when nature & minds meet
HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE
ALUMNI UPDATES | FALL 2020
**WELCOME TO THE**

**ALUMNI UPDATES!**

From Semester 1 to Semester 43, our fall semester alumni are up to some pretty cool things! Don’t forget to flip to the end to find out what former HMI faculty members have been up to, too. As always, updates from spring semesters and former apprentices will appear in the spring. Happy reading!*  

* In order to honor our mission and non-profit status, we edited several submissions to remove politically partisan language.

**SEMESTER 1**

Semester 1, we’d love to hear from you! Email your updates to Barrett Donovan at bdonovan@hminet.org.

**SEMESTER 3**

Hello fellow RMS Illers! It’s great to hear from a few of you and I hope more of you will respond next fall too! Here are the updates (and pictures!). **EMILY GARAI** reports that “she and her wife Erin have been working hard to survive COVID precautions with two young boys (ages 4 & 1). They’ve adjusted to working from home and having the kids home all day with various strategies, and they are doing their best to be grateful for the extra time that they get to spend with the kids while they’re young. As part of their strategy, they’ve spent time in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Texas to get help from the grandmothers. The kids return to in-person school this month, which brings a new host of challenges. They did get a “COVID cat” in March, so they welcomed a rescue cat Gravy to the family, making them two moms, two sons, two dogs, and one cat. “There is an adventure at every turn!” she writes. Ain’t that the truth! **STEVENVANTONE** has some big news: “I got married this year in the middle of the pandemic on August 8, 2020 (masks, socially distanced, mostly Zoom wedding), and I continue to make outdoor videos on my website and YouTube channel: MossyFrogStudio.com.” Congratulations Steve! Seems like something is in the water because **CAITY JOHNSON** reports: “I read your email as I was returning from my sweet little elopement last week in Big Sur, CA. So, I guess that’s some news! My husband and I had a big, beautiful wedding planned for this summer here in Oakland. But, a global pandemic and raging wildfires up and down the coast derailed those plans. And also Plan b. And Plan c. But, a global pandemic and raging wildfires up and down the coast derailed those plans. And also Plan b. And Plan c. So, we decided to high-tail it down Highway 1 as soon as we got a break in the AQI, and exchanged vows on the beach at sunset. We’ll have a tiny official ceremony this coming weekend so our parents can cry over the internet, but I feel pretty lucky, all things considered. If you can find someone that you are still delighted to wake up next to every day, in a one-bedroom apartment, in indefinite quarantine, when the sky is on fire and the air unbreathable—someone who will stand shoulder to shoulder with you in the streets fighting for racial justice and our fragile democracy and also make you breakfast for dinner and not mind when you practice your new string instrument in the aforementioned tiny apartment...hold on to them. A party is just a party, and hopefully we can have those again, soon. I've closed my massage business for now (until touching people is something we can safely do again), but in the meantime I've taken up the cello and have enrolled in Early Childhood Education classes. Lots of news, big and small, momentous and mundane.” Congratulations Caity! Also in California, **ELIOT ESTRIN** writes “I am in Topanga, CA with my wife Gabrielle and Iris, our 1 year old daughter. We got married a few years ago in the backyard. We are both psychotherapists now working from home.” Eliot has plenty of reason to visit Colorado, when that kind of thing is again possible. Wishing you all the best and hoping for your continued safety and health! —Sam Harlow (samantha.w.harlow@gmail.com)

**SEMESTER 5**

**LIZ JOSE** started her first year as an 8th grade math and science teacher in September. The kids are awesome and the circumstances are...challenging. She’s teaching all remote and really missing the HMI natural science and field studies. Her cat and husband are very supportive. **TARQUIN THORNTON-CLOSE** had to permanently close his Strength Training facility because of the pandemic, but was lucky enough to be able to do so cleanly and with minimal fallout. It’s also given his family the opportunity to move out of San Francisco by the end of the year and down to the Central HMI ARCHIVES
Valley of CA where he and his wife will have more space for their three dogs and their insanely fast growing almost 3-year-old daughter Waverly, who is already way smarter and funnier than her dad will ever be! JEREMY LOEB has been hibernating since March in a deep quarantine with his partner, Naomi, toddlers ages 1 and 3, and grandparents, who are kindly offering childcare to said toddlers (hence the deep quarantine) while the parents do the remote work in various corners of the house. But also said grandparents bought a cabin in Tahoe, so mostly they’ve been living up in the mountains this year, telecommuting and enjoying the perks of mountain life like singletrack and groomed XC laps after work. He also started an amazing job as a low carbon fuels engineer for the State of CA. So in a peculiar and very claustrophobic way it’s been a really great year for his family, which is a strange space to inhabit when the west coast is burning to the ground and there’s a global pandemic. YASMINE KOHLI DUMORE is hunkered down in Brooklyn with her toddler while her hubby, Fred, has been working in-person 6 days a week as a construction manager with his daughter outside as much as possible before the next shut down. JOHN COCHRAN is hunkered in Wenatchee, WA with his wife and 14-month-old toddler. Back in December he made a planned exit from the cannabis industry to spend a few months as a stay-at-home dad before returning to his career as a nurse. Then COVID hit and he decided he didn’t want to risk getting sick working in the hospital, so he’s had the awesome opportunity to be a full-time parent all year! He and his family have stayed hunkered down and mostly stayed around town, but he is looking forward to returning to work this fall and getting his daughter out for lots of adventures in the snow this winter! DAN SCHIEFFELIN is, for the first time in almost a decade, going to spend a winter in the northern hemisphere; he and his girlfriend are taking the season off (hence the deep quarantine) while the parents do the remote work in various parts of the world. Naomi, toddlers ages 1 and 3, and grandparents, who are hibernating since March in a deep quarantine with his partner,]], AMY MURPHY is living in Denver, CO with her wife and 15-month-old son. She is the General Counsel of a global Financial Technology company providing financial services to the unbanked in emerging markets. It is a blessing to be working from home and seeing his son grow, he reports. He hopes to get back to heading overseas once the pandemic subsides and borders reopen. NATHALIE NUNEZ is still living in Tucson, AZ with her husband and 3 kids, ages 11, 5 and 14 months. Since COVID hit, she has been working mostly from home as a Senior Environmental Scientist. She enjoys all of the time she now gets to spend with her family, all of the camping and hiking they have been doing, and the slower pace of life. Quite a few home improvement projects have been underway as well. She hopes to begin traveling again once the pandemic subsides. MATT CHANDLER is living in Jackson, WY with his wife, Jordan, and their pup, Oliver. Given that he normally travels a lot for work (communications/PR consulting), he’s set a new record for staying put and has not left Teton County since February. That has meant a summer of bikes, rivers, and adventures, and not enough time on Zoom. While pandemic uncertainty abounds, Matt feels lucky and grateful to have the opportunity to ride it out in the (relative) middle of nowhere. Finally, AMY MURPHY, moved up to Baltimore last year with her husband where she works as a speech therapist at a skilled nursing facility. Despite 2020, she absolutely loves working with her geriatric patients/residents, and exploring all of what Baltimore has to offer on her bike. Please hit her up if you’re visiting Baltimore! Her rooftop deck has great views, nearby brews (just a flight of stairs away) and lots of space for physical distancing.

—Amy Murphy (amyabhriessen@gmail.com)

SEMESTER 7

Over Memorial Day Weekend 2020 about 12 members of HMI Semester 7 had a Zoom reunion and were very excited to have a chance to meet in person at the Holy Cross Guesthouse in Ft. Collins. The event was a blessing to be working from home and seeing his son grow, he reports. He hopes to get back to heading overseas once the pandemic subsides and borders reopen.
SEMESTER 9

After getting married in Portugal, PHIL QUINN and his wife Taylor have settled into a home in Rhode Island. They welcomed a son, Cassius, into the world last January. LIZA COHEN remains busy working on projects to make the streets of Massachusetts safer for walking, cycling, and public transit, and she was able to get her daughter Carrie into the ocean a few times this summer. CAROLYN LOEB is still living in Burlington, VT and working for an auditing organization, although that work has involved fewer trips into the woods this year as a result of the pandemic. She and her longtime partner Rob got married in August in a small, mostly masked ceremony on the summit of a mountain in New Hampshire. Speaking of marriage, I (CHARLIE EICHACKER) got engaged this past spring to my partner of a few years, Courtney. I’m still writing for a newspaper in Maine, trying to keep up with all things COVID and getting used to my office being a kitchen table.

—Sam Timberg (samtimberg@gmail.com)

SEMESTER 11

My husband, Graham, and I welcomed Parker Barnes O’Brien on July 3rd. He is the absolute best and we are so in love with him. Sleep deprived, as well!

—Madeline Wallace O’Brien (mwallace1488@gmail.com)

SEMESTER 13

Taylor Verderame, Nathan Brand, Eric Bernstein and Elizabeth Sinclaire started the new year off right with some Greek food and beers in San Francisco. Then the world changed drastically for us all! What a time.

Taylor Verderame has made the best of it by starting her own business from her home of Oakland, CA! She is working in interior design and taking advantage of all that California has to offer by hiking, running, and biking as much as possible. She is crushing the home garden game and upping her bartending game at home. Nathan Brand is a busy surgical resident at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He hosted Eric Bernstein for some time during quarantine during which Eric got to enjoy his Peloton and hang with Nathan’s wife, ERIC BERNSTEIN finished grad school at the UC Berkeley this spring. He finished with a Master’s in Public Policy. He was recently hired by folks in Minnesota to help on a campaign aimed at raising state tax revenue and investing in education, health care, and equity more broadly. He will be moving there before the end of the year and will stay at least until next summer. Eric is currently quarantining at his father’s place on Long Island after a road trip across the country this summer. Eric says: “Overall, the pandemic was very gentle on me: Being halfway through my last semester of grad school, the relief from social isolation was actually sort of a welcomed excuse to put my head down and get through my work, and I found it overall a meditative experience—lots of cooking, walking, and chatting with old friends on the phone or Zoom. Speaking of old friends, here is a requisite rundown of my interactions with our fellow HMI’ers: As mentioned, Taylor, Elizabeth and I had a great hang with Nathan shortly before the pandemic started, Nathan and I hung out a good bit during quarantine and I even did a little staycation at his place during which I worked out on his Peloton, bathed in his fancy tub, and made a chili while he saved lives. At the end of the day he got home 2 hours later than initially expected and I got a preview of what it would be like marrying a surgeon (not bad, honestly)! I have also chatted with JO YECIES a few times and met her fiancé. They seem very happy. My scheduled visit with BEN WILKOFSKY was canceled, but he and I caught up for a few hours by phone the other day and it seems things with him are going well. His daughter, Isabel, is almost four now if you can believe it.” Thank you for all of the fantastic updates Eric! You are a great friend to us all.

ELIZABETH SINCLAIRE is still living in San Francisco, now working as a Labor and Delivery nurse after completing a training program to work in L&D. She still dreams about becoming a nurse practitioner/nurse- midwife, so we’ll see what the future holds. Otherwise, Elizabeth was planning on running the London marathon this year, but like many plans, that was canceled. So instead, she started soudough bread baking and has a big home garden now. She is leaning into gratitude and connecting to the fight. PHIL THURNER got a new job selling custom trips to South Africa and Victoria Falls last July, went to those countries to get familiarized, started the job strong, and then 2020 hit. Hard. Phil has been furloughed since April, and although the company is still in business, it’s been a tough year. Luckily, Phil has been “fake retired” during his furlough (with healthcare still intact), and he stayed in Colorado with friends for a few months, picked up golf, and played a lot of softball and baseball for the first time in a while. All savor linings for this madness! CHRISTINA BLEMEYER (CLARK) is living in relatively rural Maine (about 1 hour and 15 minutes north of Portland) on about four acres of land, which has been nice

—Madeline O’Brien (Semester 11), her husband Graham, and their son Parker
within the pandemic. Christina still works for Circle Surrogacy, which continues to persist, even with some downturn in business. Ultimately people still want to grow their families. Christina says they had some interesting times trying to get parents here from other countries to get their babies, but as of now everyone has been reunited with their kids. COVID has been interesting since her day to day life didn’t change much, as she has worked from home for three years, but it certainly dominated her work life. COVID accelerated her wife’s timeline for opening her own business, which was already in the works, but she moved up her opening plans. She opened a contactless takeout place, which is doing well (if any of you are near Jefferson, Maine, please order! www.redstovefarm.com). In other news, Christina and her wife are expecting their first child in March, after two years of trying! Congratulations, again you two! ERICA MACKENCIE (COREN) got to see Elizabeth Sinclaire last fall when she was in California for a wedding, which was so nice. They loved catching up! Erica has been doing relatively well during this pandemic. She was laid off from Revion in March a few days before the pandemic hit, but found another job in April and has been working at Pharmapacks since May. Pharmapacks is a late-stage start up in e-commerce, selling personal care items on marketplaces such as Amazon. If you have ever purchased Scrub Daddy on Amazon, you have bought from this company. Erica is a Brand Manager that markets L’Oreal products, so she is happy that she’s still working in beauty marketing, with an expertise in e-commerce, which is where the world is going. She and her husband technically still live in a small one-bedroom in Manhattan, but they have been staying mainly outside of NYC about an hour north of the city with her parents. It was recently their third wedding anniversary as well, so congratulations to them! They miss traveling but are planning to go out west to Salt Lake City for a few weeks in February for ski season, so that should be fun as long as ski resorts stay open! KASSIE GARFIELD wrote her update sitting in the middle of the desert, in a shipping container for a room...good times! Kassie just got to Al Dhafra Air Force Base in the UAE a week ago. She will be there for 6 months providing physical therapy services to the base out there. Kassie says it’s hot but should be getting cooler as winter comes. This is a unique opportunity for Kassie, and she says she is happy to be doing it, as working in the military was on her bucket list. Kassie will also be coaching CrossFit there and working on her upper traps. She had a whirlwind summer working bootcamp at the Air Force academy and getting ready for her deployment. Before her deployment, she was back in Colorado, which she loved. Kass climbed another 14er this summer for sunrise, which felt like something we would have done back in the day. She did lots of hiking and got a dog, which keeps her busy. Kassie sold her home in Colorado before her deployment, as she will probably be getting a new assignment in the spring (still TBD). As Kassie says: “My HMI showings this year have been sparse. Mostly desperate attempts to make contact with Tayler, Joh, Franni, and Zi with nostalgic camping texts and Whispersite photos of my adventures this summer. I am serious about living in a shipping container if anyone wants to send me wall decorations...magnets work. I’ll be in CO this spring again if anyone wants to come visit.” We loved catching up and hearing everyone’s updates! Hope everyone is safe and healthy in this wild time. Sending lots of HMI love from all parts of the world!

—Elizabeth Sinclaire (e.sinclaire@gmail.com)
FROM THE HMI ARCHIVES

Semester 17

door in Rhode Island. CLARA (RUBIN) DECERO has had an eventful 2020, as she is the Director of Providence Emergency Management Agency. She started this position in March, after recovering from breaking a leg. We are all keeping Clara in our thoughts as she is on the front lines dealing with the pandemic and we are very proud of her. In the northeast, KAYLA BECKER is a mom to three boys and the director of her local Recreation Center in Vermont. And finally, moving across the pond, D’MARIA TAYLOR recently finished her MBA at Oxford and is enjoying her off-grid fireplace and has taken up road cycling. She is looking for a job now but is planning on staying in the UK. A lot has changed for me, LIZ CEPERLEY, since the last newsletter, as my husband Walker and I welcomed our son Leo on July 15th. I spent 2019-2020 as a Visiting Professor at Oberlin College, where I enjoyed teaching geology courses and living near campus, but moved to Shorewood, WI (adjacent to Milwaukee) before having Leo. Now life has a different rhythm with the baby but we have been playing disc golf nearly every weekend, which has been a perfect pastime during the pandemic (and doable when I was super pregnant and a new mom!). I hope the next decade brings clarity to our chaotic world and that I see a little more of my fellow HMI classmates!

—Liz Ceperley (ceperley@gmail.com)

Semester 17

Semester XVII alumni have been up to exciting things this year. A group that continues to be resilient and have a particular zest for life and adventure, they have not let the challenges of COVID-19 stand in their way!

KATIE GEORGE moved to New Mexico, where she is an instructor and administrator at a preparatory academy. NOAH STROUSE and his partner bought a house in the Santa Cruz Mountains, which affords him the enjoyment of wildlife, hiking, and beautiful beaches. ELIZA PATerson moved to Amman, Jordan, where she is working for an NGO that does sustainable development projects with water resources and agriculture and irrigation. AURÉLIE EUSTACE was a Teaching Fellow Coordinator, Spanish & English Faculty at Alzar School. She is now on the verge of moving to Seattle, WA for a one-year certificate program in Sexuality Education. MOLLY (DOUGHERTY) KUHN married her partner, Alex, in June! She continues to work at the same middle school she has been teaching at for the last several years. Molly was also lucky to see Claire before the pandemic! CLAIRE MAGGIOTTO started her third year of a pediatric residency which is the last year, but she will be hanging around for another year to do a chief year. She also just had a baby girl, Magnolia! LILLIAN GROSZ is based in Ogden, Utah where she is working as a bicycle mechanic, research assistant, and chemistry tutor at the local university while making plans to move to Juneau in January. If all goes well with the last stages of the application, she will be studying salmon essential fish habitat in a master’s program with the University of Alaska. SUSANNA MCMILLAN is enjoying life in Carbondale, CO entering her third year of work at the NaturaquanTheric Practice she started up with her husband. When she is not working, eating, or sleeping, she is on one of her bikes enjoying the beautiful Rocky Mountains. She connected with GORDON MATTHEWSON last winter, and they were lucky to go skiing together. LIZ GIRAUD graduated last spring with her master’s degree and moved back to Denver, where she and her fiancé, Drew, bought a house! She is providing speech and language therapy to K-5 children with ASD. AMIE MOORE has been quarantining at home with her husband and sons, enjoying their neighborhood by the beach as a family. HENRY STANISLAWSKI is still based in Paris, working by day in business strategy and development for an off-grid solar provider that operates across Africa and (was) DJing and running techno events by night. In pre-COVID times, he was back and forth to Uganda and Côte d’ivoire frequently for work and in London intermittently for music. He and IZZY DE LAPEROOSE were able to connect in London in September. LEAH HEAL got married and bought a house with her husband, Earl, in Mount Olive, North Carolina! When she’s not working in primary care, she and Earl love going on adventures with their dog, gillling outside, and going to the beach. ERICA LANDERSON, her husband, and two sons, Linden (4) and Filian (6), are preparing to sell their house in Leadville and ran into Justin Talbot! ALLI GUZY is living in Miami. She got engaged right before quarantine, and is getting married next July in Palm Beach, Florida.

—Ali Guzy (allisonguz@gmail.com)

SEMESTER 19

COLIN DOYLE lives in Austin, Texas, where he has one more year in his PhD program in the department of Geography and the Environment at UT Austin. He studies soil geomorphology, hydrology, and remote sensing, and his dissertation looks at how ancient Maya in Central America modified wetlands and floodplains for resilience against past climate change. Although he could not go this year, Colin usually spends his summers bushwhacking through jungles in Belize and Guatemala and digging holes in swamps. He is also the Director of Technology at Cloud to Street, where he leads the development of a satellite-based near-real-time flood monitoring and disaster assessment system. LYDIA ENGLISH wrapped up her master’s program this summer and now works for Practical Farmers of Iowa, a non-profit centered around farmer-to-farmer education. JAMES WEINER is in Colorado getting ready for his first trail marathon, inspired by the great experience he had at the Fun Run many moons ago! CHELSEA DECK EDWIN graduated from her PhD research at Columbia University and moved up to Boston to work in early stage drug discovery at Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research. Despite COVID-19 craziness, Chelsea married Ethan Edwin at a small intimate wedding in September. CHARLOTTE AMBROZEK officially became a PhD candidate and got a fellowship to organize leadership and communication training for graduate and post-doc students (HMI skills for the win). She also celebrated Chelsea’s wedding (remote)! CAROLINE STEPHENS is finishing up her last year of family medicine residency in London and applying for OB fellowships next year. She and her fiancé Daniel postponed their big December wedding and in the meantime are doing a small family ceremony in Vail in October! In an effort to become even more corporate, NAIT FORD now does corporate strategy for a big insurance company. To offset that, he and his wife Olivia got a dog, Pepper, who they are training to be a working dog! They are currently sheltering in place in Long Island, and will be returning to Boston in a few months. COBY UNGER lives in a co-op house in Somerville, MA with a great group of other weirdos. When the coffee shops closed down along with most of the rest of the world, they converted the living room into a private coffee shop just for them called Cafe Grounded (as in, “go to your room, you’re grounded”). Grourdend is complete with art installations, an espresso machine, and posters for make-believe bands that played in their make-believe cafe
Carrie Cecil (Semester 19) married her partner Wes in August!

Hannah Eaton (Semester 19) swimming in an alpine lake

James Weiner (Semester 19) training for his first trail marathon

Liz Fucillo (Semester 19) and her newly adopted dog, Pearl

Addie Davis (Semester 19) with her beloved HMI backpack during a measles intervention in Chad

Adam Lombroso (Semester 19) enjoying the fall colors

Rachel Scott Foster (Semester 19) married her partner Charlie in July
Smyth (Semester 5) and her sibling Carter Stapanovsky (Semester 5) went backpacking in the Indian Peaks Wilderness this fall and had a blast reminiscing on their HMI memories and talking about Molly Barnes.
WE HOPE YOU’LL JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THIS YEAR’S ALUMNI SUMMIT CHALLENGE

Our annual alumni giving campaign helps to support financial aid at HMI by providing scholarships to future students.

This year our goal is 40% participation and $50,000.

Whether you are a member of the Mt. Elbert Circle, or have never given to the Summit Challenge before, your support helps make HMI a reality for all students.

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Make a one-time gift, or to set up a recurring gift that will support HMI for years to come!

FROM THE HMI ARCHIVES | Semester 21

the rolling topography of the Upper Valley. Her goals for the year are to land a job in consulting, learn how to tap her own maple syrup, and visit Leadville (COVID permitting...). Like many others, SYLVIA PAROL has had a pretty unpredictable 2020. She lost her restaurant job at the start of the pandemic and lost all paying DJing gigs. At the beginning of May, she was invited to join a community start-up called Stage Presence (spresence.com), where she now acts as the Sales Lead. Stage Presence connects performance artists with paid virtual gigs for corporate clients. Amidst all the uncertainty with where to live and still seeking full-time work, she is enjoying hiking trips in the Bay Area and spending some time learning how to play piano for the first time. SAM DAVIDSON is still living in Philadelphia with his wife and two dogs. The nonprofit he works for supports schools and, like all of us, COVID-19 has made that work quite crazy. He is excited for ski season! REBECCA (SMITTY) SMITH is living outside of Boulder with her roommate, Zoe Solomon (RMS XX), and dog Raleigh. She is the Marketing Manager for deuter and ORTOVOX and will convince Justin Talbot to try out Deuter packs sooner rather than later. Smitty and her sibling Carter Stepanovsky (RMS V) went backpacking in the Indian Peaks Wilderness this fall and had a blast reminiscing on their HMI memories and talking about Molly Barnes. And just like many of you, she is very much looking forward to 2021 (fingers crossed).

—Rebecca Smith (rsmith91@gmail.com)
SEMESTER 23

MEGAN MORROW graduated from Tufts University in May with a Master’s in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning. She is now working in transportation planning in the Boston area. Hiking and camping in New Hampshire brought her a lot of joy this summer. RACHEL WALEY is living in Los Angeles, working (remotely) at USC, and volunteering with LA Tech4Good. She enjoyed catching up with Abby Barnstone while hiking in Griffith Park last fall! Lately she’s been learning watercolor painting and exploring LA by bicycle. ABBY BARNSTONE still lives in Los Angeles but has been in Massachusetts with her family. While recovering from a serious ankle break, and living through the pandemic, Abby has enjoyed spending time with her family and their new puppies in Cape Cod. She has taken up epoxy woodworking and has challenged herself to singing lessons. ALYCIA MARTENS splits her time between San Francisco and Lake Tahoe, and just began her internship working at a homeless family services agency in downtown San Francisco, and is praying to the water gods for respite from the fires in California and a bountiful winter. MERRIN MELZER is living in Somerville, MA and working with the National Park Service remotely from her bedroom. She has spent the last six months learning how to bike in the city, collecting house plants, and dying her hair new colors. She is also super excited for her cousin, who just took a job teaching Spanish at HMI and plans to live vicariously through his experience! As BEN CAPELIN forged his way into the dawn of his late twenties, he finds himself pleased with his circumstances in spite of the demons that besieg the world at the moment. He recently surfaced from a grueling dance with a severe brain injury that stopped his heart for as long as it takes most people to sing “Happy Birthday.” After bouncing between construction, dragging his carcass through school, stonemasonry, outdoor education, and a fearfully unrequited love affair with the southwest, he currently works wilderness therapy in Bend, Oregon where his radio handle oscillates between Iron Giant and Obi-Wan. As his Saturn return approaches, he intends to pursue love whether it has 2 or 4 paws. Wish him luck and godspeed.

SEMESTER 25

KAT GEPPERT resides in Marina Del Rey, working for a family as their Executive Assistant and House Manager. She also has a business called KG Nutrition and Fitness where she uses her degree as a certified Personal Trainer and Nutrition Coach. HALLIE SKRIPAK GORDON is still implementing professional international exchange programs for the State Department remotely from North Dakota! She will head back to DC whenever their office reopens. JACK FITZMAURICE moved to Portland, Maine in December! He is bartending and teaching/tutoring some of his coworkers’ kids. MELISSA GRIPP has spent this year as a long-term sub at an all boys school outside of Boston teaching grades 5-9. In March 2020 she ran her first 50 mile race in Page, AZ! GLENYS HUNT is living in Ridgway, CO, and working in the San Juans as a field guide at a wilderness therapy program. She is still climbing, hiking and boating a bunch, now with the addition of her adventure puppy, Yonder. Glenys is looking towards starting school to get her MSW, and carving out more time for metalsmithing and meditation. NATHAN SCHMIDT moved back to Boston after a Peace Corps evacuation from South Africa in March. He is currently working in solar asset management and getting really into Frisbee golf (a great socially distant activity)! LEE JUNKIN is currently working remotely for a marketing agency and living on Cape Cod with his family. SCOTT TETTINGER moved back to Chicago to start a new job where he designs control systems for the power generation industry. It’s been quite a transition shifting into a new industry and learning how to deal with cold weather again after spending the last 3 years in Texas! There would be more adventures and experiences to share in a normal year, but instead Scott’s used the slower pace of life in the
COVID age to start reading for fun again and stay active at the bouldering gym. ALLY JORDAN had a pandemic-friendly drive-in wedding in April and graduated from law school in May. Since then, she has been studying for the Bar Exam and working as a clerk for the Second Circuit. ROBBY KUSTER lives in Medellin working for a sustainable coffee company. The pandemic has been tough, but he took the time to build upon his HMI cooking skills during his quarantine. After a full 4 years in Colombia, Robby will be heading back to the U.S. in 2021 to begin his MBA at Duke. RYAN CLARK agrees 2020 has been a crazy year but a lot of good things are happening. He recently got engaged to his now-fiancé Kristina and they officially locked in their wedding date for June 10th of 2023! Ryan has kept very busy during the pandemic working for a software development consulting firm that is a Microsoft partner! They help customers adjust to remote work and build solutions that are helping their businesses combat the changes COVID has brought. Ryan is still actively hiking in the northeast as well as playing and coaching hockey in Connecticut. JAMIE SARAFAN is living in Boulder, CO finishing up her 2 MAs in History and Religious Studies. Still climbing as much as possible and recently took up gravel cycling! SAM ALLEN currently lives in Highlands Ranch, CO where he works in wilderness therapy while applying for jobs. He spends his free time working with 350 Colorado on the rulemaking process of oil and gas and helps plan events for Protect our Winters. PRIYA MUTHU is living in RI and working at Vistaprint as a marketing strategist. She still finds time to explore nature and enjoy the outdoors despite this crazy time we live in! ALEX POTTER is currently getting his MBA at MIT Sloan and running and hiking whenever he can! LAURA MESSENGER completed her Master's in Social Work in June and is now working at a community mental health center in Denver. During the pandemic she spends her time in parks, the mountains, reading, learning guitar, and screening movies on the projector in the yard! PETER JAMES is in his third year at Brown Medical School and is interested in a career in surgery to go along with a life spent enjoying the outdoors. TONI HALL is living in Chicago and is in her third year teaching 5th grade science. She just graduated with her master's in teaching secondary science and in the spring, completed two years with Teach for America. LAURA HOFFMAN got married in May of 2019 and is currently living north of Pittsburgh. She works as a mental health counselor in a group private practice serving mostly couples and families. Laura is surviving the pandemic by going on lots of hikes, enjoying quiet time and rest, and getting together with family and friends whenever possible.

SEMMESTER 27

JAKE BAZILIAN lives in New York City and continues to work for ACV Auctions. He has been traveling (safely!) to visit friends and family in Michigan and Connecticut and New Jersey. Embracing our new normal, he recently FaceTimed with Semester 27 classmates; MILES WILSON and JUSTIN GUMP. ISABELLA CALIANDRO lives in Portland, Maine, where she works at a bakery and tutors kids. In her free time, she has enjoyed surfing with KUBA CHANDLER. She plans to move to Hawaii this winter! KELSEY HOEKSTRA is in Philadelphia, working from home and trying to get outside as much as she safely can while the weather is still nice. When it is safe to travel again, she wants to meet up with all the nearby Semester 27 classmates. DANNY ICAZA-MILSON lives in Austin, Texas and works as a designer for DELX Computers from home. At the end of the month, his contract ends and Danny will travel for a few weeks before starting another job. He’s excited to check out Big Bend National Park and the Guadalupe Mountains. In his spare time he swims, plays ping pong with his roommates, and paints in his studio. ANDREW MEYER is back in the US after teaching at the Island School, and has been spending his time phone banking for the election and riding his bike. Recently, Andrew visited the Boundary Waters with his brother and a friend before it got too cold. LUKEY WALDEN is a professor at RISO in Providence, RI where they teach drawing and painting! ANNA WEISS is a first year PhD student at USC studying Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography. COLLEEN ORR lives in Arlington, Virginia and continues to work on US policy for Principles for Responsible Investment. Colleen spent spring at home in Kentucky, and added a second dog to the family—a “pandemic puppy.” She enjoys keeping up with HMI on the Alumni Council, and was excited to see so many Semester 27 classmates during their virtual reunion in April.

SEMMESTER 29

Semester 29, we’d love to hear from you! Email your updates to Barrett Donovan at bdonovan@hminet.org.

SEMMESTER 31

Semester 31, we’d love to hear from you! Email your updates to Barrett Donovan at bdonovan@hminet.org.

SEMMESTER 33

KENDALL (BIARD) SPEER graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in June with a degree in Psychological and Brain Sciences (and minors in Spanish and Speech & Hearing). After almost 6 years together, she and Caleb got married in a tiny, laid back ceremony in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. After that, they moved to West Texas and Kendall is now working as a behavioral therapist for children with autism spectrum disorder. She’s loving her job and is enjoying exploring a lot of the state parks and dreaming of cooler weather when she can make a trip to hit the slopes! JORDAN SANCHEZ is now a contract lobbyist at the Colorado State Capitol working for Brandeberry McKenna Public Affairs. She has been extremely excited about working in her role to amplify Latinx/Hispanic voices around the state. Living and working in Denver, Jordan has appreciated being able to escape to the mountains through numerous backpacking and camping trips. She stays engaged with HMI through her work on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee of the HMI Alumni Board. ELIZABETH ORR is currently teaching Pre-K at Brunswick School in Greenwich, Connecticut while getting her master’s in Early Childhood Education! She has enjoyed teaching her students science outside and exploring the beautiful Connecticut fall. Her move to the north has been a big change but she reports that she is loving it so far! LILA HITZIG virtually graduated from Bowdoin College back in May with a double major in Computer Science and Education. Her parents were polar bear onesies (the mascot for the college) to make the day as fun as possible given the circumstances. After graduation, she started her job in July as a Media Tech Associate at NBCUniversal! It is a two year rotational program where she gets to try out three different jobs in different business areas of the company to see what she likes best before fully launching her career! Right now she’s working as a Cyber Security Engineer and loving every second of it. Even though we are living through a global pandemic she still got to see some fellow Semester 33 friends from 6 feet away, which was the highlight of her summer.

—Madison Wilkinson (madisonlwilkinson16@gmail.com)
this time. Out in Los Angeles, Nina Baratelli has continued Pratt Art School from home and is particularly enjoying making models and drawing for her industrial design classes. Along with taking classes, Nina has been contributing to coronavirus relief efforts by making and selling her beautifully crafted masks. Go find @bean4masks on Instagram to get yours! Cricket Barnes has begun her sophomore year at St. Lawrence University, where she’s gotten back in touch with her HMI roots by living in outing club themed housing. Already this year she’s gone on a few canoeing and hiking trips around the Adirondacks, and is excited to be leading her first hiking trip on Mt. Arab! Chaney Dalton is continuing her studies in psychology and engineering psychology with a minor in education at Tufts University. She spent her summer working as an online intern for the American Youth Foundation and is now taking online classes from home and taking every opportunity she gets to go to her local climbing gym. Also at Tufts is Oliver Diamond, who is grateful to be able to return to campus. While he’s stuck on Zoom calls for most of the day, Oliver’s trying to make time to go for runs and long walks with friends to take full advantage of the beautiful fall season in Boston. He misses HMI now as much as ever and hopes to make it out to Leadville sometime soon for a visit. After spending her gap semester in the Northern Cascades on an Outward Bound course with Kate Sadoff, Cali Johnston road-tripped across the Midwest, also with Kate. Before beginning at Colorado College, she backpacked in New Zealand and Australia. Cali is now home in Boston taking remote classes, after a lovely summer in New Hampshire with Isabella. Isabella Whelan is a sophomore at Colby College and currently living on campus, where she is majoring in global studies with a minor in environmental science. Isabella worked in a bakery on a farm in New Hampshire this summer, and spent her off time with her family and Cali’s family in New Hampshire. AJ Rossenbaum is currently studying conservation biology at Middlebury College, where she also plays for the water polo team. Back home in Seattle, AJ has recognized her long-time dream of becoming a member of the local fire department! George Downs, who is in his second year at Colorado College, is currently living off campus in Colorado Springs with Joe Tannenbaum. George has spent much of his time hiking 14ers, rock climbing, mountain biking, and is looking forward to a backpacking trip to Utah he has planned for mid-October. Elijah Woods is now a junior at Texas State University, where he has continued his studies in accounting via Zoom. Outside of virtual classes, Elijah spends his time working on a ranch near Fredericksburg, Texas, while also aiding a local archeologist. At Deep Springs College, Nathan Becker has been farming alfalfa and buckwheat, while still finding time to do some light reading of Gandhi and Kierkegaard. He’s grateful to be exploring the desert alongside Semester 37.
He’s really been enjoying his experience with the organization and encourages his fellow-HMI alums to get involved.

Bianca Gonzalez has started her sophomore year at Georgetown University, but is currently taking classes virtually from Leadville. She’s really enjoying the unexpected quality-time she’s been able to spend with her friends and family from home. Carter Myers-Brown is in the midst of another semester off from college at Hamilton, and is now living in Leadville and working for the construction company that builds the employee houses at HMI. Carter also built the new solar farms and is now working on a private home in Leadville. He also works for a congressman and has recently taken interest in the Hegelian dialectic. Back at Middlebury College for her second year, Betsy Romans joined the rugby team, declared her major in biology and education, and became a mentor for a program called DREAM. She’s been busy collecting bugs from around campus for her invertebrate biology class on campus, taking her back to her early science classes at HMI! Over the summer, she worked as a science teacher and also visited her cousin in Montana where she saw mountain goats and climbed lots of mountains! Joe Tannenbaum spent his gap semester living in Portugal and backpacking through South America. He recently started his freshman year at Colorado College, and is living with George in an apartment off-campus in the Springs. John Xiang is continuing his studies at Dickinson College remotely from home. John is on the premed track while majoring in neuroscience with a certificate in health studies. He recently became a member of the local rowing club and has enjoyed his time rowing in the Hudson River weekly. After doing HMI Gap, Liah Trebloc is also continuing her studies online through Appalachian State University. Liah also works for an outdoor education program for kids, and loves spending her free time doing lots of climbing and backpacking adventures around her hometown of Asheville, North Carolina. Matthew Just is a sophomore at Wesleyan playing as a starter on the school’s club basketball team, although whether or not the season will proceed due to COVID-19 is in question. Matthew’s doing everything he can to make the most out of his time back on campus while abiding by quarantine protocols. After an Outward Bound course alongside Cali, as well as doing some WOOFing out West, Kate Sadow is at Middlebury with many of her fellow Semester 39-ers. Kate spent much of her summer with her family in Minnesota. Wyatt Shattuck is also a sophomore at Middlebury, currently back on campus. Kayla Wolsin is currently a sophomore at New York University, living near Washington Square Park. Kayla is pursuing an academic career in forensic science, but says her heart will always be with nature and science. She’s missing the fall colors of her home state of Colorado and is looking forward to seeing the leaves change in New York. Back as a sophomore at Liberty University, Furman Jones is living off campus with friends. Elizabeth Stites is currently taking a gap year from Lewis & Clark College, but is looking forward to returning to the West Coast this coming spring. As an on-campus sophomore at Bates College, Hazel Delehey spends much of her time tutoring first-year students in their First Year Seminar. In her tutoring endeavours, Hazel has felt particularly grateful for HMI and how much her writing improved during her semester. Outside of tutoring, Hazel enjoys playing on the ultimate
campus for his second year at UC Santa Barbara in California. Studying computer science at Marquette University, JARED DIOSDADO is also enjoying being a part of the Latin American Student Organization on campus. SYDNIE MILLER recently got a job working at a golf course, and is continuing her studies in environmental and ethics and biology from Toronto, Canada. JESSIE CALI is in her second year at Cornell University, studying biology and public policy. One of her roommates at the moment is a sweet Goldendoodle puppy named Maisy, who keeps her good company in her recent endeavours of outdoor climbing and making bread! LILY THEBAULT spent her summer waitressing in Nantucket, Massachusetts, where she also helped out with an event-planning company on the island, while also making time to go surfing and meet new people. A highlight of Lily’s summer was having the opportunity to go shark-fishing, catch-and-release of course. Lily recently decided to stay home in Vermont for the fall and take classes through the University of North Carolina Wilmington and is excited for a fall season filled with apple cider, fires, and time with her family. Lily laminated the letter she wrote to herself while at HMI, and has carried it everywhere with her over the past year as a reminder of the lifelong memories she created in such a special place with even more special people. While OCHAN OGAK, BEN THOMPSON, JUNE THOREN, and SAM GARTRELL were difficult to reach, Semester 39 hopes they’re all doing well and staying safe.

—Cali Johnston (cbjohnston88@gmail.com)

SEMESTER 41

Semester 41, we’d love to hear from you! Email your updates to Barrett Donovan at bdonovan@hminet.org.

SEMESTER 43

Semester 43, we’d love to hear from you! Email your updates to Barrett Donovan at bdonovan@hminet.org.
Although HMI Day was virtual this year, we had a blast celebrating with you! Thank you so much to everyone who made October 2nd such a special day by doing something in the spirit of HMI and sharing it with us on social media. We can’t wait to celebrate again with you next year!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT HMI DAY
OCTOBER 2, 2021
AND GET READY TO CELEBRATE!