

Cynthia Llamas

My years at Williams are among the most cherished of my memories. As I sit at my desk, typing this, I am smiling. At Williams, I had the opportunity to learn about the world outside my hometown of El Paso, TX, to which I, to my great surprise, returned after law school. I was challenged intellectually and personally in ways I had not imagined when I first arrived at Sage B as a 17-year-old. I vividly recall attending my first religion class (301!), unable to understand Professor Mark Taylor, and determining that same day that I had to take up the challenge. I had been in Catholic school since kindergarten and had promised myself that I would never take another religion class, so I was surprised that I made it my major. I made great friends whom I wish I saw more often. When we do see one another, we always have a blast. The friends I made also changed me. I had never voted—and boy, did I get a lesson in civics. Since then, I have voted in every election. Williams changed how I think and stimulated me to grow into the person I am today. I will be forever grateful.



Me and my husband Richard, May 2017



Williams friends



15th reunion



20th reunion

William O'Brien

25 years teaching mathematics

7 children

5 international schools

4 continents

3 Maine public schools

1 incredible wife



My email address is still obrien@alumni.williams.edu. Currently, I am teaching at Green School Bali. Come visit.

John Wenstrup

After 25 years, I find myself happily ensconced in Seattle with a wonderful family, an invigorating job, and two pretty loyal dogs. Who could ask for more? A quick trip down memory lane, if only for my own sake.

Upon graduation, I thought it would be a good idea to move to Boston and share a beat-up Somerville rambler with four other Ephs (Pete, Froney, Doron, Dave). A bit of plywood served to turn the dining room into a bedroom, and I paid \$180 per month for the right to a converted attic. Thankfully, a year later I moved to a more civilized setting in DC alongside another Eph (thinking of the caveman meat party, Jordan).

Two years at Mercer Management Consulting (now Oliver Wyman) led to Stanford Business School, an abandoned startup (OneDance, with Andrew Brennan) and an immediate love affair with the West Coast and its mountains, waterways, and general ethos. But my real love affair, with my high school sweetheart and first love, Alexis, was rekindled during this time as well. We were married in 2001 and moved around a bunch (Philadelphia, Wilmington, San Diego, Sierra Foothills), travelled extensively, massively renovated two old homes, and waited too long to have kids.

Our two children, Charlie (2010) and Lila (2012) are the new loves of my life. Both adopted at birth via open adoptions, they re-wired my brain and helped



ensure I prioritized the right things in life. Charlie has boundless energy, a scary mathematical mind, a huge heart, and incredible moves on the football field. Lila has a photographic memory, amazing eye for design and detail, a passion for dance, and a wickedly clever sense of humor.

Today, we live on 13 acres about 25 miles east of Seattle and spend many of our weekends at a mountain cabin an hour away at Lake Kachess. Alexis is a "retired" veterinarian. After leaving Oliver Wyman in 2011, I started the Seattle office of Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in 2012 and split my time between technology clients in Seattle and Silicon Valley. I also spend considerable time on local

vexing problems (education, income inequality, housing affordability, transportation, homelessness, etc.) working with both nonprofits and the private sector. I serve on a few nonprofit boards and spend time tinkering on various projects on



our property—most recently guiding the design of a treehouse complex and a saloon (yes, really).

Finally, a thank you to my '94 classmates—you helped make some terrific memories and made me a better father, husband, and colleague than I would have been without your influence. I'd say

I miss the old days, but that wouldn't exactly be true. Instead, I'd say they were magical, and I am glad I got to share them with many of you. My email was not listed in the directory and I don't really use Facebook often, so drop me a line at jwenstr@gmail.com—would love to hear from you.

Hillary Twining

Even though I live only an hour from Williams, my college years feel very far away. However, I've been a faithful attendee of every reunion since graduation and can highly recommend the benefits of seeing old friends and connecting with new ones!

When I left the Purple Valley in 1994, I had very little idea what I wanted to do with my life. For the first several years I lived just outside of Boston, working at a Harvard Square bookstore, sharing an apartment with Dave Rosenfeld and some non-Eph friends, and hanging out with Kari (Larsen) Bilik.

An interest in volunteering at an animal shelter led to a job at the Animal Rescue League of Boston, which led to a master's degree in animals & public policy from the Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine in 1999. Later that year I moved to southern Vermont to take a job at the New England office of the Humane Society of the United States, and I've lived in the Green Mountain State ever since.

Career-wise my path has been eclectic. In addition to working in the animal welfare field, I spent several years as a development and website coordinator at the Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro and then moved on to my current employer, Marlboro College, where I work in the Advancement office as a grant writer.

In my spare time I've enjoyed singing with the Brattleboro Concert Choir, serving on the board of the local library, and volunteering with GunSenseVT, a group that began after the



Me and my daughter Skye, September 2018



This group shot was taken in 2016 near Lake George, NY and includes the following alums: me, Kari Larsen Bilik, David Bilik, Biz Culpepper Allan, and Heather Curnutt.

Newtown school shooting and that advocates for commonsense gun safety reforms.

I got married in 2005 and my daughter Skye was born a few days shy of 2007. She is in sixth grade and is very active with the New England School of Circus Arts in Brattleboro. Skye attends a small elementary school and has been with the same 15 or so kids since preschool. They're a pretty close-knit group, but she's feeling ready to spread her wings. When a teacher asked her what she was most looking forward to about middle school, Skye replied, "Having a locker!" I love spending time with her and watching her grow up. We both love animals and currently have a young tortoiseshell cat named Reese.

Life has brought some hard transitions in the past year and a half. My husband and I separated in the fall of 2017, which was also when my mother

died unexpectedly. Throughout this upheaval, my Williams friends have been such a great source of support. They include Biz Culpepper Allan, Kari Larsen Bilik, Heather Moore Wood, and Heather Curnutt, as well as Upacala Mapatuna and Allison Burkett (when she can get away from her busy life as a surgeon working and raising twins). I think we've gotten together at least once every year since graduation in places ranging from California to Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and New York to North Carolina and Wisconsin. The bonus is watching our kids (who span the ages of two to fourteen years old) spend time together.

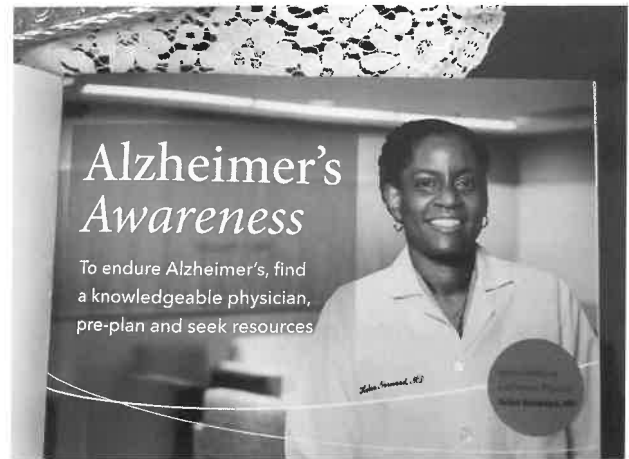
I remember that when we graduated in 1994, Kari's dad celebrated his 25th reunion at Williams. I couldn't quite imagine that day would ever come for our class, but here we are. Cheers to reconnecting and looking ahead to the next 25 years!

Helen Z. Norwood

Coming to Williams was one of the best decisions I made, yet my happiest day on campus was graduation. The second happiest day on campus was returning to Williams to see my friends graduate from the class of 1995. I left Williams feeling grateful. I met a lot of wonderful people who are now working earnestly to make the world a more pleasant place to live.

Unfortunately, I lost contact with a number of friends because I had to work harder in medical school than I did at Williams, yet I cherished the entire experience. I had finally reached the land of milk and honey. When I finished fellowship, I made a promise to myself to never work in a place that I did not love because "life is truly brutal and short." I still work hard, but I make time for family and friends because I know that tomorrow is not promised.

I wish all of the members of the Class of 1994 the very best.



Featured in MedStar Southern Maryland Magazine



My sister and me



Me with my niece

Ted Mason

I live in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, and since 1999 I have taught Ancient Greek and Latin to 6th – 12th graders at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn. I can't believe I've taught at the same school for so long: when I left Williams I bounced around for five years—grad school, living abroad in Athens trying to figure out what I wanted to do/who I wanted to be—and by some miracle or accident I ended up at Saint Ann's. I discovered a love for philology and Classics at Williams, and I have been lucky to share that with very talented students in Brooklyn for almost 20 years. And I fell in love with Brooklyn and New York and can't think of any place I'd rather be—except for Athens in the summer, where I have lived faithfully every summer for the past 14 years or so.

Williams is still very much a part of my life. I talk to a few of my professors regularly, especially Meredith Hoppin, whose teaching and thinking about the ancient world still resonates with me deeply and informs my work as a teacher and scholar everyday. And my Williams friends! I don't think a day goes by when I don't see or text someone from Williams. I lived with Peggy Maher for six glorious years in Brooklyn (stories upon request!), and I now live just around the corner from Jameel Jaffer, and see him and his family regularly. I'm in close contact, and have been lucky to share Greece with Upacala Mapatuna, Jameel, Eric Wilmes, Rohit Menezes, and Denise Molina. I see Dom Elis in New York and London regularly, and

Ashwini Chhabra in New York. And I've run races (5ks to ultra marathons) with Peggy, Eric, Keith and Heather Roberts, and Cheryl Stanton. One of my most cherished memories is crossing the finish line of the NYC marathon with Keith and Cheryl in 2008. And other Williams folk come in and out of my life (the list is long). My Williams friends—and their extraordinary spouses/partners and families—have enriched my life beyond belief. Thanks guys!

I have been mostly single for most of my adulthood and have some amazing dating stories (see Peggy for her versions). I learned to love being single—I traveled a lot, made friends in far-away places, and discovered that I liked spending time with me. In July of 2017 I met Sebastian Anderson, a fellow Classicist, in Athens, and we now live

together in Brooklyn; he's been introduced to and approved by the Williams crowd. All good.

I love my work, have great friends and a great partner, I love Brooklyn and, I guess because I work with young people, I still have a lot of hope for the world. I cherish a long run on a Saturday morning, reading Homer, taking that first step out of the Athens airport, riding the NYC subways, cooking for friends, laughing at myself, swimming in the Aegean, and walking the streets of Rome with my students. I worry about the immense privilege I enjoy, the massive inequality and injustice all around me (and my role in perpetuating it), and what it means to grow older. Life is good and sometimes hard. I think about Williams often, how lucky I was to spend four years of my life there. I'm excited to celebrate our 25th reunion!

Lizzette Colón

Dear 17-year-old Lizzette,

I know you are sitting alone in your room in Lehman West crying because Mami and Dad just drove away. I assure you that while you may be terrified of the idea of leaving behind New York City, it is going to be okay.

Your time at Williams is going to be scary, crazy, exciting, and stressful. One evening you're going to be sitting in the grass behind Lehman wondering if you made the right decision, and you're going to see a bright light in the distance. Within moments the moon is going to rise from behind one of the mountains and you are going to be in awe. You are also going to walk one night from Sawyer Library and look up and see so many stars. You are going to watch *The Blues Brothers*, *Spinal Tap*, and *Top Gun* for the first time. You are going to dance with abandon as Dino spins actual records at many, many BSU parties. You are going to make incredible friends that you will have for life. You are going to learn how to manage a kitchen at the Snack Bar and work at the mailroom and still keep good grades. You will have your heart broken but with the support of friends, pick it all up again. You will sing with various groups, sing a solo with



The Springstreeters, and play the role of Svetlana Oftengrin in an original musical called *Quickstep*. You will make amazing memories with your friends.

After Williams you will attend Temple University and loathe the city of Philadelphia. One day you will be working in the computer lab and some random guy will instant message you. Don't ignore his message.

That guy will become your future husband.

After graduating from Temple, you will move back to New York City and apply for a job at the Department of Education. While I normally advise students not to be cocky at their interviews, your

cockiness will help land you a job at PS 191 as their guidance counselor. It will be a tough school to work at, but you will love it! You will learn through the honesty of the students and a dedicated staff what it takes to truly be an educator.

You will work with elementary school students for seven years, middle school students for six years, and are currently working in a high school. You are still doing this job 21 years later, and you are still learning through the honesty of your students and a dedicated staff.

You become a mother to Imani, the light of your life. As



a matter of fact, you cannot imagine life without her. You realize how awesome this responsibility is and you want to be sure you do right by her. You read to her, sing to her, and work hard to expose her to the world. You teach her to be kind and serve others. You bring her to Williams every October so she can behold the beauty of the Berkshires. She has been visiting Williamstown since she was three months old, and you take an annual family photo at the top of the hill of Route 7. You keep these 14 photos in an album and marvel at how lovely the fall scenery is and how much she has grown.

On November 18, 2008 you are inspired by a book you read and you decide to make a bucket



list. You encourage your middle school students to do the same. In the past ten years you have done some pretty amazing things like:

- Run a half marathon
- Run in a Warrior Dash
- Run with Zombies
- Zip Lining in Costa Rica
- Whitewater Rafting in Costa Rica
- Hiked in Glacier National Park, Yosemite National Park, and Yellowstone National Park
- Rode a Hot Air Balloon in Lake Tahoe
- Gone to the TONY Awards
- Been a contestant on Wheel of Fortune
- Done a service trip with students in Nicaragua
- Saved up for ten years and brought your husband and daughter to France for 16 days

All in all Lizzette, you have had a good life. Your journey from a Queens girl who lived in the projects to attending Williams has all been for a purpose. You are here to serve others, be a champion for your students, be a responsible daughter, a loving wife, a dedicated friend, and a devoted mother.

Now wipe up those tears, put your En Vogue cassette in your radio, turn up the volume, and dance to "Hold On" one more time.

Jenny Cotner



Wow...25 years sure have flown by! I remember going to my mom's 25th college reunion as a kid, hard to believe it's my turn. I certainly don't feel old enough! Nor did I ever think I'd be traveling to our 25th reunion from Austin, TX. I moved here in 2015 to be a local aunt to my brother's kids (now

8 and 6). The closest I had to my own kids was my rescue dog Marley, lol, who I had for 12 years.

Where have I been between Williamstown and Austin? I spent four years in the DC area (consulting), two in Boston (MIT Sloan), back to metro DC for a year (more consulting), then in 2001 to Columbus, OH for 14 years. I spent

all 14 with the same company, L Brands, which owns Bath & Body Works and Victoria's Secret. I had fabulous neighbors and described the camaraderie of my street as being like college roommates, except we had single family homes rather than dorm rooms. We're starting to scatter but much like with Williams friends we'll always be able to pick up where we left off.

Austin is definitely home in a way that my prior cities have never been. My license plate starts with FPJ and I like to say it means "Finally Permanent Jenny!" Somehow a dress with longhorn skulls on it has found its way into my closet...

As I write this just hours before the December 9th deadline, I'm really appreciative of the multiple extensions... I'm recuperating from radiation treatment for breast cancer and did not have the brain power to do it before tonight. It's been quite a journey and I'm blessed that the cancer was caught early (no chemo needed!) and by accident. It's been a great reminder of what is important in life!

If y'all make it to Austin, it would be great to see you!

Sangeeta Tina Mahajan

Twenty-five years have passed since graduation, and in many ways I am where I always planned to be, despite some big bumps in the road. After graduation I attended medical school at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH and then went on to obstetrics and gynecology residency at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, in St. Louis, MO. After completing residency training I completed a fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL. There I "picked up" my husband Katen with the help of a blind date, set up by my personal trainer at the gym in our high rise building in downtown Chicago. By some miracle, I convinced my born-and-raised-Chicagoan husband Katen to move to Cleveland, OH for my first job, and we have been here ever since. I started the division of FPMRS at University Hospitals in 2005 with a dual appointment in OB/GYN and Urology. My husband says that "she gives women dignity and keeps them out of diapers." I treat urinary leakage and prolapse, so it is an apt description. Over the past 13 years I have worked hard to build a thriving division, for which I serve as division head and fellowship director (like having three more kids). I was also given an Endowed Chair in FPMRS in 2017. I love taking care of patients, performing surgery and mentoring my trainees, not only in medicine and surgery, but also in life skills. My trainees are my professional legacy, and I am proud that through my mentorship over the last 13 years, 12 of my trainees have followed my footsteps and completed fellowship or other training in FPMRS.

My greatest source of pride is the family Katen and I have built. Our daughter Mia (10) and son Jay (7) are our best accomplishments. Mia of course wants to attend Williams and be an urogynecologist

like mommy. Jay wants to be a "police doctor" these days. Our lives have not been without challenges. Jay was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at three years old, and our lives were thrown into a whirlwind of frequent and prolonged hospitalizations, chemotherapy, and life threatening disease. I am so happy to tell you that he is doing well. He remains cancer-free and will complete his 3 ½ course of chemotherapy in February 2019. When that day comes, we plan to have a HUGE party! Having a child with cancer will forever leave

an indelible mark on my soul, and it has carved resilience into my core. We have learned to savor the big and small things in life. Trying to give both of our children a happy and healthy childhood remains our top priority.

My husband Katen is the love of my life and everything that I am not: talkative, animated, high energy and never afraid of a challenge. Being married to an entrepreneur can be both challenging and fun. Life with Katen is never dull! Together we are building our second consumer products company called Better Than Good

Snacks. We make high protein puffs that taste like junk food but are good for you. The idea came to us when Jay wouldn't eat anything but chips and junk food (no protein or veggies) while going through chemo. There was nothing we could feel good about feeding him, so my husband created one. You can check us out at <https://betterthangoodsnacks.com/>

What I most fondly remember about my time at Williams are the wonderful lifelong friendships I have made with extraordinary people I continue to be proud to call my friends. We studied hard, but we also had a lot of fun. I also miss the beauty of the Purple Mountains. I look forward to seeing you all at the reunion soon.



Wystan Getz



Sometime in early 1993, I decided to go to law school because it would facilitate getting a job and making a living. I did not like law school well. The work, however, has worked out fine.

I've been a full time public defender; I've run my own firm; and for the past eight years or so I've prosecuted. I'm presently an Assistant District Attorney in DeKalb County, which includes a chunk of Atlanta. In the '60s, my jurisdiction sent Martin Luther King, Jr. to state prison for speeding. I've got a badge that says law enforcement. Criminal law. I'm not certain I'd call it a career; it's been more a series of jobs, most of which I've liked for a while. Lateral mobility—such is the 21st century economy.

I've lived in Atlanta for 22 years now. I moved here during the Olympics, which is several real estate deals ago in local time. Sometimes, however, it feels like yesterday that I drove away from Williamstown in my '82 Accord.

At Williams, I took English classes, some political science, and some history. I quite well succeeded in avoiding math and science. All the reading, the critical thinking, and the writing that I did at Williams have served me well. That evolved into practicing appellate law at the state level. If there's a criminal law issue, I've probably written about it. I've been before Georgia's appellate courts on matters ranging from car registration renewal violations to murder that resulted in a death sentence. Here are

two takeaways. Only crazy people contest traffic tickets. The death penalty is always wrong; it gets capriciously applied. I've got homicide clients on parole whose crimes seem more malignant-hearted than that of the client Georgia executed in 2015.

It's an interesting time to be prosecuting. The current political climate of criminal justice reform has cast an appropriately discerning eye. The public defenders have a moral edge unlike the '90s when my clients were all deemed super-predators. The discussion that we ought to be having at a theoretical level now involves what ought to be a crime and what conduct or problems ought to be addressed through other means. The criminal justice reform hashtags, for me, seem superficial. Ending money bail, in my view, is a plastic Band-Aid. Other means of addressing problems criminal courts presently handle—but maybe shouldn't—will cost more money than we presently want to pay. The line about prison costing more than college has grown trite. I hope to hear this conversation better develop over the next 25 years.

If you'd asked me in 1990 how my life would look in 2018, I'd have been wrong. Many of the decisions of my 20s went sideways somehow or other during my 30s, which were, in retrospect, not a ton of fun. My 40s, however, have been plus. Were my disposition sunnier, I'd believe that it just took longer than expected to impose some pleasing order on life. Were I more adept with numbers, I'd make an argument that this is just quality of life mean reversion. I've also gotten better at hitting the knuckleballs that unipolar depression periodically pitches my way.

The next 25 years ought to be good.

Melissa Braisted Nordquist

In 2019, you will find me living in Tacoma, WA—in my life here I am an architect, open-water swimmer, artist, guardian to a cat and a dog, and a recent widow. How I got here seems like a long story, but I have up to 750 words so here goes:

Surprisingly to me all these years later, I majored in economics at Williams. I pursued the requisite investment banking and management consulting jobs, winding up as a strategy consultant in Boston. Quickly realizing that this was not my thing, I corrected course and went to study architecture at Harvard. I wish that transition was as easy as it sounded in that sentence... For my first job out of school, I moved to Houston to work for Carlos Jimenez—of Spencer Studio Art Building fame. My time there was a lot of fun and produced lasting friendships and memories including a year that overlapped with Andrew Ferguson's short stint as a Texan.

In the Fall of 2003, I followed a long-held craving to move to the West Coast. My brother's family was in San Francisco, and that's where I moved and lived for seven years. I worked as an architect and started

swimming with a Masters team. At some point early in my time there, Candace Kelly '92 introduced me to the world of open water swimming. As in those crazy people swimming around Aquatic Park near Fisherman's Wharf with nothing but swimsuits on, as if it's no big deal. I was instantly hooked, so I joined the South End Rowing Club and am still a member to this day. My friend and I, both single, had mailed our applications together while saying "you never know who we'll find floating around in the Bay." Sure enough, I met my future husband Paul Nordquist, NOT floating around in the Bay, but on a barstool at the club happy hour. We were married at San Francisco City Hall in 2008.

We moved to Tacoma in 2010 in search of easy parking, affordable homes, abundant waterfront, and nearby mountains. I continue to swim in the open water, and I have converted many pool swimmers and wetsuit wearers to the thrill of cold water on skin. Paul and I rode our bikes all over the Pacific Northwest, and we developed a large group of active friends. After a few years of working remotely for my firm in San Francisco, I joined



DeForest Architects in Seattle, where I am now an Associate. Paul traded his long-held job in inside sales for Abbott Laboratories for a more enjoyable position at Tacoma Bike, a local bicycle shop. At the start of 2015, Paul was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer. He endured 3½ years of chemotherapy and surgery, plus monthly cross-country travel to Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. He died on August 14, 2018, just shy of his 51st birthday.

One thing I will say about the past 25 years is that my friends and connections from Williams have been a constant. Actually, not a constant, but

a consistently growing force. I have more friends and stronger friendships from Williams now than I ever did when I was in college, and that fills me with pride and love. So as my life on paper has changed and I have shape-shifted from a consultant in Boston, to a grad student at Harvard, to an intern architect in Houston, to a single person thriving in San Francisco, to a newlywed, to a wife and architect and mother of animals in Tacoma, and to whatever this next phase of life brings me, I can count on the fierce support of so many friends I have made over the years from this great school.

Kara Berklich Weber

Whenever someone asks me where I went to college (which, for the record, far fewer people ask on the West Coast than on the East Coast), I always answer the same way: "Williams College. It changed my life." It was at Williams that I summoned the courage to try new things—really new things!—that I've enjoyed ever since.

I knew I wanted to go to Williams in 9th grade, and applied early. In my mind, Williams would be this magical place...I'd built it up in my mind to such heights that it's hard to imagine, in retrospect, that it wouldn't have ended up being a disappointment. And yet...

At Williams I did three things I consider most critical in shaping the course of my life. First, after lobbying hard for the status shift from club to varsity, I captained the first-ever Williams Women's Ice Hockey team. Second, I started my first company (Tripod, with Bo Peabody, Brett Hershey and Professor Dick Sabot). Third, I formed friendships and a network that have continued to enrich my life. Especially a group of women I met here, with whom I still interact nearly every day,

and see at least once a year without fail. And so, a quick look at our collective last twenty-five:

1994-1999 For many of us, the early adulting years were not only the first job, but also the "falling in love" years. For Christy Williams, it was with Williams' own Matt Wyskiel '91. For Amy Minnick, smart and witty Roy Lapidus. For Genny Mann, charming Dan Morris, and so on.

For me? I spent those years in Williamstown, building and ultimately selling Tripod. It was there that I met and fell in love myself with Ben Weber, who I met when he came to visit Williamstown in 1997—to visit our classmate, John Alberg, who along with Jason Eglit were (and are!) two of Ben's closest friends from childhood in Seattle.

2000-2004 Marriage and kids. In addition to Christy, Amy and Genny, I joined Peggy Drucker Headstrom, Amelia Patterson Fox, Sarah Davidson Richmond and Amanda Turner Phillips in getting married during this era. Cory Wickwire had beat us all to the punch, marrying the dashing Nick Halaby in '98 and showing the rest of us the path to parenthood with the birth of lovely Breene in 2000.

Having left Williamstown for a two-year stint in New York and eventually a soft landing in LA, I followed suit when I delivered William August Weber in 2004.

Motherhood didn't come easy for me or for many of these friends, though—these were also years of pain and disappointment, failed pregnancies and frustrated attempts, postpartum depression and sleepless nights. And in 2001, we were all shocked by the news of Susie Wood Wascos's near-fatal car accident. We are all still grateful that her recovery was complete, though long, painful and petrifying.

2005-2009 In these years we met more kids and added another new husband or two to the group. It's a miracle (this is a group of brilliant, headstrong people), but all of these marriages have survived.

For me, I spent much of this time building yet another company (my fifth by now), traveling a great deal for work, giving birth for the second time (shout out to Guston Reed Weber!) in 2008 and getting Will off to school. Honestly, these years are a blur—I'm glad Melissa Braisted married Paul Nordquist in a beautiful ceremony in San Francisco in 2008 so that I have at least one clear memory of a hectic era.

2010-2014 By now, our tradition of gathering at least annually was in full swing—in these years we visited Vail as Amy's guests and Hood Canal as Peggy's. The girls even came to Ojai and Venice, CA to make my trip shorter one year. These trips have come to hold a place of greater priority in our lives than almost anything else, though they always leave us with sore abs (from both the laughter and Cory's yoga instruction). From broken hearts to career celebrations, health issues and sex lives, these weekends are the stuff our collective memories are made of.

2015-2019 By now, this group of headstrong women is in the full swing of our lives and careers.

From creative endeavors to pioneering work in a broad swath of fields, my Williams girls (like every one of my classmates) never fail to impress. Christy is making waves at Johns Hopkins University, Amelia and Cory both returned to their careers after years of full-time parenting, and Amanda always has a great project up her sleeve. Genny is a law professor, Peggy an incredible doctor, Melissa a successful architect. Amy's career path looks like something the career office at Williams dreamed up as an example of success. Sarah is a leader at Microsoft, Susie's a corporate litigator. The number of graduate degrees, training certifications, plans presented and funds raised among us are too high to count by now.

It is also in these years we said goodbye to Melissa's husband, Paul in August 2018. We will forever remember his kindness and willingness to support our adventurous Melissa through icy waters. On the other end, it's in these years that our friends started visiting colleges and overseeing applications for their own kids' higher educations. Here's hoping at least one of our bunch carries the purple and gold flag forward!

In **2016** I switched sides of the table, going from starting companies to investing in them. I launched my first venture fund with support from several Williams classmates (forever grateful, Christy, Matt, John and Amy!).

Now in **2018**, and after many happy years in LA, Ben and I are contemplating a change of venue (I'll tell you more when I see you in Williamstown). It's been an action-packed 25 years that I would only slightly change in retrospect. Just kidding—not a regret to be had. I am forever grateful to Williams and the friendships I've made and built. It's been a life well worth wishing for all those years ago.

Janet Chen and Benny Soffer

We met in front of Morgan MW on the first day of freshman year.

We got married in the Berkshire Quad in 1998.

We now live in Princeton, NJ with our two children, Eli and Natalia.

It's been an incredible journey!



Joe Valenzuela

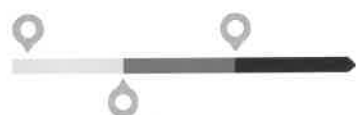


Me with my fiancée Christina and my son Sam



With my fiancée, Christina Skillman

Joe Valenzuela's 25 Years since Graduation



Immediately following graduation, headed to Middlebury Summer Language School and then straight to Taiwan. Arrived in Taiwan with just a backpack, a *Lonely Planet* guidebook, and no place to live. Taught English and studied Chinese.

At the ripe old age of 25, decided that I "had enough" of the single life, then married a fellow Semiconductor Trader, and bought my first home.

My son, Sam, was born on August 26, 2000. Loved becoming a Dad and all that comes with it. In the ensuing years of fatherhood, ended up coaching Sam's youth soccer, basketball, and lacrosse teams.

Took a year off from work and traveled the Eastern and Western Caribbean, knocking a bunch of places off my bucket list. After that, branched out on my own and founded my own institutional equity research firm.

This was the best of times and the worst of times. Had my most successful year at CrossFit Wicked, and ended the year by meeting the love of my life. But prior to that, went through a difficult separation and divorce.



1994



My father's health took a rapid turn for the worse, leading me to come back home. Dreams of becoming a Foreign Service Officer dashed, I joined the business world as Semiconductor Trader, working the Asian spot markets.



1995

A head hunter randomly called me to see if I had interest in leveraging my spot market trading experience into becoming a Semiconductor Equity Research Analyst. I did, and this decision shaped my career for the next dozen years.



1997

Somehow found myself featured in articles on TheStreet.com and Fortune Magazine sharing my thoughts on the semiconductor industry. Became a founding partner at a Boston-based equity research boutique firm.



1998

Decided to follow my passion for fitness and opened CrossFit Wicked. Led a vibrant community of athletes to get in the best shape of their lives. Personally, deadlifted over 400lbs, squatted over 300lbs, and did crazy things like muscle-ups and handstand push-ups.



2000

It's difficult to convey the amount of transformation that happened this year. In a nutshell, sold the gym, moved out of the suburbs into the city, got engaged to my soulmate on Mount Greylock, and had another major career shift, taking on a position as COO at a video production company.

2001



2006



2011



2017



2018

Rachel Remmel

I live in Rochester, NY with my wife Linda and sons William and Benjamin. I direct the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at the University of Rochester and teach in the art history department.



Me and Beth Groff '92 (our former Morgan West JA!) in front of a Frank Lloyd Wright house in Buffalo, NY in July 2018.

Chris "CJ" Jones

The moment I knew Williams was right for me? During my prospective visit in the fall of '89, I remember walking with three other prospies back to the dorm on a crisp, dark evening. I heard this shrill, piercing sound that I couldn't place, and the deeper into the dark we strolled, the louder it grew. My companions walked along undisturbed and as if nothing were happening. After 30 seconds, I finally stopped and asked if they didn't/couldn't hear that sound, panicked that I might be losing my mind. After a quick second, they asked, "You talking about the crickets?" Crickets? THAT's what that was? Having grown up on Chicago's South Side, I'd surely heard crickets, but NEVER were they this loud and clear. As they chuckled and said, "Wow, how cute," I looked up and saw a sky full of stars in all directions and shining brighter than I'd ever witnessed or could've imagined. I'd heard that noise and light pollution



My family in 2009: Avery, Janine, me, and Taylor

were things, but this experience absolutely made it real. I realized in that instant this was exactly what I needed. I was home.

Fast forward to the fall of '90. My roommate (Andre Burrell) and I were returning to Williams B after dinner in Baxter and found a bunch of fellow frosh partying in the quad. It wasn't

the weekend, so seemed pretty out-of-the-blue. We asked what was happening and were then told Williams had just been named #1 on *U.S. News & World Report's* list of best liberal arts colleges in the nation. What? Really? I mean, I knew this was a good school and had obviously decided the prior year this was the place for me, but I honestly had no idea just how awesome Williams actually was. Goodness...

There are myriad other experiences that affirmed (and continue to affirm) the choice to become an Eph, and in many ways, it's the best decision I've ever made. More importantly,



Andre Burrell, Rob Williams, me, and Rafael Stone

though, I'm forever indebted to this incredible small college in the Berkshires that somehow produced a fully-functioning adult out of a totally unsophisticated inner-city kid with zero clue about the vast world outside his rugged South Side neighborhood. In addition, I'd grown up amid severe family dysfunction, so being in a place and among amazing people where I could smile genuinely, find peace, learn a ton (mostly outside the classroom), have lots of fun and make lifelong friendships made it even more special.

Without question, I bleed purple and gold, and my wife and daughters are ceaselessly amazed at the kinship Williams alums across generations feel upon meeting. Were there ever times I wished Williams were larger or more metropolitan? Sure. But in being real about what that'd mean, I also understand the Williams ethos I've so come to love and cherish simply couldn't exist if the environment were different. Our shared lived experience is unique. And the bond we feel is both

extraordinary and certainly a byproduct of that environment. There's just no place like Williams.

Of course, I have to give a special shout to my dudes in my primary foursome: Andre, Rob Williams and Rafael Stone. I've taken so much from our relationship and am beyond happy and fulfilled that we've continued to connect over the years. We did a LOT (both good and stupid) during those four years, and I can't think of our times together without smiling wide. To my basketball crew (Rob, Rafael, Rob Bice, Pete Davenport, Lenny Miller, Josh Smith): it wasn't always easy, but we remained there for one another, and I take special pride in sharing to this day that our class really put the Williams basketball juggernaut on the national map! ☺ Santi Goetzinger, Mecha Brooks, Kelli Martin, Lizzette Colón, Shannon Curtis: I haven't kept in touch the way I should have over the years, but I talk about you often and can only hope my daughters grow up to influence others and their world the way you influenced me. I could truly go on about dozens more people who hold extra-special places in my heart, but to do so would take me well past the 750-word limit. All I'll add is that at graduation, of the 545 or so of us who walked across that stage, there weren't more than 15 people I didn't recognize, and a majority of the rest are folks I love to spend time with and hope to see in the future. 25 years? Wow... It's been real.



My oldest daughter's (Taylor) high school graduation in 2018. Janine, Taylor, Avery, and me

John Finnerty and Jill Galvani Finnerty

After time in Washington, DC and New Haven, CT, we settled in the Boston area where we are raising our two kids, Kate (15) and Owen (13). We feel so lucky that Williams is part of our shared history, and we are looking forward to catching up with everyone at reunion!



Our family

Allison Burkett

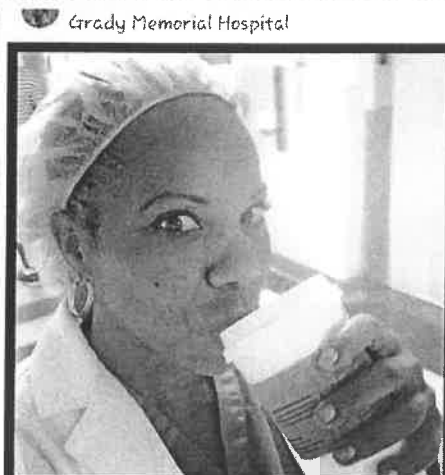
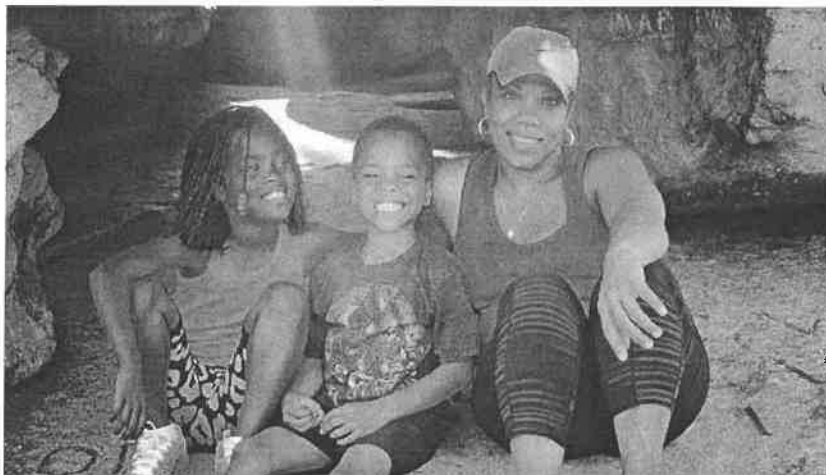
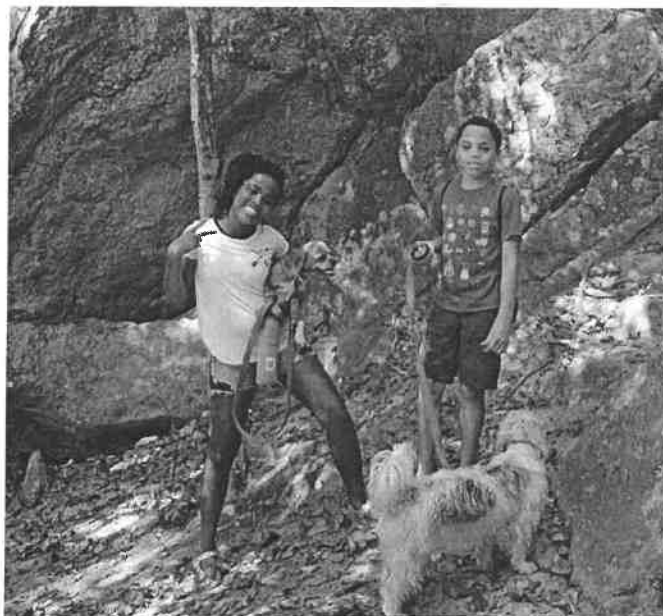
As posted on FB the night before the final, final, final deadline for submissions:

Trying to cram for another Williams College class deadline (25th Reunion class book 3rd deadline extension) wondering if Anim Steel is available, from the student Writing Workshop post grad edition 😊 to help me with my writing. The struggle is still real for this pre-med, science quad living, Eph. I have been writing in abbreviations for the last 25 years. Most of those are Latin or Greek abbreviations. BID, TID, NPO and most days I only speak in sentence fragments or one-word messages to OR staff. "Local", "scalpel", "suction". So, as I sat down in front of my laptop to make an effort to do tribute to this yearbook I just couldn't do it. That part of my brain has atrophied somewhat. Believe it or not, I got nervous about what my audience of esteemed Williams College co-eds would think of my sad attempt to create a poetic and somewhat engaging blurb to summarize my 25 years since. Williams College prepared me for med school and developed my critical thinking skills but I still need that writing workshop. 🙄♀



Maybe I'll just submit this Facebook post with bullet points and pics (see next page). Hope to see many of you '94ers in June 2019!

- Eph 1994 - Present
- Surgeon 2001 - Present
- Mother 2006 - Present



Grady Memorial Hospital

Noora Niskanen

"Why do we universalize the experience of half the world and obscure, deny, and control that of the other? And why is it that when the obscured half speaks up to assert her experience, she is so often met with annihilating rage?"

—Carina Chocano, *New York Times Magazine*, October 23, 2018

Last summer, I had a wonderful visit with Abby Held where we met up with Kirsten Rose at the Clark Museum. They were both living in Williamstown at the time, and they talked about their lives there in the present with family and friends, while all of my Williamstown memories were of long ago. Their new memories were layered on top of the old, while my college memories were at the top strata of my mind.



One morning, I got up early and went for a run along Water Street where Amy Radil and I ran during college. After 24 years, I had forgotten many street names, but still knew vaguely I wanted to do this loop behind the golf course and near Pine Cobble School. I finally found Gale Road and was immediately transported back to the early '90s. With each slow but steady running step, I was flooded with memories of crushes, ex-boyfriends, assignments, readings, friendship dilemmas, and my biggest personal struggle at the time—not speaking in class. I would do the reading, write down notes, and talk to professors in office hours and after class, but I was paralyzed with a silence during all of my discussion classes. I was always optimistic at the beginning of a new semester and with each class where I failed to speak, I would become more and more invisible and cry alone in my dorm room.

I had thought of my silence at Williams recently during psychotherapy sessions with a high school student going to an elite school in Manhattan. She too was terrified to speak in class and would even shake with anxiety in AP History class when called upon. I used my own difficulties at Williams to truly empathize and understand her, and she has improved and isn't alone in her struggle like I was. I have found joy and purpose in my life since Williams in being a social worker/psychotherapist where I give my patients and my daughter what I never had.

As I ran on Gale Road, I shed some tears for the young woman that I was then and how she struggled

with so many difficulties that she was afraid to share with anyone. I thought about all of the things that were silencing me back then—a fear of taking up space, of being wrong, of not being smart enough, and of making people angry. Then, when I took this photo of the Gale road sign, I vowed going forward to be a woman who is free to speak my mind, free to control my own body, free to know and live my story, and free to be fully and authentically myself. I won't be silent anymore.



Jeffrey Sicat

Hello fellow '94 classmates! I've rarely written for the Williams class updates and thus I'm happy to submit where life has taken me after leaving the Purple Valley! After graduation I wanted to sample a warmer part of the country and made my way to Richmond, VA to attend medical school at Virginia

Commonwealth University (VCU). On my first day of medical school I met my wife-to-be, Brigitte, who was in pharmacy school at the time, and 25 years later we are still here in Richmond, and we've loved it here. It's a great, small, quaint, suburban city with easy access to Washington, DC to the

north, Virginia Beach to the east, and the mountains near Charlottesville to the west.

I completed my medical school, internal medicine residency, and endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism fellowship all at VCU and opened a private medical practice where I've learned all the nuts and bolts of being a small business owner. Within the field of endocrinology, I've further subspecialized in the field of obesity medicine and have a medical practice that focuses on treating the disease of obesity and its related complications.

For several years I was on the board of directors for our national society, the Obesity Medicine Association, and I've been an avid educator on the biological and neurohormonal aspects of what causes obesity and why it's so challenging to keep weight off. Being in this field has been a wonderful experience as treating obesity can have life-changing impacts on a person, and it's been a tremendously gratifying field of specialty.

Brigitte and I have two young girls, Emma and Maddie, who have brought so much joy to our lives. We do it all together as a family, and they keep us crazy busy with all the sporting activities with both of them playing travel soccer and futsal (a type of indoor soccer) year-round, as well as basketball, piano, and Girl Scouts—thus we are constantly on the go.

Soccer is such a big part of our family, and I've also continued to play in the adult leagues and now enjoy playing in the "masters" league which is the 40+ men's league (this is the pseudonym for the "old guys" league) and



will keep playing until my knees cannot take it anymore. While I was a sprinter for Williams track, now I've been running long distance and annually do the Richmond Half Marathon and even the Richmond Marathon once! One of my passions has been coaching, and since the beginning of my girls' "soccer careers" I've coached more than 22 of their teams, and it's been a wonderful experience sharing the teams and experiences with them! Sadly, now that they are in travel soccer and they have "professional coaches" I'm just a spectator, and it's

hard to keep my mouth shut, but I've become our unofficial sports teams' photographer where I get all the zoomed, telephoto lens action shots of all the kids!

I have so many wonderful memories of the Purple Valley, and I'm disappointed that I won't make it back to the 25th reunion (my daughter is playing in an international soccer tournament in France at the same time, and we'll even catch some Women's World Cup games), but to all those attending—have a wonderful time!!!



Jessica Hately

25 years in 25 bullet points:

- Hometowns: DC, LA, and PHX
- Year current home was built: 1913 (ancient for Phoenix)
- Number of cacti/succulents in backyard: 112 (the star of the show is the Hercules aloe)
- Greatest accomplishment: surviving 16 Phoenix summers
- Spouse: Robert Wolfe (he was worth the wait)
- Human family: I still have my parents and two step-parents, but I've said goodbye to my three remaining grandparents and my first two step-parents.
- Animal family: we currently have four (Archie & Lola, our Chihuahua mixes, and Ingrid & Alice, our cats), but we've said goodbye to seven four-legged friends over the years.
- Travel highlights: hiking the Dales Way, Japan, and kayaking amongst Alaskan icebergs
- Favorite website to waste time: gofugyourself.com
- "Spirit animal" Twitter account: @EffinBirds
- Most memorable celebrity sighting: Jodie Foster in the frozen food aisle in LA
- Favorite exhibits: "Italian Renaissance Architecture: Brunelleschi, Sangallo, Michelangelo—The Cathedrals of Florence and Pavia and Saint Peter's, Rome," (original architectural models), "Johannes Vermeer," and "The Mourners: Medieval Tomb Sculptures from the Court of Burgundy"
- Best concerts: Oingo Boingo, Peter Dinklage, Crowded House, and Duran Duran
- Favorite concert t-shirt: Weezer's "Rocking the Bitches Since 1994"
- Knitting projects started, but then abandoned: too many to count
- Tattoos: 1
- Number of audiobooks in my Audible library: 522
- Best BBQ I've had in 25 years: Little Miss BBQ in Phoenix
- What inevitably makes me cry: when a baker is sent home at the end of each *Great British Bake-Off* episode
- Favorite camera set up: Fuji X-Pro 2 with 50-140mm lens
- Favorite things to photograph: Desert Botanical Garden and Tucson's All Souls Procession
- Favorite national park: Glacier (it always was and it always will be)
- Best part of getting older: having almost no effs left to give
- Bucket-list items I'm most likely to accomplish in the next five years: go to Chelsea Flower Show and Norway
- My guiding philosophy: "C'mon, there has never been a sadness that can't be cured by breakfast food."

