Dear Friends,

On a recent clear fall Friday evening, an assemblage of sensibly shod, audaciously shorn Simon’s Rockers followed professor Donald McClelland up and down trails, across streams, and through woods, stopping every so often to look where Don pointed—up. The newest member of our faculty in Environmental Science, Don is also an alumnus of Simon’s Rock (’00), and he knows the vertical countenance of our 275-acre campus better than anyone. His Simon’s Rock senior thesis title tells the story: “Naturally Occurring Woody Plants of Simon’s Rock College of Bard.” Or, in a word, trees.

Simon’s Rock was founded fifty years ago on the site of Great Pine Farm, purchased by the family of founder Elizabeth Blodgett Hall in 1922, although most of the pines on campus now are new growth—sprouting up since Mrs. Hall’s younger years when, perched on the Rock, she looked across the pastures that are now woods and invented stories for the distant figures walking up and down Alford Road. She conceived of Simon’s Rock, the nation’s first early college, as a place where that imaginative spirit would always thrive.

Our fiftieth anniversary marks the confluence of a remarkable number of ideas, initiatives, and milestones evoking Mrs. Hall’s imagination and innovation, including the fifteenth anniversary of the Bard Early College network. When members of our faculty and administration, most notably Pat Sharpe and Ba Win, joined President Leon Botstein to create the first Bard High School Early College in New York City, they propelled the Simon’s Rock idea—that a college education in the liberal arts and sciences should be available to younger students—into a growing national movement, with the Bard network of early colleges at the forefront of innovation.

Being unique is good in many ways. But I’m reminded of Adam in Paradise Lost complaining that he’d be happy in Eden if only he had someone to talk to. We now have colleagues at the Bard Early Colleges in Newark, New Orleans, Baltimore, and Cleveland, as well as three sites in New York City, with whom we can collaborate in the continuing evolution of our educational mission. The entity for that collaboration is the new Bard Center for Early College, a joint initiative of Simon’s Rock and the public Bard Early Colleges, whose mission is to advance our proven model through advocacy for, research in, and development of high-quality contexts—in our own schools and with our partners—where younger students discover higher learning. Here at Simon’s Rock, the Center for Early College has hosted a cohort of Bard Early College faculty in Great Barrington for a weeklong conference in Writing and Thinking pedagogy and begun purposeful work toward building a more inclusive and equitable community at our campus in Great Barrington. Meanwhile, a generous grant from the Carnegie Corporation is supporting the work of the Center for Early College to develop and expand upon our national public network.

The two-year-old Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock, our newest innovation, continues to complement and extend the early college mission. Those of us in the alumni community know (sometimes a little too well) the experience of explaining that early college is college in earnest. But I’ve come to believe that our model of early college in the liberal arts tradition isn’t only about college. It has implications for earlier and later education and for shaping the whole lives of the students we serve.

For me and for Don; for Gwendolyn Hampton Van Sant ’87, who now serves as our Director of Equity and Inclusion; for Sabrina Campbell ’12, Residence Director for Bard Academy; and for the many other alumni drawn back to Simon’s Rock to work on behalf of the idea that shaped our whole lives, there is plenty left to discover in the treetops, which tell a story of new growth and deep roots. This August, I’m proud to share, we welcomed 178 new Rockers to participate in Orientation Week and Writing and Thinking Workshop. I join them, in turn, in welcoming you to revisit campus during this milestone year.

Let’s wish Simon’s Rock a happy 50th anniversary together.

Sincerely,

Ian Bickford ’95
Provost and Vice President
I did not know who I was. But I was intimately acquainted with my circumstances. I had bounced from home to home, school to school, and state to state all my life. By the 11th grade, I had attended nearly ten schools from Brooklyn to South Central Los Angeles. My current guardians were abusive. I had scar marks from where they had beaten me, some of them now thirty years old. I had slept on the street more times than I cared to remember. Sleeping on the streets being a euphemism. I was a teenage girl and I worried what might happen to me if I slept so what I did when I crept out of the house at night was walk, up and down the highway, through suburban cul-de-sacs and empty strip malls until the first light of day signaled the all clear for me to come home.

I was not a genius, but I liked to read. My family was from Panama, but I had been obsessed with African-American history for as long as I can remember. I knew from the stories I read that my situation was challenging. It was not insurmountable. The tales of Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Frederick Douglass encouraged me to look for the “drinking gourd,” which is what slaves called the Big Dipper. The drinking gourd would lead me to the North Star that would lead me to a better place. Then one day, a brochure came in the mail, “Why Wait to Go to College?”

I took it to my guidance counselor, who was also my confidante, and she and I began to plan and plot. I applied to several colleges, but Simon’s Rock always stood out for me: a chance to go to college, and be with people my own age. I had done a lot of growing up in my sixteen years, but I found comfort in the idea that this was a school that would accept me at my age and challenge me intellectually but also be mindful of my emotional development. It meant a lot to me, as a black Latina, that the school was situated in the birthplace of W.E.B. Du Bois. I had not yet read the Souls of Black Folk, but I knew about Du Bois and his notion of the Talented Tenth. My heart quickened at the thought of somehow being able to tap into his tenacity, ambition, intellectual curiosity, and cosmopolitan elegance. His connection to the home of Simon’s Rock seemed like another sign that this would be the right place for me.

Look for the drinking gourd.
I remember the day Brian Hopewell called to tell me that I’d been accepted at Simon’s Rock and that even more amazing, the school would give me a grant in the form of a W.E.B. Du Bois scholarship. I remember how infuriated the assistant principal was at this news and how bewildered I was that a man who’d never seemed to take notice of me before had decided to act as a one-man road crew, throwing up obstacle after obstacle to my achieving my dreams. Thank God for my high school counselor, Edna Chatmon, and how her joy at my acceptance counter-balanced all that I had to face with the administration and my family at home. Thank God for all those black history books, torn and tattered volumes that had been written in the 1950s and 1960s as part of a blueprint of hope for future generations. Because of that one black woman, because of those books, I knew that I would not fail. As I reminded myself often in my four years at Simon’s Rock, if Henry Box Brown could mail himself to freedom, I could do this.

Like almost every freshman, everywhere, I thought that I was different from my peers. I was confident that the circumstances of my previous life made me a square peg trying to fit into a round hole. What I learned pretty quickly at Simon’s Rock was that square pegs were, in fact, the Simon’s Rock mold. Everybody was different, and individuality was prized. I did not come to Simon’s Rock to be a writer, but from the very first day of the Writing and Thinking Workshop, I realized that writing was going to be core to the experience of my education. I had immersed myself in the literature of women of color. This was the late 1980s and early 1990s, and there was an ocean of spectacular literature available by women like Alice Walker and Toni Morrison, Isabel Allende and Maxine Hong Kingston, and Louise Erdrich and Gita Mehta. But I learned in the classrooms of professors like Pat Sharpe, Arthur Hillman, Wendy Shifrin, Hal Holladay, Jamie Hutchinson, Peter Filkins, and Peter Cocks that writing was not to be tied to precious and grandiose notions of literature. Writing was a tool, a means of exploration, a way—to quote Adrienne Rich—“to explore the wreck. The words are purposes. The words are maps. I came to see the damage that was done and the treasures that prevail.”

It was this, the insistence of all that writing—not just paper after paper, but the dreaded response journals, presentations, and the like—that became the treasure of my education. I studied Picasso with Joan DelPlato and it is rumored that Picasso’s Bull is how Apple trains its employees to think more like Steve Jobs. In the 1945 lithograph, we see how Picasso strips down the realistic rendering into a series of lines and shapes that evoke something more powerful, more imaginative, something greater than the original whole. This is, I believe, the very crux of the Simon’s Rock education. Simon’s Rock at 50 is, now more than ever, more than a liberal arts lesson rooted in a tradition of critical thinking. Simon’s Rock is an innovation lab. It’s a school where your brain learns to think in 3-D. It is an education that can be applied to anything and everything.

I know this to be true because in the twenty-five years since I graduated from Simon’s Rock, I have been the youngest editor to be hired at the New York Times Magazine, a correspondent for BBC radio, an arts reporter for Newsweek magazine, a reporter in Japan, a four-time New York Times best-selling author, a children’s clothing designer, a director of brand development, a teacher, and a member of several nonprofit boards. I have built apps, written grants, and launched magazines. I’ve worked with art directors and architectural firms. I’m mostly called in to be the big-idea person, but I also know how to go micro. People count on me as a person who can get the job done. What job? Well, practically any job.

I’ve given more money to Simon’s Rock than any other organization (not a ton of money but a significant portion of what I’ve made) because I believe that our model of education is more vital than ever. I write this from Palo Alto where I’m spending a year as a fellow at Stanford, brainstorming about the future of journalism. I know that every room I will walk into this year, I’ll be bringing the lessons of the mentors who taught me—the professors I’ve mentioned and two critical forces of nature who taught me how to lead: Bernie Rodgers and Emily Fisher.

Thirty years ago, I thought that as a student of color, from a large urban area, with limited means, I was lucky to get into Simon’s Rock. I am so impressed with the Bard High School Early Colleges and the Bard Network and how thousands of kids in the types of schools that I grew up attending have access to the same incredible education that I received at Simon’s Rock. There is a true north to the education of Simon’s Rock. It has been, since the very beginning, about innovation, vision, bold moves, risk taking and blue-sky thinking. It started with Elizabeth Blodgett Hall, continued with Leon Botstein, and this is the thing: at 50, it’s just getting started.

My friend Lorene Cary told me that it was on a cold and clear night, walking across the Simon’s Rock campus, that she was able to envision the scenes that would lead to her award-winning novel, The Price of a Child. Simon’s Rock is a small place from which you can see a thousand stars. In the best of circumstances, when those stars align, when the staff and professors offer up their gifts and you are able to receive them, you leave with a sense of your own true north that can guide you anywhere and everywhere. It is the college’s 50th birthday, but the gift lives in us.

Veronica Chambers is a prolific author, best known for her critically acclaimed memoir, Mama’s Girl. In 2017, Veronica will publish two books: The Meaning of Michelle: 15 Writers on Our Iconic First Lady and How Her Journey Inspires Our Own and The Go-Between, a young adult novel.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Inventive Paths

Call it courage, chutzpah, gumption, or guts, the decision to apply to college two years before your high school classmates requires initiative and drive. It might explain why so many Rockers forge independent career paths. The five alumni profiled here are idealistic entrepreneurs who’ve founded startups that they believe will change the world.

Helping People Make Better Health Care Decisions

Like many Rockers, Maudie Hampden Shah ’99 and Sumul Shah ’99—two of the co-founders of a free online platform called Amino (amino.com) that allows users to find doctors with the experience to meet their specific medical needs—had no idea that early college was an option until a recruitment brochure arrived in their mailboxes when they were high school sophomores. Maudie remembers the picture of “a grinning science geek,” and the headline, “What if you didn’t have to wait to start college?” It directly spoke to her. Although she was in an engineering magnet program at a public high school in Florida, she did not feel sufficiently challenged. After perusing the Simon’s Rock website and learning about the Acceleration to Excellence (AEP) scholarship, her parents encouraged her to apply and said they’d allow her to go if she got a full scholarship. “When I received the letter saying I had won, I felt like some magical door had just opened, inviting me onto an entirely different path from the one I had been on so far,” she says.

Sumul, who attended high school in Pennsylvania, received the same brochure with “Dmitry Kondrashov wearing an oversized T-shirt and grinning quizzically in the lab,” as he recalls, and applied for, and received, a full AEP scholarship, too. “I’ll never forget opening the acceptance letter and realizing my life was about to change,” says Sumul.

Maudie and Sumul bonded over their shared ambition—and confusion—in calculus and physics. “We quickly came to understand each other as academic rivals-slash-collaborators,” says Sumul. They became lab partners in chemistry class, began dating after graduation, went on to study electrical and computer engineering at Cornell, and married in 2005.

They describe their two years at Simon’s Rock as transformative. “When people ask me about the quality of academics at ‘that early college’ compared to Cornell, I chuckle and tell them it’s no contest,” says Sumul. “The teachers I had the privilege to work with at Simon’s Rock were truly inspiring.” Maudie cites cognitive neuroscience professor David LaBerge as especially influential and impassioned. “He really loved teaching and was adept at bringing abstract concepts to life through metaphor and demonstration, which was a gift,” she says. “David’s classes were where I started learning how to think about the mind with models and how to design experiments to tease out what’s going on inside these gray lumps of wetware we’re all carrying around in our heads.”

The Shahs began a consulting business, Studio Shah, where they offered data-driven product designs for companies like eBay, CloudFlare, and Collaborative Drug Discovery. In 2009, they were hired by David Vivero to design the user experience, user interface, and branding for RentJuice, an online real estate marketplace, which he sold to Zillow a few years later. In 2013, he approached the Shahs about applying “health care claims data assets that could be used to create a direct-to-consumer product to help people make better health care decisions,” says Maudie. The project was so compelling that the Shahs proposed becoming co-founders so they could devote all their energies to the new company, called Amino.

Launched in October 2015, Amino gives consumers the ability to find the most experienced doctors to perform certain surgeries or treat specific conditions. “Since the summer of 2016, Amino has been offering cost
estimates and out-of-pocket calculators for dozens common medical services,” says Maudie. “We’re going to be rolling out more and more cost data over the coming months to cover more of the procedures and services people are interested in shopping for based on price.”

The vibe they’ve fostered at Amino’s San Francisco headquarters is collegial and familiar. “For a long time, what I missed most about Simon’s Rock was the feeling of community and belonging that I experienced with my friends and teachers there,” says Maudie. “I’m starting to feel like Bob, Abe, and Youngro—Then Sumul and I may have infused a bit of the wonderful Rocker weirdness into the Amino culture, so I get to experience some of it again in the day-to-day at our office.”

Creating Jobs in Our Community

As teammates on the Simon’s Rock basketball team, Abe Chu ’00, Youngro Lee ’00, and Bob Dunton ’00 know what it’s like to be underdogs. “The other teams were bigger and stronger,” says Youngro. “Clearly, we weren’t going to win many games.” It’s fitting that NextSeed (www.nextseed.com) —a FinTech startup that they started in 2014—is devoted to the little guy. Through NextSeed, anybody can invest in small businesses such as restaurants and spas via debt or revenue-sharing securities.

The rigor of the Simon’s Rock curriculum, the professors’ high expectations, and the emphasis on learning as a process of self-discovery and self-discipline, encouraged all three men to set high standards for themselves and fueled their ambitions when they continued their educations after receiving AA degrees. “Simon’s Rock was my first opportunity to interact with people clearly smarter than me,” says Youngro, who was born in Korea and arrived in Great Barrington after two years at a high school in North Carolina. “It was a culture shock—an alternate reality. It opened up new perspectives and possibilities, made me want to be better. I was forced to interact with people who I thought I had nothing in common with. Simon’s Rock made me think about life.”

Abe came to Simon’s Rock from a large public high school in Houston where he didn’t feel engaged intellectually. “It was easy to skate by,” he says. At Simon’s Rock, his teachers and peers pushed him to be his best self. “Professors challenged us, and I got even more out of the debates inside and outside of the classroom. It’s an environment that was completely different than what I had before. I was constantly pushed outside of my comfort zone, and I loved it!”

For Bob, who came from a private school in Wichita, Kansas, “Simon’s Rock had the biggest impact academically,” he says. “It pushed me to question at a deeper level and not take anything for granted, take blinders off, so to speak, and peer behind the curtain. I carried that ability into life experience.”

Beyond the basketball court, the classmates cemented their bond as resident associates at Dolliver, which was another extracurricular activity for them to cultivate leadership skills that have been critical to their success. After Simon’s Rock, they headed in different directions, but stayed close and reunited at least once a year. Youngro went to Cornell where he earned a BS in Industrial and Labor Relations as well as a JD/LLM in Comparative and International Law. He became a private equity lawyer at elite law firms—Cleary Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton, Kirkland & Ellis, and Weil Gotshal & Manges—where his job took him to Hong Kong, Moscow and Shanghai. “Simon’s Rock is not for everyone,” he allows. “While we are not a big brand, Simon’s Rock gives you the tools to do what you want to do, and challenges you to try new things.”

Abe agrees with his friend. “If a student is motivated, Simon’s Rock has a way to harness that motivation,” he says. After his two years in Great Barrington, Abe moved to Texas, earning his BA in economics and an MBA at Rice University, honing his marketing and business development skills at Samsung, Premium Retail Services, as well as two startups and

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www.simons-rock.edu
“NextSeed is about empowering people and having a local impact on small businesses. We’re creating jobs in our community.” —Abe Chu

a brief stint in the Simon’s Rock office of Institutional Advancement. Bob transferred to Union College to study computer science and mechanical engineering, and later attended Georgia Institute of Technology where he received a master’s degree in mechanical engineering. His professional career put him in leadership roles with GE’s Edison Engineering Development Program and then as chief information officer and deputy chief operating officer at the law firm Tully Rinckey.

With his private equity experience, it was Youngro who recognized that new finance laws offered unprecedented opportunities for business development that would benefit small businesses and investors. Knowing that he needed partners with marketing and technical expertise to launch NextSeed, he turned to his former teammates. Abe quit his job and signed on as NextSeed’s chief marketing officer. “I knew that our shared Simon’s Rock experience meant we would have a strong working relationship,” says Abe. “We have an inherent trust. We can challenge each other without taking it personally. And Youngro is a phenomenal salesman!” And, most importantly, the new company had a mission that rekindled his youthful idealism. “Ever since Simon’s Rock, I knew I wanted to build a socially responsible company. NextSeed is about empowering people and having a local impact on small businesses. We’re creating jobs in our community.”

Youngro and Abe agreed that Bob was their number one choice for chief technology officer. They hit him up on his wedding day, and it was an offer he couldn’t refuse. “NextSeed came up at the right time,” he says. “It was an opportunity to pursue something with more meaning—a chance to work on more impactful technology. And more than that, the ability to work with these guys, to change the way things are done.”

“What you learn won’t always be visible right away, but Simon’s Rock was a turning point. I learned skills there that I’ve applied throughout my life.” —Youngro Lee

It was just the three of them behind NextSeed’s 2015 launch in Texas. They have since expanded to nine full-time employees, launched their national portal—the first SEC-registered Funding Portal under the JOBS Act—and closed the first ever Regulation Crowdfunding offering in US History. “To date, people across the country have funded over $2.5 million in business loans for 15 small businesses nationwide,” says Youngro, adding that NextSeed has now established a presence in San Francisco, New York, and Los Angeles. “Two years ago, it was just an idea. Now real people are using and relying on our services—especially local businesses that truly depend on our financing and marketing solution. A lot of people didn’t believe it could be done, but we’re proving that this model works.”

When he reflects on his career trajectory, Youngro sees Simon’s Rock as the starting line. “At the time you are there, it’s hard to know what you will get out of it and how it will impact your personal and professional life,” he says. “What you learn won’t always be visible right away, but Simon’s Rock was a turning point. I learned skills there that I’ve applied throughout my life.”

2016 Simon’s Rock Legacies . . .

Wallace Brierley-Bowers, godmother Alice Brierley-Johnson ’92 (who is holding future Rocker Ollie ’29), father Keith Brierley-Bowers ’80, mother Penny Brierley-Bowers ’80, sister Perri Brierley-Bowers ’08, and godfather Marvin Birmbaum ’79.

Aaron Weiss, brother Jared Weiss ’10, and their parents.

Lucy Introcaso and mother Julie Johnson Introcaso ’81.

Mikaela Kuller Dalessio and mother Lisa Kuller ’78.

Legacies not pictured: Natalie Becker (cousin Shani Ferguson) Tahering Rikael (cousins Tahering Choki and Sonam Wangmo) Matthew Meier (sister Elizabeth Meier) Freya Dobson (brother Benjamin Dobson) Sonam Wangmo (sibling Tahering Choki and cousin Tahering Rikael) Carrie Basch (brother Aaron)
“So go out there, be citizens, and make the world a better place.”

—Nobel Prize-Winning Economist Paul Krugman Delivered the 2016 Commencement Speech
IN EVERY FAMILY AND COMMUNITY—across boundaries of race, ethnicity, economic status, and nationality—there is a shared understanding that a good education provides a running head start for a successful life. A strong foundation in the arts and sciences teaches young people how to think, create, and problem-solve, orienting them toward lives of meaningful contribution.

Today, the link between higher education and economic stability has never been greater. Educators, scholars, and legislators are looking closely at the importance of access and completion for students of all backgrounds: access to a college education and completion of a college degree.

Students across the country struggle with a tangle of issues related to higher education, from the pressures of the admission process to questions of college cost. The early college movement has gained steady momentum by presenting elegant solutions to complex and persistent challenges in areas such as equity, inclusion, access, and completion.

The Center for Early College was established to preserve and promote the early college idea through ongoing activity in four spheres: teaching, research, advocacy, and public policy.

**Teaching and Research: A Unique Approach to Learning**

Simon’s Rock was founded in 1966 to explore the premise that young people are ready for a greater intellectual challenge than they are offered in high school. As the nation’s first and oldest early college, Simon’s Rock has served as the academic and curricular hub of the early college movement. Fifty years later, the idea of early college has become so magnetic that institutions across the country have adopted, and adapted, the approach.

Today, Simon’s Rock is the site of training for high school and early college teachers around the country. Each year, teachers from the public Bard Early Colleges come to Simon’s Rock for a weeklong workshop in writing and thinking, an approach to enriching the classroom through writing, discussion, and the exploration of ideas. Simon’s Rock is also home to Bard Academy, a two-year high school where students are encouraged to ask questions, share ideas, and engage in intellectual discovery. Students from Bard Academy enter college directly after the tenth grade and are ready, both academically and socially, for the intellectual challenge and rich cultural experience of early college. Simon’s Rock and the Bard Early Colleges continue to evolve as the early college movement grows in scope and importance.

**Advocacy and Public Policy: Making an Impact on American Education**

“Early college is an idea whose time has come, an idea that merits a real and ambitious application, not just within the growing Bard universe but in American public policy as well,” explains Stephen Tremaine, vice president of Early Colleges at Bard College. “We have the ideas, resources, and expertise to really, ambitiously, change American education by bringing early college from the fringes of education reform to the center where it belongs.”

In many ways, early college—as an approach and movement—is the answer to vexing challenges that have plagued the American education system for decades, particularly in the areas of access and completion. Early college is a compelling approach to education, not only because it inspires everyone who observes it in action but also because it produces tangible results for young people.

Independent research conducted by Metis and Associates found that “98 to 100% of BHSEC (Bard High School Early College) students receive a high school diploma and 90% receive an Associate in Arts degree. More than 97% of BHSEC students continue their studies at a four-year college or university . . . and more than 90% complete their baccalaureate degree, significantly more than the national average of 59% (within 6 years).”

In April 2015, US Senators Rob Portman and Mark Warner, along with Representatives Marcia Fudge and Chris Gibson, introduced Senate Bill 1106, the “Go to High School, Go to College Act of 2015.” This bicameral,
It is an odd liminal time to be at school while the school part of it isn’t happening. I interviewed alumna and the new director of Equity and Inclusion, Gwendolyn Hampton VanSant, and Provost Ian Bickford over summer break, when I was on campus without classes or the majority of my fellow students. I got an insight into the preparation of this anniversary year through conversations with Ian and Gwendolyn about the Office of Equity and Inclusion.

An expert in diversity leadership, social justice organizing, and cultural competence, Gwendolyn has been recognized numerous times for her work as CEO and co-founding director of Multicultural BRIDGE, a partner organization that works to educate communities to overcome bias and barriers. In September 2016, she was named to the Berkshire 25, Berkshire Magazine’s list of the “most dedicated, most creative, most influential of the Berkshires.”

The Office of Equity and Inclusion will operate with Gwendolyn as director and a newly formed Council of Equity and Inclusion as advisors and liaisons. Faculty, staff, and student representatives will serve as ambassadors to advance the efforts of Equity and Inclusion on campus.

What Gwendolyn and the Council plan to do is create an intentional environment where everyone can share and participate in the conversation of how to make our campus more inclusive—so that our students can then participate in building a more inclusive world. “Students leaving Simon’s Rock are already better equipped than most college graduates for a positive and restorative presence in the world,” Gwendolyn said, “but the more awareness that is brought to the privileges that come with such an education, the more able we all are to encourage others in the pursuit of equity and inclusion in all facets of being a global citizen.”

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—Gwendolyn Hampton VanSant ’87

Ian emphasized that what escapes notice too often is that American college education in many of its structures is built to exclude, is selective by nature in many of its forms, and in programs, curriculum, and values often reinforces wealth inequality and social divisions. “The exciting thing is the prospect of reinventing and rebuilding those structures,” he explained. “I actually think early college itself is one of the ways of rebuilding structures to include rather than to exclude, and as such, offers a foundation for Gwendolyn’s endeavor to engage everyone and make them feel like they’re a part of the conversation.” Gwendolyn’s work uses the restorative practice model, which is always about reducing harm and creating relationships.

The Office of Equity and Inclusion is part of the Center for Early College, the umbrella network established to advocate for our early college model in all sectors, public and private. The goals for the Center for Early College are threefold: firstly, curriculum and pedagogy across the early college system, sharing with each other resources and practices and ideas; secondly, policy and advocacy—that is, promoting the Early College mission and model nationally and internationally; and thirdly, developing and growing partnerships with other people who do similar and intersectional work with the Early College ideology.

As the Center for Early College was designed, Gwendolyn’s role was integral to the process. “If we’re serious about the premise that equity and inclusivity are pivotal to the Simon’s Rock idea, then it makes sense to locate her work at the center of our work, literally and figuratively. So, she was the first person hired by the Center for Early College, and I quite like the symbolism of that . . . I think she’s positioned to work here, and with the public early colleges, to articulate and to emphasize early college as encouraging of college access, and especially access to the liberal arts for students who don’t otherwise have an obvious or ready inroad,” added Ian, who is working to institutionalize the three pillars of Simon’s Rock: early college; in the liberal arts; and fostering inclusive communities. “Simon’s Rock’s history of excellence in offering an early college education in the liberal arts enables inclusion to be increasingly given more attention.” Ian and Gwendolyn agree that Simon’s Rock has in its DNA a way to be able to do this more readily than other institutions.
bipartisan bill proposes to award Federal Pell Grants to students who complete college-level courses while enrolled in early college high schools.

These efforts, among many others, work to increase access to higher education for young people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. "The ambition driving the Center for Early College is to create conditions in which an early college education can be available to young people across the country," Tremaine noted. "Our strongest impact will be through education for young people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. "The Center for Early College brings together the most knowledgeable, talented, and experienced team within the greater early college movement to lead and to widen the conversation about an idea with extraordinary successes behind it and extraordinary potential ahead."

The Center for Early College is generously supported and made possible by Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Gwendolyn outlined practical changes that she hopes will move campus discourse in a more inclusive direction. Bob Graves, dean of Campus Life, was trained in restorative practices over the summer in conjunction with a reevaluation of the grievance and disciplinary action process. "I’m looking at doing discipline differently, ensuring that it is restorative and reparative and that it involves a learning process for all involved," Gwendolyn explained. "To me, we at Simon’s Rock are in a learning community that is small and conducive to being relationship-focused, and restorative practices relate to the preservation and restoration of the positive interpersonal relationship." Also planned are regular Friday afternoon discussions about diversity, equity, and cultural competence issues. Gwendolyn’s main focus is community engagement to reduce isolation on campus and encourage collaborative partnerships between students and staff through service learning projects in the Greater Berkshire Community.

Offering her thoughts on how technology can both help and hinder restorative practice, Gwendolyn said, "There is an interesting dichotomy in an environment where everyone has an opinion and has the constant access to express it in an impersonal way—evading personal accountability—through their devices and social media platforms." Gwendolyn hopes to address the problem by leading by example because “anything you do that shuts down a conversation is not productive." To combat the inherent judgment and lack of communication involved in the internet “social justice warrior” stereotype, signified Equity and Inclusion SafeZones will be established where people can know that there’s someone trained in positive education practices (or LGBTQIA+ awareness) to bounce ideas off of and create safety zones for community. She added, “I’m mindful that not everyone on campus is going to agree politically. How are we doing the work and they’re supported and there’s a strong team behind them. This equity and inclusion work is a campus-wide effort." Gwendolyn encourages those interested in what to do next to read “The Complexity of Identity: Who Am I?” by Beverly Tatum, and to take the Harvard Implicit Bias Test. “That test is one that illuminates the biases we all have—self-awareness is key to put attention and intention in catalyzing self-awareness and change.” She emphasizes cultural humility and knowledge of self as the point of departure for this work; being able to hold a true conversation with another person requires knowing yourself enough to share your space and ideas.

“The real fruition of the idea born at Simon’s Rock is in the fact that we are no longer its only practitioners—far from it,” said Ian Bickford, provost and vice president of Bard College at Simon’s Rock, who is also an alumnus of the College, founding dean of Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock, and former member of the faculty and administration at the Bard Early Colleges. “Our fiftieth anniversary at Simon’s Rock and fifteenth at the Bard Early Colleges simply mark a beginning for what is possible when younger students are empowered, at the moment they are most ready, with an education in the liberal arts and sciences. The Center for Early College brings together the most knowledgeable, talented, and experienced team within the greater early college movement to lead and to widen the conversation about an idea with extraordinary successes behind it and extraordinary potential ahead.”

The Future of Education

At the center of this discussion—of education, pedagogy, and public policy—are our young people: how we think of them, what we expect of them, and what we want for them. High school and college years make up a distinct and critical stage of life. It’s a time of questioning and absorbing, a time where glimpses of trade, calling, and career begin to take shape and come into view. When young people are encouraged to question, create, analyze, and explore, we activate some of the most critical elements of an innovative society.

“...each student, faculty, and staff must own the responsibility of sharing a common and inclusive project”

of the climate that’s about to come about with elections, and I want us to be ahead of having conversations about the conflict ahead, knowing that not everyone on campus is going to agree politically. How are we incorporating those voices and learning to get along and listen instead of separating ourselves and isolating those ‘not like us’?”

In order to do this, it’s key that the work of building an equitable community lies with the individual. In the same vein as Gwendolyn being the “heartbeat” or “reminder” of Equity and Inclusion, she is not the only person doing the work; each student, faculty, and staff must own the responsibility of sharing a common and inclusive project. “My hope is to coordinate and reduce silos and actually make them feel like they’re doing the work and they’re supported and there’s a strong team behind them. This equity and inclusion work is a campus-wide effort." Gwendolyn encourages those interested in what to do next to read “The Complexity of Identity: Who Am I?” by Beverly Tatum, and to take the Harvard Implicit Bias Test. “That test is one that illuminates the biases we all have—self-awareness is key to put attention and intention in catalyzing self-awareness and change.” She emphasizes cultural humility and knowledge of self as the point of departure for this work; being able to hold a true conversation with another person requires knowing yourself enough to share your space and ideas.
2016 Book One
Award-winning author Don Mee Choi was on campus September 29 to talk about her book, Hardly War, the Book One selection chosen as the first book of the General Education program for the incoming class of 2016. Her work includes The Morning News Is Exciting (Action Books, 2010) and the translation of Kim Hyesoon’s Sorrowtoothpaste Mirrorcream (Action Books, 2014).

Fifth Annual Rock the Community: A Day of Service in Honor of Emily Fisher
Rockers participated in the fifth annual Rock the Community: A Day of Service in Honor of Emily Fisher, a day that celebrates the leadership of former Chair of the Board of Overseers Emily Fisher for her commitment to the College and the greater community.

Over 150 students, faculty, and staff volunteered approximately 400 hours of service to community projects, from clearing trails to basic maintenance on buildings. “Rock the Community is a way to take what we learn in the classroom out to the community,” explains Director of Activities Valerie Fanarjian. “Whether we’re helping control invasive species at Lake Mansfield or writing to the men and women who serve our country, these activities influence how we navigate our everyday lives.”

Colette van Kerckvoorde Awarded Grant to Familiarize German Faculty with STEM
Dr. Colette van Kerckvoorde, faculty in Language and Literature, was one of twenty scholarship recipients asked to share her expertise in a three-week workshop offered by the Herder Institute of the University of Leipzig in Germany. The objective of the event was to familiarize German faculty members with ways to meet the needs of German-language students interested in STEM fields.

Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock
Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock introduced Academy Workshop, a student-led project space on campus where students work on ongoing projects based on their individual and collective interests. The first project is restoring two complete, disassembled 1970 minibikes donated by Wheels Through Time transportation museum, in Maggie Valley, North Carolina. The museum houses one of the world’s premier collections of rare American motorcycles.

Academy Residence Directors and on-site advisors Sean Lamoureux and Charlie Babbitt look forward to a continued relationship with Dale Walksler and his team at Wheels Through Time.

Harold Hastings on Collapse of the North Atlantic Cod Fishery

Professor Peter Filkins Delivered a Paper on H.G. Adler in London

Office of Academic Transitions and Career Development
Manat Wooten and Sara Mugridge ’97 in the Office of Academic Transitions and Career Development are on a mission: to teach students to focus on the process of planning for their next steps, whether that means transitioning from the Academy to the College, moderating into the BA program or transferring, choosing a study-away program or finding an internship, or selecting graduate school or choosing a career.

Today’s students may hold 12 to 15 jobs in their lifetimes, many of them invented yet. “We want to help students apply the research, writing, and critical thinking skills they learn at Simon’s Rock to career and life decisions,” Sara says. They encourage students to make use of the office and resources available to them before they moderate, transfer, or graduate—not just when it’s crunch time to make a decision. “It’s not about the next year or the next job. What does it look like for the next two years or the next phase of life?” asks Manat. “You are always auditioning for your next job. It’s never too early to develop good habits. We can help.”

Manat Wooten and Sara Mugridge
A Sampling of New Classes

The Dao of Research
Research is a path, not a destination. This course leads students along that path, marking significant milestones, including understanding the variety and utility of various search tools, learning the importance of reference management, discovering how technology can both assist and frustrate research, and incorporating research successfully into the writing process.

Field Studies of Berkshire Butterflies
Designed to familiarize students with the general biology of lepidopterans (butterflies and moths), including aspects of their ecology and morphology, students will also learn how to preserve butterflies for scientific collections by spreading and pinning specimens. New specimens will be deposited in the Simon’s Rock Natural History Collection.

Introduction to Political Economy
Students will be introduced to the field of political economy through Marx’s writings in the field. They’ll gain a grounding in Marxist economic discourse and its relation to social issues such as race, gender, empire, media, poverty, and the state. The class will examine questions such as the following: Is poverty a necessary outcome of industrialization? What are the function and role of the state in industrialization and modern political processes? Students will consider the relationship between economy and empire, as well as the effects of the modern economy on women.

History of Video Games
Concentrating on the period ranging from the mid-1970s to the early 1990s, students in this class will learn about important historical events, including the development of the very first video games, the video game industry crash of 1983, the “bit wars” between Nintendo and Sega, and the move toward three-dimensional graphics. Students will play and review classic games using emulators and original hardware, design retro game art including 8-bit graphics and chiptunes, practice level design with Super Mario Maker, and write papers on various topics.

Queen of Proofs: Literature and the Culture of Confession
In the Middle Ages, confession was referred to as the “Queen of Proofs” for its presumed authenticity. The cultural scripts that emerged in legal and religious realms of that time remain familiar conventions, shaping our understanding of what it means to tell stories or expose secrets. The course examines how the discourse of confession shapes subjectivity in modern literature and cultural studies, exploring this critical question in legal, religious, and domestic contexts.

Black Lives Matter? Neoliberalism, Policing, Prisons, and Protest Politics
From slave rebellions to the contemporary #blacklivesmatter movement, African Americans have continuously attempted to combat oppressive conditions. This course explores contemporary iterations of Black resistance to racially discriminatory policing, the prison industrial complex, and neoliberal economic policies.

New Full-Time Faculty and Staff

New Residence Directors

New Staff Not Pictured

Morgan Burns, Counselor
Brandon Cox, Maintenance Staff
Tymell Coy, Custodian
Scott Gennari, User Services Specialist
Izinna Lytle, Security Officer
Gerard Nesel, Director of Physical Plant
Diane Piraino, Campus Physician

New Staff Not Pictured

Madison Allen, Charles Babbit, Rochelle Duffy, Sabrina Campbell ’12, Eugenio “Chito” Hernandez
New Full-Time Faculty

Kati Garcia-Renart, Faculty in Dance (from visiting to full-time)

Daniel Giraldo Pulido, Faculty in Languages & Literature

Eric Hayden, Visiting Faculty in Mathematics

Kenneth Knox, Faculty in Mathematics

Amanda Landi, Faculty in Mathematics (from visiting to full-time)

Donn McClelland ’00, Faculty in Social Sciences

Kristy McMorris, Visiting Faculty in Languages & Literature

Jane Wanninger, Faculty in Languages & Literature

New Full-Time Staff

Alan Dupont, Admission Counselor

Silvia Eggenberger, Admission Operations/Admission Assistant

Cindi Jacobs, Admission Enrollment Data and Information Specialist

Alan Murphy, Web Producer

Brigitt Thompson, Writer/Designer

Manat Wooten, Director of Academic Transitions and Career Development

Gwendolyn Hampden VanSant ’87, Director of Equity and Inclusion

Anita Ytuarte-Oelkers, Associate Director of The Fund for Simon’s Rock
The Faculty Concert Series featured Hevreh Ensemble’s “strikingly original,” “spiritually uplifting” Jewish world music. Formed on 2004 by oboist and Community Music Program instructor Judith Danker, the ensemble has performed throughout the United States and Europe.

The Orchestra Now (TON) returned to Simon’s Rock in the spring. The pre-professional orchestra in residence at Bard College performed an all-Beethoven program under the baton of conductor Leon Botstein and pianist Peter Serkin.

The Swimming Llamas came in second overall in the first tri-meet against Herkimer County Community College and SUNY Delhi.

Science Fair played to a packed McConnell. The opera conceived and performed by mezzo soprano Hai-Ting Chinn, marries her two loves—opera and science.

Brooke Skinner Ricketts ’97, returned to campus to talk about her extraordinary path from Simon’s Rock to a career in brand strategy for some of the most exciting companies in the world, most recently Twitter and financial-technology start-up Avant.

Welcoming students and families on Arrival Day 2016!
Thank you to EVERYONE who came back home for Reunion 2016 and the launch of the 50th Anniversary!

From the twilight welcome reception at Blodgett, to Saturday’s Alumni College with Ian Bickford ’95, Tom Coote ’86, Bill Dunbar, and Eden-Renee Hayes, our indoor RockFest, rollicking-good musical coffee-house, dusk-to-dawn bonfire, and jazz brunch honoring anniversary alumni and retiring faculty, Reunion 2016 was an extraordinary weekend.

Our time together was made all the more special through new events such as the Oral History project, the Golden Anniversary dinner in honor of the Class of ’66, the Memorabilia Show and Tell, and after-parties in various locations!

Also, it was wonderful to once again see so many children on campus for Reunion.

Finally, and most importantly, thank you to our 2016 Reunion Committee:

Peggy Clark ’80, Meriweather Clark-Connors ’76, Cordelia Derhammer-Hill ’86, Jody Emmer ’86, Shani Ferguson ’85, Nicole Fitting ’93JA, Bethany Geiger ’10, Irene Gravina ’69, Tara Jacobs ’88, Lisa Martin ’76, Lynn Mulheron ’86, and Jennifer Rivers-Cole ’86.

Congratulations on a job well done! It would not have been as much fun, or such a success, without your help.
During the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2016, alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff, students, corporations, and foundations collectively contributed $5,059,786 to support the Simon’s Rock mission and community.

Combined with increasing College enrollment, particularly in the Bachelor of Arts program, and a successful first year for the Academy, Simon’s Rock enjoyed its first fiscally balanced year since 2008, and met its 2016 benchmarks in Provost Ian Bickford’s four-year strategic plan toward a thriving future.

Thank you for making this possible.

In the recently ended fiscal year, there was a significant increase in gifts from friends of Simon’s Rock—people who visit campus for performances at the Daniel Arts Center, community members of the Kilpatrick Athletic Center, local patrons of the Alumni Library, and people further afar who make a point of supporting innovation in education.

Also, 119 people made their first gifts ever to Simon’s Rock, joining hundreds of other returning supporters who, with their annual gifts or monthly gifts, provide a crucial foundation for transforming students’ lives and reforming American education.

It continues that more than half of the Simon’s Rock Board of Overseers—volunteers who donate a great deal of money, time, and talent to the Rock—are alumni. Other members of the Board are grateful parents, and friends who can help Simon’s Rock be of greater public service to the Berkshire-Taconic region. We are grateful for these contributions.

Please notice the many donors who carry a red diamond aside their names for the ongoing practice of giving for five consecutive years or more. These Sapling Society members encourage all of us to make a practice of knowing that every gift to Simon’s Rock is a contribution that makes a difference.

The current fiscal year is part of the year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Simon’s Rock. All fundraising goals this year are related to this milestone anniversary.

In November and December, the 50 Reasons, 50 Days, 50 More Years drive will ask for your support through reflections authored by members from all corners of our community. In the coming winter, you can participate in the ReMODel campaign to reanimate the Mods as a hallmark component of the Simon’s Rock experience. Over this entire year through June, we are working to receive 1,966 gifts—a reference to the first entering class year at the Rock.

Please join any or all of these drives, as you can. Visit campus as your travels allow, or attend a Simon’s Rock regional event near you—we’d love to see you. Thank you for changing lives forever through your gifts to Simon’s Rock.

In the following report, Simon’s Rock gratefully acknowledges donors who made a gift to support our community and cause during the 2016 fiscal year, which began on July 1, 2015 and ended on June 30, 2016.

## $100,000 and above

- James M. Clark ’76
- Emily H. Fisher P’83
- The Sealark Foundation
- Scott Shenker
- Mary Ruth Quinn P’09 & ‘11
- In honor of Asma Abbas, Sam Ruhrmorr and Emily H. Fisher

## $25,000 - $99,999

- The Barrington Foundation, Inc.
- Stuart Breslow and Anne Miller-Breslow P’07
- David M. Brown and Erika Franke
- Jennifer Fan ’99 and Morgan Downey
- Dr. Thomas Hall and Elizabeth McLoughlin
- Rivershine Foundation
- The Spingold Foundation Inc.

## $15,000 - $24,999

- The Altschul Foundation
- Christopher ’86 and Cordelia ’86 Derhamer-Hill
- Abby Rockefeller and Lee Halpin P’98
- Jack Sanderson

## $10,000 - $14,999

- Susan Beckerman P’96 & ’99
- David Byrd ’78 and Elle Brice
- Christopher ’92 and Rhonda ’94 Colombo
- Leslie Sander Memorial Fund
- Patricia J.S. Simpson P’86
- The Stewart Charitable Fund
  - In honor of Emily H. Fisher’s birthday

## $5,000 - $9,999

- Anonymous
- Samir Arora ’02
- Margaret and Otto Berkes P’14
- Chartwells Educational Dining Services
- Rodney Christopher ’86 and Stefan Koster
  - In memory of Wendy Shifrin
- The F. B. Heron Foundation
- Jesse A. Fecker ’92
- Catherine Fisher ’83
- Paul W. Goldschmidt ’84 and Kristi Hamilton
  - In honor of Peter Cocks
- Gregory Greiffeld ’05
- Julia and Robert Greiffeld P’05
- Meghan Kirksey ’94 and Tynisha Wynder
  - In memory of Aldia Kirksey and Samantha Wynder
- Sarah ’01 and Michael LoCascio
  - In memory of Wendy Shifrin
- Ian and Mary MacKinnon P’03
- All Mahood ’90 and Jesse Glick ’89
- Todd A. Maugans ’77
- Robert Miller and Kathy Klingenstein
- Alvin Prusoff and Deborah DeRose P’01
  - In memory of Elvira and Gilbert Isaacs
- Sprague Foundation, Inc.
- Sally E. Unger ’73
  - In memory of Robert Unger and in honor of Pete Baumann
- William H. Prusoff Foundation
- Rita Wu ’92

## Provost Circle: $1,000 - $4,999

- Anonymous
- Anonymous
  - In memory of Wendy Shifrin
- Tamer Alesba and Loulouh Chamsi Bacha P’15
- Jane Armstrong P’96
  - In memory of Hendrik Dorn ’96
- Bank of America Foundation
- Brian Barth ’77 and Rebecca Selleck Barth P’15
  - In honor of Ian Bickford ’95
- Pete Baumann
  - In memory of Wendy Shifrin
- Jochai Ben-Avie ’06
  - Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
- Mario Bick and Diana Brown P’94
- Ian Bickford ’95 and Lacy Schultz
  - In honor of Pete Baumann
- Thomas Borkowski P’01, ’04 & ’07
  - In honor of the Borkowski Boys Keith ’80 and Penny ’81
- Brierley-Bowers P’08 & ’12
  - In honor of Pete Baumann
- Sandra Brinkert and Lynn Brown P’08
  - Cheryllyn and Ethan Burris
    - In memory of Noah White
- Burris ’97
- Lizz Cannon ’90
  - In memory of Galen Gibson ’90 and Racufnán Sáez
- Megan Case ’92
  - In honor of Bernie Rodgers and Pete Baumann
- David Castro ’73
  - In memory of Dr. Raymond E. Castro
- Abe ’00 and Amelie Chu
  - In memory of Wendy Shifrin
- Debbie Cibelli ’71
  - In memory of Peter Burke ’71

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**KEY:**
- The Sapling Society identifies those loyal donors who have given consecutively in the previous five or more years.
- Member of the Board of Overseers or an Overseer-affiliated foundation
- Member of the Alumni Leadership Council

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The **Sapling Society** recognizes donors who have made a gift for three consecutive years of more. All members receive a different collectible lapel pin each year. Members also receive special recognition at Reunion 2017 and at all Simon’s Rock regional events they attend. Members are marked with **.
In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, Simon’s Rock invites community members to create 50 Annual Fund Scholarships in the 2016-2017 academic year. Those who make a gift of $5,000 have the opportunity to name an Annual Fund Scholarship for a deserving Rocker. Student recipients for each of the “50 for 50” scholarships will share news of their life-changing Simon’s Rock journeys with their sponsors. To donate, go to simons-rock.edu/50for50, or contact Anita Yuarte at 413-528-7257 or aytuarte@simons-rock.edu for more information.

Leila and Bruce Miller
In honor of Pete Baumann

Lynn Mulheren ’86
In honor of Bob Schmidt, Isaac Bao, Bernie Rodgers, and Pete Baumann

Christina Nielsen ’76
In memory of Patrick Brooks ’88

Kirsten Traible Olson ’88 Ph.D.
In memory of Patrick Brooks ’88

Alexandra Petronico
Laura Ricketts
In memory of Pete Baumann

Patricia M. & H. William Smith, Jr.
Sara Brandspiegel ’98
In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Leila and Bruce Miller
In honor of Pete Baumann

Sandra Smith ’68
In honor of Wendy Shifrin

Lorne Barkley
In memory of Gabriel Asfar

Eugenie Steele Dieck ’71 and

Robert ‘Dr. Bob’ Schork ’88
In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Nathan Sadowsky ’12
In honor of Wendy Shifrin

David and Judy Rimple P’80
In memory of Pete Baumann

In memory of Nancy A. Rimple ’80

In memory of Pete Baumann

In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Richard Verrazzani
In memory of Pete Baumann

Christena Nielsen ’76
In memory of Pete Baumann

Isaac Bao, Bernie Rodgers, and

In honor of Wendy Shifrin

In memory of Pete Baumann

Isaac Bao, Bernie Rodgers, and

Robert Young ’98
In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Kenneth G. Young ’90
In memory of Pete Baumann

Robert Young ’98
In memory of Pete Baumann

In honor of Wendy Shifrin

Nancy Bonvillain
Tony and Ellen Borges P’80 & ’87
Amanda Bouquet ’86 and

Michael Sprague ’86
In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Joseph Corso, II
James and Elaine Costales P’15
Frank and Betty Couvares P’90
In honor of Mary King Austin

Josh Cowan ’81
Coleen Cox and Tim Fogarty

In honor of Pete Baumann

Elizabeth Cronenwett ’93
Irene Cullen Gravina ’69

In honor of Tina Sanderson ’69
Dana Cummings

In honor of Pete Baumann

Paige Dana ’02
In memory of Pete Baumann

Linda M. Darling ’96
In honor of Professor Aaron E.

Darling, PhD ’96
Lou Davis and Leslee Hilett P’99

In honor of Pete Baumann

Jane Powers de Colligy ’66
Kate Decker ’12

In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Gillie Somers-Deely ’88
Philip Deely P’01
Paula Delauro P’10

In honor of Pete Baumann

Chloe Demrovsky ’01
In memory of Tadd Gero ’03

Danielle Denfeld-Kelly ’94 and

Anna Kelly ’93
In honor of Pete Baumann

In memory of Pete Baumann

May Elaine Campbell ’71
In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Alida Cantor ’01
In honor of Pete Baumann

Glen Cantor and Inge Eriks P’01

In memory of Pete Baumann

Elicia Cardenas ’92
In memory of Gabriel Gibson ’80

In memory of Pete Baumann

Nadu Bah ’96
In memory of Pete Baumann

David and Anna Carvalho P’05
In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Mary Allikhan ’99 and

Justin Noble
In honor of Pete Baumann

In memory of Pete Baumann

Alan Attabaf JOA
Karen and Allen Altman

In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Lynn M. Altman ’88
In honor of Gabriel Asfar

Ted and Renee Altman P’88
In memory of Pete Baumann

Jeanne Altschuler
In memory of John Hutchinson and

Petie Baumann

Charlotte Anderholt ’01 and

Matthew Smith
In memory of Pete Baumann

Kristen Anderson ’88 and

Shane Belden
In memory of Pete Baumann

Noah Appelbaum ’06
Susan Bachelier ’99

In honor of Pete Baumann

Emily Baker ’09
Leah Barton ’03

Loren Becker ’95
In memory of Pete Baumann

Peter Bedford and Jacqueline
de Witt Steward-Bedford P’14
Kyle Bella ’06

Carlos and Jesus Benedicto P’01
In memory of Camilla Benedicto Pimentel ’01

Carol J. Bettencourt ’77
Theodore Cahan ’04

In memory of Pete Baumann

Vincent G. Ristow ’98

In memory of Pete Baumann

Barbara and Rodger Cohen P’98

In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Barbara and Rodgin Cohen P’98

In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Barbara and Rodgin Cohen P’98

computer Associates International

Rebecca Condé ’94 and

Joseph Halpern
In honor of Pete Baumann

Tom ’86 and Anabelle ’86 Coote
In memory of Pete Baumann

Kimberly Coppage Rivera ’83
Katie Corcoran ’00

In memory of Pete Baumann

Josephine Costales P’15
Frank and Betty Couvares P’90
In honor of Mary King Austin

Josh Cowan ’81
Coleen Cox and Tim Fogarty

In honor of Pete Baumann

Elizabeth Cronenwett ’93
Irene Cullen Gravina ’69

In honor of Tina Sanderson ’69
Dana Cummings

In honor of Pete Baumann

Paige Dana ’02
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Carol J. Bettencourt ’77
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In memory of Pete Baumann

Barbara and Rodgin Cohen P’98

In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Barbara and Rodgin Cohen P’98

In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Barbara and Rodgin Cohen P’98
In honor of Pete Baumann
Molly Greene ’09
Leila and Gavin Greenewalt P’07
Samantha Grillo ’86
Martha Groet
In honor of Pete Baumann
Chris and Diane Gruber P’93 ★
Benjamin Gruber ’15
Melanie Guerin
Nicole Gumara ’10
In honor of Asma Abbass and Jennifer Brown. Thank you for everything.
Mitchell Gurfield
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Cara E. Haas ’92 ★
In honor of Pete Baumann
Steven Hack and
Sandra Rowland-Hack P’01
In honor of Sarah Hack P’03
Lily L. Han ’93 ★
Andrea Hanna ’92 ★
In honor of Pete Baumann
Elizabeth ’88 and David Marcus
Sarah Hardcastle ’89
In honor of Jamie Hutchinson
Benjamin Harris ’01 and Li-Mei Lim
James and Jill Harris P’01
Benjamin Harris ’01 and Li-Mei Lim
In honor of Jamie Hutchinson
Sarah Hardcastle ’89
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Bryna Kamel Blaine P’90
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Rachel B. Kaufmann ’80
In memory of Myron Kaufmann
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John Kiefner ’P12 ★
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Ganguly-Kiefner ’12
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Erica Kiesewetter P’07 & ’12 ★
In memory of Franciscus Dyogoa
Nancy K. Kim P’83 ★
Steven F. Kimball ’80 and
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Richard Kittredge and
Tanya Korsely P’05 ★
Peter Knopp ’80 and Rob Gates
Patrick C. Knox ’71
In memory of Doreen
Michael P. Koch ’74 ★
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Aneesh Kumar and Kavita Saxena
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Jeffrey Landale ’08 ★
In honor of Pete Baumann
Joy Laspersis ’90 ★
In memory of Racuñá Sáez
Fritz Lauenstein and
June Rita Raymond P’15
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Michael Leahy and M. B. Maughan
P’04 ★
April Lee ’01 ★
Faye Lee P’15 ★
Tamara and Anthony Lee P’15
Joseph Leonard ’11 ★
In honor of Nathan Sadowsky ’12
Leigh Leonard-Stallings ’76 ★
In honor of Elizabeth Bledgett Hall
Amelia Lepore Sessions ’01
Judith Leve ’84 ★
Todd Levine and
Mary Lantada-Levine P’14
Nancy and David Lewis
Sianna Lieb Hannah ’85 ★
In memory of Leslie R. Sander ’83
Peter and Evelyn Liffiton P’97
Jacqueline Smith Littlefjahn ’71 ★
Amy Lloyd ’99 ★
Karen and John Loeser P’02
David Long ’80 and
George Pollak ’80
Dan Longhi ’71 ★
Deborah F. Loomis ’68 ★
Ann Lynnworth ’80 ★
Lawrence and Elaine Lynnworth P’80 ★
Jodie Dejo Maisfeht ’00 ★
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Seekonk Veterinary Hospital and
Dr. Ron Majdalany, V.M.D.
Ellen Mammen
In honor of Pete Baumann
Coco Marcelli ’15 ★
In memory of Natalie Harper
Tanya Marcuse ’81 and
James Romm
In honor of Pete’s birthday
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Harry Marker ’05 ★
Peter L. Maroulis P’82
Lisa B. Martin ’76 ★
Michael Martin ’89 ★
Lawrence Maslaid and
Pamela Talbot
In memory of Todd Lincoln
Tisdale ’88
David Mateos Reyes ’12 ★
Brandon Mathews and
Margaret Kelller
Pamela Maathewson ’67 ★
Michael Mauel P’10 ★
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Nang Hsing Ting Maung ’01 ★
Sandia May and John Cassel P’13
Daphne Mazu ’02 S ★
Eloise McAllister P’11 ★
Caro Crowley ’91 and
Eric McClennahan ★
In memory of Agnes Williams
Tom McElroy ’89 ★
In memory of Racuñá Sáez
Sean and Diane McGowan P’13
Sally McGregor P’10 ★
Stephanie ’99 and
Matthew McMahon
Suely and Marcey-Meyers
Miriam Melnick ’08 and
Marc Howard
John and Diane Meskill
In honor of Pete Baumann
Jean B. Meyers P’83 ★
Max ’80, Sophia, and Aviva Miller
Katy Miller ’84 and
Jonathan Lotroth ’82 P’13
Susan Barse Miller ’66 ★
In memory of Betty and
Barse Miller
Melina C. Miyoshi ’85 ★
In memory of Elizabeth Lester
Susan Monaghan and
Sholom Ackelsberg P’12
James Monsonos and
Lenore Ginsburg ’78 P’82 & ’91
In honor of Pete Baumann and
in memory of Wendy Shifrin
Allison Moore ’P10 ★
In honor of Avery Maule ’10
Garth Moore and Sarah Zolad ’P15
Bryan and Linda Morgan P’15
Judy More ★
In honor of Pete Baumann
Alexander Morrow ’11 ★
Beth Moser ★
In honor of Pete Baumann
Alice and Dr. John Myers ★
In honor of Pete Baumann and
in memory of Wendy Shifrin
Anna Myres-Sabatini ’01 and
Frank Sabatini ’04 ★
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Ingvin Hla Mynit ’06 ★
In honor of Pete Baumann and
Emily H. Fisher
Monshrpin Paul and
Tamarl Naamon
In honor of Pete Baumann
Saket Nalvasha ’00 ★
In honor of ATBTE

Thomas Neely P’06 ★
Nagel Nassara ’14 ★
Hannah Neidoff ’00 ★
Daniel H. Neilson ’97 and
Sara E. Murgidr ’97
Dat Nguyen ’09 ★
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Lisa North ’P11 ★
Amy Novatt and Ronald Whittmont
Paige Rop ’15 ★
Ranga and Suku Palaniswamy P’96
In honor of Vimala
Palaniswamy ’96 ★
Ade Palmer ’97 ★
Gill Panchy ★
In honor of Wendy Shifrin
Sarah J. Paradis ’99 ★
In honor of Barbara Resnik and
in memory of Wendy Shifrin
Sam Pars ’11 ★
Grant Parker ’13 ★
The Paruolo Family
In honor of President Botstein
Dr. Sujata Patel ’89 ★
Catherine Palmer P’01
In memory of Kaelan Palmer Paton
Keith Pelczarski ’87 ★
Danielle Pendleton ’14 ★
Nessa and Robert Peters P’98 ★
Roelከe and James Petters P’15
Kaila Pienos ’93, Deirdre Cusack ’87 and
Jeremy Peirce
Perio Pirov ’86 ★
Doria Polinger P’11 ★
Sylvie Potashner ’94 ★
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Charlie Powell ’09 ★
Larry Praeger ’72 ★
Abby Pratt ★
Meenakshi B. Preissler ’01 ★
In honor of Dr. Gabriel V. Asfar
Howard and Ellen Pritham P’86 ★
Evan and Sandra Prytherch P’12 ★
In memory of Joan Prytherch
Mallie Prytherch ’12 ★
Gretchen Pulver ’75 ★

Planned Giving is a great way to support the Simon’s Rock community with an exceptional gift that can provide you with life income or create tax advantages. The Betty Hall Legacy Society celebrates those who make any kind of planned gift to Simon’s Rock—whether it is a charitable lead trust to benefit the College and your family, a gift annuity that provides you with continuous income, appreciated securities that enable you to make a major gift at a discounted net cost, a bequest in your will, or a charitable IRA disbursement—there are many ways of giving that do not diminish your assets today. To discuss your plans, or to learn more about planned giving, please contact Rich Montone at rmontone@simons-rock.edu or 413-644-4776.

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Aurelia C. Scott ’73
In honor of Pete Baumann
Julie Solomon
In memory of Wendy Shifrin
Erica Spizz ’94
Elise Spinner ’86

Laura Sellkirk ’98 and
Aaron Hurwitz ’99
In honor of Aaron Hurwitz ’99
Allyson Sgro ’01
The Shamas Family
Faisa Sharif ’08
The Shamas Family

Teresa Barcus
Adam Shostack ’88 and
Nathaniel Shoobs ’12
In memory of Wendy Shifrin

Arleen Shifrin
Rachel Shi ’15
Melissa Sherman-Bennett ’12
Joseph and Janet Sherman P’95
David and Patricia Sharpe

In honor of Pete Baumann

Robert L. Snyder P’88
In honor of Pete Baumann

Gavin Schwartz-Leeger ’02
In honor of Pete Baumann

Aurora C. Scott ’73
The Reverend Will Scott ’96 and
Matt Chayt
In memory of Rachel

Dawson Zimmermann ’12
In memory of Joop van Creveld

Benjamin Smith ’08
P’11

NA

NA

Jennifer Singleton ’09
In honor of Paul Jackson

Barbara Cohen-Hobbs
Gifts in Kind

Betlinn Young-Taft
Atkins and Louise Young P’97

Michael Xu ’03
In honor of Pete Baumann

Wes and Louise Young P’98
In honor of Bard College at

Kwok and Gee Ying Kip P’93
In honor of Meghan McLaughlin

John McWhorter ’81
Words on the Move: Why English Won’t—and
Can’t—Sit Still (Like, Literally) (Henry Holt and

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To celebrate its 50th anniversary, Simon’s Rock will debut the Alumni Ambassador network. With at least one representative for each entering class year, Ambassadors will strengthen connections among Simon’s Rock alumni, students, and parents and communicate about life at Simon’s Rock. Ambassadors will help build a volunteer network, participate in regional events and reunions, and infuse fundraising drives with new ideas. To join the Alumni Ambassadors, please contact Cathy Ingram at 413-528-7266 or cingram@simons-rock.edu or Anita Ytuarte at 413-528-7257 or aytuarte@simons-rock.edu.

Did we miss your latest publication? Please be sure to share your news with us at editors@simons-rock.edu.
Each day I am reminded of Elizabeth Blodgett Hall for many reasons. In addition to being a regular “guest” in her childhood home, as a part of my morning workday ritual, I pour my coffee and habitually look up to see a picture of Betty Hall hanging in the lobby of Blodgett House. The photo depicts Betty leaning into the podium, addressing the first Rocker cohort, while fifty females look up to her with a sense of awe, excitement, and perhaps a hint of nervousness for the unknown. For me it’s a subtle reminder of where we started and where we are now—50 years later, our ethos has remained the same, yet this mission has evolved over the decades.

New Student Arrival Day is one of my favorite times of the year. Months (and sometimes years) prior, the Office of Admission is busy identifying and reaching out to prospective students, cultivating these new relationships, and getting to know each student through the application process. While it’s a distinct privilege to get to know each individual, their aspirations, passions, and interests, words cannot describe the overwhelming feeling of looking out into the crowd to see how each individual fits together to create a class.

Betty Hall likely experienced this phenomenon when she welcomed the first class of 50 female pioneers. While each new class brings in its own signature style, impressive accolades, and interesting passions and interests, I cannot help but look at this year’s class and take a mental snapshot. Fifty years ago, we welcomed fifty female pioneers; just last month, Provost Ian Bickford welcomed our 50th class: 148 new College and 27 new Academy students, hailing from over seven countries and 29 states.

Fifty years later, our class snapshot looks entirely different from what I can decipher from the 1966 photo; but both classes share the common thread of “Why Simon’s Rock.” While different in demographics, each class before has had a direct influence on future classes, and for that I’m deeply grateful.

Looking out into a packed (beyond capacity) McConnell Auditorium at a distinctly diverse class of individuals, I see a fiftieth class composed of multiple legacy students and referrals from current and past parents, alumni, and friends. Whether you were the first class or the fiftieth, you are part of the legacy of Simon’s Rock. That legacy continues strong, filling a desperate need for a different approach to higher education, thanks in large part to individuals like you who generously introduce the concept to friends, colleagues—and most importantly, to the young intrepid scholars who choose to come here.

This year’s class includes the children of numerous alumni parents from the ’70s, ’80s, and ’90s, and one student who is the fifth person in the family to attend. Rockers came back not only with their own children but also with their children’s friends. I recognized new students that had been introduced to us by current and past parents, recent alums, and current students.

Though we just welcomed our 50th class, the Office of Admission has already begun recruiting and selecting members of our next class. Members of our admission team are traveling throughout the United States and world to identify future Rockers. They’ll meet some amazing young people; but each year, we find that some our very best candidates are referred by people who know Simons Rock better than anyone—our Rockers. I’m reaching out to you today to encourage you to partner with us in shaping the entering class of fall 2017.

Today I ask for your assistance as we work collaboratively to identify and educate the next generation of courageous students who are in search of a greater challenge. You can make a difference in a student’s life by sharing your experience.

Many of you have planted the idea, and it’s our role within the Office of Admission to nurture this. If you know of a student who could benefit from a Bard Academy and/or Simon’s Rock education, I invite you to contact me personally by email at cdekoven@simons-rock.edu or by phone at 413-528-7493. I would be happy to reach out to the student personally, invite them to an off-campus event, or encourage them to take a closer look by visiting campus.
Reunion 2017
July 7-10

Honoring the Class of 1967
On their 50th Anniversary

And celebrating the Anniversary Classes

Save the date and make plans to be part of the closing celebration of the 50th Anniversary at Simon’s Rock!

Join the Reunion Committee to help plan the weekend activities. Contact Cathy Ingram at cingam@simons-rock.edu or (413) 528-7266 for more info.

ALL ALUMNI, FORMER AND CURRENT FACULTY, AND STAFF ARE INVITED!