

ASSOCIATION OF MARSHALL SCHOLARS

Alumni Newsletter

FALL ISSUE 2023



Creative Solutions

How Marshalls use creativity and storytelling to think through society's most pressing challenges.



From the Director

The AMS remains focused on its three strategic priorities: strengthening US-UK ties, the alumni community, and the Marshall Scholarship.

In 2023, we held our fifth annual US-UK Legislative Exchange, and we hosted more than 500 alumni for events in Atlanta, Austin, Washington D.C., New York, Boston, San Mateo, Oxford, and London.

Marshall Scholars gathered in Atlanta to see Garrett Turner (2012) star in *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* and at meet and greets in Washington, D.C., New York, and Austin. Marshalls opened their doors for exclusive access to NASA Ames Research Center, BigHat Biosciences, and RAND Europe. They created events on AI and Poetry, A Modern Marshall Plan for Ukraine, and a panel on the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship.

This past winter, we also established a pilot affinity group with Marshalls across the innovation spectrum. The AMS launched a series of annual dinners in New York, Boston, and California. As we continue to grow this community, please get in touch with the AMS and join us to connect with potential synergies and interests in this space.

Finally, I am pleased to inform all of you that during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington in June, 10 Downing Street announced expanded funding for Marshall Scholarships for the next two years. The announcement will undoubtedly ignite a

renewed sense of possibility and opportunity within our esteemed community.

This marks a new commitment from the highest levels of the UK government. It demonstrates not only the program's unparalleled impact but also the recognition of the exceptional talent and potential of Marshall Scholars.

At this pivotal moment, it is essential that we come together as a community, united by our shared values of academic excellence, leadership, and transatlantic friendship. Let us uplift one another, mentor and support the next generation of Marshall Scholars, and champion education's transformative power. The AMS will continue to work with all stakeholders and the British Government to help advocate for a permanent and sustainable source of funding that can strengthen and sustain the Marshall Scholarship.

In closing, let us celebrate this announcement and look ahead with enthusiasm and determination. The expansion of funding for Marshall Scholarships marks the beginning of an exciting chapter, one that holds promise and possibility. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the ideals defining the Marshall Scholarship and binding our two nations.



“[The] number of Marshall Scholarships will increase by 25% to 50 places a year ... The current uplift and funding for the Marshall scholarship is supported for the next two years, and future spending allocations will be decided in due course.”

We’ll continue to work with donors and universities to ensure the long-term sustainability of the programme, considering all funding models available.”

— From “The Atlantic Declaration: A framework for a twenty-first century US-UK Economic Partnership,” released on June 8, 2023



Dr. Nell Breyer is executive director of the Association of Marshall Scholars

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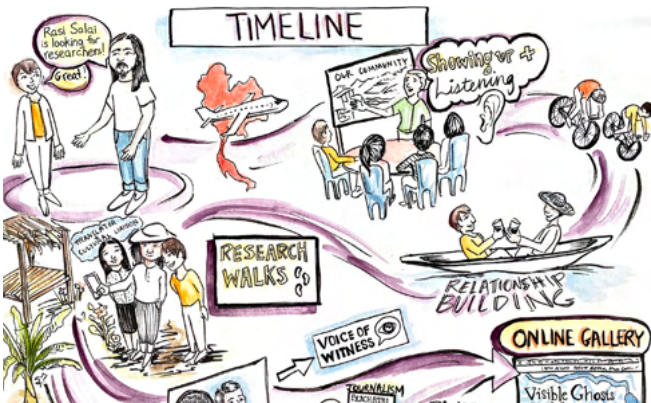


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GRATITUDE

BECAUSE OF YOU

The Marshall Xtra Grant provides additional funding to scholars, allowing them to enhance their learning and experience overseas. Here, students share stories of what your gifts have allowed them to do.

“Through the Marshall Xtra stipend, I was able to complete my journey across the Southwest. Last year, I had journeyed through Stonehenge, Bath, and the Cotswolds on my own, but this time, I brought another Marshall along for the journey. Basing ourselves out of Bristol, we took my favorite Great Western Railway to venture out to other locations across the region. We took open-air buses along the Jurassic Coast, ate amazing shipwreck ice cream at St. Michael’s Mount in Penzance, had traditional Cornish pasties in St. Ives, and hiked through cow pastures to get a better view of Corfe Castle in Dorset. Though the destinations were stunning and contributed to my love of the Southwest, my favorite part of the experience was engaging in this part of UK culture with a friend. The train rides were long, but not lonely!

–Amber Stanford (2021)



“The Marshall Xtra Stipend helped me significantly. I had funds for events in and around Birmingham, as well as money for ordering food on late nights when I was too tired to cook. I have been able to enjoy the Birmingham Christmas Market, trips to London, and a bit of travel around Europe. I am so grateful for the grant and cannot stress enough how the financial cushion it provided was essential to my enjoyment of, and adjustment to, the UK this year.

–Callie Holley (2022)





“The Marshall Xtra Stipend has been incredibly influential in my mobility throughout the UK during my year so far! I study at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, and while Norwich has been so wonderful this past year, I have also had the opportunity to travel throughout the UK. This fund has helped me visit other members of my cohort and travel to places like Brighton, Looe, Stratford-upon-Avon, Manchester, Cambridge, Oxford, Bath and London.

This summer, I am also completing field work in Alaska researching water affordability for unconventional household water systems. The Marshall Xtra Grant will help cover the costs of food and living while I complete research that I am incredibly passionate about.

–Greta Markey (2022)



“The Marshall Xtra Stipend helped me deal with the cost-of-living crisis this year, first and foremost. Everything has become more expensive, and living in London already wasn't cheap. More fun, though, is that a portion of it funded a trip with eight other Marshall Scholars to the town of Looe, Cornwall, where we explored the countryside, swam in the Atlantic, and began our dissertations.

–Cole Graber-Mitchell (2022)

“After spending my first year of my Marshall in Belfast, a sea removed from the UK mainland, a highlight of this second year has been short excursions to small towns in the UK. One of my favorites was an impromptu trip to Stratford-upon-Avon on a day when I should probably have been studying. With a fellow Marshall and other Oxford friends, I explored Shakespeare's childhood home, relaxed by the river, and—as captured in this photo—enjoyed a pint at a 15th-century pub. Thank you so much to the AMS for the stipend support, which made trips like this possible.

–Ishmael Maxwell (2021)





FEATURE

WHAT LIES BENEATH

Josh Goldman (2002) knows our clean energy future means electrifying transportation, so he created a company to get us there more quickly.

BY ALEXANDER GELFAND





Josh Goldman, cofounder and president of KoBold Metals, is not a typical mining executive. But KoBold is not a typical mining company.

Goldman earned dual master degrees—one at Cambridge in applied mathematics and theoretical physics, and another at Imperial College London in the history of science—before acquiring a PhD in physics at Harvard, where he adapted methods of measuring the properties of individual electrons to the realm of quantum computing.

KoBold, meanwhile, uses data science and artificial intelligence to identify deposits of the metals that are used to manufacture rechargeable batteries and other components for electric vehicles. The name KoBold is an historical play on words: The German miners who discovered cobalt in the late Middle Ages named the metal after the kobold, a mischievous spirit from Teutonic folklore, because it looked like silver but released toxic fumes when smelted.

Replacing the more than 1 billion cars and trucks that run on fossil fuels with ones that run on electricity generated from renewable sources like wind and solar represents a necessary step towards establishing a low-carbon economy and averting catastrophic climate change. But discovering large deposits of the metals needed to power EVs over long distances is becoming more difficult; the ones that are closest to the surface have already been discovered, and the rest will require increasingly sophisticated techniques to locate. KoBold, which has raised more than \$400 million since it launched in 2018, is trying to solve that problem by using new scientifically sound methods to predict the location of ore deposits that lie hidden deep within the Earth's crust. As such, it is as much a scientific R&D operation as it is a mining concern.

“We’re trying to make inferences about things we can’t see, which is what scientists do all the time,” Goldman says. Towards that end, he and his colleagues—the company employs more than 100 technical personnel, ranging from geologists to data scientists and software engineers—put as much effort into pondering the nature and limits of their geological knowledge as they do into boring exploratory drill holes. They have even written a formal statement on principles and practices, “KoBold’s Epistemology of Exploration,” on how to hunt for metals in a scientifically rigorous manner.

It is a task to which Goldman, with his firm grounding in both the practice and the history of science, is uniquely well-suited.

“KoBold is something of a philosophical project,” he says. “We’re trying to reason about how we know what we know about what’s under the surface of the Earth. And having read the greatest hits in the philosophy of science, and having had plenty of opportunities to talk about those things over pints at the pub, turns out to have been incredibly useful.”

Growing up in South Lake Tahoe, California, Goldman did not dream of becoming an entrepreneur. Rather, his earliest aspiration was to become a professional blackjack dealer (he has always loved games); but his interests soon turned to science and mathematics. He was especially drawn to physics, which satisfied his taste for quantitative problem-solving and mind-bending concepts. “I chose physics in high school because I liked having to learn about special relativity and electromagnetism and all the things that you have to work really hard to get your head around,” he says.

Yet by the time he found himself working on experimental quantum computing, Goldman had come to suspect that he might be happier putting his scientific skills to work on something that had more immediate social and economic relevance.

“I wanted to be making decisions about technology development and decisions about investment that relied upon having a deep technical understanding,” he says.

Goldman had already joined a clean-energy reading group led by his future KoBold cofounder, Kurt House; and given the growing urgency surrounding climate change, he decided to throw himself into enabling the transition to renewable energy.

Doing that, however, required some retraining. Goldman figured that if he wanted to work on disruptive technologies that could help wean the global economy off fossil fuels, he would first need to learn how the incumbent energy industry worked. But he didn’t want to go to business school to do it. So in 2011, he took a job with the consulting firm McKinsey & Company, where he spent several years advising clients in the conventional energy industry such as oil and gas companies and electric power producers. The job also allowed him to work out of Houston, not far from his wife and fellow Marshall Scholar Courtney Peterson (2002), who had a postdoctoral position in Louisiana at the time. Then, in 2015, Goldman joined a company Kurt House started that used data science to guide investments in oil and gas projects—work that foreshadowed what the two would later seek to accomplish in the realm of battery metals. “That was a really useful experience, but not what we wanted to spend our time doing,” Goldman says. “We wanted to work on the natural resources that we’re going to need for a low-

carbon economy. So after a year and a half, we were both like, ‘Okay, enough. It’s time.’”

Their timing was in fact ideal. In 2018, the move to electric vehicles was finally gaining momentum: Governments around the world were pumping money into EVs in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and virtually every major automaker had a global electrification agenda. The chemistry of long-range rechargeable batteries, meanwhile, was well-established; and it was clear that large quantities of lithium, cobalt, copper, and nickel would be required to meet anticipated demand. The IMF, for instance, estimates that achieving global net-zero emissions by 2050 will require a sixfold jump in lithium and cobalt consumption. Or as Goldman likes to put it, human beings will have to pull an additional \$10 trillion-plus in battery metals out of the ground over the next several decades to build a fully electrified light vehicle fleet.

Unearthing those metals, however, won’t be easy. The success rate of conventional mineral exploration has steadily declined over the past century as mining companies have exhausted the supply of easy-to-find deposits that lie close to the surface. Only the deeper ones remain, and while there are undoubtedly plenty of them (only a small fraction are exposed at the surface thanks to geological processes), they are much harder to locate: At this point, fewer than one percent of exploration projects turn up deposits that are worth building a mine around.

KoBold is trying to improve those odds with scientific rigor and cutting-edge technology.

The company has developed a data system called TerraShed to house every scrap of information that could potentially be of use to an exploration program. Hand-painted geological maps, chemical analyses of old borehole samples, high-resolution satellite imagery: Goldman and his team want it all, since every piece of data they acquire helps them build stronger hypotheses about where the metals they seek might be located and gives their models greater predictive power.

They also want to gather as much existing information as possible because acquiring new data is so expensive: As Goldman points out, sending a team of geologists to a remote location to gather rocks or chartering a plane to do an aerial magnetic survey to identify conductive materials buried underground—both of which KoBold does on a regular basis—costs a great deal of money.

Integrating all that data is no small task. Even in a single jurisdiction like northern Quebec, where KoBold has an active exploration program, there may be thousands of different geophysical and geochemical surveys that were conducted at different times using different equipment by different geologists, all recorded in different formats. “The data is a mess,” Goldman says.

Nonetheless, once it has been organized, digitized, and massaged into a form that can be interpreted by humans and algorithms alike, that data is used to train hundreds of machine learning models. Known collectively as Machine Prospector, those models generate predictions that guide every decision KoBold makes, from which provinces the company should explore to where it should drill its next hole.

While it might seem counterintuitive, Goldman and his team concentrate their efforts on exploring those areas where the models are most confused. That is because their ultimate goal is to reduce the uncertainty in our understanding of the subsurface; and the most efficient way to do that is to gather fresh data that will improve the strength and certainty of their predictive models

So far, the approach appears to be working. In a recent foray into northern Quebec, 8 out of 10 exploratory drill holes yielded positive results—a rate that Goldman says is easily 10 times better than what one would expect using conventional methods. And the company expects to see a commercially viable deposit emerge from its drilling program in Zambia within the next few quarters.

Not every exploration program will succeed. Indeed, says Goldman, “most projects are still going to fail.” But even those failures can offer lessons about where—and where not—to look for the metals that will be needed to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

“And the more we learn,” Goldman says, “the smarter we get.”



Josh Goldman earned his PhD. in physics from Harvard University for experiments in atomic physics that demonstrated how trapped electrons could be used to make quantum computers. He also holds master's degrees in history of science from Imperial College London and applied mathematics from Cambridge University, where he was a Marshall Scholar, and a B.A. in physics from Cornell. Josh was an advisor to top executives at oil & gas, electric power, and energy equipment and services firms with the Houston office of McKinsey & Company, and later worked as principal of Phase Change Resources (PCR), where he led business development, sourcing investment opportunities, and leading commercial underwriting and valuation of all PCR transactions.

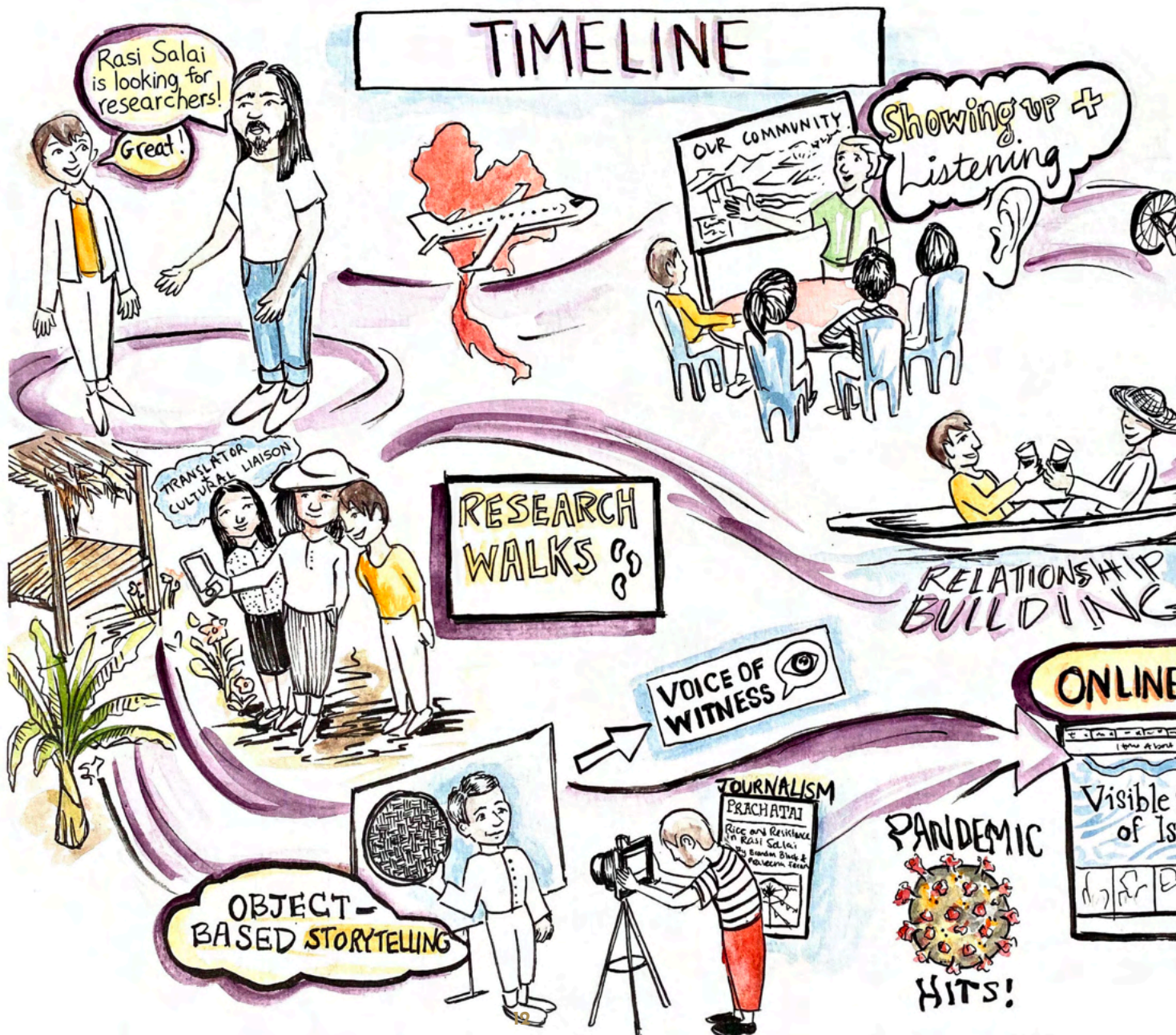


LIVES IN PICTURES

VISIBLE GHOSTS OF RASI SALAI

As a Fulbright Research Scholar in 2019–2020, Praveena K. Fernes (2020) curated Visible Ghosts, a virtual installation that illuminates residents' evolving relationship to the Mun River and wetlands in Thailand over the past quarter century. Through objects, maps, and citizen science research, she shares stories of the people and the place they call home.

BY PRAVEENA K. FERNES (2020)
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MOLLY MARIE GURNEY | PHOTOGRAPHS BY LUKE DUGGLEBY



PART I: A STORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

The Rasi Salai Dam was part of the Khong-Chi-Mun Project, a large-scale irrigation scheme for Northeast Thailand orchestrated by the Thai government and World Bank. Since its construction in 1992, the dam has destroyed natural resources and biodiversity, and has exacerbated flash floods, water shortages, food insecurity, soil and water contamination, and deforestation. Increased salinity has severely disrupted the communities' ability to raise cattle, grow wetland crops, and catch fish. Socio-economic impacts include displacement, unemployment, and human rights violations.

Since as early as 1993, residents regularly protested the dam, organizing protest marches, camping outside parliament and government offices in Bangkok, and occupying the dam site.

Many residents are part of the Assembly of the Poor, a nationwide organization that emerged in the mid-1990s to advocate for the rural poor in the wake of large-scale international development schemes. Today, residents in Rasi Salai, "the capital city of spirits," use nature festivals, ghost stories, and folklore as a protest tool to creatively catalogue the ways in which the dam has irreparably disrupted the rivers, their livelihoods, and their culture. From September 2019–July 2020, I used citizen science, objects, and maps to share stories from Rasi Salai and invite a dialogue around identity, environmental health, and neighborhoods as a unit for change. Artist Molly Marie Gurney drew a timeline and comic to help share the story of community members' fight against the dam, as well as explain the process of our small storytelling project, *Visible Ghosts*.

Since as early as 1993, residents regularly protested the dam, organizing protest marches, camping outside parliament and government offices in Bangkok, and occupying the dam site."



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Ramayana is the story of our daily life, embedded with the teachings of Buddhism.

PART 2: RESIDENTS AND THEIR OBJECTS

Visible Ghosts highlighted the multi-layered nature of capturing the lived experiences and environments of marginalized groups, as well as the importance of viewing health within its economic, social, cultural, and political contexts. Integrating co-production, community walks, and visual-oriented storytelling creates a space for marginalized experiences to be expressed in ways that are not so easily spoken. At the same time, this process enabled me to center frontline land rights activists, farmers, and elderly residents as experts—not just data collectors—with a critical voice in advancing environmental justice. As an outside researcher, I am charged with the delicate task of authentically sharing community members’ multi-faceted stories, placing power in this work, and reflecting on ways to support grassroots environmental justice work. While on walking interviews, we often bumped into other community members who were curious and occasionally interested in sharing about their experiences too. The object-based storytelling project emerged from community members’ ideas for creatively sharing stories outside of standard research dissemination.



“I’ve been performing the story of Ramayana since I was 12. Now I am 72. One year it was so unusually cold that a lot of cows and buffalo died, and we got the idea to use the skin of the dead animals to make the characters, like this one. We needed to burn charcoal to earn enough money to buy a screen. After that I went to many places all over Isaan to perform.... I remember at that time I had to work in the rice farm to grow rice, and I got five baht a day. I had to save up money to buy pants, which cost 20 baht. I had to quit performing because I had to go to Bangkok to work. Ramayana is the story of our daily life, embedded with the teachings of Buddhism.”
— Paw Chalem Chai



Before the dam, I made mats from reeds I collected from the wetland area as a side job. I could walk over to the wetlands from my house.

“Before the dam, I made mats from reeds I collected from the wetland area as a side job. I could walk over to the wetlands from my house. Sometimes, depending on the weather, I had to use a boat. I used to sell many mats, but since the dam construction I can’t find the reeds anymore because of all the flooding. Now I have another side job to make mattresses and pillowcases. At first, I was okay with the dam. But now my community is unhappy about it because you cannot make a living from the Mun River anymore. You cannot go to collect the reeds to make the mats to weave the mats, you cannot go to collect non-timber forest products from the area, you cannot even go fishing if you do not have capital to buy the gear.” — Mae Sin



“We put this in the swamp or the pond to catch eels. With the flooding, because of the dam, you can still catch eels but you need a boat to do it. The fishery department has more strictly implemented a lot of rules after the dam was built. During June–August you cannot fish anywhere; it’s the time when fish lay eggs and it is hard to make a living.” — Paw Somphong



“I’ve never lost a buffalo because I have this bell. Before the wetlands flooded, I had more than 10 buffalos to plow the land and carry goods. You knew where your buffalos were because of this sound. Wherever they went, you would hear them. I joined the protests because I lost my land. Many people who lost their land would also ask me to help them advocate for their rights. I want to be a leader who focuses on women’s rights, to promote and help create more income for women.”
— Mae Saeng Son





I chose the pictures of the wetland before dam construction because it's a good memory for me. I could make a living from this area. Now because of the flooding, I have to grow rice twice a year in my village because I cannot grow in the wetlands. In the old days, I went to Bangkok for three months to protest. The leaders of each village could take care of a big group of people. They fought for the community. I feel proud of that. It took a lot of time for us to get the compensation that we wanted."

—Mae Lampai Duaphan



Thank You to Collaborators

I owe many debts to the citizen scientists who agreed to take me on a walk; community members who shared their personal artifacts and accompanying stories; and dozens of community, academic, and advocacy partners who have expanded *Visible Ghosts'* collective knowledge, reach, and impact. I have witnessed how the cross-pollination of ideas among researchers, citizen scientists, and artists can unearth new findings in all three arenas.

In particular: Dr. Kanokwan Manoram introduced me to individuals and organizations working to improve the health of rights-holders and their ecosystems in Rasi Salai, and also introduced me to the world of political ecology. Atchara Simlee, a social linguist and lecturer of English at Ubon Ratchathani University, served as my lead translator and cultural liaison for *Visible Ghosts*; she accompanied all research walks and community interactions. Luke Duggleby generously served as the lead photographer for *Visible Ghosts'* object-based storytelling gallery. Artist and arts-for-change advocate Molly Marie Gurney illustrated key graphics for *Visible Ghosts* (comic storyboard, timeline, and icons for findings). At Stanford's *Our Voice* initiative, Ann Banchoff and Dr. Abby King guided this community-academic partnership and Irvin Szeto provided customized technology support, including piloting a public facing data set that integrated Google Street View.



Praveena K. Fernes (PhD Candidate) is a Marshall Scholar (2020) in the UK, where she studied political ecology at SOAS University of London and now public health and policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her current PhD project explores the place-based experiences of people who are homeless and seek drug and alcohol services in East London, with a special focus on relations of care. Her work strives to advance health equity through transdisciplinary research-to-action partnerships and democratizing the kinds of stories being heard.



LOOKING BACK: PIONEERS

THE NEWSPAPER MAN GOES TO MANCHESTER

In this ongoing series, we talk with earlier generations of scholars and ask them to share their thoughts on their own Marshall experience. Here, Charles Whaley discusses how opportunities can show up in the strangest places, how he ended up chatting with Thomas Hardy's former secretary, and why haggis is best chased by scotch.

BY CHARLES WHALEY (1954), INTERVIEW BY MAUREEN HARMON



ON TAKING A CHANCE: I was working at the *Courier-Journal* newspaper in Louisville, Kentucky, which used to be one of the 10 best papers in the country. One night, I was sitting up by the city editor's desk and saw a piece of paper on top of the waste basket. It was a news release about the Marshall Scholarship—a new scholarship at the time. I applied and became a member of the first class in 1954. There were only 12 of us, and at age 26, I was probably the oldest one because I already had two degrees: my undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky and a master's from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, as well as two years Army service in the Korean War.

On Being First: When I got to Manchester in the dark of night, I didn't know anybody. I think somebody met me and took me to the university. The next day, a reporter from the *Manchester Evening News* got in touch with me. He wanted to interview me and Liz Nichols, who was a Fulbright Scholar. We went out that afternoon with the reporter, who took us to several stately homes and to a theatre cast party for *The Lark*, opening with Dorothy Tutin and Laurence Naismith.

On Making Connections: I chose to study English literature at Manchester, because at that time the *Manchester Guardian* was located there. Now, of course, *The Guardian* is in London. I wanted to know all the writers at the *Manchester Guardian*, since I was a newspaper man. I did get to know them. They came to parties at my house. It was a great experience.

On Writers. I've always been a reader, and I often did book reviews for the *Courier-Journal*. I was a journalist, but I chose to study writers like Shakespeare at Manchester. My thesis was on Thomas Hardy—but that's as late in literature as the university would go. Unfortunately, they wouldn't go as far as Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Group, some of whom later became my friends.

On Intercontinental Travel: I really wanted to go outside the country to study. I hadn't traveled out of the states much—except maybe Canada and Mexico. Since then, I've traveled all over the European continent, as well as Central and South America and Asia. I've been everywhere in Europe except Portugal.

On Research—and The People You Meet Along the Way: I did quite a bit of research in the British Museum and in the Hardy Museum. I went to Dorset, and I wanted to go to Max Gate, which was Hardy's House. This lovely woman, who had a beautiful home, put me up, and she got me a meeting with Hardy's last secretary, May O'Rourke. I ended up spending some time with May, and she gave me a copy of her little monograph about her time with Hardy. She signed it for me. Perhaps these things could be classified as frills, but for me



Charles and friends on university holiday in Torremolinos, Spain.

they deepened the experience and brightened it.

On Life In the UK: I went to sherry parties at my tutor's home, which were new experiences for me. I developed a taste for sherry for a bit but it no longer exists except occasionally. Since I was a newspaper writer, I belonged to the press club in Manchester and I had press cards, so I didn't have to observe all those drinking laws at the pub in those days. I would take my fellow students to the press club and entertain them. We all loved it.

On Friendship: Every time there was a holiday or break, I would be invited to stay with one of my fellow students at their home. One holiday I was staying with a friend in Barrow-in-Furness, and his father took us to a Burns Night celebration of all things Scottish. There, I had my first taste of haggis—horrible stuff, but scotch chases it away quickly.

My fellow Marshall Scholar Carol Edler and I, stranded by bad weather after a party, had to stay the weekend at the Croydon home of her London School of Economics classmate Seretse Khama, the exiled King of Bechuanaland (now Botswana), and his British wife Ruth Williams and their children. Sleeping in the king's pajamas was a unique experience for me. Seretse later returned to Botswana and was elected prime minister.

On Staying Connected: I will always feel love and a close connection to the UK because of being one of the first Marshall Scholars. It's important for the legacy of the scholarship to continue. I want only the best to become Marshall Scholars.

“Perhaps these could be classified as thrills, but for me, they deepened the experience and brightened it.”



After his time in the UK, Charles Whaley (1954) returned to his journalism career in Louisville, Kentucky, at the Courier-Journal. There, he met his wife Carol Sutton, who became the first female managing editor of a major US daily newspaper, running the news operation. From 1965–1971, Whaley served as the Secretary-General of the Association of Marshall Scholars and from 1966–1970, he served on the Mid-Eastern Region selection committee. He was also the recipient of personal and high praise from Prince Charles, who, in 1989 at the 35th anniversary of the Marshall Scholarship, politely told Whaley that he “has aged very well.” Today he is 95 and living in Louisville.

THE FORUM

NURTURING THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP: THE 2023 MARSHALL FORUM ON ARTS & CREATIVITY

The 2023 Marshall Forum on Arts & Creativity underscored the idea that the special relationship between the US and the UK thrives not only on political and economic ties but also on a deep cultural and creative connection. The event was held in September in Washington, D.C., at Planet Word – founded by Ann Friedman, the wife of Tom Friedman '75. The Friedmans welcomed nearly 100 Marshall Scholars and guests in the picturesque courtyard under Speaking Willow, an interactive sculpture by Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, before touring Planet Word and sharing dinner.

BY SHANNON FELTON SPENCE



Avery Willis Hoffman (Marshall Scholar 2000), Artistic Director, Brown Arts Institute, shares her journey and insights with the Marshall Forum.



Marshall Scholars explore the Planet Word exhibit on the diversity of languages worldwide.



2023 Marshall Scholar Bayan joined the Marshall Forum before her academic adventure in the UK.

This year, the Marshall Forum also served as the send-off reception for the 2023 class. As they embark on their academic journey, we are reminded that they are ambassadors of a legacy that values the arts and creativity as pillars of diplomacy and understanding. Their adventures in the UK will undoubtedly shape the future of the Special Relationship, reaffirming the belief that creativity knows no borders and that through culture, we can build a more connected and harmonious world.

“*I just wanted to offer one last bit of advice that I received from my aunt Toni [Morrison] one day when I was moaning and complaining about some crisis that I was having. And she said, put that into your art.*

–Avery Willis Hoffman (2000), artistic director, Brown Arts Institute. Willis is also the first legacy scholar. Her father, John Ralph Willis, was the first African-American Marshall in 1963.

“I would say the great challenge as far as I’m concerned in art museums are social and political challenges, namely diversity and inclusion. These are areas which I couldn’t possibly cover in two minutes. But I will say that I think this is an area which requires so much intelligence and so much analysis, as well as so much sensitivity. And I cannot at this point recommend any museum that I think has really performed the kind of substantial analysis and thought and comes up with the right solution. It’s a problem—it’s a problem for your generation. It’s a problem for all our generations.

–Andrew Robison (1962), Andrew W. Mellon senior curator of prints and drawings, National Gallery of Art, Washington

“This museum is so inspiring about what we do as word people in the publishing business. It opens up modes of relating to texts that we need desperately. Our business, the book business—maybe you call it the content business now—it’s really in a turnaround. AI is something people talk about all day, every day. And authors are very uptight that they’re just like writers in Hollywood. Authors of books are uptight, that they’re going to be pushed aside, replaced, et cetera. I don’t believe that, but I do think that that’s one of the challenges in our business.

–Jonathan Galassi (1971), chairman and executive editor of Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

“I was taking an amazing investigative reporting class at the time with a professor named Bruce Shapiro. And one of the things Bruce always talked about is how a lot of the biggest investigative stories are right there in plain sight. ... Creativity is about figuring out how you apply the right set of questions to the material that is already in the public sphere being overlooked.

–Sarah Stillman (2012), staff writer at *The New Yorker* and a MacArthur Fellow



Galassi and Julia Sobolik are heading off to their



Marshall Scholars explore the humor gallery at the Planet Word Museum.



Speaking Willow, an interactive sculpture by Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer.

“To study race in America is to know that every time we have a period of progress, we have a period of backlash. And this has been going on before reconstruction, the backlash against reconstruction in my last book, in 1966. Part of it is about the birth of Black Power, but it’s also about how quickly the gains of the early sixties up through the Voting Rights Act in 1965 were then followed by this political backlash. ... [W]hen we’re in these phases of backlash and people have the tendency to become discouraged, they look for reasons for hope. Some of that is embodied in Martin Luther King’s famous phrase, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”

–Mark Whitaker (1979), critically acclaimed memoirist and former managing editor of CNN Worldwide

Class Notes

1960

ROGER LOUIS has completed a major book, *The End of the British Empire in the Middle East*, based in part on Arabic sources. It is now at the copy-editing stage at Oxford University Press. (The Clarendon Press, alas, no longer exists.)

JIM TREFIL is still professing at George Mason. “I was recently honored for having been in the Virginia State University system for 50 years—has it really been that long? Working on a couple of new books—one on technologies of the future for National Geographic and another (with a colleague) on Supermassive Black Holes for Smithsonian Books. Still making wines in my spare time—this was a really good year for blackberries.”

1968

LEONARD JAMES SRNKA and his wife Lissa visited his old Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in June 2023 where Len was an associate MCR member during his Marshall scholarship, while conducting his PhD experiment at nearby UKAEA Culham Laboratory. He is seen here in the Corpus library, sitting by the book half-press for which he helped fund a restoration, last done in the 17th century. A memorable lunch and pint of ale at the Old Bear Inn on Blue Boar Street followed the library visit.



Len Srnka (1968)



The Bear

PARKER HUDSON'S fourth novel came out this summer: *Nation On The Edge*.



Parker Hudson (1968)

1970

AL SHOAF has published two volumes of poetry in the past year: *Selected Poems 1968-2021* (a selection of 275 poems from some of his earliest to some very recent pieces) and the chapbook *Call me Queequeg, Ishmael*, a collection of poems responding to *Moby Dick*. Both can be found on Amazon and Barnes & Noble and other online booksellers.



Al Shoaf (1970)

1976

MARY EDGERTON The College of American Pathologists honored Mary E. Edgerton, MD, PhD, FCAP, with the Distinguished Service Award at the 2022 annual meeting. Edgerton was recognized for her long-standing contributions to patient care and advancement of pathology, and in recognition of her years of dedicated

service to the CAP. For more than 20 years, Dr. Edgerton has been devoted to improving utilization of structured data capture information models to capture discretized data that are interoperable across electronic health care information systems. These systems use a standard data dictionary in cancer along with data modernization initiatives in health care. This effort has involved reconciliation between content experts and users, along with engagement of vendors to produce an interoperable information model. Edgerton recently retired as professor of pathology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and continues her work at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.



Mary Edgerton (1976)

JONATHAN THOMAS has completed 12 years as head of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine, an \$8.5 billion funding agency for stem cell and gene therapy research. It has been the privilege of his professional career to help enable outstanding scientists to develop potential therapies and cures. In the coming years, a number of these projects have a realistic chance of helping patients with unmet medical needs. JT is now CEO of an LA-based biotech, developing a potential pan-cancer drug for human and veterinary use. His daughter Lizzy is in the fourth year of an MD/PhD program at UNC Chapel Hill and recently married a second-year anesthesiology resident at UNC. His sons, John and Matt, captained the USC and Harvard baseball teams respectively. John is now a fashion designer for professional and collegiate women athletes, and Matt is a social

studies teacher at a Title 1 middle school in Cambridge. His son, Mike, is a rising senior at Colgate and captain of the tennis team.

1978

EILEEN POLLACK retired from her professorship at the University of Michigan and now lives in Watertown, Mass. Her most recent book, a collection of essays called *Maybe It's Me: On Being the Wrong Kind of Woman*, was published last year. She will return to the classroom as a visiting professor at UMass in the fall.



Eileen Pollack (1978)

KARL BROOKS returns to academia! That headline may surprise some 1978 Marshall classmates. Karl last affiliated with a university in 2016, when he finished service with the Obama administration as EPA's national operations manager and joined the University of Texas–Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs faculty. By 2018, he was out of academia, and Austin, when he and Mary headed uphill to New Mexico, where they have spent increasing amounts of time since 2010. Karl spent five fascinating years in the New Mexico Judiciary, first as deputy director of the Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in Santa Fe, and then as Court Executive Officer of the 8th Judicial District, based in Taos. A true blue Jayhawk, Karl rejoined the University of Kansas faculty in Fall 2022, this time in KU's School of Public Affairs and Administration. Delighted to be back in Lawrence, he's teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in law and public leadership.



Karl Brooks (1978)

1980

JONATHAN E. ALPERT had the joy of returning with his sons, Sam and Tony, to the location of his still-memorable Marshall 1980 class photo as part of a wonderful July visit in the UK. Following his PhD in the Department of Experimental Psychology at Cambridge, he completed his MD at Yale and trained in pediatrics and psychiatry in Boston. For the next 24 years he pursued research, clinical work, and teaching at Mass General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, before returning to his NYC roots in 2017, where he is chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, and professor of psychiatry, neuroscience, and pediatrics. He remains ever grateful for the extraordinary foundation and formative perspectives he received as a Marshall Scholar.



Marshall Scholars Class of 1980



*Jonathan E. Alpert (1980),
Returning to the photo site with sons*

1982

JAMES J. EISENHOWER just completed a four-year term as President Judge of the Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline. "I was appointed by Governor Tom Wolf to the seven-member Court that enforces the code of judicial ethics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I also continue to teach jurisprudence at Temple University School of Law and practice law at Dilworth Paxson LLP."



James Eisenhower (1982)



James Eisenhower (1982)

CAMERON FINDLAY will retire in fall 2023 after 10 years as general counsel of ADM, the Fortune 30 global food company. Before ADM, Findlay was GC of Medtronic and Aon, a partner at Sidley Austin, deputy secretary of labor in the second Bush administration, deputy assistant to the president at the White House during the first Bush administration, and a clerk for Justice Antonin Scalia at the Supreme Court and Judge Stephen Williams at DC Circuit Court of Appeals. The *National Law Journal* has twice named him one of “America’s 50 Outstanding General Counsel,” and *Attorney Intel* named him one of the “Top 25 General Counsels of 2023.” Under his leadership, both the ADM Legal Department and Medtronic Legal Department were named “Best Legal Department” by Corporate Counsel. He serves on the boards of Northwestern University, Steppenwolf Theatre, and the American Friends of New College, Oxford. He also serves on two for-profit boards.



Cameron Findlay (1982)

TED CONOVER’s book *Cheap Land Colorado: Off-Gridders at America’s Edge* (Knopf) was named one of *The New Yorker*’s best books of last year ([newyorker.com/best-books-2022](https://www.newyorker.com/best-books-2022)). The book recounts four years of life on the remote prairie of Colorado’s San Luis Valley, in the first-person participant-observation style for which he is known. Ted continues to teach at NYU’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. He reports that in recent months he has seen Marshall classmates Kimberly Marshall and Seth Lloyd.



Ted Conover (1982)

1984

RAJ BHALAA has two new books, *Understanding Islamic Law (Shari’a)* (3rd edition, 2023) and *Trade War: Causes, Conduct, and Consequences of Sino-American Confrontation* (1st edition, 2024), both published by Carolina Academic Press. He is the Brenneisen Distinguished Professor (DP) at the University of Kansas (KU) School of Law, where he teaches International Trade Law, Islamic Law, and Law and Literature. He is a senior advisor to Dentons, the world’s largest law firm. Still the only minority DP at KU Law School, he is a champion of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, and unionisation efforts. He testified before the UK Parliament, International Trade Committee, on how to advance the rights of women and LGBTQ+ persons through free-trade agreements (FTAs). Bhalaa’s new book project is *Principles of Law, Literature, and Rhetoric: A Shakespearean Approach*. He completed the April 2023 London Marathon—his 115th marathon.



Raj Bhalaa (1984)

1989

MELISSA LANE is proud to report several achievements and honors. Her book, *Of Rule and Office: Plato’s Ideas of the Political*, was published in June by Princeton University Press. (A taste of the argument may be found on the PUP ideas blog under the title “Plato the Constitutionalist—and the Supreme Court.”) Further, while continuing to teach full-time at Princeton University as the Class of 1943 Professor of Politics, she has also been named the 50th Professor of Rhetoric at Gresham College, an institution founded in 1597 in London to provide free public lectures. As the Gresham Professor of Rhetoric, she will be giving six public lectures a year for the next three academic years, all of them livestreamed and on YouTube (the first is October 19, 2023). Finally, while on expected sabbatical from Princeton in 2024–25, she will be the Isaiah Berlin Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford.



Melissa Lane (1989)

1992

CAROLINE LEVINE is Ryan Professor of the Humanities at Cornell University. She was part of the team that persuaded the trustees to divest Cornell's endowment in 2020 and is now a member of the organization pushing retirement giant TIAA to divest its \$78 billion in fossil fuels. Levine's newest book, *The Activist Humanist: Form and Method in the Climate Crisis*, will appear in fall 2023. She welcomes contact from fellow Marshalls who are engaged in environmental action or wish to be! provokingdemocracy@gmail.com



Caroline Levine (1992)

JEFFREY GLUECK is founder and CEO of Salvo Health, which aims to help improve gastrointestinal and gut health care for the 60 million Americans who face chronic GI conditions. In January this year, Salvo Health announced a new program to provide remote patient monitoring and tech-enabled care management in partnership with local GI doctors' offices and regional hospitals. By expanding care from pharmacotherapy and surgical procedures to follow-up care areas like brain-gut interactions, microbiome restoration, cognitive behavioral therapy, nutrition, environmental health, and other lifestyle medicine support, Salvo has reported material outcomes improvements for 77 percent of patients, in research presented at the IFM in 2023. Jeff is eager to hear from other Marshalls in health tech and medical innovation and healthy policy, as a tech veteran but new to the healthcare field. Reach out to Jeff. Glueck@gmail.com.



Jeff and a Salvo Health colleague meet Pepe Le Poop, the Rome Foundation mascot, at DDW (Digestive Disease Week) 2023.

1997

LANE GREENE has published *Writing With Style*, an all new edition of *The Economist's* style guide. He is now combining the roles of style chief, language columnist, and bureau chief in Madrid.



Lane Green (1997)

1998

ELIZABETH SKOMP, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of Russian at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, has been promoted to provost and vice president of academic affairs. In addition to her background in Slavic languages and literature, Skomp has extensive experience in faculty development, curriculum management, inclusion and diversity, grants, research, and faculty-led study abroad. At The University of the South (Sewanee), she helped develop eight successive years

of Fulbright recipients through active advising. (stetson.edu/today/2023/03/elizabeth-skomp-phd-named-provost-and-vp)

WARWICK SABIN recently was appointed the inaugural president and CEO of Deep South Today, a networked hub of nonprofit newsrooms serving the Southern region of the United States. The organization includes *Mississippi Today*, which won the Pulitzer Prize this year for its investigative series on Mississippi's sprawling \$77 million welfare scandal, as well as *Verite*, a New Orleans-based newsroom that covers inequities facing communities of color.



Warwick Sabin (1998)

2001

DANIEL BAER, released *The Four Tests*, an authoritative, illuminating, and ultimately optimistic look at America's future and the "tests" the United States must meet to maintain leadership and power in the 21st century.

2006

REBEKAH WHITLEY During the pandemic, Rebekah graduated from law school at the University of Alabama, bought a house in Savannah, GA, gave birth to a beautiful little boy, Wild Baldwin Whitley (who recently turned two), and took a job as a Staff Attorney with Georgia Legal Services Program's Savannah Regional Office. She serves 10 counties of southeast Georgia, advocating for people who are denied public benefits, such as food stamps, Medicaid, unemployment, and social security.



Rebekah Whitley (2006)

2007

EMMA SCHMIDGALL, her husband Shachar, and son Leo just welcomed the arrival of baby Oren in May. Emma is currently on family leave from her role as a senior hardware engineer for Microsoft's quantum computing program.



Emma Schmidgall (2007)

TAMARA BRODERICK was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, effective July 2023. She is faculty in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT, where her research focuses on machine learning and statistics.



Tamara Broderick and her husband, Barret, celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary at the Seven Sisters cliffs in East Sussex.

SOPHIE RUTENBAR In September 2023, Sophie started an International Affairs Fellowship, awarded by the Council on Foreign Relations. Splitting her time between New York University and the Brookings Institution, she will conduct research on policy options around Haiti. Until June 2023, Sophie worked in Port-au-Prince in the office of the head of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (known by its French acronym as BINUH).



Sophie Rutenbar (2007)

LT. CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL completed his assignment as commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron, the US Air Force unit that conducts experimental flight tests of the F-35 for the United States and its allies, including the United Kingdom. In July, he and his family moved from California's Central Valley to Washington, DC.,

where he started a course of study at the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. Melissa returned to manage Pennsylvania Avenue's Labyrinth Games & Puzzles, while Charlotte trained in ballet and started third grade. The entire Campbell family hopes to reconnect with Marshall friends and enjoy city life for a few years!



Christopher addresses his squadron for the last time as commander before moving across the country to Washington, DC.



Christopher celebrating with his family after a traditional final-flight spray-down with water and champagne



Christopher shutting down his F-35 after his final flight as commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron

2010

JOSHUA BENNETT In the summer of 2023, Joshua Bennett joined the faculty of MIT as professor of literature and distinguished chair of the humanities. Bennett's narrative nonfiction debut, *Spoken Word: A Cultural History*, has received glowing reviews in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. His next book of nonfiction, *The Orbit of Our Dreaming*, will be published by Little, Brown.



Joshua Bennett (2010)

ANNA JO SMITH joined the University of Pennsylvania faculty as a gynecologic oncologist and health services researcher. She and her husband Dave are enjoying the drama of Philly sports teams. She is always happy to see folks coming through Philly!

JESS LANNEY In December, Jess Lanney married her partner Matt McNicoll. Several Marshalls were able to join for the celebration, including Carrie Barnett (2010), Aroop Mukharji (2010), Steven Robinette (2010), Jonathan Warsh (2011), and Sean Alexander (2016). Jess and Matt live in Boston. Jess works as a senior director of Population Health at Boston Medical Center Health System, the largest safety net hospital system and Medicaid-managed care organization in Massachusetts. Matt is an attorney and works as a public defender in New Hampshire.



Jess Lanney (2010) and Matt McNicoll



Jess Lanney (2010), Carrie Barnett (2010), Aroop Mukharji (2010), Steven Robinette (2010), Jonathan Warsh (2011), and Sean Alexander (2016)

REY FUENTES lives in Washington, D.C. with his partner, Allison Schneider; two children, Sutton and Hazel; and dog, Pepper. Rey is currently employed by the US Department of Labor serving as an attorney in the Fair Labor Standards Division.



Allison, Hazel, Rey, and Sutton as they leave for a wedding. Not featured, but still loved: Pepper.

2012

GARRETT TURNER and his wife Bonita Turner welcomed their first child to the world this year! Their son, Canaan JoNeal Turner, was born on May 26 at eight pounds, two ounces.

2013

ADITYA BALASUBRAMANIAN published a book called *Toward a Free Economy: Swatantra and Opposition Politics in Democratic India* (Princeton University Press). Here is the endorsement from Amartya Sen, Lamont University professor at Harvard University and Nobel Laureate in economics.

"Toward a Free Economy is a brilliant history of economic ideas in independent India. It provides a new view of the origins of conservatism in Indian politics, libertarian rather than authoritarian and committed to free markets rather than to Hindu nationalism, which should make a big difference.

2018

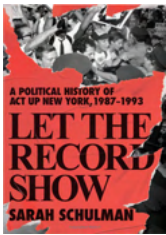
BEN JOHNSON graduated from medical school at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and moved to San Francisco, California, where he has started residency in emergency medicine at Stanford. He encourages Marshalls living in or visiting the area to contact him!

If you'd like to share an update, some news, a photo, or other information, please visit the AMS website to submit them at marshallscholars.org/ams-newsletters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT TO DO NEXT

We asked a few Marshalls to share their recommendations for books and podcasts to add to your que.



Let the Record Show: A Political History of ACT UP New York, 1987-1993 by Sarah Schulman

“History books chronicle the past, but this is a rare one that provides a roadmap to the future. Sarah Schulman’s perspective as an insider to ACT UP—one of the most successful American activist groups in recent decades—and her positionality as a lesbian activist make this an invaluable record of ACT UP’s strategies, tactics, and the pivotal but often overlooked role played by women and people of color within the movement. Schulman’s faithful, detailed, and critical account of ACT UP’s successes and failures, brought to life by decades of interview material, serves as a guidebook for today’s activists and organizers (myself included!) hoping to achieve grassroots change.” — *Erica Scott (2020), SOAS University of London and King’s College London*



We Can Do Hard Things with Glennon Doyle

“To borrow the words of another listener, We Can Do Hard Things is ‘funny, healing, wildly unpredictable, challenging in the best of ways, and ultimately, a refuge of belonging.’ Each episode of this podcast is an opportunity to better understand yourself, others, and the world around us. If you’re not already a member of the WCDHT Pod Squad, I’d highly recommend you join.” — *Katie Scheibner (2020) University of St Andrews and University of Oxford*

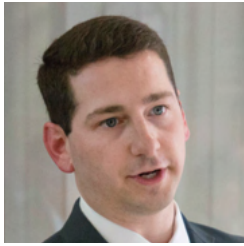


2034: A Novel of the Next World War, by Elliott Ackerman and Admiral James Stavridis

“As an officer in the Air Force, I recommend this short, easily digestible speculative fiction that explores how a third world war might unfold. Written simply and to the point, the novel forces readers to consider how today’s age of cyber and space capabilities will likely make future wars both more abstract and closer to home.” — *Mary Hood (2020), King’s College London and the University of Sussex*

Have recommendations you’d like to share? Send them to us at newsletter@ams.org.

AMS EDITORIAL TEAM



ZACHARY D. KAUFMAN (2002)

**Vice President, AMS Board of Directors;
Chair, Marshall Alumni Newsletter Committee**

BA, MPhil, JD, DPhil (PhD). Zachary D. Kaufman is professor of law at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he teaches criminal law, international law, national security law, and transitional justice.



NICHOLAS HARTMAN (2003)

Deputy Editor

BS, PhD. Nicholas leads a team at Amazon Web Services in New York City supporting early-stage startup companies. He lives in Westchester County with his wife and two boys.



SHANNON FELTON SPENCE

Director of Communications

Shannon Felton Spence leads successful public affairs, political, and communication strategies for clients across the United States and the United Kingdom, including the Association of Marshall Scholars.



MAUREEN HARMON

Editor

Maureen Harmon is the editor of the *AMS Newsletter*, as well as the editor-in-chief of publications at Rice University's Jones Graduate School of Business, including *Rice Business* magazine and *Rice Business Wisdom*, the school's online ideas magazine. She is also the managing partner of Dog Ear Creative, a consultancy aimed at higher education publications.



CAMILLE MUMFORD

Class Notes Editor

Camille Mumford has worked on the Communications team at the Association of Marshall Scholars since 2020. Her primary focus at the AMS is the public opinion survey of US residents that measures attitudes towards the UK and transatlantic issues.



DIANA COOGLE (1966)

Profiles Co-Editor

BA, MA, PhD. After writing a dissertation on Old English poetry, Diana finished her long teaching career at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass, Oregon, with retirement in 2017. She continues to live and write in her little house in the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon, hiking and cross-country skiing as often as possible.

Views represented in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the AMS or the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (MACC).

Newsletter design by The Applied Humanities, Katie Clark, Principal & CEO (2005)

Cover images: Tasos Katopodis



The relationship between the US and the UK thrives not only on political and economic ties but also on a deep cultural and creative connection. The 2023 Marshall Forum on Arts & Creativity, held in September, underscored that idea.

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