A PUBLICATION OF THE STANFORD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

STANFORD

September 2021

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PHOTOGRAPH BY TONI BIRD

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Inside a Search and Rescue mission

The full Q&A on the origins of COVID-19

Advice: What to look for in an internship

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Nightmare on Mayfield Ave.
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ALL RIGHT NOW

DEPARTMENTS

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: TONI BIRD; JUDE BUFFUM; BOO PATERSON; MARCELLUS HALL

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Dialogue

What Friends Are For

Our July cover article told the story of long-lost best friends Kevin Bennett and John Coyle, both '90, and how a chance encounter led to their reunion and to housing for Bennett.

@STANFORDMAG

Can't stop thinking about this piece on poet Kevin Bennett in @stanfordmag. Two once-inseparable college friends, one living on the streets of New Orleans & feared dead, reunited after 13 yrs. Smoking cigars & listening to Def Leppard in sleeping bags by the Esplanade.

Amy Mason, MA '98
@AmyLDoan

This story hit my heart.Thank you, @stanfordmag, for this inspiring story of friendship and humanity.

Mimi Gan, '79
@Mi2Media

This pandemic has taught me the value of relationships forged in our youth, when everything seemed so much simpler. I have started looking for teachers, classmates and relatives I have lost touch with and am now enjoying rekindled relationships with wiser versions of ourselves.
Jennifer De los Reyes, '83
City of Muntinlupa
Metro Manila, Philippines

You mention that [Bennett's] "illness may always make him vulnerable to setbacks," and as someone who works in the disability community, I want to point out the social constructionist view of disabilities, which recognizes that it is not the illness/disability but society's attitudinal barriers that may significantly get in the way. Thank you for humanizing mental health diagnoses and playing a part in eradicating such stigma.
Kimberley Warsett, '98
Somerville, Massachusetts

From the beginning of college until he died 35 years later, our son lived with unmitigated courage. The consistent involvement he had from his family is not available to all who are afflicted with severe mental illness. Friends who are willing and able to spend time navigating the myriad available resources can be critical.
Peter Schwabe, '57
Tiburon, California

The stranger who befriended Kevin Bennett and sought to reconnect him with his worried friends displayed a selfless act of kindness and compassion. However, I bristled at her comment that she did so because she somehow felt that he was out of place on the streets. This seems to imply that it is acceptable for any human being to live an unsheltered life.

Intellect and talent are, unfortunately, no guarantee against physical or mental disability that so often leads to severe hardship. But

STANFORDALUMNI

Yurt Sweet Yurt

A July article took a peek inside the tiny, rustic home of Grace Hartman, '90, and her family.

I would try this in a heartbeat! What a grand adventure!
Anne Lyons, '67

SARGENT SCHUTT

more to the point, “elite” accomplishments are not the only contributions of value to a society. Many others who experience homelessness were once a teacher’s favorite student, someone’s best friend, or a generous and loving family member.
Katrina Perttula Matheson, ’01
Ellsworth, Maine

Several years ago, STANFORD reported the death of David Yob, ’76. David died from exposure while homeless in Las Vegas. He never encountered his Cheryl Gerber. I met David in the early ’80s after learning that Stanford had admitted another person from Muskegon. Considering our lackluster academic achievements, we often joked that we killed the chances of other hometown students to attend Stanford.

I never probed what he did or how he lived. After learning of his death, I cried not just over his life but also over my lackluster attempts to find one of my best friends. David’s cold death left my life smaller and crushed my virtue. Don’t be me; find your lost friends.
Dennis Ashendorf, ’79
Costa Mesa, California

A poignant reminder of the fragility of the human condition, and that no environment, no matter how rarefied, imparts immunity therefrom.
Tarif Abboushi, MS ’80
Houston, Texas

The uplifting and hopeful “A Friendship Mission” is the very best thing I’ve ever read in STANFORD. In a world of so much bad news, this article is one I’ll keep and share.
Ann Staley, MA ’84
Corvallis, Oregon

Old West, New West

A July feature examined the generation gap between Wallace Stegner and some of his most famous students.

“Westword, Bound” neglects the one big writer who broke the mold and redirected American writing far more than Kesey or McMurtry: Robert Stone, whose *Dog Soldiers* in 1974 was the first Vietnam novel of substance, and the first to tie America’s burgeoning drug culture to the corruption of a pointless war.
Don Wallace
Honolulu, Hawaii

One of the highlights of my time on the Farm was a writing class I had with Wallace Stegner. I was audacious enough to invite him for a coffee, and he accepted. I wasn’t nearly his best student, but I like to believe that I wasn’t his worst. Daniel Arnold’s excellent piece brought back many pleasant memories. Thanks.
Doug Glant, ’64
Mercer Island, Washington

On the Same Wavelength

In July, we profiled bioengineer and “frugal science” inventor Manu Prakash.

“Just Curious” is a remarkable story to find in STANFORD. Recognizing actual scientific inquiry rather than scientific posturing to justify conventional opinions. Promoting intellectual curiosity rather than ideological conformity. Celebrating achievement without focus on supposed victimhood and oppression. Quite a surprising article for the magazine of recent years.
Stephen G. Wesche, ’73
Edmonds, Washington

Beyond Black and White

The July President’s Column discussed Stanford’s efforts to advance racial justice.

The efforts reflected in President Marc Tessier-Lavigne’s July column are long overdue. The problem is that racial justice challenges in this country extend far beyond the Black population; in particular, Latinos have historically faced the same structural racism that has resulted in the same wealth, income, educational and health inequities that face their Black brethren. Latinos also bear the brunt of a current wave of immigrant bashing. It seems anomalous to read about a major California institution’s efforts directed toward “advancing racial justice” and not mention, even in passing, a group constituting 39 percent of the state’s population and 17 percent of Stanford’s undergraduate enrollment, and that struggles with social justice challenges every day.
Agustin Medina, MA ’69, JD ’77
South Pasadena, California

Correction:
In our July Farewells section, the obituary for Robert Bruce “Robby” Beyers, ’80, MS ’82, PhD ’89, erroneously stated that he had played in the Band. He was the Band’s photographer.

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.

Editor's Note

KATHY ZONANA, '93, JD '96

Don't Cry for Me, Lagunita

Stanford ditches the Draw in favor of community continuity.

OUR STORY on Stanford's new undergraduate housing system, which begins on page 32, opens with a *Daily* headline from the spring of my first year: "Tears and trauma: It's time for the Draw."

Personally, I don't remember crying over the housing lottery in 1990. I was eager to get out of Wilbur Hall, which at the time featured dented bruise-green metal furniture and brown shag carpet. And because you can never have enough earth tones, the closets and doors were slathered in thick coats of chocolate-brown paint. (This was shortly before Stanford began renovating each residence on a regular schedule. By the time I graduated, Wilbur residents had modular furniture—made of wood, no less—like everyone else.)

No, no, I cried the next spring, when my carefully coordinated plan to serve as a residence staff member in the same house as my BFF went sideways, and then I, as we used to say, "drew off-campus." Yes, Virginia, hundreds of us would remain unassigned at the conclusion of the Draw. And if the waitlist didn't pan out, we had to go find local apartments. At the time, Stanford had only enough housing to guarantee undergraduates three years on campus.

I did land a spot. Separated from my Draw group. In a one-room triple. But I was on the Lower Row, so don't cry for me, Lagunita.

This is the kind of lore that won't last much longer, as Stanford eliminates the Draw in favor of ResX, a new live-and-learn system intended to strengthen community. Under ResX, undergraduate housing has been grouped into eight neighborhoods, currently named to spell out *STANFORD*. Typically, students will spend all four years in the same neighborhood, progressing in independence as they move from dorms supported by resident fellows to self-operated Row houses and apartments. At the same time, they'll get to maintain the connections they've built since frosh year. The system also preserves choice: A student can take a leave from her neighborhood to live in a theme dorm, co-op or Greek house, or even switch neighborhoods altogether.

Now, if you spent your frosh year at Stanford, we know what you're wondering: Which neighborhood would you have been in? The map on page 36 tells me that the west side of Wilbur is part of Neighborhood T. And this time, there's nary a metal bed frame in sight. ■

Email Kathy at kathyz@stanford.edu.

STANFORD

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; Sam Scott

PRODUCTION MANAGER Pam Gorelow

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Jonathan Green; Nancy King, MA '97

INTERNS Sophia Boyd-Fliegel, '21; Noah Louis-Ferdinand, '21

CREATIVE

ART DIRECTOR Giorgia Virgili

ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR Bambi Nicklen

DIGITAL ART DIRECTOR Michele McCammon

VIDEO PRODUCER Erin Attkisson

CLASS NOTES

SENIOR MANAGER Pauline Steinhoffer, '91

EDITOR Travis Kinsey

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Jake Wellington

INTERNS Alex Hughes, '22; Daniel Wu, '21; Gilare Zada, '22

ADVERTISING

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

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

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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
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STANFORD (ISSN 1063-2778), September 2021, Volume 50, Number 4, ©2021. 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.

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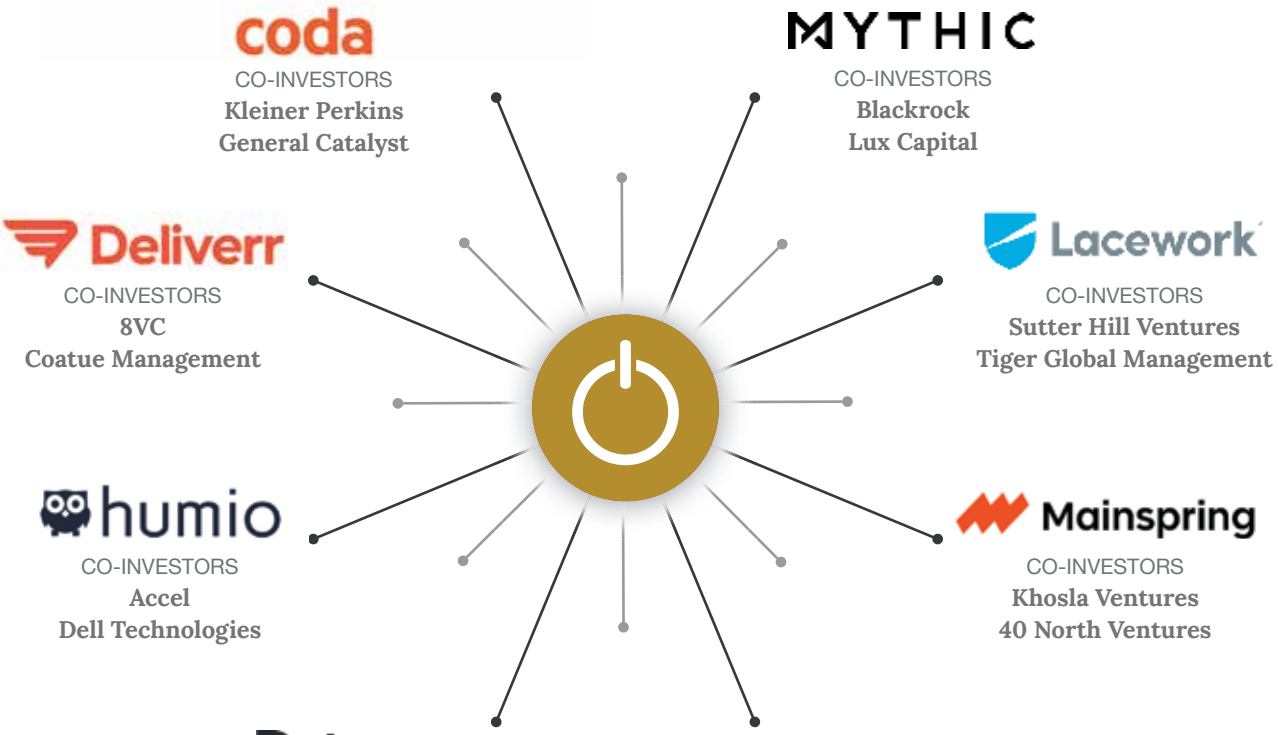

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President's Column
MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE

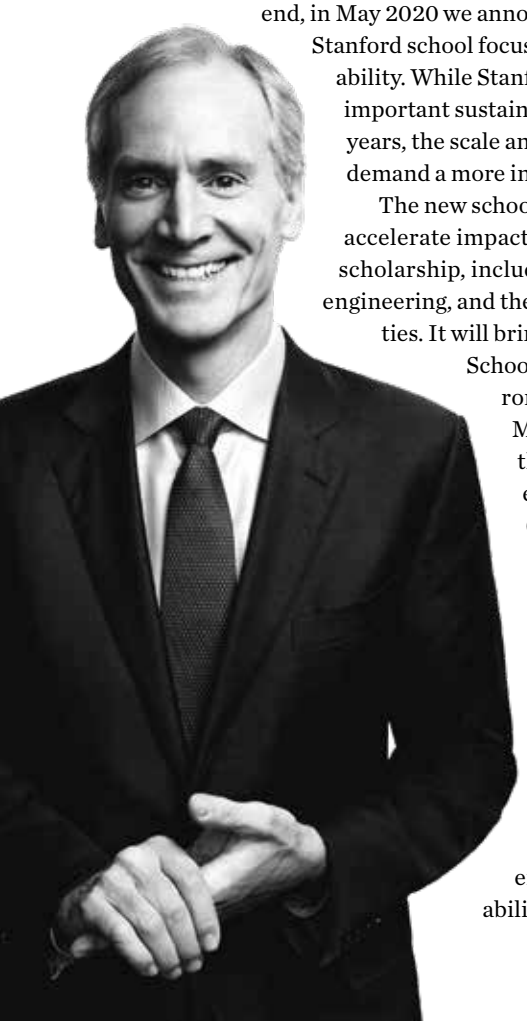
Creating a Sustainable Future

Stanford is launching its first school in more than 70 years.

THIS YEAR has brought catastrophic weather events around the world, including another record-breaking fire season here in California. The extreme weather has underlined the urgency of the climate crisis, which has the potential to transform not only our planet, but also the health and well-being of humanity.

Avoiding the worst outcomes requires both changing our behaviors and deploying new technological solutions. At Stanford, we're focusing our resources to accomplish both.

First, we're committed to advancing global efforts to create a sustainable future through our mission of research and teaching. To that end, in May 2020 we announced the formation of a new Stanford school focused on climate and sustainability. While Stanford experts have conducted important sustainability research for many years, the scale and time frame of the crisis demand a more integrated approach.



The new school will amplify research and accelerate impact across multiple areas of scholarship, including the natural sciences, engineering, and the social sciences and humanities. It will bring together and expand on the School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences; Hopkins Marine Station facilities; and the department of civil and environmental engineering (as a joint department with the School of Engineering), as well as new hires and faculty from other Stanford schools.

The Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and the Precourt Institute for Energy will also join the school, creating an open door for faculty and students across the entire university to engage in climate and sustainability scholarship. Those institutes will lead broad cross-cutting themes, such as food and water security and carbon removal. They will be complemented by a new Sustainable Societies initiative that will tackle parallel interdisciplinary themes, such as sustainable urban societies and environmental justice.

At the heart of the school will be a sustainability accelerator aimed at leveraging knowledge to create policy and technology solutions. The accelerator will support external partnerships and give researchers access to shared equipment, expert staff, specialized training and funding.

In anticipation of the school's launch in fall 2022, we are working to finalize its academic departments and thematic initiatives. We will also begin a search for a dean, hire a director for the sustainability accelerator, commence faculty cluster hires, and complete a naming process for the school.

Second, in addition to launching the new school, we continue to improve sustainability across our internal operations, building on the transformation of our power production system initiated a decade ago. For example, we recently undertook a major solar energy initiative, and when the second of our two new solar plants comes online in 2022, will produce enough renewable electricity to equal the university's annual electricity consumption.

We've also launched a multiyear effort to reduce Stanford's Scope 3 emissions—the indirect emissions generated by activities like travel, investments, and producing and transporting food and goods. Our mitigation efforts will bring us closer to our ultimate goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from our operations and endowment by 2050.

Alongside these efforts, Stanford recently became the first U.S. college or university to issue bonds carrying dual climate and sustainability designations. These bonds will finance projects that will help us achieve our sustainability goals, curb our carbon footprint, and advance diversity, equity and inclusion. Qualifying for this emerging asset class is a significant recognition of Stanford's sustainability and social responsibility efforts.

As our world contends with the changing climate, we will need the best minds from across disciplines to work together to find solutions and avoid the worst outcomes. While the scale of the crisis is daunting, I have hope for what we can achieve by focusing our attention and resources on building a more sustainable future. ■

ART STREIBER, '84

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Triumphs in Tokyo

57
Stanford athletes who competed in the Tokyo Summer Olympics

16
Countries represented

26
Medals earned (more than all but 10 nations and, more important, USC, the school that sent the most athletes)

46
Percentage of Stanford's medals won by swimmers, including Stanford's second most decorated Olympian, Katie Ledecky, '20. (Swimmer Jenny Thompson, '95, tops the list)

4
Medal-winning swimmers on the 2021–22 Cardinal roster. (Brooke Forde, '21, Torri Huske, '25, Taylor Ruck, '22, and Regan Smith, '25)

10
Cardinal athletes who won their first Olympic medals in Tokyo, including Valarie Allman, '17, who claimed the first U.S. gold in track and field in these games

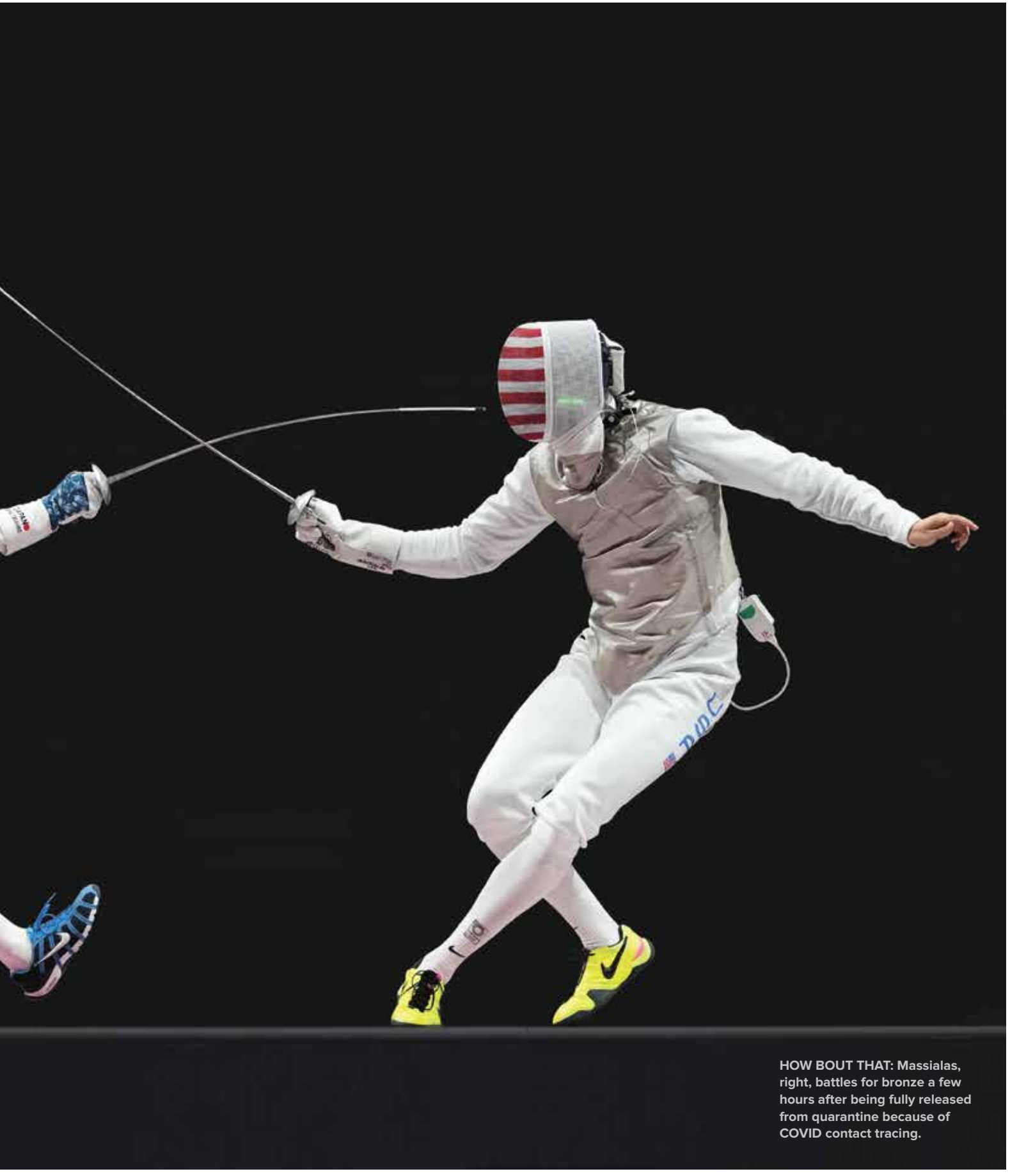
40
Percentage of the Cardinal gold medalists in women's water polo who hail from the same family (Makenzie, '20, and Aria Fischer, '21)

2
Gold medalists in women's volleyball. That's Foluke Akinradewo Gunderson, '09, in a historic win for the U.S. indoor team, and Alix Klineman, '11, on the beach

1,210
Cumulative minutes played by the alumnae on the U.S. soccer team: Jane Campbell, '17, Tierna Davidson, '20, Catarina Macario, '21, Kelley O'Hara, '10, and Christen Press, '11

1
Stanford men who earned a medal. (Alex Massialas, '16, bronze in men's team foil)

ANDREW MEDICHINI/AP PHOTO



HOW BOUT THAT: Massialas, right, battles for bronze a few hours after being fully released from quarantine because of COVID contact tracing.

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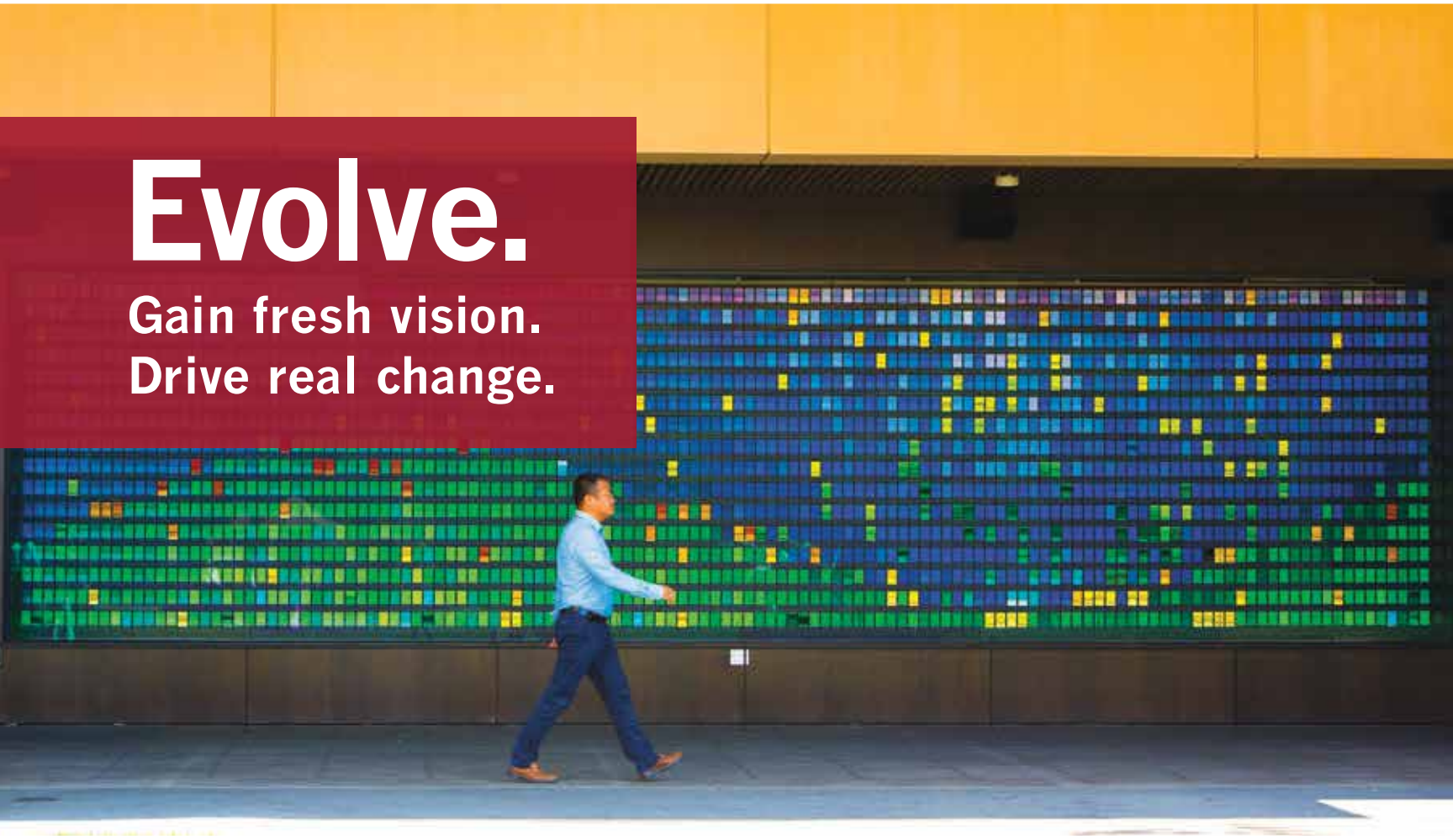

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All Right Now

WHO WE ARE

Meet Nick Hakes

An aspiring military trauma surgeon from the Midwest.

"If you can't do the small things right, you're not going to do the big things right. That's why every morning when I get up, I make my bed."

TONI BIRD

WHEN NICK HAKES CALLS HIMSELF A COUNTRY BOY, he's not kidding. As a teenager in Hudson, Ohio, outside Akron, he says he spent Wednesday nights line-dancing at the Dusty Armadillo, Saturdays at the rodeo, and much of his free time hunting, fishing and growing giant pumpkins.

Unsurprisingly, little of that translated to life at Stanford. "I'm still looking for some line-dancing," he says. "Unfortunately, not too many honky-tonks in the Bay Area."

But the senior says he never lost touch with the values he learned at home, particularly a reverence for sacrifice and public service. Since early high school, Hakes has been working in hospitals, often trauma wards, intent on becoming a trauma surgeon in the military.

At Stanford, he converted the hospital's 200-page trauma surgery guide into a free app that has been downloaded more than 100,000 times. He has written or contributed to more than 20 published research papers. And he created a "compassion closet" for trauma patients left without anything to wear. Otherwise, he says, they'd leave the hospital in thin paper scrubs. "Now we get to discharge them with dignity with this gift of clothing," he says.

A philosophy major with a taste for skydiving, baking cookies and riding an electric skateboard too fast, Hakes plans to attend medical school after graduating.

"One of my mottos is 'Don't let your education get in the way of your learning.'

"Before I wanted to become a physician, I was interested in law enforcement, so I shadowed an FBI agent at the Cleveland field office. I had a blast, but I felt like his impact was coming after the victims of crime needed help. I wanted to make a more immediate impact, and he suggested I volunteer at a hospital.

"Philosophy is a flexible major that lets me be both a philosopher and an aspiring physician. Medical ethics and medicine are inextricably connected, so what I learn in philosophy gets applied to my work at the hospital, and what I learn in the hospital gets applied to my work in philosophy. Trauma surgery is often making hundreds of ethical decisions in just a few minutes.

"To witness a team of professionals do everything within their power to prevent a person's worst day ever from becoming that person's last day ever was powerful. I loved being in the thick of it and feeling the adrenaline, witnessing the magic and feeling that by handing the doctor an instrument or covering the patient in a warm blanket that I was somehow contributing to that.

"I was raised Catholic, and it's something I can grasp when there's nothing else to hold. I often find myself in the darkest times—whether it's seconds after I've been hit by a garbage truck on my skateboard, or watching a trauma patient rapidly deteriorate and I know the outcome—and it's something that I can refer to and say a quick prayer that I do think makes a difference and can help."

COURTESY NICK HAKES (2)

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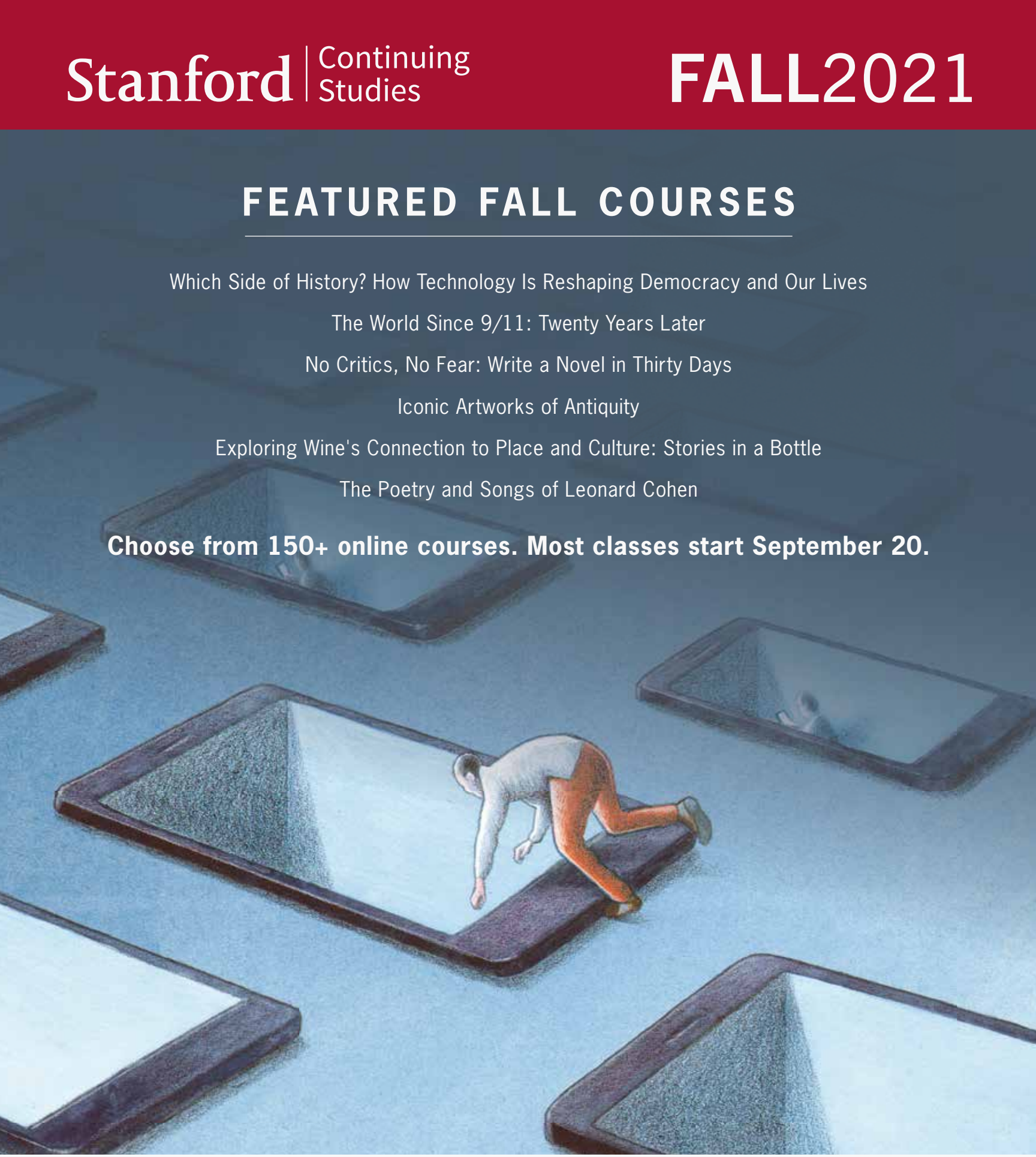

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Vaccines, Please

Advice for teens, by teens.

TEENAGERS DON'T USUALLY get credit for helping peers break their parents' rules. But when Kelly Danielpour, '25, stumbled across Reddit comments from young people seeking routine vaccinations against their parents' wishes, she saw it as a public health problem in need of a solution—one that has since, if you will, gone viral.

In spring 2019, Danielpour founded VaxTeen, a website that helps young people understand their rights to consent to vaccinations, which vary from state to state. Then, it was about tetanus and polio. By summer 2021, COVID-19 was sending increasing numbers of youth to the hospital, and interest in the L.A.-based site had skyrocketed. Danielpour has brought on more than 30 teen ambassadors to advise peers nationwide on vaccination consent laws, transportation to clinics and the art of persuading a parent. She thinks teens are "uniquely poised" to advocate for themselves with a guardian. "No one knows a parent better than their kid," she says.

As she embarks on her frosh year, Danielpour plans to continue running VaxTeen and to advocate for federal legislation that would allow minors to consent to vaccines.

— Sophia Boyd-Fliegel, '21

Beast of Eden

The most unusual John Steinbeck novel you'll never read.

IT'S NOT QUITE sprouting fur and fangs under a full moon, but Stanford English professor Gavin Jones knows what it's like to fall under the spell of a mysterious force.

One moment he was promoting his new book, *Reclaiming John Steinbeck: Writing for the Future of Humanity*, and the next he was an answer on the NPR quiz show *Wait Wait . . . Don't Tell Me!* and sought by reporters from New York to Italy.

The catalyst? An interview with the *Guardian* in which he enthused about a werewolf murder mystery that John Steinbeck had written in 1930, nine years before *The Grapes of Wrath*.

If you've never heard of *Murder at Full Moon*, don't feel bad. Steinbeck, who attended Stanford on and off between 1919 and 1925, might have wanted it that way. He wrote it in nine days, under the pseudonym Peter Pym. The University of Texas archives holds a typescript of the unpublished book, generally dismissed as juvenilia by scholars.

Jones, though, found it an invaluable insight into Steinbeck's breadth. There are overlaps with his famous works, not least humanity's capacity for violence, he says. But *Full Moon*'s wry style challenges Steinbeck's reputation as social realist. To solve the murders, the investigators glean lessons from bad detective books, a postmodern meta-ness we don't associate with Tom Joad.

Anyone should be able to read it, Jones says. And therein lies the plot twist. "As longtime agents for Steinbeck and the Estate, we do not exploit works that the author did not wish to be published," wrote Steinbeck's literary agency in response to Jones's endorsements to the *Guardian*.

It was irresistible: the Nobel laureate with the secret foray into horror; the professor championing its release; the agency standing in its way. Steinbeck was hot news. "It was fascinating because you lose control of it and it's like a sort of werewolf itself," Jones says.

His publisher was delighted with the publicity, though Jones hopes that nobody buying *Reclaiming John Steinbeck* will be disappointed. For all the attention he generated for Steinbeck's werewolf, he didn't mention it in his own book. ■

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Curriculum Studies and Science Education

7th Grade Science Teacher, Mountain View Middle School

GRAY is known as a gifted science educator whose practice honors the humanity of her students. She developed (W)holistic Science Pedagogy, an equitable science framework, and advocates for trauma-informed instruction and a pedagogy of resilience. As a teacher-scholar, she shares her knowledge widely with pre-service and in-service teachers. Gray’s COVID-19 and social justice teaching pivots, considered a model in the field, are adaptations of practices she developed and honed over two decades of science teaching leadership.

Christine Yeh, PhD ’96

Counseling Psychology

Professor, Department of Counseling Psychology, University of San Francisco

YEH is recognized for profound scientific contributions to the development and evaluation of school- and community-based programs for historically excluded communities. Her interdisciplinary approach to educational scholarship has generated a career award from the National Institute of Mental Health, a Spencer grant, and a Fulbright Senior Research Scientist Fellowship. Her drive to teach and learn from others and her tireless commitment to mentorship have influenced a generation of scholars and social justice advocates.

Rebecca Zeigler Mano, MA ’92

Stanford International Development Education Center and STEP

Founder and Director, Education Matters and USAP Community School

ZEIGLER MANO, while working at the U.S. Embassy in Zimbabwe, created the United Student Achievers Program (USAP) which has helped more than 500 low-income students access full scholarships to attend U.S. colleges. She founded Education Matters to expand college access and support for talented but disadvantaged students, and extended that support to refugee youth. In 2020, Zeigler Mano founded the USAP Community School on Quaker principles of integrity, service, and equality, all of which she has spent her life modeling.

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The 2021 honorees will be formally recognized on **Sunday, October 24**.
ed.stanford.edu/alumni

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A Short History of Stanford Stadium

The venerable venue celebrates 100 years. Sort of.

THE START OF CONSTRUCTION on Stanford Stadium on June 1, 1921, was an opportunity for the university to quite literally bring out the big guns. No sooner had university president Ray Lyman Wilbur, Class of 1896, MA 1897, MD 1899, shoveled the first scoop of dirt than the spring air resounded with cannon fire: a six-gun salute from the school's ROTC field artillery unit. The crowd of 2,000 roared.

Over the next five months, men, mules and machines raced to finish the West Coast's largest stadium—capable of holding 65,000—in time for November's Big Game. They did so with weeks to spare for a cost of $211,000 (about $3 million today). The result wasn't a mere stadium. It was, in the *Stanford Daily*'s exultant prose, "a tangible sign to the outward world that Stanford is a live and growing institution, that it is virile, and that Stanford men and women are doers as well as thinkers." Not even a 42–7 Cal thumping in the stadium's debut game could dull the excitement.

Change of Course

The stadium underscored a major reversal for the Cardinal. From 1906 to 1917, the university shunned football in favor of rugby, a move largely born out of university president David Starr Jordan's disgust with the American game's violence. But in 1918, the Army officials in charge of Stanford athletics during World War I ordered an about-face.

With Jordan no longer president and many alums eager to rejoin the rest of the country, the change stuck. Stanford officially returned to the gridiron in 1919, just as college football was exploding in popularity. Planning soon began for a new field.

In the two years following Stanford stadium's completion, the Rose Bowl, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and California Memorial Stadium in Berkeley opened. Stanford, once the lonely protester, had turned pied piper.

In the Floodlight

Over the decades, the stadium hosted a presidential nomination (Herbert Hoover, Class of 1895), a Super Bowl (1985, Niners vs. Dolphins) and two World Cups (men's in 1994, women's in 1999). And in 1962, a televised track meet between the U.S. and Soviet national teams made the field into a stage for peace. "It was probably the most dramatic thing I've ever seen in sports," longtime Stanford play-by-play announcer Don Klein told STANFORD years later. "Two enemies ready to shoot missiles at each other were walking side by side, with their arms around each other, the full crowd rising. It was a tremendous emotional experience for anyone there."

Good Sports

One hundred years later, the stadium of 1921 lives on mostly in name. By the time of the original structure's demolition in 2005, its grandeur had been long overshadowed by grumbles about the dearth of comfortable seats and other amenities, especially sufficient restrooms."We used to line up at halftime and never get back to see the rest of the game," the late Stanford track and field coach Payton Jordan told the *San Francisco Chronicle* before the stadium's demolition. But the old stadium's heart remains. To reduce costs and buffer against earthquakes, engineers a century ago built the huge earth berms that still cradle the modern stadium. (The relocation of so much dirt is why Stanford baseball has a *Sunken* Diamond.) Those earthy foundations, at least, may yet validate the hype of 1921. "We have a stadium good for the next 10,000 years," the president of Stanford's board of athletic control said when construction was finished.

Fans were still on the field after the last home game of 2005 when demolition began. Completion of the new, smaller stadium (it seats a cozy 50,424) missed being ready for the 2006 opening game. But the construction crew put in four times as many toilets, so no hard feelings. ■

Read more about the stadium's history at alu.ms/stadium

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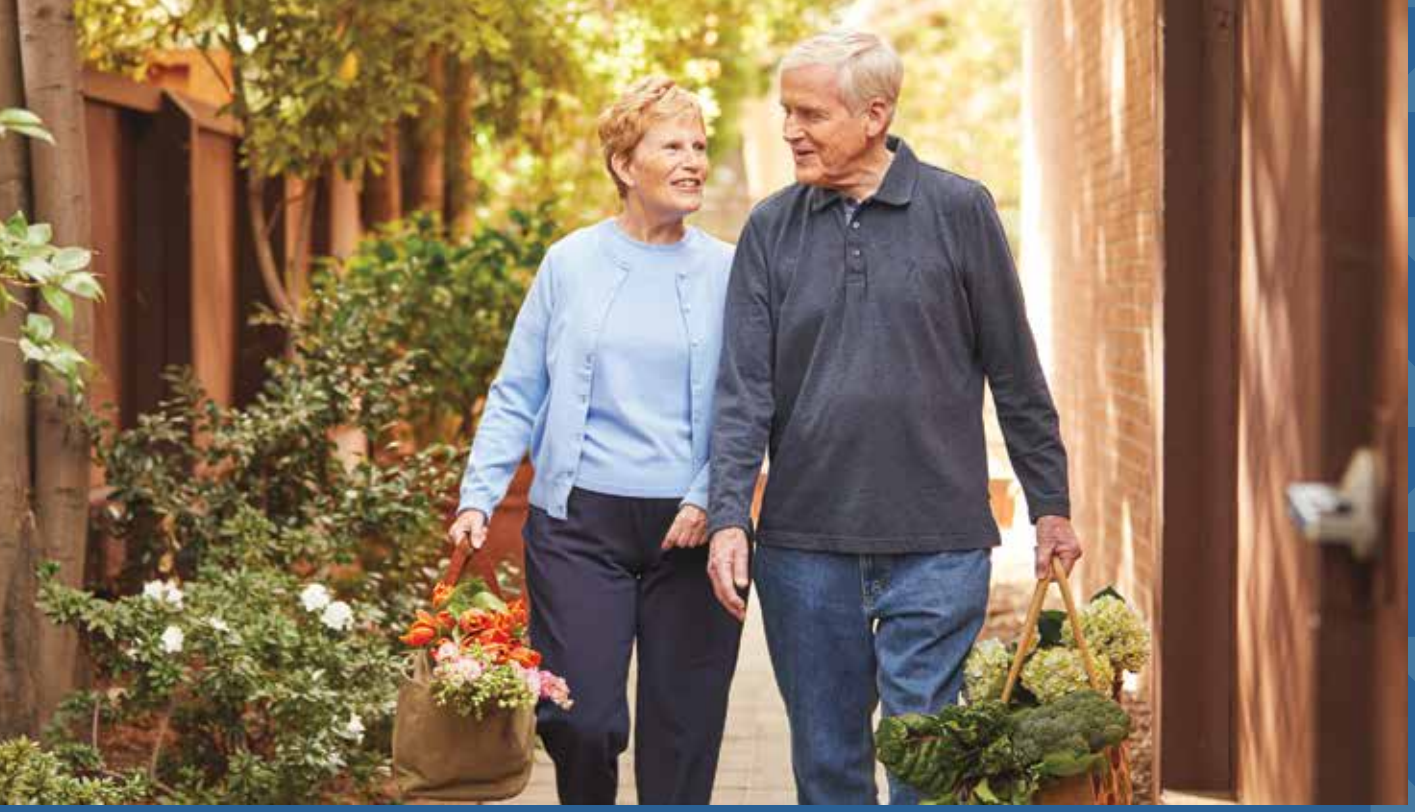

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ASKED AND ANSWERED

Germ Theories

Lab leak? Animal transmission? Why David Relman and his colleagues told the world that we need to investigate both of COVID-19's origin stories.

BY DENI ELLIS BÉCHARD

A **STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.** Calls for a congressional investigation. A renewed conversation about the origins of SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19. All and more have resulted from the May 2021 letter in *Science* signed by 18 prominent scientists and spearheaded by David Relman, a professor of medicine and of microbiology and immunology and a senior fellow at Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation. Titled "Investigate the origins of COVID-19," the letter states, "Theories of accidental release from a lab and zoonotic spillover both remain viable." It criticizes the World Health Organization's recent report on the origins of COVID-19 for not giving the two theories "balanced consideration." STANFORD spoke with Relman to understand the genesis of the letter, its impact and possible next steps. Some excerpts:

STANFORD: Can you describe your thought process leading up to the letter in *Science*?
Relman: In some ways, the content of the letter in *Science* was not new, but the letter was significant because of the co-authors, the venue and the timing. The WHO report motivated me and Jesse Bloom and Alina Chan to organize this thing. Our group was composed of working scientists with relevant expertise on COVID or SARS-CoV-2. We had largely avoided issuing statements with our opinions on COVID's origins. And we wanted to publish the letter in a highly credible scientific journal that speaks directly to our colleagues.

So you wouldn't be seen as having a political agenda because none of you had said there was a lab leak or a zoonotic transmission?

That's right. I also had a more specific purpose in selecting authors. Ralph Baric might be the most preeminent coronavirus expert in the world with respect to the development of the very techniques that others had alleged might have been used to create SARS-CoV-2, so I wanted him to be a co-author. We nailed down a draft and showed it to Ralph and other people. I ran into two maybes, and both of those people said, "I'm very concerned not about what you've written here but that this letter will be seen as endorsing the lab-leak hypothesis and by doing so will feed anti-Asian racism." Clearly we didn't want to be doing that. We incorporated a paragraph that called out the critical heroic early efforts by Chinese scientists and physicians to tell the world about what was happening despite threats to their own welfare. We hoped that we in the West might take lessons from these Chinese heroes.

ROD SEARCEY

‘I guess you could ask, “Suppose you are 40 or 45 and just getting started, would you be doing this?” And I’m not sure I would, much to my own chagrin. I have to hope that people will be fair.’

What do you think about scientists who have said that SARS-CoV-2 couldn’t have been created in a lab because it is too different from known viruses?

I agree that it’s very hard to get from the publicly acknowledged closest relative of SARS-CoV-2 to SARS-CoV-2, but their assumption is flawed. They continue to say that because we don’t see anything closer in a lab, it couldn’t have come from a lab. The problem is that you’re assuming that you know about everything that’s in the lab. I mean, all of us have unpublished data. These scientists who claim that it couldn’t have come from a lab also fail to recognize the possibility of an accident during efforts to grow viruses directly from bat samples.

And what do you think about scientists who are arguing forcefully that there’s proof that the virus has been engineered from looking at the structure of the virus?

It’s the same illogic, which is to say we’ve never seen this before in nature; therefore, it had to have been created by humans. Every time somebody goes out and looks at another bat, they find new viruses. Nature has created far more than we know.

Has publishing the letter led to the outcome you were hoping to see?

I had no idea this was going to be such an impactful letter. But we were told that it became the most highly mentioned letter on social media that *Science* has ever published. There were tweets in North Korea, of all places. The thing that happened that I cared about the most was that the progressives in the Democratic Party started to say, “OK, maybe there is something here.” On July 14, there was a hearing by the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Science, Space and Technology Committee. The topic was COVID’s origin and how we investigate pandemics. I was one of the witnesses. The three other witnesses spoke exclusively about natural zoonoses. About 95 percent of the questions ended up directed at me because everybody wanted to talk about the plausibility of the alternative hypothesis. The Democrats were as interested in this as the Republicans.

Were you ever concerned that the letter would harm your career?

Yes, to a degree. I guess you could ask, “Suppose you are 40 or 45 and just getting started, would you be doing this?” And I’m not sure I would, much to my own chagrin. I have to hope that people will be fair. Look at the letter. If you think that we are arguing in favor of a laboratory as the source, please tell me where you see that.

How do we begin investigating whether COVID began with a lab leak or a zoonotic transmission?

The United States, in my view, has to start by saying, “Look, we’ve made plenty of mistakes over the years. Here are some examples of lab accidents, and here’s where we weren’t so up-front about them. And here is some risky science that perhaps we now need to think through a bit more.” Maybe we show some humility and by so doing, facilitate participation by others, such as the People’s Republic of China. I do think there’s a way to start by inviting them to join us, and if they say, “Sorry, we’re not going to have anything to do with this,” I still think an investigation will be worthwhile. There’s a lot of potentially useful information in the world, especially from scientists and clinicians, that resides in all kinds of nooks and crannies, sometimes in plain sight. ■

Deni Ellis Béchard *is a senior writer at STANFORD. Email him at dbechard@stanford.edu.*

Read the full conversation at alu.ms/relman

ALGER

Where Is *Your* Hedge Fund Going?

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POINT OF VIEW

Life Swap

During the pandemic, a video game offers more than simple fun.

BY SAM KELLY

In the real world, I am a burly 27-year-old man with a bushy beard. I am on the autism spectrum and experience a wide variety of neurological and gastrointestinal issues, so I live a somewhat reclusive lifestyle. I have many friends, but we interact primarily online. Truth be told, I find sustained person-to-person contact to be overwhelming. This means that in real life, I might never settle down to start a family—but in the pixelated world of *Stardew Valley*, I have already done it.

Stardew Valley is an open-ended, country-life role-playing video game where I've spent a lot of time during the pandemic. In it, I am Olivianne, a strapping blue-haired woman married to Penny. She and I have two beautiful adopted children. We live on a farm where we raise livestock and harvest crops with the help of a bit of magical realism. The game's creator, Eric Barone (he goes by the handle ConcernedApe), deliberately set out to create a farming simulation along the lines of the classic video game *Harvest Moon* but with a forward-thinking, queer-friendly ideology. So while *Harvest Moon* features an invariably heteronormative male farmer whose marriage prospects are all women, *Stardew Valley* features 12 potential romantic partners—six male and six female—and it doesn't matter which gender your character happens to be. You can romance and marry anyone you choose.

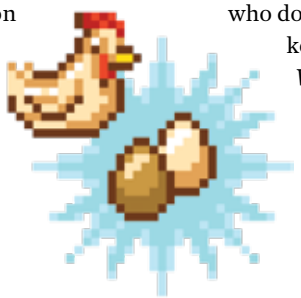
The real-world me is an introvert who, although friendly, rarely ventures out into public. However, as Olivianne, I am a pillar of the community and a social butterfly. Almost every day, I ride my adorable, lightning-fast pony into town, where I make a point of stopping to speak with every person I see. I listen to their stories, empathize with their concerns and offer my support. As schmaltzy as it sounds, part of the fun of the game is its earnest focus on nurturing, commitment and community.

The characters might be animated, but they have emotional depth and dimension far beyond what their pixelated forms would suggest. When I first met the NPC Penny (that's a nonplayer character, controlled by algorithm, for you nongamers), she was shy and socially anxious. She found it difficult and painfully embarrassing to communicate with people. As someone with autism, I identified with this. I took time to learn more

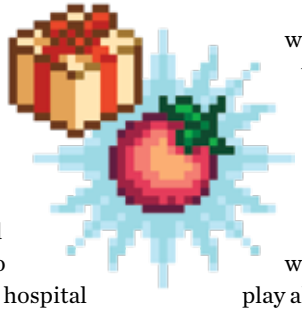
JACOB KELLY (HEADSHOT); JUDE BUFFUM

about her and discovered she grew up in poverty with her mother, who struggled with substance addiction. Although Penny was awkward with adults, she was wonderful with kids, so she became a tutor to two local children. Together, Penny and I discovered her confidence and she blossomed into a self-actualized person.

When I first met the NPC Shane, he was downright hostile. He spent every night at the local bar and obviously had a drinking problem. But as I got to know him through events in the game, he slowly let his guard down. He told me about his overwhelming sense of existential angst. We had a frank and honest conversation about how he felt he was just going through the motions, and he revealed that he was prickly and distant because he was trying to hide how miserable and worthless he felt. I recognized a scarily accurate depiction of the hopelessness I had once felt in the throes of dark depression. One night in the game, I found Shane drunk, despairing and talking about jumping off the southern cliffs. Because I had bonded with him, I was able to talk him down, take him to the hospital and get his stomach pumped. The next day, he showed up at my virtual door to thank me. It felt amazing to help pull him back from the brink.



In Los Angeles, I have a mild-mannered 14-year-old Skye terrier named Chocolate who doesn't make a sound and mostly keeps to himself. But in *Stardew Valley*, I own a farm populated by chickens, ducks, rabbits, cows, goats, sheep, pigs and a few miniature dinosaurs. (Yes, miniature dinosaurs!) I feed, care for and playfully interact with every animal on the farm until they reach the verge of adulthood. Don't worry—when they reach maturity, they aren't slaughtered. Instead, I sell them to my neighbor Marnie, who owns an even larger farm to the south where animals can roam freely and play all day long. Because that's how we roll in *Stardew Valley*.



I fish every day. Not in real life, mind you—that would be horrifying. I am deathly afraid of fish for irrational reasons relating to their look, texture and general wriggliness. But in *Stardew Valley*, I am an expert angler who is not the slightest bit squeamish about putting a worm on a hook, catching a fish and swallowing it whole. (Cooking is optional in this world.)

I grow many different crops in the game. Some are garden variety, you might say, including potatoes, rhubarb, strawberries, tomatoes, melons, pumpkins and yams. But

JUDE BUFFUM (3)

I also grow a few of a more magical variety, such as ancient fruit (grown from long-dead seeds, using the power of magic), sweet gem berries (with seeds purchased from a green-haired woman accompanied by a pig clad in sunglasses and a fez), and synthetic diamonds (manufactured using a Crystalarium, which apparently acts as a 3D printer for gemstone molecules. Science!).

I would never want to be a real farmer. It is backbreaking work, the hours are long, the profit margins are slim, and small farms must struggle to stay afloat with huge corporate agribusinesses outcompeting them at every turn. But in *Stardew Valley,* I get to live an idealized farming life. There are animals everywhere, but no poop. There are bountiful crops and never a drought. There are plenty of fish in the sea, and they don't stare back at me with their cold, lifeless, creepy doll eyes.

I live in Los Angeles, along with 10 million other people. But in *Stardew Valley*, there are fewer than 50 characters—and not one of them is flat and one-dimensional. Each resident has a full-fledged personality and a distinct backstory, and leads a meaningful, compelling life. They aren't just props in my character's story. The best part of *Stardew Valley* is in those relationships: If you put in the time and effort to communicate with all the people around you and to show affection and support to your family, everything will go great, and everyone will love you.

I enjoy plenty of other video games. At the start of the pandemic, I spent several months playing role-playing games and side-scrollers and going on postapocalyptic quests across irradiated wastelands to find the dirty scoundrel who shot me in the head. These games were all about fighting, killing and leveling up via destruction. Don't get me wrong—they were loads of fun. But at the end of the day, a person needs something more.

I confess there are portions of *Stardew Valley* where you do, in fact, slash monsters with swords, level up via destruction, and collect shiny treasures. But at its core, it is an exercise in creative empathy. It allows you to be someone entirely different and live that person's life. The game is calm, relaxing and sweet. For hours at a time, it allows me to escape my current reality and experience something better. Not necessarily a life that I would aspire to in the real world, but a life I might want to try on and wear for a while and see how it fits.

The pandemic sucks. But I have spent over 500 hours playing *Stardew Valley*, and I wouldn't trade it for the world. ■

SAM KELLY, '15, *is an author focusing on history. His forthcoming book is* This Is Human History on Drugs.

FRONTIERS

The Heat Is On

Stanford faculty are blazing paths in fire control and prevention to help us live in a changed climate.

BY KATHERINE ELLISON

TWO WEEKS AFTER Avery Hill began his doctoral program in biology at Stanford in the fall of 2017, he got a call from his mother: Wildfire was approaching the dried-out forests near the family's property on the outskirts of Napa. Thousands of their neighbors had already fled.

Hill put down his research—on the impact of climate change on forests—and drove home. He spent three weeks helping his parents and grandparents evacuate and then return, hauling boxes and replacing burned water lines as the forest still smoked from the Nuns Fire. They were lucky. "The only reason the houses were standing is because firefighters were there," he said. In total, a complex of fires, including the Nuns Fire, burned more than 56,000 acres and destroyed 1,355 structures in Sonoma and Napa counties.

From 2017 to 2020, wildfire in California destroyed more than 45,000 structures and resulted in the deaths of 183 people. In 2020, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) reported more than 4.2 million acres burned—the largest wildfire season ever recorded. And the damage from wildfire reaches beyond the charred West. In July, smoke from California drifted to New York, making air across the continent unhealthy to breathe.

We need to approach the risks and consequences of wildfire more holistically, says Chris Field, professor of earth system science and of biology, director of the Woods Institute for the Environment and Hill's adviser. "It's gotten to the point where everyone understands we have a big problem and we're not doing enough." He says that business as usual—literally turning a hose on each blaze—is untenable in our increasingly complicated climate. And besides, new technologies are poised to help us reduce fire risk before so much as a spark is seen.

Thinking more broadly about fire suppression and fuel reduction means exploring ideas from unlikely places. "Sometimes the most obvious approach from one perspective is not the most obvious from another," Field says. To that end, he and more than a dozen other Stanford faculty, postdoctoral scholars and graduate students from such diverse fields as law, economics, psychology and medicine have formed an interdisciplinary initiative to consider our wildfire problem from new angles. They hope to help governing bodies deploy their limited funds in ways that effectively address fire management and human health in a changed climate. Members of the group are working to understand how wildfire is changing, predict serious future threats, and create new approaches to stop fires before they start via practical systems focused on fuels, ignitions, relocation, and extensive and intensive health impacts. They call themselves FIRE.

JUST DOWNWIND

Professor of earth system science Noah Diffenbaugh, '97, MS '97, who studies the impacts of climate change on environmental and human health, says that in addition to fires in the state becoming more frequent, more destructive and more dangerous, California's fire season has gotten longer. "It's unambiguous that wildfire risk is increasing." A 2020 study led by Diffenbaugh showed that since the 1980s, California's rising temperatures and 30 percent decrease in autumn rains have more than doubled the frequency of fall days with extreme wildfire weather. More fires over an extended season make it difficult to share our primary defenses—firefighters and firefighting equipment—among communities and countries. California's fire season, for example, now overlaps with Australia's. Diffenbaugh reported that there are many ways to improve our wildfire defense, including upgrading emergency communication systems, promoting fire resilient construction, and

BOO PATERSON

reducing fuel loads (combustible materials) in fire-prone areas.

But flames aren't the only issue. "The smoke is impacting millions more people than the fires themselves," Diffenbaugh says. Wildfires result in higher particle pollution in the air—smoke, dust and tiny bits of metal that aggravate respiratory and heart problems, even for people who live far from an active inferno. According to a study by associate professor of earth system science Marshall Burke, '02, wildfires now account for up to half of all air pollution in the American West.

Prescribed burns—fires set intentionally for land management—could reduce the number and severity of wildfires. But until recently, public health departments discouraged them, partly because of an assumption that the smoke they created was as bad as that from wildfires. "This didn't make sense," says Kari Nadeau, professor of medicine and of pediatrics. Her team compared blood samples from children exposed to each type of smoke and found that those exposed to wildfire smoke had more compromised immune systems than those exposed to smoke from prescribed burns. What's more, kids with asthma had more attacks during wildfire smoke exposure than during prescribed burns.

'Sometimes the most obvious approach from one perspective is not the most obvious from another.'

Prescribed burns are safer in large part because people can plan for them. "[They can get] out of town, or stay indoors with an air filter or air-conditioning," Nadeau says. But even if they can't avoid outdoor air, smoke from prescribed burns poses lesser health risks because of the composition of modern wildfire smoke. "So many 'wild' fires now involve residences and commercial buildings," Nadeau says. "People could have Drano and Liquid-Plumr and all sorts of plastic in their homes, and when that catches fire, the pollutants can go into the air." They don't come down, she adds, until there's rain—and then they enter the water supply.

HOT TECH

Accurate data about where fire is likely to occur could help to prioritize fire control measures, including prescribed burns. But traditional means of judging dryness (gathering branches for analysis, for example) are difficult to scale. So ecohydrologist and assistant professor of earth system science Alexandra Konings uses remote sensing to assess likely points of ignition via satellite. Microwave radar signals reach through foliage and down to the ground. From the returned signals, her team can spot moisture deep in a forest's canopy, and artificial intelligence can identify patterns in dryness, pinpointing the likeliest locations of future fires.

Like Konings, assistant professor of materials science and endocrinology Eric Appel hopes to change the default mode of putting out fires. "We're trying a more proactive approach," he says. While working on a way to use hydrogels as a delivery mechanism for drugs, Appel realized the same principle could be applied to wildfire prevention. He wondered if retardant—commonly dropped to squelch active flames—could be sprayed in ignition-prone areas before a fire starts. More than 80 percent of fires today ignite near roadsides or utilities infrastructure, so he knew where the spray should go. The challenge was in making it stick—not to mention endure months of sun and wind. So Appel invented a nontoxic, biodegradable goo that serves as a carrier fluid for fire retardant. The viscoelastic fluid (it has liquid and solid properties, and resembles skim milk) sticks to the surfaces of plants. "You could spray it on in summer and it wouldn't wash off until the rainy season," Appel says. Dubbed Fortify, the goo is commercially available and expected to earn approval for use on federal lands this fall.

Meanwhile, California sizzles on. In 2020, Avery Hill, the doctoral student, helped his family evacuate twice. "This has crystallized my resolve to focus on the risks from fire," he says. He's studying "zombie forests"—places where the climate has changed but the flora hasn't. And he's sleeping lightly, waiting for the next call from home. ■

KATHERINE ELLISON, '79, *is a Pulitzer Prize–winning former correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers and the author of 10 nonfiction books. Email her at stanford.magazine@stanford.edu.*

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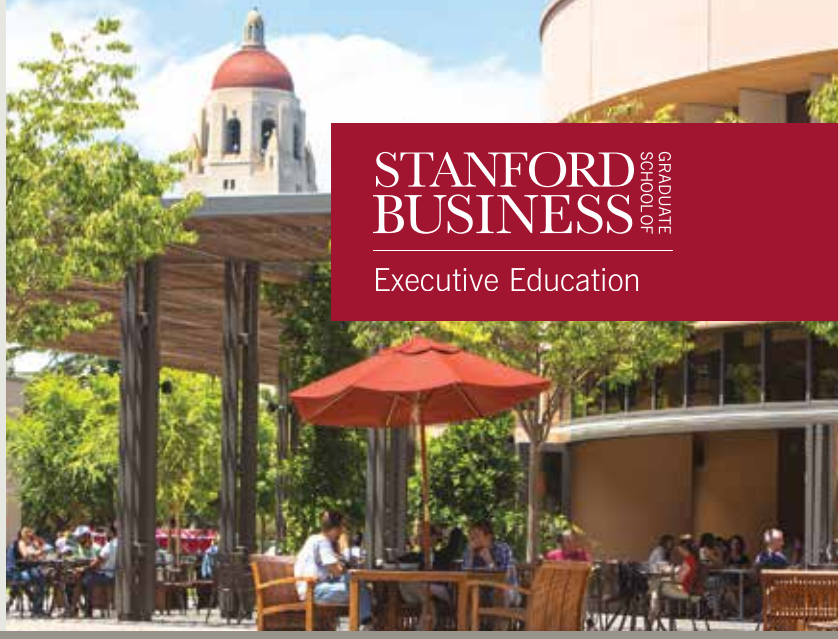

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SOPHOMORES IN STEP: Kevin Thor, Sala Ba and Jenna Reed.

All Together Now

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE SPRING 2020, THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSAND UNDERGRADUATES ON THE FARM. THE UNIVERSITY HAS BIG PLANS FOR HOW THEY'LL LIVE AND LEARN.

TONI BIRD

THE STANFORD CAMPUS HASN'T BEEN THE SAME WITHOUT ITS UNDERGRADS. They imbue it with life, personality, verve. Coin catchphrases like "Nerd Nation" and "Fear the Tree." Hop in fountains and throw Frisbees. Join the Band.

To be sure, there have been hundreds of undergraduates on campus since Stanford pivoted to pandemic operations in March 2020. Those with special circumstances were allowed to stay in housing throughout. In spring 2021, juniors and seniors were invited to return for the latter's final quarter, and in summer, frosh and sophomores got to take a turn. Nevertheless, the Quad has been quiet.

Undergraduate life has been profoundly disrupted. And that presents an opportunity: to rebuild it intentionally in the direction Stanford was already heading. This fall marks the launch of a new neighborhood-based housing system designed to strengthen community and of a core curriculum based on principles of citizenship. Meanwhile, not only has the Class of '25 arrived on campus to a warm Cardinal welcome, but so, at last, has the Class of '24.

Hail, Stanford, hail.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHAW NIELSEN

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhoods

BY CORINNE PURTILL

FOR GENERATIONS OF STANFORD FROSH, sophomores and juniors, figuring out where and with whom they'll live the following year has been a rather anxiety-producing rite of spring. The *Stanford Daily* archives are full of stories with headlines like "Tears and trauma: It's time for the Draw." (That one was from 1990, a decade before most of the Class of 2022 were born.)

In the early and relatively simple days of the undergraduate housing draw, students banded together in groups as large as eight, marked a handful of choices on a paper card, and learned of their next year's lodgings by pulling a slip of paper from a box—a charmingly analog system that gave the Draw its name when it debuted in 1969. As technology advanced, groups submitted their choices online and learned their fate from posted printouts, and later via email.

But just because you can, algorithmically speaking, doesn't mean you should. By its final incarnation, in spring 2019, the Draw seemed more like an exemplar of the tyranny of choice than a reasonable method of allocating access to houses of varying appeal. After narrowing down their friends to a Draw group no larger than four people, students were asked to rank up to 135 different options across more than 80 different residences.

The Draw gave students lots of choice in the physical buildings they lived in but far less in the people they lived with, and all but ensured the dissolution of tight-knit communities that had formed over the school year. Susie Brubaker-Cole, the vice provost for student affairs, remains haunted by a conversation with a student about his experience with the lottery.

"He said, 'The Draw eviscerated my freshman friend group,'" she recalls. "I will never forget that statement."

A lot has changed in the last year and a half; Stanford's approach to housing has as well. Starting this fall, all undergraduate residences are being sorted into eight new neighborhoods intended to boost belonging and inclusivity, and to enable students who fall in love with the community they find in their first year to keep those relationships going.

The neighborhoods are the signature creation of ResX, an initiative that branches from the university's Long-Range Vision. Launched in spring 2018, ResX began with a task force determined to rethink Stanford's undergraduate housing system. The aim was to double down on Residential Education's successes—fostering relationships and extending academic experiences into the dorms—while redirecting the energy students spent navigating an increasingly complex housing system into strengthening the communities they had already built.

When the task force released its report in spring 2019, the idea was to reconfigure current residences, build some new ones to fit

FARM FRESH SOPHS

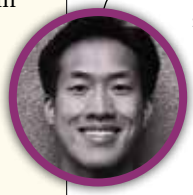
BY CHRISTINE FOSTER

As sophomores prepared to move onto campus—many of them for the first time—STANFORD caught up with the seven members of the Class of '24 we've been shadowing.

After the university announced that winter quarter 2021 would be virtual, some students looked for an alternative to more time at home. In the spring, Sala Ba left Loudon County, Va., to move in with a group of frosh women in San Jose.

SALA: I was like, "Let's take a risk here." That was a really, really cool experience and made spring super, super fun. I felt a lot more like a Stanford student than I did when I was at home.

Kevin Thor continued to live on campus due to special circumstances, and Elena Recaldini moved from Tokyo to do the same.



KEVIN: Although there wasn't everybody on campus, there still definitely was a social aspect to campus life. I remember going out to get dinner at Wilbur dining hall and just seeing people sitting at the benches and sitting on the fields, and it was really nice, and I felt like I finally *came* to college.

ELENA: Going to campus in the winter and actually stepping foot on campus, seeing what I see on Google Images in real life, was just crazy to me, and I felt a lot more connected with Stanford.

FROM TOP: TONI BIRD; KEVIN THOR; ELENA RECALDINI

into the neighborhood structure and then introduce the new plan to students some years in the future.

Then the world turned upside down. In March 2020, Stanford became one of the first major universities in the United States to cancel in-person classes and send most undergraduates home. Several hundred did live on campus each quarter due to special circumstances, and juniors and seniors were invited to spend spring quarter 2021 on campus, with frosh and sophomores following in summer. But in large part, residence halls have been eerily quiet for a year and a half.

The temporary freeze of on-campus life and the announcement that in-person instruction would resume this fall represented a prime moment to rebuild undergraduate community intentionally. The university announced in February that it was moving the ResX launch to the fall, a few years ahead of schedule. Rather than redesign campus around the neighborhoods, the neighborhoods would debut first. New buildings and renovations will happen later, as the identities and needs of the different communities take shape. "It's an amazing opportunity to revitalize social life," Brubaker-Cole says.

For all that the pandemic has taken from students, the renewal of on-campus life signifies hope. "People are very ready to reconnect with others," says Citlali Blanco, '22. "I'm used to seeing faces on screens now, but a screen doesn't replicate the chance of running into new people or old friends when you take a stroll through campus."

PROVOST PERSIS DRELL commissioned the ResX task force in 2018, naming vice provosts Susie Brubaker-Cole and Harry Elam (now the president of Occidental College) as co-chairs. Over the course of six months, the group met with more than 500 students, faculty, staff and alumni; traveled to Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth and Rice to review alternative approaches to undergraduate housing; and sifted through hundreds of community comments solicited through its website.

A few truisms soon became clear. For one, there is a vast range in popularity (or "the perceived and actual attractiveness," as the ResX report diplomatically puts it) of Stanford's undergraduate housing stock. Some of these differences have existed for decades: You could wind up stuffed into a one-room triple in a four-class dorm complex that's years away from its next scheduled renovation, or in a spacious two-room double in a prime Row address. More recent housing additions push those extremes even further. As students will tell you—in reverent tones—some undergraduates in the spiffy Escondido Village Graduate Residences have their own bathrooms. *Their own bathrooms!*

Due in part to this disparity, as well as students' desire to remain near their friends, the task force discovered, roughly half of them weren't going through the Draw at all. To be sure, some students had medical accommodations that required particular housing options. Others became residence staff members, joined housed fraternities or sororities, or opted for pre-assignment to specialized housing, such as co-ops and academic theme houses.

Many students seek these experiences for reasons that have nothing to do with the Draw, of course (and all will continue under ResX). But some were using them largely to avoid the vagaries of the lottery. The unintended consequence was that "the other half of the student body that does go through the draw must choose from the housing that is left available," the report noted. "These students tend to be those with less institutional knowledge, those who are less inclined to challenge or game the system, or those who are from underrepresented communities. Randomness turns out to be inherently unfair."

The task force enlisted associate professor of psychology Jamil Zaki to look deeper into the relationship between housing type and undergraduate happiness. Students who lived in all-frosh dorms, he found, reported having larger and deeper social networks on campus and a greater sense of well-being than those who had spent their first year in four-class dorms.

Seeing those close-knit dorm networks fracture when it was time to form Draw groups in the spring of frosh year and then splinter entirely in sophomore year was disheartening. Given that one of ResEd's primary goals is to promote students' mental health and well-being, it was also counterproductive.

"Students were saying, 'We would like to stay together with our first-year community, but the structure itself doesn't allow for that,'" says Cheryl Brown, who heads ResEd as the assistant vice provost for residential education and serves as a resident fellow in Meier Hall. "That also made it difficult, if you were in an upperclass house, to build community, because you're trying to bring people together in your house and they're trying to find the people that they already built relationships with."

The neighborhood system gives students who love the idea of living near their frosh dormmates all four years a way to make that happen.

Classes continued to work well online.

SALA: For bigger classes, I actually like being virtual a lot more. You could see exactly what the professor had up right in front instead of him writing on a board far, far away.

EVA OROZCO: I feel like I'm a completely different person in the best way possible, and that's a lot due to the people I've surrounded myself with online and the classes that I've chosen to take. I took Wellness 191, which is comprehensive sexual health for peer counselors. It's not only eye-opening, but it was mind-opening and heart-opening.

Many also found their way to fulfilling extracurriculars.

SALA: I did a bunch of activities where I'd be like, "Hey, I'm not on campus. Can I still participate in the activity?" And they'd be like, "Yeah. Come on in." The coolest thing I did was for the Stanford African Students Association. They had a cultural night, and I was in the fashion show.

STACEY LUBAG: My sister and I started making music, and it was kind of a way to cope with everything. We actually just hit 2,000 streams on a song that we released this week.

EVA: I threw an event for Stanford Women in Politics by myself pretty much, and I moderated it. I talked to the Los Angeles deputy mayor, Barbara Romero. That was definitely a highlight.

FROM TOP: EVA OROZCO; CHLOE LUBAG

Location, Location, Location

NEIGHBORHOOD S

aka: Wilbur East
All-frosh: Cedro, Junipero
All-soph: Arroyo
Self-op: BOB, ZAP
Theme: Kappa Alpha Theta (sorority), Okada (Asian American), Terra (co-op)
Apartments: EVGR-A, floors 6-7; Mirrielees, floor 2 sections B-C

NEIGHBORHOOD T

aka: Wilbur West
All-frosh: Rinconada, Soto
All-soph: Trancos
Self-op: 610 Mayfield, Jerry, Narnia
Theme: Enchanted Broccoli Forest (co-op), Kappa Kappa Gamma (sorority), Otero (public service)
Apartments: EVGR-A, floors 1-2 section B; Mirrielees, floor 1 sections B-C

NEIGHBORHOOD A

aka: Stern
All-frosh: Donner, Larkin
All-soph: Sally Ride, Twain
Self-op: Mars
Theme: Burbank (arts immersion), Casa Zapata (Chicanx/Latinx), Columbae (co-op), Delta Delta Delta (sorority), Sigma Nu (fraternity)
Apartments: EVGR-A, floor 5; Mirrielees, floor 3 sections B-C

NEIGHBORHOOD N

aka: Crothers/Toyon
All-frosh: Crothers
All-soph: Toyon
Self-op: 620 Mayfield, 650 Mayfield, Durand, Pluto, Roth
Theme: Hammarskjöld (co-op), Kappa Sigma (fraternity), Robert Moore North (substance-free & wellness)
Apartments: EVGR-A, floor 8; Mirrielees, floor 4 sections B-C

NEIGHBORHOOD F

aka: Casper Branner
All-frosh: Branner, Castaño
All-soph: Lantana
Upperclass: Kimball
Self-op: Grove
Theme: Kairos (co-op), Ng (humanities), Phi Kappa Psi (fraternity), Pi Beta Phi (sorority)
Apartments: EVGR-A, floor 4; Mirrielees, floor 4 section A

NEIGHBORHOOD O

aka: FloMo
All-frosh: Loro, Mirlo
All-soph: Faisan, Gavilan, Paloma
Self-op: 680 Lomita, Storey
Theme: 576 Alvarado (co-op), 675 Lomita (Alpha Kappa Delta Phi and Chi Omega sororities), Alondra (all-frosh Structured Liberal Education), Cardenal (all-soph SLE), Muwekma-Tah-Ruk (Indigenous peoples)
Apartments: EVGR-A, floor 3, floors 1-2 section A; Mirrielees, floor 2 section A

NEIGHBORHOOD R

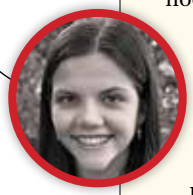
aka: Lag Roble
All-frosh: West Lagunita
All-soph: Meier, Naranja
Self-op: Xanadu
Upperclass: Norcliffe, Roble
Theme: Alpha Phi (sorority), Ujamaa (Black diaspora)
Apartments: EVGR-A, floor 10; Mirrielees, floor 1 section A

NEIGHBORHOOD D

aka: Governor's Corner
All-frosh: Adams, Potter, Robinson, Schiff
All-soph: Murray
Upperclass: Suites
Self-op: 550 Lasuen
Theme: EAST (equity, access & society), Sigma Phi Epsilon (fraternity), Synergy (co-op), Yost (cultures & languages)
Apartments: EVGR-A, floor 9; Mirrielees, floor 3 section A

Virtual life has some oddities that could get better IRL.

LOGAN BERZINS: When you're in the [Zoom] breakout rooms, you're almost in a speed-dating environment. You get a minute on the clock winding down as you're trying to talk to this person, and you never can finish what you're trying to say. It makes it hard for you to actually have a meaningful conversation.



JENNA REED: One of the quirks of Zoom is that no one really knows what you look like besides shoulders up. I'm 5-foot-11, and because I have a relatively high-pitched voice, people on Zoom think I'm shorter. I've seen a couple of people in person, and they're like, "Oh, you're tall!" And I'm like, "You're shorter than I thought."

KEVIN: I'm really excited to meet people who I've been dying to meet the past year in person, and just see them and give them a big welcome hug.

Most students will spend the bulk of their undergraduate years in residences assigned to their specific neighborhood, similar to the house or college residential systems the task force observed at peer institutions. At the moment, each of the eight neighborhoods is known by a single letter, which together spell *STANFORD*.

Each neighborhood will have a mix of housing, an assortment of dining options and common spaces, and a Community Council that includes students as well as staff from ResEd, housing, dining and academic advising. At long last, there should be enough all-frosh housing for those who want it, and some all-sophomore housing is being piloted as well. Each neighborhood also features the kind of quasi-independent accommodations often favored by older undergraduates, like suites, Row houses and apartments.

Students who want to explore communities beyond their neighborhoods can still do so. They can apply to live in the ethnic theme dorms, academic theme houses, co-ops or Greek houses, regardless of neighborhood. They'll retain priority for housing assignments in their home neighborhood should they wish to return there, as will those who study abroad or at Stanford's programs in New York or Washington, D.C. They can even change neighborhoods permanently.

A student in Neighborhood D, for example, might spend her first year in an all-frosh dorm in Sterling Quad, follow that up with a year in all-sophomore Murray House, attend Stanford in Florence fall quarter before spending the remainder of junior year in her neighborhood's designated section of the Mirrielees apartments, then move into the Row house at 550 Lasuen for her final year. Or she might opt to leave the neighborhood and live in Ujamaa as a sophomore, RA there as a junior, and return to Neighborhood D to live with friends in an Anderson House suite as a senior.

The new system limits some previously available housing choices: a non-themed Row house like Robert Moore House South (aka BOB), for example, will be available only to students in Neighborhood S. But each neighborhood has been carefully conceived to offer a mix of each type of housing. And don't worry: Administrators say those one-letter appellations are just placeholders until students come up with more meaningful names. (Thank goodness, says one returning student. "No one wants to have, like, 'A pride,' or 'T pride.' It's just weird.") Also on students' to-do lists: creating neighborhood mascots, crests and theme dorms (which can change annually, in contrast to the more formal university theme houses).

ResX was planned well before the pandemic, but administrators are hoping that the neighborhood structure provides extra support for a unique cohort of students whose high school and college experiences were turned upside down by COVID.

When the neighborhoods were first announced, "I'd never even been to campus, much less understood how residence life is structured," says Sam Catania, a sophomore who spent his entire first year at home in Haverford, Pa. "It was all one and the same to me."

Only the seniors have been through the Draw—once, in the spring of their first year. Many juniors haven't been on campus since winter quarter of their frosh year, a bit before they would have had to choose Drawmates. Most sophomores will set foot on campus for the first time ever this fall, and freshmen—well, everything is new to freshmen.

For this first year of ResX, returning students were placed into neighborhoods based on their preferences, which they ranked solo or in groups of up to eight. (Proving that old habits die hard, many of them referred to the process as "drawing.") Hector Angel Rivera, '24, is looking forward to putting down roots in Neighborhood R, which includes Roble Hall and Lagunita Court, after splitting his frosh year between home in Lovington, N.M., and a single room on a quiet and vastly different Stanford campus.

The location seems good, he says, but even more exciting is the prospect of finally experiencing the full spectrum of campus life that only juniors and seniors remember. "I went into this past year not knowing what to expect, on both sides of the coin—both with COVID going on and because I'd never looked into campus culture," Rivera says. "So after hearing

The sophomores faced a bevy of residential choices, including ranking their neighborhood preferences, alone or in groups, and electing or forgoing the traditional random frosh roommate match.

JENNA: I drew alone. First of all, I didn't know anyone well enough to draw in a group, but secondly, I really like the idea of having this random roommate. I'm going to be in Crothers/Toyon. I was happy about it because, first of all, that was the neighborhood I wanted to live in, but secondly, I was supposed to be in Toyon [last winter] and now I am actually going to live there.

SALA: I ranked neighborhoods with my main friend group from the fall because we've stayed friends consistently throughout the entire year. [My friend Sloan and I] decided we wanted to be intentional roommates. I feel very picky about who I'm going to live with, so it's actually a big relief that I get to pick my roommate.

ELENA: I really wanted the experience of having a random roommate just because it's known to be a very cool thing at Stanford, even though I'm very close to my two friends that I drew in with [for neighborhood ranking]. It's another opportunity for us to meet other people.

FROM TOP: ERIN ATTKISSON; LINDA REED, '87

about it this past year, I'm really excited to dive into that, and to experience all of it."

WHILE FROSH—and this year, sophomores—bring a certain amount of energy and enthusiasm from the sheer novelty of being on campus for the first time, juniors and seniors may hold the key to ResX's initial success. By design, the neighborhoods are intended to offer a strong frosh-soph experience. Will older students, many of whom spent the past year in "pandemic pods," be as motivated to invest in these new communities?

"As a junior, the new ResX neighborhood system doesn't affect my life that much. I think it would've been great when I was a freshman," says Kayley Gould, '23. "The excitement has to be driven by the students, and part of my worry is that upperclassmen will not be as excited about the neighborhoods as underclassmen (since the system affects them less) and that this will trickle down into the underclassmen's perspective of ResX."

The university shares those concerns. "The buy-in from juniors and seniors may influence how frosh and sophomores see themselves in the future, the ways in which they engage in the neighborhood," Brown says. "That's something I think we are going to be paying a lot of attention to."

Blanco, the senior, is approaching the new plan with an open mind. She wasn't the type to get stressed out by the Draw and was happy to delegate housing selection to her Drawmates the one time she went through the process. ("All I remember is the three of them peering into one laptop and me sitting off to the side," she recalls.) In the fall, she'll be living in Well House, a new university theme dorm dedicated to substance-free living, in Neighborhood N. Neither the theme nor the neighborhood existed before the pandemic. It's just one of many ways that the year has transformed Stanford, and the people in it.

"I feel like change is something we are all used to by now, and that is a great understatement," Blanco says. "The way I see it, we have the opportunity to create loving communities, no matter how the dorms are arranged."

Corinne Purtill, '02, *is a writer in Los Angeles. Email her at stanford.magazine@stanford.edu.*

Civic Engagement

BY SAM SCOTT

THE FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE is a time of discovery and reinvention, a moment to sample new interests and try new paths. Or so goes the idyll of a liberal education.

The reality is often very different, says Dan Edelstein, professor of French and director of Stanford Introductory Studies. Frosh have scarcely arrived on campus when many of them lock onto a select group of majors—computer science is the predominant choice—often with plans to get certain internships and a mind to land certain jobs.

Ever was it so, but the trend, he says, has grown relentless. "There is so much peer pressure within the first month to identify with one of the major tracks that the majority of the students are going down," he says. "It's really hard for a student to resist that kind of pull."

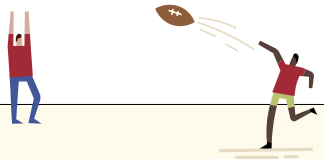
Seeing undergraduate education primarily as a path to a lucrative job serves neither students nor society well, says philosophy professor Debra Satz, dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences. Individually, she says, "we have lots of stories of people who got on a treadmill and didn't flourish. They may have earned a lot of money, but they didn't flourish." Collectively, "our democracy desperately needs people with a set of skills that aren't well served by the instrumental mindset."

It's with an eye to strengthening students' intellectual autonomy—as well as improving campus discourse and preparation for civic life—that Stanford conceived

So just where is Cubberley Auditorium, anyway?

JENNA: I am so nervous about in-person classes. Where do I take class? How do I take class? I've taken a lot of seminars, and a seminar on Zoom is just a bunch of screens and everyone talking. Some professors have mentioned talking around the seminar table. I'm like, "What is this table? Is it just a table?" Then I'm like, "OK, lecture: Do I go to a lecture hall? Wait, do I have my computer open? Am I taking notes?" It seems silly, but I've adapted to Stanford on Zoom academically, but I don't know how to do it in person.

KEVIN: Hakeem Jefferson was my professor for Identity Politics 101. He recommended the coffee shop called Backyard Brew. One morning, I scootered over and he was sitting right there, and I was like, "Oh my gosh, I know you!" Those spontaneous run-ins are just golden. I am really excited to meet more professors.



its new core curriculum for frosh. Civic, Liberal and Global Education, or COLLEGE, gets underway as a formal requirement this fall after its two lead courses, Why College? and Citizenship in the 21st Century, were piloted during the 2020–21 academic year.

This year will serve as a transition from the outgoing requirement, Thinking Matters, to COLLEGE, and most students will choose a one-quarter course from either menu. (Some will fulfill the core requirement by enrolling in Structured Liberal Education, Stanford's intensive yearlong residence-based program in the humanities, or ITALIC, in the arts.) Next year, they'll take two quarters from the sequence: Why College? in the fall, Citizenship in the 21st Century in the winter and global citizenship courses in the spring. The university will decide by 2026 whether to make the COLLEGE requirement yearlong.

Stanford has long required core courses aimed at broadening the mind, starting in the 1920s with Problems of Citizenship. Common frosh curricula have morphed over the years, from Western Civilization in mid-century to Western Culture in the 1980s to Cultures, Ideas and Values in the 1990s to Introduction to the Humanities in the aughts. COLLEGE shares some elements with these forebears, including common readings and a longer duration, in hopes of providing students with a shared vocabulary and experience.

In Thinking Matters, frosh have been picking a single, one-quarter lecture course from an array of offerings designed to inspire intellectual wonder—this fall's choices include Our Genome and Understanding China Though Film. But a lack of overlap among the offerings leaves students with little to chew on together in the dining hall, organizers say.

"We're trying to create a common culture and a common experience among our very, very diverse undergraduates," says Satz, an instructor in Citizenship in the 21st Century. "We don't all have to agree, but we have to have a common basis for talking through some of our disagreements."

COLLEGE is not a return to the days of Western Civilization or Western Culture, which sparked protests over the exclusion of thinkers outside the mostly white and male canon, organizers say. Plato and Epicurus might still be on the reading list, but so are W.E.B. Du Bois, Tsitsi Dangarembga and Ta-Nehisi Coates, who spoke to students in Why College? last year.

Ultimately, the seminars are less about making sure students read certain authors and thinkers, Edelstein says, than making sure they wrestle with certain issues and questions.

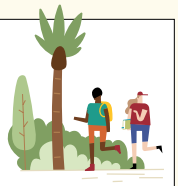
Why College? does that, starting with its very title. "We're not trying to be overly subtle," Edelstein says. Indeed, in the seminar, Edelstein begins by likening the class to an intervention, one that aims to pull students away from merely banking facts and knowledge—tactics that got many of them through high school—to something more inquisitive and open-ended.

The idea isn't to create fewer engineering majors or mint more liberal arts majors, though the imbalance between the two is on organizers' minds. "Over 40 percent of Stanford undergrads are majoring in engineering," Satz says. "When I first came here, it was about 15 percent. If that trend line keeps going, we will wind up with phenomenal faculty in the humanities and social sciences and the natural sciences, with no students."

Rather, the aim is to deemphasize the major as the end-all, be-all of education, Edelstein says. "Are you majoring in CS because you love CS and you really enjoy this?" he says. "Or are you majoring in CS because everybody else is majoring in CS and you get this impression from your parents and your peers that's the only thing you should be doing? Having autonomy and authenticity in your education is crucial."

Student evaluations from last year's Why College? pilot, Edelstein says, show that the course is hitting the target. "I have undergone some philosophical transformation, and this has made me want to gain more than just a degree from Stanford," wrote Tino Nyandoro, a sophomore from Zimbabwe. "I am striving to get *educated*." ■

SAM SCOTT *is a senior writer at* STANFORD. *Email him at sscott3@stanford.edu.*



It has been a really hard year. Now, the Class of '24 gets to move forward together.

STACEY: [With] the Asian American hate crimes, it was a horrible thing to have intertwined anxiety and fear. I feel that maybe right now there's not as much emphasis on keeping good mental health as there should be.

JENNA: I feel like there's been such pressure on everyone, like, "Oh, what sort of hobby, what sort of personal development did you go under during lockdown?" I made it through a year of university at home in a very isolated environment, and I feel like there should be something to be said for all of us doing our best. I think there will definitely be appreciation for the time that we actually have together because we weren't for so long.

LOGAN: No one's really experienced the true college lifestyle, and so they're going to be relying on each other to discover and find out what Stanford has to offer, which I think will be super cool.

CHRISTINE FOSTER *is a writer in Connecticut. Email her at stanford.magazine@stanford.edu.*

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‘losing MAX was burden enough’

In the midst of family tragedy, a father decides that the best path is candor.

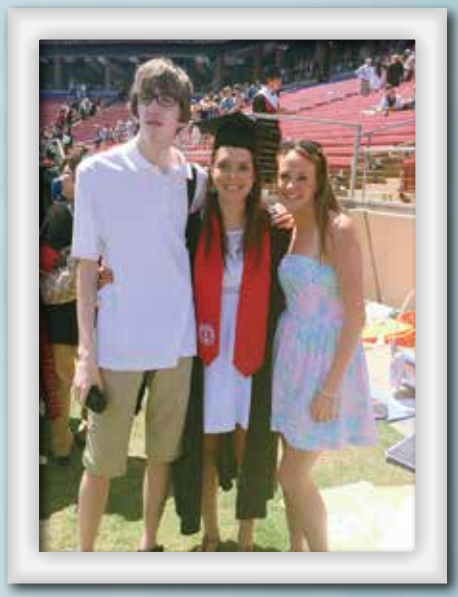
by ivan maisel

One evening in February 2015, sportswriter Ivan Maisel answered the phone. A sheriff was on the other line. His son’s car had been found next to Lake Ontario, but his son was missing.

In that moment, a father’s instinct kicked in: Max was dead.

Within hours, Maisel, ’81, his wife, Meg Murray, their daughters, Sarah, ’14, and Elizabeth, ’19, and their extended family and friends converged on Rochester, N.Y., where Max attended college. And within a week, Maisel was doing what he knows best: writing about it.

BACKGROUND: ANTHONY BRADSHAW/GETTY IMAGES



photographs courtesy the maisel family

"I want to tell you about Max, about me and Max, about me and no Max, which is about me and my grief," he writes in *I Keep Trying to Catch His Eye: A Memoir of Loss, Grief, and Love*. Maisel wants us to get to know Max, the sweet, vulnerable, rule-following young man who stood 6 feet, 5 inches tall but weighed only 135 pounds; loved hamburgers but shunned the buns; and struggled with social interaction but communicated indelibly through photography. Above all, Maisel wants us to know that grief is not simply the price we pay for love—it is love itself.

By not being secretive, we didn't act as if Max's death deserved secrecy. The first rule of stigma is that it's a badge of something to which you don't want to be attached.

Excerpted from *I KEEP TRYING TO CATCH HIS EYE: A Memoir of Loss, Grief, and Love*. Used with the permission of the publisher, Hachette Books, an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. Copyright © 2021 by Ivan Maisel.

I don't consider myself a public figure. I am on television occasionally. I am best known in my native South, where college football is neck and neck with Southern Baptist for most popular religion. I live in the Northeast, where the only way you could make college football a religion is if the Yankees and Red Sox ditch the American League for the Big Ten.

But because I worked at ESPN, and since I appeared on television occasionally, when Max disappeared, it was not just the story of a college student gone missing. This story had a hook to it, and the hook went right into my cheek: The *son of an ESPN writer* went missing. Just the right intoxicant for online readers.

Max always hated being the center of attention. One of the smiles we allowed ourselves in those darkest days came in thinking of how he would have felt about trending on Twitter or being a story on *People* magazine's website.

I realized Max had become a story. We had become a story. Believe me when I tell you I didn't care. I had bigger things on my mind, like putting one foot in front of the other, like dealing with the detectives working on land, like watching the police scuba team troll the icy shallows of the Great Lake that probably held our son. Not to mention that the journalistic instincts of a 34-year career forbade me from stonewalling the media. I didn't want to "no comment" anyone. Writers and broadcasters want to tell a story. If you help us tell your story, we'll treat you well. Or at least fairly.

None of this was front and center in my brain in the first 72 hours. It is more of a baseline picture of how I think, which I am explaining to set the scene for the epiphany that enabled me to grieve openly.

Meg and I spent that first night calling Rochester hospitals, trying to spin out scenarios of where he might be. It took Meg a couple of days to wrap her head around the notion that Max might have died. She was sure he would turn up, and she was sure she would give him hell for putting us through this when he did.

We didn't sleep much that night. Shortly after daylight, Meg, Elizabeth and I threw clothes in the car and drove the seven hours to Rochester. On the drive up, we began to spread the word among our siblings and parents. Meg's three brothers and four sisters began driving, from Cincinnati and northern Virginia, from New Hampshire and Maine and Syracuse. My brother and sister and my nieces and nephews, none of whom lived north of Atlanta or west of New Orleans, dropped their lives and began making their way to the frozen north.

As if Max's disappearance didn't put enough on our plate, during the drive Elizabeth began having stomach pains so severe that upon arriving in Rochester, I took her to the emergency room. It turned out to be some sort of bacterial infection. I remember the surreality of her sitting on an exam table, the local cable news station droning on the TV above us, and seeing Max's picture on the screen. The news played on a 30-minute loop; we were there maybe three hours. I know we saw the news report several times. I remember pointing to it and saying to a nurse, "That's my son, her brother. That's why we are here." It's hard to make an emotional dent in an emergency room nurse. I think that did.

For three days, the Rochester police cast doubts on the supposition that Max died an intentional death. Max did not check the boxes of people who end their own lives.

MAX MAISEL

The detectives suggested more than once that perhaps Max had ditched his car and gone off on what the Aussies call a walkabout. Max wouldn't have been the first college student to do so. But Meg and I knew that Max hadn't disappeared in a good way. For one thing, as I explained, Max was a rule follower. He wouldn't have just left. For another, the friends of his that we knew of at RIT were all present and accounted for. Many of them also belonged to Max's online community; we couldn't find someone anywhere who could tell us where Max might have gone. And yet another indication of distress: Meg checked his credit card purchases and his RIT food service account. He had stopped buying meals a few days before he disappeared.

On the fourth day of our lakeside vigil, as we arrived at the docks on one more gray and brutally cold February evening, one of the detectives pulled me and Meg aside. He asked us to put the girls in the car. He wanted to speak to us alone.

"I have some news," he said. The cops had begun some forensic work on Max's computer and credit card records and found evidence that he intended to harm himself.

So there it was.

We thanked the detective. We thanked the scuba team chief when he came off the lake to tell us they hadn't found Max. On our one-mile drive back to where we were staying, Meg suggested we not say anything to anyone in our families about the news that gave form to our worst suspicions. She wanted time to process the information, to figure out what to say. But I didn't understand that. I didn't ask her how long she needed. I just nodded.

We numbly followed our extended families as we descended en masse on a Thai restaurant. I say numbly because I don't like Thai food. That's how numb I was—I went to a Thai restaurant. I sat at one end of a long table of Murrays and Maisels. There was a lot of talk—you should meet our families—little of it by me. Something bothered me, and I couldn't figure out how to articulate it. Even when we stopped afterward at Abbott's, a frozen custard place that made Max very happy, I cut short any of my family's attempts at conversation with me. My memory is of almost feeling physically uncomfortable in my skin.

As we drove back to the house, as I stared out the window at the Rochester tundra, it dawned on me what was eating at me.

I don't like keeping secrets.

Losing Max was burden enough. I didn't want the secret of how he died to weigh on me as well. The last thing I wanted to do was have to keep track of which members of our families knew what. That sounded like unnecessary work, not to mention the emotional issues that would bloom as our extended family discovered that some knew all and all knew only some.

Meg didn't feel any differently. She just needed some time. But I didn't have the patience to wait. I didn't want to return to the house and for one more second keep what we knew from our families. It was hard enough for me to carry my end of a conversation as it was.

As everyone walked into the house and started shedding winter layers, I pulled Meg aside.

"I can't do this," I said. "I can't not tell them what we know."

We told our girls, and then we gathered everyone in the living room. I stood in the middle, surrounded by the people who love us more dearly than anyone else, who raced to what felt like the coldest place on earth (on that day, the low in Rochester was 1 degree) because we needed them. I stuffed my hands in my back pockets. When I began to speak, I kept my eyes focused on the ground. If I had looked at anyone, I would have choked up. And I said to our families what became the foundational tenet of my grieving.

"We have never been ashamed of Max," I said. "And we're not going to start now. This is what we found out today."

I had come to the realization that I had to take the lead, that I had to be the shepherd in tone of how we as an extended family responded, both privately and publicly. You have to understand: I am the youngest of three children. I grew up being told what to do by parents and siblings. I always looked to others for guidance. But in these moments, I grasped that Meg and I knew more about this heartbreak than anyone in our extended families. We could depend on them for support, for succor, for love. They had our backs. But they had our backs because we were out-front.

So I laid out the framework of what the detective told us.

By not being secretive, we didn't add to our considerable burden.

By not being secretive, we didn't act as if Max's death deserved secrecy. The first rule of stigma is that it's a badge of something to which you don't want to be attached.

By not being secretive, if someone thought Max's death was shameful, or if someone didn't want to participate in a conversation about Max, that would be their burden. I hope that's not inconsiderate. I don't mean it that way. To this day, I don't broadcast how my son died. I don't shy away from it, either. I play a lot of golf, and, invariably, when playing with someone I don't know well, the conversation on the walk down the fairway turns to children.

"How many kids do you have?"

I make sure to modulate my tone. I don't mumble. I don't speak with an air of apology for answering an unloaded question with an emotional blast. The only hurt I suffer is that I don't answer, as I did for 21 years, in chronological order.

"We have two girls, 29 and 24," I say, "and our son died six years ago. He was 21, a junior in college. He went into a spiral, and we didn't know it, and he ended his life."

That answer always elicits a gasp; it's the words that follow the gasp that provide a gauge of how my explanation landed. Pretty much everyone gets out an "I'm sorry." They usually don't venture much beyond that. I wish they did. I am willing to answer any questions about Max as simply and matter-of-factly as I answer the first one. You asked about my children. Max remains one of my children. Not only for my own peace of mind, but for the greater good. The fact is, mental illness needs sunlight. Suicide makes people uncomfortable. Only recently has it begun to emerge as a topic spoken only after pulling someone aside, and then in a whisper. But I will talk about it. I am not ashamed of it. We as a family need to talk about it for reasons of catharsis. We as a society need to talk about it, very simply, to save lives. Not just the lives of those considering it but the quality of lives of those whom suicide leaves behind. I came to believe that the four of us, and everyone who rushed to the ramparts with support, emotional and caloric, would survive this wound. It would leave a scar. How disfiguring and disabling the scar became would be up to us. ■

IVAN MAISEL, '81, *is vice president of editorial and a senior writer at On3.com.* I Keep Trying to Catch His Eye *will be published by Hachette Books in October 2021.*


BLACK LIVES MATTER
BLACK LIVES MATTER

COMPOSITE ILLUSTRATIONS BY RYAN HUDDLE

The Basic QUESTION

Should everyone receive a small, stable income from the government? The idea is going around again, and some think its time has come.

By Deni Ellis Béchard

Michael Tubbs first heard about guaranteed income in a Stanford class on Martin Luther King Jr. "It was shocking because I grew up in the church, so I spent every MLK Day reenacting Dr. King's sermons, quoting his words and doing MLK speech contests. I never heard anyone talk about this part of his legacy," says Tubbs, '12, MA '12, a former mayor of Stockton, Calif., and currently the special adviser for economic mobility and opportunity for the governor of California. But as a sophomore reading King's *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*, Tubbs acquainted himself with the argument that government efforts to fight poverty were too piecemeal and limited. "The programs of the past all have another common failing—they are indirect. Each seeks to solve poverty by first solving something else," King wrote. "We must create full employment or we must create incomes."

Tubbs understands poverty. It shaped his childhood in south Stockton. His mother, Racole Dixon, was a teenager when he was born, and his father, Tubbs's namesake, is serving a life sentence. Tubbs came to see poverty as the root of society's ills. The solution, he thinks, lies in a guaranteed income—a supplemental government program ensuring that low-income people earn above a certain threshold. He believes the approach might in turn pave the way for a universal basic income (UBI)—a more expansive vision of income assistance that allots every citizen, regardless of other wages, a fixed amount (often pegged at $1,000 monthly in proposals for the United States).

In 2019, Tubbs, then the 28-year-old mayor of Stockton, started a guaranteed income pilot to understand how the money would change lives. It's part of a global trend that reflects increased interest in such programs: Stanford founded the Basic Income Lab in 2017 to create an academic home for research on the subject. Tech entrepreneur Andrew Yang ran his 2020 presidential campaign promising a UBI. The California legislature, in a bipartisan consensus, just allocated $35 million to guaranteed income pilots for young adults aging out of foster care and pregnant women needing support. In Stockton, the naysayers

'A guaranteed income is the only way I see where people are able to buy the boots to pull themselves up by their bootstraps.'
—Michael Tubbs

were vocal. "We heard everything from people asking about drugs and alcohol to saying people aren't going to work," Tubbs recalls. "But the problem was worse than any solution."

Tubbs has since founded Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, which includes 57 mayors—in cities as varied as Los Angeles, Flagstaff, Ariz., Jackson, Miss., and Cambridge, Mass.—and has 25 pilots underway. These and other pilots worldwide aim to answer the naysayers' questions: Are recipients no longer working? Do they just watch TV? Or does something more nuanced happen when survival is no longer a daily struggle? Proponents think that a UBI will also address racial equity, the well-being of women, and the transition of young adults into independence. Some even see it as the antidote to automation—that juggernaut of computer innovation that, if tech's Cassandras are to be believed, is coming for our jobs. Notable in our era of political partisanship, UBI has a history of not falling along party lines. Supporters claim this is the social revolution we've been waiting for. Detractors are skeptical. And then there's the question of how to pay for it.

Everything Old Is . . .

The idea of providing subsistence to people has cropped up repeatedly over the centuries. Ancient Rome gave hundreds of thousands of citizens a grain ration to ensure social stability. Much later, in 1795, magistrates in the English village of Speenhamland devised what would become known as the Speenhamland system, which spread across Great Britain during the early 19th century and promised every man and his dependents an allowance for bread. Its detractors were numerous: Karl Marx argued that it enabled employers to underpay workers; the political economist David Ricardo claimed it made people unproductive; and Thomas Malthus was predictably Malthusian, envisioning a catastrophe of rising birth rates and plummeting food supplies from overfeeding poor people. Though no such disaster occurred, the system was repealed in 1834. The industrial revolution reached full steam, and Britain's poor were corralled into workhouses, in the merciless labor system that Charles Dickens immortalized in *Oliver Twist*.

Over the past half-millennium, visions of guaranteed income flowed from the pens of intellectual luminaries: Sir Thomas More, Thomas Paine, John Stuart Mill, Joseph Charlier, Bertrand Russell and, of course, Martin Luther King Jr. In 1960s America, the idea caught on when economist Milton Friedman proposed a negative income tax—a payment to fund necessities for low earners. Friedman, a conservative, had spent three decades developing the idea since discussing it with Swedish economist Gunnar Myrdal, a social democrat. "It's very unusual to find a policy proposal that can draw together people from so many different ideological persuasions," says Jennifer Burns, a Stanford associate professor of history who is currently writing an intellectual biography of Friedman. "Friedman's formulation of this idea—that poor people are just poor, so let's give them money and they'll make good decisions—is very simple, very clean and, in the context of 1960s American social policy, very revolutionary." At that time, poverty was pathologized, especially for marginalized racial and ethnic groups; poor people were seen as in need of supervision and training. Friedman, however, viewed the existing welfare system as paternalistically invading private lives to determine who got benefits. Eliminating the costly, sprawling welfare bureaucracy, he believed, would help fund a negative income tax. President Richard Nixon took up the idea, as did then-congressman George H.W. Bush. Nixon's director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Donald Rumsfeld, and Rumsfeld's special assistant, Dick Cheney—then part of the Republican Party's influential moderate wing—approved of the New Jersey Graduated Work Income Experiment, a Johnson-era program that supplied 1,357 male-headed households with a guaranteed income. Researchers studied whether the program would lead fathers to work less and found a negligible decrease. The effort to implement a national guaranteed income program, however, died in the Senate in 1972. "In American social policy, judgment and moral evaluation of poverty is very dominant," Burns says. Republicans opposing guaranteed income joined forces with Democrats who viewed the proposal as too stingy and hoped George McGovern would soon defeat Nixon and implement his "demogrant" of $1,000 annually to every citizen. (McGovern lost in a landslide.)

In ensuing decades, politicians have demonized state benefits, conjuring images of sloth to rally voters, says Juliana Bidadanure, an assistant professor of philosophy

COURTESY MICHAEL TUBBS

and the faculty director of Stanford's Basic Income Lab. "In the United States, this is centered on the welfare queen stereotype, and it's very racialized and very gendered." (The term, popularized by President Ronald Reagan, refers to women who allegedly collect excessive welfare payments through fraud.) "In Europe, there is a more robust safety net, but its minimum income program is also highly stigmatizing," she says. Bidadanure witnessed this stigmatization growing up in a Parisian *banlieue*, a word that translates roughly to "suburb" but that has a racialized connotation much closer to "the projects." Banlieues are densely urban areas that house many immigrants and provide substandard educational and employment opportunities. "Youth unemployment rates are extremely high. It's not uncommon for them to peak at 40 percent, so it's really bad in terms of social despair," Bidadanure says. Over the years, she saw how people in her community struggled but often didn't seek benefits for fear of appearing lazy. "They internalized that representation to the point of forgoing benefits they were eligible for," she says.

Bidadanure's attention didn't turn to UBI until after the 2008 financial crisis. She was writing her master's dissertation at the London School of Economics on age discrimination. In France, income support is largely unavailable to adults aged 18 to 25, and in 2009, as unemployment soared, then-president Nicolas Sarkozy raised barriers to benefits. Bidadanure's research resulted in a chapter on UBI in her recent book, *Justice Across Ages: Treating Young and Old as Equals*, in which she addresses employment struggles of young adults in low-income settings. "Years later," she writes, "they remain scarred by early phases of precarity: they remain more likely to be unemployed, their wages stagnate, and they can only aspire to further precarious jobs." With UBI, she says, these youths would start out on a more equal footing with their better-off peers, who can pursue further educational opportunities or take unpaid internships to gain crucial work experience and who don't face the same financial pressures to accept undesirable jobs.

Bidadanure found UBI appealing because it wouldn't stigmatize any one group. "Everyone would be a benefits recipient," she says. And contrary to forecasts of UBI recipients not working, data from several pilots suggests they'd work the same amount, if not more. Someone receiving welfare benefits, which have income ceilings, might hesitate to take temporary or unstable work for fear that if the job doesn't pan out, they will have to reapply for welfare, going weeks or months without assistance. "That creates a very strong disincentive to actually look for a job. This is one reason the Finnish government started experimenting with unconditional cash because people might be more willing to take risks, including looking for a job in a different neighborhood or doing career retraining," Bidadanure says, referring to a Finnish UBI pilot run from 2017 to 2018 in which 2,000 unemployed people aged 25 to 58 received monthly payments of 560 euros. With UBI, Bidadanure says, people caught in unfulfilling jobs have more exit options.

After Bidadanure joined Stanford's faculty in 2015, she discovered that prejudices against the welfare system run deep in the United States. Americans repeatedly told her there was no chance that a UBI would work here, but then, in 2016, UBI began to gain media attention in the United States. UC Berkeley professor and former labor secretary Robert Reich published *Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few*, which argued that a UBI might protect individuals in a capitalistic society, enabling capitalism to continue without having to go all the way to socialism. It and two other books that came out that same year—*Raising the Floor: How a Universal Basic Income Can Renew Our Economy and Rebuild the American Dream* by Andy Stern, former president of the Service Employees International Union, and *Rise of the Robots: Technology and the Threat of a Jobless Future* by Martin Ford, a futurist and artificial intelligence expert—addressed automation as an impending threat to the American workforce. "They were looking at it from a very different perspective than the one I had been introduced to," Bidadanure recalls.

In 2017, to bring the different viewpoints together, Bidadanure founded Stanford's Basic Income Lab. Its mission: to understand ways UBI could reduce inequalities, ensuring more freedom of choice, more options in the face of difficult situations and more bargaining power at work. "UBI was really becoming a tech issue," she says. "We wanted to show that it was also a gender issue, also a race issue, also a class issue." The lab held the nation's first workshop on how UBI could be implemented in cities, provided a tool kit to

COURTESY JENNIFER BURNS

'In American social policy, judgment and moral evaluation of poverty is very dominant.'

—Jennifer Burns

‘There will be some people better off for sure, but the most vulnerable would be worse off. And that group is so important to me.’

—Mark Duggan

kick-start pilots, and compiled previous UBI research online in interactive maps and visualizations. The definition of UBI that the lab uses is “a cash grant given to all members of a community, without requirements, with no strings attached,” says Bidadanure. “There are quite a few features that make it different from existing safety nets: It’s individual, it’s in cash, it’s unconditional, it’s universal, and it’s regular.” Each aspect is important. For instance, welfare benefits aren’t individual but rather allocated according to household income. If one member of a household earns above a certain amount, others in the family aren’t eligible for benefits and can become trapped as dependents. In such situations, a UBI could offer exit options to dependents, usually women. “We know that financial insecurity is a predictor of not being able to leave an abusive relationship,” Bidadanure says. And for young adults—especially LGBTQ or former foster youths who are forced onto the street, where they often face predation—a UBI could provide a safety net. “There is a very dangerous pipeline from foster care to the streets,” she says—one that California aims to address with its recently passed legislation. UBI—because it is individual, regular and in cash—would allow people to respond to urgent needs as they arise and make decisions in favor of their own well-being.

Not So Fast

But is a UBI, for all its potential benefits, the optimal solution? The argument in favor presumes that vulnerable populations will be better served by it than by improvements to the current benefits system, points out Mark Duggan, professor of economics and director of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. “Part of the reason that government programs and interventions are really complicated is they steer a lot of resources to the most vulnerable,” he says. “So, for example, if I am a disabled individual who has never earned a dollar in my life, who is completely unable to work, who needs a lot of medical care to survive, we have programs that are designed to help that individual. You move to a UBI program, and it almost inevitably means less support for the most disadvantaged. There is only so much money.”

Though Duggan doesn’t adamantly oppose an income floor (“The devil is in the details” is his occasional refrain), he sees UBI and guaranteed income as problematic and doubts people will be more likely to work under them. “The results from pilots don’t necessarily translate into the real world,” he says. In the pilots, “you’re monitoring people and helping them in all sorts of ways.” While he accepts that some people might retrain or hold out for a job that’s a better match, he says that evidence for this is limited, giving the example of changes to veterans benefits in the United States. Between 1950 and 2000, approximately 9 percent of vets received disability benefits; that percentage rose to 26 after a redefinition of disability to include diabetes and other conditions that Duggan doesn’t believe necessitate leaving the workforce. “It used to be that veterans were much more likely to work than other people with the same education and age and gender. Soon after the change [in benefits], that slipped, and veterans became significantly less likely to work,” he says. “I’m not saying this isn’t a great program, but it’s instructive to see just how much its growth has caused people who otherwise would be working to not work.”

While Duggan doesn’t believe that everybody should work, he fears that many will lose the sense of contributing to society if they stop. “There’s a lot of literature on work—independent of its economic benefits—having benefits to mental health,” he says. Moreover, he says, a robust work force generates tax revenue that funds schools, national defense and many other aspects of society. Already, the United States government is spending much more than it receives in revenue, he notes.

Duggan does, however, see a virtue in cash programs like UBI: simplicity. “If you look at a lot of what government does, it’s really, really complicated,” he says. “One thing that is attractive about UBI and guaranteed income is that it is money, which people are going to value at that amount.” He references an oft-cited criticism by economists of programs like Medicaid, saying that people receiving it would likely benefit more from a check for $40,000 than from health care services that cost the same amount, but this is not his view. “Many voters appreciate knowing that their taxes are going to necessities rather than to goods that may be less critical or even harmful, such as lottery tickets or cigarettes,” he says. And in the case of UBI, he believes that the government would likely cannibalize existing benefits to provide people with cash. “There will be some people better off for sure, but the most

RYAN ZHANG

vulnerable would be worse off," he says. "And that group is so important to me."

The Bottom Line

"UBI is very, very expensive," Bidadanure says, but she points out that it wouldn't be as expensive as a simple back-of-the-envelope calculation might suggest. That calculation goes as follows: $12,000 times 255 million adult Americans equals $3.1 trillion per year (and more if it includes children, as some scholars, including Bidadanure, believe it should). At first glance, the cost looks daunting. The United States' federal budget currently stands at $6.8 trillion ($3 trillion of which is deficit spending), or $10 trillion if state and local budgets are included. (All three added up to $7.6 trillion pre-COVID.) But a 2017 analysis of UBI by political theorist and economist Karl Widerquist pegs the actual number at $539 billion, one-sixth the original calculation. This would be the net cost, which takes into consideration that many UBI recipients would be receiving funds taken from them in taxes. Such a UBI, using 2017 figures, would drop the official poverty rate from 13.5 percent to zero percent, "eliminating poverty for 43.1 million people (including 14.5 million children)," Widerquist writes. The net cost of UBI would be feasible economically, Bidadanure believes. Funding could come from a variety of sources: a wealth tax, a robot tax, an income tax, a consumption tax and a carbon tax; others have even proposed a data tax. (With a robot tax, companies pay taxes on the income that would have been earned by the displaced human employee.) Further funding for UBI could also come in savings from a smaller benefits bureaucracy and from a healthier society. "The cost of abject poverty is enormous, in terms of crime rates, health care costs, trips to the ER," Bidadanure says. "Poverty and homelessness cost a ton to the local and state and national community." UBI might also reduce crime during periods of hardship and decrease recidivism by helping released prisoners reenter society, she points out. Underpinning the idea of Milton Friedman's negative income tax was that the money would flow back into the economy. "UBI is not just a humanist project," Bidadanure says. "As societies, we all benefit when individuals who currently don't have the money to consume are able to consume." This is also why Friedman believed in unrestricted cash—so that it doesn't skew markets but rather allows people to influence markets as they choose.

Both the first wave of guaranteed income pilots in the 1960s and '70s and the much larger one happening now support Bidadanure's points. In a UBI pilot conducted in Manitoba between 1975 and 1978, only two groups worked less: mothers of young children and young men who quit jobs to return to high school. Participants also had lower rates of hospitalization, attributed to decreased stress and alcohol consumption. The 2009 results from a small pilot in Namibia showed that a village that received UBI had a major drop in crime compared with one that did not. In 2013, a pilot in Kenya found that participants kept working or even started businesses, suggesting that a rise in entrepreneurship and increased participation of low-income people in the marketplace could offset economic losses due to others opting out of the workforce. And the Stockton study, in which 125 residents received $500 monthly for a year, produced similar results. Sukhi Samra, '17, who headed the study for Michael Tubbs and is now the director of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, says that participants leveraged their guaranteed income to find better employment; they also had more stable incomes and reported less depression and physical pain than people in the control group. "They showed up as better partners, better parents, better employees and better community members," she says. One was suddenly, finally, able to afford dentures. Another spent more time with his daughter and discovered how little he knew her.

In thinking about UBI, Bidadanure believes we should go beyond the numbers. "I'm a political philosopher, and it's very important for me to take some distance from the data," she says. For her, an important question is how UBI could affect freedom of choice and equality. "The inequality between, on the one hand, those who not only have access to higher wages but also to work that they like, and, on the other hand, those who earn very little and do hard work that they dislike is one that we ought to reduce," she says. Given that work is so deeply connected with how many people find meaning, she believes that most will seek out better forms of work, even if that means leaving the paid labor market to look after aging parents or grandparents or to volunteer in the community—work important for society but often undervalued.

RITA SCAGLIA

'People don't see pervasive poverty as a human disaster in the same way as a catastrophe that needs fixing urgently. I wish they saw poverty that way.'
—Juliana Bidadanure

"The ability to reject bad jobs, I think, is a good outcome, one that might be disruptive in innovative ways for societies but disruptive in the right way because just accepting the current status quo is very problematic to me," she says.

Public Appeal

For a UBI to remove the stigma of receiving benefits and win broad public support, Bidadanure says, payments should go to everyone, including the middle class and the wealthy. Since a UBI would be redistributive, well-off citizens would return their payments in the form of taxes. This slight inefficiency, she says, is "the cost of dignity" for those who find themselves in need. And for anyone falling on tough times, UBI would be there. "People seeing benefits in times of hardship would ensure buy-in across the political spectrum," Bidadanure says. "A lot of Americans do not have enough money to survive a financial emergency."

Evidence that UBI could win support among today's conservatives lies in another way that it might be financed: a sovereign wealth fund, like the Alaska Permanent Fund, which was established in 1976. Often referred to as an example of a UBI, the fund has historically been supported by Democrats and Republicans alike; it's also not redistributive, instead relying on a public good—in this case, oil and gas—whose proceeds go to residents in a yearly dividend. "The dividend is seen as coming from the community and going back to the community," Jennifer Burns says. "What's been really fatal to initiatives on the larger scale is the sense that some people are paying into the system and some people are taking out of the system." For this reason, President Franklin Roosevelt was careful in designing Social Security in 1935, she says: "Everybody pays in and everybody benefits. Once it becomes a poor people's program, it loses political capital." Many states, however, are rich in natural resources that currently benefit private corporations. Thomas Paine, the 18th-century philosopher and political theorist whose pamphlets *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis* helped inspire the American Revolution, made the case that all members of the community should receive an unconditional cash grant that comes from our common ownership of the earth. "Taking a nation of 350 million people and convincing them they're all part of one integrated whole and they're all equally benefiting and equally paying into the system—that's really hard to do," Burns says. State and city programs, however, could pave the way for national acceptance.

Ultimately, more data is needed, Bidadanure points out. Future pilots will answer pressing questions about UBI, addressing racial equity—how people who have experienced discrimination, violence and intergenerational poverty can create better lives with an income floor—as well as the impact of UBI on women: whether it will lead to higher rates of divorce, lower rates of domestic abuse, or more social pressure for women to drop out of the labor force and raise children. Further data will show whether UBI will give employees more bargaining power or, conversely, whether employers will believe it justifies not paying a living wage. All these factors will determine how a UBI should be designed and what social programs should accompany it. Bidadanure says that while some preexisting benefits would likely be absorbed into a UBI to help fund it, others should absolutely remain in place. "Some people say that a UBI would have to be introduced in addition to all other existing benefits. Others think that some existing benefits would need to be replaced, especially those that are stigmatizing or inefficient," she says. "I think we should pick the package of benefits that enables us to secure the most robust floor in a way that centers on dignity." By contrast, Duggan believes that repairing the current benefits system would obviate the need for a UBI. "Perhaps my greatest frustration with economic policy," he says, "is how little federal, state or local governments use the data they have to make their programs better." He wants to see governments optimize the delivery of health care, education and housing benefits using the same data tools that have revolutionized the private sector. "We don't do, as a country, literally anything systematic to figure out if the $10 trillion that we are spending is being as productive as it could be," Duggan says. "I think it's almost a cop-out going to a UBI or guaranteed income."

Underpinning discussions of UBI is the role of government in society—whether it should be involved at all except in times of crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic relief checks engaged both Democrats and Republicans in the discussion, says Burns. "A lot of today's conservative Republicans were saying the types of things that Friedman was saying 30 or 40 years ago, which is, 'We've got to be fast. Let's just sidestep this bureaucracy, which gets overly focused on eligibility, and let's get the money where it's needed,'" she says. "That has created a bit of the same fluidity in the policy space that we saw back in the 1960s."

Bidadanure agrees on the significance of the relief checks, calling them one of the largest UBI experiments in history. And if governments should be there to stabilize society in the wake of disasters, then where do we draw the line? "People don't see pervasive poverty as a human disaster in the same way as a catastrophe that needs fixing urgently," Bidadanure says. "I wish they saw poverty that way because this is exactly what it is. It's a human disaster, a human tragedy."

Eliminating poverty with an income floor, Tubbs believes, would be in keeping with American values. "Americans pride themselves on being a land of opportunity," he says. "Poverty robs people of opportunity. A guaranteed income is the only way I see where people are able to buy the boots to pull themselves up by their bootstraps." For the wider public to truly see the value of a guaranteed income, Tubbs says, people must leave behind harmful stereotypes of poor people. "The folks who raised me were poor people. I wouldn't have accomplished what I've accomplished if it wasn't for folks who are poor." Rather than seeing low-income communities as a burden, he proposes that we see the human potential that could be contributing to the country if poor people were freed from the struggle to survive. "The people I went to school with at Stanford weren't necessarily smarter than the people I grew up with in Stockton," he says. "Talent and intellect are actually equally distributed. Resources and opportunities aren't." ■

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

COMPOSITE ILLUSTRATION PHOTO CREDITS (CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER OUTSIDE RIGHT, SPIRALING TO THE CENTER): THOMAS J. O'HALLORAN/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; 5CHW4R7Z; DOROTHEA LANGE/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; CDC GLOBAL HEALTH; THE. COMEDIAN; BYRON SCHUMAKER; JOHN VACHON/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; MIKE LICHT/NOTIONSCAPITAL.COM; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; ARTHUR S. SIEGEL/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; MUSEO DEL PRADO; HAN HOLBEIN/THE FRICK COLLECTION; THOMAS BEWICK; GAGE SKIDMORE; MECHANICAL CURATOR; DICK DEMARSICO/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; R.T. SPERRY/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; DAN AASLAND; THE HENRY FORD; ROB BULMAHN; GOTOVAN; SCOTT J. FERRELL/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; LAURENT DABOS/NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY; DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; BIBLIOTECA RECTOR MACHADO Y NUÑEZ; DONATED BY JEAN PERRY/MANCHESTER ARCHIVES; KATHRYN DENMAN; BRIAN PATRICK; LORIE SHAULL; THE FRIEDMAN FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL CHOICE; HEY PAUL; ELVERT BARNES; DAVID HUME KENNERLY; HARRIS & EWING/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; AMELIA SPEED; ERVINS STRAUHMANIS; FRANCISCA ULLOA; LARRY JACOBSEN; 3LIAN.COM

Welcome the New SAA Board Members

Stanford Alumni Association (SAA) Board Chair, James Ambroise,'92, reports that five alumni representatives have agreed to serve on the SAA Board of Directors.

The following alumni began their terms on September 1, 2021.

MAYA BURNS, '12, MA '13
Los Angeles, Calif.

Maya Burns is an integrative consultant at McKinsey & Company in the Southern California office, having returned to her native California after six years on the East Coast. A true team sport athlete, Maya believes in the power of partnership strategy to solve critical social and business challenges. While earning her MBA from the Wharton School in 2020, Maya helped launch and secure funding for the school's chapter of MBAs Fight COVID, an organization that mobilizes MBA students to volunteer consulting services to small businesses in need. Prior to that, she worked in New York City at the intersection of tech, media and sports, facilitating internship opportunities for students in the Stanford in New York study abroad program. On the Farm, Maya worked for Stanford Athletics, where she was responsible for the marketing campaign that catapulted the Nerd Nation glasses into brand recognition as Stanford's unofficial mascot. Maya earned her bachelor's in psychology and master's in sociology (co-term), was an Academic All-American on the Stanford softball team, and met her fiancée Harold Bernard during New Student Athlete Orientation in 2008.

JASON OKONOFUA, PHD '15
Berkeley, Calif.

Dr. Jason Okonofua earned his PhD in psychology from Stanford University with a focus on processes by which racial stereotypes can shape outcomes of teacher-student relationships and scalable means to curb the school-to-prison pipeline. He is now an assistant professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and applies various research methods to test scalable approaches to mitigate the effects of racial stereotypes in the contexts of education and criminal justice. His research is published in top journals, including *Science Advances, Psychological Science,* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The findings have also been featured on a variety of popular media outlets, including *National Public Radio*, the *New York Times*, MSNBC, *Reuters*, *HuffPost*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Education Week*. He is also the president of the board of directors for the National Center for Youth Law, a national youth advocacy law organization.

The Stanford Alumni Association is a division of Stanford University. Under authority delegated by the university's Board of Trustees, the SAA Board is responsible for setting priorities for Stanford's alumni affairs and for ongoing relations between alumni and the university.

DANIELLE LIMCAOCO '19
San Francisco, Calif.

Danielle Limcaoco is a product designer at Robinhood, a platform that aims to democratize finance. She was previously at Nextdoor, where she designed products to help strengthen neighborhoods and communities. She fell in love with design at Stanford, and spent countless joyful hours between the Product Realization Lab and d.School. Outside of class, she joined Design For America, Dance Marathon, Tri Delta, Columbae, Stanford Women in Design, and staffed Narnia as a community manager in her senior year. She is from the Philippines and loves being a tour guide for any Stanford alumni visiting whenever possible (so reach out to her if you're ever planning a trip!). In her free time, she loves to read (one of her goals is to read a book from every country), play Tetris and try new restaurants in her neighborhood.

AMANDA RENTERIA, '96
Piedmont, Calif.

Amanda Renteria is the CEO of Code for America (CfA), a non-profit organization that helped launch the civic tech ecosystem ten years ago and now partners with governments to create equitable systems for low income communities. Prior to CfA, Amanda served as the chief of operations at the California Department of Justice, as the national political director for the 2016 presidential campaign, and as a chief of staff in the United States Senate where she became the first Latina chief of staff in history. At Stanford, Amanda played varsity softball and basketball as well as participated in the Ballet Folklorico de Stanford performing group. As an alum, she has served on the Advisory Board for Stanford's Haas Center for Public Service. Amanda lives in the East Bay with her family, serves on several non-profit boards, and is a paid contributor to the BBC and ABC News.

SHANKAR VEDANTAM, MA '93
Washington, DC

Shankar Vedantam is the host and creator of the award-winning podcast and public radio program, *Hidden Brain*. The show explores the intricacies of human behavior. It receives more than three million downloads each week and is featured on some 400 public radio stations around the United States. Shankar previously served as NPR's social science correspondent, and as a reporter and columnist at the *Washington Post*. He is the author of *The Hidden Brain: How Our Unconscious Minds Elect Presidents, Control Markets, Wage Wars and Save Our Lives*, and co-author of the 2021 book *Useful Delusions: The Power and Paradox of the Self-Deceiving Brain*. Shankar received a master's degree in journalism from Stanford in 1993. His one regret about his Stanford years is that he did not stop by the psychology department (next door to journalism's McClatchy Hall) and meet the late Amos Tversky, who would later become one of his heroes.

REVIEW

The Soul of Silicon Valley

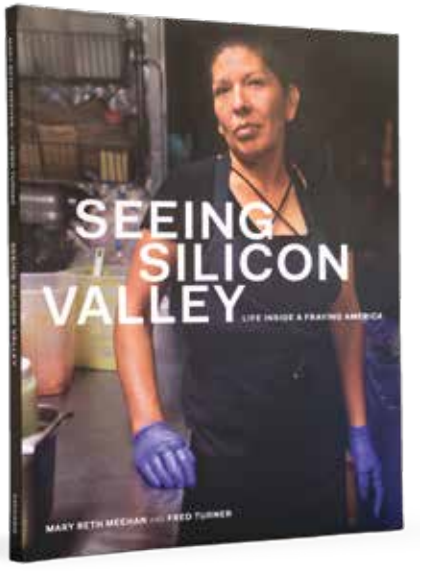
MELINA WALLING, *'20, MA '21, is a writer and multimedia storyteller in Wayne, Pa. She spent the summer of 2021 as the Boyd's Station Writing Fellow in Harrison County, Ky.*

IN 2017, Mary Beth Meehan moved into an Airbnb in Menlo Park to spend six weeks documenting Silicon Valley. For the New England native, the Valley was "as far from my roots as the surface of the moon." She visited at the invitation of Fred Turner, a Stanford professor of communication, who hoped her photographic eye could help him deconstruct the region's mythology by documenting its people. Now, Meehan's photos—which uncover a "hidden world" of economic disparities, social isolation and environmental degradation—accompany an essay by Turner in *Seeing Silicon Valley: Life Inside a Fraying America*.

The book tells the stories of 26 individuals and families through a combination of environmental portraiture, landscapes and details. In one memorable frame, a carpet of artificial turf blankets the steps of an RV parked near Stanford's campus—a "front lawn" in a region where skyrocketing rents have made even apartments unattainable for many. "What kind of society does the relentless pursuit of technological innovation and wealth produce?" Turner writes. "And what kind of future does it suggest for the rest of us?" Meehan juxtaposes glimpses of the region's humanity with an unflinching view of the tech industry's unceasing ambition: cold glass-walled skyscrapers, gold scissors at an office ribbon-cutting ceremony, shiny advertisements for the latest gadgets.

After immersing herself in the Valley for weeks, Meehan began noticing a pattern of economic and spiritual unease—"a sense of distress," she phrases it in the afterword, one "so pervasive that I wondered if I was seeing things correctly." She asks readers to consider the costs of allowing the unrestricted pursuit of innovation to become ingrained in our society.

The authors compare Silicon Valley and religion in surprising ways. Meehan uses light, shadow and color to draw parallels between the Sunnyvale Hindu Temple and Apple Park Visitor Center, while Turner references 17th-century Puritan minister John Winthrop's "city on a hill" sermon. Silicon Valley, says Turner, has become a new beacon of entrepreneurship—one whose promises of utopia remain unfulfilled for many who seek it. What remains, as always, are the people, striving to survive and create community in the face of long odds. ■



We need to look up from our screens, turn away from the dazzling streams of bits and bytes flowing through them, and look again at the people who inhabit it.

—Seeing Silicon Valley: Life Inside a Fraying America, Mary Beth Meehan and Fred Turner; U. of Chicago Press.

FROM TOP: LILY THOMPSON; JENNIFER WORRELL

We Recommend

Reflecting

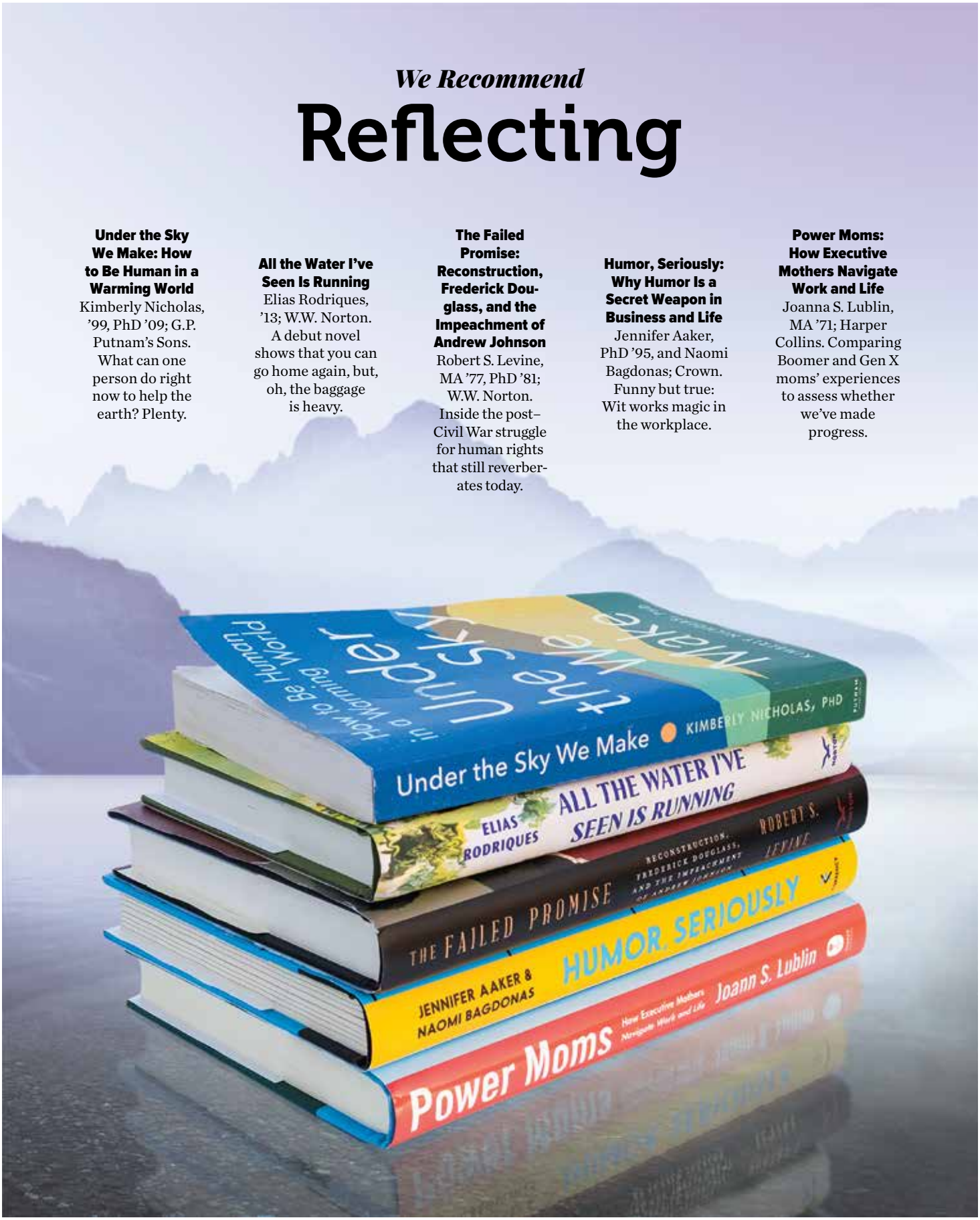
Under the Sky We Make: How to Be Human in a Warming World
Kimberly Nicholas, '99, PhD '09; G.P. Putnam's Sons.
What can one person do right now to help the earth? Plenty.

All the Water I've Seen Is Running
Elias Rodriques, '13; W.W. Norton.
A debut novel shows that you can go home again, but, oh, the baggage is heavy.

The Failed Promise: Reconstruction, Frederick Douglass, and the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson
Robert S. Levine, MA '77, PhD '81; W.W. Norton.
Inside the post–Civil War struggle for human rights that still reverberates today.

Humor, Seriously: Why Humor Is a Secret Weapon in Business and Life
Jennifer Aaker, PhD '95, and Naomi Bagdonas; Crown.
Funny but true: Wit works magic in the workplace.

Power Moms: How Executive Mothers Navigate Work and Life
Joanna S. Lublin, MA '71; Harper Collins.
Comparing Boomer and Gen X moms' experiences to assess whether we've made progress.



BOOKS: ERIN ATTKISSON; BACKGROUND COMPOSITE: BERNHARD FRITZ/GETTY IMAGES, ROB BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

Beyond the borders of this photograph is your own mosaic of memories: Ink drying on a masterpiece in an artisan's workshop. Footsteps echoing in a museum opened after-hours—just for you. These are just pieces of the picture. And a thousand words aren't enough.

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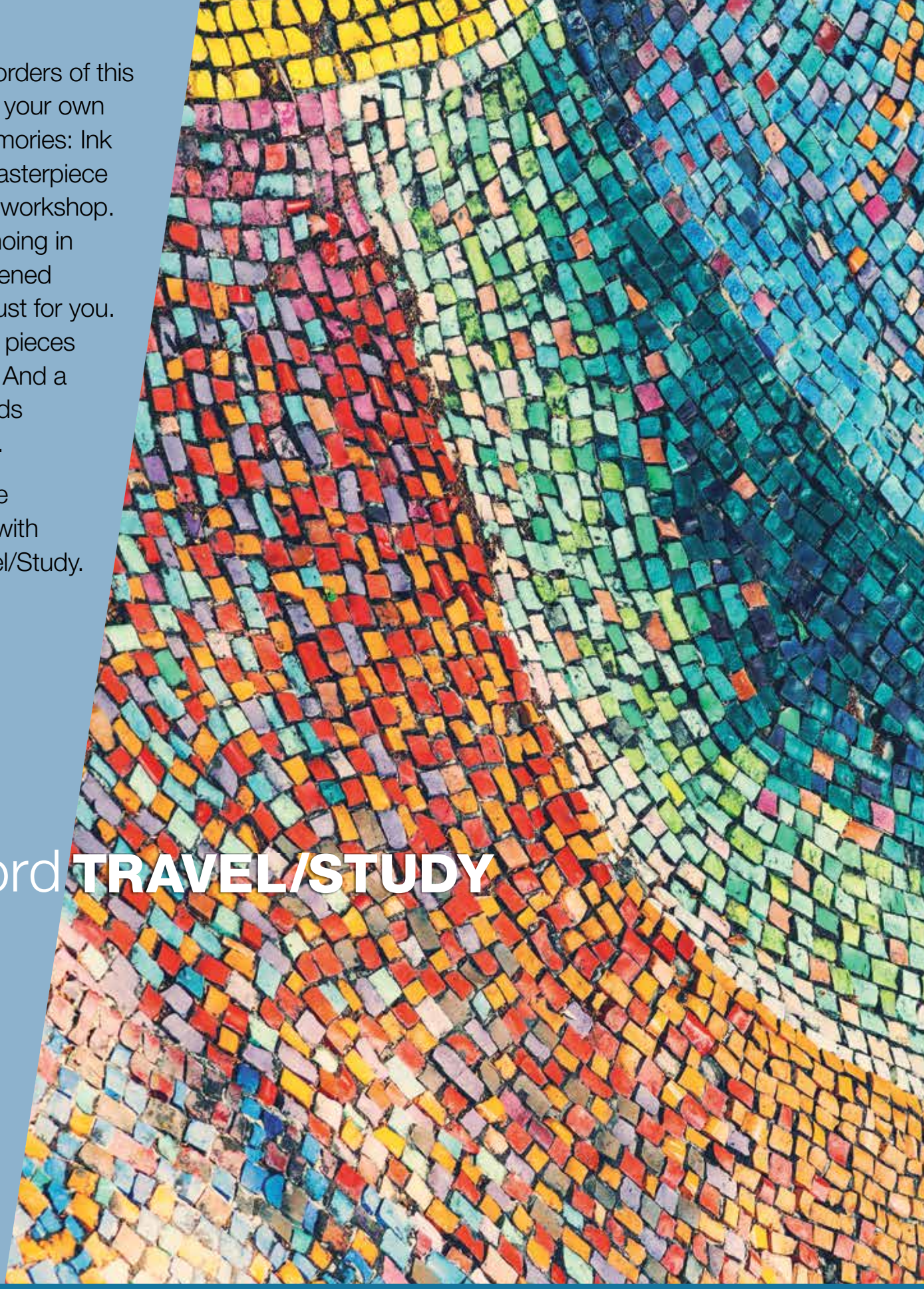

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Farewells

FACULTY

Richard Arthur Greene, of Larkspur, Calif., May 21, at 84, of T-cell lymphoma. He was a clinical professor of pediatrics. He completed his residency and a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at Stanford. Over his 48-year career at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, more than 500 of his patients were children of previous patients. He also served as president of medical staff and on the board of directors at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital. Survivors: his wife, Lynda; children, Bradley, Shelley Siechen and Amy Thacher; seven grandchildren; and sister.

Leonard M. Horowitz, of Portola Valley, Calif., November 11, 2019, at 82. He was professor emeritus of psychology. He originally studied verbal learning and memory, but after clinical training in psychodynamic psychotherapy at Mt. Zion Psychiatric Clinic, he shifted to interpersonal relationships and the social and motivational foundations of psychopathology. He served as president of the Society for Psychotherapy Research and Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research and received lifetime achievement awards from both organizations. Survivors: his wife, Suzanne, MA '62, PhD '65; sons, Jonathan, '92, MBA '97, and Jeremy; six grandchildren, including Hailey, '23; and brother.

P. Herbert Leiderman, of Stanford, April 1, at 97. He was professor emeritus of psychiatry and behavioral sciences. His research on infant and child development paved the way for hospitals across the country to allow parents closer contact with their newborns, even in neonatology intensive care units. He was also field director of a research project in Kenya and held a Rockefeller fellowship in Italy. He was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Gloria, and daughter Andrea. Survivors: his children Deborah, MD '86, Erica Rex and Joshua; two granddaughters; and sister.

John F. Manley, of Sunnyvale, Calif., September 5, 2020, at 81, of Alzheimer's disease. He was professor of political science and department chair from 1977 to 1980. His scholarship focused on presidential power, public policy and the function of Congress. He was a Guggenheim fellow and taught American politics as a Fulbright scholar in Italy. He also advocated on behalf of low-wage workers, including a campaign that gained housing improvements and higher wages for workers at Webb Ranch in Portola Valley. Survivors: his wife, Kathy Sharp, '80, JD '85, MBA '85; and children, Cole, '15, John Jr. and Laura.

Jack S. Remington, of Menlo Park, April 8, at 90, of complications of an injury sustained in a fall. He was professor emeritus of infectious diseases. His research on toxoplasmosis led to diagnostic tests and treatments used on newborns today. He published more than 600 research papers and 11 patents, held a wide array of professional leadership roles and received numerous professional recognitions. He was also an extreme-sports enthusiast with a penchant for mountain climbing. Survivors: his wife, Francoise Perdreau-Remington; children, David and Lynne; stepchildren, Matthias Schumacher and Geraldine Strunsky; and five grandchildren.

1940s

Gwendolyn Walta Miller Kerner, '44 (education), of San Francisco, April 24, at 97. After raising her children, she worked in the cancer program at Mt. Zion Hospital's medical education department. She excelled at badminton, golf, swimming and snorkeling, but her lifelong passion was traveling the world with her husband. Survivors: her husband of 74 years, John; children, John Jr., '69, James, '74, and Jan Adrienne Harper; three grandchildren, including Lisa, '09; and great-grandson.

Donald Tyler Elliott, '47, of San Mateo, Calif., March 13, at 94. He served in the Navy during World War II. He spent his civilian career as a self-employed manufacturers' representative and manufacturer of electric motor controls. He served as senior warden at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Burlingame, Calif., and as trustee of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco but became an observant Catholic later in life. He also enjoyed golf and had a passion for opera. Survivors: his wife of 73 years, Janice; children, Christine, Elizabeth, Frank, Jeanne, Linda and Lisa; and 12 grandchildren.

John Arnold Jamison, '47 (economics), MBA '49, of Carmel, Calif., July 1, 2020, at 95. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He returned to Stanford after serving in the Navy in World War II. After working as a manager for agriculture companies, he earned his PhD in agricultural economics from UC Berkeley. He returned to Stanford again to teach at the Food Research Institute and conduct research on agricultural policy and food marketing. He enjoyed playing tennis and golf. Survivors: his wife of 67 years, Barbara; children, Thomas and Nancy, '77, and four grandchildren.

Brewster Lee Arms, '48 (political science), JD '51, of Carlsbad, Calif., March 9, at 95. He was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his Army service in World War II. At Stanford, he pledged Chi Psi, played basketball and was a cartoonist for the *Daily*. In his legal career, he was general counsel of Signal Oil & Gas as it grew to become the diversified aerospace and manufacturing conglomerate AlliedSignal. He was an early enthusiast of surfing and beach volleyball. Survivors: his wife of nearly 60 years, Shirley; children, Emily, Stephen and Andrew; and granddaughter.

Priscilla Alden Townsend Long, '48 (political science), of Mercer Island, Wash., May 21, at 94. She was on the basketball team. After earning her JD from the U. of Washington, she became the first woman to clerk for a Washington Supreme Court justice and was later appointed as a lower court judge. After raising her children, she became a public affairs officer and lobbyist for PACCAR and worked as legal counsel for a series of banks. Survivors: her children, Susan, Michael, Molly Espey and Stephen; and 11 grandchildren.

Joseph Fowler Pickering, '48 (economics), MBA '50, of Ojai, Calif., March 26, at 93. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta and the football team. He ran insurance businesses for 65 years in Palo Alto and was a leader and participant in many community activities in the Santa Clara Valley. He especially loved traveling the world to scuba dive in tropical oceans. He was predeceased by his wife of 69 years, Helen (Dietz, '47), and son, Joseph Pickering II, '89, MA '90. Survivors: his daughters, Julia Warner and Amelia; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Gerald G. Jampolsky, '49 (basic medical sciences), MD '50, of Sausalito, Calif., December 29, at 95. He specialized in psychiatry, served as an Air Force staff psychiatrist and taught at UCSF. Influenced by *A Course in Miracles*, he founded the Center for Attitudinal Healing in 1975 and directed its growth into a network operating in 37 countries. With his wife, he authored several books and undertook efforts to support children facing life-threatening diseases, HIV/AIDS patients and others. Survivors: his wife of 40 years, Diane Cirincione-Jampolsky; sons, Gregory and Lee; four grandchildren; and brother, Arthur Jampolsky, MD '44.

1950s

Willard B. Hansen, '50 (history), MA '54 (education), of Los Angeles, May 18, at 96. He was awarded a Bronze Star as well as knighthood in the French Legion of Honor for his Army service in World War II. He earned a master's degree in history from Harvard. He was the principal of several middle schools and retired in 1989 as principal of Hollywood High School after 35 years with the Los Angeles Unified School District. He was predeceased by his wife of 48 years, Gloria. Survivors: his son, Joseph.

Jack Henry Sheen, '50 (psychology), MD '55, of Santa Barbara, Calif., April 19, at 96. He served in the Navy during World War II. After advanced training in plastic surgery, he developed new approaches to nasal surgery, for which he received the Distinguished Fellow Award of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons and other professional honors. He also taught surgery at UCLA and published numerous articles and a definitive textbook on nasal surgery. In retirement, he enjoyed golf and portrait sculpture. Survivors: his wife, Anitra; children, Joan Welch, Matthew and Michael; and three granddaughters.

Arthur Ellery "Zeb" Burgess Jr., '51 (English), of Falmouth, Mass., May 16, at 91, of cardiac arrest. He was a member of Chi Psi. After serving in the Coast Guard, he undertook a career in publishing sales and editing with Houghton Mifflin, Alfred Knopf and Harper. He was a self-taught electrician, plumber, carpenter and joiner. He especially enjoyed traveling to the national parks of Utah and the region around Lucca, Italy. He was predeceased by his wife of 48 years, Francesca Greene. Survivors: his son, Max; three grandchildren; and three brothers.

Monte Jay Hellman (formerly Himmelbaum), '51 (speech and drama), of Palm Desert, Calif., April 20, at 91. His 1971 road movie, *Two-Lane Blacktop*, flopped at the box office, but was praised by French critics, who named it one of the greatest American films of the 1970s. He directed biker films, Westerns and horror movies and also worked on such films as *RoboCop* and *Reservoir Dogs*. He won a Special Golden Lion for *Road to Nowhere* at the Venice Film Festival in 2010. Survivors: his children, Melissa and Jared; and brother.

John C. Henderson, ’51 (biological sciences), MD ’55, of San Francisco, May 14, at 92, of cancer. He was a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda. He specialized in internal medicine and maintained a private practice for over 60 years. One of the last doctors in San Francisco to make house calls, he also served as medical director at the Heritage on the Marina retirement community. He loved trail rides through the Sierras with his family. He was predeceased by his wife, Johanna (Bartky, ’52), and daughter Janet. Survivors: his daughter Susan.
Thomas Thole Williamson, ’51, MA ’55 (architecture), of Point Loma, Calif., April 26, at 93. He served in the Army in the Philippines after World War II and was called back during the Korean War. His architectural career took him from San Francisco to San Diego, where he opened his own firm in 1978. He was predeceased by his first wife, Sally (Smith, ’50); second wife, of 46 years, Jerry Jackson Waterman Williamson, ’50; and daughter, Tabi Kapple. Survivors: his children, Hildy Hammer, Stephen Waterman, ’73, and Michael Waterman, ’75; 12 grandchildren, including Andie Waterman, ’16; and nine great-grandchildren.
Joan Everett Dayton, ’52 (education), of Grass Valley, Calif., April 12, at 90. She co-directed a nursery school and taught elementary grades, including many years as a first-grade teacher at Holbrook Elementary School in Concord, Calif. She also taught high school Latin and at an art school for children she founded in Palo Alto. She loved traveling to Europe with her children and, in later years, visiting them overseas. She was predeceased by her daughter Maggie. Survivors: her husband of 65 years, Al, MBA ’57; children Jonathan, Jennifer and Peter; six grandchildren; and great-grandson.
Sharon Lee Edwards Girdner, ’52 (pre-nursing), of Pasadena, Calif., April 28, at 91, of congestive heart failure. As a Democratic activist and grassroots organizer, she promoted women’s rights, school and housing desegregation, gay rights, support for people with AIDS/HIV and the environment. She loved travel, visiting parks and public lands and embracing challenges. She was predeceased by her former husband, Peter Lee, ’44, MD ’47. Survivors: her children, Martha Lee, ’75, Susan Lee, MS ’84, Catherine Lee and Peter Lee; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
Robert A. Teitsworth, ’52, MS ’53 (petroleum engineering) of Laguna Beach, Calif., March 21, at 90. He served in the Army. At Stanford, he was a member of the golf team and Kappa Alpha. He retired as CEO of Occidental Oil and Gas and director of the Occidental Corporation. He later founded and led other petroleum, agriculture and property development companies. He also served in leadership roles for the R.M. Pyles Boys Camp and the Hoover Institution. Survivors: his wife of 49 years, Sandra; children, Susan Comisar, Stephen, ’79, and Flint; and two grandsons.
David Hunt Bruce, ’53 (basic medical sciences), MD ’56, of Los Gatos, Calif., April 28, at 89. A taste of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Richebourg 1954 as a medical student set the course for his future life. His dermatology practice provided the financial backing, while he provided the labor to clear the land and plant 45 acres of grapes for his pioneering vineyard in the Santa Cruz Mountains. His Chardonnay and Pinot Noir wines caught the attention of connoisseurs in the 1970s. Survivors: his wife of 37 years, Jeannette; sons, Karli, Dana, Dale and Barry; and grandchildren.
Diana Elise Davis Menkes, ’54 (communication), of Pasadena, Calif., March 17, at 88. She worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and then at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. As an editor for scientific and academic journals, she spent most of her life in Washington, D.C., and Luz, Portugal, with shorter stays in Tokyo, Boulder, Colo., and London—not to mention travels to more exotic destinations. She was predeceased by her husband, Joshua, and former husband, Newman Porter, ’53, LLB ’55. Survivors: her sister.
Janet Silvia Albertoli Paige, ’54 (psychology), of San Francisco, May 7, at 89, of ovarian cancer. With her husband, she raised children, ran the family business and traveled the world. He taught her to appreciate football and she taught him to enjoy opera and the symphony. Survivors: her husband of 66 years, Michael; children, Michele Schurman, John and Yvonne; and seven grandchildren.
Louis Andre Pujalet, ’54 (communication), of Kailua, Hawaii, March 24, at 89. After writing for the *Daily*, he continued his career in journalism as general manager of the *Hawaii Tribune-Herald*. After working for Honolulu Publishing, Xerox and Pitney Bowes, he started his own print shop in Honolulu. He was active in Jaycees and Lions Club and served as president of Rotary chapters in Honolulu and Snoqualmie, Wash. He was predeceased by his son Paul. Survivors: his wife of 67 years, Rita; children Marc, Michele Devitt and Lou Jr.; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two siblings.
John Paul Rohrer Jr., ’54 (geography), MBA ’56, of Lafayette, Calif., March 24, at 88. He was a member of Theta Delta Chi. He spent his career with Kaiser Aluminum in New Orleans and Kaiser Cement in California, retiring as vice president of marketing. He then founded an international consulting company and ran it until 2015. Survivors:

Psychologist Explained Why We Misunderstand One Another

Lee Ross investigated decision-making bias and the illusion of personal objectivity—and then walked his talk, taking his research beyond academia to conflict resolution parleys in Northern Ireland and the Middle East.

Lee David Ross, a professor of psychology and founding member of the Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation (SCICN), died May 14 in Palo Alto. He was 78, and the cause was kidney and heart failure, according to his son Joshua, ’94.

In a 52-year career at Stanford, Ross co-authored three books, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences, and received the APS William James Fellow Award, its announcement noting that his “formidable intelligence, innovative research and systematic theorizing have helped set the intellectual agenda of social psychology.” Ross’s work focused on human inference, intergroup relations, and the sources of bias and strategies for overcoming it—research he applied to citizen diplomacy and peacebuilding through SCICN, which he co-founded in 1984.

In *The Wisest One in the Room*, published in 2015, Ross and Cornell professor Thomas Gilovich, PhD ’81, sought to distill their work in social psychology to help readers better understand why people think and act—and make mistakes—as they do. To explain the objectivity illusion, for instance, the co-authors quoted comedian George Carlin: “Have you ever noticed that anybody driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?” In other words, we assume that our perceptions correspond to reality and that they are both accurate and objective—a universal experiential gaffe that leads to much of our social misunderstanding.

As part of his work on human bias, Ross became best known for coining the phrase *fundamental attribution error*, a psychological phenomenon that describes our tendency to attribute someone else’s actions to character while attributing our own behavior to external factors beyond our control.

Ross found practical applications for his research on intergroup conflict. He determined that in both Northern Ireland and the Middle East, each side of the conflict presumed that the other side had a problem, such as ignorance, that was blocking progress. Ross devised strategies to make opposing parties aware of their susceptibility to these bias barriers to resolving conflict, says psychology professor Mark Lepper, ’66.

“These real-world experiences, in turn, enriched his theoretical efforts greatly,” Lepper adds. “His work bridged the usual gap between theory and practice and helped to transform the critical agenda of social psychology.”

Ross was also a person who enjoyed jokes and told them quite well, according to Byron Bland, a former associate director of SCICN, who spoke at Ross’s June 9 memorial. He especially appreciated jokes that revealed a kind of wisdom. “Lee defined wisdom as knowledge in service of kindness,” Bland said. “Lee was indeed truly a sage.”

In addition to Joshua, Ross is survived by Judith, his wife of 56 years; children Rebecca, ’98, Timothy and Katherine; and seven grandchildren. *—John Roemer*

MARVIN H. BURKE/COURTESY ROSS FAMILY

his wife of 67 years, Sally; children, Michael, Kevin and Melissa; and four grandchildren.
William Edward Zidbeck, '54 (biological sciences), of Imperial Beach, Calif., March 14, at 88. Navy ROTC led to a career as an aviator, NROTC instructor at USC and two command posts. He also completed a master's degree in international relations at USC. In civilian life, he earned his teaching credential from San Diego State and taught biology at Castle Park High School in Bonita, Calif. He cofounded a branch of the Optimists Club in Imperial Beach. He was predeceased by his wife, Jo Ann (Hill, '56). Survivors: his children, Scott and Suzy; and four grandchildren.
Eugene M. Pepper, '55 (history), of Glendale, Calif., May 5, at 88. He was junior class president and a member of Phi Delta Theta. After graduation, he was commissioned as a Marine Corps officer and retired at the rank of captain. He spent his civilian career in real estate in the Bay Area. He was also vice president of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, founding chair of the Glendale Memorial Hospital Foundation Board and president of Glendale Kiwanis. Survivors: his wife of 62 years, Marilyn; children, Mike, Dana and Tracy; and six grandchildren.
Charlene Phebus Betts, '56 (political science), of Claremont, Calif., January 31, at 86. After graduation, she earned a teaching credential at the University of La Verne and taught elementary bilingual education classes for 25 years. She loved working with underprivileged children and was a member of the Children's Home Society and a 50-year supporter of West End Auxiliary of Children's Fund. Survivors: her husband of 64 years, Douglas, '56; children, Karen, Gregory, '82, and Cynthia; four grandchildren; and great-granddaughter.
Carole Jean Rosenthal Hemingway, '57 (international relations), of Los Angeles, April 28, at 85, of a stroke. Her student involvement with speech and debate led to a career in media. She launched her radio career in Phoenix, then relocated to Los Angeles, where she had a nationally syndicated column on political and social issues. She was also a television talk show host, CNN guest commentator and media consultant. Survivors: her husband, Fred; sons, Dan Himelstein and John Himelstein; and seven grandchildren.
Jean Marie McCarter Leonard, '57 (social service), of San Mateo, Calif., March 29, at 84. She was a member of Cap & Gown. She raised her sons in San Mateo, where she also served as PTA president. When her sons were older, she earned her master's degree in education from the U. of Michigan and worked for the Stanford Alumni Association as a leader of travel/study groups to Italy, China, South America and other destinations. Survivors: her husband of 64 years, Fred; sons, Russell, '85, and Gary; and three grandchildren.
John R. Morrison, '57 (French), of Eureka, Calif., April 25, at 88. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. At Stanford, he pledged Phi Delta Theta. After earning his JD at UCLA, he joined the family law practice. He served for 37 years as a judge on the California Circuit Court and Eureka Municipal Court. He also served as Rotary president and on numerous civic boards. Survivors: his wife of 61 years, Beverly; children, Sharon Hunter, Andrée Johnson and Marc; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and brother, James, '55, JD '60.
Donald Merritt Murchison, '58 (history), of Sacramento, Calif., June 18, at 84. He was a member of Theta Chi and the football team. He was an avid flyer and member of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron. As a licensed flight instructor, he helped friends and family members obtain pilot's licenses and also flew medical personnel to clinics in Mexico. He especially loved traveling the world with his wife, children and grandchildren. Survivors: his wife of 63 years, Sue (Hardgrove, '58); children, Tim, Allison Malecki, '82, and Andrea; six grandchildren; and brother.

1960s
Edwin Herbert Porter, '60 (electrical engineering), of Grass Valley, Calif., May 2, at 82. He worked in Silicon Valley in the computer technology field for 45 years. He was active in numerous community endeavors and had many interests, including woodworking, fishing, photography, watercolor, cooking and travel. Survivors: his wife of 40 years, Lucinda; children, John, Timothy, Michael, David, James and Amelia; and four grandchildren.
Margery Ann Melnik Gould, '61 (English), of Los Angeles, April 28, at 81. In her career with the government of Los Angeles County, she helped develop one of the first telecommuting programs in the country and was later executive director of the Commission for Children and Families. She was an enthusiastic mentor of young women, supporter of Democratic politics, advocate for social justice and world traveler, but her greatest happiness was spending time with family and friends at home or on the beach in Cambria. Survivors: her children, Jill Franklin and Adam, '94; grandson; and brother.
John Bingham Hurlbut Jr., '61 (political science), JD '64, of Tustin, Calif., June 15, at 82. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi and named MVP of the baseball team. During his 56-year legal career, he specialized in business litigation at Rutan & Tucker, where he was head of the litigation and trial section, managing partner and co-general counsel. The Orange County Bar Association recognized him with its highest honor, the Franklin G. West Award, as well as its Harmon G. Scoville Award. In 2010, he received the Anti-Defamation League Marcus Kaufman Jurisprudence Award

Psychologist Studied Learned Aggression

In a world seemingly consumed by negativity, **Albert Bandura** believed in the power of people to change their lives—and the world. He had experienced that himself, rising from modest circumstances on the Canadian prairie to become one of psychology's most influential thinkers. And Bandura built his career on his theory of self-efficacy: an insistence that people's beliefs in their abilities can shape their behavior.

Bandura, the David Starr Jordan Professor Emeritus of Social Science in Psychology, died at his Stanford home on July 26. He was 95.

Born in rural Alberta, Canada, Bandura earned degrees from the University of British Columbia and the University of Iowa. He arrived at Stanford in 1953 and began taking steps that would transform his field. "He went against the mainstream and really oriented psychology to the way people learn and form beliefs about their impact on the world," says Carol Dweck, the Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor of Psychology.

Bandura is most recognized for the "Bobo doll" experiments he and colleagues started in 1961. After children watched adults hit an inflatable doll called Bobo, they were prone to behave aggressively toward the doll, suggesting that children can learn social behavior, including aggression, from observation. Further experiments in which children were shown filmed violence indicated that exposure to televised violence could also trigger aggressive behavior. Bandura testified about his work before Congress, prompting the Federal Trade Commission to issue rules limiting violent content and shaping what generations of children would see on TV.

But Bandura's impact extends far beyond Bobo. "His claim to fame is, unfortunately, the Bobo doll because it is visual," says Philip Zimbardo, professor of psychology, emeritus. "For me, that is the least important thing he did." Zimbardo points instead to Bandura's enduring work on self-efficacy, research that continued into his 90s. His final paper, "Enlisting the Power of Youth for Climate Change," focused on the capacity of young people who believe they can make a difference to effect change. In 2016, President Barack Obama presented Bandura with the National Medal of Science.

Carol Bandura Cowley remembers how her father, a tireless worker, would set it all aside when her twin sons visited. They would spend hours in his garden, gathering tomatoes to share with the psychology department and constructing elaborate "raccoon traps" out of scrap wood.

Toward the end of his life, Bandura felt an urgent need to examine how his theories of personal and collective agency could be harnessed to help solve the world's pressing challenges, from climate change to gun violence and global health crises. "He had this positive belief that, given the right circumstances, people have much more control over their life and trajectory and ability to pursue the things that are important to them," Cowley says. "He still had hope."

Bandura was predeceased by his wife, Virginia. In addition to Cowley and her two sons, he is survived by his daughter Mary.

—Christine Foster

CHUCK PAINTER/STANFORD NEWS SERVICE

Survivors: his wife, Suzanne (Goode, ’60); and children, Norman and Vicky.

Mary Joanne Pewters Micklitsch, ’61 (English), of Bethesda, Md., December 17, at 81, of Alzheimer’s disease. She raised her children in Maryland, where she was a dedicated volunteer at her children and grandchildren’s schools, chair of the Landon Mothers Association and Brownie troop leader. She loved reading, collecting antiques and summer trips to Montana with her family. Survivors: her husband of 58 years, Max; children, Catherine Micklitsch Poston, ’86, MA ’86, Mary Micklitsch Mulligan, ’88, and John; seven grandchildren; and sister.

Robert Franklin Smayda, ’61 (psychology), of Walnut Creek, Calif., January 24, at 81, of inclusion body myositis. He rowed crew, pledged Delta Chi and studied abroad in Germany, an experience that drew his interest to social work. Following graduate study at the U. of Michigan, he had a 50-year career in social work for Contra Costa County. He enjoyed participating with his sons in Indian Guides and Boy Scouts and socializing with his fraternity brothers. He was predeceased by his son Anthony. Survivors: his wife of 57 years, Patricia; son Alex; and brother.

Gerald B. Rankin, ’62 (communication), of Oakhurst, Calif., May 16, at 80. Winning a Hearst Journalism Award as an undergraduate presaged his career to come. He worked for the Associated Press in San Francisco, took a year off to travel in Europe, and returned to California to cover politics for the *San Diego Evening Tribune* and work as city editor for the *Santa Barbara News-Press*. In retirement, he was a full-time reporter for the *Mariposa Gazette and Miner*. Survivors: his wife of almost 50 years, Anne-Jeannette; stepchildren, Jack Bischof and Sarah Bischof; three grandsons; and two sisters.

Norman Clement Stone, ’62 (economics), of San Francisco, April 2, at 81. He embarked on a career in venture capital, but changed course to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology from the Wright Institute. While working as a staff psychotherapist at Bayview Hunters Point Foundation, he began what became a significant collection of works by young artists. He served on the boards of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art and the Tate International Council. He was predeceased by his wife of 33 years, Norah, and son Norman. Survivors: his children Bryan, Mark and Amy; and five grandchildren.

Judith Anne Cleary Dowling, ’64 (nursing), of Fresno, Calif., May 13, at 79. She was in Cap & Gown. She worked as a public health nurse in the Bay Area, then raised her children in Fresno, where she was active in Junior League. She was an accomplished cook and gardener, loved tennis and enjoyed spending time with her family at their second home in Cambria, Calif. She was predeceased by her husband of 53 years, Mike, ’63. Survivors: her children, Michael and Kathleen; four grandchildren; and two siblings.

Robert Charles Friese, ’64 (international relations), of Sonoma, Calif., May 13, at 78, of Alzheimer’s disease. He was class president and a member of Kappa Alpha. After earning his JD from Northwestern, he joined the Securities and Exchange Commission and battled pyramid schemes. He co-founded Shartsis Friese, a law firm in San Francisco where he specialized in securities law and chaired related American Bar Association committees. He enjoyed playing pickup basketball, opera and the outdoors, and he led San Francisco Beautiful for more than a decade. Survivors: his wife, Chandra; and children, Mark, ’11, Matt and Laura.

Frederick Paul Romero, ’64 (history), of Lacey, Wash., March 26, at 78, of prostate cancer. He was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma. After Peace Corps service in Peru, a master’s degree from the U. of Arizona and a Fulbright year in Tübingen, Germany, he earned a PhD in German literature from the U. of Oregon. He served in numerous roles over more than 30 years in Washington state government. He loved annual sailing adventures with his fraternity brothers. Survivors: his wife of 39 years, Sandra; daughter, Zoe; stepson, Noel Marshall; two grandchildren; and brother.

Edward Charles Friedrichs III, ’65 (architecture), of Reno, Nev., May 13, at 77, of heart disease. He was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon. After earning his master’s degree from the U. of Pennsylvania, he spent his career with Gensler, where he served as president and CEO. In retirement, he formed a strategic consulting group. He served as a member of numerous boards, including the U. of Pennsylvania’s graduate school of architecture, planning and design. Survivors: his wife, Margaret; children, Gillian Ockner and Edward Friedrichs IV; two stepsons; three granddaughters; two stepgrandchildren; and brother, Jay, ’68, MBA ’72.

Philip Martin Humphreys, ’65 (economics), of Portola Valley, Calif., April 14, at 78, of congestive heart failure. He was a member of the football team and Phi Delta Theta. He was a systems analyst for several Silicon Valley companies. He enjoyed hiking, bicycling, competing in triathlons, playing bridge and traveling with his wife. Survivors: his wife, Sharon; daughters, Robyn Soden and Lisa Miller; and four grandchildren.

Joseph Anthony “Jay” Belloli IV, ’66 (art), of Pasadena, Calif., May 21, at 76. He grew up in Palo Alto, and his father was a Green Library librarian. After earning his MA in art history from UC Berkeley, he worked as a writer and museum curator, most recently at the Pasadena Armory Center for the Arts. He was a curator at the Detroit Institute for the Arts, San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston and Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis. He also served on the vestry at All Saints Church. Survivors: his stepdaughter, Sabina Aran-Dinsmoor; and grandson.

John Maynard Holley Jr., ’66 (political science), of Salernes, France, April 29, at 76, of Alzheimer’s disease. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta and the track team. He earned his MBA at Columbia, served in the Peace Corps in Colombia and taught business management in the Netherlands. After he earned a master’s degree in public health from the U. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his career took him to Barbados, Bolivia, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala and Washington, D.C., where he worked for WHO, the Gates Foundation and other organizations. He retired to his olive farm in southern France in 2018. Survivors: his wife, H.H. Holley-Beerman; and children, Karin Ann and Justin.

Craig Callen Baise, ’67 (history), of Glenbrook, Nev., April 14, at 75, of multiple myeloma. He was a member of Delta Tau Delta and the tennis team. He spent his career in financial printing as vice president of sales at Bowne and president of Pandick Los Angeles and the owner of Sutter Printing in Sacramento. He enjoyed tennis, golf, hunting and cooking, but found deepest peace while fishing on Lake Tahoe in late fall after most fishermen had left for the season. Survivors: his wife of 53 years, Cynthia (Hart, ’67); children, Brian, Susan Warburg, JD ’06, and Christopher; seven grandchildren; and two siblings.

Suzy Elizabeth Schroeder Chapman, ’67 (economics), of Hilton Head, S.C., April 30, at 76, of cancer. She earned her MBA from the U. of Houston and spent her working life as an investment portfolio manager, principally in Houston with additional years in Tulsa, Okla., Dallas and San Francisco. She loved hosting dinner parties and attending art and theater events with friends and family. Seeking a change of pace in retirement, she moved to Hilton Head, where she enjoyed golf and being involved in her community. Survivors: her daughter, Elise; and sister.

Raymond Gregory Rodeno, ’67 (psychology), of Napa, Calif., March 16, at 75. He was student manager for the football team and a member of Phi Sigma Kappa. He never took off his Block S ring. He practiced law after earning his JD from UC Davis, but his true passion was all things Italian, including a series of Alfa Romeos and especially winemaking. He introduced Sangiovese grapes to Napa Valley and established a family-run vineyard that sold wines under the Villa Ragazzi label. Survivors: his wife of 50 years, Michaela; children, Kate Harland and John; grandson; and three siblings.

Leo C.H. Soong, ’67 (history), of Walnut Creek, Calif., March 26, at 74, of cancer. A nephew of Chiang Kai-shek, he served in the army of the Republic of China. He gave lectures on his uncle’s diaries after they were made available by the Hoover Institution. After earning his MBA at Harvard, he co-founded Crystal Geyser Water and served on numerous corporate boards. He later earned a graduate certificate from Multnomah Biblical Seminary and traveled widely to spread the gospel. Survivors: his wife, Shirley; children, Shumin, Katherine, Shirley-May, Charles and Abigail, ’11, MS ’12; and brother, Ronald, ’66, MBA ’72.

Becky Lorette Brinegar Gill, ’68 (biological sciences), of Gainesville, Fla., January 25, at 73. She was a member of Cap & Gown and played on the tennis team. After earning her MD at the U. of Arizona, she served for 28 years in the Navy, where she wrote manuals on addiction and established addiction recovery programs. After retiring at the rank of captain, she traveled widely and served her community in Bronson, Fla., by promoting women’s fitness, rescuing cats and dogs, and serving on the boards of Haile’s Angels, Another Way and Helping Hands. She was predeceased by her husband, Jim. Survivors: her two siblings.

Robert Allen Loehr II, ’68 (biological sciences), of San Jose, May 16, at 74, of multiple myeloma. He was a member of Kappa Alpha. He earned his LLB from Santa Clara U. and was the in-house attorney for the San Jose and Great Oaks water companies. He loved to play bridge and golf, travel with his family, grow vegetables and cook. He especially enjoyed the family vacation home in Pacific Grove. Survivors: his wife of 32 years, Claire; stepsons, David and Darren; granddaughter; and three siblings, including Mary, ’69, and Jim, ’75.

Mary Carter O’Connor, ’68 (English), of Colorado Springs, Colo., July 20, 2020, at 75, of pancreatic cancer. She was marketing director at the United States Air Force Academy, College Board office director and owner of an admissions consulting practice. She was president of the Higher Education Consultants Association, served on the National Admissions Practices Committee and was the first female president of the Broadmoor Rotary Club. She was also a lifelong equestrian known for her mentorship and love of her sport.

Survivors: her husband, Michael; children, Erik Nickerson and Kitren Nickerson; stepdaughters, Katy O'Connor and Kelly O'Connor; two grandchildren; and brother.

Margaret S. Ishiyama Raffin, '68 (English), of Palo Alto, April 3, at 74. An early career in medical social work led to a master's degree in psychology from Santa Clara U. and work as a therapist. She was a trustee of the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, president of the Ishiyama Foundation, board member of the National Parks Conservation Association and supporter of the African Leadership Academy. She also helped found the Stanford Medicine Community Council and held numerous other board positions. Survivors: her former husband, Tom, '68, MD '73; daughter, Elizabeth, '04; two grandchildren; and two siblings.

John Douglas Hazelton, '69 (sociology), of Charleston, S.C., and Melvin Village, N.H., December 28, at 73. He was a member of Theta Chi. He served in the Air Force as a pilot and simultaneously earned his MBA from Golden Gate U. He spent his corporate career with Conoco, DuPont and MBNA. He had a lifelong passion for reading, loved golf and croquet and took particular pleasure in driving his Chris Craft Launch across Lake Winnipesaukee. Survivors: his wife of 50 years, Joan; children, Jennifer and Christopher; two granddaughters; and three siblings.

Sydnee Lee McEnerney Tyson, '69 (English), of El Cerrito, Calif., May 3, at 73, of cancer. Her time in Florence set her path: She earned a master's degree in teaching from Yale before spending most of her career as a Foreign Service officer in Mexico City, Buenos Aires and Belgrade, with additional family postings in Managua, Moscow and Sydney. She also worked at the Departments of State and Labor. She drew comfort in Anne Lamott's essays but found a better reflection of her joys and sorrows in Ludovico Einaudi's "Life." Survivors: her husband of 49 years, Donald, '69; daughters, Jessica, '04, and Elizabeth; granddaughter; and sister.

1970s

Catherine Jo Gilbertson, '71 (English), of Bellingham, Wash., May 4, at 72, of surgery complications. She earned a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine from Washington State U. As a female pioneer in her field, she was a respected veterinarian and business owner of The Cat Clinic in Bellingham. Her personal life was dedicated to rescuing pitbulls and thoroughbred horses. She won many awards for her Staffordshire bull terriers. She was an active member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and American Association of Feline Practitioners. Survivors: her two siblings.

John Marshall Sayre Jr., '74 (history), of Denver, March 20, 2020, at 68, following a long illness. He earned his MBA at Columbia and pursued a career in finance with a focus on banking and financial planning. His passions included skiing, gardening, reading history and the Broncos. Survivors: his children, Julia Donnelly, Joseph and Charles; former wife, Jannett Downer McIntyre, '74; five grandchildren; and two brothers, including Henry, '70.

Lauren Siok Ing Oei Shak, '77 (chemistry), MS '86 (biochemistry), of Saratoga, Calif., April 21, at 65, of cancer. She facilitated health education programs at Stanford Hospital in the Office of Community and Patient Relations. She moved to Saratoga to raise her family (and a few lovable dogs). Survivors: her husband of 34 years, Dennis, '80, MS '81; children, Christina and Ashley; mother, Tien Oei; and brother.

1990s

Ethan Findley Diehl, '94 (art), of La Quinta, Calif., March 26, at 49, of complications from diabetes. He worked as a software developer and database administrator at the U. of Texas. An art history class taught by Jody Maxmin and mentoring by Nathan Oliveira led him to explore his artistic interests and understand his colorblindness not as a barrier but as a way to express himself through the visual arts. He exhibited widely, including a solo show at the Hespe Gallery in San Francisco. Survivors: his significant other, Amanda Ward; parents, Paul and Dedra; and sister.

2010s

Adam Lowell Johnson, '13 (engineering), of Anacortes, Wash., September 26, 2020, at 29, in a hiking accident. He wrote for the *Daily*, played piano and guitar, performed in operettas, taught science for the Education Program for Gifted Youth and was proud of bridging the fuzzie-techie divide. After working as a ski instructor, he joined the Navy, earned his Wings of Gold in 2018 and served on the USS *Harry S. Truman* as an EA-18G Growler pilot. Survivors: his parents, Joni and Brian, '81; grandmother, Janice Goldstein; brother; and sister, Rebecca, '11, MA '12.

BUSINESS

John Franklin McNiff, MBA '66, of North Palm Beach, Fla., May 5, at 78, of cancer. During his business career, he served as CFO of the Allen Group and later of the Dover Corporation. He was an excellent tennis and bridge player and enthusiastic wine collector. Survivors: his wife of 52 years, Veronica; son, Duncan; and two grandsons.

Ellen Carol Barreto, MBA '80, of Chicago, April 7, at 71, of heart disease. She worked for CBS News and the New York Public Library before turning her attention to raising her children. She was an enthusiastic volunteer and enjoyed needlepoint, travel and reading, but her greatest passion was pursuing lifelong learning through the U. of Chicago, Hebrew U. of Jerusalem and Newberry Library. She supported progressive causes through Invest to Elect and had recently become a certified Pilates instructor. Survivors: her husband of 39 years, Jonathan Copulsky, MBA '80; and children, Alexander Copulsky and Elizabeth Copulsky.

EDUCATION

Elouise Wanger Conte Sutter, MA '53, of Oakland, April 13, at 96. She taught school in Palo Alto and Oakland and later earned a doctoral degree in educational psychology from the Wright Institute. She served as president of the Oakland YWCA and on the boards of the Center for Human Development and Lincoln Child Care Center. She enjoyed learning about the history and culture of places she visited with her husband of 64 years, John, LLB '54, who passed away on May 10. Survivors: her children, Susan Hultgren, Maria and Sally; and three grandchildren.

Robert Thomas Titlow, MA '54, of San Francisco, May 12, at 90. He served in the Army. He later earned a master's degree in drama from San Francisco State. He taught theater at Carlmont High School and then at Notre Dame de Namur University, where he also held administrative positions. He directed more than 100 university and community productions and also served as president of the California Educational Theatre Association. He was predeceased by his longtime companion, Diana Fee. Survivors: Diana's sons, Joseph Fee and Charlie Fee; and her granddaughter.

Vincent A. Amendola, MA '60, of St. Helena, Calif., March 3, at 97. He served in the Army during World War II. He taught high school in St. Helena and San Mateo, Calif., then spent the rest of his career with the California Teachers Association, eventually becoming executive director for a region stretching from San Jose to the Oregon border. In retirement, he returned to St. Helena to tend his vineyard and garden and traveled with his wife to Europe. Survivors: his wife of 73 years, Claire; children, Michèle, Steve and David; two grandsons; and brother.

Judith Ann Rusch Book, MA '64, of San Mateo, Calif., March 16, at 80, of Alzheimer's disease. At Stanford, she taught classes on rhythmic gymnastics, jazz dance, bowling and archery and coached the field hockey team and the Dollies. She retired to focus on her family, with a week reserved each summer for Stanford Sierra Camp. She also attended Bible Study Fellowship and eventually became the teaching leader of the Peninsula chapter. Survivors: her husband of 56 years, Norm, LLB '64; sons, Norman, '91, and John; three grandchildren; and three siblings, including Martha Rusch Mertz, '67, MLA '97.

Norton W. Thornton, MA '65, of Moraga, Calif., April 22, at 87. From 1974 to 2007, he was head swim coach at UC Berkeley. His teams won the NCAA championship twice and included numerous individual champions and future Olympic medallists. He also led several national swim teams in international competition. He was awarded National Coach of the Year honors twice and was selected four times as Pac-10 Coach of the Year. Survivors include his son Marc.

George James Michel, EdD '72, of Albany, Calif., April 9, at 86, of Alzheimer's disease. He served in the Army. He was a professor of education at South Carolina State College for 17 years and the author of a book and numerous scholarly articles in the field of education administration. He was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Jane. Survivors: his daughter, Martha; and two grandchildren.

ENGINEERING

John Ross Middleton Jr., MS '64 (industrial engineering), of Newport Beach, Calif., February 1, at 81, of respiratory failure. He served as an Air Force officer, retiring at the rank of captain. In civilian life, he spent 27 years with Eastman Kodak in New York, California and Illinois and retired as vice president, followed by four years with CB Richard Ellis in Singapore. Both during his career and in retirement, he loved traveling the world with his wife. Survivors: his wife of 56 years, Betty; sons, John Middleton III, '89, Robert and Matthew; and six grandchildren.

William Alton Drewry, PhD '68 (civil engineering), of Fayetteville, Ark., June 23, 2020, at 83. In an academic career spanning four decades, he taught at the U. of Arkansas, U. of Tennessee and, for 32 years, at Old Dominion U. in Norfolk, Va., where he was chair of the department of civil and environmental engineering and associate dean of the college of engineering. Survivors: his wife of 39 years, Nancy Miller; children, Christopher, William, Benjamin, Leslie Currey and Bette; seven grandchildren; and three siblings.

HUMANITIES AND SCIENCES

John M. Spalek, MA '57, PhD '61 (German studies), of Haverford, Pa., June 5, at 92. He was

professor of German at UCLA and then at the State U. of New York at Albany. His research, including the collection of original sources and publication of multi-volume reference works, documented German-speaking immigration to the United States during the Nazi era. He served as president of the Society of Exile Studies and was awarded the Goethe Medal for his work. Survivors: his children, Frederick and Anne; and two grandsons.

Ronald Leslie Soble, MA '62 (communication), of Malibu, Calif., June 20, at 85, of heart failure. During his career as a journalist, he spent more than two decades as a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* in addition to other newspapers and wire services. He was twice a co-recipient of the Gerald Loeb Award for distinguished business and financial journalism and also a co-recipient of a National News Emmy Award. He was the author or co-author of several books and a lifelong fan of jazz and baseball. Survivors: his wife, Anne (Schumann, MA '83); son, Mark, '86; grandson; and sister.

Barbara Lynn Bostick, MA '64 (art), of Berkeley, April 17, at 81. After Stanford, she discovered that her planned next step, a teaching credential from UC Berkeley, didn't suit her. So she focused instead on her art while working as a model and a technician on the Mariner Mars program. Her modeling work allowed her to explore the California coast she loved. Two of her pieces are owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Survivors: her niece and sister-in-law.

Anthony Lacy Gully, PhD '72 (art), of Tempe, Ariz., March 17, at 83, of heart disease. He taught art history for 36 years at Arizona State U. He also directed the art history component of ASU's summer program in Florence, Italy, for more than two decades. He was the winner of numerous teaching awards, editor of two art journals, exhibition curator at the ASU Art Museum and Phoenix Art Museum, and author of studies on Ruskin, Blake, Goya and Rowlandson. Survivors: his wife of 59 years, Anne; three daughters; and six grandchildren.

Frank Merritt Ruhlen, PhD '73 (linguistics), of Palo Alto, January 29, at 76, of Alzheimer's disease. By advocating for language groupings stretching across the world and deep into human prehistory, he pushed the boundaries of what relationships could be demonstrated between the world's languages and language families. He was a lecturer in anthropology and human biology at Stanford and co-director of the Santa Fe Institute's Evolution of Human Languages Program. He also held an appointment as a visiting professor at the City U. of Hong Kong. Survivors: his wife, Anca; sons, Johnny and Ricky; and sister.

Randall Wayne Marcinko, Gr. '86 (chemistry), of San Francisco, March 27, at 65, of liver cancer. As a graduate student, he saw a need for vastly improved data and document retrieval systems, which he addressed as a serial entrepreneur and business leader. He founded Dynamic Information Corp. and led it until its sale to EBSCO. Soon after, he founded the consulting firm MEI, Information Canada, Digital Learning Space and, most recently, MEI Global. He was also president of NStein Technologies and CEO of Groxis. Survivors: his partner of 41 years, Bob Nelson.

LAW

Chalmers W. Smith, LLB '54, of Palo Alto, May 11, at 92. In private practice, he loved fighting for underdogs and was particularly proud of winning a case against the Social Security Administration in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. He also played with the San Jose Symphony and, with his wife, in the Manzanita Piano Quartet and San Andreas String Quartet. He was predeceased by his wife of 32 years, Carolyn. Survivors: his former wife, Alice; daughters, Liz Currie and Sarah; stepchildren, Stephen Rumph, Todd Rumph and Alison Trembly; and five grandchildren.

John Herbert Sutter, LLB '54, of Oakland, May 10, at 92. He was a deputy district attorney and worked in private practice before being elected to three terms on the Oakland City Council. He served for 14 years as a superior court judge and then for 20 years on the East Bay Regional Park District board of directors, where he continued his lifetime of environmental advocacy by working to preserve open space and access to nature. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Elouise, MA '53. Survivors: his daughters, Susan Hultgren, Maria and Sally; and three grandchildren.

Geraldine Frances Steinberg, LLB '63, of Palo Alto, May 22, at 95. She was the first woman appointed to the Santa Clara County Planning Commission and the first woman elected to and to serve as board chair of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. She also founded the East Palo Alto Community Law Project and was a founding member of Congregation Beth Am. She was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Goodwin. Survivors: her second husband, John Thompson, MBA '51; children, Joan Laurence, MS '72, Robert and Thomas, MBA '82; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

Maureen Elizabeth St. John McClain, JD '74, of Tucson, Ariz., May 17, at 73, of corticobasal degeneration. She practiced labor and employment law with Littler Mendelson, then founded the San Francisco office of Kauff McClain & McGuire. She was a dedicated SPCA volunteer and patron of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the de Young Museum. She donated much of her private collection to the Iris B. & Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford. She was predeceased by her life partner of more than 20 years, Harold Kahn. Survivors: her mother, Anita St. John; and two brothers.

MEDICINE

Eli A. Layon, MD '54, of El Centro, Calif., March 25, at 97. He opened a private OB-GYN practice in the Imperial Valley in 1958 and delivered more than 12,000 babies during his career. He later co-founded the Imperial Valley Women's Clinic to serve low-income obstetrical patients. He served on numerous professional, county, and state-level medical boards and commissions. He also enjoyed deep-sea fishing, traveling in Baja California and spending time with family. He was predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Aileen. Survivors: his daughters, Linda Watson and Mindy; and two grandsons.

Richard Anthony Zuniga, MD '88, of San Francisco, January 22, at 60, of lung cancer. He was for many years the director of in-patient psychiatry at California Pacific Medical Center's Pacific Heights campus. As a musician, he enjoyed attending opera, ballet and symphony performances. He also loved to learn languages: He was fluent in French and Spanish, spoke Hebrew and had a working knowledge of Mandarin. Survivors: his husband of 13 years, Sean SeLegue; son, David Vapnek; parents, Tony and Mina; and two siblings.

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BY ALISON OZAWA SANDERS

Frosh out of Water

Those first weeks, I was sure I didn't belong at Stanford.

MARCELLUS HALL

IT WAS ORIENTATION WEEK. During a heated late-night discussion about our required summer reading, I mentioned that I disagreed with Socrates. Except I pronounced it "sew-crates." (I'd completed the reading but had never actually spoken the philosopher's name.)

"Is that how you pronounce his name in L.A.?" someone asked.

Immediately realizing my mistake, I forced a smile. "Yep. Personally, I've always favored good old Plat Toe." Everyone laughed, and the conversation moved on.

It wasn't the first time something like this had happened. Each time, the discomfort would take hold a little more. At night, I couldn't escape it. My room would be lit by the glow of the moon and the blinking light of my answering machine, silently shaming me for not having returned the calls of my family and friends back home. I'd mentally replay conversations I'd had during the day. As much as I loved Stanford, I was certain I didn't belong. I wasn't rich enough, I hadn't traveled enough, I didn't know enough, I hadn't accomplished enough. I was not enough.

On the first day of classes, I awoke to silence. For a split second I lay there, eyes closed, enjoying the stillness, and then shot up in bed and grabbed my alarm clock, which I'd had since I was 7. It was 9:42 a.m. "Oh god oh god oh god," I muttered, and I ran to my door, swinging it open to the long, silent hallway. Everyone else was in class.

Shame flooded me. I hated my room, hated my stupid useless alarm clock, hated myself. The feeling that I didn't belong at Stanford crashed down on me. The sun streamed through my window and the birds chirped outside, and I buried my face in my hands and cried. I wanted to make myself small enough to disappear, to not exist, to not have to be in this place.

An hour passed, maybe two. My sobs faded, and I began to hear voices outside. I stood up and wiped my eyes, pulling on a pair of jeans and running a brush through my hair. I opened my door, half expecting to find a crowd laughing at me, but instead I heard, "Ali! Come eat! There's lasagna!" No one had noticed that I'd missed my classes.

That afternoon, I bought two alarm clocks at the student union, and I enlisted my younger sister back home to give me a wakeup call. The next morning, I joined the rest of the student body for my first (their second) day of classes.

I followed a stream of students through a heavy double door, which opened to a huge auditorium with rows of velvety cushioned seats and, way down at the front, a podium flooded with light. It was breathtaking. I whispered to a girl walking in beside me, "Feels like the Academy Awards!" She shuffled past to find a seat, followed by a line of others. As I watched the rows fill, the overhead lights shone down on the sea of heads, and every one of them seemed to glow.

I took a seat in the back row, alone, wondering if the light would hit me too. ■

ALISON OZAWA SANDERS, '96, *lives in Santa Cruz, Calif. She's an assistant district attorney and a writer who gradually realized she'd been in the light all along. Email her at stanford.magazine@stanford.edu.*

Remember Stanford down the road

“It’s clear that Stanford opened so many opportunities over the years that we would not have had otherwise.”

Loretta Thermenos, pictured with her husband, Paris, MBA ’83

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He helped us find our son's calling. It was as plain as the nose on his dog's face.

I was worried my son lacked direction. Doug said he just needed to find his passion and suggested we all three meet for lunch at an outdoor café and chat. My son brought his rescue dog Max. Doug had brought a dog biscuit for Max and when he saw how well trained Max was, he recognized my son's true passion: working with rescue dogs. Doug connected him with a local rescue organization. A few years and my son is running the whole outfit. Doug saw something bigger in my son because he was paying attention to **the little things**.

— Ashley, Los Angeles

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