

# THE MUDDRAKER

vol. 28, issue 2 december 2017



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check out our center spread featuring "Lost and Found."



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read our PROFiles on professor alums!



pg. 8

check out our feature on a few speaker suites!

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Hello again! We hope your holiday season has started off well! Our last issue focused on new beginnings and a hopeful future. As the semester quickly comes to a close, we want to pause and reflect on where we came from and how we got here. Therefore, we took a trip back in time through the ASHMC (Associated Students of Harvey Mudd College) archives to take a peak at Mudd's earlier days. Although a lot has changed here, it's hard not to feel a connection with our not-so-different forefathers as we read about their pranks, problem sets, and tightknit Mudd community. We all come from different backgrounds and have different reasons for being here, so it's important to remember our roots. One day, the archives will also hold our names and stories and offer a glimpse of what all Mudders seem to share.

*Sincerely,*

Rachel and Tiffany



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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Since this issue focuses on Mudd history, we want to recognize our most senior member, Zayra Lobo.

Zayra has written for The Muddraker every semester since her freshman year. Zayra loves puns and is a brilliant pun writer. If you like the puns below, you should check out more online.

ZAYRA LOBO

## PREPOSTEROUS PUNS TO PERPLEX YOUR PEPTIDES

What do you call a group of plants withdrawing their membership from an organization?

SeSEEDing!

What did the airplane say to the pilot when she landed smoothly?

"PROPS to you!"

What did the burrito say when asked about his latest breakup?

"Don't TACO bout it!"

How did the bassist help prepare the Thanksgiving dinner?

By BASSting the turkey!

What kind of spiders taste good in a salad?

TaRANCHulas!

What's the favorite song of medians in a set?

Home on the RANGE!

Why did the student always write in pen?

Because he had a PENchant for ink!

Why didn't the bird prepare her speech?

She preferred to WING it!

What is a machinist's favorite snack?

CHIPS!

Do pilots like sugar in their coffee?

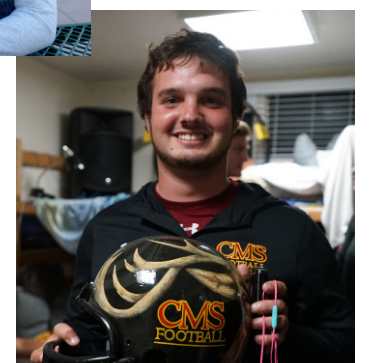
No, they prefer it PLANE!

## INTRODUCING: NEW MEMBERS

**Garrett Conway** hails from Carlsbad, CA. He wears UGG boots every single day.

**Trang Dinh** likes watching movies, reading books, and writing. Her favorite genres are romance, crime, horror and thriller. Because she came from Vietnam, she loves the winters over here, even though it does become unbearably cold. She writes online movie reviews for *The Muddraker*.

**Jonah Cartwright** is an investigative journalist and sports writer for *The Muddraker*. He enjoys participating in CMS football and the Claremont College's rugby team. To procrastinate, he eats all the cookies in the Hoch, reads sci-fi novels, and annoys the rest of *The Muddraker* staff.





# Short History of Computer Science at HMC:

by Jonah Cartwright

Today, Computer Science is the second most popular major at Harvey Mudd College, boasting graduating classes of almost 80 students in fields that also include Math and Computational- Biology. These graduates go on to work for tech giants like Microsoft, Google, LinkedIn and Amazon and earn PhDs from prestigious universities like Carnegie Mellon, UC Berkeley, MIT and Cornell. But it was not always this way.

Michael Erlinger, brought on in July of 1981, was Harvey Mudd's first unofficial CS faculty member. Not hired into a specific department, the idea was that during his first year he would make recommendations as to whether Computer Science should develop in an existing department or a new administrative entity. His recommendations lead to the formation of a Computer Science Steering Committee that would draft and submit a proposal to the Board of Trustees and the HMC faculty. Students were first introduced to the possibility of a new Computer Science program at an Associated Students of Harvey Mudd College (ASHMC) council meeting on September 30, 1984.

On this day Professor Helliwell invited students and the entire HMC community at-large to join the faculty in open meetings of the Computer Science Steering Committee to discuss the implementation of a new Computer Science Program.

After a couple weeks of community input, at an October meeting, students were notified that a de-

cision on the computer science program was on the way. The draft proposal was submitted to ASHMC on October 14 1984, and on November 18, 1984 President Baker confirmed to ASHMC that that it was soon to be approved by the faculty.

On April 20, 1985, at a faculty meeting, "the amended recommendations of the Computer Science Steering Committee" were approved. The recommendations included the establishment of a Department of Computer Science and a Department of Biology, with the two joined as a single administrative unit, and approval for a senior level appointment in Computer Science to help in the further development of Computer Science at the college.

The years following featured contentious debate over the future of the both the Biology and Computer Science programs. Well established departments, namely the Engineering and Humanities departments, pushed back against the programs. These departments resisted because the addition of the new programs would cause them to have to give up some of their places in the core curriculum. Other faculty, departments, and even students resisted because they didn't want to grow the size of the school.

Current faculty with knowledge of the situation at the time credit Professors William K. Purves and Michael Erlinger with championing the programs through these time-- without these two men, the program would never have gotten off the ground.

The Computer Science faculty discussed introducing a Computer Science major to the college in the 1989-1990 school year. The previous year, faculty declared that "beginning with the class of 1993, students should be able to major in Biology." The topic was brought up often in ASHMC council meeting with reports from the Board of Trustees delivered by Professor Borelli. In the October 22, 1989 ASHMC meeting, Professor Borelli noted that the Computer Science major was a toss-up. Both faculty and students were split on the issue, and there was no resolution in sight.

Finally, on February 15, 1990 this statement was released from the faculty meeting "The faculty support the introduction of a major program in Computer Science under the auspices of the Computer Science Department after the senior-level position is filled... The Computer Science Department shall be an academically and administratively separate unit with the same status, responsibilities, privileges, and access to resources as the other departments in the sciences and mathematics."

The first two computer science majors, Andrew Gray and Clifford Stein, graduated from Harvey Mudd in 1992. The 1993-94 Academic Year saw the start of Computer Science Clinic with 3 projects: Aerospace, Microsoft, and Optivus (Electus Technology). In 1994 Harvey Mudd graduated the first class of Computer Science graduates to finished all four years in the programs as well as its first female Computer Science graduate, Jill E. Flansburg.





# LOST (IN HISTORY) & FOUND (IN THE ARCHIVES)

Article and layout by:  
Zoe Ryan

In 62 short years, Harvey Mudd College has made a big splash in the STEM world, especially for a school of only 800 undergraduate students. Public impression of the small college often centers around the impressive titles Mudd has earned, like Forbes number one on “Colleges With the Best Return on Investment” and tying for number 12 on U.S. News’ ranking of National Liberal Arts Colleges. However, these notable rankings are often accompanied by rankings like The Princeton Review’s “Least Beautiful Campus” and college where “Students Study the Most”. Regardless of what is portrayed in the media, the Mudd experience cannot be encapsulated in a single award or ranking. It is more than that, and to those who have not been fully immersed in the school it can be hard to explain. Little things like having a concrete wall wart as the unofficial school mascot, or seeing people race by on unicycles, freelines, or really anything with wheels are commonplace at Mudd. These little experiences of bizarre yet accepted behavior can seem eccentric in the moment, but when compared to stories of the past, I often wonder if Mudders of 2017 are really that similar to Mudd alumni?

My somewhat naive impression of Mudd alumni revolves around some of the most outlandish and epic stories that have been passed down (and inevitably embellished). Before I even made it to my first day at Mudd, I was introduced to the great Caltech cannon heist. Every student tells the story differently, but it always starts with 11 students in 1986 who all had a knack for problem solving and a love for pranking. Dressing in “H & M Construction Inc.” clothing the students jockeyed the cannon onto a large forklift and subsequently onto a truck where it was promptly sent back to Claremont. One part of the story that I had never heard mentioned was the reaction and eventual return of the cannon back to the Caltech campus, that was until I was given the opportunity to search through miscellaneous ASHMC (Associated Students of Harvey Mudd College) records. In a summary of an ASHMC meeting from the time of the cannon heist there is a surprising entry where upon the return of the cannon, the students of Caltech had “less than acceptable behavior ... and the Council should receive a written apology...” There is no further mention of any punishment for the Mudders involved, or any other subsequent action that needed to be taken; those students had gotten away with the cannon and also an apology letter from their rivals. The cannon heist is not the only legendary event that the ASHMC files had recorded, in fact I found many more pranks, and events that I would have never known occurred.



Bottom (from left): Byrne Sanford '86 (team photographer), Greg Felton '85, Tom Jedrzejewicz '87, Dave Somers '87, Joe Agnese '87, Steve Olson '87, Jeff Hong '87. Top (from left): Eric Rosser '86, Mark “Big Unit” Moeglein '87, Chris Donnelly '87, Hernan Santos '87. Photo from: David C. Somers.



From one of the earliest documents in the archives, I learned of the first time water balloon fights and the use of large catapults were banned from the Mudd campus. It was 1962, when in a letter some of the college officials talk of “Several near-hits with catapultory water balloons which have been very serious indeed ... and on one separate occasion, one Freshman was hurt so sufficiently that he could not participate in cross-country track”. These actions lead to a ban of all catapults, which apparently did not last too long. Only six years later, in a similar letter there are further descriptions of water balloons that have gotten out of hand, to the point where a Scripps student “had been hurt by a water balloon fired by one of our Freshman through her dormitory window”. It is almost as if Mudders refuse to learn their lesson with catapults, as events like these come up again in the early 80’s and are still a fascination for many current students. There are occasionally still water balloon fights and even chatter of investment in water balloon launchers. It seems that Mudders have always been searching for a way to release some stress and almost inexplicably it comes back to water balloons.

The various water balloon incidents are only a few of the many stories I encountered in the ASHMC files that lead me to the idea that there is something inherently alike between Mudders, regardless of when they attend the school. In one case, there is the story of two Freshman in 1993, who had a proclivity towards climbing. This skill and then their own wit led them to scale the Pomona tower and place a stuffed gorilla tightly grasping a Barbie doll atop the peak and then soon after refashion a Pitzer sky light to shine the Batman signal. Current Mudders may not be atop the Pomona tower, but they can still be found pranking schools by leaving posters atop the CMC cube or even on the window of the second story of the Pitzer dining hall. Across the ages, Mudders have been rebellious and adventurous, even when under academic strain. The comparisons don’t end there, this



Mudders have a water fight. Photo published in 1965 yearbook.

same free spirit has led to an age old obsession with fire. In 1992 a student became notorious for his seemingly reckless but epic pyrotechnics. It was even documented that on one occasion the student rigged a propane covered shopping cart as a remote-controlled flame-thrower to ignite a two-story tall flame. Although this is a case where I think the alumni are more extreme than the current students, Mudders continue their fascination with fire, despite seemingly stricter fire codes. There are still fires in the West courtyard, and even these docile week night events can have a flame that erupts to the second-floor balcony of the dorm.



Mudders launch water balloons via a large catapult. Photo published in 1965 yearbook.



Student rides his bike into the pool. Photo published in 1965 yearbook.

Countless stories are described in the archives and many have obvious similarities to events that are still happening all the time at Mudd. There are also notes that remind me of all the changes that have occurred, like when the Treasurer of ASHMC is quoted saying, “We are starting to receive checks for Xeroxing bills” or when there is a handwritten rooming survey of the 20 or so women who were attending Mudd in

the late 60’s. However, despite the massive changes that have taken place throughout Harvey Mudd College, it seems as though Mudders and their college experience is full of similar experiences. Mudders have always been linked together by their rigorous workload, but more importantly by their independent spirits, their good natured sense of humor, and their creative and incredibly intelligent minds.

“

#### *miscellaneous mudder quotes*

“For the first time in its existence, *THE MUD-DRAKER* is going to do something useful”

ASHMC Secretary  
1981

“No college collected funds may be used for the purchase of alcoholic beverages”

ASHMC Loan Fund  
1981

“Very concerned about the egging and fire-extinguishing of the dorm”

East Dorm  
Representative  
1984

“Beggar’s Banquet was held Friday night and everything went smoothly with the exception of a knife-wielding East dormer”

North Dorm  
Representative  
1986

”



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# PROFiles: Alma Mudders

At Harvey Mudd College, we are fortunate to have wonderful professors who really care about their students. Many Mudders have close relationships with faculty members, which improves their overall experience at the school. However, some faculty members understand the Mudd experience more than others since they, too, attended Harvey Mudd College. Therefore, in this edition, we want to recognize some of those who have come back to continue the legacy of great Mudd faculty, since sometimes it's easy to forget that our professors also received academic advisories, had trouble choosing a major, and struggled on long problem sets.

## Prof. Van Hecke '61, B.S Chemistry

We chose to highlight Professor Van Hecke in our print edition as the person who ties all of Mudd together. Prof. Van Hecke has been here almost since the beginning and has seen each generation of new Mudders enter the core and exit the school as unique and educated individuals. We wanted to see what some of the biggest changes have been over the course of Mudd history and how they have impacted our community. All of the other professors featured in this spread will have full interviews on our website.



Prof. Van Hecke as a senior in college, taken from his year-book (above).

### Which dorm(s) did you live in?

"I lived in north for two years and east for two years. In 1957, televisions hadn't been in homes all that long, and someone gave East dorm a television and it became a Friday night tradition to watch horror movies in East dorm lounge. It really was kind of amazing considering you had the entire college watching a horror movie. I didn't really like horror movies, but I did it anyway just to hang out with everyone. The other thing in terms of history to give you some flavor on how much has changed is that we were the first dorm west of the Mississippi that allowed women to visit with the doors closed."

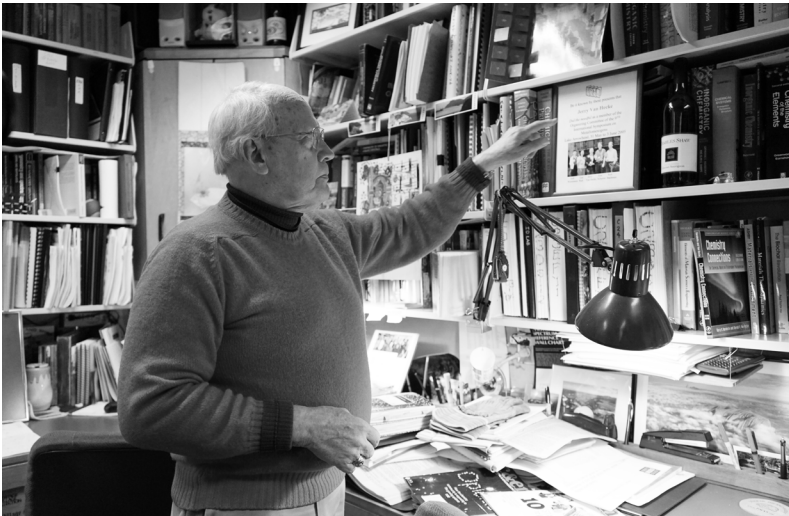
### How did you choose your major?

"So, I'm walking with my roommate, Don Gross, to Collins Hall for lunch and I pull out my 50 cent piece and tell [him] I'm going to flip the coin. If it's heads, engineering; if it's tails, it's physics; and if it lands on edge, it's chemistry. I'm not the most coordinated guy, so I reached for the coin and it bounced off my hand. There was a crack between the sidewalk and the slab of East dorm. That coin went right in that crack, landing on edge. Still there too! I tried, after lunch, to go back and dig it out, but I couldn't find it. So that's how I became a chem major."

### What was your most embarrassing moment as a professor?

"I was in my second year here and engaged to a flight attendant who lived in San Francisco. I had just finished [teaching] class and one kid raised his hand and said, 'Is there any truth to the rumor that you're engaged?' I don't think this still happens, but if students were engaged and people knew about it, they were carried down there and dumped unceremoniously into the Scripps seal pond, which is one of the most scuzzy places you'd ever wanna be. So I had that wonderful opportunity."

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Prof. Van Hecke showing members of staff around his office. Photo by Aomsin Pongpiriyakarn.

### How has Mudd changed since you were a student?

"My generation was different in that almost all of my classmates were first generation to college. So I didn't come with a lot of parental expectations. Of course our parents wanted us to do well but they didn't expect us to be the top of the curve all the time. It was our goals that we made for ourselves that we wanted to meet. It wasn't externally imposed by friends or family, which I think is unfortunately a little different today. Many students, I think, are being pressured into things, by their parents who mean well. The pressures-- it's tolling on them. In the early days of the college, if there were pressures, it was pressure brought on by ourselves- you didn't have to live up to somebody's expectations for you. I think it is [better that way], because what you want to do- you were deciding."

### Do you have any advice to current students?

"Take time. You're trying to do too much. Too many of you trying to overload. Too many of you are worried about doing an absolutely perfect job, but there's no such thing. Take time to watch a sunset, read a poem, really listen to a piece of music, talk to a friend. You're in the driver's seat. You can control it."

### Do you ever attend Mudd parties as a professor?

"Not sure we [as faculty] get too many invites [to parties]. We would [sometimes] get invited to TQ night or Long Tall Glasses. [Dorms] used to have a really nice event; it was a wine and cheese with faculty or trustees. But then some powers that be said, 'goodness there might be people under 21 drinking at these things.' You gotta be realistic about people under 21 drinking in those dorms. But that was a good thing that went on for a good period of time."

If you want to see more from Prof. Van Hecke, look online for an office tour video! Also, stop by his office and check out his awesome winter village setup pictured below in a photo taken by Aomsin Pongpiriyakarn.



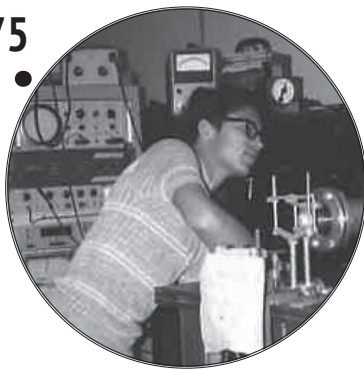


## Prof. Lyzenga '75

**Dorms:** North (Frosh/Soph), South (Junior/Senior)

**Favorite Class:** Natural Philosophy (alternated between chemistry and physics)

**Interesting Fact:** Was asked to teach at Mudd and said no, but changed his mind after a 'major midlife crisis' about his current job at JPL.



"One thing about the physics major was that when I got into it, I became really enthusiastic about it and felt like I couldn't get enough. I don't know if I set it as a goal for myself or if it just happened but I ended up taking every single physics course that the physics major offered. For me it was like being a kid in a candy store. I was interested in everything that was being taught by the physics department so I ended up taking all those classes."

"I came here thinking I was going to be a physics major. I think the thing that changed my mind was Introduction to Systems Engineering. I loved the big-picture framework of the course. Fun fact is that three of the professors who were teaching that course are still here, and they are Erik Spjut, Phil Cha, and Zee Duron\*. Later [as a professor] I taught it with them, so that was kind of fun."



## Prof. Orwin '95

**Dorm(s) :** Atwood

**Favorite Class:** Introduction to Systems Engineering

**Favorite Mudd Party:** New Dorm New Year (New Dorm was Atwood)

## Prof. Yong '96

**Dorm(s):** Case

**Favorite Class:** Clinic

**Interesting Fact:** Also completed a piano performance major while at Mudd.



"It's amazing what a difference it makes to have almost an equal number of male and female students at Mudd these days. I suspect that is the reason why we no longer regularly have male students going to class wearing just a bathrobe and the general level of personal hygiene and care is way higher than in the past. It's also wonderful to have a much more diverse (among many axes, such as race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation) groups of student and faculty."

"I threw a lot of unofficial parties my Senior year on the second floor of Atwood because I was the captain of the Braineaters (the 5C ultimate team) and had a suite with other Brains folks. So, there were students both from on-campus [and] off-campus who were Braineaters/Greenshirts, which was fun just because it was a healthy mix of people. That's where I learned how to be a bartender, which has proved to be a very useful skill."



## Prof. Breznay '02

**Dorm(s) :** Case (Frosh/Soph/Junior), Atwood (Senior)

**Favorite Class:** E&M

**Secret Talent:** Reaching things and Ultimate Frisbee

## Prof. Lee '05

**Dorm(s):** Case (Frosh), North (Soph), Atwood - first floor (Junior/Senior)

**Favorite Class:** Adv. Systems Engineering

**Secret Talent:** Can sleep for a long time



"My deep relationship with the faculty [when I was a student] is what inspired me to pursue academics and become a professor. Teaching at Harvey Mudd was my dream job [since I was a student]."

[On her wildest college experience] "I made a short film with some friends for fun. Romantic comedy. Not a wild thing to do, but it was really fun."

"Mudd is still (in my humble opinion) the best place in the universe, and it's 100% because of the people here. I spent the last 5 years checking job postings from the Mudd department, and was lucky enough to have one open up this last spring! Academically, my biggest regret was that I didn't take CS70 or Scientific Computing, both of which would have been a tremendous help in graduate school. Personally? You can ask me about that in Office Hours."



## Prof. Van Vleet '12

**Dorm(s) :** Atwood (Frosh/Junior), Case (Soph/Senior)

**Favorite Class:** Physical Chemistry or Discrete Math

**Favorite Mudd Party:** Slippery when Wet! Or possibly Casemas. Basically anything Case throws is the most wonderful.

\*Note: Prof. Duron '81 was not available for an interview, but is also a Mudd alum.



# Mudd's Music: Speaker Suites

Many things about Mudd have changed over the years since its origin, from the addition to new dorms like Sontag to new majors like Computer Science. The world of Mudd is continually growing and changing, with each new class and group of professors adding to the rich tapestry that is Mudd's tight-knit community. And here, on the Muddraker's Music Page, we plan to dive right into the evolution of music at Mudd by taking a look at its four Speaker Suites from residents themselves!



Student band in 1966. Photo from Special Collections in the Claremont Colleges Library.

## *How have the Speaker Suites changed over the years?*

One member of North Dorm's sl00ch sophomore **Lukas DeSimone** noted that North Dorm's long held tradition of "One Song Wednesday" (whose title is pretty self explanatory) used to play more aggressive and abbrasive songs. Similarly, sl00ch's other sophomore **Russell Bingham** and senior **Richard Ni** denoted stories from alumni, classmates, and themselves of more intense interactions between those in speaker suites and the outside community--whether within or outside of the dorm--in which freshman were encouraged to actively complain and advocate for different music and would simply walk over and turn it down themselves. Music genre however, change is on a case-by-case basis; evolution depending on the residents such as West Dorm's Subatomic resident **Ankoor Apte** feeling his music tastes to have grown tremendously over the past the year!



## *How have Speaker Suites enhanced the culture at Mudd?*

"It provides a unique experience to Mudd as it gives another form of expression to the students. It also shows the freedom and trust that Mudd offers us."

**-Aaron Trujillo**  
(Freshman-Atwood)

"Speaker suites really set the tone for a dorm, I love coming back to my dorm and hearing some tunes already playing. It gives the dorm a home-y feel."

**-Mazda Moayeri**  
(Sophomore-Linde)

"Speaker suites are passed down year to year with a sense of continuity, which is almost impossible to find elsewhere."

**-Richard Ni**  
(Senior-North)



Linde's Nevada suite speakers.

## *Most memorable Speaker Suite traditions and experiences?*

Speaker Suites can add culture to their dorms and also create memories that last a lifetime! Subatomic features an electronic voiceover that praises West as best every hour, surprising many a frosh who happen to pass by. In Linde's Nevada suite had a blast creating covers of popular songs as a joke for their dorm, **Mazda Moayeri** noting his favorites being Kanye's "Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1" and Bob Marley's "One Love". Sl00ch has recently introduced a new and beloved tradition: a radio station, 106.9 "The Pipe.", that's hosts the "Quiet Hour" (basically Northies talking over a mic for an hour) every Wednesday at 11pm. From specific experiences the first One Song Wednesday of 2015 being the Soviet Union's national anthem blasting so loud it could be heard at the hoch, to the more general ambiance created during parties, it's clear that Speaker Suites, however controversial, play an integral part in music at Mudd.



Current Mudders living in Sl00ch. From left: Russell Bingham, Lukas DeSimone, Connor Colombe

By: Mary Celestin