2018 Isabel Allende Non-Fiction Award from the American Library Association.

John Coyne ’95 writes, “I joined the board of a small community organization in our little town of Bedford, Ohio. We both travel quite a bit, so we hope to meet more of our old friends that showcase our local small businesses. In 2022, I was hired by the national umbrella organization of The ALS Association, helping recruiting and stewarding board members across several states. I’ll love to chat about the possibilities if you have a connection to ALS and would be interested in joining an advisory council in Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, or Pennsylvania. My work email is john.coyne@als.org.”

David Hejmanowski ’96, judge of the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court, has been elected President of the Ohio State Bar Foundation for the 2023 term. He has served as the Judge of the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court since 2015. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, an officer of the Ohio Judicial Council in Michigan, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, or Pennsylvania. My work email is john.coyne@als.org.”
2000s

Dr. Sanjur Brooks ’07 was featured in RVAs Style Weekly magazine for her contribution to the field of human research protections. Sandy is the Director of Human Research Protection Program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Constance Skingel ’07 writes, “In 2022, I was named Executive Director of Healing Art Missions, an international NGO which partners with rural communities in Haiti to help them access the basic human needs of health care, clean water, education, and employment.”

2010s

Matthew Hintz ’10 writes, “I graduated from Hiram in 2010, Clemson University with an Master of Arts degree in History, and UNC-Greensboro in 2018 with a Post-Baccalaurate in African and African American Diasporic Studies. I finished a tour as a park ranger for the National Park Service at Cuyahoga Valley National Park and am now working at the United States Military Academy at West Point in the Public Affairs Office as the Deputy Chief of Community Relations, and Chief of the West Point Speakers Bureau.”

Jessica Gruden ’13 moved to Florida and recently adopted a pocket bully they rescued from the side of the road on a hot summer July day. Nebulas has been a perfect fit and her brother Buddy agrees!

Allyse Gillentine ’18 writes, “I have just reached my one-year mark working full-time year-round at Cedar Point. On the day-to-day I get to manage and create all our content for our marketing team. I take photos, video write, and create graphics. Recently, we announced Top Thrill 2 - coming to the park in 2024. It will be the worlds fastest, tallest, triple-launch strata coaster! I am also on the board of an organization called North Coast Young Professionals. As Membership Chair, I am in charge of building our members and helping plan fun events for the region’s young professionals, including professional development, networking and enhancing leadership skills. On top of ALL of that, I recently designed and published a book on Amazon called “Monochrome Mindfulness: A Palette for Self-Care, Manifesting and more!” This book is an adult activity book that’s really great for reaching goals, planning, manifesting or stress-relieving FUN.

Dr. Heather (Ristau) Parr ’15, DNAP, APRN-CRNA writes, “In 2020, I graduated from Youngstown State University St. Elizabeth’s School of Nurse Anesthetists with a master’s degree. After passing boards, I became a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. In December 2022, I graduated with a Doctor of Nursing Anesthesia Practice degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. I am currently employed at University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center and the UH Bainbridge Endoscopy Center.”

Denzel Lamothe ’15 caught up and had lunch with Demetria Bell Anderson, former director of campus involvement at Hiram.

Rosa (Gomez) Finley ’15 has transitioned from Real Estate Development Coordinator to Accounts Payable Assistant at DeJoff Development Company and is loving working with numbers. Rosa married Logan Finley on Friday, October 6, 2023, and the two are ecstatic! They recently adopted a pocket bully they

Joyce Dyer, professor emerita of English at Hiram College, recently published a new book titled “Pursuing John Brown: On the Trail of a Radical Abolitionist.” A mix of genres, including memoir, history, biography, and travel writing, her book was called “a thoughtful, elegantly written contribution to American studies” by Kirkus Reviews. It was awarded honorable mention by Civil War Monitor in their list of Best Civil War Books of 2022 and just selected as a finalist for both the 2022 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year in biography and the 2023 Ohsiana Book Award in the category of book about Ohio or an Ohioan.

2020s

Jeffrey Rob ’22 married Bailey Whittington on May 20, 2023 in Kingston, Ohio.

You can submit your class note at www.hiram.edu/alumni/class-notes.
IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Carol (Cram) Donley

Dr. Carol Donley ’60, the Andrews Professor of Biomedical Humanities Emerita, and professor of English emerita passed away on April 3, 2023. Dr. Donley grew up in Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights before attending Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts for three years, and then finishing her undergraduate education at Hiram College. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1960 with a bachelor’s degree in biology and general science. She returned to school and earned her master’s degree in 1970, and then her doctorate in 1975, both in English from Kent State University. In 1975, Dr. Donley began her career at Hiram, serving as a faculty member in the English Department until her retirement in 2006. In 1990, Dr. Donley took on the role as co-director of the Center for Literature and Medicine at the College with her colleague, Martin Kohn. With Dr. Kohn, she also co-authored/edited 19 books in the literature and medicine series of Kent State University Press, and the two directed the annual summer seminars in literature and medicine at the College. She also served for two years as the associate dean for special academic programs. In 2001, Dr. Donley was named the Andrews Professor of Biomedical Humanities, and in 2002, Dr. Tom Andrews, Hiram College Emeritus Trustee, converted the Andrews Professorship in Biomedical Humanities to the Carol Donley Professorship in Biomedical Humanities.

Ann Brennan

Ann Brennan, former member of the Hiram College Board of Trustees, passed away on July 25, 2023. Ann was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, before she attended Catholic University in Washington D.C., graduating with her degree in political science in 1955. She then attended the University of Akron, where she received her bachelor’s degree in education. In 1979, at the age of 46, Ann returned to school to complete her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Akron, and following her completion, she became an associate, then a partner, at Amer, Cunningham & Brennan, a firm specializing in probate law. She ultimately decided after a few years that her work as a volunteer and philanthropist better suited her.

From 1990-2002, Ann served as a member of the Hiram College Board of Trustees and as chair of the Finance Committee for six years. She also co-chaired the 1991-1996 development campaign. In 2002, Ann was granted Trustee Emeritus status. Ann was also a member of the 1850 Society, with a lifetime giving of more than $1.2 million to Hiram College. In 1991, Ann was inducted into the Garfield Society.

R. Thomas Green Jr.

R. Thomas Green Jr, emeritus member of the Hiram College Board of Trustees, passed away on Wednesday, October 18.

A graduate of Amherst College, Tom began his professional career in sales and marketing in 1960 with the American Steel and Wire Division of the U.S. Steel Corporation. In 1965, he joined Oglebay Norton, one of the oldest companies in Northeast Ohio to sail ore boards on the Great Lakes. Tom learned the iron ore and shipping business from all angles, serving in various capacities over the years. In 1992, he was named chairman, president, and chief executive officer, and served in this role until his retirement. He was the last direct descendant of the Oglebay Norton families to manage the company. From 1995-2013, Tom served as a member of the Hiram College Board of Trustees and was granted Emeritus status in 2013. He was a member of the Burke A. Hinsdale Society and Hiram’s Nursing Advisory Council. In 1998, he was inducted as a member of the Garfield Society.

Dr. Howard Taylor ’61

Dr. Howard Taylor ’61, former member of the Hiram College Board of Trustees, passed away on March 21, 2023.

A native of Cleveland, Dr. Taylor received his bachelor’s degree in sociology from Hiram College before pursuing his master’s and doctorate degrees in sociology from Yale University. After completing his education, Dr. Taylor taught and conducted research at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and then at Syracuse University. In 1973, he joined the faculty at Princeton University, where he had a profound influence in guiding the African American Studies Program as director. He also helped to shape the sociology department’s undergraduate and graduate offerings in the study of race, social class, and gender. Following his retirement, Dr. Taylor served as a professor emeritus at Princeton. From 1981-1992, Dr. Taylor served as a member of the Hiram College Board of Trustees, and in 1980, he was inducted into the Garfield Society.

George S. Bissell

George S. Bissell, a dedicated friend and generous supporter of Hiram College, passed away on October 13, 2023.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Business School, George spent his entire business career in the Boston, Massachusetts investment community. He began his career at Eaton and Howard, before moving to Massachusetts Financial Services in 1963, where he spent 17 years. He then joined Travelers Corporation, America’s oldest corporate trustee. In the late 1970s George acquired Keystone Mutual Funds for the Travelers Corporation and in the fall of 1989, he became part of an investor group who purchased the mutual funds from Travelers Corporation. He served as the Chairman and CEO of Keystone Group until his retirement in the late 1990s.

In 1998, George and his wife, Peggy, established the Howard S. Bissell Chair in the Liberal Arts, to honor his father’s service on the Board of Trustees. Professor Robert Sawyer was the first faculty member to hold the Bissell Chair. Furthermore, the couple also established the Howard Seymour Bissell and Robert Kenyon Bissell Symposium Fund, which is intended to support students in their development toward becoming effective members of society through a variety of activities. Over the years, George also established the Howard Seymour Bissell Scholarship, the Clarence R. and Alice Seymour Bissell Memorial Music Award, the Marcia Kenyon Bissell Performing Arts Fund, the Marcia Kenyon Bissell Awards in Voice, the John Samuel Kenyon Chair in English, and the National Endowment for the Humanities: Howard and Glennia Bissell Fund. George was inducted into the Garfield Society in 1999 and has been a long-time member of the 1850 Society.

David William Ambrose ’67

David William Ambrose, longtime friend and supporter of the College, passed away on September 2, 2023.

Following his graduation from Warren G. Harding High School in 1963, David attended Hiram College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. He then continued his education at Kent State University where he received his Master of Education degree in educational media. David spent his career as an educator and librarian, teaching both elementary and middle school at Southington Local Schools, Champion Local Schools, and Lordstown Local Schools, before serving as a library and media specialist for Liberty Local Schools and Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools. Following his retirement, David worked as a communication and training specialist with INFOhio, a service organization that offers significant data and other kinds of electronic resources to K-12 educators in Ohio. David served on the Board of Visitors from 2015 – 2022 and as a Board Member for the Friends of the Hiram College Library for several years. In 2008, he established and endowed the David William Ambrose ’67 Scholarship.
Robert Moeller
Professor Robert D. Moeller passed away on June 15, 2023, after a brief illness. He taught in the theatre arts department at Hiram College from 1978-2006.

A long-time resident of Hiram Village and faculty member at the College, Professor Moeller inspired both students by advocating for their educational and personal lives as he guided them into becoming adults. In 1994, he was inducted into the Garfield Society. Upon the death of his wife, Nancy, he established the Nancy Moeller Outstanding Achievement Commendation to honor his wife and to recognize the exemplary work staff add to the College. Following his retirement, Professor Moeller remained in the village where he spent many hours hiking the trails and enjoying the outdoors around Hiram.

Edna M. (Robbins) Kletz ’44
September 22, 2022
William R. Boyd Jr ’47
September 28, 2022
Barb E. (Johnson) Parker ’47
January 7, 2023
Lorenzo (Vijande) Gill ’48
June 6, 2023
Jeanie D. (Dungan) Kiddle ’48
March 12, 2023
Helen E. (Lewis) Manslow ’48
March 26, 2023
Mac (Stinchcomb) Allen ‘49
November 4, 2022
Barbara (Chappell) Matz ’49
March 13, 1953
William D. Ahonen ’50
July 1, 2023
April 9, 2023
Lynn M. Leicht ’66
September 22, 2022
Richard R. Osborn ’66
September 22, 2022
Loralee McNeill ’62
December 23, 2022
March 21, 2023
Dr. Maurice C. Hothem ’63
September 17, 2023
Dr. Howard F. Taylor ’61
May 7, 2023
Marilyn (Chantrey) Waller ’60
May 30, 2023
May 5, 2023
April 3, 2023
May 5, 2023
March 21, 2023
November 4, 2022
August 30, 2023
March 26, 2023

Your gift means more today than ever.

MARCH 1, 2024

CELEBRATION and MEMORIAL Tree Dedication Spaces
An adage goes that we leave a legacy when we plant trees so future generations may enjoy the shade.

Hiram College alumni and friends impact the rich history at Hiram College in so many ways. From attending campus events to fostering connections and relationships with students, alumni, and friends to help develop a vibrant community that Hiram College is proud to be home to. With Hiram’s designation as a Tree Campus from the Arbor Day Foundation and accreditation as an Arboretum, the College is committed to maintaining and improving our campus tree canopy. Thus, alumni can now leave a lasting legacy through the donation of a celebration or memorial tree to be planted on Hiram’s campus.

In 2021, the friends of Jacquie Gillon, class of 1978, organized the planting of a donated memorial tree in honor of Gillon’s advocacy and community service. Gillon was the co-founder of Black Environmental Leaders, also a member of the Neighborhood Centers Association, and a founding member of Cleveland’s environmental advocacy movement. She was also involved in environmental education through the Sustainable Cleveland Partnership and joined the Western Reserve Land Conservancy as a Community Engagement Specialist & Diversity Coordinator, where she focused on urban projects throughout Cleveland.

Celebration and memorial trees are planted in the spring between April and May and in the fall months of September and October. There are six species of tree to choose from, while Hiram College will make the final decision regarding species and planting locations. Additionally, tree markers may be added to the donation to designate the celebration or memorial for which the tree represents.

If you would like to discuss gifting a memorial tree, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations office at 330.569.5281, or email, alumni@hiram.edu.