

Spring 2016

Wooster Magazine: Spring 2016

Karol Crosbie

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Wooster

SPRING 2016



2016

Independent Studies

 Also inside

Slam poetry fuses
art and social justice

Student leadership as I knew it

As I walked into the Tartan Room for a meeting of student leaders with the Student Development Committee of the Board of Trustees, a fellow student handed me a nametag that read “Sunny Mitra—Former SGA President.” Confused at first, I realized later that evening that my identity as a student leader had actually come to define me as a person, so much so that I am addressed by my former titles even after completing my terms. From Student Government Association (SGA) president, to Campus Council vice-chair, to Math Club treasurer, my entire Wooster experience has been shaped by my leadership roles. As I prepare to walk through the Arch, I realize that the different faces of student leadership at Wooster have taught me valuable lessons about the world around me.

First and foremost, it has changed the very definition of leadership for me. Rather than regarding leaders as those in charge, I have now begun looking at leaders as those who are able to serve the needs of their constituents. During my term as SGA president, I realized that listening

is one of the core characteristics of a successful leader. Two influential accomplishments of SGA during that term—calling for an external review of the Student Life Division, and creating an Alcohol Task Force—were both the results of open discussion meetings with the student body. I have learned that being backed by the will of one’s constituents can strengthen any action that is taken by a leader.

In the same vein, I have also realized that leadership is not only about listening but it is also about constant learning. What better place to cultivate such leadership skills but the collaborative learning environment of Wooster? As a sophomore fresh into student leadership in my position as Campus Council vice-chair, it would have been impossible for me to have presided over budget allocation discussions if it had not been for the vast amount of knowledge I gained from my peers, staff, and administrators on Council. Throughout my time as a student leader, I have continued to learn and grow immensely as a person and a leader.

Finally, I have realized that leadership also involves making way for others who are a better fit for a particular role. As a leader, I have learned the need for humility in order to acknowledge that it is not always possible to be successful in every position. In such situations, I have taken up the role of a facilitator as someone else assumes the driver’s seat. During my time in Math Club, I quickly realized that there were others who were more passionate about the leadership position than I was. Thus, I took a backseat as I continued to support others to take the club to new heights.

As one more class walks through the Arch, Wooster has prepared us to be “leaders of character and influence in an interdependent global community.”

Go Scots!

SAYANTAN (SUNNY) MITRA '16



Photo: Karol Crosbie

Wooster magazine: Reaching 29,000 alumni and friends

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Wooster

A MAGAZINE
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FRIENDS OF
THE COLLEGE
OF WOOSTER

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 The end of an era



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On the cover: I.S. MONDAY

LEFT TO RIGHT: Lily Mohre, business economics with a double minor in Spanish and urban studies, wrote her I.S. on the relationship between risk and return and whether human capital should be considered in the explanation of a security's returns. Next year she will work for Charles Schwab in their wealth management training program in Austin, Tex. Carly Joliat,

psychology, early childhood education minor, wrote her I.S. on social influence among authority figures and peers in schools. She will student teach next year. Kelsey Clark, political science, history minor, wrote her I.S. on neoliberal rationality's transformation of American prisons; next year she will conduct policy research in Washington, D.C. Photo: Matt Dilyard



For Reading Out Loud

Dick Figge is on to something very important in his radio program. I grew up before the advent of TV, listening with rapt attention to stories on the radio: "The Shadow," "The Green Hornet", Orson Wells, etc. For the past two years, I have read a story at the December meeting of the local Friends of the Library monthly Book Review. I read Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* and, touching some emotional associations, I was invited to return the following year to read an adaptation of some of Moss Hart's *Act One*. I also enjoy reading stories, poems, essays, etc. twice a month to an appreciative bunch of "assisted living" folks. Reading out loud ... it's an art.

HENRY HOPPER '58
WILLIAMSPORT, PENN.

The Power of Connections

It was a pleasant surprise to see Dave Unsworth '81 and his work in Portland featured in "Critical Thinking for the Republic." Dave graciously provided me a place to stay and introduced me to the city while I was in Portland for the Wooster Urban Quarter way back in 1983. It is a reminder of the warm sense of community and service shared by Wooster's Urban Studies graduates.

PETER CONSTANTINE '85
ARLINGTON, VA.

CORRECTIONS

Wooster's Paraguayians: Because of misinformation from the College, student ambassador Ruben Quinteros thought that he and his brother were the College's first Paraguayians. Adam Samale '10 wrote in to correct the mistake: His roommate was Gabriel Avila '10, from Asuncion, Paraguay. Ruben was delighted to learn of an alum from his home country, and he and Gabriel have been in communication.

Copper in Zambia: *Wooster* magazine misunderstood Zambia ambassador Lango Sichizya to say that Zambia is the second largest producer of copper in the world, when in fact he said that Zambia is the second largest producer of copper in Africa and the eighth in the world.

Timken Library: The description of the cover image, Timken Science Library's globe, incorrectly identified the year of the library's renovation as 1968; the correct date is 1998.

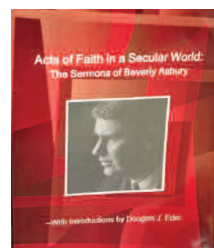
We welcome your feedback. Write to Karol Crosbie, editor, *Wooster*, Ebert Art Center, The College of Wooster, 1220 Beall Ave., Wooster, Ohio 44691 or kcrosbie@wooster.edu.



Acts of Faith in a Secular World: The Sermons of Beverly Asbury, published by **Douglas J. Eder** and **The College of Wooster Class of 1966**

The years 1962 through 1966 at The College of Wooster were memorable ones. College campuses had become forums for dissent, as the nation struggled with issues of equal rights, the Vietnam War, and the crisis of President Kennedy's assassination.

When the College celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1966, Doug Eder '66 remembers that his graduating class received much attention. He and his classmates also remember the effect that one man had in shaping their ideas of civil disobedience, freedom, and responsibility. Rev. Beverly Asbury's tenure at



Wooster was the same as that of the class of 1966: 1962 through 1966. At Asbury's request, the long-standing employer/employee relationship between the College and the Westminster Presbyterian Church ended. Rev. Asbury became the College's first independent campus minister. Doug Eder, a religion major who wrote his I.S. on the topic, discovered that the new relationship was unique. Of the nation's 46 Presbyterian colleges, Rev. Asbury was the only campus pastor to establish this kind of independence.

Rev. Asbury's independence allowed him to preach sermons that were sometimes at odds with the College's administration, as he charged students to put their faith into action. Every Sunday, students picked up typed copies of his sermons.

In recognition of the influence that "their" minister had on the Class of 1966 and at the request of Doug Eder, class members combed through old papers to find copies of the 50-year-old sermons. The result is a book of sermons, with introductions by Eder: *Acts of Faith in a Secular World; The Sermons of Beverly Asbury*.

Eder, who went on for a career in biological sciences, is today professor emeritus at Southern Illinois University. Asbury continued his ministerial career at Vanderbilt University. His comments are included in the book's preface: "Thank you for remembering so well and for thinking that sermons are more than 'one time things' ..."

To order the book, go to <https://www.lulu.com/shop>



Scots in Service: Because of the College's 150th celebration and the inauguration of President Sarah Bolton, this year we're taking a break from organizing Scots in Service.

Books! *Recent publications by alumni and faculty*

Wayne Cornelius '67, editor, with Micah Gell-Reman, Hillary S. Kosnac, Pero Lewin-Fischer, and Veronica Noriega, *The New Face of Mexican Migration: A Transnational Community in Yucatan and California*, Regents of the University of California, 2015.

Mary Crow '55, *Translations, Vertical Poetry: Last Poems by Roberto Juarroz*, White Pine Press, 2011.

Mary Crow, *Poems, Addicted to the Horizon*, CW Books, 2012. This entry corrects one published in the winter 2016 magazine; we regret the errors.

Darren Demaree '03, *Not For Art Nor Prayer*, a collection of poems, 8th House Publishing.

Beverley Driver Eddy '62, *Camp Sharpe's "Psycho Boys": From Gettysburg to Germany*, Merriam Publishing, 2014.

Walt Hopkins '66, with George Simons, *Seven Ways to Lighten Your Life Before You Kick The Bucket*, Libri Publishing, 2016.

Carol Jennings '66, *The Dead Spirits at the Piano*, a collection of poetry, Cherry Grove Collections, 2016.

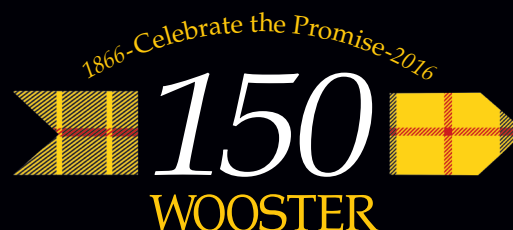
Eric Lapp '87, *The Clay Lamps from Ancient Sepphoris: Light Use and Regional Interactions; from the 2nd report of the Sepphoris excavation*, Eisenbrauns, 2016.

Lee H. Lybarger '56, *Growing Up in Lakewood, Ohio—a memoir covering the years 1939-1952*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2015.

John Miano '84 with Michele Malkin, *Sold Out: How High-Tech Billionaires & Bipartisan Beltway Crapweasels Are Screwing America's Best & Brightest Workers*, Simon and Schuster, 2015.

Gary Reichard '65, *Deadlock and Disillusionment; American Politics since 1968*, Wiley Publishing, 2016.

Thomas W. Stewart '89, *Contemporary Morphological Theories: A User's Guide*, Edinburgh University Press, 2016.



Party like it's 1866!

The 2016-17 academic year will mark the sesquicentennial of the founding of The College of Wooster, and the Scot faithful will mark the milestone with events throughout the year. Among the highlights:

Oct. 21: The campus community will come together for a day-long celebration that includes panel discussions with Wooster's past presidents and distinguished alumni, the opening of a student exhibit on the college's history, an all-campus dinner, a concert by the Scot Marching Band, and fireworks. Several events will be live-streamed on the web.

Nov. 18: Regional celebrations for alumni will be held in more than three dozen cities around the world.

Dec. 18: The College will partner with Main Street Wooster to host a special Founders Day event celebrating the strong and historic ties between the College and the City of Wooster.

Watch for more details on these and other events throughout the sesquicentennial year at
www.wooster.edu/150



Oak Grove

HAPPENINGS AROUND CAMPUS

Oak Grove

Melissa Schultz Nature Preserve

A place to grow

On a balmy day in May, students at the Montessori School of Wooster, plastic bags in hand, charge out to the nature preserve that lies just a stone's throw from their school. It requires their attention. Well versed in the biology of invasive species, they stuff garlic mustard into their bags and pull privet up by the roots. A prickley and invasive multiflower rose snags a little guy, quick tears follow and just as quickly dry, as a friend frees him.

This spring, the Melissa Schultz Nature Preserve was dedicated in honor of Melissa Schultz, Wooster associate professor of chemistry and environmental studies, who was killed in a car accident on February 7, 2015.

The five acres of woods, meadow, ravine, and creek need much work for future generations of teachers and learners. Melissa Schultz had begun working with the Montessori students on the project, and many of them knew her well. Sixth grader Sylvie Shaya, for example, had learned about wild flowers and will help organize the effort to develop the preserve's meadow. "Melissa was an amazing person," said Greg Shaya, Sylvie's dad and Wooster professor of history. "One of the things she did so well as to spread her love of science and nature."



CLOCKWISE: Sylvie Shaya climbs the ravine, Paul Hostetler discovers a salamander, Eli Smucker and Marion Dix search for invasive plants.

Photos: Karol Crosbie



MARK WEAVER, professor of political science, chair of pre-law advising committee
At Wooster since 1978, Prof. Weaver (who requested no publicity on his retirement) has nonetheless garnered much over the years, as coach to Moot Court teams that won national awards.

Retirements

John Gabriele

Raymond and Carolyn Dix Professor of Spanish

When John Gabriele arrived at Wooster in 1986, he was already five years into his academic career, first at High Point University in North Carolina, then at Purdue. But 35 years as a faculty member doesn't keep him from recalling that his career felt unplanned. "I'm sort of a professor by accident. My family was Italian American and I grew up speaking better Italian than I did English. I loved being a student. I didn't know what I wanted to do. I kept on getting degrees and before I knew it I had a Ph.D., I was 27 years old; I got a job."

His colleagues say a love of learning is probably the best qualification there is for a lifetime in higher education. "John has been both an absolutely superb teacher and a relentless scholar," says Nancy Grace, Virginia Myers Professor of English. "For me, his ability to blend those lives has been the ideal."

When he arrived 30 years ago, Gabriele says it seemed to him and some of his colleagues, including Dick Figge, professor of German, and Carolyn Durham, professor of French, that the College's foreign language departments' role was purely a service one—allowing students to fulfill a requirement. "That has changed," he says. "Today, I think students see that in a global world, bilingualism opens doors. And you can't learn language without learning something about the culture—whether that's literature, religion, social mores, norms, issues of gender, or racial differences."

As he had hoped, Gabriele never stopped learning. "My field is contemporary Spanish peninsular theater, but from the beginning this institution gave me the opportunity to broaden my horizons. I never anticipated researching and publishing about works written in the 1500s, for example. Or publishing on Don Quixote."

Illustrating the predictable synergism between teaching and research, Gabriele's Don Quixote seminar became one of his most popular. "I asked students to write a paper on something that was quixotic-like—a film, a reality show (really, what in life doesn't allow you to compare reality and illusion?) and find a connection with the theories we'd discussed."

His research into contemporary Spanish theater has enriched his life, he says. "These authors are my friends. I've invited them to campus and we've skyped in class."



"John teaches Spanish with great passion (he's a pacer and a gesturer—very Italian). He's no nonsense, with a big sense of humor. At faculty meetings he was not gentle. He was incisive—very quick to get to the root of the situation and offer a solution. He will be missed."

— Mark Wilson, Lewis M. and Marian Senter Nixon
Professor of Natural Sciences

Photo: Matt Dilyard

And his classes have also left him richer. When *Wooster* magazine caught up with him, he had just returned from teaching an advanced seminar on global theater. "We were talking about death, life, memory, and exiled Spaniards. Literally all 15 students were engaged with the topic, with me, and with each other. When students take responsibility for learning and growing as seriously as you do, that's great stuff. You just can't write that script."

Gabriele and his wife, Carolyn Durham (who retired in 2014) will be living in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he will be golfing, reading, traveling, but not publishing. But wait. He's always wanted to write a cookbook ... perhaps ...?



Retirements



John Finn

Director of public information, 1999-2016

Director of sports information, 1984-1999

As a journalist, John Finn sought fair questions and verifiably true answers. As a sports enthusiast and expert, he valued competition and winning. Combine these two attitudes, stir in a large dose of humility and a work ethic that never quits, and the result is a guy who argues with himself about whether his Wooster years have been successful.

Listen in: "We were always trying to promote the value of Wooster. We were never asleep at the switch. We tried. We did our best. I don't think we missed too many opportunities. We've appeared in a lot of media. But the big question is: What does that mean? Are we better known? I don't know. And even with the most detailed, expensive research methods, there's no way to quantify our answers. The benefits are intangible and immeasurable. It hasn't been championship caliber. I mean, just the other day I talked to someone from Columbus who had never heard of us. *From Columbus!* I have some regrets. We know we matter and we know that we have a lot to offer, and people are discovering that. They're just not discovering it as much through the media as I would like."

But he argues only with himself. Administrators, faculty, and students say forget about winning and proof of excellence. They say John Finn's 32 year tenure was a championship season.

"John was a true professional in all areas," says Steve Moore, Wooster's head basketball coach, "I think he could have excelled in the big time media. He could have moved on to professional sports or to a major university. He was a pure joy to work with."

Telling Wooster's stories

In 1984, Finn took a \$7,000 pay cut to accept a \$13,000/year job as Wooster's director of sports information. Although he had a degree in broadcast journalism, he had been working in sales and was eager to begin his real professional calling. From the beginning, he loved his job so much that he'd be ready to go to work by 6:00 a.m. "My wife would say, 'What are you *doing!*?' and I'd say, 'I'm just so excited to go to work!'"

"John understands competition," said Coach Moore. There's a reason. A former volleyball player, he began coaching youth volleyball in 2000, and today coaches both club and high school volleyball teams. He also coached at the collegiate level, including four years as an assistant with the women's team and several years as head coach of the men's club team at Wooster.

His promotion to director of public information in 1999 was challenging, remembers Finn, as he learned new areas of information and stuck with a source until he understood the story. "I was my own litmus test," he says. "If I could understand it, then I felt like the general public could understand it. That was my challenge."

He met the challenge and then some, says his boss, John Hopkins, associate vice president of college relations and marketing. "John has a sharp sense for a good story, and you have to know what a good story looks like if you're going to pitch it."

Both of them remember, for example, the bro-chet story. Finn was conducting a radio seminar (more on that later), and told class members that he was always on the lookout for interesting or unusual stories. "The students told me about Wooster's "Bro"chet Society—guys who had learned how to crochet, do it together in their program house, and donate their handiwork to human services societies. I told them, 'That *is* a good story!' Finn pitched it to the national media and many sources (including *The New York Times*) bit.

Correct timing (sometimes serendipitous, sometimes planned) and relentless outreach sells the unique story and the walls of the meeting room at College Relations are decorated with framed clips—the "Bro"chet boys, Woo Corps (the College's summer student employment program), the service dog program house. But the story the College most wants to tell—its undergraduate research program—is increasingly a hard sell, says Finn. "The rest of the world has caught up to us. Undergraduate research isn't as unique as it once was. Even though we've done it longer and probably better, the media doesn't take the time to discern the difference. Name recognition is everything. If they want a story on undergraduate research, they're not going to call this island in rural Ohio."

The College's best media draw is the expertise of its faculty members, says Finn. But faculty could play a bigger role in affirming the College's standing by "putting themselves out there," he says. "It hasn't been a priority." Although he allows himself to equivocate about his own personal success, he brusquely dismisses similar discomfort from faculty members. "Someone might say to me, 'There's someone at MIT who knows more about this than I do.' I say, 'So what? I don't work for MIT and neither do you.'"

"I always told the faculty, 'You don't have to be best, you just have to be first.'"

And when a TV interview that might have been routine turns into a brilliant display that helps convince listeners that a Wooster professor is *both* the first and the best, Finn remembers it well. "Jeff Lantis (professor of political science) and I had gone to a TV station in Cleveland to talk about the Iraq War controversy, and all



“He was a pure joy to work with.”

— Steve Moore, head basketball coach

of a sudden the station cut to footage of large protests that had broken out against the war. They turned to Jeff and asked him for reactions and about how teachers address these kinds of issues in their classrooms. Jeff was tremendous! Man, that was a championship performance.”

And Professor Lantis credits John Finn. “John has encouraged us to imagine practical applications of our knowledge and experience. I can’t say enough about the wonderful support he has given us.”

WCWS 90.9 FM—WOO-91

It wasn't as if Finn didn't have enough to do. But broadcasting remained his true passion, and when he volunteered in the late 1980s and early 1990s to help prepare students for roles at WOO-91, the College's student-run radio station, the Communications Department and the administration happily accepted. In 2004 his role changed from one of support to sole mentor and advisor, when the Communications Department decided to drop the half-credit broadcast class from their offerings and to end their nearly 40-year run of hosting the station on the second floor of Wishart Hall. Finn was disappointed in the curriculum decision. “A radio station is very much in line with the liberal arts mission. You have independent thinking, self expression, risk taking ...”

But when they take place on the air, there can be such a thing as too much of the aforementioned, and Finn's goal with his required six-hour seminar was to enhance professionalism. The station's 2013 move from Wishart to the basement of Lowry resulted in a huge jump in visibility and interest, he said, and every year he mentored approximately 30 students.

His role was a delicate balancing act between preparation, oversight, and student accountability. “I told the students that we want them to have fun, but not to fool around. That this was a place to make mistakes, but not to be careless.”

WOO-91 alumni say that not only did he achieve the right balance, his mentorship was an inspiration. Jeremy Ludemann '14, the station's general manager and a popular program host, is today pursuing an advanced degree at Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism and volunteers as a reporter and newscaster for the region's NPR/PBS station. He credits Finn with helping him to develop an on-air persona—simultaneously distinctive and professional—and teaching him the craft of on-air interviewing. “During our election coverage in 2012, John encouraged us to always shoot for the big interview and to have fair, professional, quality coverage,” remembers Ludemann. “After several cancellations from both sides, Senator Dick Durbin from



Illinois—one of President Obama's biggest supporters—called in live to do an interview on my morning show.

“I know I wouldn't be in broadcasting without John's guidance. I am very grateful to him for his work to keep one of America's finest college radio stations on solid footing. And his dedication as director of public information is an inspiration to all Scots.”

Following retirement from the College, Finn will continue his moonlighting jobs as volleyball coach and his 27-year tenure as sports announcer for MCTV in Wooster. He will continue his work at his church and as worship leader at a local senior care center, and as a volunteer with United Way, Boys and Girls Club of Wooster, and Kiwanis.

“At Wooster,” he says, “I tried to execute my duties as I tried to live my life—trying to be of service to others.”

WOOSTER'S
JENNY
INVESTMENT
CLUB

TURNS 60 YEARS OLD

Story by
JOHN L. HOPKINS
Associate Vice President of College Relations and Marketing

Photos by
MATT DILYARD



Jenny Investment Club

IN THE FALL OF 1981, JOHN SELL was a newly minted Ph.D., settling into his first semester as an assistant professor of business economics at The College of Wooster. So he was a bit surprised when the phone rang one October morning and Hans Jenny asked him if he wanted to have lunch. Jenny had taught economics at Wooster for more than 30 years and since 1966 had also served as vice president for finance and business. What could he want with a newly arrived junior faculty member?

The answer had to do with the third hat that Jenny wore at the college: advisor to the Wooster Student Aid Fund. One of the first in the nation when Jenny and other economics faculty launched it in 1955, the student-run investment club began with \$800 in accumulated chapel fines as seed capital and with a goal of providing scholarship assistance for international students. Now, looking toward retirement at the end of the academic year, Jenny needed someone to whom he could pass the baton.

Sell was intrigued and agreed to step into the advisor's role. Thirty-four years later, he's still advising the group, which was renamed the Hans H. Jenny Investment Club in honor of its founder.

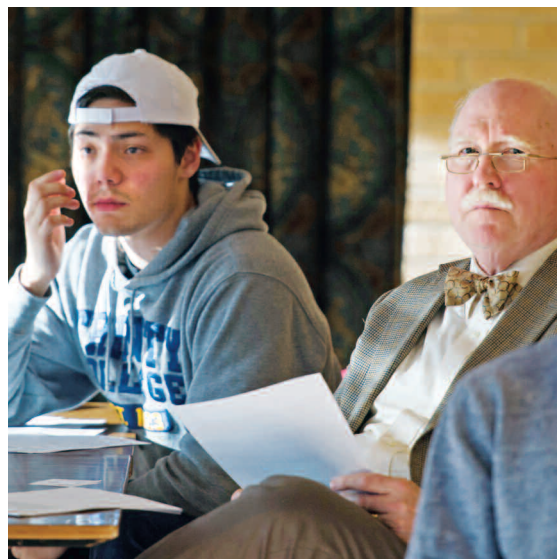
When Jenny retired in 1982, the value of the investment club's holdings was about \$75,000. By 1996, propelled by investment gains and an additional \$20,000 in capital given by alumni, the fund had grown to \$250,000. In 2002, the board of trustees created a second portfolio with \$500,000 from the college's endowment, to be managed by the students alongside the original fund. In 2010, the board moved an additional \$1 million into that second portfolio.

Today, the Jenny Investment Club has \$3.6 million in total assets under management, making it one of the largest student-managed investment funds in the country. And unlike the vast majority of those other funds, which focus on maximizing short-term returns, the Wooster students' investment horizon is three to five years. Since 1988, the original fund has provided some \$400,000 in scholarships to international students at Wooster.

The students managing those assets are called trustees. Any member of the college community is eligible to join, and while economics and business economics majors predominate, other disciplines represented this year include history, Africana studies, political science, biochemistry and molecular biology, and computer science.

To become a trustee, one must attend three consecutive weekly meetings and present one research report—a pitch to either buy or sell a particular stock—to the group. Maintaining trustee status requires being present for 50 percent or more of the group's votes and making at least one research presentation each semester. There are currently 27 student trustees, plus Professor Sell and Assistant Professor Harry Michael, the group's two faculty advisors. They each get one vote, the same as the students. All investment decisions must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the trustees in attendance.

Meetings typically begin with a brief overview of the week's market and economic news, after which one or more students present research reports, followed by recommendations to buy or sell. Twenty years ago, presentations typically were done by individual students, but today they almost always involve two-person teams.



Today, the Jenny Investment Club has **\$3.6**
M I L L I O N
in total assets under management,
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investment funds in the country.

▲ He may be in his 34th year as the Jenny Investment Club's advisor, but Prof. John Sell still only gets one vote on the group's investment decisions, the same as the students.

The Jenny Club advantage

Such is the case one evening in early March, as first-year student Leonard Wine '19 and senior Sebastian Northrup '16, armed with a PowerPoint presentation, offer a detailed, well-researched proposal to increase the investment club's holdings of Abiomed, a healthcare technology company that develops and produces pumps, catheters, and other medical devices used during heart surgery.

Following the presentation, they are peppered with questions by their fellow trustees: What, specifically, is Abiomed's competitive advantage? Will an increasing focus on preventive medicine and health consciousness reduce demand for their devices? Since recent earnings beats are already baked into the share price, where is the upside potential? Where do they see the share price in 12 months? Won't this overweight the portfolio's position in healthcare?

The students respond to each question, and then it is time to vote. When the paper ballots are tallied, there are 8 "yes" and 10 "no." The buy motion fails.

Those research presentations were invaluable highlights of their Jenny experience, say both former and current trustees. Says Jane Cairns Murray '82, an associate circuit court judge in Cecil County, Md.: "The give and take during the meeting helped train me to think on my feet." Club president Sanjana Kumbhani '17, a junior business economics and mathematics major, describes being asked to give a stock pitch as part of interviews for finance internships last semester. "That was the easiest part," she recalls. (She landed a summer internship at Citigroup and is headed for New York City this summer.)

All pitches are teachable moments, even those that don't pass. The trustees are still shaking their heads about declining to buy Keurig Green Mountain Coffee three weeks before the company was bought out and the stock soared. On the other hand, Pat Scanlon '16, a senior biochemistry and molecular biology major, recalls making a buy recommendation for Denbury Natural Resources, a secondary oil recovery company, at \$17.40 per share, which his fellow trustees voted down. "I checked it today and it's trading at \$2.17," he says ruefully. "Their stock symbol is DNR, and in the medical world that stands for 'do not resuscitate.'"

Managing the Jenny Club portfolio gave him a clear picture of just how difficult it is to beat the market and how quickly the market incorporates information, says Russ Dieringer '08. Dieringer, who went on for a master's in finance from the Simon School of Business at the University of Rochester, today is a research analyst with Cleveland Research. "I had no exposure to investing growing up and Jenny gave me my first taste of what goes into analyzing a stock. Without that, I might not have pursued the path I did."

No matter what path the trustees follow, their Jenny research and presentation skills serve them well. Psychology major Samantha Eisele '11, who went on to become a school psychologist, credits her Jenny experience with giving her the confidence to begin building a small portfolio with her husband. (And she still recalls with satisfaction a successful buy recommendation on Chipotle when she was a student.)



A glance at the list of Jenny alumni reveals teachers, chemists, engineers, doctors, and lawyers, as well as financial and investment professionals, and one retired vice chair of the Federal Reserve. The current officers demonstrate a similar diversity. Scanlon, the controller, will be heading to graduate school for biomedical engineering and then on for an M.D. Jack Crawley '16, the vice president, has a job lined up with Duff and Phelps, a corporate finance advisory group, in London. Junior Emily Foley '17, the group's secretary, knows she wants to work after graduating a year from now, rather than going straight on to grad school, but is still figuring out exactly what and where. The group's president, Kumbhani, says she hopes that this summer's Citigroup internship will help clarify the direction she wants to take.

Gilbert Lemieux '08 was an investment club stalwart, attending nearly every meeting during his four years at Wooster. When he graduated, he landed a job with J.P. Morgan, spending six years with the firm, first in New York City, then Los Angeles. Today he's with a tech startup, Boomtown, in Tiburon, Cal.

His Jenny Investment Club experience was a huge differentiator in landing that first job, recalls Lemieux. "It had incredible value and was one of my favorite parts of my Wooster experience. There's no question it helped me step into a role advising people with millions of dollars to invest. And I became good friends with people I never would have met outside of the investment club, friends I'm still in touch with today."



 **LOOKING BACK** 
1866 - 2016

Hans Jenny: Looking back

When Swiss-born Hans Jenny arrived at The College of Wooster in 1947, he had already experienced crisis, adventure, and lots of education. The grandson of a member of the Swiss Parliament and the son of a banker, Jenny served in the Swiss mountain defense force during World War II, traversing the Swiss/German border on skis with his machine gun patrol. He received master's and doctoral degrees in economics and business administration and then went on to law school.

A professor of economics, vice president for finance and business, and director of institutional research at Wooster, Jenny was well spoken, oft published, and frequently quoted. His ideas of 48 years ago resonate today.

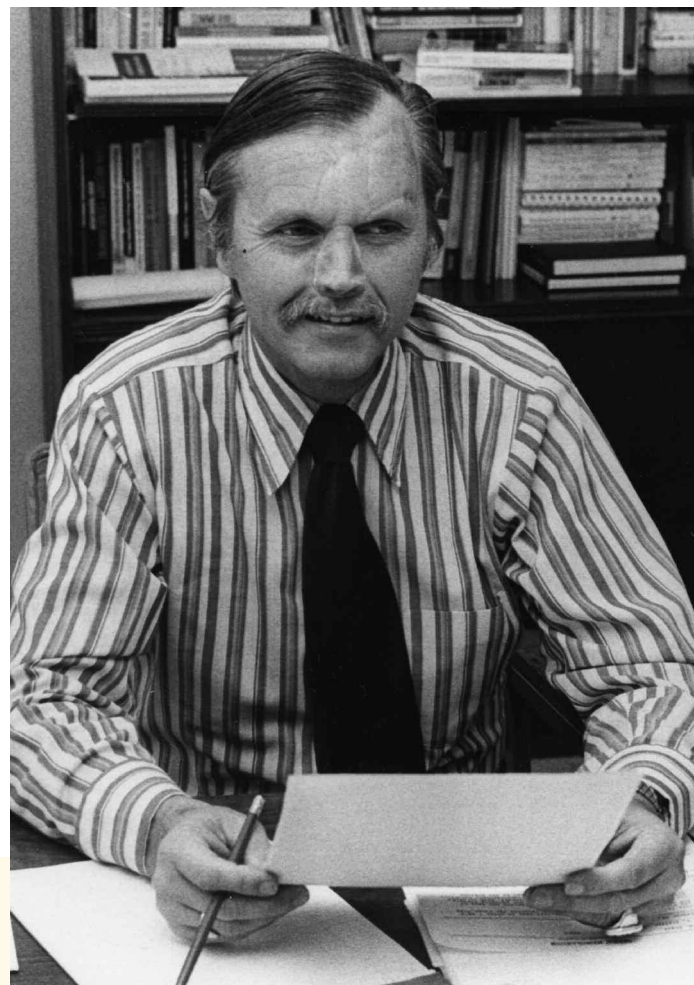
► From the "Dynamic College," by Hans Jenny, *Wooster* magazine, April 1968

ON TROUBLING TIMES

The College of Wooster is moving into its second century at a time of deep international trouble, dangerous unrest and divisiveness at home, and a considerable sense of frustration on the campus caused by our many external and local concerns.... When we worry about the future of a private institution like The College of Wooster our attention must focus on the continuing transformation of the College, which in one way or another has never stopped since its very foundation.

ON RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

The very concept of church-relatedness is undergoing a drastic and fundamental change. Both (church and college) are taking a new and fresh look at the wider world around us. We have discovered that we need a continuing dialog with the outside world, with people from other religious backgrounds, other political views, other cultures, and interests other than our traditional ones. Many of our students and faculty have tasted the excitement of real-life social and human involvement amidst the very special problems of the 1960s. The dynamic church-related college will be totally involved in man's quest for a better world and for the truth.



ON THE EDUCATIONAL REVOLUTION

A special aspect in the educational revolution is the explosion in the technology of learning. Very few colleges have anticipated adequately the financial requirements which this revolution will entail. ... Eventually, the computer budget at The College of Wooster will be as large as or larger than the total overhead costs of all academic departments, not counting the salary component for faculty!

ON MEETING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

The dynamic college makes superior demands on itself in devising a sound educational program. It makes superior demands on its students in steering high but humane requirements for academic and social achievement. It must make superior demands on all those entrusted with the management of scarce resources and the formulation of policy. It must make superior demands on its friends so that together they may preserve the institution of which they want to become and remain a permanent part. While the College exists to serve the individual, it can also be said that the individual belongs to the College only if he serves it and serves it well.

▲ Investment club president Sanjana Kumbhani '17 checks the latest market news.

▲ Club officers Jack Crawley '16, Emily Foley '17, and Sanjana Kumbhani '17 compare notes before the weekly meeting begins.

▲ Student trustee Niall Cronin '16 ponders whether to vote "yea" or "nay."



**VOLCANOES, VIDEO GAMES,
AND BLACK SQUIRRELS:
A SAMPLING OF DIVERSE DISCIPLINES**

STORY BY
KAROL CROSBIE

Continuing our 28-year tradition of I.S. coverage, here are summaries of a few of the 439 Independent Studies completed this semester.



A SHIFTING, DRIFTING, SLIDING PLANET EARTH

Team Utah

Wooster's ongoing exploration of the Ice Springs Volcanic Field, Black Rock Desert, Utah

KELLI BAXSTROM, MICHAEL WILLIAMS | GEOLOGY

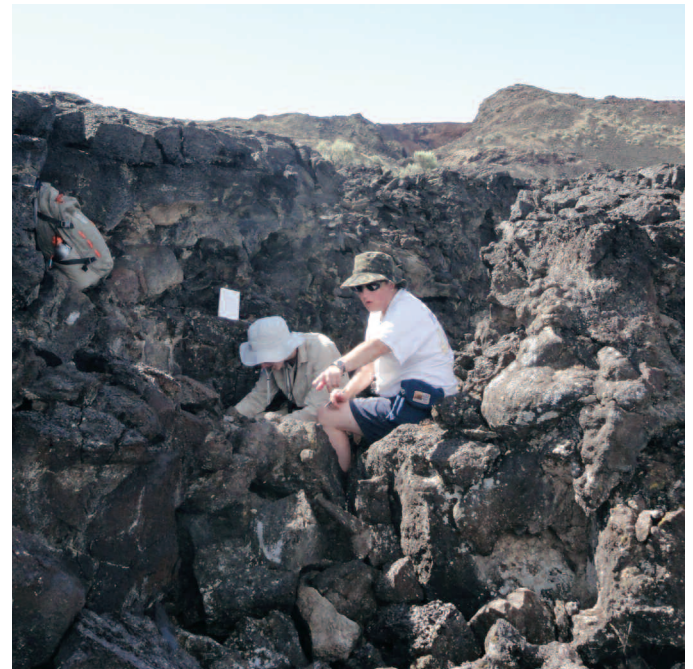
Mentor: Shelley Judge, associate professor of geology

KRYSDEN SCHANTZ | GEOLOGY

Mentor: Meagen Pollock, associate professor of geology

Krysden Schantz, Kelli Baxstrom, and Michael Williams advanced a research topic that has become an area of expertise for Wooster's geologists—the study of the Ice Springs Volcanic Field in the Black Rock Desert in west-central Utah. The Geology Department began studying the area in 2009, and faculty and students have made seven presentations at meetings of the Geological Society of America.

With the most recent eruptions probably occurring only about 1,000 years ago, Ice Springs is Utah's youngest set of volcanoes. With the help of Purdue University scientists, Schantz used a new dating technology to analyze samples of rock at the Purdue PRIME Lab—the first time this method has been used on the Ice Springs Volcanic Field. She also analyzed vegetation and other rock samples at Wooster using other dating techniques. Since the 1970s, geologists have theorized that the last volcanic activity at Ice Springs occurred



Top: (from left) Kelli Baxstrom, a geology and religious studies double major, hopes to work for the National Park Service; Michael Williams has applied to teach English in Japan; Krysden Schantz has applied to graduate programs in volcanology.

Above: Michael Williams and Prof. Judge in one of the crater's minor tubes. By studying volcanic tubes—part of a volcano's lava transport system—geologists can track flows that occurred more than 1,000 years ago.



DIVERSE DISCIPLINES

about 660 years ago. But Schantz is estimating that it was more likely 6,000 to 8,000 years ago.

Baxstrom found a tube (part of the volcano's intricate lava transport system) missed by other geologists. Baxstrom's combination of chemical analysis and GPS mapping indicated a volcanic cone that had not yet been recorded. And why had geologists missed this clue? The area was uninviting—actually a “disgusting mess” say members of Team Utah. Imagine a small mountain of cinder and rubble (about the height of Kauke Hall) in the middle of the desert. Imagine climbing this small mountain of shifting cinders. (The students point to scars on their legs.)

Williams advanced the profession's body of knowledge by finding a disconnect between new discoveries and an old classification system. The Ice Springs eruptions are classified as “monogenetic” volcanoes—defined as those with short eruptions and pulses. Using GPS and geochemistry, Williams mapped out a broader definition that reflected more complex movements over time.

Below: Members of Team Utah stand on top of previously unrecorded cone fragments.

Right: A rock hammer gives visual scale to ropy pahoehoe lava.



The three students advanced an area of research that has been a specialty for Wooster geologists since 2009.





Predicting avalanche behavior

POPI PALCHOUDHURI | PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS

Mentors: Susan Lehman, professor of physics and department chair; John Ramsay, professor of mathematics and associate dean for experiential learning

Imagine, says Popi Palchoudhuri, that you're building a sand castle, with a goal of making it as tall as possible. You scoop, and scoop, and scoop. The sand in each scoop acts a little differently; some adds to the height of your castle, some rolls down the sides. At some point your castle collapses. You begin again, this time using wetter sand, thinking that this might help your construction plan.

Palchoudhuri's research contributed to the NSF-funded research that Wooster's Physics Department has been conducting in collaboration with the University of Illinois-Urbana for the past 20 years. She collected data to build a model that would help to predict avalanche behavior and compare it to other catastrophic events, including earthquakes, the stock market, and traffic jams. "All of these events are subject to something called the Power Law," she explains, "which says that something big

occurring is less probable than something small occurring. So a big avalanche is less probable than a small one; a big traffic jam is less likely than a small one ..."

The experiments were conducted with steel beads whose magnetism mimics the water cohesion found naturally (and variably) in wet sand particles. By methodically dropping one steel bead at a time to the top of a conical bead pile for 165 hours for a total of approximately 60,000 bead drops, Palchoudhuri modeled events that reflected the interaction of two variables: bead cohesion and the height from which the beads were dropped.

Palchoudhuri has a keen interest in working in the area of attracting and engaging young women in STEM disciplines and hopes to work in a research laboratory in the United States.

Above:

Popi Palchoudhuri made sense of 60,000 bead drops, which helped explain a big idea: the Power Law.

Photo: Karol Crosbie

Palchoudhuri modeled events that reflected the interaction of two variables: bead cohesion and the height from which the beads were dropped.



DIVERSE
DISCIPLINES

TEACHING & LEARNING WITH VIDEO GAMES



Professionals took note of Frank's research, the first comparative study of a new technology — reflective artificial intelligence.



Learning beyond the screen

ABIGAIL LEANNE FRANK |
COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS
Mentor: Matthew Broda, associate professor of education

The newest tablet technology introduced by Osmo game and learning systems is receiving awards and rave reviews. An application and a mirror mounted on an ordinary iPad takes the “playzone” away from the screen and projects it onto a table top. For example, the Osmo game Words allows a child or group of children to spell words with alphabet tiles on their desk or kitchen table and receive instant feedback, points, and prizes. *Time* magazine deemed it one of the year's best inventions in 2014. Toy of the Year named it a finalist for Innovative Toy of the Year in 2015. *The Washington Post* called it “the gaming device that brings kids back into the real world.”

But could it compare to good, old-fashioned one-on-one instruction from a teacher? Abigail Frank decided to find out. She assigned 23 kindergartners to one of four groups—a child and a teacher, a group of children and a teacher, a child and the Osmo Words game, and a group of children and the Words game. Pre- and post-assessments showed that all participants either improved or remained the same in their

Left: The Osmo Words game recognizes that the player has correctly identified the first letter of the word “horse.” The purple “44” is a running tally of correct answers.



Above: Abigail Frank shows Sadie how to play Osmo Words. They are soon joined by Sadie's friend. Teams and competition are reflected and encouraged.

Photos: Karol Crosbie

knowledge of emergent literacy skills, but that the type of teaching method did not affect learning. “I expected that one-on-one with a teacher would result in the most improvement. This was surprising—but in an awesome and good way. My research was able to begin defining the potential of Osmo as a teaching tool, which is really exciting,” Frank says.

Frank’s study was the first comparative study of the new technology (educators call it *reflective artificial intelligence*), and attention was paid. She was awarded a Copeland grant to develop the study and present her initial research at an international conference of the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education held in Kona, Hawaii.

She was in the midst of student teaching at a local elementary school when *Wooster* magazine caught up with her. “I’m excited to integrate Osmo into my own classroom. Kids love it, parents love it, and teachers love it—it brings a smile to everyone’s faces.”

A communication sciences and disorders major who received her early childhood teaching license, Frank plans to teach before going to graduate school in the field of education.

When computer science meets the classics:

Veni VEDI Didici

WILLIAM RIAL | CLASSICAL STUDIES AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Mentors: Monica Florence, associate professor of classical studies; Sofia Visa, associate professor of mathematics and computer science

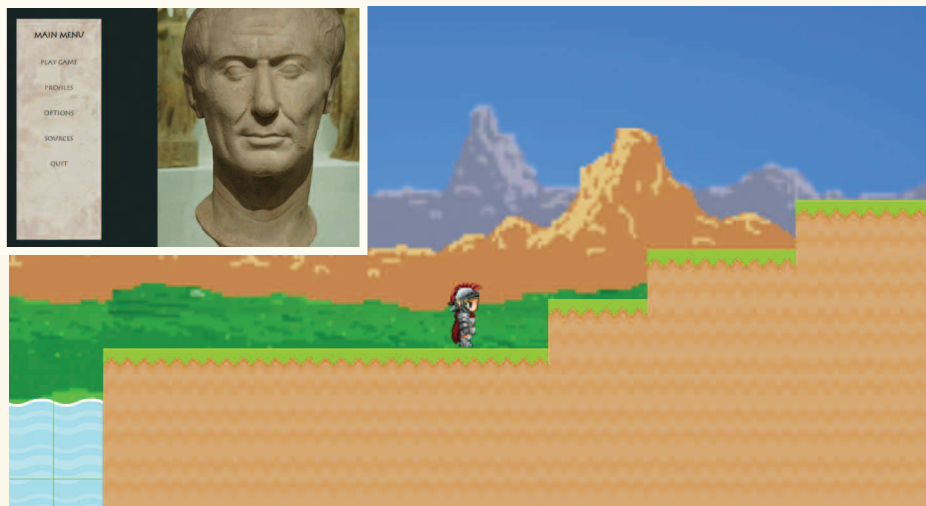
W

illiam Rial knows the power of storytelling to hook a rookie into a new discipline. A class he took as a first-year called “Mythology of the Ancient World” did the trick for him. So when it came time for him to combine his two majors—computer science and classical studies—he decided to exploit both storytelling and the immersive, hands-on power of the video game to teach Latin. Because learning a dead language is all about reading, translation, and learning the rules of the language, it’s particularly well suited to visual engagement.

And thus was born *Veni VEDI Didici* (I came, I saw, I learned). The player, a Roman legionary, is welcomed: *Welcome to Gaul, miles (soldier): The barbarian tribe who call themselves the Helvetians have burned their homes to seek new lands.* “I wanted to focus on the language,” Rial says, “but I also wanted to include some history, so I used an episode from Caesar’s *De Bello Gallico*, in which Caesar is justifying his actions to the Roman senate.”

Our tiny soldier is tasked with crossing the Arar River, but in order to build the necessary bridge, he must conjugate a Latin verb or decline a noun. If he is successful, he is rewarded with praise and a portion of the bridge is built: *Bene factum construimus pontis.* But if he is wrong, the bridge crumbles: *Erratum pars pontis destruitur.*

Rial based much of his work on the translation game *Duolingo*, and a dream job would be to work for the company. He is currently working at the College’s library, using optical character recognition software on old, illegible French texts in order to digitize them and make them readable.



Above: Our tiny soldier must conjugate a Latin verb or decline a noun in order to cross the Arar River. Caesar looks on with interest.



DIVERSE
DISCIPLINES

TOUGH ENOUGH



Above: Nick Flannery (number 59) was captain of the Fighting Scots football team.

The performer, the athlete, and mental toughness in the workplace

NICK FLANNERY | PSYCHOLOGY

Mentor: Gary Gillund, professor of psychology

Does your work frustrate you? Do you feel worn out at the end of the work day? Do you start arguments at work? Do you take offense easily? A “yes” to these questions may indicate that you’re experiencing workplace stress.

On the other hand: *Have you gone out of your way to encourage a coworker or show appreciation? Are you calm in tense situations? Take responsibility for setting challenging targets for yourself? Confident in your abilities?* A “yes” to these questions may indicate you possess what psychologists call “mental toughness”—a successful stress buffer.

And what contributes to mental toughness? Nick Flannery, captain of the Scots football team, set out to test his hypothesis: that mental toughness, when practiced during adolescence and post-adolescence in the form of organized sports or the performing arts, would correlate with later reduced stress and mental toughness in the workplace.





Left: Like many of the respondents he queried, Nick Flannery attributes his mental toughness and ability to succeed under pressure to his experience with collegiate athletics.

“Mental toughness” is an oft-researched and defined construct in the psychology discipline, and Flannery’s literature review is lengthy. He narrowed his definition of mental toughness to *the ability to overcome adversity, remain calm under pressure, and manage one’s emotions during times of both adversity and prosperity*. He was able to access a number of standardized questionnaires, resulting in 75 questions that he used in his research.

With the help of the College’s alumni office, he queried more than 1,000 employed Wooster alumni. “I thought maybe I’d hear back from 200 or 300,” he says. “I heard back from more than 700! And many of them said, ‘Great I.S.! Let us know what you found out!’” Respondents were remarkably evenly distributed into age groups and those who had participated in the performing arts or athletics at Wooster and those who had not.

Flannery found a clear correlation between self-reported workplace mental toughness and collegiate experience in athletics, but did not find a similar correlation in the performing arts. Physical training protocols, the desire to succeed under pressure, the ability to access social support and contribute to the success of the group, experience in interpreting potential threats as potential challenges—all help to build toughness, he concludes.

“When I was a freshman, we won two out of 10 games,” Flannery remembers. “And when I was a sophomore we won seven out of 10 games. Not giving up paid off. The four years at Wooster have been some of the most influential in my life.”

Flannery is pursuing a career in industrial and organizational psychology (helping organizations make the most of their human capital) and will be attending graduate school at Virginia Tech, studying with Wooster alumnus Scott Geller ’64, professor of industrial/organizational psychology and director of the Center for Applied Behavior Systems.



Above: Juniors Madi Hunt, Taryn Szalay, and Maria Witt performed Emily Baird’s pieces.

Photo: Karol Crosbie

THE MUSIC MATTERS

Creating dance when music is the teacher

EMILY BAIRD | THEATRE AND DANCE

Mentors: Kim Tritt, professor of theatre and dance; Shirley Huston-Findley, professor and department chair, theatre and dance

W

hen Emily Baird arrived at Wooster, she was already an accomplished musician—a singer and instrumentalist who had played clarinet, saxophone, and baritone horn in high school. She had never danced, but was enticed by information from the dance department she received as a first-year student at the College’s student organization fair. “I went to auditions, was cast in two pieces, and fell in love. Prof. Tritt recommended taking choreography class and I fell in love with that, too. I said, ‘OK, I love this too much.’ I knew what I wanted to do.”

It is not common for choreographers to also be musicians, and Baird set out to learn how an understanding of one art informs the other. “I discovered this was an actual discipline—choreomusical theory—and I studied three choreographers who were also musicians.” For her own work, Baird chose to choreograph two pieces—a quartet and a duet—by the contemporary Italian composer Ludovico Einaudi. “I wanted to see if creating dance that matched the music made the dance stronger.”

For the duet, she studied the musical score as she listened—more than 100 times. She listened to the quartet just as many times, but for this piece she did so without a score. She expected that the more technical understanding that came from studying a score would result in dance that was also more technical and intricate. But she found that the music mattered more than the method, and found she created differently for the two pieces based on their structure, dynamics, and storytelling capacity.

Baird has applied for teaching internships with dance companies and hopes to go to graduate school in choreography. “I think having a strong background in music will open up doors in choreography.”



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Above: ... The only exceptions to the rule of practicality were the clothes reserved for the most elite women—high-ranking officials and their wives. The elites' status offered them certain privileges, including access to luxury goods and the latest Soviet fashions.

From the Leningrad Red Front Fur Company 1936-37 catalogue



“Ideological concerns affected Soviet women’s relationships with their femininity, particularly in respect to outward physical appearance.”

—KATARINA GREENSLADE

FASHION IN FLUX

The Lady in Red:

Fashion and Femininity in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia, 1922-2000

KATARINA GREENSLADE | RUSSIAN STUDIES

Mentor: Tatiana Filimonova, assistant professor of Russian studies

When Westerners talk about the Soviet Union, “fashion” is likely the last word to enter their minds. The Soviet Union’s lack of fashion sense has long been the butt of jokes. Take, for instance, an American commercial from the 1980s. Imagine: a dark, smoky room packed with stolid men and women in ill-fitting military uniforms, clapping along with a polka band who wheezes out an asthmatic version of “The Song of the Volga Boatmen.” An obese woman, also in uniform, calls out “Next-daywear!” Following this announcement another obese woman struts down the catwalk in a shapeless blue frock, opaque black tights, and matching blue headscarf while the tuba oom-pahs in the background. At “next-evening-wear,” the same woman appears in the same frock, now carrying a heavy black flashlight. The crowd claps sporadically, unmoved.



Left: The advent of perestroika allowed underground and foreign music to be distributed openly for the first time, and the fashions associated with different styles of music became endemic to Soviet youth. These subcultures tended to blur the lines between masculine and feminine presentation, which ran counter to traditional notions of mainstream femininity and drove a wedge between Soviet youth and their elders.

Young female punks from a 1986 Russian unspecified medium

W

ith her opening paragraph, Katarina sets up her arguments and captivates her readers. She also begins to reveal the diverse media (considerably enriched by her ability to read Russian) that inform her research: print and broadcast advertising; movies and film promotions; fashion, news, and women's magazines; Soviet beauty contests, pattern books and catalogues, art, and comic strips.

Fashion is in flux, writes Greenslade, because femininity is in flux. "Femininity is very much a constructed model; it is built through the careful observance of cultural norms, and either adheres to or rebels against these norms. My paper focuses on women's responses to state-mandated regulations on how a Soviet woman should present herself. Ideological concerns affected Soviet women's relationships with their femininity, particularly in respect to outward physical appearance."

Greenslade, who minored in comparative literature, presented her research at the Midwest Slavic Conference at Ohio State University. She will spend the next year with a program of the Presbyterian Church's Youth Adult Volunteer Program (facilitated by the Westminster Presbyterian Church on campus, where she has been a member). The experience may be the beginning of a career in social work, she says.

Right: This image of the country's first Miss USSR, in her modern, revealing one-piece swimsuit next to the first leader of the Soviet Union is telling of the perestroika era's disillusionment with the socialist system. While the title of Miss USSR would be short lived (only three women ... were crowned before the Soviet Union fell in 1991) it left a lasting impact on Soviet society's attitude towards female beauty, particularly the hypersexualized brand imported from the West.

Pervyi sovetskii konkurs krasoty, Photochronograph.ru. Photochronograph, 23 Nov. 2012.





DIVERSE
DISCIPLINES

OF LOCAL FAME



A Wooster foodscape

CLARE CARLSON | ANTHROPOLOGY

Mentor: Pamela Frese, professor of sociology and anthropology

F

ried bologna sandwiches served in a music-free lunchroom by a waitress who calls you “honey”; butternut squash prosciutto flatbread, handed over a shining mahogany bar; a flaky Hungarian pastry set gently on a small marble table.

What are the ways that restaurants communicate values, connect with patrons, and create a diverse foodscape? Clare Carlson wanted to find out.

So she compared two groups of Wooster restaurants—those included on the city’s food tour (Local Roots, First Amendment, Tulipan, City Square Steakhouse, Rox Gastropub, Muddy’s, JAFB Brewery) and restaurants that were at least 50 years old (Hard Hat, Green Leaf, TJs, and Coccia House). She analyzed the language of the menus, interviewed the owners, and attended the food tour and observed its participants.

Carlson identified a number of shared values, communicated in very different ways. For example, the older restaurants evoked the importance and appeal of home with the words “home-made” and “homestyle” and reflected the city’s heritage with references to German and Italian food in menus that remained unchanged for decades. Their buildings were not downtown, and spaces had been decorated over many years, rather like an



ant’s living room. The new restaurants used the phrases “hand-crafted,” “house-made,” and “artisan” and referenced the community’s heritage with carefully decorated spaces in downtown buildings, rich with history and architectural detail.

Culinary tourism (the Wooster Food Tour was developed in 2013) can help position a city as a food destination, writes Carlson. “With the inflow of new people, ideas, and funding, Wooster’s restaurant foodscape continues to shift, change, and adapt as part of the larger city landscape.”



Above left: Clare Carlson, at the Local Roots Café, a restaurant on the city's food tour. Carlson, who studied food production in Italy and in Professor Matt Mariola's gardening class and food systems course on campus, is interested in working for a nonprofit, possibly relating to local foods, in education, or at a museum.

Above and left: The inside of Wooster's Hard Hat Restaurant reveals decor true to its name.

PHOTOS: KAROL CROSBIE

Carlson compared two groups of restaurants, analyzing language, spaces, and food.

Black is the new gray:

Studying Wooster's black squirrels

JACOB BECKSTEAD | BIOLOGY

Mentors: Richard Lehtinen, associate professor of biology;
Brian Carlson, visiting assistant professor of biology



Beckstead is planning to prepare for graduate school by gaining additional experience as a research assistant, and then pursue a Ph.D in developmental genetics.

It may have been preordained. As a first year student, Jacob Beckstead was participating in a production of *The 24-Hour Plays*, and he and his co-actors had decided to rehearse outside on the campus labyrinth. "All of a sudden this baby black squirrel began chasing us," he remembers. "He was darting around, and we were running in circles trying to keep away. He even started climbing up my leg. We finally concluded that he wanted the spot more than we did, and we left."

Four years later, Beckstead is chasing down answers. "My study," he writes, "can be boiled down to a simple question of many parts: What is the difference between gray and black squirrels? There are many ways one can approach this question; I decided to do so using three approaches.

"The first was a genetic analysis of a pigmentation gene known as *MC1R* present in all mammals. Dr. Helen McRobie of The Black Squirrel Project in the UK, discovered a gene mutation that results in melanism (a condition similar to albinism) where an organism produces too much eumelanin pigment, resulting in black fur. I did not find this mutation in our local squirrels, meaning that there is another mutation in the pigmentation pathway that results in their iconic black fur."

Beckstead did, however, find the gene mutation in fox squirrels, indicating that the melanistic condition arose recently in evolutionary time, after the species split in two.

He also performed a preliminary study on behavioral differences between the squirrels. "I wanted to examine the myth that the black squirrels are 'more aggressive' and were 'driving out the gray squirrels' and to document differences in activity levels throughout the day and under varying weather conditions. I found no differing patterns in activity relating to weather conditions or the presence of disturbances. I also recorded chases during my surveys, which may have either territorial or sexual connotations. There were twice as many chases initiated by gray squirrels as those initiated by black squirrels, in my mind busting the myth that the black squirrels are more aggressive once and for all."





MOSQUITOES!

The mating habits of mosquitoes

LAURA DARBY | BIOLOGY

Mentor: Laura Sirot, professor of biology



Why do the mating habits of mosquitoes matter? Laura Darby explains it well. The two species of mosquitoes that carry some of the planet's most worrisome diseases—Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya, West Nile, and yellow fever—are invasive species around the globe, displacing other indigenous mosquito species. "The interesting thing," says Darby, "is that since they're so competitively successful, the two species (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*) are both present in many regions and are competing for the same resources."

And one of the resources is the perfect mate. Hooking up with a member of another species is not only imperfect, it's fairly disastrous. "Offspring are not likely to hatch, but if they do, they won't make it to adulthood," Darby explains. "Actual cross-species mating occurs very rarely in the wild; generally when interspecies mating occurs, it's due to extenuating circumstances."

Darby was interested in observing the mating behaviors of the two virus-carrying big guns. She introduced an *Ae. aegypti* female mosquito into two buckets—one filled with male mosquitoes of both *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*, and one bucket of only *Ae. aegypti* males, in order to observe differences in the female's behaviors. Observed behaviors included a female kicking behavior that indicates rejection of a mate, and the length and frequency of mating positions. The presence of additional males of another species negatively affected female mating behavior.

Darby hopes to work for a research group in a laboratory setting. "I really love the pace of the work in a laboratory. I love how we're able to adjust for different possibilities and think through solutions and designs. It's kind of like a little playground."



Main: *Aedes albopictus*, also known as tiger mosquito or 'forest mosquito', is native to the tropical and subtropical areas of Southeast Asia.

Inset: *Aedes aegypti*, also known as the yellow fever mosquito, can be recognized by white markings on its legs and the upper surface of the thorax.



“The interesting thing is that since they’re so competitively successful, the two species are both present in many regions and are competing for the same resources.” —LAURA DARBY



Mosquitoes: The Civil War's third army

ISABEL PERMAN | HISTORY

Mentor: Katie Holt, associate professor of history

D

eeply interested in the American Civil War, Isabel Perman decided to study the dynamic relationship between nature and humans in southern battlefields and countrysides. Her Independent Study addressed how the war was affected by natural forces such as the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Shenandoah River Valley, and the weather.

And by mosquitoes. It wasn't until 32 years after the Civil War ended that it was discovered that mosquitoes transmitted malaria. But although they didn't know the cause of the disease, there were few southerners in the mid-1860s who didn't know its effects. They understood that exposure to swamps heightened the probability that they would get sick, as did seasonal "bad air." Military strategists on both sides factored swamps, heat, and humidity into their operations.

By the conclusion of the war, both Confederate and Union soldiers were more than twice as likely to be killed by mosquito-born illness as by enemy fire. With immune systems and psyches unprepared for the disease, the northerners were both debilitated and demoralized. "They were very afraid," says



"They were very afraid. The disease seemed to be an invisible and silent killer."

—ISABEL PERMAN



Above: Harewood Hospital in Washington, D.C., during the Civil War. Hanging over each bed is a mosquito net or bar.

Perman. "The disease seemed to be an invisible and silent killer." But if the southerners held the familiarity home advantage, the northerners were better able to secure supplies of quinine, which was known to be an effective remedy.

Soldiers provided an almost unlimited supply of mosquito nourishment, military tactics involving deforestation and trenches supplied great breeding grounds, and mosquito populations exploded.

A long-lasting effect of the scorched-earth practices of the vanquishing northerners was that southerners had a new appreciation for the value of their land, says Perman. "As they watched their breadbasket being burned to the ground, they realized the importance of the land as a resource. This led to a strengthening of conservationist and environmentalist practices."

Perman hopes to work for a public interest group on environmental issues.

UNDERSTANDING BEHAVIOR

Families that eat together

EMMA W. NATHANSON | PSYCHOLOGY

Mentor: Susan Clayton, professor of psychology

G

rowing up in Edinboro, Penn., Emma Nathanson, her younger brother, and her parents always ate evening meals together. “We’d talk about our day—it was a special time and I loved it,” she remembers. Many of her friends ate meals with their families, but many didn’t. She was curious about the variables that might predict or explain the two behaviors.

She asked 208 parents of children under the age of 18 from campus and from Cornerstone Elementary School to respond to questions that were based on the *theory of planned behavior*. For example, if people felt as if they were capable of planning and scheduling family meals, would that correlate with them actually having them? Yes, it did. Although this variable (called *perceived behavioral control*) is often used in health studies (i.e., “Do you think you’re capable of changing eating habits in order to lose weight?”), Nathanson’s is only the second study to use it as a measure/predictor of family meal behaviors.

And if people felt as though their friends or even the American society as a whole valued family meals, would that correlate with actually having them? Yes, it did. Would differences in salary correlate with either having family meals or not having them? No, they didn’t.

The reason most frequently given for not having family meals was conflicting schedules; family members simply weren’t home at the same time. Nathanson says she is curious about the direction that future studies may take in measuring the implications of TV and cell phone use on family meal behaviors.

Nathanson’s goal is to become a school psychologist, and a number of Wooster experiences contributed to her career path. One of her education courses allowed her to shadow a school psychologist in an elementary and middle school, she taught English in Austria for a field experience (she’s a German minor), and she worked with preschoolers at The College of Wooster Nursery School. This fall, she will begin work on her Ph.D. in school psychology at Michigan State University.



In Nathanson’s study, the reason most frequently given for not having family meals was conflicting schedules; family members simply weren’t home at the same time.

story and photos by LEE MCKINSTRY '13


SLAM

poetry

BUILDING COMMUNITY;

FUSING ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE





WOOSTER'S POETRY COMMUNITY ALREADY
BOASTS THE WORD OF MOUTH POETRY
CLUB, TWO POETRY COLLECTIVES, REGULAR
SLAMS, AND A SLEW OF NOMINATIONS FROM
THE 2014 AND 2015 COLLEGE UNION
POETRY SLAM INVITATIONAL (CUPSI).

“Before we actually start the
slam, *blood* must be spilled.”

The 60-student audience—sprawled across couches, black tabletops, and the linoleum floor in the basement of Douglass Hall—blinks, pauses, and lets out a little nervous laughter at the opening words of Hannah “Bird” Jackson ’18. Jackson, a poet from Newark, N.J., and co-president of Wooster’s Word of Mouth poetry club, knows the power of a well-placed pause. She rides the moment for a beat until she grins, sighs, and explains. “If you’re not a part of the poetry community, you might not understand. What I’m talking about is a sacrificial poet.”

It's *standard procedure* for a poetry slam

▼ Lexi Pacheco '18 reads one of her poems at a Word of Mouth meeting. A psychology major and education minor from Austin, Tex., Pacheco serves as the club's secretary.



to begin with a non-competing poet “sacrificing” his or her piece to the judgment of a newly formed panel of five audience members randomly selected to score poems on a scale of 1 to 10. Points aside, slam is about community, what has been described as “democratization of verse.” So while there’s a bit of theatrics to explaining the rules, every student who steps to the mic is greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm. Clapping, finger snapping, stomping, and the occasional explosive “Yes!” cascade toward the stage, until the gathering is less a performance than a raucous venting session among friends.

The popularity of slam poetry has grown steadily since its birth in 1986, when a construction worker named Marc Smith staked his claim on counter culture by creating the poetry slam at Chicago’s Green Mill Jazz Club. Drawing on baseball terminology and a dose of drama, Smith sought to take poetry to the masses, envisioning a grand slam of literary arts that owed as much to jazz and hip-hop as it did to Shakespeare. Today, it’s obvious he succeeded, with thousands of poetry slams worldwide and performance poetry videos a fixture on social media.

Wooster’s poetry community is still a fledgling operation, but it already boasts the Word of Mouth poetry club, two poetry collectives, regular slams, and a slew of nominations from the 2014 and 2015 College Union Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI). In the short time they’ve been on campus, these young poets have seized the stage in the name of honest artistic expression, political advocacy, and the occasional love note. It’s a potent cultural movement that refuses to quiet down.

BIRTH OF A COMMUNITY

Caira Lee '16 takes measures to center herself. When she spits poetry, the senior religious studies major is graceful but grounded, employing new voices and choreography with precision. An accomplished writer, she first discovered slam and performance poetry when her family moved to Cleveland in 10th grade. Her work has appeared in *Chicago Literati* magazine, and she’s competed at four national slam competitions. Last year, she gave a TEDx talk on “radical self-love” at Shaker Heights High School, which included her own poetry. The video of the talk was featured on *Huffington Post* (<http://tinyurl.com/j7b4clj>) and *ForHarriet* and has gone on to accumulate more than 25,000 views on



▲ Hannah “Bird” Jackson and Selema Gonzalez '19 are members of an all-female team, Ra Poetry Collective, which is preparing to compete at CUPSI. Other members include Ronnie Wright '18 and Marisa Adame '17

Ashley Jones '14, one of the founders of Word of Mouth, performs at the Black Womyn's Performance Showcase at the inaugural Black Women's Conference.

IN THE SHORT TIME THEY'VE BEEN ON CAMPUS, THESE YOUNG POETS HAVE SEIZED THE STAGE IN THE NAME OF HONEST ARTISTIC EXPRESSION, POLITICAL ADVOCACY, AND THE OCCASIONAL LOVE NOTE.

from **FIRST GENERATION**

By Hannah “Bird” Jackson and Marisa Adame

Our parents are patients
impatiently asking
“Doctor! What’s the prognosis?”

But there aren’t enough prescriptions to write
for the depression and grief
caused by racism and generational poverty

We try to explain that it’s genetic
it runs in the family.
long histories of pain

they become addicted to the way we bring
home stars
thinking they’ve found the cure,
not understanding that we suffer
using our sweat to make their serum

YouTube. Since then, Lee has received more than 100 pieces of fan mail.

When Lee arrived at Wooster in 2012, the infrastructure for today’s performance poetry scene was already in place. Word of Mouth formed that year when an open mic group and poetry workshopping outlet combined into one club. The organization was open to everyone—writers looking for constructive criticism, students who just wanted to listen, or competition veterans gauging interest in creating a Wooster slam team. A fair amount of time was spent parsing the differences between spoken word (poetry meant to be performed, usually with choreographed elements), slam poetry (spoken word performed for competition), and written poetry (poems primarily presented on the page). Older students mentored rookie poets. In a space where the only requirement was that content be original, the baselines of creation encompassed private passions, trauma, and triumphs. Gradually, the club became a family, with students passing down the traditions of open mic culture and safe spaces from one class to the next. Above all, it’s the sense of togetherness that characterizes Wooster’s poetic community—a crucial therapy session and creative breeding ground rolled into one.

MOVING BEYOND WOOSTER: CUPSI

Soon after she started college, Lee found her campus mentor in Ashley Jones ’14. Jones was already a slam veteran when she arrived at Wooster, having competed in Chicago’s *Louder Than A Bomb*, one of the world’s largest youth poetry slams that inspired a documentary of the same name. Jones, a warm, quick-witted English major (who received honors on her I.S. poetry collection), had co-founded Word of Mouth. By 2014, she and Lee wanted to go to CUPSI, the country’s largest collegiate slam.

“Honestly, I don’t think the aspect of competition is where the value lies,” says Jones, now an eighth-grade English teacher in Brooklyn and regular competitor in national slams. “There’s value in the community you create from slam. You know people and you love each other because you love their poetry. Not necessarily because you won or lost, but because that was where you saw them for the first time and began to appreciate their existence.”

Before heading to CUPSI in 2014, Lee and Jones formed Wooster’s first poetry slam team, KnowEye, recruiting Jestin Kusch ’15 and Jahqwahn Watson ’17 to fill out the roster. When they arrived at the competition at Colorado College, it was a historic moment. The team was made up entirely of students of color, and they were the College’s first slam team to compete on the national stage.

“I think having KnowEye represent the College of Wooster at a national slam was so big. I don’t think people realized how big it was,” says Jones. “I’m really proud of the fact that Caira pushed to have a slam team representing Wooster, because we have so much talent on our campus, especially in poetry and music.”

Facing off against a roster of Big 10 universities and Ivy League schools, a small liberal arts college that had never competed might balk at their odds. Instead, with a catalogue of individual and group pieces covering race, sexuality and mental illness, KnowEye returned home that first year with nominations for “Pushing the Art Forward” and “Spirit of the Slam,” prizes recognizing the team’s writing caliber. Before they left for Colorado, they’d thrown a send-off performance in Kauke Hall, where students could watch KnowEye showcase their competition pieces.

“I love that people in the creative arts, even if you’re not an athlete or in plays, could have a pep rally,” says English Prof. Leslie Wingard, faculty advisor to KnowEye and Word of Mouth. “They truly are a team, and people definitely come out to cheer them on.”



◀ Caira Lee '16, a religious studies major, has published her first poetry collection, *Slaying With Dents In My Afro* and competed at the national youth poetry slam Brave New Voices. Her I.S. examined the parallels between poetry slams and sacred performances.

IT'S THE SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS
THAT CHARACTERIZES WOOSTER'S
POETIC COMMUNITY—A CRUCIAL
THERAPY SESSION AND CREATIVE
BREEDING GROUND ROLLED
INTO ONE.

from **SOMETHING TO BE BURNED**

By Caira Lee '16

"All the faggots will be dressed in drag at the ball tonight."

to fag or to be a fag
in Britain 1700
was to be weak
lowerclassmen
only useful
when performing "chores"
for men whose backbones bent like question marks

Elizabeth leans against a brick wall
With a cigarette dangling from her lips
a gentleman comes up and asks:

"Could you spare a fag?"

It once meant an ill-tempered woman

Mysteriously, all things woman

transmute

into

androgynous

male

b. the frayed end of a useless piece of cloth or rope

c. something that hangs loose

thereupon

the term fag referred to the bundles of sticks

heretics carried on the way to feed their own consuming infernos

/fag/a. something to be burned

Fag swam across the Atlantic Ocean

Fag arrived in America

terrified and out of breath

it was given a set of knives

to carve into its ribs

death

before anyone else could

"All the faggots will be dressed in drag at the ball tonight."

– 1914, Lewis B. Jackson, (the first time the word
was ever heard in the United States.)



FUSING ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

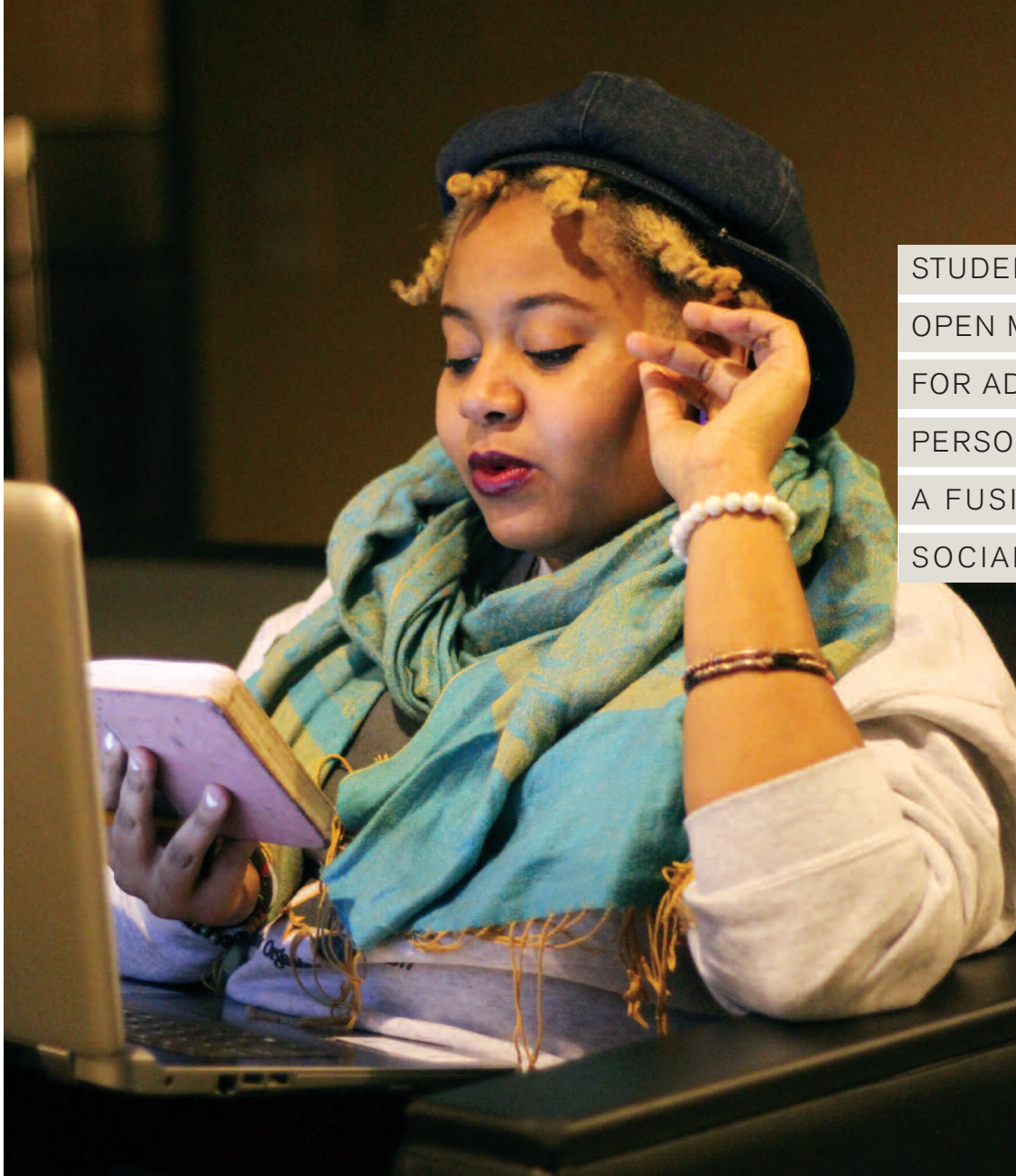
The Wooster's team's trip to CUPSI caught the attention of the campus community and intensified interest in spoken word. Campus groups asked KnowEye and poets from Word of Mouth to open for their speakers, perform at Martin Luther King, Jr., Day events, and lead workshops for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion. Word of Mouth, the Black Students Association, and the Office of Multicultural Affairs hosted a poetry slam titled "Black Artists Matter." Students saw open mics as avenues for addressing both the personal and political—a fusion of art and social justice.

At the 2015 competition, Wooster's CUPSI team was again nominated for "Pushing the Art Forward."

"It takes someone opening their mouths, coming into your space and saying 'Stop the war in Vietnam' or 'Black lives matter,'" says Lee. "The power of the spoken word puts into your conscious field something that never would have been in your ears. Three words are making black people's existence a dinner table topic around the world. Imagine if you had three minutes?"

Stepping to the mic to perform has an exhilarating, visceral effect, says Lee. Monotonous routine is suddenly broken, and transformation occurs when the poet stands for three minutes before 200 people—many who are strangers—and confesses deepest emotions. "Audience members don't just listen—they erupt in thunderous applause."

Marisa Adame '17, a theatre and dance major who starred in the College's award-winning play "Women of Ciudad Juarez," found purpose through that power. After she



STUDENTS SAW
OPEN MICS AS AVENUES
FOR ADDRESSING BOTH THE
PERSONAL AND POLITICAL—
A FUSION OF ART AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE.

◀ In 2015, Hannah “Bird” Jackson gave a TEDx talk at the College titled “Forward Forgiveness: Healing by Confronting the Past”. The Word of Mouth co-president (with Kevante Weakley '17) is working on two novels in her spare time.

◀◀ Kevin Compliment '18 listens to a writing prompt at a Word of Mouth meeting. The club’s event coordinator, Compliment first started performing his own poems during high school at open mics in Pittsburgh.

struggled with performance anxiety for a year and a half, spoken word gave the Word of Mouth vice president a new way to reach out. “We’re all looking to feel that we’re not alone, but a lot of people don’t have the ability to perform,” she says. “We give them the ability to self-actualize by speaking their story. I’ve been on the other end of that, where I’ll hear a poem and think, ‘Wow, I never had words for that, but that’s exactly what happened to me.’”

For these poets, the journey doesn’t end with graduation. Jones is releasing a spoken word/hip-hop EP in the fall. Lee has applied for a teaching fellowship at Ashesi University in Ghana, where she studied abroad, and hopes to incorporate spoken word into her curriculum. Adame is already eyeing performance and playwriting fellowships in Chicago. The spoken word community at Wooster is not a hobby or a club. It’s the beginning of a creative life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lee McKinstry '13 was a member of Cleveland’s 2009 and 2010 Playhouse Square SlamU Youth Poetry Slam Teams. Her writing has been featured in *Alternative Press* magazine and *cleveland.com*.

At Wooster, she was editor in chief of *The Wooster Voice*, was editorial assistant for the poetry journal *Artful Dodge*, and received the Donaldson Prize for the English Department’s best creative I.S.

Goodbye, MATEER

The End of an Era

BY KAROL CROSBIE



DR. HORACE MATEER, circa 1888

As you read this, the demolition of Mateer Hall, which housed the departments of biology and neuroscience, will have begun. Throughout the summer, trucks will cart away piles of rubble. By the end of the summer, the trucks will be replaced by a different set—those beginning the construction of a new integrated life sciences center.

As we say goodbye to an old building, we also say goodbye to an era. But let's take the occasion of our sesquicentennial year to recognize many eras, starting at the beginning with Dr. Horace Mateer.

In the beginning

Dr. Mateer was a 31-year-old physician practicing in Wooster when he was persuaded by the University of Wooster in 1886 to give up his medical practice and come teach zoology, biology, and geology for an annual salary of approximately \$1,500. It was rough going.

Laboratory equipment consisted of one very old microscope and copies of one textbook. Undeterred, he developed and began offering a premedical curriculum, placing Wooster in the elite position of one of the few liberal arts colleges to do so.

A few years into his Wooster career,

Professor Mateer ran into a rough patch with the College's trustees, who took exception to his classes on the highly suspicious theory of evolution. But President Scovel supported him. And in 1926, on the occasion of Mateer's retirement, a modern set of trustees honored the senior professor for his 40 years of service to the College, for his independent thinking, and for "fearlessly proclaiming the truths of science..."

The next generation

By the time Dr. Mateer's son, John Gaston Mateer, graduated in 1911, facilities and equipment had improved considerably. The biology department was well situated in Scovel Hall, which had been completed nine years earlier. John went on to become a nationally known physician and researcher and served on the College's Board of Trustees.

From Scovel to Mateer

From its old quarters in the 66-year-old Scovel Hall, the biology department moved to the gleaming new John Gaston Mateer Hall in 1968. "It was state of the art," says Dean Fraga, Danforth Professor of Biology and chair of biochemistry and molecular biology. And back then, "the art" placed high value on individual research and private spaces. Faculty members'

offices contained personal laboratories, and students conducted study and experiments in individual carrels.

Two huge changes led to this summer's flattening of Mateer Hall. The first was philosophical, says Fraga. "Research became collaborative. Today, it's the way science is done." Private, individual spaces became liabilities rather than assets.

Second, the molecular biology revolution exploded in the 1970s. "Within a few years of the publication of a paper showing how the gene could be cloned, our discipline was transformed from focusing on physiology to focusing on genes and DNA," says Fraga. "Big data arrived; questions changed; tools changed."

For the next two years, Mateer's former inhabitants will occupy a variety of campus spaces as they wait for the completion of their new building. Office space will be in the Rubbermaid Center, lectures will be held in Morgan Hall, and research will be conducted in Taylor Hall. As in the past, the new building will adjoin Severance chemistry building but will now be fully integrated with it. The new complex will be named the Ruth W. Williams Hall of Life Science, in honor of lead donors Ruth and Morris Williams.



1970 BIOLAB: Students work independently in a Mateer Hall laboratory. Not only will space in the new biology building be more collaborative, it will be more visible, says Prof. Dean Fraga. "Today, we want our science to be on display."

OSCILLOSCOPE: This oscilloscope, headed for recycling, has been replaced with one less than a third its size, with a built-in computer. "In earlier times, technicians and staff members built much of their own equipment and we valued the ability to repair tubes and transmitters," says Fraga. "Today, we value staff who know how to build motherboards."



MATEER GOING UP: Elizabeth Coyle, 1926-47 Danforth Professor of Biology, and a visitor from Ohio State.



MOVING OUT: Boxes of old equipment line the aisles of the Mateer auditorium, as faculty and staff prepare for their move. "We recycled or gave away more mass than we saved," says Fraga. Old equipment like this photograph enlarger gave way to digital technology and a physical footprint that is a fraction of yesteryear's tools.

A WOOSTER MOMENT

The Art of Extinction

SCULPTURES BY:

ADRIAN ROWAN, ART MAJOR; ENVIRONMENTAL
STUDIES AND ENGLISH MINOR

Winner of the Melissa Schultz I.S. Research Prize in
Sustainability and the Environment

MENTOR:

WALTER ZURKO, PROFESSOR OF ART



PASSENGER PIGEONS



BLUEFIN TUNA

Using carved wood, wire, and porch screen, Rowan created sculptures for her Independent Study that depict species that are either extinct or endangered by human activity. She chose porch screen as a medium because it evokes nets that were used to trap and ultimately annihilate the passenger pigeon and that are currently being used in harvests of the endangered blue fin tuna.

Rowan will be apprenticing on a small urban farm in Louisville, Kentucky to learn sustainable farming practices.



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Invasion of the black squirrel

One of Wooster's iconic critters takes center stage at graduation ceremonies in the Oak Grove.

Photo: Matt Dilyard

