

Fall 2025

2001 Reunion Committee:

Niki Watson Book

Anne Douglass Peers

Jen Fraley

Aleka Kostouros

Chrissie Layman

Wendy Littlepage

Anne Morrissy

Erin Shanahan

Jennifer Lindley Shirazi

Alys Spensley

Scheroi Taylor

Beth Walkenhorst Weinewuth

Dear 2001 Classmates,

One of the main reasons I volunteer for Kenyon is this class of ours. As much as professors, classes and athletic teams, our friends defined Kenyon for us — and we love hearing what you are up to. Thanks to those who already sent class notes! If you have not sent a note, I encourage you to send an update...no matter how big or small. Staying in touch with Kenyon and each other is one of the joys of being an alum. **And our class has its 25th Reunion Weekend to look forward to May 22-24 on the Hill!** We have some serious celebrating to do to make up for 2021 when we could not gather in person. I'm particularly looking forward to our first All-Alumni Soiree on Saturday of Reunion Weekend!

The College has a new tool specifically designed to encourage this continued connection. *Just Ask* allows alumni and students

to reach out to thousands of members of the Kenyon community with questions about careers, navigating a new city, graduate school advice and more. It's as simple as sending an email. As alumni, we can use this free platform when seeking advice and as advice givers! I hope you'll check it out at justask.kenyon.edu.

Just Ask is one piece of a collegewide effort to enhance experiential learning initiatives, like internships and field work. In addition to responding to inquiries we may receive through *Just Ask*, we can help Kenyon students by sharing internships and job openings available through our employers. The Career Development Office is always excited to hear about unique opportunities for students and graduates. Reach out to share yours at cdo@kenyon.edu.

Another way Kenyon is adapting to meet the demands of today's students is with the addition of an Interdisciplinary Program in Computing. The program's new Founding Director, R. Jordan Crouser, is a computer scientist whose work explores the human side of computing, as well as how people interact with data, algorithms, and each other via emerging technologies.

Along with the focus on experiential learning and interdisciplinary collaboration, our writer's college lived up to its centuries-old reputation this fall, with a Collegian Journalism Conference featuring distinguished alumni in journalism: Northwestern Medill's **Beth Bennett '96**, The New York Times' **Erin Mershon '12**, Vox's **Ian Millhiser '00**, The New Yorker's **AJ Rourke '03** and Vogue's **Emma Specter '15**. Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of Bloomberg News, as well as longtime volunteer and generous donor **Matt Winkler '77 P'13 H'00** also joined the panel which coincided with the dedication of Kenyon's newest residence hall, named in his honor.

In other literary news, I hope you had an opportunity to read the feature article, ["Preserving our Place,"](#) in the Spring 2025 Kenyon Alumni Magazine. If you did, you know Kenyon's Philander Chase Conservancy is celebrating 25 years of preserving the natural beauty and rural character surrounding the College. Since its founding in 2000, the Conservancy has protected over 6,000 acres of farmland, woodlands, and open space within five miles of Kenyon — ensuring future generations of students, alumni, and community members can continue to enjoy the landscapes that make Gambier so special.

Alumni investment touches all areas of campus, from the new south campus residence halls to the updated turf football field, to the West Quad, anchored by Chalmers Library. Equally critical is the support provided by your gifts each year to the Kenyon annual funds, which provide immediate and much-needed resources, especially for scholarships. Recognizing this need, and in honor of our 25th milestone reunion, the reunion committee has created a **"Class of 2001 Scholarship,"** we are asking classmates to support as a collective effort to impact the financial needs of current students. **I hope you will join me in supporting this scholarship fund, or another designation of your choice, by making a stretch gift at gift.kenyon.edu in honor of our 25th reunion.**

Just as Kenyon shaped each of our paths, we alumni can play a key role in our alma mater's future — offering career advice and internships to Kenyon grads, showing up for Reunion Weekend (May 22-24!) and regional events and giving to the areas of Kenyon that matter most to us. Thanks for being part of Kenyon today!

Sincerely,



Scheroi Taylor

P.S. One of the highlights of Reunion Weekend is celebrating alumni award winners for their various accomplishments. Now is your chance to nominate a deserving classmate at kenyon.edu/awardnoms.

P.P.S. Remember to check out justask.kenyon.edu and I hope you will join me in making a reunion-year gift today at gift.kenyon.edu.

Enjoy our 2001 Class Notes:

Emily Andersen: Emily moved to Midcoast Maine last year and began working remotely for a New York-based law firm specializing in art law. She loves life in Maine and is grateful to have friends who are willing to make the long journey to visit—including fellow Class of 2001 alums **Liz Katzman** and **Erin Barr**. Emily's first book, *The Midnight Book Club*, will be published in November, and she's been working hard to learn how to publish and market a book after spending so much time writing them. She's very excited to see her work in print and to join the ranks of Kenyon authors.

Niki (Watson) Book: I had the opportunity to spend a quintessential fall weekend in Gambier not only celebrating Homecoming '25 but also dreaming about our 25th Reunion Weekend! It is almost like we put our planning committee in a Time Machine in 2001 and pressed "2025" and here we are! The easy laughter, joy and memories flow easily just by being on the Hill. I am looking forward to seeing so many of our 2001 classmates this spring!!

Megan Buhr: My family moved to England in September 2024 and we're loving it! My kids are all in high school: Levi (18) is studying for her A Levels and applying to universities to be a doctor, Iris (16) is starting 11th grade at the bucolic Buxton School back in Massachusetts, and Ellie (14) is busy navigating GCSEs and working on her novel (future Kenyon student?). After leaving my teaching job in the US, I'm finally starting graduate school in history here in the UK. We're living in York, and if any fellow classmates are ever in the area, I'd love to see you.

Daniel Connolly: President Trump just ordered a military intervention in the city where I live (Memphis), and that has occupied a lot of my attention recently. I'm doing well otherwise, working as a journalist for legal news service Law360 and raising a young boy with my wife. She is a naturalized citizen from the Dominican Republic, ICE agents are coming with the military surge, and my wife carries her U.S. passport so she doesn't land in immigration detention. We're hoping to get through this and praying for our city and nation.

Rowan Williams Haug: I am currently serving as Foundations Coordinator and Teaching Professor at Mississippi State University, navigating the changing atmosphere in academia. Kenyon is my high school senior's top pick and I so enjoyed our visit to campus this June. Man! They do a great job. The visit made me so proud to be an alum, and I would choose Kenyon all over again.

Aleka Kostouros: Aleka reports she enjoyed being back on the Hill over Homecoming Weekend for reunion planning. It was great to catch up with classmates and see both what has changed (a huge coffee bar in Peirce that's available nearly 24/7!) and what has stayed the same (running into Doc Locke on his way to the post office). She is still living in Northwest Philadelphia and working in public health and was recently reminded of just how fun moving is.

Brian Leonard: Since graduating, I completed a DVM and PhD at the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and a residency in Comparative Ophthalmology. I was on faculty there for 6 years. I am now a faculty at Michigan State University in the College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Human Medicine. My family has now relocated to East Lansing, MI area, and we are very excited to explore the lakes, shores and trails!

Jennifer Lindley Shirazi: As I write this note, I am heading home from spending the weekend in Gambier planning our 25th reunion. Even though I always brag about how beautiful the campus is, I am still always in awe when I see it in person. I can't wait to head back to campus in May to celebrate! Until then I'll be watching my two daughters (6th and 9th graders) performing in all sorts of plays, musicals and concerts while continuing to coordinate learning support at the high school where I work. I hope to see many of you in May!



Alys Spensley: Drew Lebkuecher '99 and I moved to Bucharest, Romania for our assignment with the State Department - we are enjoying exploring the mountain towns, the Black Sea coast and biking to work through a forest. The kids are doing well at school and learning the history beyond Dracula. We welcome Kenyon friends to visit!

Katie Suttle Weinert: Katie joined Sitemetric, LLC, a construction technology company, as its Chief Legal Officer.

Scheroi Taylor: I'm still living in Nashville working as a Quality Control Technician. Earlier this year I participated in a Pride Deadlift Party where I successfully lifted 195 and failed 215. This came after three years of not doing deadlifts.

Clare Tessman: I'm enjoying a new position as a clinician in Collaborative Care clinics for people across the Lifespan and for new parents, this is a model of care I could expound on for hours. I love being on a team after several years of solo private practice in affirming psychiatric care. I finally finished a Doctorate in Nursing and have also been working for my school, UIC College of Nursing as Clinical Professor and Practicum Instructor. I continue to live in River Forest, IL and my youngest is loving swim team at the West Cook Y, and 2nd grade.

Last winter I had a marvelous time in my neighborhood at a Women's Alum event, hearing Prof. Wendy Singer's fascinating updates about the history of women at Kenyon with dozens of Chicago-area Alumnae. I just returned from some fun times with **Emily Blumenthal '00** in Manhattan and narrowly missed **Jessica Bellian** in Queens. I'm excited to see more folks for our 25th reunion in May 2026!



Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB: Currently an exhibit of my icons is showing in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library exhibit space from early September through mid-October. In early October, I'll be singing with the early music ensemble Trobar at a concert called *Hearing Heaven: The Sound(s) of the Sacred and Secular*.

Beth Walkenhorst Weinewuth: I had the opportunity this past weekend to sit in a state-of-the-art classroom in the beautiful new Chalmers Library and participate in a group project with a group of my Kenyon classmates like it was 2001. It was glorious--from the exchange of silly stories and cringe-y memories about our sophomore life choices to the moment we realized that drafting an email by committee was a terrible idea and adjourned to Peirce for soft serve. The project was, of course, our committee's first meeting for our 25th Reunion.

As for updates about my life...there really aren't many. I have lived in Cincinnati, OH since graduation and had the same husband and job (not the same thing, I promise) since I graduated from law school in 2004. Our two kids are growing up too quickly, and I try every day to follow Ferris Bueller's advice to "stop and look around so I don't miss it."

My proximity to Gambier has allowed me to get back to campus many times over the past 25 years. I've seen buildings come down and buildings go up. I've seen the campus change, to be sure, but also maintain the character, beauty and magic I remember.

I don't know what it is about the celebration of a quarter-century since our graduation, but this one feels big to me. I hear the "calling bell" drawing me back into the Kenyon community and inspiring me to reconnect with classmates and give back in a way that will help the next generation share the experience of this extremely special place. Looking forward to seeing you all on the Hill in May!

For alumni events, please visit kenyon.edu/for-alumni/events



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Kenyon

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Visit kenyon.edu/societies for more information.

2001

Annual Fund Total: \$52,874
Class Participation: 19.4%
Total Class Gift: \$107,511

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