

STANFORD

March
2020

Out of the * Mouths of Babes

A PSYCHOLOGIST WANTED TO ANSWER
THE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS ABOUT
LANGUAGE ACQUISITION.
HE BUILT A GLOBAL OPEN-SOURCE
WORD BANK SO ANYONE CAN.



Act Locally

Giving away Silicon
Valley's billions

Nothing but Net

The Cardinal view from
NBA HQ

Seeking leaders who want to change the world.



Eric Jacobsen
Stanford '87
Harvard '13

The Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative aims to deploy a new force of experienced leaders tackling the world's most challenging social and environmental problems.

Learn more at advancedleadership.harvard.edu or by calling 617-496-5479.



HARVARD
Advanced Leadership Initiative



32

What the Kids Are Saying These Days

Psychologist Mike Frank, '03, set out to try to answer one of linguistics' fundamental questions: Is language innate or influenced by children's environments? He ended up building a global database that sheds light on how language acquisition varies—or doesn't—by gender, birth order, culture and more. Spoiler alert: Kids have more in common than you may think.

40

The Good Fight

Silicon Valley Community Foundation is one of the largest foundations in the world, with roughly \$9 billion in assets. Critics say it has enabled well-heeled donors to take advantage of tax breaks without adequately tending its own backyard. Here's how its new CEO, Nicole Taylor, '90, MA '91, plans to put the "community" back in "community foundation."

48

They've Got Game

Many of those who walk tall at NBA headquarters once wore Cardinal. Meet the execs who are connecting far-flung fans, taking the WNBA to new heights and developing players around the world.

ON THE COVER:

NAOMI SU, DAUGHTER OF DILYS ONG AND PHD CANDIDATE ALASTAIR SU

PHOTOGRAPH BY TIMOTHY ARCHIBALD

ILLUSTRATIONS AND TYPOGRAPHY BY GIORGIA VIRGILI

Contents



15

Meet Noel Vest

A postdoc puts his past to use studying addiction.



19

The Concussion Categories

Researchers break down the head injury into subtypes. The classification could help treatment and recovery.



22

How to Quit Your Job

First question: Do you really even need to quit, or are there ways to make it better right where you are?



SHAKING THE TREE

Our digital editor takes a spin inside the mascot's trunk.
page 21

ALL RIGHT NOW

- 18 Tiny tales
- 20 Knowledge for Nepal
- 21 Adios, achoo
- 24 A bridge to broadband
- 28 Making friends the hard way

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 Dialogue
- 8 Editor's Note: *A documenTree*
- 10 President's Column: *Putting ethics at the center*
- 12 1,000 Words: *Champs!*
- 54 Biblio File: *Points of fact*
- 57 Farewells
- 63 Classifieds
- 64 Postscript: *Alternative Aesop*

Digital

VISIT US ONLINE
stanfordmag.org

GET THE LATEST
FROM AROUND THE
STANFORD UNIVERSE
alu.ms/loop

BE THE FIRST TO HEAR
ABOUT OUR STORIES
alu.ms/magnews



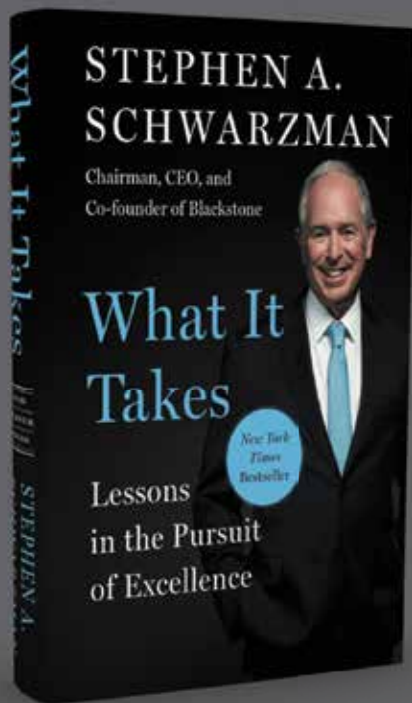
STANFORDALUMNI



@STANFORDMAG



@STANFORDALUMNI



New York Times Bestseller

What It Takes

From the Chairman, CEO,
and Co-Founder of Blackstone

“A playbook for success in any field.”

— JOHN KERRY

“A must-read, inspirational account.”

— JANET YELLEN

“Filled with fresh insights and personal experiences that everyone will relate to and learn from.”

— JACK WELCH

“The real story of what it takes from a man who could turn dreams into realities.”

— RAY DALIO

“A series of thoughtful reflections derived from the author’s extraordinary life.”

— HENRY A. KISSINGER

“This story literally has what it takes: the anecdotes, the insights and, most of all, the values.”

— MARK CARNEY

“This book reveals how he has achieved the rarest kind of leverage in multiple fields.”

— ERIC SCHMIDT

“Steve challenges us all to be better leaders, better citizens, better people.”

— MARY BARRA

Get it today on Amazon, Barnes & Noble
and at independent bookstores near you.

ReadWhatItTakes.com

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN E-BOOK AND AN AUDIOBOOK

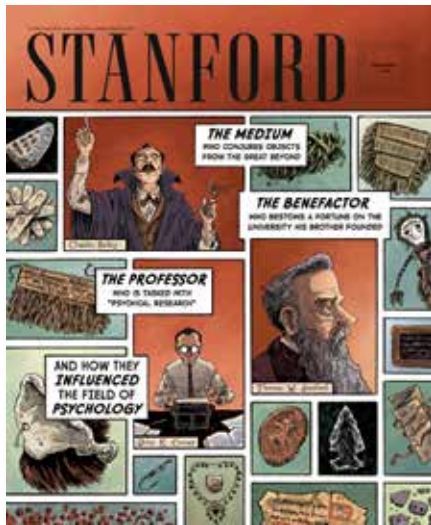
 Simon and Schuster

AVID
READER
PRESS

Dialogue

Graphic Design

Our December cover story recounted how Leland Stanford's youngest brother endowed "psychical research" at the university, inadvertently influencing the fledgling field of psychology.



@STANFORDMAG

The cover story of the Stanford alumni magazine December issue is a comic! I'll give more info after I read it!

Brittany Netherton
@b_netherton

I just want to say how much I enjoyed reading the short graphic novel in the December 2019 issue! I have a bad tendency to quickly recycle the magazine, but the curious cover made me dig deeper. The story was an amazing way to learn more about Stanford's history.

Katie Neville, MS '19
Menlo Park, California

I was so thrilled to see Jonathan Fetter-Vorm's ['05] "The Curious Case of Thomas Welton Stanford" in your December issue. Other readers who felt the same about this venture into graphic narratives might be interested in an organization I've spent more than a decade engaged with: Graphic Medicine, a group dedicated to bringing the power of graphic narratives to illuminate experiences of illness, medicine, disability and caregiving.

Susan Squier, MA '75, PhD '77
Boalsburg, Pennsylvania

Already, as a psychology major at Stanford, I had read *The Reach of the Mind*, J.B. Rhine's scientific research in parapsychology, and

There Is a River, a biography of Edgar Cayce, America's great psychic. Now, more than 60 years later, with a PhD in psychology and a career of research in this field, I find mountains of evidence for the factuality and usefulness of psychic phenomena. Stanford's neglect of this research opportunity is a great loss for the university and the world.

Herbert Bruce Puryear, '57
Fountain Hills, Arizona

Democracy and Distrust

A feature in the December issue reviewed Stanford scholarship on democratic recession worldwide.

My STANFORD magazine came this week. I took it to bed so I could read and rest before I went to sleep. BUT! I read your article "Free Fall," and it woke me up. First, it was amazingly written—you revealed the reality of this issue in a way that could be understood and form the basis for further discussion of this problem.



@STANFORDMAG

All Kinds of Reads

Both delighted and amused that @stanfordmag put my book on a list with Susan Rice's ['86] book.

Jasmine Guillory, JD '02
@thebestjasmine

PHOTO: ERIN ATKISSON

Second, it is clear that a number of Stanford people are addressing the issue of American democracy's survival. That is good news.

David Hopelain, '58
North Fork, California

A more appropriate title for Jill Patton's ['03, MA '04] excellent and timely article might be "An Existential Moment for Civilization?" If democracy in the true sense of the word is indeed being inexorably undermined and weakened across the globe, including in the United States, then the future of human civilization could very well be in doubt. This conclusion requires us to consider only three facts. First, the ongoing process of global climate change; second, the possession of planet-ending weapons by antidemocratic state actors across the world; and third, the mind-controlling grasp of social media technologies that is already being put to nefarious use by narrow agenda-driven groups the world over. This deadly combination is unprecedented in history, and without the moderating influence of fully empowered democratic institutions and processes it could lead to the end of the world as we know it. It is deeply disturbing to see that while climate change does get some media coverage and discussion, the rise of antidemocracy is hardly ever brought up.

If I may, I would like to point out that even the subject article did not mention some key examples of antidemocratic forces at play in the world today, such as the fired-up Hindu nationalist regime in the "largest democracy in the world," India, and the enormous power and influence of global (mostly American) corporations. The massively damaging impact of the United States' "Global War on Terror" on human rights and democracy was also not given the focus and attention it deserves. And saddest of all, I find, is the ready ease with which our billionaire elites, most importantly our tech giants, shamelessly collude with anti-human-rights and antidemocracy forces across the globe in their seeming quest for massive near-term profits. However, all in all, this article and the work of luminaries like Larry Diamond ['73, MA '78, PhD '80] and his colleagues give us some hope that all is not lost, and that if given half a chance, our younger generations will unite across nations and nationalities to establish a global culture of absolute, not relative,

commitment to human rights, justice, fairness and democracy.

Saif M. Hussain, MS '84
Woodland Hills, California

Jill Patton claims, "In the past, America has played a critical role on the global stage as a model for developing nations, a crusader for human rights and a bulwark against the spread of authoritarian regimes." Our real history, well known to the rest of the world, is quite the opposite: a sordid legacy of toppling democracies to install ruthless dictators—Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954), and Chile (1973) being the most notorious examples from a long, contemptible list. We used the Cold War to disguise our neocolonial machinations then. Now we use the "War on Terror." Nonetheless, despite our invading Iraq under false pretenses, our drone-bombing civilians in Somalia, Yemen and Pakistan, our heinous rendition/torture program as well as our obscene military-industrial complex, Patton unabashedly refers to "China's menace" and "Russian mischief."

If the United States is ever to reestablish democracy at home or elsewhere, we must begin by abandoning the specious myth we tell of and to ourselves.

David Ellison, MA '88
Berkeley, California

The implication that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is an example of dangerous antidemocratic insurgency throughout the world must be disputed. Prorogue—the ending of a parliamentary session in anticipation of convening anew at a later date—is a fixed feature of the unwritten British constitution, and the British High Court's invalidation of the prime minister's effort (and his acquiescence in it) shows that their democratic system is at least as healthy as ours. With hubris, we tend to think our system is a democratic ideal, lots of evidence to the contrary notwithstanding. The slur in your magazine on one of our last truly democratic allies was totally uncalled for.

Larry Tracy, '61, JD '65
Los Angeles, California

The article makes the case that our democracy is in danger. To support this thesis, the article cites "an American president getting cozy with dictators." Later in the article, a Mr. Abramowitz says "no president in living



@STANFORDALUMNI

Tackling Medicine

Milt McColl, '81, MD '88,
recently began practicing medicine after a pro football career and 25 years in biotech.

The pride of @clanmccoll. Now if he just had an Instagram handle.

Kellen McColl, '11

So proud of you, Uncle Milt! A cornerstone of the McColl family legacy.

Daniel McColl, '21

We join the profession and practice because we love it. This story is a perfect example.

Rolando Toyos, MA '89

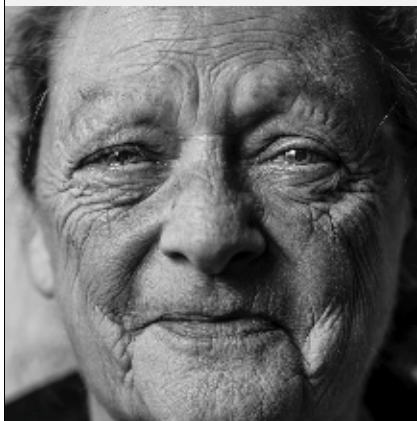
So that's what happened to my Stanford Med classmate.

Marcus Wilson, MD '84

I love everything about this.

Janice Kimball Key, '80

CHAMPIONS OF AGING WELL



The Highest Quality of Care at Home

- We are a **preferred provider** for Stanford Hospital and the Avenidas Village Program.
- We have **Stanford Alumni** on staff and references from families on campus.
- We are the experts on **home care**. Our founding team has authored three books on healthy longevity including *The Brain Boost* and *Happy to 102*.
- Our Client Care Managers provide **ongoing quality assurance** and are available 24/7.
- We are proud to be the **Caregiving Partner** of Maria Shriver's Women's Alzheimer's Movement.



Call For A Free Consultation:

650-416-1565

HomeCareAssistance.com

Headquartered in San Francisco
with offices across North America

Dialogue

memory has shown less respect for [the U.S. constitutional system's] tenets, norms and principles" and Madeleine Albright says Trump is "the first anti-democratic president in modern history." Wow! I disagree. Trump supports free enterprise, free and fair trade, limited government and an America that insists its allies share the responsibility for maintaining a free world. That agenda sounds very democratic to me. He does talk to our adversaries, but I would hardly classify that as being "cozy" with them. In contrast, the liberal wing of the Democratic Party derides capitalism and wants government to have a major role in running the country because it knows best what is good for its citizens. No thank you, I will take the Trump version every day. The "elites" quoted in the article and those running for the Democratic nomination are the ones who will ruin our democracy if given the chance.

Charles Hoppe, '54
Carmel, California

"Free Fall" was an excellent survey of the state of the world.

In my opinion, globalization is the major cause of the turmoil we have seen in the past few decades. Due to the internet and efficient shipping, there is little friction to the world becoming a single labor marketplace. This has caused wages to even out over the globe. The result has been great for developing countries, but not so good for those countries where wages went down, such as the United States.

The hardships thus created led to anger and the desire to elect someone who promises to fix it. Especially if that person promises to bypass democracy's slow decision processes.

It has always been ironic that the organs of the economy—corporations—are not themselves democracies but are autocratic, top-down affairs. Small wonder that a person with experience in them gets frustrated when he tries to run the country that way.

John Page
Saratoga, California

Thank you for the article. For those of us who value rationality over partisanship, it was a godsend.

Charles A. Krohn, Gr. '62
Panama City Beach, Florida

Kudos

I've been reading STANFORD for many years, beginning even before I graduated. I would say the issue of December 2019 is the best issue I have ever read—and the competition



STANFORDALUMNI

About Meyer Green

I prefer the old, dismal take on Meyer—but I suppose this is OK.
Christopher Oslebo, '10

Wouldn't a better name be
"Green Green"?
Bob Svikhart, '80

is formidable. The quality of the writing shines and reflects the impressive work of the authors and the staff working together. I always enjoy reading the comments and contributions of those in my era as well as younger (and older!) authors. But this issue is particularly effective in bringing Stanford to us alums in an unusually appealing and even captivating way. I know from working with many of them, past and present, that the staff producing this publication is dedicated as well as talented. And it all shows.

Thank you for keeping us alums connected!
Bob Hamrda, '59, MA '64
Palo Alto, California

Of Cancer and Control

A story in the December issue discussed a big-data technique, borrowed from sports betting, to continually calculate a patient's cancer prognosis.

I passed along the article to a friend and neighbor who is currently battling a significant

cancer (with some hope of success). Her insightful response: "I really don't want to know the prognosis at this point. I am largely living day-to-day. My goals are simple . . . to enjoy peace, serenity and gratitude. So much is right in my life in this moment. That is what I focus on."

Keep up the great coverage of Stanford's amazing range of research. Given the current political times, it really is uplifting to see such exciting ventures—even though too often only in academia!

Jim Warren, MS '77
Hansville, Washington

Relationship Redux

We asked readers to tell us about a relationship that has lasted since their Stanford days. Read more responses on our website at alu.ms/lifelong.

I am currently having a lot of fun working with my old roommate, Doug Schuetz. I'm Class of '80 and he's '81, and we were roommates back

in the late '70s. We've stayed in touch over the years and it's always good to hear from him.

I've written a couple of books, and a big audiobook company turned the first one into an audiobook. Shame on me—Doug is (among many other talents) a voice actor and he was disappointed that my book had been recorded by someone else. But never fear, my second book needed a reader, and who better than Doug?

So we've been working on it for the past month or so and having a blast. He'll record chapters and send them to me, and then we'll talk about them. He's a terrific talent and always was—he wrote and acted and directed for *Gaieties* back in the day. When he records one of the funny passages in my book, I marvel at how it's even funnier with him reading than it is on the page.

At the end of the book, there's a short biography of me. I asked Doug if he'd like to add one for himself, and this is what he recorded: "Doug Schuetz, the reader, was Keith's college roommate."

Keith Van Sickle, '80
Menlo Park, California

Dialogue Box

dialogue@alumni.stanford.edu

STANFORD magazine
Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center
326 Galvez Street
Stanford, CA 94305-6105

Letters may be edited for length, clarity and civility, and may appear in print, online or both.

MONTEREY PENINSULA REALTOR FOR 36 YEARS



Vilia Kakis Gilles
Class of '77

Top 1% Nationwide
*NRT 2017

831.760.7091

Vilia.Kakisgilles@sothebyshomes.com
viliakakisgilles.com

DRE:00883948

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Stanford | GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
EDUCATION

Who inspires you?

**Nominate a GSE
graduate for the
Alumni Excellence
in Education Award.**

Nominations due April 6.
ed.stanford.edu/alumni/award

Improving
lives
through
learning

Editor's Note

KATHY ZONANA, '93, JD '96

Must-See Tree-V

In which our digital editor steps into the trunk of an infamous mascot.

► **ONCE UPON A TIME**, an editor had a dream. And that dream was to be the Stanford Tree.

Not for an entire year, you understand. Just for one quarter of one basketball game. In the name of journalism, so you all could live vicariously as she peered through her foliage at her adoring public and uprooted herself on cue during "All Right Now."

But the Tree said no (and no and no and no and no). Summer Moore Batte, '99, was cut down to size by five different mascots. Like the wise woman she is, she took Treejection in stride and moved on. But also like the wise woman she is, she let the Tree know exactly what it was missing out on. When the evergreens proffered feeble excuse after feeble excuse, she clapped back. "You want a god among women?" she wrote in an essay for **STANFORD**. "You've got it. Forget the human-bowling stunt you pulled as part of your tryout. I've done some stuff at this university." To wit: "I've jumped out of a plane for a story on an alumni business. I've dodged tortilla Frisbees and nearly inhaled a swarm of

ladybugs while reporting at Wacky Walk. I've been hit in the face by a former boxer. And I've eaten brain."

After she threw down her challenge in "Barking Up the Wrong Tree," Summer decided to stop cultivating conifers. A decade went by. Then, last year, while idly browsing Twitter, Summer saw a path through the Trees. Caroline Kushel, '21, had a snappy sense of humor and a colorful costume to match. Maybe she was the One. It was worth an email, anyway.

It took "Kush" all of an hour and 17 minutes to write back: "Hey Summer! This sounds absolutely hilarious. I'd love to do it. I'm envisioning a fake *Rocky* montage for pregame training."

Yup. She was the One.

Kush's training session, Summer's debut at Maples Pavilion and, oh, so much more are captured in our documenTree, which you can find at (where else?) alu.ms/DocuTree. I daresay it's Treemendous. ■

Email Kathy at kathyz@stanford.edu.

STANFORD

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Kevin Cool

EDITOR Kathy Zonana, '93, JD '96

EDITOR, STANFORDMAG.ORG
Summer Moore Batte, '99

CREATIVE DIRECTOR Erin Sonnenschein

EDITORIAL

SENIOR EDITOR Jill Patton, '03, MA '04

COPY CHIEF Jennifer Worrell

SENIOR WRITERS Deni Ellis Béchard;
Melinda Sacks, '74

PRODUCTION MANAGER Pam Gorelow

STAFF WRITER Diana Aguilera

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Mandy Erickson; Charity Ferreira; Jonathan Green; Nancy King, MA '97

ENGAGEMENT EDITOR Dilys Ong

INTERNS Andrew Tan, '22; Melina Walling, '20

CREATIVE

ART DIRECTOR Giorgia Virgili

ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR Bambi Nicklen

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER Michele McCammon

VIDEO PRODUCER Erin Attkisson

CLASS NOTES

SENIOR MANAGER Lauren Jacobs Black, '83

EDITOR Travis Kinsey

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Jake Wellington

INTERN Nick Bradley

ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING AND BUSINESS MANAGER
Valerie Pippin, (650) 723-0460

IVY LEAGUE MAGAZINE NETWORK
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Heather Wedlake, (617) 319-0995

STANFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CHAIR, SAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Andrew Haden, '00

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI AFFAIRS
AND PRESIDENT, STANFORD ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION Howard E. Wolf, '80

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER Page Murray

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

Development Services
Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center
326 Galvez St., Stanford, CA 94305-6105
(650) 725-4360 (option #3)
alumni.information@stanford.edu

CONTACT THE MAGAZINE:

STANFORD magazine
Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center
326 Galvez St., Stanford, CA 94305-6105
Editorial: (650) 725-0672
Advertising: (650) 723-0460
stanford.magazine@stanford.edu
Visit us online: stanfordmag.org

STANFORD (ISSN 1063-2778), March 2020, Volume 49, Number 1, ©2020. STANFORD is published by the Stanford Alumni Association, Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center, 326 Galvez Street, Stanford, California 94305-6105; (650) 723-2021. It appears in the following months: March, May, July, September and December. Periodicals Postage Paid at Palo Alto, California, and at additional mailing offices. Annual subscription price is \$25 domestically and \$50 internationally. Postmaster: Send address changes to Development Services, Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center, 326 Galvez Street, Stanford, California 94305-6105.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.





A living masterpiece

WHERE EVEN YOUR CAR
has an elevator to call its own.



FOUR SEASONS

PRIVATE RESIDENCES

706 MISSION, SAN FRANCISCO

A 706 MISSION STREET CO, LLC DEVELOPMENT

Here in the most coveted location in San Francisco, we've fashioned a lifestyle of high expectations and an even higher standard of service. ***Welcome to an elevated Four Seasons residential experience like no other.***

We invite you to call 415.534.6750 to schedule a private appointment at our Atelier or visit us at 706SF.com

Four Seasons Private Residences at 706 Mission Street, San Francisco are not owned, developed or sold by Four Seasons Hotels Limited or its affiliates. The developer, 706 Mission Street Co LLC, uses the Four Seasons trademarks and tradenames under a license from Four Seasons Hotels Limited. The marks "FOUR SEASONS," "FOUR SEASONS HOTELS AND RESORTS," any combination there-of and the Tree Design are registered trademarks of Four Seasons Hotels Limited in Canada and U.S.A. and of Four Seasons Hotels (Barbados) Ltd. elsewhere.



Putting Ethics at the Heart of Innovation

Stanford centers the humanistic and ethical considerations of new technology.

► **FROM VASTLY SAFER CARS** to smart home systems, bioprinting to AI-assisted surgery, new technologies are transforming human society and enriching our daily lives. But while new products and applications have great potential to improve society, many also pose risks to human values—like privacy, security, freedom and equity. As the pace of change accelerates, it has become urgent that we take responsibility for the societal impact of our work and act to ensure that the benefits and burdens of technological advancement are fairly distributed. We cannot simply focus on innovation and let others worry about the risks.

To this end, Stanford's Long-Range Vision pays special attention to the intersection of ethics, society and technology across each of its themes of empowering discovery and creativity, transforming learning and accelerating solutions. The goal of this focus is twofold: to empower researchers to explore the societal and ethical consequences of their work, and to ensure that students are equipped to address the

effects of technological advancement, now and in the decades to come.

Stanford's Ethics, Society and Technology Integrative Hub was developed under the Long-Range Vision to support our community in this work. Our hope for the hub is that, by assisting students and faculty in all seven Stanford schools as they explore the ethical dimensions of innovation, these values will become second nature in Stanford's culture and beyond. By integrating ethics and innovation, the hub also offers new perspectives that we

believe will spark further discovery and advances.

Indeed, innovation within this framework offers tremendously exciting possibilities for the future. Stanford's Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, which launched last spring, convenes experts in areas like law, philosophy and the humanities alongside leaders in computer science and engineering to consider AI's impact on society. The institute's goal is to develop artificial intelligence that reflects humanity's values and complements our capabilities—rather than dividing or replacing us.

Another critical aspect of our work is preparing Stanford students to tackle the challenges of the 21st century and manage rapid advances in science and technology. A new course in computer science, Computers, Ethics and Public Policy, encourages students to consider the societal effects of technology, including issues related to bias, privacy, security and political polarization. The course leverages the knowledge and expertise of faculty from the schools of humanities and sciences and of engineering. Demand is clear: In its first year, the class enrolled 300 students and had to turn away many more. Our students hunger for the opportunity to explore these issues.

While this course tackles ethics and technology, we are also making broader efforts under the Long-Range Vision to support undergraduate students in learning what it means to be engaged citizens in today's world. Faculty members have proposed a first-year course focused on the ideas of civic education and global citizenship, to be taken by all incoming freshmen. Stanford's faculty is debating the proposal and the shape the course would take, but the goal is to prepare students to address challenging ethical situations head-on and to contribute to the advancement of human society.

Stanford was founded with a purpose: to promote public welfare by exercising influence on behalf of humanity. Our renewed focus on ethics is one way to help ensure that human values do not get lost amid the fast pace of technological innovation. As Apple CEO Tim Cook said at last year's commencement ceremony: "Technology doesn't change who we are, it magnifies who we are, the good and the bad." By embedding ethics at the heart of innovation, we can focus on magnifying the good and harnessing human ingenuity to improve lives and communities around the world. ■





Predict Prevent Cure *Precisely*

Precision Health is a fundamental shift to more proactive and personalized health care that empowers people to lead healthy lives.

Stanford Medicine is driving this transformation by leveraging the art and science of medicine to predict and prevent disease before it strikes and cure it decisively if it does.





1000 Words

Victory Drive

Junior Tyler Abramson is poised for triumph during the men's water polo NCAA semifinal match against USC in December. Abramson's three goals helped the Cardinal to a nail-biting, sudden-death overtime win. The following day, the men defeated Pacific 13-8 for the Card's first NCAA title since 2002.

Hours later, the women's soccer team secured its second NCAA title in three years. And by the end of the month, women's volleyball swept Wisconsin to win its second consecutive championship, bringing Stanford's total NCAA title count to 126.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSE MORENO

They say a picture
is worth a thousand
words, but pictures
don't begin to tell
the story.

Consider the world
in new ways with
Stanford scholars.

Stanford **TRAVEL/STUDY**

SAMBURU WOMAN, KENYA

alumni.stanford.edu/goto/travelstudy

WHO WE ARE

Meet Noel Vest

Former felon finds purpose as a postdoc studying addiction. ➤



“You have this self-conscious feeling, with your shoulders always clenched, that someone is going to walk up to you and say, ‘You don’t belong here. You can’t go to school here.’”

► **WHEN NOEL VEST WALKED OUT OF LOVELOCK**

Correctional Center in 2009, he had no money, no job and 14 felonies on his record, including identity theft and methamphetamine use. Vest headed home to Washington state, where his first move was to ask his dad to drive him to the local community college to register for classes. His second was to see a dentist friend to rebuild his front teeth, which had rotted from drug use.

While he was incarcerated, Vest found a passion for school. The self-described mediocre student and class clown liked competing with fellow inmates for the best grades. He thought he might become an alcohol and substance abuse counselor when he got out—and he did. But while earning his bachelor's in psychology at Washington State University Tri-Cities, he discovered his knack for research. For his PhD in experimental psychology at WSU's main campus in Pullman, he studied how prescription opioid misuse affects people with borderline personality disorder.

Today, Vest is a postdoctoral scholar in the Systems Neuroscience and Pain Lab at Stanford Medicine, where he examines how people recover from addiction. He tracks how substance use and mental illness affect incarcerated veterans after they are released. He also evaluates collegiate recovery programs on how well they reduce the stigma surrounding addiction and assist the students using them.

"In my 20s, I didn't want to listen to anyone, and I thought I knew what was best. It slowly but surely got worse. My first arrest was for possession of methamphetamine. I remember making that call to my dad. That was when my life of always being given the benefit of the doubt ended. I started losing friends and family. I lost my job and my car."

“I fell into a pattern of being arrested and released. The big arrest was in Las Vegas for identity theft. I walked into Sears and tried to get fake credit under someone else's name. Then I had drugs on me. I ended up serving seven years.”



“Recovering from drug use for me was like I'd been wearing my glasses backwards. All of a sudden I grabbed the glasses and put them back on the right way. The reward in my life had been substance use. The only time I ever quit was in jail. Finally, I was able to let those cobwebs in my brain and those pathways that were so established heal. For the first time, I started making decisions that weren't drug-related.”

“Two years ago, I heard about ‘Ban the Box’ legislation [which can prohibit employers or universities from putting a criminal history box on applications]. I helped author, find a sponsor for, testify on and advocate for the Fair Chance to Education Act in Washington. Now I'm helping to introduce Ban the Box [for college applications] in California. You carry this stigma with you your whole life. Here is one way to help lessen it.”

“I hope to someday have my own research lab, where I am able to recruit formerly incarcerated scholars to work with me on these issues. I think that giving opportunity to this underserved population is actually an obligation I have, based on the incredible opportunities and mentoring I have been given.”



Federally Insured by NCUA

Experience the extraordinary with the Stanford Alumni Rewards Visa® Credit Card and earn up to *3X points on every purchase.*

+ No foreign transaction fees



AlumniCreditCards.org

SPEED READ

A Maritime Tale

And a writerly warm-up.

Microfiction, also called flash fiction or quick fiction, shows readers a new world, a novel point of view, in just a minute or two. “This is a game that fiction writers like to play,” says Stanford creative writing lecturer and former Stegner fellow Edward Porter. “It can be just a way of getting going, but it also allows the fiction writer to live in the world that poets live in,” one where the pride of completion often comes more quickly. Porter leads undergrads through the exercise with prompts like this: *Use an unexpected narrator to tell us about a historical moment.* Katiana Uyemura, '19, found a cool one.

Trial of a Lifetime

By Katiana Uyemura

IT WAS NOT MY FAULT. I will admit I was lonely, but with only the company of seagulls and shushing waves by day and distant stars and cold winds by night, you would have been, too. Sometimes I used to comfort myself by thinking about how beautiful I was, sparkling like a foggy diamond or an enormous pale sapphire, a beacon of mirrored light. If that were true, then Frederick should have seen me before it was too late. Though he didn't, I suppose it was not his fault, either. If the lookouts had been given binoculars, if the captain had reduced speed, if the hull's seams had been stronger, if the passengers had not been rendered complacent by the warmth inside, if the water had

not been so deceptively calm, if, if, if, and so on.

Well. By the end, it was very quiet, if you can believe it. I was horrified at what I had done. But I had also seen frantic arms dipping down as nearly empty lifeboats slid by, heard the last gurgles of the poor trapped below as water rose to necks and noses, smelled despair as parents realized they could not save their children, as lovers realized they could not save each other or themselves. Yes, it was not my fault, it was theirs, because human error compounded and compounded until most of them forgot what heroism and goodness and sense were, and, really, remembering would not have helped in the end anyway. ■

The Concussion Categories

Knowing which subtype you have can help your doctor treat it.

A CONCUSSION is a mild traumatic brain injury that can have a variety of symptoms. In a recent paper published in *Neurosurgery*, Stanford researchers, led by pediatric emergency physician Angela Lumba-Brown and neurosurgeon Jamshid Ghajar, identified five subtypes of concussions and recommended a different initial treatment for each one. While the categories are not mutually exclusive and share some symptoms (most concussions include headache at the outset, and sleep disturbances and neck problems are common), researchers hope identifying the symptoms particularly characteristic of each subtype will ultimately lead to more effective treatments for all concussions.

Headache/Migraine

Symptoms: Nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light, sound or smell.

Treatment: Headache management.



Ocular-motor

Symptoms: Headache, eye strain, difficulty with reading and screen time, sensitivity to light, trouble focusing, blurred or double vision, eye pain or pressure, and difficulty judging distances.

Treatment: Dynamic vision training with an optometrist.



Cognitive

Symptoms: Attention issues, impaired reaction time and problems with memory.

Treatment: Neuropsychological assessment and follow-up.



Vestibular

Symptoms: Dizziness, foggy, light-headedness, nausea, vertigo and disequilibrium. Movement may exacerbate the symptoms.

Treatment: Balance and vestibular-ocular training with a physical therapist.



Anxiety/Mood

Symptoms: Nervousness, emotionality, being overwhelmed, sadness, irritability, fatigue and feelings of hopelessness. A history of anxiety or migraine may predispose someone to this type of concussion, as may concurrent stressful events.

Treatment: Counseling, including cognitive-behavioral therapies.



Tuition Transition

A century ago, Stanford trustees approved a charge of \$40 per quarter.

This year marks a little-known milestone: Stanford began charging tuition 100 years ago.

In January 1920, Stanford trustees, struggling to meet the university's financial obligations and lacking a robust endowment from which to draw, established a tuition fee of \$40 per quarter. Accompanying the new cost was a provision that allowed students to borrow money at 5 percent interest with no payments necessary for seven years.

One year later, the fee increased to \$75 per quarter, mostly so Stanford could build more student housing, according to then-president Ray Lyman Wilbur, Class of 1896, MA '97, MD '99. Male students were living three or four to a room, and some had been forced to reside with Palo Alto families.

In making the announcement, Wilbur noted that "our alumni body is too young to make the large contribution necessary" to preclude the hike in tuition. ■

The World in a Box

Nepalese schoolchildren get a better way to learn.



BREAKING BARRIERS: Battery-operated and affordable, the Looma could be adapted for use in any country.

DAVID SOWERWINE, '61, MBA '72, AND SKIP STRITTER, MS '69, PHD '76, are accustomed to thinking outside the box, but in this case the box was the answer. Their solar-powered computer and audiovisual projector, housed in a 1-by-1-foot plywood case, allows teachers in Nepalese schools that have little or no electricity or Wi-Fi to vastly expand the amount of material available. They unpacked their “Looma box” for STANFORD. —Bob Cooper



The epiphany.

Sowerwine earned awards for innovating chasm-crossing wire bridges and low-wattage light bulbs while living in Nepal for 14 years, but his Looma box holds the most potential. “When I heard about super-efficient LED projectors in 2011, I realized the problem of insufficient electricity and Wi-Fi in schools could be solved,” he says.

Super-streamlined.

Assisted by software specialist Stritter, chief architect of the first Macintosh microprocessor, Sowerwine recruited volunteers and students (including Stanford engineering undergraduates) to refine the hardware, software and content of Looma boxes. The cost of the box and its contents is \$1,000; solar panels and storage batteries add another \$1,000.

Stuffed with stuff.

Each 128 GB quad-core Odroid computer comes preloaded with most government-approved textbooks and 15,000 open-source media files, including Khan Academy courses, TED Talks, Wiki for Kids pages, history time lines, maps, educational games and videos covering all school subjects in Nepali and English for grades 1 through 10.

Show, don't tell.

The AV projection system combines a 700-lumen LED projector with speakers, allowing the teacher, using a remote wand, to display content on a classroom wall while students hear and repeat English and Nepali words.

Ready for takeoff.

The box is being used this year in 12 Nepalese schools, benefiting more than 3,000 students. There are plans to expand to 50 or more schools in 2020–21. “The open-source technology of the boxes makes them adaptable for use in any country,” says Sowerwine, who is in discussions with officials from Kenya and Sierra Leone to fund and deploy the Looma box in those countries. “These boxes can help to transform education in the developing world.”

It's Not Easy Being Green

An editor's epic quest results in a documenTree.

STANFORDMAG.ORG editor Summer Moore Batte, '99, has been pinning to step into the Stanford Tree's trunk for 15 years now, but the first five mascots she approached Treejected her outright. Some ideas, though, are evergreen, and this year's Tree, Caroline Kushel, '21, generously extended a branch. After enduring an entire hour of Kushel's punishing training, Batte was granted the privilege of donning the sacred foliage at the Stanford vs. CSU Fullerton basketball game. And we filmed it: alu.ms/DocuTree.



See Ya, Sniffles

Closing in on a cure for the common cold.

Aside from being temporarily shunned by society and cumulatively costing our employers billions each year, most of us suffer no long-term damage from colds. But everyone wants a cure. And Stanford scientists may have found it.

There are about 160 types of rhinovirus, representing about half of all cold nastiness. Rhinoviruses are mutation-prone and drug-resistant, which is how children and subway passengers can bring you a new one each month. But colds do have a weakness: They appear to need a specific protein in order to replicate within your cells.

A team led by microbiologist and immunologist Jan Carette and biologist Or Gozani identified the protein, then temporarily disabled it in mice and in human cell cultures—which stopped reproduction of a broad range of enteroviruses, including rhinoviruses and those associated with asthma, encephalitis and polio. So put a tissue in your scrapbook, because colds may someday be a thing of the past. ■



30

Approximate weight, in pounds, of costume.

9

Approximate height, in feet, of the Tree when strapped to adult human.

1

Doorways bashed due to excessive height.

2

Times the Tree was greeted respectfully as "ma'am."

44

People who have ever been the Tree (42 students, 1 middle-aged alum journalist, and 1 former ESPN columnist who shall not be named and shall forever be that alum's nemesis).

0

Pounds lost from being the Tree. Dang it.

Who should Summer be next?

Tell us at dialogue@alumni.stanford.edu



ADVICE

How To Quit Your Job

Stanford's 'Design Your Life' gurus break down what can be fixed and when to move on.



BY MELINDA SACKS

AS APPEALING AS IT MIGHT SOUND to tell your manager to “take this job and shove it,” that approach rarely works in your favor long-term. At some point in our careers, most of us will find ourselves in a job—or with a boss—we don’t like. Fortunately, today’s labor market has high tolerance for people who change jobs frequently. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, adults hold an average of 12.3 jobs by age 52. And if it’s your first job you want to quit? First jobs are considered just that: It’s not the end of the world if you need to make a move.

Before you march into your boss’s office, consider the advice of Bill Burnett, ’79, MS ’82, executive director of Stanford’s product design program and co-founder of the Life Design Lab, and Dave Evans, ’75, MS ’76, a lecturer in the program and co-founder of Electronic Arts. The two authored the bestseller *Designing Your Life: How to Build a Well-Lived, Joyful Life* and recently released the successor *Designing Your Work Life: How to Thrive and Change and Find Happiness at Work*. They recommend “generative quitting,” a multi-step process to help you leave well—if you leave at all.



ASK THE BOSS

Find out if you can redesign your current position to create the job you want. If you’re planning to quit, you don’t have much to lose by approaching your boss.

Pitch your idea so that it is clear that the change doesn’t just serve you but is also a good move for the organization. If you don’t ask, you’ll never know what would have been possible.



LOOK INSIDE, GET OUTSIDE

Examine your current workplace with fresh eyes. People don't usually quit jobs—they quit bosses. "Often it's not really that the company sucks," says Evans, "it's that this role or your boss is the problem."

If you've been smart, you've made connections with people in other departments and groups. Maybe there is a role like yours in a different part of the organization, under another manager.

If it's the role that doesn't fit, you are more likely to have a shot at a different position right where you work now. They've already invested in you, so they may retrain you if they can see an upside. "Be sure you fully exploit the network you have," advises Burnett, who adds that if you have a job while you're looking for a new one, you're four times more likely to be considered than if you're unemployed.

But if the place is falling apart or the culture is untenable, it's time to get out. Never stay in a situation that is abusive or toxic.

REV UP YOUR NETWORK

Your most powerful network is the people you work with: those who would be really sad if you quit. If you handle your exit well, they'll be your referrers—and most employers say referrals are their best source of above-average candidates.

What if you realize, "These people are not going to say great things about me"? Spend six more months on the job and clean up your mess, because the same problems are going to follow you to the next job and the one after that. It doesn't matter whether you like the environment. As Evans and Burnett put it, "The quality of your work has nothing to do with the quality of your boss."



KEEP IT CLASSY

If you decide to leave and your departure has been announced, be sure not to tell "bad stories" about the place. Stay in touch with your former workmates, even the ones you're probably never going to see again. People create opportunities. These are the people who will come back around and either help you or haunt you.

You won't get to rewrite this part of your story, so make sure it says, "I am a productive, contributing person. How lucky they were to have me, and how lucky my new employer is to get me."



WRITE A MANUAL

Evans and Burnett recommend writing a manual for how to do your job well and leaving it on your desk. The new person will walk in on Day One to find a three-ring binder to help them out. You can include a note: "I hope you have great success in this job. You know what to do, you're a smart person, but just in case, here are some tips on how to pull this thing off." Remember, you worked hard to learn this job. You put things in place. Is the work you did worth throwing away, or worth securing? Give yourself a chance to matter. Writing a manual also increases your own competence and can serve as helpful info for your references. "Here's how this works. Oh, Jane did that."



EXIT WELL

Your exit includes everything from how you deliver your resignation letter to how you talk in the hallway about why you're leaving and your future plans. Leave the campground better than you found it. Write a positive letter telling your former boss what you learned and how you grew. Know what you are taking with you and what you are leaving behind. You want to look at the building one day and say, "Thank you for these gifts."

SPOTLIGHT

Opening Lines

How a small nonprofit is helping tribes bridge the digital divide.

BY JILL PATTON

WHAT WOULD YOU DO with a personal day? Maybe get your hair cut. Take your kid to the dentist. Go for a run. Or, if you're Mariel Triggs, MA '12, you might dash down to Arizona, where—in a few hours—you'll help set up the equipment that brings high-speed internet to the most remote community in the continental United States.

An educational consultant at the time, Triggs did just that in late 2017. A few months later, a provisional FCC license in hand, the 423 members of the Havasupai tribe living at the base of the Grand Canyon suddenly had new capabilities—and new prospects. Kids could do online research for their homework while they were actually at home. Head Start teachers could take the online classes required for their teaching certificates. Students in a pilot GED program—there is no high school in Supai, Ariz.—could connect by satellite to classes being taught 168 miles away. And for a place visited by 40,000 tourists a year but prone to flash flooding, and reachable only by foot, horse or helicopter, better connectivity for educational purposes has inspired the tribe to plan for even broader applications.

"There's so much hope with this broadband and our self-deployment," says Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss, the Havasupai tribal councilwoman who heads the tribe's telecommunications and health services initiatives. "We may be one of the most extreme examples of the tribal digital divide, but our problems are Indian country's problems."

In the United States, 17 million of the 21 million people who lack fixed-line broadband access live in rural areas. (That's one-third of all rural Americans.) The issue is twice as bad on rural tribal lands, where two-thirds of people lack high-speed internet connectivity. Eighteen percent of people living on reservations have no home internet access at all, according to a 2019 study by the American Indian Policy Institute at Arizona State University.

The Havasupai were one of the first tribes to benefit from the work of a small Oakland-based nonprofit called MuralNet, where Triggs is now CEO. Its mission is to help tribal nations build and operate their own networks. Although Triggs is the sole full-time employee, the organization maintains partnerships with nonprofits, companies, law firms and other volunteers to provide

tribes—for free—with the training, legal counsel and planning support they'll need to become self-sufficient. On any given day, Triggs might be doling out a network starter kit, drawing up an engineering plan, installing hardware on a roof, teaching people how to connect to their network or calling the FCC's wireless division—again.

"So, Mariel basically does everything," says Martin Casado, MS '07, PhD '07, the venture capitalist who co-founded MuralNet in 2017 with networking consultant Brian Shih. "It's unbelievable the amount of work."

In a way, MuralNet's story began when Casado was a child. He grew up in Flagstaff, Ariz., attended public schools that served mostly Native students, and earned his undergraduate degree from Northern Arizona University (NAU). He met Triggs when they were both interns at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Casado's graduate research at Stanford on software-defined networking led him to co-found Nicira, a network virtualization company that VMware acquired in 2012 for \$1.26 billion.

Along the way, he met other Silicon Valley folks concerned with bridging the digital divide, but many were focused on faraway problems,



STEADY NOW: Maka'awa'awa, Matt Rantanen, Triggs and Darrah Blackwater help the Nation of Hawai'i set up a community broadband network.

like bringing cell service to Africa. “There are a tremendous number of unconnected people in the United States, and almost nobody was solving the U.S. problem,” Casado says. He started noodling with ways to combine his doctoral research, his company’s technology and open-source software for use with small cell towers. The result was a DIY network that’s inexpensive (about \$15,000 to set up, compared with \$200,000 for a large cell tower) and easy to use. It can be installed in an afternoon.

Casado pitched his plan to Triggs during a dinner party. “We have a situation where someone has to travel around a lot, and they have to be a jack-of-all-trades, and they have to be willing to stay in really shitty motels,” he said.

“I’m in,” Triggs said.

A chemical and materials science engineer by training, Triggs earned her master’s at the Graduate School of Education, where she tested online learning modules that could influence people’s mindsets about how they learn math. She then worked as a teacher and a consultant for 15 years. The opportunity to address the “homework gap”—the inequity between kids who can connect to the internet at home and those who can’t—was one reason Triggs joined MuralNet, first as a volunteer and later as its COO.

“It was hitting me hard that the stuff I was working on would actually increase the educational performance gap,” she recalls, “because people could use these golden bullets to do better educationally. And if you didn’t even have access to the internet...”

When it comes to the rural digital divide, infrastructure generally isn’t the problem. Under the Obama administration, fiber-optic cabling was trenched out to most schools. But many rural areas still lack connectivity, Casado says, because most broadband spectrum is owned and operated by the major telcos, which often don’t use it in rural areas because it’s not profitable. Even Educational Broadband Services (EBS) spectrum, once earmarked for schools and other educational entities, is controlled by telcos. While only schools and nonprofits could license it from the government, Casado says most of them

turned around and leased their EBS spectrum to Sprint, thinking the company might build towers nearby and offer broadband to the communities. It didn’t.

MuralNet has set out to solve the spectrum problem for tribes.

“I’ve been talking to the chief of staff of the FCC’s wireless telecommunications bureau more often than my own mother,” Triggs says. “This is where being a little sister has been really helpful—I know how to needle people.” Last year, after months of consultations, the

FCC announced the creation of a priority window, from February 3 to August 3, 2020, during which federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages can obtain unassigned EBS spectrum over their lands. In August, the remaining EBS spectrum will go up for auction.

Triggs describes the spectrum to tribal leaders as “invisible rivers in the sky.” She has made it her mission to ensure that people on all 514 tribal lands and Native villages with unclaimed EBS

spectrum know about the opportunity to apply for it. She and a panoply of partners are hosting regional meetings and visiting tribal councils across the country to spread the word. “There will be a representative for every tribal land who knows what the opportunity means,” Triggs vows. “Whether they can get through the politics, I can’t say.”

Chad Hamill, a descendant of the Spokane tribe and vice president of Native American initiatives at NAU, introduced the Havasupai to MuralNet and vouched for the organization to a wary tribal council. (Watahomigie-Corliss says the tribe has been “used and abused” for years by people seeking free trips to the bottom of the canyon. For 15 years, they’d courted offers of support for their telemedicine efforts, all of which fizzled.) Hamill says the tribal priority window is a matter of justice. “An opportunity to claim this unused broadband is in some respects akin to claiming what rightfully belongs to tribal communities,” he says. “These frequencies travel over tribal lands. It’s an issue of controlling their own destiny. It’s an issue of self-determination.”

‘These frequencies travel over tribal lands. It’s an issue of controlling their own destiny.’

Sometimes communities have access to spectrum but lack infrastructure. And so, in November, Triggs was mounting antennas on a roof in the Oahuan village of Pu’uhonua O Waimanalo, helping leaders of the Nation of Hawai’i set up the state’s first community broadband network. Dating to 1994, the Nation of Hawai’i is the oldest existing Hawaiian sovereignty group, and it operates from a 55-acre parcel of land it won from the state after its 15-month occupation of nearby Makapu’u Beach. While Triggs was there, she trained the community’s members on how to connect to the network.

“We’re not the most high-tech people,” says Brandon Maka’awa’awa, the nation’s deputy head of state, “and she made it really comfortable and simple for us. We weren’t afraid to ask questions. It was all about empowering our people, and that matches our lifestyle. That’s what we stand for.”

Kids from Pu’uhonua O Waimanalo used to travel to a Starbucks or a McDonald’s to get the internet connection they needed in order to file their homework. There was no broadband service, and residents relied on pricey cell phone hotspots and a few satellite dishes.

But Burt Lum, MS ’81, the Hawaiian government’s strategy officer for broadband, sought a new working relationship with the nation and introduced them to a series of partners, including MuralNet, that helped them get fiber-optic cabling to their land and the other hardware they needed. Now, Maka’awa’awa says, three-quarters of the houses in the community—about 12—have internet access.

Back on Havasupai land, efforts to expand broadband access beyond the pilot program continue. Only houses in the line of sight of the tower have broadband speeds, and the council wants to better connect the people living farther from central Supai. “As sovereign entities, we do have the ability to create policy on our own land—we just need some help sometimes,” Watahomigie-Corliss says. “We’re still working on it, but we’re farther than we ever have been. And MuralNet will be with us until the end—I know they will. They’ll make sure that the new telecommunications systems are up and running, they’ll give us training to monitor it and support it ourselves, and they won’t leave until we’re ready.” ■

JILL PATTON, ’03, MA ’04, is the senior editor of *STANFORD*.



Palo Alto's *best* address.

Located steps from downtown Palo Alto and University Avenue and just blocks from Stanford, Webster House offers you world-class community living. The area is perfect for exploring by foot with museums, performances, dining, shopping, and galleries all close at hand.

An intimate Life Plan Community, Webster House makes it easy for you to stay connected to the culture, academia, and vibrancy of Palo Alto while enjoying convenient services and security for the future.

Explore your options and learn more about moving to Webster House. For information, or to schedule a visit, call 650.838.4004.



Webster House
Webster House Health Center
A COVIA LIFE PLAN COMMUNITY

covia.org/webster-house
401 Webster St, Palo Alto, CA 94301



A not-for-profit community owned and operated by Covia. License No. 435202504 COA# 328

STUDENT VOICE

Buddy System

‘You can’t make friends with everyone’ is quitter talk.

BY MEI-LAN STEIMLE

i **THINK YOU FREAKED HIM OUT,”** my roommate said, after I tried and failed to entice my boyfriend’s summer roommate, whom I’ll call Benny, over for mac and cheese.

“Uh . . . I’m OK,” Benny had said, looking apprehensive before shutting the door.

In his defense, the sight of me sporting baby-blue oven mitts and proffering a pot of freshly broiled mac and cheese was probably, as the kids say, “a lot.”

“I was just trying to be friendly!” I said. “This guy just moved in with some rando with an existing social group. I want him to feel welcome.” My roommate, Liz; aforementioned rando, Preston; and I sat cross-legged on my floor, picking at the remaining pasta.

“Friendly isn’t the issue,” Liz said. “It’s your whole vibe. It’s very . . . ‘Mom has supper ready.’”

“That’s ridiculous,” I said.

It’s really not. Admittedly, I radiate heavy mom vibes: the kind of intensely dorky, vaguely maternal energy that says, “Yes, I do have this cardigan in two other colors.” I use the phrase “hip with the kids” unironically. I cackle maniacally when I get

a good parking spot. When I go to parties, I carry a cross-body purse filled with granola bars, shot glasses (for responsible drink measuring) and other people’s phones.

“Just don’t try so hard,” Liz said.

I scoffed. “Now that’s really ridiculous.”

I don’t think I’ve ever been naturally gifted at anything other than committing my entire being to an often questionable goal. Making friends is no exception. As an extroverted middle schooler with an analytical, sometimes misdirected bent, I figured I could offset my natural awkwardness through effort and research. So I wikiHow’d friend-making strategies and then wrote elaborate protocols for myself. (Maybe not that elaborate: One of them was “run toward crowds instead of away from them.”) In high school, I wrote “An Algorithmic Approach to School Dances” as a joke and an actual document of social algorithms not as a joke. I got heavily into the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator because the idea that there was some code to humans that I could crack if I studied hard enough seemed utopic.

“I think Benny thinks I’m annoying,” I said, dejected, a few weeks later.

“Yes,” Liz said.

“Oh, 100 percent,” Preston added.

“Thanks, guys,” I said. After a few weeks of my enthusiastically saying “hi” when I saw Benny in the halls, I had simmered down to giving him a wide berth when I walked through his room. “I mean, I guess in his position, I would also find me annoying.”

“No, you wouldn’t,” said Preston.

“Fine, you’re right, I wouldn’t,” I said. “I would find the attention flattering and charming.” I sighed. “Alas.”

“You just come on kind of strong,” Liz said. “It took me a while to get used to.”

This concern is not new to me. Since high school, I’ve maintained a “friend hit list,” a dynamic set of interesting people I aggressively pursue as friends. To illustrate, I went up to someone in my dorm and said something like: “I’ve thought you seemed cool for a while now—would you like to get lunch on Thursday?” And now we’re friends! Bam, what a rush! I wished something into being, and then I made it happen. We are as gods.

I’ve done this enough times to understand that this level of bluntness isn’t

ILLUSTRATION: FRANZISKA BARCZYK. MAIN PHOTOS: COURTESY MEHLAN STEIMLE, '21 (2). OTHER PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JET CAT STUDIOS/STOCK.ADOBE.COM; PUSHEEN © 2019 PUSHEEN CORP./PUSHEEN.COM; IPUWADOL/STOCK.ADOBE.COM; DAMIR/STOCK.ADOBE.COM; STRATFORDPRODUCTIONS/STOCK.ADOBE.COM



RED SAVANNAH

VILLAS



The ultimate portfolio of hand-picked vacation rental homes

ITALY • FRANCE • SPAIN • GREECE • CARIBBEAN

redsavannah.com

@RedSavannahHQ

ATHENA PHEROMONES™ INCREASE AFFECTION



Created by
Winnifred Cutler,
Ph.D. in biology from U.
of Pennsylvania, post-
doc Stanford.

Co-discovered human
pheromones in 1986
(Time 12/1/86; and
Newsweek 1/12/87)
Effective for 74%

**PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN 3
DOUBLE-BLIND STUDIES**



Unscented
Fragrance
Additives

**INCREASES YOUR
ATTRACTIVENESS**

Vial of 1/6 oz. lasts 4-6 months
Athena 10X™ For Men \$99.50
10:13™ For Women \$98.50
Cosmetics Free U.S. Shipping

♥ Dale (TX) 11 orders "I have been using 10X since about 2013. I think it is fantastic! I am 66, was in Vietnam. What I have noticed is a general receptivity and obviously an attraction. But the most important effect is the receptivity it produces. After that, it is virtually up to me."

♥ Ann (TX) "I love it! It brings all the fireworks."

Not in stores 610-827-2200
Athenainstitute.com

Athena Institute, 1211 Braefield Rd., Chester Spgs, PA 19425 STF



PAPER CHASE



Wesam Al-Badry (U.S.A., b. Iraq, 1984), *Hermes #V*, 2018, Archival pigment print. Gift of Pamela and David Hornik

TEN YEARS OF COLLECTING PRINTS,
DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS AT
THE CANTOR

OPENS APRIL 3

FREE ADMISSION

museum.stanford.edu/PaperChase

Cantor

everyone's jam, and I've read enough personal essays to know that the lesson I'm supposed to take away here is that, optimization be damned, I can't be friends with everybody. But, like, where's the fun in that?

"I've been Benny in this situation before," Preston said. "I think he just genuinely doesn't get why you'd want to be friends with him."

I get that I don't have to do this anymore. I am no longer the socially stumbling middle schooler grasping for connection—I have plenty of friends, fantastic ones. Nor do I need Benny's approval to validate my social value; my self-conception isn't damaged by his ambivalence. But for every person I annoy by pushing too hard, there's someone (like Liz and Preston and countless others) I wouldn't have gotten to know without the effort. People don't default toward connection. We are asteroids in a void, glancing off each other and spinning out into oblivion, and it takes concerted effort to overcome our human predilections toward isolation and self-involvement. But a new friend is a new mind, a new universe of perspectives. So why wouldn't I make strides to get to know a stranger who's been cast into my orbit? The risk is embarrassment, but the reward is an entire world.

"Honestly," Liz said to Preston and me later that night, "I didn't think I was going to be friends with either of you. You're both weird stereotypes."

"Stereotypes?"

"Yeah." She turned to Preston.

"I thought you were, like, a nerd with no social skills." She pivoted to me. "And you're the most emotional person I've ever met." She paused and looked sheepishly at the ground. "But you grew on me."

Hear that, Benny? I'm coming for you. ■

MEI-LAN STEIMLE, '21, a product design major, is a friend to some, a stranger to herself and the sworn enemy of potted plants everywhere. Email her at stanford.magazine@stanford.edu.



STANFORD
BUSINESS

GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF

Executive Education



Nothing worthwhile was ever accomplished by
reasonable expectations.

If there's anything your career has taught you, it's this. The greater the challenge, the more gratifying the results. Even as a leader who's made your mark, continuing to transform the way you think and lead is key. Stanford's Executive Program will expose you to a diversity of thought, a gifted and engaged cohort — and a range of world-class faculty who routinely reinvent problem solving to drive your company forward. Come to the source. There's only one: Stanford.

Enroll. Re-boot. Transform: stanfordsep.com

STANFORD EXECUTIVE PROGRAM

June 20 – August 1, 2020

Application Information:

Apply in any of three rounds.
Early submission advised.

Application Deadlines:

Round 1: October 25, 2019
Round 2: February 7, 2020
Round 3: April 3, 2020

Change lives. Change organizations. Change the world.

What THE KIDS ARE SAYING THESE DAYS

TRUCK

CANDY

SISTER





A STANFORD SCHOLAR HELPS
THE WORLD ANALYZE
HOW CHILDREN ACQUIRE
LANGUAGE DIFFERENTLY—
AND JUST HOW MUCH
THEY HAVE IN COMMON.

BY DENI ELLIS BÉCHARD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIMOTHY ARCHIBALD

ILLUSTRATIONS BY GIORGIA VIRGILI



Mike Frank was keen to hear

his daughter's first word. In Madeline's babbling, he'd already discerned those classic baby sounds "ba," "da" and "ma," but when she was 10½ months old, she began saying "BAba" each time she saw *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* The book, by Eric Carle, was one of her favorites. At first, Frank doubted that "BAba" constituted a word (the etymological root for "babble" is, after all, the repeated use of "ba" by toddlers), but as he observed Madeline speaking it, he noted its "word-y" qualities: the stress on the first syllable, the descending intonation and a hint of an *R* after each *B*. She made the sound only when the book was around, "with the exception of one or two potential false alarms when another book was present," he wrote in his blog. This was, indeed, language, he decided. Then, three weeks later, she stopped using the word, and he never heard it again.

Frank, '03, wasn't just an attentive father describing the nuances of his firstborn's proto-language with the zeal of a connoisseur; he was also a Stanford psychologist specializing in that earliest of linguistic fermentations: children's language acquisition. For the past five years, the associate professor has been building Wordbank, an online trove in which he collects the utterances of tykes from 8 to 36 months. So far, he has gathered those of 39,964 females, 40,113 males and 2,900 children whose genders are unidentified. They hail from 29 language groups, including Cantonese, Hebrew, Kigirama, Norwegian, Turkish, French in Quebec and France, and English in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

While Wordbank has many uses, its primary purpose is to answer a question that has long haunted linguists: How much of language

acquisition is innate and therefore the same everywhere on earth, and how much of it is affected by environment? "Early language is our first clue about this process," Frank says. "The approach we take is directly inspired by this idea of what's universal across languages and across the process of language learning."

The challenge in Wordbank—and Frank's forte—lies in making sense of the sundry infantile proclamations that he has accumulated in the millions. He and his team have spent years building computational tools to create order from hullabaloo, and the first results began coming in around the time that Madeline was making her earliest forays into speech. They revealed that while education and nurturing are, of course, extremely important, in the end, tots and their linguistic tactics are unpredictable.

"There are a lot of differences between kids that can't be explained by their demographics or their backgrounds," Frank says. "Kids are really variable, and I find that liberating as a parent—that you can relax a little bit and watch them grow in the direction and at the pace that they want to, knowing that a lot of that variability is out of your control. It's about the path that they want to take into language."

The biggest constant, it turns out, may be difference. **Rates and styles of language learning vary within social classes, schools—even the same home.** In the forthcoming book on Wordbank, *Variability and Consistency in Early Language Learning*, Frank and three colleagues write, "Although some 18-month-olds already produce 50–75 words, others produce no words at all, and will not do so until they are two years or older."

Even when there are patterns, such as in the



DATA DRIVEN: Frank studies the language acquisition of 82,977 children at work and two—Jonah and Madeline—at home.

most common first words (among the first 10 words uttered in many languages are “mommy,” “daddy,” “woof woof,” “no,” “bye,” “hi,” “yes,” “vroom,” “ball” and “banana”), babies can also be distinct in how they emerge onto the linguistic stage, as Madeline’s use of “BABA” reminds us. Many of Wordbank’s other findings show similar consistency and variability, such as how firstborns speak compared with their siblings, whether toddlers prefer nouns or verbs, which words are more likely to be spoken by girls or by boys, and how girls master language more rapidly than boys.

Though Wordbank can’t always reveal the reasons children learn in the ways that they do, **its data allows researchers to see the patterns in child learning that hold steady across cultures.** It also provides them with new avenues for exploration, allowing them to conduct studies with greater precision, searching for potentially larger, subtler or more complex factors that influence language acquisition.

And, like the children whose data it stores, Wordbank is growing, absorbing new data that, along with its code, is open to everyone.

BABY STEPS TOWARD BABY TALK

Stanford’s first steps toward becoming a hub for the study of hubbub took place in the 1950s, when linguistics professor Charles Ferguson became interested in how people spoke to infants and pets. After Eve Clark joined the linguistics faculty in 1971, she took over teaching language acquisition. In 1973, she and a committee of graduate students began organizing the Child Language Research Forum, the first—and for many years the only—conference on language acquisition, which ran until 2009. During Clark’s half-century in the field, Stanford researchers made a number of discoveries, such as that small children know a great deal about how language is used and adapt their role-playing to take into account gender, social status and setting. However, much of the research from that time was in response to MIT linguist Noam Chomsky’s proposal that

children had an innate capacity for language. “He argued that children didn’t need feedback,” Clark says, “and that they could learn things that weren’t even present in the input they were getting.” Research at Stanford, in contrast, showed that a staggering 60 percent of children’s errors in word choice, word form and pronunciation were implicitly corrected when parents interpreted the talk (“So a child might say,” explains Clark, “‘I come that in,’ meaning ‘I brought it in,’ and the parent might say, ‘Oh, you brought it in?’”) Furthermore, when children used verbs incorrectly, their parents provided interpretation of this nature 90 percent of the time.

The debate around innateness was still very much alive in 1999, when Mike Frank came to Stanford as an undergraduate with a fascination for languages. He double-majored in comparative literature and symbolic systems, an interdisciplinary program created in 1985 by faculty in philosophy, linguistics, computer science and psychology. “Language was this window

into human uniqueness,” he says, “and the uniqueness of our ability to tell stories and narratives to define ourselves. Language allows us to coordinate our activities at unprecedented scale and leads to a tremendous number of uniquely human achievements.”

During his sophomore year, Frank investigated whether the language we speak changes how we think about the world. Under Lera Boroditsky, PhD ’01, a Stanford doctoral student and later assistant professor who now teaches at UC San Diego, he worked on a study evaluating whether Russian speakers, who have two words for blue—one for light blue and one for dark blue—distinguished those shades more readily than English speakers, for whom the two colors are just called blue. (They do, the study concluded.)

Frank also steeped himself in the history of linguistics—the debates over whether all humans, regardless of culture, have a similar universal linguistic template in their brains or whether “language emerges from

an intersection of specific abilities and orientations, not just innate grammar,” as he puts it. The latter theories argued “that languages are learned through social interaction and that learning is more gradual,” he says. Michael Ramscar, then a professor of psychology, told him that **the best way to investigate philosophical questions about the nature and origins of language was to study children.** That, Frank remembers thinking, “was an immensely powerful and exciting argument.”

As a doctoral student at MIT, he created computer models to predict how children would learn under different circumstances—for instance, how a child might acquire language when observing other people speaking and interacting as opposed to when being taught words directly by an adult.

“But once you create the theory,” Frank says, “you need to go out and get the data to test it.” This is precisely what he began to do in 2010, after he joined the Stanford faculty. “I looked around and there weren’t any more data on offer. Nobody had the data that I needed.”

In 2015, Frank approached psychologist Virginia Marchman, who is now one of his co-authors on the Wordbank book. Marchman was on the advisory board of the MacArthur-Bates Communicative Development Inventories (CDIs), questionnaires created by language researchers in 1988 to allow parents to record how their children communicated. Having parents inventory their kids’ vocabularies at home, in their natural environment, had been shown to be more effective than studying children in the lab. Researchers around the world also adapted CDIs to their languages, using words important in those cultures. And in every region, before the researchers could use CDIs to evaluate individual children, they had to do norming studies—surveys of thousands of monolingual children to establish local norms. The studies turned out to be an untapped trove.

“Each of those groups had CDIs for thousands of kids, often in a filing cabinet or in an Excel file or whatever on their computer,” Frank recalls. So he made a proposal to Marchman: Would it be

LANGUAGE WAS THIS WINDOW INTO HUMAN UNIQUENESS, AND THE UNIQUENESS OF OUR ABILITY TO TELL STORIES AND NARRATIVES TO DEFINE OURSELVES.

possible to bring all that data together to stimulate innovation and answer the most challenging questions about linguistics?

The idea appealed to her. “Making data open and accessible to other people is good for the field,” she says, “and it’s good for science in general.” She told him that the CDI board meeting would be the following week in San Diego and invited him to make his pitch.

Shortly after doing so, he began receiving CDIs, but several years passed before many of the researchers responded. “I like to say that I started with the *Field of Dreams* model: ‘If you build it, they’ll come running and they’ll give you your data,’” Frank says. “But I ended up much more with a sense that if you build something really compelling, then it forms a way for you to ask them repeatedly to contribute.”

CROATIAN OR CANTONESE? FIRSTBORN OR LATER-BORN?

The heart of Wordbank is its openness. Looking back on his presentation at that CDI conference five years ago, Frank sees it as the moment when he transitioned away from focusing on theory. “That experience moved me toward being somebody who works on getting data out there and sharing it openly and trying to create tools for dealing with those data.”

Wordbank pages have a link to GitHub, a software development and sharing platform, where users can download the data as well as the code that Frank and his team developed to analyze it. This allows other researchers to evaluate how Wordbank’s results were derived, to apply the code to their own work or to crunch the information in a different way.

The data itself has many applications, Frank explains—from studying cognitive development to evaluating notions of fairness among children. There is one limitation researchers are working to remedy: It’s hard to use Wordbank to study language acquisition in multilingual children, since the bulk of its CDIs were taken from norming studies, which tested only monolingual children to ensure consistency.

Despite his pivot to information-

sharing, Frank remains committed to his theoretical investigation. “We use our data to do a crosslinguistic look at what is consistent across languages and try to use the data to constrain our theories,” he says. “But it all comes down to understanding why and how kids learn language—what’s the shared core of these abilities across different languages and cultures.”

Frank’s tenacity has paid off with insights about how children around the world engage with language. At times, Wordbank has shown consistency within one language group but variability across groups, as with the question of whether kids prefer nouns or verbs early on. Children in most Western language groups, such as French, Norwegian and English, tend to learn nouns first. “You’ve got these really annoying verbs like ‘make’ or ‘do’ that are hard to figure out from context,” Frank says, “because you could make the bed, you could make lunch or you could make a mess. That’s a complicated thing to figure out by looking, because there’s not that much in common between making the bed and making a mess.” Cantonese and Mandarin, however, have concrete verbs that small children can identify and learn early on by watching those who speak them.

Wordbank also reveals how children’s birth order affects their speech. Firstborns often speak earlier than later-born children, most likely because they get more one-on-one attention from parents. And they favor different words than their siblings. **Whereas firstborns gabble on about animals and favorite colors, the rest of the pack cut to the chase with “brother,” “sister,” “hate” and such treats as “candy,” “popsicles” and “donuts.”** The social dynamics of siblings, it would appear, prime their vocabularies for a reality different than the firstborns’ idyllic world of sheep, owls, the green of the earth and the blue of the sky.

Children also adopt vocabulary quite differently depending on their mother’s level of education. In American English, among the words disproportionately favored by the children of mothers who have not completed secondary education are “so,” “walker,” “gum,” “candy,”

“each,” “could,” “wish,” “but,” “penny” and “be” (ordered starting with the highest frequency). The words favored by the children of mothers in the “college and above” category are “sheep,” “giraffe,” “cockadoodledoo,” “quack quack,” the babysitter’s name, “gentle,” “owl,” “zebra,” “play dough” and “mittens.” (Frank tends to focus on word production, which is more reliably measured than comprehension because it involves less subjective evaluation by parents.)

Since few American children gambol with giraffes or zebras or—in a country where more than 82 percent of people live in urban areas—even with sheep, ducks and roosters, Wordbank users can surmise that the favored words for this group were learned from children’s books and trips to the zoo, rather than from expeditions on the Serengeti. Given that Frank’s wife, Alison Kamhi, ’03, a Fulbright scholar and an immigration attorney, is in the “college and above” category, it’s no surprise that “BAbA,” Madeline’s first word, was inspired by a book about a brown bear—an apex predator she has surely never had to outrun.

DOLLS ARE PRETTY AND TRUCKS GO ‘VROOM’

One area of remarkable consistency across language groups is the degree to which the language of children is gendered. The words more likely to be used by American girls than by boys are “dress,” “vagina,” “tights,” “doll,” “necklace,” “pretty,” “underpants,” “purse,” “girl” and “sweater,” whereas those favored by boys are “penis,” “vroom,” “tractor,” “truck,” “hammer,” “bat,” “dump,” “firetruck,” “police” and “motorcycle.”

Even for those who don’t speak many of the languages in Wordbank, a quick scan of the lists reveals easily recognizable words, especially for the boys: “vroom” (Quebecois French), “vrn vrn” (Czech), “brum brum” (Italian), “br/brm/brum” (Latvian) and so on. In nearly every list of boys’ words, “tractor,” “helicopter,” “police,” “hammer,” “motorcycle” and other mechanical objects stand out. The words for girls rely less on onomatopoeia (the creation of a word for an object by

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN
EXPERT IN GENDER SOCIALIZATION
TO SEE THAT IT'S INTERESTING THAT
YOU'RE GETTING THESE SEX-LINKED
WORDS EARLY ON.

evoking the sound associated with it). On their lists, “pretty” and “dress” make frequent appearances.

Wordbank also includes information on British sign language—and children use it in a significantly less gendered way than they speak British English. The top three words more likely to be signed by boys than by girls are “peekaboo,” “hello” and “shower”; the three more likely to be spoken are “tyre,” “vroom” and “cowboy.” The pattern holds true for girls, though in sign language and spoken English, “pretty” remains a favorite.

“You don’t have to be an expert in gender socialization,” says Frank, “to see that it’s interesting that you’re getting these sex-linked words early on.” The challenge in analyzing the data, he points out, is in determining whether children speak this way because of nature or nurture. “We don’t know whether it’s the parents saying these words to the kids or the kid being interested or both.”

Mika Braginsky, a lab tech who helped create Wordbank and co-authored the forthcoming book, agrees with the

challenges of assigning significance to such gendered results. They (Braginsky is nonbinary) say, “By ‘girls’ and ‘boys,’ we have the assigned sex at birth of these kids. There’s not really a way to disassociate what is and isn’t genetics- or socialization-related.”

Wordbank’s results become even more difficult to explain where they show the rates of learning for girls compared with boys.

“Girls are more or less better at just about everything,” says Frank. “If you go into a preschool classroom in the United States, you might notice that the girls talk more than the boys on average. They have larger vocabularies. They’re better with language. Is that because of gender socialization in the United States or some feature of the way we culturally interact with different kids? Or is that due to a more invariant mechanism that’s kind of the same across kids in different cultures? It turns out it’s actually the latter. Across most of the languages that we have data for, girls have a bigger vocabulary than the boys and with a relatively similar degree.”

Wordbank can’t explain why girls acquire

language with relative ease; it doesn’t tell us whether the gender difference results from societal features that hold constant across cultures or earlier development in babies with two X chromosomes. (Decades of studies by Eve Clark show no differences in production or comprehension between boys and girls; Clark doesn’t know why Wordbank would yield different results but considers the possibility that parents might talk more to girls and therefore have a clearer sense of their vocabulary when completing CDIs.)

Wordbank has, however, presented a few clear patterns—how children’s interests and social environment appear to drive language learning in ways that are surprisingly similar across cultures, and how variable children are in the speed and approach with which they acquire language. “We have found some interesting consistencies across cultures and languages,” Frank says. “I still hesitate to call them universals.”

WHEN TO WORRY—AND WHEN NOT TO

Though as a new father Frank found reassurance in the varied rates of learning, he also saw the long-term repercussions of the different speeds at which children acquire language.

“Something really striking is how well different aspects of children’s language hang together. Kids who gesture more early on also have bigger vocabularies.

Kids who have bigger vocabularies tend to combine words more and have a stronger knowledge of grammar. They tend to put

the right endings on words. So one of the things that’s really consistent across culture is that we see all of the different parts of language hanging together. Language is kind of one unified system or one unified skill, which is, I think, fascinating from a cognitive science perspective. If you go to a linguistics department, there are different courses on syntax, grammar, morphologies, phonology, but in acquisition, they all fit together. They’re all part of the same system, and that is really robustly true across all the languages we look at.”

Anne Fernald, associate professor

emerita of psychology at Stanford, has shown that socioeconomic factors affect language learning and that underserved children often have smaller vocabularies. Marchman, who works in Fernald's research group, explains that early levels of language acquisition correlate with performance in many areas later in life—"with your literacy level," she says, "with how well you do in math, with high school graduation rates. We've learned that birth to 5 is an important critical period in development. Language is one of the important skills that we can give our children early on. So I'm interested, given that there's so much variability, in when that variability is just natural variability and when it is telling us that a child might need some extra help."

And yet, even in households with similar levels of income and education,

variability is high, which is why Frank emphasizes that children have many styles and paths in terms of language acquisition. "We may have a naive story like, 'Oh, well, parents are really different in all parts of the United States and we're a diverse nation with lots of different kids from different backgrounds. Maybe that's why there's variability.' But if you go to, for example, a Beijing Mandarin sample where all the kids are monolingual and going to the same state-sponsored early childhood care, the variability is just as high."

On the flip side, **Wordbank allows educators and medical professionals to better identify the normal range of variation**, Frank points out that if children are unusually delayed in comprehension or production by the age of 2, parents should consider consulting a pediatrician.

Fortunately for Frank, as Madeline was developing language, he saw from the Wordbank data that she was within the normal range. "It was just super fun to watch the interesting and idiosyncratic things that she did as she broke into language," he recalls.

He now also has a son, Jonah, whose first word he awaits.

As for whether Wordbank has provided answers to all the questions with which generations of linguists have struggled or has validated the computational models of how children learn that Frank devised in his PhD days, he isn't sure.

He still needs more data. ■

DENI ELLIS BÉCHARD is a senior writer at STANFORD. Email him at dbechard@stanford.edu.

DIRECTORS' COLLEGE
is the nation's premier
executive education
program for directors
and senior executives of
publicly traded firms.

StanfordLawSchool
Directors' College

ROCK CENTER FOR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Confirmed Keynote Speakers



Rosalind (Roz) Brewer
COO, Group President,
and Director, Starbucks;
Director, Amazon



Henry Fernandez
Chairman and CEO, MSCI



Vicki Hollub
President and CEO, Occidental
Petroleum; Director, Lockheed
Martin



Maggie Wilderotter
Director, Cadence Design
Systems, Costco, HPE, and
Lyft; Chair, Docusign

Program Fee

\$8,450	Discounted Price (ends 3/1/20)
\$8,950	Full Price (after 3/1/20)
\$9,450	Full Price with Sunday Session

Enter the code **STANFORD** to receive
10% off the current tuition rate.

Contact Information

Tel: 650 723 5905
rockprograms@law.stanford.edu

bit.ly/StanfordDCLinkedIn

[Twitter.com/StanfordRock](https://twitter.com/StanfordRock)

For information and to register:

www.directorscollege.com

26TH
ANNUAL

**STANFORD
DIRECTORS' COLLEGE**
June 21 - 23, 2020 | Stanford Law School

the good fight

by Melinda Sacks

Nicole Taylor has taken the reins at the world's largest, most beleaguered community foundation. Here's how she's working to turn it around.

Nicole Taylor stands at her second-floor office window looking at the tan and white Tioga camper parked on a side street below. Two adult bikes hang on a rack attached to the rear of the vehicle; the children's bikes are piled on the roof. Each weekday morning a young woman dressed neatly in a skirt and heels steps out and waves goodbye. The camper doesn't leave. A family lives inside.

"That motivates me," Taylor says, gesturing to the camper below. "We have to do better than that."

The view—a family living in a vehicle right outside one of the richest foundations in the world—illustrates the wealth gap that has made Silicon Valley a national focal point for the contrast between the



haves and have-nots. It's also why housing is one of the priorities of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF), where Taylor, '90, MA '91, took the helm in November 2018.

SVCF has come under fire in recent years. It grew by 507 percent in the decade spanning 2008 to 2018, making it the ninth-largest foundation (and largest community foundation) in the United States, with \$8.9 billion in assets. At the same time, criticisms mounted: that the foundation had allowed billionaire donors to benefit from tax breaks by parking their funds without making many disbursements; that it enabled donors to pursue international philanthropic interests while failing to adequately serve its own community; that it created an intimidation-fueled workplace.

Scathing articles referred to the "melt-down" or "implosion" at SVCF, turning it into a national news story. The CEO and the top fund-raiser resigned. Nearly half of the staff departed. The board named an interim leader, shifting its sights from fund-raising and asset building to survival mode and a global search for a new leader.

Community foundations don't usually attract this much attention as they quietly raise money from individuals, families and businesses to make grants that improve the lives of people in their own regions. In contrast to private foundations, which are established by one or a handful of sources and must pay out 5 percent of their assets each year, community foundations are public charities under IRS rules, and do not have the same payout requirements. Typically, they serve an important role in pooling gifts from many sources, then organizing their distribution to local programs. According to the Council on Foundations, there are more than 750 community foundations in the United States.

SVCF's history in some ways mirrors that of Silicon Valley. Both amassed vast wealth over the past decade, but along the way left many behind and opened themselves to social critique. As SVCF's new president

and CEO, Taylor is tasked with returning more of the foundation's focus to the acute problems of its own neighborhoods, including out-of-control housing costs, lack of public transportation, a widening economic divide and rising homelessness.

Taylor acknowledges the big task in front of her. For now, she says, her motto is, "I want to put the 'community' back in community foundation."

Making People Count

In a September morning nine months into the job, Taylor sits behind her desk sipping tea from a black Stanford mug.

Having spent her early months as CEO revitalizing a demoralized staff, filling vacant positions, and learning the internal and public workings of the foundation, she is anxious to get moving, particularly in the housing sector.

"I'm trying not to be in knots, but I feel a sense of urgency more now than when I came in," she says. "This is a big organization and an institution in the community so you can't just change overnight. There are a lot of moving pieces, but I see where we can be that resource and I'm like, 'Let's get to this!'"

Taylor's "listening tour" took her from visiting a safe-parking lot for RV dwellers at an East Palo Alto church to facilitating a discussion with the governor and 16 business leaders on how to most effectively address the housing crisis in the Bay Area. Along the way she has continually posed two questions: "What do you want us to be? What does this region need in its community foundation?"

For the past decade, SVCF has focused on transportation, housing, civic participation, immigration and education. While these priorities remain, they may shift in the near future as Taylor and her colleagues and advisers finish the foundation's new strategic plan.

"Our philosophical priorities won't change," she says. "What we actually land on as to where we put our resources and where we put our money—that is still in sausage-making mode."

"Community foundations are complicated organizations," she adds. "My role is to help connect the resources with the needs. And to understand we are all completely interdependent."

One of Taylor's early actions has been to support local efforts to ensure a complete and accurate count in Census 2020, the national survey that she considers an urgent priority because it will directly affect how much federal money is allocated to California counties, which in turn pay for schools, hospitals, roads, public works and public safety. The census count also determines the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In partnership with the Bay Area Census Funders Collaborative, SVCF has so far provided \$3.3 million in grants to more than 130 nonprofits throughout the region. The goal is to use trusted grassroots leaders and community centers to reach hard-to-count populations. At Puente, a community resource center in southern San Mateo County, a grant of \$50,000 has helped identify "invisible" residents who are often overlooked because of their immigration status or housing situation. For example, those who reside in garages, in-law units or vehicles may not have mailboxes, so they may not even receive an invitation to complete the census. Puente is contributing to an accurate map of housing units that will include those residents.

Puente's efforts may even ripple beyond 2020. "The census grant means we are able to train Spanish-speaking women to go out and canvass their own neighborhoods," says Mayra Pelagio, one of the organizers. "Once the census is over, we will have developed leaders who are willing and able to advocate for their community."

the giving spree

Today's philanthropy, says a Stanford political scientist, disproportionately benefits the wealthy.

Community foundations can be part of the solution.

Is it uncharitable to scrutinize philanthropy? It may seem almost heretical to question something designed to create positive change. But according to political science professor Rob Reich, faculty director of the McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society and co-director of the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, charitable giving warrants more than simple gratitude and praise.

In his 2018 book, *Just Giving: Why Philanthropy Is Failing Democracy and How It Can Do Better*, Reich, MA '98, PhD '98, examines whether philanthropy is "an exercise of private power with objectionable public consequences." Part of the problem, he says, is who gets the tax incentives for charitable giving "in an age of great and growing inequality."

The charitable contributions deduction costs the U.S. Treasury roughly \$60 billion every year, with the overwhelming majority of those benefits tilted toward the wealthiest, Reich says. The highest earners have the highest subsidy rate and exert the greatest influence over the public sphere. They often make massive donations to private foundations and donor-advised funds at community foundations that in turn disburse grants, making their ultimate effect on social policy difficult to detect.

"Most people think that philanthropy is an unadulterated good thing," says Reich.

The charitable tax deduction, however, is "a deeply unjust policy mechanism that bakes a plutocratic bias into the incentive to give, systematically benefiting the wealthy and amplifying their voices." Big philanthropy, he says, becomes an exercise in power and ultimately exacerbates inequality rather than redressing it.

One way to balance the equation, says Reich, is to revise tax policy to benefit small donors and those in need. Community foundations, he says, can also be part of the solution.

Reich likens the traditional community foundation to the Community Chest in the board game Monopoly. Donations from local individuals and businesses contribute to a "community pot" that is governed by representatives of the community who decide how to spend it. In modern community foundations, however, the prevalence of donor-advised funds, which are directed by the individuals who made the gifts, subverts that notion. (DAFs are the fastest-growing form of philanthropy today, according to a recent study by DAF provider National Philanthropic Trust.)

"American philanthropy has long been a story of ordinary donors, and community foundations are at the heart of that," says Reich. "They are a classic kind of civil society response to local problem-solving." ■

Other local organizations are tailoring their programs to support different constituencies. Pars Equality Center, a San Jose resource center for Middle Eastern immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, used its \$20,000 grant to show those taking citizenship classes how to participate in the census and why it is important. Self-Help for the Elderly used its \$15,000 grant to open four questionnaire assistance centers for seniors in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties, offering public computers and tablets along with staff who can help.

"I think about my mother," says Taylor. "She knows how to read the news on her phone but not how to text, let alone fill out a survey. How many other people are in that boat?"

Bridging the Divide

In 1963, at the age of 21, Taylor's mom, Ionie Pablico, immigrated to the United States from her native Jamaica with the wealthy family she served as an unpaid live-in housekeeper. Taylor, who was born six years later, grew up in Southern California sharing a bedroom with her mom, and later with one of the five children her mother helped care for. She learned from an early age how to straddle the divide between privilege and poverty. "I knew how it felt to be on the outside," she says. "I grew up in a big family, but I knew I wasn't really part of the family."

Every day on her way to school, Taylor's mother would tell her that she had to "do her best, be the best and make something of herself." There was little focus on the challenges of being a first-generation American or of having a mother who had completed the equivalent of sixth grade. Instead, her mom was fond of telling her to speak up when she disagreed or when she had an idea to share. Taylor attended Immaculate Heart High School, an all-girls' school in Los Angeles, which she says cemented her identity as

"a fierce, independent woman of color." She was also an academic standout, and was admitted to Stanford with full financial aid.

"When I got here and I raised my hand," she says, "if I wasn't called on, I knew how to raise my voice."

After completing her bachelor's in human biology, Taylor earned a master's and a teaching credential in the Graduate School of Education's STEP program. Her first job, at Lowell Middle School in Oakland, plunged her into an environment where students often showed up hungry. So many of them had asthma that Taylor began integrating public-health topics into her lesson plans, engaging her class in discussions about their neighborhood's water treatment plant and the air-quality hazard of living near the freeway.

"I went into teaching because education is the thing that really helped get me and my mother out of poverty," says Taylor, who taught seventh- and eighth-grade science in the Oakland Unified School District. But as she saw the impact of community problems on her students, she began longing to do something that would improve the lives of more people. She moved to a job at College Track, a San Francisco nonprofit focused on getting low-income and first-generation students to college. From there she returned to her alma mater, first as the managing director at Stanford's Haas Center for Public Service and later as associate vice provost and dean of community engagement and diversity. In between stints at Stanford, Taylor served as the president and CEO of the East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF) for nearly six years, from 2007 to 2013.

At EBCF, Taylor partnered with Oakland Unified's then-superintendent, Tony Smith, to raise nearly \$7 million for the African American Male Achievement Initiative, designed to keep teen boys in high school. The district credited the program with increasing graduation rates by 10 percent among black male students.

In 2017, Taylor picked up stakes and moved to Arizona State University to become deputy

vice president and dean of students. From there, she was named vice president at ASU's Foundation for a New American University, integrating her expertise in education and philanthropy.

Aside from her son, Evan, then a high schooler, and her mother, both of whom made the move with her, Taylor knew all of two people in the state. So she called one of them—Steve Seleznow, president and CEO of the Arizona Community Foundation—and asked him to meet for coffee. A month later, over dinner, she realized they had begun dating. Taylor put away her Bay Area—chic wardrobe ("No one wears black when it's 110!"), took up daily walking and settled into a comfortable routine in the Southwest.

Then came the call from a recruiter about the job at Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

A Shaky Foundation

Taylor wasn't at all sure about leaving ASU to take on a troubled Bay Area organization that the local nonprofit community was referring to as "the black hole" and "the Death Star." But Silicon Valley Community Foundation's board of directors had no doubts that she was the one.

"When she walked into the room, it was evident within minutes that she brought what we needed," says board chair Dan'l Lewin, CEO of the Computer History Museum in Mountain View. "We started with a pool of about 200, but when we met Nicole it was clear she wasn't selling herself. She was herself. She just brings a level of listening and empathy to the problems we face that we hadn't seen with anyone else. It is her life's work."

SVCF formed in 2007 from the merger of the Peninsula Community Foundation in San Mateo and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation in San Jose. Its assets have ballooned in the past 10 years, primarily

all together now

Bay Area women pool their funds to amplify the impact of their donations.

One grant paid to hire and train women in an African village to track and collect data on endangered zebras. Another covered the purchase of a four-wheel-drive SUV to transport NGO staff to rural towns in Kenya, where they gave microgrants to widows starting small businesses, like serving up food from a roadside hibachi grill or rearing goats and chickens to sell eggs, milk and offspring. A third grant paid to build girls' restrooms in South African schools, giving female students a safe and private place for personal hygiene.

Six times a year, 13 to 19 Bay Area women gather to choose projects they want to support to improve the lives of women and children internationally. Their grassroots group, Caridad Partners (*caridad* means "charity" in Spanish), began 13 years ago when Stanford development officers Pam Cook and Patricia Stirling decided to set up a giving circle. To date, the circle has included 14 Stanford alumni and five former staffers, and has made \$500,000 in grants.

The idea of a giving circle, Cook explains, is to combine the donations of many to have a greater impact in giving. Call it a community foundation writ small. Each member of Caridad commits to donating \$3,000 per year. The group makes its decisions through voting, usually funding three or four projects annually. Each gift, typically \$8,000 to \$20,000, goes straight to a Bay Area nonprofit that assists women and children around the world to improve education, health, economic self-sufficiency or environmental outcomes.

"We've discovered there are amazing opportunities to change people's lives," says Cook. "Such a small amount of American giving goes overseas, yet it can have such huge impact. We hope there's a ripple effect and that our gift, being bigger because we work together, will inspire others."

Caridad's "sweet spot," says treasurer Debbie Hall, MBA '81, is making grants to organizations that fall between a "raw start-up" and a million-dollar NGO.

"We want our combined gift to be meaningful to the recipient," says Hall, "and to be moving them forward on something new for the organization."

Unlike foundations that solicit grant proposals, Caridad Partners conducts its own research and outreach. In the fall, two committees explore nonprofits that fit their interests. Come February, the committees bring their recommendations to the full group, which votes on which ideas to pursue. Caridad then invites a few NGOs to come to a meeting in April to present specific projects for which they need funding. After the presentations, the members vote, determine the amount of each grant and notify the lucky grantees. More than a year later, the recipients report on how they have spent the money and what they have accomplished, and everyone celebrates at a so-called gratitude dinner.

Caridad's partners are fond of quoting a proverb that inspires their work: "'If you want to go fast, go alone,'" says Cook. "'But if you want to go far, go together.' I think that's what we are doing. We are going together." ■

because it has become a popular receptacle for donor-advised funds (DAFs), individual accounts that can be sponsored and housed in a community foundation. A 2018 *Forbes* article named 17 billionaires who had established DAFs at Silicon Valley Community Foundation. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his physician wife, Priscilla Chan, donated \$214 million in Facebook stock on the same day the foundation announced Taylor's hiring. (The median DAF at the foundation is \$86,000, and the minimum is \$5,000.)

DAFs are controversial because they provide the donors with generous tax breaks in the year of donation but can legally sit untouched for years without disbursing grants. California AB 1712, slated for upcoming review, would improve transparency into how the funds are being spent and increase accountability through annual reporting. For now, though, the details of individual DAFs are not public.

Under Taylor's predecessor, DAFs became 60 percent of the foundation's assets. Moreover, in 2018, SVCF awarded 91 percent of its grants beyond San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Although that still left \$126 million to be donated within the two counties, it raised questions about why a community foundation wasn't doing a better job of focusing on its own community. Taylor is working to change that.

"The goal is to give to areas about which donors are passionate *and* to give to the community from which their wealth was made," she says. "That has been our goal since the beginning. We do not want to hoard assets. That isn't our story."

SVCF staff now meet regularly with DAF holders to advise them on how to tailor grantmaking to their local interests. And a new dormant-fund policy ensures that funds do not remain inactive for more than 24 months. If there is no payout in that period of time, the money will be transferred into the Community Endowment Fund, operated by the foundation.

"There's a real opportunity for the foundation to reconnect itself to the grand and

gloried history of community foundations in the United States in the form of a community trust that's collectively governed," says Rob Reich, MA '98, PhD '98, a Stanford professor of political science who recently wrote a book critiquing modern philanthropy (see sidebar, page 43). "And from what I know about Nicole, who is a brilliant and inclusive leader, I'm not skeptical; I'm hopeful."

Jim Steyer, '78, JD '83, who has known Taylor since she was a 19-year-old in his Stanford course on civil rights, civil liberties and poverty, concurs. "Even as a freshman, she wanted to change the world and make it a better, more equitable place," says Steyer, CEO of Common Sense Media and an adjunct professor in comparative studies in race and ethnicity. "Now she has a huge responsibility to right the ship. She is a healer, and that is what the foundation needed."

Impact, Impact, Impact

Taylor readily acknowledges that she heads a foundation with enormous assets and, therefore, enormous potential. "But that alone won't do it," she says. "I don't want to talk about our assets. I want to talk about our impact."

Impact is not only Taylor's watchword. It's also the term her colleagues most often use when they talk about her work.

Take Janet Spears, former COO at the East Bay Community Foundation, who is now CEO of the San Francisco nonprofit Metta Fund: "Nicole is able to go across the vast different areas of a community foundation and cover the breadth of what has to be done. She also knows she is just one person, so she finds the best partners. One of her greatest abilities is to move donors from thinking simply about charity to what will be the impact."

Or Jackie Schmidt-Posner, EdS '86, PhD '89, who worked with Taylor at the Haas Center: "Nicole is one of those rare people

who is the same whether she is talking to the undocumented worker or the janitor or a Mimi Haas [president of the Miriam and Peter Haas Fund]. She wants to have impact, and that thread runs through everything she has done."

Having impact, however, has an impact on Taylor's personal life. She devotes her days and evenings to "SVCF 2.0," as she calls it, typically not winding down on the couch with her labradoodle, Louis (as in Armstrong), until about 10 p.m. She and Seleznow eloped in July, but he remains in Phoenix as CEO of the Arizona Community Foundation. They talk every morning and night—"we 'get' each other and our days," Taylor says—and visit each other regularly.

Taylor credits her mom, who has moved and lived with her for the past 20 years, for enabling her to have her career and raise Evan, now 20, as a single parent. When Taylor arrives at her house in Menlo Park, a warm plate of home-cooked food covered with foil awaits.

If friends question why she still lives with her mother, Taylor tells them, "*You* want to live with my mother! She makes my life possible."

The Power of an iPad

In a brightly lit SVCF conference room last September, Taylor steps to the podium to introduce San Jose mayor Sam Liccardo and the city's new Digital Inclusion Program. Smiling broadly at the audience of middle school teachers, parents, administrators and potential donors, she says, "This subject matter brings me back to the classroom where I started my career. It's where my heart still is today, and it's where we can create real change."

Taylor tells the audience that in San Jose, home to such tech companies as

Adobe, eBay and TiVo, 95,000 families cannot afford to connect to the internet. Children in these households are unable to do research for school projects or get emails from their teachers and friends. Parents are cut off from their PTA and school administration. It is one more example of the divide that makes it hard for so many to keep up in the Valley.

Over the next 10 years, the Digital Inclusion Program hopes to put \$24 million toward providing internet connectivity to 50,000 San Jose households. Liccardi and Taylor believe it will be a national model.

Each of the families who participate will receive free training in using the internet to assist in all aspects of life, from accessing health care to finding employment to signing up for public services. One student told Taylor that the iPad she received through a pilot program not only helped with homework but also became her family's only source of illumination once night fell.

Closing the digital divide, which the city says affects 47 percent of African American families and 36 percent of Latino families in San Jose, is an important means of bridging the equality gap that Taylor sees at the heart

of the foundation's mission. She is well aware of how fine the line can be between thriving and struggling.

"For most of my son's life, I was a single mother," she says. "To think that if my life had gone a different way—if I wasn't fortunate enough to go to a school like Stanford that opened the opportunities it did—I see that I could have ended up in an RV with my child. It's just not right that that is where so many people are right now." ■

MELINDA SACKS, '74, is a senior writer at STANFORD. Email her at msacks@stanford.edu.



CODE, GAME & CREATE AT THE #1 SUMMER TECH CAMP FOR AGES 7-19

Ignite your child's passion for tech while inspiring them to dream big on your alma mater's campus. Led by expert instructors, your child will build the in-demand STEM skills that will help them forge a brilliant future.

Programs run from June 22-Aug. 21, 2020.

Request your brochure today!
iDTech.com | 1-888-709-8324

SAVE \$80 with code: ALUMNI80





NBA

*Pro basketball is a powerful
social and cultural force.
These former Cardinal players
aim to keep it that way.*



They've Got

by Deni Ellis Béchard

Game



Jamila Wideman, '97



Christy Hedgpeth, '94



Bethany Donaphin, '02



Chris Ebersole, '10



*Amy Brooks, '96,
MBA '02*

THE STARTING FIVE

**Amy Brooks, '96,
MBA '02**
President, Team
Marketing and Business
Operations, and Chief
Innovation Officer,
NBA



The Advocate

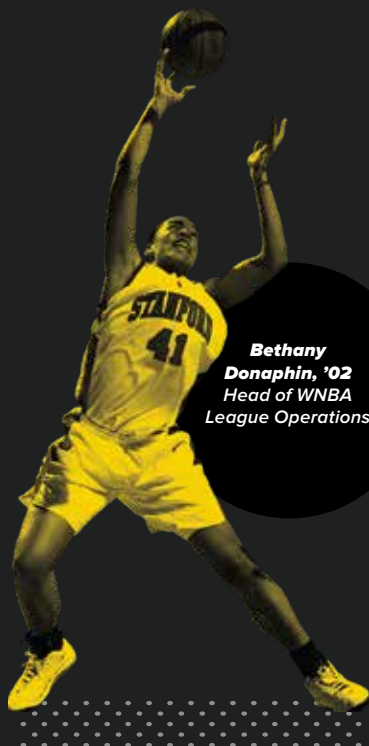
Nneka Ogumike, '12, talks
with Ramona Shelburne, '01, MA '01,
about her role as president of the
WNBA Players Association, and
the new collective bargaining
agreement that significantly
enhanced compensation, at
alu.ms/WNBA.

Brooks, the first in this role, faces a compelling challenge: The NBA has 1.6 billion social media followers in rapidly changing societies around the globe; in today's shifting media landscape, she finds ways to engage the 99 percent of fans who will never attend a game. She credits her success in part to the teamwork she learned while a walk-on at Stanford. "My role during a game," she says, "was to know which way the possession arrow was pointing."

**Chris
Ebersole, '10**
Director, International
Business Operations
and Elite Basketball,
NBA



As the head of Basketball Without Borders—the NBA's basketball and community development outreach program—Ebersole has supported youth around the world. BWB training camps have resulted in hundreds of scholarships to American colleges, 69 NBA players and, this year for the first time, a WNBA draft pick. "As someone who never played professionally but was still able to carve out a career in basketball, I enjoy seeing young people develop," he says. "We emphasize education, leadership, health and wellness, character development and life skills."



Bethany Donaphin, '02
Head of WNBA
League Operations

As she oversees scouting, scheduling, venues and playing rules, Donaphin's favorite days are those when she can influence many aspects of the WNBA, from negotiations with the players' union to creating programs that support the athletes as they transition into new careers. But realizing the league's promise is her primary concern. "There is an incredible convergence of factors that we must capitalize on," says the former forward for the New York Liberty, "which includes a climate of women's empowerment."



Christy Hedgpeth, '94
Chief Operating
Officer, WNBA

A starter on Stanford's 1992 national championship team, Hedgpeth has taken the helm of the WNBA at a time when women's sports get 5 percent of sports coverage and 1 percent of sponsorships. Having cemented deals with CBS Sports and AT&T, she strives to make a "modern, younger, edgier brand" out of the league, which turns 24 this spring. "The WNBA has such untapped potential," she says.

"I focus on how far it will go much more than how far it has come."



Jamila Wideman, '97
NBA Vice
President, Player
Development

Drafted out of Stanford in 1997 by the Los Angeles Sparks, Wideman later became a lawyer and an activist who built mentorship networks for underserved women of color. Her mission with the NBA is to provide personal and professional development for players. The league's effort to expand opportunity across cultures and continents connects with her experience as a player: "For diversity to become strength," she says, "the collective must be prepared to be disrupted and changed by the people around you."

The Globetrotter

Jennifer Azzi

A superstar at Stanford, she is now helping the next generation of players succeed.



AS A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR, Jennifer Azzi would have refused her Stanford recruitment offer if her parents hadn't encouraged her to reconsider for the sake of her education. "I grew up in Tennessee," she says, "and, honestly, I didn't even know where Stanford was." She now sees the decision as one of the best in her life, setting off a streak of career successes: leading the Cardinal to its first NCAA women's basketball title in 1990, winning an Olympic gold medal, playing in the WNBA, being inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and becoming the women's basketball coach at the University of San Francisco.

"If there is a single player who put Stanford women's basketball on the map nationally and helped define the values of the program, it's Jennifer," says Christy Hedgpeth, '94, the WNBA's chief operating officer. "She helped recruit me to Stanford, and I've always felt an enduring connection to her. There's something special that binds all of us former players together, so it's been fantastic to team up with Jennifer on initiatives at the NBA and WNBA."

Now, as the technical director of the NBA Academy Women's Program, Azzi, '90, recruits talented young women for training camps in Australia, China, India, Senegal and Mexico. She focuses on both developing the players and finding opportunities for them in the United States.

"One of the biggest successes was last year's next-generation game," she says, referring to a program that brings players to the

United States for a showcase tournament. "I think we had 13 or 14 different countries [represented]. It was like a mini-Olympics. That's the thing I love about basketball. It brings people together. It's life changing—culture changing."

Since the NBA Women's Academies began three years ago, 11 participants have gone on to play at American prep schools or junior colleges, and five have been recruited by Division I schools. This year, Sanjana Ramesh became the second Indian-born female player to receive a Division I scholarship, and China's Han Xu was drafted into the WNBA.

Basketball provides the platform, but it's the power of connection that makes her job rewarding, Azzi says. As she brings young women together from different language, tribal and national groups, she feels touched by the warmth that players show one another, and she cultivates these same qualities in her work. She recalls speaking in Mexico when discussions of the border wall were often in the news. "You don't want to get into politics with people when you're in this role," she says, "but the one thing I told them is that I get to represent what's great about the United States. More than anything, the job is just to show kindness and love and care and respect toward other countries and other people." ■

DENI ELLIS BÉCHARD is a senior writer at STANFORD. Email him at dbechard@stanford.edu.



Stanford | Summer Session

Share the Stanford Tradition

Stanford Summer Session invites visiting students to join our community during the University's fourth academic quarter.

Visiting undergraduate, graduate, and high school students take courses alongside matriculated students, earn college credit, and receive a Stanford University transcript. Students also develop a global network of friends while experiencing life on The Farm.

PROGRAM DATES: SATURDAY, JUNE 20 – SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

Refer a student today!
summer.stanford.edu/alumni

REVIEW

Facts and Public Figures



KATHY ZONANA, '93, JD '96,
is the editor
of STANFORD.

AFTER THE MAINSTREAM

media incorrectly predicted the outcome of the 2016 U.S. presidential election, a number of mostly coastal journalists set forth to figure out why they'd been so off base. Generally, this involved going into the heartland to interview white working-class voters, then writing anecdotal stories that humanized a handful of individual subjects without shedding much light on why certain groups of voters—and not just the white working class—defied expectations. This journalistic voyage became known, pejoratively, as a Cletus safari.

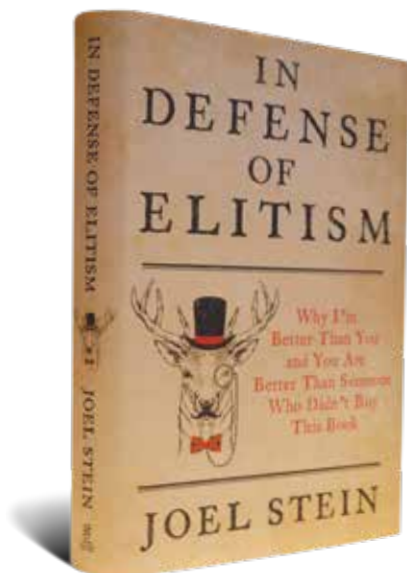
Is a Cletus safari more tolerable when it's undertaken by Joel Stein, '93, MA '94, the journalist-humorist whose penchant for self-deprecation is his stock in trade? Yes, yes it is. Stein opens *In Defense of Elitism: Why I'm Better than*

You and You Are Better than Someone Who Didn't Buy This Book with a sojourn from his home in Los Angeles to Miami, Texas. "I've come," he writes, "because in the past, I've been found guilty of maligning people in print before meeting them, which taught me a valuable lesson: meet first; malign second." He engages local residents in cordial conversations about race, religion and community; makes friends who keep in touch; and concludes that just about everyone in town is named Dee Ann. (Sorry, Cletus.)

It's after Stein disembarks from the safari, though, that *In Defense of Elitism* really takes off. He talks about whether decisions should be based on knowledge or instinct with *Dilbert*'s Scott Adams, and examines the pitfalls of believing in meritocracy with commentator Tucker Carlson. In perhaps the most revealing section of the book, Stein chats with writers who have deliberately created

fake news and observes that all of us, no matter where we fall on the political spectrum, are susceptible to falsehoods when they confirm what we want to hear.

This freewheeling book is simultaneously thoughtful and funny, but its definition of elitism is wiggly. Sometimes, Stein uses the term to refer to anyone who attended a name-brand college; other times, to the select few who are invited to Davos (that's the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, for those of us not on the invitation list). In the end, though, the various depictions of elitism contain a through line: evaluating facts for credibility, then marshaling said credible facts as evidence in support of an argument. And whether or not you call that elitism, Stein makes the case that it's something worth defending. ■



What infuriates the judge and the people here is that while they're doing the dangerous work of extracting energy from the earth so I can sit at a desk and write, I blame their industry for global warming. And fly in two planes each way to tell them that.

In Defense of Elitism: Why I'm Better than You and You Are Better than Someone Who Didn't Buy This Book, by Joel Stein, '93, MA '94, Grand Central Publishing

March is
Women's History
Month

We Recommend More than Mystique

**Toxic Femininity
in the Workplace:
Office Gender
Politics Are a
Battlefield**

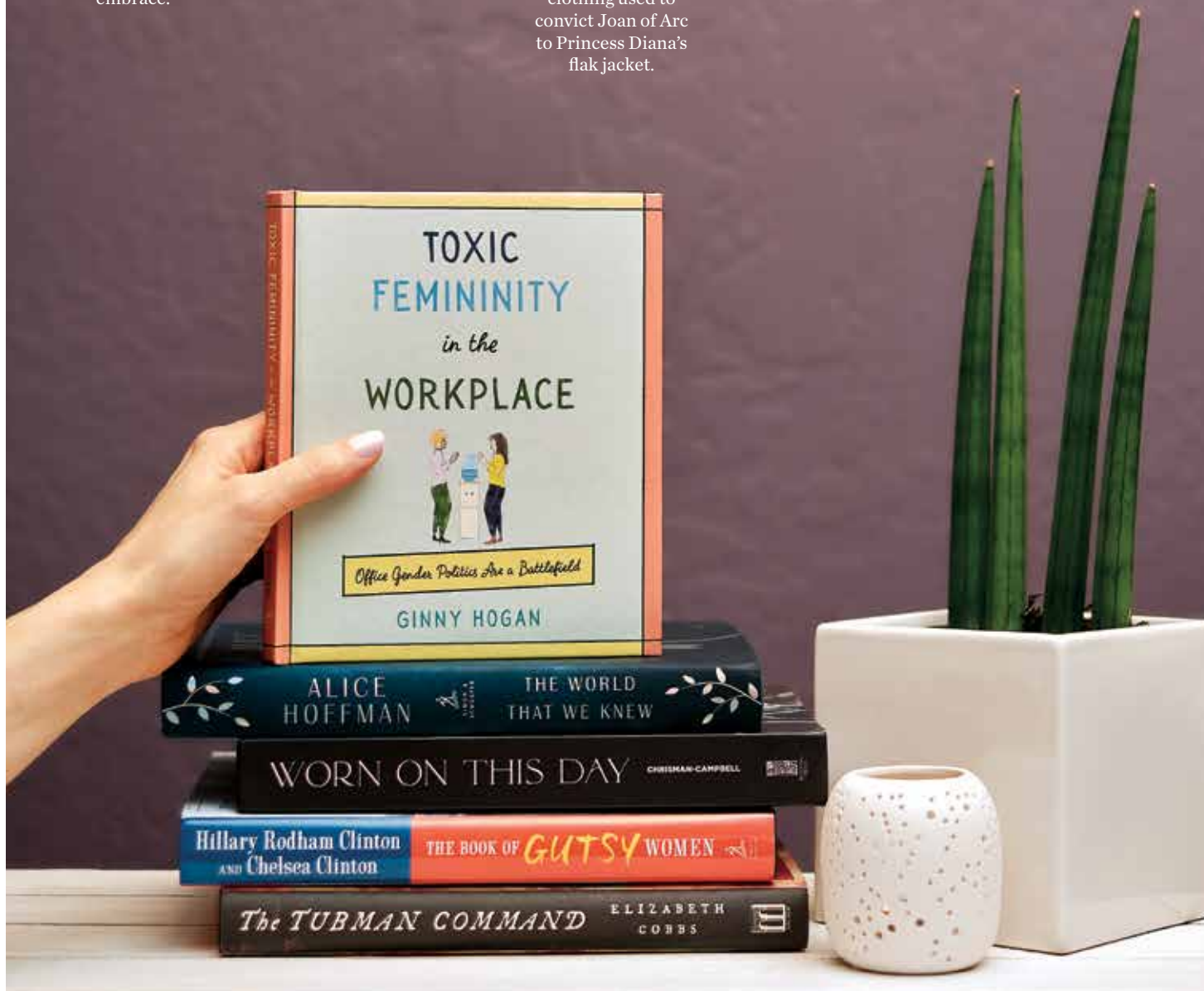
Ginny Hogan, '13;
Morrow Gift.
The best humor
touches on the
truth; this snarky
gem is a full-on
embrace.

**The World
That We Knew**
Alice Hoffman,
MA '75; Simon &
Schuster. Mothers
and daughters
find hope in the
form of a female
golem during
World War II.

**Worn on This Day:
The Clothes
That Made History**
Kimberly
Chrisman-
Campbell, '94;
Running Press.
A meticulous,
fascinating col-
lection of stories,
from the men's
clothing used to
convict Joan of Arc
to Princess Diana's
flak jacket.

**The Book of Gutsy
Women: Favorite
Stories of Courage
and Resilience**
Hillary Rodham
Clinton and Chelsea
Clinton, '01; Simon
& Schuster.
Consider this
a sourcebook
of heroes.

**The Tubman
Command**
Elizabeth Cobbs,
MA '84, PhD '88;
Arcade Publishing.
When you think of
Harriet Tubman,
do you think Civil
War spy and
military leader?
You will.



Cultivate
your **curiosity**

Engaging
classes

Diversity of
minds

Evenings and
weekends

New online
courses



archaeology · art history · art studio · business · classics · communication · creative writing
design · film studies · history · languages · law · literature · mathematics · music · personal
development · philosophy · photography · psychology · science · technology · wellness & health

We invite you to join our open learning community.

Spring registration opens February 24, and most classes begin the week of March 30.

Please visit our website to view the entire course catalogue and to register.

continuingstudies.stanford.edu

Discounts available for Stanford Alumni Association Members.

Farewells

FACULTY

Kurt Mueller-Vollmer, PhD '62 (German studies), of Palo Alto, August 3, at 91. He was professor emeritus of German studies and humanities. His areas of research included Romanticism, German-American cultural relations, comparative literature and translation studies. He made fundamental contributions to the study of the philosopher and diplomat Wilhelm von Humboldt, for which he was awarded the inaugural prize of the Wilhelm von Humboldt Foundation. In 2000, he received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He also directed the graduate program in humanities and the Bing Overseas Program in Berlin. Survivors: his wife, Patricia Ann (London, MA '58); and sons, Jan David and Tristan Matthias.

Dwight C. Miller, of Corrales, N.M., September 5, at 97. He was a veteran of World War II. From 1966 to 1995, he was a professor of art, specializing in Italian painting of the 17th and 18th centuries, with a particular emphasis on Marcantonio Franceschini, founder of the Bolognese Academy. In retirement, he traveled to Africa and Asia to promote wildlife preservation. He was a lifelong collector of Italian paintings, prints and drawings as well as California landscape painting. He was predeceased by his wife, Marion. Survivors: his children, David, '73, Angela, '76, Alicia, '89, and Dwight Jr.; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1930s

Walter Guido Vincenti, '38, Engr. '40 (mechanical engineering), of Palo Alto, October 11, at 102, of complications from pneumonia. He was professor emeritus of aeronautics and astronautics. He served in the Navy during World War II and conducted early research on high-speed flight for Ames Aeronautical Laboratory and at the precursor to NASA. He did advanced work at Cambridge U. thanks to a Rockefeller Public Service Award, and then joined the Stanford faculty just before the Sputnik launch. He also studied the history of engineering and co-founded the interdisciplinary program in science, technology and society. He was the recipient of the Leonardo da Vinci Medal in 1998, the Guggenheim Medal in 2016, Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award in 1983 and Stanford Engineering Heroes Award in 2019. He was predeceased by his wife, Joyce. Survivors: his children, Margi Vincenti-Brown, '71, and Marc, MA '96; two granddaughters; four great-grandchildren; and sister, Jeanne Vincenti Guichard, '45.

1940s

Harry Holman Hicks Jr., '43 (social science/social thought), of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, June 28, at 99. He was a member of the polo team and Phi Kappa Sigma. He served as a pilot during World War II. After buying a landscaping company, he went on to found and serve as president of construction and development companies in California. He was known for being among the first environmentally conscious developers in California, and as an investor he assisted socially oriented entrepreneurs and start-ups. He was an avid polo player, world traveler and member of the Explorers Club. He pursued big game hunting and promoted international wildlife conservation efforts. He was predeceased by his first wife,

Beatrice; second wife, Cecilia (Bergeda, '44); and son, Roland. Survivors: his wife of 18 years, Dede Whiteside-Hicks; and two grandchildren.

Edith Jeanne Pomeroy Johnson-Smith, '44 (biological sciences), MD '48, of London, in September, at 96. She moved to England, where her husband had a long career in national politics. After raising her children, she returned to the medical profession and worked in the dermatology department of the Royal London Hospital. Her interests included classical music, opera, literature, gardening and horses. She was predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Geoffrey. Survivors: her three children and three grandchildren.

Alvin C. Rice, '45 (economics), of Healdsburg, Calif., November 9, at 96. He was a member of Delta Upsilon. After returning from service in the Army Air Corps during World War II, he finished his degree and began a long career with Bank of America. His rise to vice chairman coincided with the bank's rise in the financial industry. He also held leadership positions at Pacific Bridge Co., Imperial Bank, American Interstate Bank and First National Bank. He also served as a trustee of the

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and was a member of Stanford's major gifts committee. He was predeceased by his first wife, Joan (Wonder Elliott, '47). Survivors: his wife of 35 years, Susan; children, Becky MacGuire, Diana Moore and Ted, '80; two stepdaughters, Cristin Cronin and Dana Ostermiller; seven grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Eunice Margaret Erb Goodan, '47 (English), of Pasadena, Calif., October 3, at 93. She was a longtime docent at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History and helped to develop the Junior Arts Center at Barnesdall Park. She participated in several philanthropic organizations in the greater Los Angeles area; most recently she was a governor emeritus at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens. She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Douglas. Survivors: her three children, including Sarah, '75, and Harry, '81. **John S. Ehrlich**, '48 (economics), of San Francisco, October 25, at 93. He served in the Navy during World War II. Early work as a stockbroker and in banking led to his career as a creative marketing consultant. He served on the boards of Tay-Sachs

Criminologist and Reform Advocate

Policymakers trusted Joan Petersilia's insights in wrestling with criminal justice system reforms in part because her groundbreaking research began with evidence from the prisoners themselves.

Joan Petersilia, the Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law Emerita at Stanford, died September 23 from ovarian cancer. She was 68. Her 40-year career was devoted to making connections between empirical, data-driven findings and the real-world needs of politicians, legal authorities and penal-system experts.

"I have always considered myself an applied criminologist, and I believe that research is valuable only if it ultimately affects policy and practice," Petersilia wrote in 2007 when she accepted the Academy of Experimental Criminology's Joan McCord Award.

Petersilia, who earned two degrees in sociology and a doctorate in criminology, joined the Stanford Law School faculty in 2009. She became co-director of the Stan-

ford Criminal Justice Center and, in 2014, was awarded the Stockholm Prize in Criminology, her field's major international honor.

Petersilia advised governors and worked with former inmates like

Michael Santos, whom she helped in his rehabilitation efforts after he spent decades behind bars for a nonviolent drug crime.

"She was a pioneer in the concept of re-entry," he says. In 2012, Santos wrote about his experience serving time and working to turn his life around for *The Oxford Handbook of Sentencing and Corrections*, which Petersilia co-edited.

Her work had a major impact in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2011 decision mandating that California reduce its prison population, when the state shifted inmates to county jails in a move known as realignment. With colleagues, Petersilia produced guidelines to measure the public safety outcomes of the new plan. She also launched a practicum in which students focused on a single California county, Santa Clara, to evaluate realignment's effects and reported the results to then-Attorney General Kamala Harris.

"Joan was a committed visionary who saw what is possible, even when others couldn't see it," Harris told *Stanford Lawyer*. "She energized and excited so many people around reforming the criminal justice system before it was even popular."

Stanford public policy scholar and former California assembly member Joe Nation says, "Joan had more of an impact on criminal justice reform in California than any other person I know. She was smart, strategic and not afraid to push reluctant politicians in the direction of better policy."

Petersilia is survived by her husband, Steve Thomas; sons, Jeff and Kyle; and two sisters.

—John Roemer



Prevention Program, Aid to Retarded Children and other nonprofit and civic organizations. He supported his community by serving on the civil grand jury, Council on Children, Public Health Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee, and also supported individuals and institutions in the local art and music community. He was predeceased by his former wife, Delia. Survivors: his wife, Coleen; children, Jodi, John Jr., Jill and James; and four grandchildren.

Edward Perry French, '48, MS '50 (chemistry), PhD '53 (materials science), of Santa Cruz, Calif., October 30, at 95. He flew 24 combat missions for the Army Air Force during World War II. He met his future wife while singing in the Memorial Church choir. He spent his career at Rockwell's Space Sciences Laboratory and helped developed the ion rockets that are only now coming into use on spacecraft. In retirement, he enjoyed sailing on Monterey Bay and guiding tourists past the elephant seals as a docent at Año Nuevo reserve. He was predeceased by his wife of 65 years, Helene (Perham, '46). Survivors: his daughter, Alison; six grandchildren; and sister.

Marion George Hamilton, '48 (social science/social thought), of Arlington, Va., September 4, at 93. She played for the golf and tennis team and met her husband while working for the Boeing Corp. They married in Memorial Church. After raising their sons, she worked in banking and retail before becoming a tour guide for the State Department's antique collection. She also served as a Stephen's Minister and chaplain at Fairfax Hospital for critically ill patients lacking family support. She enjoyed golf, whitewater rafting, hiking and adventure travel to China, India and Tanzania. Survivors: her sons, Blake, Lance and Drew; and three grandchildren.

Dorothy Ray Lamar Corr Skelley, '48 (physical therapy), of Azusa, Calif., September 27, at 93. She was a member of the tennis team and played the organ at Memorial Church. She earned a master's degree in nursing from UC San Diego. She ran a polio clinic in Santa Clara, Calif., and directed health services at Riverside Community College. She also served on the Riverside Symphony Orchestra board for school

music programs. She was a lifelong sailor and fan of Stanford sports, and helped found a Stanford Alumni Club in Riverside County. She was predeceased by her husband, Donald Corr, '49, MD '53. Survivors: her children, Catherine, Nancy and Philip; and four grandchildren.

1950s

Philip L. Bailey, '50 (sociology), of Menlo Park, June 4, at 93. He was a member of Theta Chi. He served in the Army during World War II. He spent his career in sales, first for RCA and then for Continental Can Co. He was a lifelong fan of all things Stanford, especially the football team, and volunteered in retirement at the Stanford Hall of Fame. He loved classical music and was an avid tennis player. He was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Erika. Survivors: his children, Janet, '77, Jennifer and Bruce; four grandchildren; and sister.

Bernard L. Brickman, '50 (psychology), of Encino, Calif., September 23, at 90. He rowed crew and met his first wife, Naomi Grossberg, '51, at Stanford. He later earned an MD from the University of Paris (Sorbonne). He was a general practitioner at Kaiser Permanente, but devoted most of his career to psychiatry and psychoanalysis. He was actively involved with the peace and justice movements during the Vietnam and Iraq Wars. He also enjoyed travel, bird-watching, photography, biking, hiking, motorcycling, sailing and classical music. Survivors: his wife of 58 years, Pearl; children, Lawrence, Joshua Richman, Julianne Hall and Sid Richman; and three grandchildren.

Bruce Marshall Wyckoff, '50, MS '63 (civil engineering), of Redwood City, October 10, at 91. He was a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda and played flute in the marching band. He returned to Stanford for a master's degree after serving in the Army during the Korean War. As an engineer, he spurred innovation in water and wastewater treatment while working for the university, the U.S. Geological Survey, Cal Water and Redwood City. He had a lifelong enthusiasm for folk dancing and was an avid photographer, traveler, hiker and sports fan, with a particular devotion to Stanford women's basketball. Survivors: his wife of 68 years, Mary Ann (Hice, '51); children,

John, Donald, Jane Cella and Beth Smith; five grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Donovan Craven, '51 (political science), of Bedford, N.Y., December 15, 2018, at 92. He served in the Navy during World War II. At Stanford, he was a member of the crew team. After Harvard Business School, he worked as a sales engineer for Alcoa. During the 1970s and 1980s, he worked with fellow Bedford residents to preserve the rural character and ecological health of their community. Survivors: his wife of 64 years, Avery; daughters, Mary Kelly and Catherine; three grandchildren; and great-granddaughter.

Lester E. Olson, '51 (undergraduate law), LLB '53, of Fallbrook, Calif., October 22, at 94. He worked in private practice until receiving a judicial appointment. After a year on the Los Angeles Municipal Court, he was appointed to the Superior Court and served for 20 years until his retirement in 1985. He was an avid skier and backpacker and loved construction, remodeling several of his houses by himself. Survivors include Patrick Anderson.

Joan A. Ward, '51 (communication), of Santa Cruz, Calif., October 19, at 90. She was a member of Theta Sigma Phi and the Memorial Church committee. She spent two years in Ecuador with the Peace Corps. Her first job was in Switzerland; she later worked in public relations for the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley and at KQED in San Francisco. She spent most of her career in the public information office of UC Santa Cruz as a writer, photographer and promoter of various academic divisions. She especially enjoyed introducing her nieces and nephews to opera, symphony, ballet and travel to Europe.

Joseph McCorkle Chez, '52 (education), of Sacramento, Calif., October 27, at 88, of colon cancer. He was a member of Theta Chi and an All American pitcher for the baseball team. He was inducted into the Stanford Athletic Hall of Fame in 1975. After playing semi-pro baseball, he served in the Marine Corps and later had a career in life insurance. He was an accomplished amateur magician, served as president of the local chapter of the Society of American Magicians, and continued performing weekly in retirement. He was also an elder at

Geophysicist and Underground Explorer

Magnetism—combined with an innate curiosity and inventive mind—was the force Sheldon Breiner harnessed to “see” what’s hidden beneath our feet.

Sheldon Breiner, '59, MS '62, PhD '67, wielded magnetometers of his own design to find avalanche victims in Colorado, a buried 10-ton Olmec head carved from basalt in Mexico and a 400-year-old Spanish ship that sank off the California coast. He died October 9 at his home in Portola Valley from pancreatic cancer. He was 82.

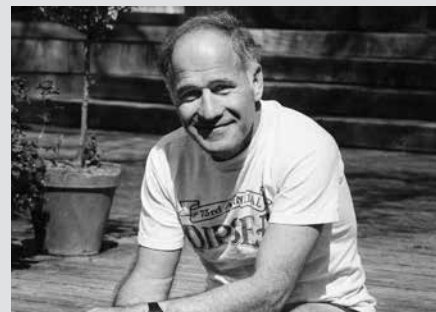
The scientist, inventor and serial entrepreneur founded his first company, Geometrics Inc., in 1969. It built sophisticated instruments, including magnetometers, which, by measuring magnetic waves, can detect what’s not visible to the human eye and create an underground map for excavators. He became known not only as a leading expert on the device but also for his sharp sense of humor. Breiner’s website featured an article dubbing him the “Merlin of Magnetism,” and in a 1997 interview, he explained

that a magnetometer “works much like a laser” but “looks like a beer can on a broomstick.”

“He had a lot of fun. It wasn’t work for him,” says his wife, Phyllis “Mimi” Farrington Breiner, '61. “The children and I went through all his papers, and our heads spun at the variety of his interests.” Late in life, he founded Potential Energy to detect shale oil hydrocarbons and determine drill locations.

As a geophysics major at Stanford, Breiner identified seismic activity along the San Andreas Fault using a rubidium magnetometer. Years later, when he moved into his Portola Valley home—located near the fault line—he developed an interest in earthquake prediction and designing home features to withstand a major temblor. He kept a seismograph in his basement to record tremors in the Earth’s crust, along with canned food, drinking water and a collection of fine wines.

“Shelly was amazing, a very diversified guy,” says W. Gary Ernst, an emeritus professor in Stanford’s department of geological



sciences. “The magnetometer had been around a long time, but he made it useful for many things. And unlike some of us in academia, he was in business, and he made money. Not only that, the guy was an incorrigible, ebullient fun-lover. Always with the puns and the jokes, with a smile on his face.”

Breiner is survived by his wife of 57 years; children, David, '85, MBA '95, and Michelle Driskill-Smith; five grandchildren; and brother.

—John Roemer

Northminster Presbyterian Church. Survivors: his wife of 66 years, Doris (Graves, '52); daughters, Karen, MS '79, Leslie Tabernier and Alison Bowman; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mary Katherine Miles Morrison, '52 (English), of Kohala Coast, Hawaii, October 13, at 89. She won the Historic Preservation Honor Award from the Historic Hawai'i Foundation for her writing. After raising her children, she set sail from Coyote Point on San Francisco Bay, roamed the South Pacific for five years, spent a decade living in French Polynesia and finally settled in Hawaii. Wherever she went, she remained an avid fan of Stanford football. She was predeceased by her first husband, Robert Bremner, '49, MBA '51, and her second husband, Richard Morrison, '35, MD '41. Survivors: her children, Robert, Elizabeth and James, '83; stepchildren, Angus Morrison, PhD '73, Mirra Morrison, MS '91, and Rory Morrison; and grandchildren, stepgrandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Waldemar Seton III, '52 (chemical engineering), of Portland, Ore., May 30, at 89, of progressive supranuclear palsy. He was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma. He first worked for Monsanto Chemical and Western Kraft. A position with Georgia Pacific brought him to Toledo, Ore., and then to Arcata, Calif., before his return to Portland. In 1975, he formed Seton, Johnson and Odell Consulting Engineers and remained with the group until retirement. He served his profession by chairing the combustible metals group of the National Fire Protection Association and his community by chairing the board of Oregon Episcopal School. His lifelong pursuits included fishing, bird hunting, traveling, tennis, golf and bridge. Survivors: his wife of 68 years, Patsy (Ball, '54); children, Laurie, Debbie, Lynn and John; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Ralph L. Wagner, '52 (civil engineering), of Lake Arrowhead, Calif., August 15, at 89. He was a member of Delta Chi and NROTC. He served in the Naval Civil Engineering Corps during the Korean War. He later earned a master's degree from USC. Among many other projects, he was involved in planning the utility and environmental systems for Walt Disney World. He founded an independent engineering consulting agency that completed numerous projects in Lake Arrowhead. He promoted various civic efforts and was named Lake Arrowhead's citizen of the year in 1977. Survivors: his wife of 39 years, Ianita; children, Shelley, Rick, Peggy, Linda and Suzanne; three grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Donald Lochead Cleland, '53 (biological sciences), of Portland, Ore., October 7, at 87, of a stroke. He was a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda. He earned a master's degree and MD at the U. of Oregon medical school (today Oregon Health & Science U.). As a captain in the Army, he directed the surgical program at Second General Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. He practiced general surgery for nearly 30 years and taught surgical residents at OHSU, where he was professor emeritus. He served his profession and community on numerous hospital boards, committees and foundations. He enjoyed fishing and was a lifelong Stanford sports fan. Survivors: his wife of 60 years, Marilyn; children, Kathleen, Laurie Anne, '83, Donald and Mike; three grandchildren; brother; and sister, Molly Cleland Ellis, '61, MA '63.

Frank Robert Nunes, '53 (economics), of Pebble Beach, Calif., November 6, at 88. He was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and the boxing team. With his brother, he co-founded a fresh produce company and built it into an industry leader. He served on numerous professional and civic boards, including

the Western Growers Association, and was president of Central California Lettuce Co-op. For his service and philanthropic support of the SPCA and other organizations, he was honored with awards from the Grower-Shipper Association of Central California, the National Steinbeck Center, Community Foundation of Monterey County and United Way. He also enjoyed traveling, skiing, water-skiing, tennis and golf. He was predeceased by his companion, Marie Woerz. Survivors: his children, Bob Jr. and Kimberly; five grandchildren; and brother, Tom, '50.

Mary Katherine Manning McCarthy, '55, MA '56 (education), of Los Altos, September 23, at 85. Her long-term work with the Assistance League of Santa Clara County included chairing a program for blind children, and she helped create an apartment complex for people recovering from illnesses at Stanford. She cooked and served meals for the Urban Ministry soup kitchen in Palo Alto. She was especially active as an art docent and volunteer art teacher for elementary schools and at the Legion of Honor and de Young art museums. She was also a devoted member of the choir at St. Nicholas and volunteer accountant at the Jesuit retreat house in Los Altos. She was predeceased by her husband, William, '52, MS '55, PhD '66. Survivors: her eight children, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Eric A. Wittenberg, '55 (civil engineering), of Newport Beach, Calif., September 15, at 86. He was a member of Zeta Psi, ROTC and the basketball team. As co-founder of Wittenberg-Livingston, he developed and built homes throughout Southern California. He was past president of the state chapter of the Building Industry of America and was voted Builder of the Year in 1978. He was an avid scuba diver and also pursued adventure while fly-fishing in Kamchatka and Chile, traveling to New Guinea and Antarctica and exploring the wreck of the *Titanic* in a Russian submersible. Survivors: his former wife, Claudette Yeoman Shaw, '56; wife of 38 years, Cynthia Easley Robinson, '59; children, Eric, Carla Wilson, Tom, Brooke Meyer and Ben Robinson; nine grandchildren; great-granddaughter; and brother.

John Fulton Crutcher, '56 (geology), of Sequim, Wash., September 2, at 85, of cancer. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi. He earned an MS in geology from UC Berkeley and worked in Alaska and Australia. His interest in Southeast Asia led to a position with the U.S. government as a China specialist. In this capacity, he moved with his family to Vietnam, Taiwan and Hong Kong. He also lived in The Hague, Netherlands and Brussels. As an avid sailor, he guided the development of the Aberdeen Boat Club and sailed with his son in the South China Sea Race from Hong Kong to Manila, Philippines. Survivors: his wife, Marie-Paule; former wife, Carol Davis; children, Anh Oppenheimer and John; two grandsons; and brother.

Emmet Wright "Jim" Luttrell Jr., '56, MA '57 (education) of Redwood City, September 10, at 85. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and held the Stanford record in the 400-meter hurdles for 16 years. He was a high school teacher, athletics director and track and cross-country coach for 38 years; at Woodside High, he coached the girls' track team to a state championship in 1984. To inspire future athletes, he led a summer municipal track-and-field camp for children. He enjoyed camping trips with his family and was a deacon and elder at Trinity Church in San Carlos, Calif. Survivors: his wife of 62 years, Rhoda; children, Jim, Rick, Sheri Siguenza, Linda Kiefer and Laura Perdikomatis; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and stepsister.

Lennart A. Palme Jr., '56 (Latin American studies), MBA '58, of Santa Barbara, Calif., September 28, at 83. He spent his career in commodities trading, first

in Chicago and then as founder of his own investment company in Santa Barbara. In retirement, he was an active member of Toastmasters and a docent at the Reagan Ranch Center. He was predeceased by his first wife, Esterly Osterhaus. Survivors: his former wife, Virginia Fischer; children, Cole, Pam and Chris; and two grandchildren.

Homer Theodore "Ted" Craig III, '57 (political science), JD '61, of Alameda, Calif., June 22, at 86, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He served in the Navy. As an attorney, he practiced in partnership and then in solo practice, where he specialized in family law. He was an avid sports fan and coach for his children's teams and he enjoyed sailing, running, bicycling and playing tennis. He was also a devoted student of a wide range of spiritual practices, and together with his sister and others developed their own workshop, Agape, in the early 1980s. Survivors: his children, Carrie, Ted IV, Katherine, Andy, Eric, Kristen and Lara; and 12 grandchildren.

Victor Gus Kyriakis, '57 (political science), of Millbrae, Calif., October 3, at 84. He earned a JD from UC Hastings. He was a city council member and served two terms as mayor of Daly City. He was a member of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association for more than 50 years and a longtime member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in San Francisco. Survivors: his wife of 58 years, Stella; and children, Tina and Steve.

Gerald Forbes "Jerry" Bays, '58 (sociology), of Sacramento, Calif., October 1, at 83, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was a member of Theta Xi. He served two years in the Navy on the USS *Midway*. After an initial career with Maxwell House Coffee, he became an investment counselor in Sacramento. His community service included membership on the boards of the Sacramento Symphony and the Sacramento Regional Foundation. He also enjoyed dancing, traveling, camping, fishing and Stanford events. Survivors: his wife of 58 years, Claudia; children, Derek, Heather, Hillary and Holly; and four grandchildren.

Loretta Ann "Lori" Reeves Keller, '59 (history), of Pleasanton, Calif., September 29, at 81. She earned a master's degree from George Washington U. She spent most of her career as an elementary school teacher. The teaching she most enjoyed was serving as a docent for more than 30 years at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C. Survivors: her husband, Alan, '57, MS '58; sons, Rick, MS '93, and Carl; and six grandchildren.

Theodore H. Pope, '59 (civil engineering), of San Luis Obispo, Calif., October 2, at 81. He was a member of Delta Upsilon. After graduation, he served in the Navy on board the USS *Lexington* and in Antarctica. He later worked in sales for Kaiser Cement and Raychem, then as a regional manager for the construction laser division of Spectra Physics. After management positions with Pacific Architects and Mirafi, a Parkinson's diagnosis motivated him to retire, open a franchise of Wild Birds Unlimited together with his wife, and devote more time to birding and the Audubon Society. Survivors: his wife, Bonnie; children, Elizabeth Courteau and Jonathan; four grandchildren; and sister.

Thomas Brennan "Tim" Quinn, '59 (history), of Los Angeles, September 28, at 82, of dementia and scoliosis. He was a member of Zeta Psi and the golf team. He made a career in golf, both in the U.S. and Japan, as a writer for *Golf Digest*, golf teacher and course designer. In 1980, he was awarded first place in the writing competition organized by the Golf Writers Association of America. Survivors: his wife, Ann (Mitchell, '63); daughters, Ashley Quinn Postlewaite, '87, and Barclay Blyle; two grandchildren; brother; and sister, Ann Quinn Clark, '60.

1960s

James Marc Elster, '60 (political science), of San Diego, September 15, at 88. He was a member of Sigma Nu/Beta Chi. He earned a master's degree from American U. and also attended the Naval War College. He started his military service as an aviator and went on to command an air anti-submarine squadron and the naval air station on Guam. As a civilian research analyst in the 1980s, he was selected as a special assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and helped formulate national defense strategy at the highest level. In retirement, he enjoyed restoring antiques, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, giving swimming lessons to the children of the Special Olympics and playing bridge. Survivors: his wife, Carol; children, Colin, Christian and Jennifer; and four grandchildren.

Thomas D. Petersen, '60 (biological sciences), of La Mesa, Calif., October 2, at 81. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi and the swim team. He earned his MD from Washington U. and helped advance the field of orthopedic surgery. As the founder of Alvarado Orthopedic Research, he held 31 patents for surgical instruments and other medical innovations. He was also a property investor and, with his daughter, co-founded a nonprofit tutoring service. Survivors: his wife, Mary Gail; children, Donald, Michael, Laura Nuno and Theresa Bozhor; eight grandchildren; a great-granddaughter; and two sisters.

Sue Ann Pullin Bailey, '61 (English), of Salem, Ore., April 20, at 81. She focused her efforts on raising her children and managing the family business in Woodinville, Wash., for 40 years. Her interests included gardening, sewing, quilting, cooking, theater, travel and helping animals in need. She and her husband were active members of Cottage Lake Presbyterian Church in Woodinville, and she served as a deacon and an elder at the Salem First Presbyterian Church. Survivors: her husband of 59 years, Rod, '59, MBA '61; children, Elizabeth Earls, Ben and Will; three grandchildren; and sister.

Bradley Douglas Inman, '62 (civil engineering), of Medford, Ore., August 30, at 78, of myeloid leukemia. He was a member of the crew team and Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He spent his career in construction management. He was a fellow in the American Concrete Institute and served a term as president of the American Society of Concrete Contractors. He was also instrumental in forming Green Springs Fire and Rescue. Survivors: his wife, CJ; children, Wayne and Tonya; seven grandchildren; and sister.

Barbara Lynn Behrend Rounds, '62 (basic medical sciences), MD '66, of Fair Oaks, Calif., July 5, at 85. She completed her Stanford degrees while a single mother of five children. After finishing her internship in New Orleans and residency in Ukiah, Calif., she focused on psychiatry and psychoanalysis, with additional training at UC Davis. She maintained a private medical practice in Fair Oaks for nearly 40 years. She was predeceased by her second husband, Arthur Root, and her son Mike. Survivors: her children Steve, Pam, Ron and Tahm; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three sisters.

Suzanne Lefranc Horney Sheppard, '63 (art), of Bullhead City, Ariz., August 23, at 77, after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. She performed with the Dollies. She enjoyed a successful career as an artist, despite the limitations of her disease. In 2013, she had a solo show at the Architect Gallery in Philadelphia and participated in several earlier juried shows in New York and New Mexico.

Randolph Kaye Vahan, '63 (history), LLB '66, of Los Angeles, September 14, at 77, of cancer. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta and the rugby and

football teams and president of the Law Association. He practiced law for 50 years and was on the board of the California Museum of Science & Industry. He also had a career in entertainment, appearing on *The Tonight Show*, in the movie *Shrunken Heads* and in several commercials. He enjoyed sports, dancing, cooking and golf. Survivors: his wife of 30 years, Susan; children, Katharine Meadows and Jonathan; two grandchildren; and sister.

Charles William "Chuck" Horton, '64 (civil engineering), of Hayward, Calif., August 9, at 76, of Lewy body dementia. He was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma. He did three tours with the Naval Construction Battalions in Vietnam. After working for the family construction business and other firms, he opened his own business in 1982. As a general contractor, he renovated numerous hotels in the Bay Area. He loved science, astronomy and racing cars. Survivors: his daughters, Melissa, Erinn Kato, Gretchen and Kelsey; granddaughter; and brother.

Pierre Joujon-Roche, '64 (communication), of Culver City, Calif., April 29, at 77. He was a member of Theta Xi. He earned an MBA in marketing from USC. During his many years of community service, he was involved with both the Los Angeles and Culver City Chamber of Commerce, Western Hemisphere Marathon, Lions Club and Culver City sister city committee. He also enjoyed traveling, skiing, playing golf and tennis, and cheering for the Stanford football and basketball teams. He was predeceased by his son, Gregory. Survivors: his wife of 44 years, Nancy; daughter, Aynee; and two grandchildren.

Philip Warren Arnold, '67 (history), of San Francisco, September 6, at 74, of pancreatic cancer. He sang in the choir. He later earned a PhD in political science from the U. of Wisconsin-Madison. He worked for the city and county of San Francisco in public utilities, human services and other roles. With the Recreation and Parks Department, he served as acting director of the San Francisco Zoo. In retirement, he was on the governing board of the San Francisco Housing Authority and volunteered for the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the San Francisco Parks Alliance. The Phil Arnold Trail in Golden Gate Park was dedicated in February. Survivors: his wife of 33 years, Monique Zmuda; former wife, Stephanie Kelvin Prieto, '69; children, Daniel, '01, Paul Zmuda, Adrienne Bechelli and Misha Arnold; grandson; and brother.

Richard Farnsworth Goodale, '68 (English), of Aberdour, Scotland, July 22, at 72, of metastatic adenocarcinoma. He played tennis, was a member of the Glee Club and Theta Chi and studied abroad in England. After eight years with Arthur D. Little, he guided organizations through strategic and organizational change as an independent management consultant. He developed a particular passion for golf and, in combination with his talents for writing and strategy, published books on Scotland's top golf courses. He was predeceased by his daughter Lindsay. Survivors: his wife, Josie; daughters Caitlin and Melissa; and two siblings.

1970s

Maureen Roberta Sweeney Norgaard, '70 (English), of San Marino, Calif., September 4, at 70, of cancer. She worked as a paralegal in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. She served her community as a volunteer in the San Marino schools, as a member of the Pasadena Guild for Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and as an officer of the Pasadena Quarterbacks. Survivors: her husband of 47 years, Chris, '70; children, Michael and Anne; and brothers, John Sweeney, '68, JD '72, MBA '72, Robert Sweeney Jr., '74, and Mark Sweeney, '76.

Lawrence A. "Larry" Rosenzweig, '70 (economics), of Iowa City, Iowa, July 31, at 70. He was on the basketball team and a member of Sigma Chi. He ran the family business before retiring to focus on community service as a board member for several charitable organizations. He also enjoyed sailing, especially on Lake Michigan. Survivors: his wife, Cynthia; daughters, Anna, Molly, Leah and Sofie; and four siblings.

Thomas Edgar Holliday, '71 (political science), of Los Angeles, August 22, at 71, of complications from pneumonia. He was a member of Zeta Psi and the football and baseball teams. He earned his JD from USC and worked for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher as a criminal trial lawyer for 35 years. He was a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and was voted Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year by the Century City Bar Association. He served on the boards of the Children's Law Center, American Air Museum in Duxford, England, and the American Foundation for the Imperial War Museum in London. He was also a competitive weightlifter. He had recently been accepted into a master's degree program in World War II studies. Survivors: his wife, Marci; children, Devon Holliday Pothier, '99, and Thomas; stepdaughter, Jessica Merliss; five grandchildren; and four brothers, including Roy, '78.

Thomas Armand "Tommy" Martinez, '71, MS '72 (civil engineering), of Seattle, November 5, at 70, of Lewy body dementia. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta. He founded and managed electric and contracting companies in San Diego, Salt Lake City and Seattle. Among the many adventures in his life, he particularly enjoyed skiing at Snowbird, sailing the Baja Ha-Ha and from New Zealand to Tahiti, summiting Mount Shasta, completing the Coast to Coast Walk in northern England, hiking the Tour du Mont Blanc and trekking the mountain ranges of the American West. Survivors: his wife, Emily; daughters, Maile, Alana and Kela; four granddaughters, including Luz, '22; father, Marty; and two siblings.

Eric Richard Haas, '73 (history), of Petaluma, Calif., October 20, at 68. He earned his JD from UC Hastings and practiced law with Burnham Brown in Oakland for 35 years. His interests included books, music, art, travel and the San Francisco Giants. Survivors: his wife, Rosmary; daughter, Allyson; and two brothers.

1980s

William Anthony "Bill" Aiello, '81 (physics), of Vancouver, British Columbia, October 1, at 59, of cancer. He earned a PhD in applied mathematics at MIT. He worked at Bellcore and AT&T Labs in network security and cryptography research before becoming head of the U. of British Columbia computer science department. In this position, he helped develop UBC's Academic Development Leadership Program to help incoming administrators build confidence and expertise as leaders. He was passionate about environmental protection, U.S. politics and Stanford sports, and he deeply loved his family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Karen Parrish; children, Sam and Juliana; father, Frank; and four siblings.

Susan Lynn Garcia Baker, '81 (international relations), of Aurora, Colo., September 6, at 60. She worked as a financial consultant. Survivors: her husband, West Twomey; mother, Phyllis Garcia; and two siblings.

1990s

James Kan-Chao "Jim" Foo, '94 (economics), of Philadelphia, August 10, at 47, of complications from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He earned an

MBA in finance from NYU. He worked first for Ernst & Young, then at Bryn Mawr Capital Management. In 2017, he and a partner founded an investment firm, Tournus Capital Partners. His interests included world travel, collecting fine wines and the films of Alfred Hitchcock, but he was especially passionate about sports and an avid supporter of Stanford athletics. Survivors: his wife, Elizabeth; children, Cassandra, Vivienne and Kent; mother, Susanna; and brother.

BUSINESS

David Pershing Hull, MBA '47, of Santa Barbara, Calif., July 26, at 101. He flew 145 missions as a Navy fighter pilot in World War II. He worked for Merrill Lynch for 33 years in Houston, where he became a vice president and branch manager. In retirement, he enjoyed playing golf and tennis, acting (including a part in *The Two Jakes*) and writing. He was predeceased by his wife, Diana, and son Bennett. Survivors: his children, David, Holiday Cowan and Margaret Wright; stepchildren, Marcy Burton and Allison Boomer; five grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Richard Joseph "Dick" Dunn, MBA '56, of San Francisco, October 29, at 95. He served in the Army during World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He spent his career as an investment counselor with Scudder, Stevens and Clark and retired as partner. As a member of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, he organized a pilgrimage to Lourdes and participated personally 23 times. He was elected president of the Order's Western Association and to the Order's sovereign council. For his community and church service, he was knighted at the Vatican as a Knight Commander with star of the Order of St. Gregory the Great. He was predeceased by his wife, Marygrace. Survivors: his children, Richard, Marianne Daly, Anthony, Noelle Petersen and Gregory; nine grandchildren; and two brothers.

Rolf Erik Westgard, MBA '57, of St. Paul, Minn., May 20, at 89. He served in the Army. After a brief position with Burroughs, he moved to 3M and spent much of his career working on classified imaging products for the U.S. government. He became proficient in both French and Japanese and also pursued interests in astronomy and Mayan history. In retirement, he enjoyed golf and remained actively engaged with the Lions Club, in Democratic politics, as a Big Brother and a lecturer for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. He also served on the session at Macalester Presbyterian Church and was a trustee for Metropolitan State U. Survivors: his wife, Lindy (Wells, '55); children, Erik, Richard, Lisa and Karen; and eight grandchildren.

Donald Warren Peterson, MBA '58, of Portola Valley, Calif., September 5, at 88, of secondary sideroblastic anemia. He served in the Navy. He spent his career in finance and retired after 20 years as chief financial officer of Morgan Equipment Co. in San Francisco. He had a lifelong love for ice cream and jazz music. He was predeceased by his son, Michael. Survivors: his wife, Nancy (Simons, '59, MS '61, MA '75); daughter, Karen Peterson-Iyer, '88; and five grandsons, including Chris Iyer, '22.

Steven C. Brandt, MBA '65, of Palo Alto, April 26, at 82, of a stroke. He served in the Coast Guard. He founded and led several business ventures, worked as a management consultant and served on the boards of international companies. He brought this experience into the classroom as a senior lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he taught

for 21 years. He also published three books on management and entrepreneurship. In retirement, he and his wife enjoyed sailing and running a farm on San Juan Island in Washington. He was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Judy, '82. Survivors: his sons, Eric and Peter; three grandchildren; and brother.

Joseph Edward Sandberg, MBA '71, of Wilmington, Del., September 8, at 70. He worked for 25 years as a computer specialist at DuPont and for 17 years as a database designer for Arkieva, a supply chain software company. He enjoyed sailing, skiing, reading and doing crossword puzzles, and he traveled extensively in Europe and Africa. Survivors: his wife of 26 years, Maureen; and sister.

Jack Borden Smyth, MBA '75, of Houston, August 30, at 72, of coronary artery disease. He was a serial entrepreneur in the field of computer software. He loved skiing, playing tennis and driving fast cars, but was especially devoted to his daughters. Survivors: his wife, Linn; and daughters, Khrysti Barry, Karen Skinner and Maclean Gerding.

EARTH, ENERGY

AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Horace Edward "Ed" Tolle, MS '56 (geology), MBA '64, of Barrington, Ill., October 11, at 85, of congestive heart failure. He served in the Air

Force. He held leadership positions in administration, marketing, and travel management at Exxon and United Airlines. In retirement, he continued to represent the airline's retirees and devoted himself to church service in the form of fund-raising for Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital. Survivors: his wife of 62 years, Jean (Bashor, '55, MA '56); children, Jeff and Anne; and five grandchildren.

EDUCATION

Merton Thomas Jones, MA '51, of Daly City, Calif., October 9, at 95. He taught biology and chemistry for 33 years at his alma mater, George Washington High School in San Francisco. He enjoyed volunteering, square dancing and golf. He was predeceased by his wife, Catherine, and daughter Gwen. Survivors: his sons, Jeff and Garrett; five grandchildren; and great-granddaughter.

Theresa Wai Tow Leong, MA '63, of Foster City, Calif., July 21, at 91. She taught math for many years at Field Moore Academy in Burlingame, Calif., and then at San Mateo High School. She later had a career in accounting with Varian. She enjoyed taking long walks, gardening and lifelong learning. She was predeceased by her husband, James. Survivors: her sons, Douglas and Reynold; and five grandchildren.

Author and Gender-Studies Scholar

As a cultural historian, Marilyn Yalom wasn't afraid to tackle broad subjects—from the role of women in the French Revolution to the evolution of marriage.

Marilyn Koenick Yalom died at her Palo Alto home on November 20 of multiple myeloma. She was 87.

After her husband, the eminent psychiatrist Irvin Yalom, joined the Stanford faculty in 1962, she traveled to CSU Hayward to teach French for 13 years. In 1976, as the women's movement was gaining momentum, she took an administrative position at the newly formed Center for Research on Women, now the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, building it into a hub of gender studies when the field was struggling for recognition. She served as director in 1984–85 and stayed on as a senior scholar.

Yalom was animated by feminism but never allowed her views to become polemical. "My mother in her demeanor was anything but radical," says her son Ben, '91. "She wasn't interested in burning her bras or being on the front lines."

Instead, she was engaged by intellectual discourse and dissecting the origins of cultural institutions, symbols and gender roles. At a book party in the 1990s, she met Sandy Dijkstra, a women's studies professor who was transitioning to literary agent. They identified a niche where Yalom could expand on her academic research and write for a

general audience. *The History of the Breast* was published in 1997, followed by *A History of the Wife* (2001), *How the French Invented Love* (2012) and *The Social Sex* (2015).

To the surprise of the chess-playing men in her family, Yalom fastened on the game's gender dynamics, curious as to how the queen had attained its dominant position. After a year of research for what became *Birth of the Chess Queen* (2004), not only

had she resolved this historical conundrum but she'd also taken up the game, and started winning. She brought a similar curiosity to *The Amorous Heart* (2018), which asked why the image of the heart had become linked to romantic love.

For a writer who delved into matters of the heart, it was fitting that she enjoyed a long and happy marriage. Her husband of 65 years recalls how they met as bookish teenagers, both children of immigrant grocers. She was thrilled to

discover that he wrote poetry, and he to learn that she once missed school after staying up to read *Gone with the Wind*. They would forge a remarkable literary partnership (she referred to him as "my most demanding reader") and, soon after receiving her diagnosis, had started collaborating on a book about mortality.

In addition to her husband and Ben, Yalom is survived by her daughter, Eve, '76; sons Reid, '78, and Victor; eight grandchildren; and sister.

—Vicky Elliott



Jack Dean Christensen, PhD '73, of Fresno, Calif., at 92. He served in the Navy during World War II. He taught in the history department at Fresno State. His passions included photography, travel, foreign languages and especially literature and music. He also enjoyed following college football, cooking and caring for his backyard orchard. He was predeceased by his wife, June, and son Dean. Survivors: his children, Eric and Lane; eight grandchildren; sister; and stepsister.

ENGINEERING

Homer J. Olsen, MS '49 (civil engineering), of Gig Harbor, Wash., October 20, at 95. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He worked as area manager at Peter Kiewit before founding his namesake company in 1963. He contributed to more than 200 construction projects, including major highway, river and water infrastructure projects. He established scholarships at several universities, including Stanford, to return the support he received as a student. He was predeceased by his second wife, Alice Joyce Deyoe. Survivors: his first wife, Janet Whitehead, Gr. '49; children, Mary Kelly, Barbara Curtis and Robert; grandson; and two siblings.

Henry George Prosack, MS '61 (mechanical engineering), of Fairfax, Va., October 30, at 90. His career in the Air Force included service in the Vietnam War. As a civilian, he worked as an engineer with Vitro Systems and Delex Systems, primarily focused on Navy defense programs. He was also a youth football and baseball coach for many years. Survivors: his wife of nearly 70 years, Frances; children, Kathleen, Carl, Eugene, Joan and Henry; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Paul Jonathan Young, Gr. '68, of Arlington, Tex., September 9, of heart failure. He had more than 45 years of civil and environmental engineering experience, specializing in water quality management, computer modeling and regulatory compliance. He participated in numerous national water professional associations and taught water quality studies at the U. of Texas at Arlington and Manhattan College. In retirement, he became editor and publisher of a journal on autism and Asperger's syndrome. He was an active Kiwanis member and served on the board of Shepherd of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church in Arlington. He was predeceased by his wife, Nancy Riney. Survivors: his wife, Lyn; four stepchildren; six stepgrandchildren; and sister.

Roy Don Dodson, MS '80 (civil engineering), of Spring, Tex., December 10, 2018, at 63, of Parkinson's disease. He established his own civil engineering and hydrology firm in 1983. As a member of Champion Forest Baptist Church, he sought to use his talents to serve the Lord through the church. Survivors: his wife of 38 years, Pamela; children, Alana Harrison and Bradley; and grandson.

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

James Edmond Furman, MA '70 (history), of Los Angeles, February 24, at 71, after a long illness. He earned a master's degree from Church Divinity School of the Pacific, an Episcopal seminary, and was ordained a priest in 1974. He assisted at several churches in Los Angeles and in the Diocese of San Diego before becoming rector of St. Peter's Church in Honolulu. His most recent service was as rector of St. Nicholas's Church in Encino, Calif. He published articles on church issues and a book on Christian education. He also served as chaplain of the Canadian Society of Southern California and president of the Inter-Anglican Study Program, and was a member of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament.

Caroline Matheny Dillman, MA '76 (sociology), PhD '79 (education), of Roswell, Ga., September 30, at 92, of Alzheimer's disease. She taught sociology at Agnes Scott College, then moved to Reinhardt College where she also directed off-campus programs and continuing education. She served as president of the Roswell Historical Society and on the board of the Alpharetta Historical Society. She wrote prolifically on education, sociology and genealogy, and launched her own genealogical press in 1990. She was predeceased by her husband, Frederick. Survivors: her children, Cynthia Meyers and Sandy Santra.

Mark Louis Von Hagen, MA '81 (history), PhD '85 (history and humanities), of Tempe, Ariz., September 15, at 65, following an extended illness. He was Bakhmeteff Professor of History and chair of the history department at Columbia U. before accepting a position at Arizona State U., where he was founding director of both the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and the Office of Veteran and Military Academic Engagement. He also served as dean of the philosophy faculty of the Ukrainian Free U. in Munich. His numerous publications focused on modern Russia and Ukraine. He was an outspoken advocate of human rights and defender of dissidents, including support for the LGBTQ community. He served terms as president of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies and of the International Association for Ukrainian Studies. Survivors: his spouse, Johnny Roldan-Chacon; and brother, Luke.

LAW

Donald W. McMurchie, LLB '49, of Sacramento, Calif., September 9, at 97. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. In 1952, he and a Stanford classmate founded Files and McMurchie, a firm that continues today as Lenahan, Lee, Slater, Pearce and Majernik. In his 40-year practice of law and additional consulting work in retirement, he advocated for local government agencies and was responsible for the creation of many recreation and park districts in Sacramento. He was passionate about history, classical music, long drives on back roads, and travel with his wife and friends, but he saw his family as his crowning achievement. He was predeceased by his wife, Doris. Survivors: his sons, David, Paul and Stephen; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

George Edward Stephens Jr., LLB '62, of Edina, Minn., October 11, at 83. After practicing with other firms, he joined Paul, Hastings, Janofsky and Walker and headed the probate and trust department for 35 years. In retirement, he pursued interests in golf, skiing, bridge, music and art. He was a docent at the Huntington's Chinese Garden and was on the board of the Armory Center for the Arts. Family and friends were his greatest source of happiness. Survivors: his wife of 54 years, Gretel; children, Thad, JD '96, Mary Stephens-Levy and Ned; five grandchildren; and two brothers.

Walter Michael Uhrman, LLB '65, of Encino, Calif., October 12, at 78. He worked as a lawyer in Los Angeles. He lived with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis for 46 years, all the while maintaining close relationships with friends from school and his havurah. Survivors: his wife, Judy; five daughters; and 12 grandchildren.

MEDICINE

Robert Alvin Fairbanks, MA '84, of Norman, Okla., June 4, at 74. His education included a JD, MBA and master's degrees in four fields.

He retired with the rank of colonel after a decorated career in the Air Force. His civilian career included teaching law and political science and work as a medical negligence attorney. As a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, he was an advocate for Native American rights. He published numerous works on Native American sovereignty and constitutional law issues, promoted educational preparation and opportunities for Native American students and was founding editor of the *American Indian Law Review*. He also enjoyed fishing with his children and grandchildren, coaching softball and serving as a Scout leader. Survivors: his wife of 52 years, Linda; children, Chele Crosby, Kim, Robert II, Michael, Richard and Joseph, '05; eight grandchildren; and six siblings.

Stanford Alumni Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Andrew Haden, '00, San Diego

Vice Chair: James Ambrose, '92, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Vice President for Alumni Affairs and

President, Stanford Alumni Association:

Howard Wolf, '80, Stanford

Martha Alvarez, '08, MA '09, Sacramento, Calif.

Ethan Aumann, MS '04, PhD '10, Washington, D.C.

Adam Bad Wound, MA '05, MA '06, Oakland

Carol Benz, '85, San Francisco

Yvette Bowser, '87, Los Angeles

Jennifer Chou, '00, MA '01, JD '05, Los Angeles

Bob Cohn, '85, Washington, D.C.

Doug Cushing, '67, Lake Oswego, Ore.

Ivan Fong, JD '87, Minneapolis

Maeve Givens, '20, Stanford

Patricia Gumpert, MA '82, MA '86, PhD '87, Stanford

William Hagenah, '66, Kenilworth, Ill.

David Hornik, '90, Palo Alto

Nelson Hsu, '91, MS '93, Dallas

Bacardi Jackson, '92, Miramar, Fla.

Ron Johnson, '80, Atherton

Theresa Johnson, '06, MS '10, PhD '15, San Francisco

Tonia Karr, '92, San Francisco

Suleman Khan, MD candidate, Stanford

Mary Jean Montgomery, MA '73, Spencer, Iowa

Nina Rodriguez, MS '05, Arlington, Va.

Lily Sarafan, '03, MS '03, Palo Alto

Phil Satre, '71, Reno, Nev.

Srinija Srinivasan, '93, Palo Alto

Andrei Stamatian, '00, Bucharest, Romania

Jonathan Steuer, MA '92, PhD '95, New York

Jorge Tapias, '94, San Carlos, Calif.

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Stanford

Fernando Trevino, '92, San Antonio

Connie Wang, MA '05, Mountain View

Sheila Wang, MS '87, Singapore

Kelsei Wharton, '12, Washington, D.C.

Bess Yount, '09, MA '10, San Francisco

Rob Zeaske, '95, Lexington, Mass.

Classifieds

REAL ESTATE

NAPLES, FLORIDA. Homes and condos for sale. <https://www.luxuryofnaples.com>, <https://www.realtyofnaples.com>

INDIANAPOLIS REAL estate and homes for sale - www.reddoorindy.com

ST. JOHN, USVI. Rare waterfront parcel in Estate Zootenvaal with 295 ft. of shoreline. cruzbayrealty.com (340) 693-8808.

HONOLULU, HAWAII. Choi International. www.ChoiRealty.com. Cedric Choi, JD, R '70 (808) 285-2486 or cedric@choi-realty.com. RB-22512

SELLING CONDOS to Castles and Lots in between, on the Peninsula and around the campus. Deanna Tarr and Jennifer Pollock, Compass. (415) 999-1232 or (650) 867-0609

SANTA BARBARA 15 acres 3 miles to downtown - available first time in 58 years. D Sanders EA DRE#00419501 P. 866.305.1031

PARK CITY, UTAH . . . I escaped to the mountains, you can too! Discover your new residence, investment property or your dream vacation home. Enjoy powder filled winters and mountain biking/hiking filled summers. Sheri Lipman Jacobs '88, Engel & Voelkers, Park City, (561) 441-0802. www.sherijacobs@evrealestate.com.

MAUI REAL ESTATE. Lisa Oyama, '80, 808-283-7426, RB, ABR, RSPS. Mark Harbison, '79, 808-283-3785, RB, CIPS, GRI, '79. Coldwell Banker Island Properties, Shops at Wailea. info@realestatemauihawaii.com. www.RealEstateMauiHawaii.com.

TRAVEL SERVICES

EXPERT-LED cultural tours: archaeology/food/walking in Britain, Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Turkey. Gulet cruises and charters. www.petersommer.com

LOVE TRAVEL? Overwhelmed by choices? No time to plan? I can help make your dream getaway a reality. Contact Linda at linda.janourova@traveledge.com or (510) 329-2937. CST #1008676-10

VACATION

CALIFORNIA

CHARMING CARMEL HOUSE. 2Br/2Bth. Photos available. (831) 402-9739 or (831) 402-9740 aileen_mcloughlin@yahoo.com

LAKE TAHOE - spacious 4 bedroom 3 bath LAKEFRONT condo in Chinquapin Resort. Unit 33. Ideal for family get-aways winter or summer. (800) 732-6721

COLORADO

ESTES PARK, Colorado. 3/3 1/2 near RMNP, YMCA of the Rockies. Nimbusvacationhome.com

HAWAII

BIG ISLAND. Oceanfront private home. 4 bed/4.5 bath. Mauna Kea Properties. One of a kind get-away. www.konahomeaway.com.

FRANCE

PARIS 7TH. Fifth floor, quiet, studio sleeps 3. Balcony. View Eiffel Tower. www.parisgrenelle.com. (207) 752-0285.

PARIS: MARAIS/BASTILLE. Enchanting 1 BR apartment on historic pedestrian passage, gated. Parisian decor. 3rd & top floor, full kitchen. Sunny and quiet. Sleeps 2-3. Photos: www.charmingparisapt.com (703) 973-7976.

PARIS (SQUARE HECTOR BERLIOZ-9TH ARR.) Beautiful 3BR/2BTH, full-floor condo, elevator. www.parisflat4u.com (415) 922-8888. Minimum 1 year.

PROVENCE VACATION! Rent a three-century-old mansion where famous French writer and Nobel Prize winner Albert Camus lived in the 1950s (capacity: 14 pax). www.ledomainedepalme.com

PARIS (QUAI HENRI IV/MARAIS). Spectacular 1 BR apartment (King bed) with two living rooms (one converts to 2d BR). Seine and Eiffel Tower views. Two bathrooms, kitchen, laundry room, elevator, onsite manager. (415) 613-1011.

ARCHITECT-DESIGNED home for rent in Lourmarin, Provence. Veranda overlooking vineyards. Easy walk into village. email - julie_bartlett@me.com

ITALY

GOING TO ITALY? Let a Stanford Alum who lives there guide and drive you. He'll follow your lead if you wish or he'll surprise you with discoveries he's made over the years. Your wishes are his commands. Check out: www.follow-your-nose.com

TURKEY

LUXURY GULET charter in Turkey: Let us cherry-pick the best luxury gulet to charter in Turkey for you. <https://www.turkeyluxurygulet.com/>

EDUCATION

ADMISSIONWISE CONSULTING. Former Stanford undergraduate admission director provides college preparation and application guidance to high school students nationwide. Annie Roskin '85. (415) 609-0564, annie@admissionwise.com, www.AdmissionWise.com.

SAT/ACT, ISEE/SSAT & ACADEMIC TUTOR: Robert Kohen, Ph.D., Harvard and Columbia grad, provides individualized tutoring for the SAT/ACT, ISEE/SSAT, as well as general academics. (212) 658-0834; robertkohen@koheneducationalservices.com; www.koheneducationalservices.com

PERSONALS

OUR BAY Area female client, is a very attractive, slender, PhD. She seeks nice looking, fit, accomplished, intellectually curious-kind, politically liberal gentleman into the arts, Bay-Area and beyond (50's- early 60's) for romance, travel, and adventure. Important he is young at heart-strong in character and loves to laugh and play. Bio/photo: sandy@therighttimeconsultants.com 212-627-0121, or go to "get Started" website: www.therighttimeconsultants.com. All is confidential.

OUR STRIKING feminine VIP Asian-American Client, intellectually curious-loves the arts, books, NYT, and the Financial Times. Bay-Area west coast-based, she is fitness-minded, financially secure, with a playful spirit and a life-long passion for making the world a better place. Seeking a kind, compassionate, accomplished man, 54-60's, to share a joyful, loving relationship. Reply in confidence: sandy@therighttimeconsultants.com 212-627-0121.

DATE SMART! Join the introduction network for single graduates, faculty and students of Stanford, The Ivies, MIT and other excellent schools. www.rightstuffdating.com

DATING FOR book lovers. Find a date that loves books. Join free. www.booklovers.dating

STANFORD ALUM/MEN 35-75 INVITED TO JOIN OUR ROSTER IN 2020 TO BE INTRODUCED TO OUTSTANDING ATTRACTIVE WOMEN west-coast, east coast, Ivy-based-success-driven nationally recognized firm: http://www.therighttimeconsultants.com, sandy@therighttimeconsultants.com 212-627-0121

PUBLISHING



MODERN MEMOIRS, INC.

Commissioned memoirs & self-publishing services since 1994

www.modernmemoirs.com
413-253-2353

Stanford Authors

May 4, 2020, is the deadline to promote your book in Stanford magazine and reach 203,000 Stanford alumni, faculty and staff.

The July 2020 issue will feature the **Stanford Authors' Showcase Summer Reading List**—a special advertising section for Stanford authors. Your ad includes a full-color book jacket photo, your book title, name and class year along with up to 8 lines of descriptive text.

For pricing and information, please contact **Valerie Pippin at 650-723-0460 or vpippin@stanford.edu**.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD ONLINE AT:
stanfordmag.org/advertise

QUESTIONS?
Contact Valerie Pippin at 650-723-0460 or vpippin@stanford.edu

Grace for the Grasshopper

He fiddled away his summer.
Why should he share in their harvest?

► **“THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER,”**

my student Riswanda said, “teaches us that we must help others, even if they have not made the most practical decisions.”

I gave her a tight smile. I was six months into my year teaching English at an Islamic high school in East Java, Indonesia. Riswanda’s class was the seventh I had taught that week, and each had missed the point of this Aesop’s fable. A grasshopper who plays his fiddle all summer and fails to collect grain for the winter goes hungry, while the industrious ant family who works hard during the summer months is rewarded with full bellies. As I lectured on the virtues of hard work and planning ahead, I saw Riswanda’s face scrunched in confusion.

In my sophomore year at Stanford, I took lecturer emerita Ann Watters’s class on cross-cultural communication. We studied social psychologist Geert Hofstede’s cultural dimensions theory, which attempts to quantitatively explain cultural differences. In the individualism rankings, America scores a 91, the highest in the world. Indonesia scores a 14, one of the lowest.

The country’s strongly communal culture showed up in every dimension of my life. My host family included two grandmothers, a widowed aunt, three cousins who tinkered with motorcycle parts all day, and a constant flux of distant and unemployed relatives. I thought about myself a few months before, a Stanford senior desperately searching for jobs so as not to burden my parents by showing up on their doorstep after graduation.

I also saw differences at school. Teachers actually skipped class to visit relatives in

the hospital or dropped everything to drive neighbors to the airport, something that would have been unimaginable in my public high school in North Carolina. On test days, my brightest students would share their answers with those who had put in absolutely no effort. It was the perfect example of ants helping grasshoppers, and it seemed acutely unjust.

Riswanda came up to me after class, still clutching her photocopied fable. “Miss, I don’t understand,” she said. “What’s so wrong with playing the fiddle all summer?”

Her question has stayed with me. The grasshopper’s job was far from practical, but it added beauty to a dreary field. The cousins taking refuge in my host family’s basement didn’t bring home paychecks, but they never failed to brighten my day with their belly laughs. Teachers skipped class not because they were lazy, but because they believed that helping others in tough situations was more important than drilling tired teenagers on geometric equations. What I perceived as cheating in my classroom could also be seen as a selfless act: lifting up the entire class rather than elevating oneself.

I’m learning to question my own fable: that you can measure people’s worth by their productivity. As I transition back into American life, I’m bringing with me the wisdom of my students, teachers and housemates—the ants and the grasshoppers alike. ■

ELIZABETH WALLACE, '18, is an intern for the Legal Services Corporation. She plans to attend Harvard Law School in the fall. Email her at stanford.magazine@stanford.edu.



Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Stanford.



After taking care of yourself and loved ones, consider what else really matters to you. Providing for a future gift to Stanford can give you the satisfaction of knowing your legacy will benefit generations of outstanding students and faculty.

Some gift options, like a charitable remainder trust, can even provide payments to you or others for life.

Join the many supporters who have remembered Stanford in their wills, trusts, retirement plans, or life income gift arrangements.



To learn more, please contact
the Office of Planned Giving
800.227.8977, ext. 54358

planned.giving@stanford.edu
plannedgiving.stanford.edu

Create your legacy.

REMEMBER
STANFORD



RÉMY MARTIN®

TERCET

AN INSPIRATION FROM THREE ARTISANS

THE MASTER DISTILLER - THE WINE MASTER - THE CELLAR MASTER



TEAM UP FOR EXCELLENCE



NOW AVAILABLE IN: CA, FL, NY, TX, MA, IL, GA, MD, CO, WA, DC, NJ, NV, VA, SC

© 2019 E. RÉMY MARTIN & CO., RÉMY MARTIN® COGNAC FINE CHAMPAGNE TERCET, 42% ALC./VOL., IMPORTED BY RÉMY COINTREAU USA, INC., NEW YORK, NY. CENTAUR DESIGN® PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.