

# THE MUDDRAKER

## Meet Dr. Harriet Nembhard, Harvey Mudd College’s Sixth President!

By Shivani Manivasagan

On July 1, 2023, Dr. Harriet Nembhard will officially become Harvey Mudd College’s sixth president. She will succeed President Maria Klawe, who has served as president for 17 years.

Dr. Nembhard is a graduate of Claremont McKenna College, where she took part in the 3-2 Management Engineering program with Arizona State University, and she completed her Ph.D. in Industrial and Operations Engineering at the University of Michigan. Ever since, Dr. Nembhard has been extensively involved in academic leadership at all levels, as a professor, director, and dean. Her research is widely published and encompasses many fields, from medical manufacturing to co-curricular STEM education.

The Muddraker sat down with Dr. Nembhard to welcome her to Mudd and get to know her better. Read on to learn more about Mudd’s new president!



### How would you introduce yourself to the Mudd community?

That’s such a generous question. I appreciate that you are helping me get introduced to the Mudd community. I can start from the top.

My academic discipline is industrial engineering. I’ve been an industrial engineer since I was about eight years old — although I didn’t know that was what it was called at the time. My dad was a pilot; he was a captain in the Air Force, then he flew commercially for Eastern Airlines. And he absolutely loved flying — we would sometimes go to the airport on his days off. But my questions for him weren’t about the planes or about flight. They were things like, “Why are the big planes over there and the little planes all over there?” And, “How does the suitcase get from the sidewalk to the correct plane?” These are essentially systems questions.

I went on to be formally trained in industrial and operations engineering at the University of Michigan. My husband and I both did our Ph.D.s in this area at the same time, and we have three daughters who are all adults now and had the great fortune of being parented using systems principles.

I’m also a fourth-generation educator. My great-grandma started teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in 1906, and we’ve had teachers in every generation since. So, being in academia and teaching is a part of my DNA.

### How was your undergraduate experience at CMC? What were your thoughts on Mudd at the time?

I’ve said to some colleagues that life rhymes, so to be able to return to Claremont now feels like a welcome home. When I was a student at CMC, I was very focused on my work, and my knowledge of the other schools was pretty limited to walking around the campuses or eating in the other dining halls. Mudd had a reputation as a very distinctive college for STEM that was a little quirky — I do remember walking around Mudd’s campus, captivated by the unicyclists.

I was pursuing the dual-degree management engineering program at CMC. The ME program was a 3-2 program

where you did your first 3 years at Claremont McKenna College focused on your science, math, and liberal arts preparation, and then 2 years studying engineering at a partner institution. My high school science seminar teacher introduced me to this program, and it was a good fit. I really give the program all the credit as my launching pad.

### What drew you to Mudd?

What drew me to Mudd was its mission. There are so many phenomenal people at Mudd, and the community is amazing. And I realized that this was an opportunity to impact an integrated STEM and liberal arts education — which was literally what formed me when I did the 3-2 program with ME at Claremont McKenna and engineering at ASU. It started to really sink into my bones, and I felt that maybe this is what all of these 33 years of experience could have been leading up to. I’m really excited to join a college that’s so committed to helping students who care about having a positive impact on society.

### How do the job responsibilities of Mudd’s President differ from those of previous positions you have held?

I’ve had several experiences across higher ed — as a faculty member at each rank, as a center director, as a department head, and as a dean of engineering. As a dean in a university setting, you have many of the same responsibilities as a college president — strategic planning, fiscal responsibility for the institution, promoting excellence and excitement in teaching and research (and making sure this very centered on the students), serving as the public face of the school, meeting with legislators and donors, institutional fundraising, and more. I’m really excited about the advantage that Harvey Mudd has to adapt and improve its educational offerings and opportunities, and then be a leader to share that with other institutions who very much look toward Mudd in this space.

I do expect, as a president, to have a much deeper role in getting to know the community, having real in-depth conversations around our best ideas and how to use those to advance the college and its mission. So I’m looking forward to doing that work with the community and then raising the

money to fund our dreams.

### What is your vision for Mudd? For example, what are your thoughts on student wellbeing at Mudd? Have you read the Wabash Report?

One of the things that I said as I was interviewing is that I think it’s important to work with the Mudd community to create the presidency that Harvey Mudd needs for this moment. The vision for Mudd is something that we will create together. Some empowering questions that we can ask are: With our responsibility in STEM, how can we positively impact a billion people through our research, teaching, and engagement? What is distinctive about Mudd’s ability to help to lead that and remake the world, and how can we build on that? How do we revisit the mission and recommit to it?

When I visited Mudd, students did share about the Wabash Report, and I read it. Across the country, we’ve seen issues of mental health just become more prominent, especially given the isolation and disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving forward, I really want to hear more from students across Harvey Mudd to see how we can build layers of wellness into our community. What’s resonating with students around wellness and well-being, and what support systems are needed? And as we have those conversations and think about our strategic priorities, it’s important to remember that STEM is people-focused — it’s people-driven, and it’s people who are going to advance the priorities for the college, so we need to support them.

### What advice or life lessons would you like to share with Mudders?

Show up for yourself, and show up for your neighbor.

Showing up for yourself means you need to prioritize doing the work to achieve your goals and also your wellbeing. It means you honor your values and celebrate your victories.

Showing up for your neighbor means you take time to inquire how people in your community are really doing, and you advocate for other people’s success. Listen with an open heart and a curious mind — especially when you may disagree.

### Now for some lighter questions!

#### What are your hobbies?

I enjoy traveling! So far, I’ve visited 41 of the U.S. states, several Caribbean islands, and about 10 other countries. Also, I’ve enjoyed many forms of dancing over the years, from ballet (I took a class at Scripps in undergrad) to tap, ballroom, and African dance — if it’s a dance, I’m interested to learn it!

#### What’s a fun fact about you?

I enjoy making paper airplanes and helicopters with my five-year-old grandson! We have a few designs that we’ve made hundreds of times — the Mighty Eagle is our favorite.

Q&A continues at  
themuddraker.org



# letter from the editors

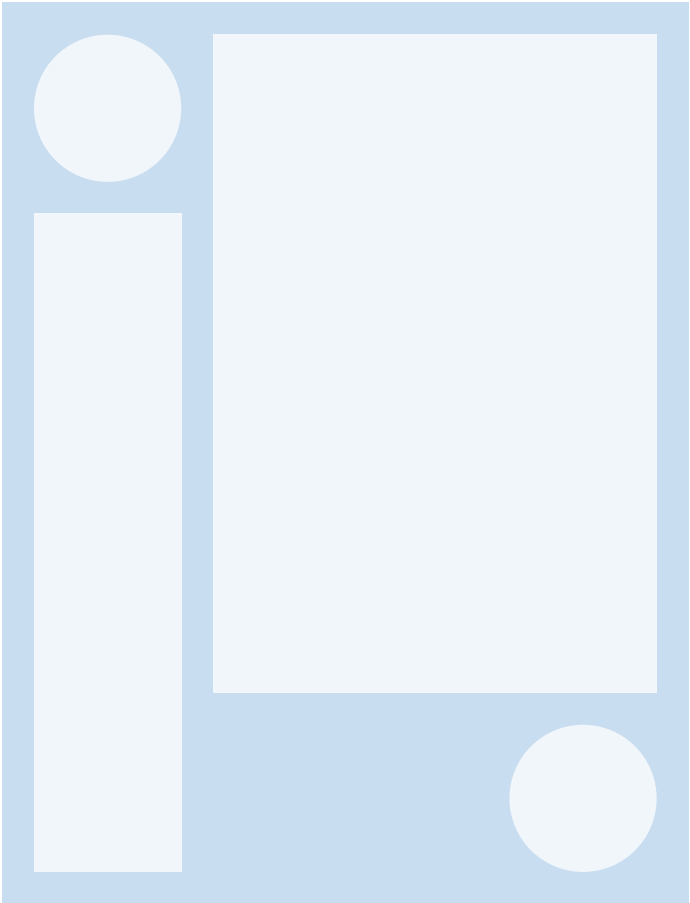
Dear readers,

Congrats on making it through the school year! With summer almost upon us, there’s no better time to grab a cup of iced tea and bask in the sunshine while perusing a copy of The Muddraker.

While reading, you’ll find that this issue is full of spotlights, from features on Mudd’s new President Harriet Nembhard (pg. 1) to a look into the lives of the dorm attendants and dining services workers who keep Mudd running (pg. 4-5), as well as PROfiles on Prof. Ben and Prof. Bang (pg. 8-9). Continuing with the theme of spotlights, our centerspread features MuddEscapes, the club behind some of Mudd’s most mind-boggling escape rooms (pg. 6-7). We break down last semester’s puzzles, and also drop some hints as to what to expect from this semester’s escape room.

In the meantime, hone your puzzle-solving skills by trying our crossword (pg. 11), and check your intuition against survey results on the ChatGPT article from our April Fools’ issue (pg. 11). For a quick laugh, turn to a note from our sponsors to learn about the newest technology for securing that 4.0 GPA (pg. 3). Finally, end the issue on a sweet note by recreating a recipe for Cranberry Bliss Bars, a Starbucks fan favorite (pg. 12).

Have a wonderful summer!  
Michelle, Avani, and Shivani



# meet the new members of *muddraker* e-board

## staff list

<b>Faculty Adviser</b> Dean Chris Sundberg	Katheryn Wang '23 Shreya Balaji '25 Serena Mao '25	Kaitlynn Gray '25 Isabel Godoy '26 Ananya Purwar '26	<b>Staff Writers</b> Kishore Rajesh '25 Ian Gray McGuire '26
<b>Editors-in-Chief</b> Michelle Lum '23 Avani Anne '25 Shivani Manivasagan '25	<b>Managing Editors</b> Alina Saratova '23 Mira Kaniyur '26	<b>Chiefs of Photography</b> Mikayla Mann '25 Lea Twicken '25 Ananya Venkatachalam '26	<b>Artists</b> Audrey Cole '24 Alex Silver '26
<b>Senior Adviser</b> Ruby Foxall '23	<b>Chiefs of Design</b> Daniela Sechen '23 Waverly Wang '23 Becca Verghese '24	<b>Webmasters</b> David Aguirre '25 Rebecca Preis '25	
<b>Chiefs of Business</b>			



### ananya p. *chief of design*

Hey! My name is Ananya Purwar, and I’m a Chief of Design for The Muddraker. I am a frosh at Mudd and am planning to major in CS, possibly CS-Chem. I am from Gurgaon, India, and love listening to rock and indie songs, hiking, and playing cricket. In my free time, I like making 98,767 Pinterest boards about anything and everything. I am also a little obsessed with reading contemporary fiction. My favorite book is “A Little Life,” and I am currently reading “’Twas the Nightshift Before Christmas.”



### isabel g. *chief of design*

Hello! My name is Isabel Godoy, and I am a Chief of Design for The Muddraker. I am a first-year student at Mudd, planning to major in Computer Science and Physics. I like acrylic painting, photography, video games, and weightlifting! You’ll usually find me working hard on schoolwork or research, while sipping a hot cup of coffee or tea.



### ananya v. *chief of photo*

Howdy! My name’s Ananya (pronounced a bit like “A-nah-nya business”; yes, I have a terrible sense of humor), and I’m a Chief of Photography for The Muddraker. I’m currently a frosh, and I plan to study either Physics and Computer Science or Physics and Chemistry through an IPS. Outside of the daily grind, I enjoy working toward my third-degree black belt in Kenpo, playing the clarinet, singing, committing horrendous sandwich and tortilla crimes, video calling my cats, and BeingPennsylvanian™.



### mira k. *managing editor*

Hello! My name is Mira Kaniyur, and I’m a Managing Editor for The Muddraker. I’m a freshman hoping to double major in Math and Literature. When I’m not in class, you’ll usually find me at one of the corner tables in Platt or in the DSA office, getting a cup of tea from the Keurig machine. Outside of academics, I enjoy taking photos of sunsets, embroidering, and hiking!



# double majoring at mudd:

article by alina saratova | design by serena mao



atwood  
senior

### FAVORITES

**math class:**  
complex analysis

**engineering class:**  
e85 (because of how it was taught!)

**color:**  
so I went through a phase of my life where I tried to convince myself it was orange, but I think it's still red.

### ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

- 1. playing violin in orchestra
- 2. machine shop proctor
- 3. muddescapes

### HOT TAKE

I don't like hoch poke bowls.

## CEDAR TUREK

math + engineering

### Q: WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO DOUBLE MAJOR?

A: I took a lot of math classes in high school, so I was pretty set on math when I came to Mudd. Spring semester my freshman year, one of my engineering friends made a hammer in E4, and I thought that the hammer was pretty cool, so I did a trial-by-fire semester sophomore fall and took E4, CS 60, and E82 all at once. I enjoyed engineering a lot, and I got lucky because E80 (which is one of the hardest engineering classes) got pushed from sophomore to junior year due to COVID. If that hadn't happened, I might not have actually double majored, because that would have meant taking a lot of courses all at once.

The benefit of being a double major is that I can quickly switch to something very different. So, I can do lots of research, but also grutor for many classes. Right now, I am grutoring for graph theory, and I spend a lot of time with students working on really difficult problems. I really enjoy grutoring. If you didn't need a Ph.D. to teach somewhere like Mudd, I would definitely do that.

### Q: WHY NOT AN INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM OF STUDY (IPS)?

A: I was thinking of doing an IPS with math and engineering, but once I planned it out, I realized I was actually able to take enough classes and place out of enough courses to double major.

### Q: WHY MCB?

A: When I came to Mudd, I knew I wanted to do some kind of biology because biology is my favorite science. But there were so many cool classes in Core, and I thought they were all really interesting and useful. I am glad that Mudd has a major as interdisciplinary as MCB, where I can combine so many of my interests.



## JOSEPHINE ADAMS

mathematical and computational biology (mcb) + science, technology and society (sts)

west  
senior

### FAVORITES

**mcb class:**  
molecular genetics (it was the first class that made me feel like a biologist)

**sts class:**  
history of science and technology in the modern world

### ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

- 1. bio research
- 2. tennis
- 3. squash (before Pomona rebuilt their athletic center)

### HOT TAKE

I think sprinkles are good on their own.

### Q: WHY NOT AN INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM OF STUDY (IPS)?

A: If MCB didn't exist, I'm not sure that I would have done an IPS. I probably would have only majored in biology. But if someone would have given the idea to me, I definitely would have been open to an IPS.

### Q: WHY STS?

A: I fell into STS completely by chance. I was already taking quite a few STS-related classes, and at one point my HSA advisor said, "You're taking a lot of classes in this area. Do you want to just double major?" I looked into it and said yes.

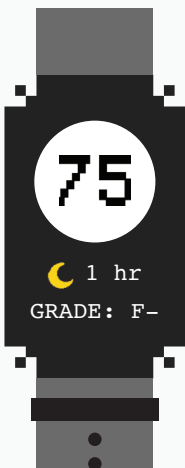
### Q: HOW ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR LAST WEEKS ON CAMPUS?

A: In my last semester, I am taking extra time to appreciate and spend time with my friends before we go off to different parts of the world. At Mudd, I tend to stay on campus a lot, but I have a couple 5C friends thanks to STS, and we'll go to Eureka or one of their dorms to hang out — because no one wants to hike up to Mudd.

To read the rest of these interviews, visit [themuddraker.org/](https://themuddraker.org/)!

# mudd-bit

Manufactured and sold exclusively by Serena Mao  
When friends and strict Asian parents aren't enough motivation, you need some new tech to keep you going. That's why we're launching Mudd-bit, your new academic cheerleader! Explore all that Mudd-bit can do, then hurry to buy one at [noimpostersyndrome.com/](https://noimpostersyndrome.com/)!



### Study Minutes

Track how long you've been studying! Celebrate new records and race friends, while trying to break the world record of 25 hours in one day (hint: he did it on Daylight Savings).

### Sleep Tracking

Mudd-bit ensures that you're never wasting too much time sleeping! You can set custom limits on your time in bed so that your watch will wake you up if you doze off.

### Grade Projections

With our data-informed grade predictions, you'll have a good guess at what your grade will be at the end of the semester — whether it's a constant reminder of your failing grade or an incessant ego boost from your easy A.



### ACHIEVEMENTS

Celebrate your progress with unique badges like "D's get Degrees," "Non-Engineer All-Nighter," "Writ Essay Due Tomorrow," and "Passing E80 Lab Report."

### SMART ALARMS

AI-powered alarms wake you up from naps that have gone on far too long. Never accidentally fall asleep on your chem textbook again!



### Statistics

0.8%

of our users get 8+ hours of sleep

98%

of our users set the curve in their classes

YAY!



# SPOTLIGHT ON MUDD STAFF —

Article by Avani Anne | Photos by Lea Twicken

Special thanks to Alex Pedroza for helping translate and transcribe Angelica's interview!

---

Who are the people who keep the Hoch running? Make your drinks in the Café? Ensure that your dorms are clean?

All our dining services workers, dorm attendants, and other F&M staff work to sustain Mudd. We want to introduce a few of them to you so you can know a bit more about their lives inside and outside of Mudd. Next time you see them, be sure to say hi!



## Suzette Ledezma, Café Barista

---

If you've gone to the Café before 5:30 p.m. on a weekday, you've probably met Suzette Ledezma behind the front counter. The 23-year-old can be identified by her signature pink streaks, bubbly personality, and special ability to remember everyone's order. Ledezma has worked in the Café at Mudd since 2020 and hopes to one day become an esthetician specializing in eyelash extensions. This dream came about when Ledezma and her sister went to get their lashes done, but they did not turn out so well. So, Ledezma's sister suggested that she learn to do lashes herself. Ever the quick learner, Ledezma picked up the basics of lash extensions in a day, eventually mastering the skill within a month. Now, Ledezma runs a side business doing lashes on the weekend, and hopes to become certified at the local beauty school. Outside of work, Ledezma also loves watching YouTube (her favorite social media personality is Bretman Rock), is a huge BTS fan, and has become slightly too obsessed with TikTok (just like the rest of us!).

---

## Virdiana Perez, Café Lead

Regulars at the Café will also know the incredibly friendly Virdiana Perez. Originally from Mexico City, Perez moved to the U.S. in 2001 when she was a teenager, and joined Mudd after high school. She has now been part of the Mudd community for 19 years. Perez has worked all over Dining Services, beginning as a cashier for the Hoch, then working as a barista at the old Hixon Court Coffee Cart, and finally transitioning to the Café since it opened nearly a decade ago. Out of all these jobs, Perez's favorite was manning the Coffee Cart thanks to the interactions she could have with Mudders. There's no doubt that Perez is an integral part of the Mudd community and that she embodies the Mudd spirit: she loves espresso, Pho Wednesdays, and a good nap (that is, when she has the time between managing the Café and taking care of her three kids). Something you might not know about Perez is that she has been a huge fan of horror movies since she was little. Her favorite film is "It," and she has an admirably high tolerance for all things scary and creepy. Without Perez as Café Lead, we would all be a lot more hungry, caffeine-deprived, and devoid of one of the most caring people around. Perez loves meeting people through her work at the Café, so be sure to say hi next time you see her!



## Angelica Macias, Hoch Cashier & Events

---

If you've grabbed breakfast or lunch at the Hoch, you've probably been greeted by cashier Angelica Macias. Macias is originally from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, but moved to the U.S. when she was 18 years old. She started as a stay-at-home mom, then worked as a noon aide at her kids' schools for 10 years, where she helped take care of students during lunch and recess hours. After Macias' children entered high school, Macias began to work at Mudd as an on-call events staff member (helping to cater and set up special events at Mudd). Three years later, Macias became a full-time cashier at the Hoch. Macias has been at Mudd for 15 years now. These days, Macias works as a cashier and on the events team during the academic year, and in housekeeping over the summer. Outside of work, Macias has a diverse range of interests. She loves reading romance novels and going camping. She also loves to cook; some of her favorite dishes are taquitos and mole! In terms of retirement plans, Macias dreams of traveling, from motorhoming around the U.S. to seeing St. Peter's Basilica in Europe. In the meantime, she encourages Mudders to focus on their studies, speak to staff members in Spanish if they know it, and treat staff with kindness and respect.





## Ana Linares, Drinkward Dorm Attendant

Any good Drinkward resident knows Ana Linares, one of the dorm's two attendants. Linares immigrated to the U.S. from El Salvador 43 years ago, at the age of 19. Prior to Mudd, Linares worked as a janitorial supervisor in Costa Mesa for 20 years. When Linares began working at Mudd, she would often work the night shift cleaning Keck and Jacobs on Ac End. Once her shift ended, she would go directly to her second job working at a senior center in Montclair. After a few years, Linares became a dorm attendant, working in West, Sontag, Case, and finally Drinkward, where she intends to stay. Linares has been at Mudd for 13 years. Her enthusiasm for Mudd and its students really shines through: "I like working with the students, around the students, with other people, and being friendly. I love to work at Harvey Mudd." Linares has a lot of love for people around her, especially her family. Linares' favorite pastime is spending time with her grandchildren; she often plays with and goes on walks with them. In terms of family, there's an important milestone coming up soon: Linares' daughter is getting married in a few weeks! While Linares has many exciting moments approaching, she still enjoys spending time at Mudd. Linares really appreciates the Mudd community and intends to work here for as long as she can. We are so grateful to have Linares at Drinkward!

## Graciela Alvarez, Drinkward Dorm Attendant

Our other favorite Drinkward dorm attendant is the one and only Graciela Alvarez, who has been at Mudd for an astonishing 30 years now! One of eleven children, Alvarez grew up in Houston, Texas before moving to Los Angeles around the age of 12. Alvarez has had a special affinity for plants since she was little. Ask Alvarez about her garden, and her face will light up. If you can name it, Alvarez can grow it. Her garden consists of a diverse array of plants, including tomatoes, peppers, lemons, oranges, avocados, guavas, limes, sweet limes, and orchids, which draw in droves of butterflies and insects (she was even so kind as to offer to help me with my orchid-growing struggles). Alvarez's love for all things green led her to join the Claremont Colleges Grounds Team. At the time, she was the only woman on the Grounds Team. After a few years, the sun damage led Alvarez to switch to housekeeping for Linde. Now, Alvarez has worked in nearly every dorm at Mudd. But for Alvarez, the job never gets old. Like Linares, Alvarez intends to work at Mudd for as long as she can. She loves spending time with people at Mudd, saying, "I think about what I will do when I retire. Well, what am I going to do? I'm going to come and see everyone here."



## Lance Wallace, Special Projects

Most residents of Mudd can spot Wallace riding around on his golf cart or working in one of the Res End buildings. While originally from Jamaica, Wallace has lived in the LA area for the past 43 years. Before coming to Mudd, Wallace worked as a machine operator in a paper company, then in special projects for Upland City. Wallace has now been at Mudd for 10 years. Outside of work, Wallace has a passion for reading and enjoys a range of genres including religion, self-help, and philosophy. He even has a mini-library in his study at home! Wallace especially loves reciting and analyzing quotes, one of his favorites being: "Yesterday is gone forever, tomorrow will never come, today is yesterday's tomorrow within reach." Another one of Wallace's interests lies in stocks. Wallace took an accounting class during the 2008 recession, which fostered his interest in the stock market. Additionally, Wallace loves the idea of being in business. While working at the paper company, Wallace would spend his free time house-flipping (buying houses, improving them, then reselling). While his real estate hobby is temporarily on hold, he hopes to one day resume house-flipping with his brother. As advice for Mudders, Wallace would like to share another one of his favorite quotes: "There is no limitation to the mind, except those you give it."

To all Mudd staff, we are so grateful to have you as part of our community.  
A special thank you to Suzette, Viridiana, Angelica, Ana, Graciela, and Lance for being part of this article.



MuddEscapes club photo, taken at their first meeting of the spring semester.



# MUDD ESC



## Masterminding an Escape Room



What do a secret bookcase, a murder mystery, and sleep-deprived Mudders have in common? All were instrumental to the Long Overdue escape room put on last semester by MuddEscapes, Mudd's very own escape room club.

An escape room is an experience in which a team of players solves a series of puzzles to accomplish some sort of goal before time is up. Typically, the objective is quite straightforward: to escape the room. In the case of Long Overdue, participants were given an hour to solve a murder mystery set in a haunted library.

Started by roommates Owen Gillespie '20 and Cole Kurashige '20 in 2018, MuddEscapes is a club dedicated to building and hosting a school-wide escape room experience each semester. These days, the 20-person club is led by President Ashley Cheung '23 and Vice President Katheryn Wang '23, with Naomi Horiguchi '26 and Jasper Cox '26 set to be club presidents next school year.

Ashley joined the club as a freshman in 2019, just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and enjoyed the experience so much that she decided to take up the mantle when previous club leadership graduated.

Unfortunately, after school went online in March 2020, club membership took a hit. That meant the club was unable to meet its full potential until students returned to campus during the 2021-2022 academic year – at which point Ashley set her sights on having an escape room completed by the end of spring 2022.

"I wanted to see the escape room happen," Ashley said. "So, I was going to make it happen – whether or not people were going to join me."

Restarting a club in the wake of a global pandemic is no easy task, however – especially when you're on your own. When Katheryn saw her friend struggling to juggle the administrative tasks that come with running a club, in addition to the actual puzzle-building and engineering inherent to assembling an escape room, she decided to lend Ashley a hand, gradually taking on more and more responsibilities until she too officially joined the club.

"I had done a few escape rooms. Escaped some, didn't escape others," Katheryn explained, when asked about why she joined MuddEscapes. "But I joined MuddEscapes mostly because Ashley was trying to run it on her own, and she needed help."

Ashley and Katheryn have been friends since freshman year, and as it turns out, they go way back. The two grew up in the same suburb of Maryland, so their paths crossed long before Mudd was even on the radar. Their older siblings played tennis together, and Katheryn played volleyball with Ashley's older brother.

With Katheryn's help, Ashley was able to successfully pull off an escape room that ran the weekend right before reading week last spring. In Escape Velocity, teams of five were tasked with escaping an alien spaceship in under an hour.

"Something that took a lot of the pressure off was the idea that you have to do it badly before you can do it well," Ashley said. "It's not optional. You can't do it well the first time. So, I thought, 'I'm going to do everything badly this time, and do it as much as I can, so that next time, it can be really good.'"

And the next time, it was indeed really good. Last semester's escape room, Long Overdue, featured locked box after locked box, messages in Morse Code and Braille, and even a library checkout system. The club went all out on aesthetics, transforming the LAC's Riggs Room into a veritable haunted library, complete with dim lighting, custom-made curtains, and eerie music. Though only 11 out of 38 total teams were able to determine the name of the killer before time ran out, MuddEscapes certainly made Long Overdue a memorable experience for all.



The secret bookcase that swung open to reveal a hidden room. Made by Naomi Horiguchi '26, Ashley Cheung '23, Cristian Gonzalez '23, and Katheryn Wang '23.

## T

"I've done a lot of escape rooms, but I was impressed by how much effort went into this one," said Toby Frank '23, who participated with five other seniors.

Fan favorites from last semester's escape room included a puzzle that required players to go through a set of wooden tiles to find the next locked box, as well as a puzzle that featured an LED lamp blind code. There was also a puzzle where players had to place a knight onto a chessboard, which would only open once players solved a series of three RFID-tagged dolls.

"Normally, you have a lock that you have to solve some sort of puzzle on paper to get the key," Ashley enjoyed that [the chess puzzle] and the alternative mechanisms."

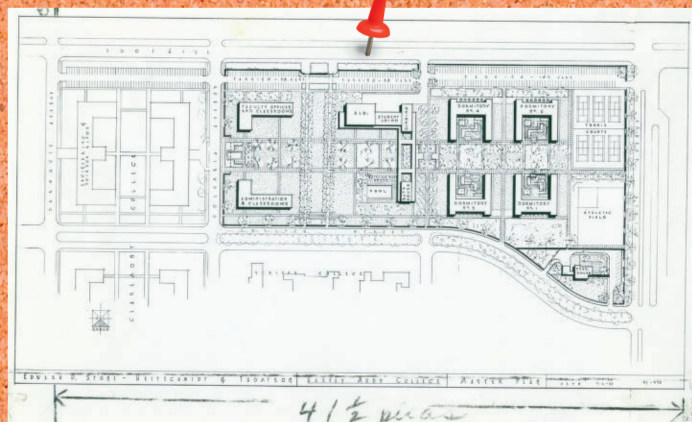
But the star of the show was the secret bookshelf that swung open to reveal a hidden room.

"Having secret rooms in escape rooms is a proxy for how technically challenging an escape room is. So, it was really cool to see [Long Overdue]," Toby remarked. "A lot of college students were able to escape."



# SCAPES

Article and photos by Michelle Lum  
Layout by Ananya Purwar



Niranthari Vithiananthan '26 and Katrina Nguyen '26 working to unlock a safe by computing the total cost of all itemized expenses on a library receipt.



Inside the secret room, the observant participant would spot a lamp blinking Morse Code, then decode the dots and dashes with a Morse Code chart stowed conveniently nearby.



The sequence of numbers flashed via Morse Code unlocked a box containing a chess piece. That piece acted as the key to the drawer of a nightstand in which a doll had been placed.



Placing three such dolls on top of a RFID-enabled dollhouse would open the dollhouse and reveal the key to a locked journal containing the killer's name.

## The Muddraker

rooms before, and I was very effort [MuddEscapes] put into '23, who tackled Long Overdue

last semester's escape room required shining a flashlight to make out the code to the an Arduino-based puzzle that taking Morse Code. There was s had to determine where to board, and a dollhouse that ers had collected and scanned

k, and you unlock it by solving per," Toby observed. "I really and dollhouse] puzzles used ow was undoubtedly a secret to reveal a hidden room.

escape rooms is a really good advanced and rigorous the really cool to see that [in Long "I was surprised that a bunch le to pull that off."



Devon Overbey '24, Marcos Acosta '23, Anshul Kamath '23, Daniela Sechen '23 (behind Anshul), and Noah Nevens '23, after an unsuccessful attempt at the escape room.

The moving bookshelf was a feat of engineering made possible only through the combined efforts of four MuddEscapes members: Naomi did the majority of the overall design work, CAD modeling, and aesthetics for the bookcase (with some help from Kathryn), while Cristian Gonzalez '23 and Ashley were primarily responsible for the electronics portion of the puzzle. To disguise the bookshelf as just any other ordinary piece of furniture, Naomi and Kathryn created fake books by stretching paper over foam. The moving bookcase effect was accomplished with an electromagnet.

The mechanics of the puzzle posed some interesting engineering challenges. For one, the bookcase needed to be built such that it could swing open freely, while remaining devoid of conspicuous hinges and gaps that would clue players in on the fact that the bookcase was moonlighting as a door. Another challenge was the door's weight. Since the shelves themselves were already quite heavy, MuddEscapes wanted to make the books as light as possible, hence the fake foam books.

"The bottom two shelves were actually half an inch taller than the other shelves," Naomi revealed, when describing the process of creating the fake books. "Because I figured, with the foreshortening [that happens] when you stand up and look at the puzzle, the shelves are going to look the same height. So, I made those [two shelves] just a little bit taller because I needed to fill in the gap."

The bookcase is also a great example of how MuddEscapes allows club members to put their knowledge from the classroom to good use. Cristian attributes his decision to join MuddEscapes in part to his desire to apply knowledge from engineering classes to non-coursework-related projects.

"I was in MicroPs last semester, and I wanted an opportunity to use things I had learned in that class toward something outside of the class. The main issue with MicroPs is that it's difficult to see what to do with it afterward. I was curious to see what was possible," Cristian said. "And in terms of the broader engineering curriculum, you don't really get to build or design much until you get to tech electives like Mechanical Design and MicroPs. There's a point where you're just doing problem set after problem set and exam after exam, and I feel that MuddEscapes really provides that creative outlet for you to keep your hands busy and make something."

the article continues at  
[themuddraker.org](http://themuddraker.org)





# CS PROFile:

## Prof. Bang and Prof. Ben

Article by Shreya Balaji and Waverly Wang  
Photos and Graphics by Waverly Wang

### Prof. Lucas Bang

Assistant Professor, Computer Science  
Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara

### Prof. Ben Wiedermann

Associate Professor, Computer Science  
Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin

According to College Factual, Harvey Mudd College is in the top 10% of computer science programs in the country. Intrigued by the fabulous profs who keep Mudd's CS department running, The Muddraker decided to sit down and chat with Prof. Bang and Prof. Ben, who are currently co-teaching CS 131 Programming Languages. Keep reading to get to know these two wonderful profs!

*Note: The quotes in this article have been edited for length and clarity.*

### When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

**Prof. Bang:** When I was a kid, I wanted to be three things: an architect, an astronaut, or an artist. They all start with the letter A! I continued wanting to be an astronaut for a while, and I even applied to space camp in seventh grade.

**Prof. Ben:** When I was a little kid, I really wanted to work at Grandy's (in Texas) because that's where [my family] went all the time [Note: Grandy's is an American fried chicken food chain.] Then, I wanted to be a dentist for a while, even though I didn't like the dentist as a kid.

### What was your undergraduate/graduate experience like? Did you know what you wanted to do after college?

**Prof. Bang:** My undergraduate experience was somewhat different from other people's experiences. I didn't really plan to go to college. I was working in a restaurant. Then, I was convinced by one of my teachers in high school to go to on-site admissions at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, so I went, and they admitted me. I took a ton of classes there, including engineering, math, music, and history of rock and roll. It ended up taking a very long time for me to finish undergrad, but eventually, I discovered that I liked computer science. And I had a really good professor who encouraged me to pursue computer science. We did some research projects together, and he was my Master's adviser. When I went to grad school, I changed direction from algorithms to automated software verification, security, and combinatorial programs.

**Prof. Ben:** During my senior year [of college], I learned about undecidable problems in a computability class. I thought it was comforting to know that there were just some things



we couldn't compute. The day I graduated undergrad, I realized I wanted to go to grad school to keep learning, so I took a little time off and then went back to grad school, which was both fun and tough!

### How did you find your way to Mudd? And what made you want to become a professor?

**Prof. Bang:** My Master's adviser taught me his algorithm called the SMAWK algorithm, in which the K stands for Klawe. When I looked up the people who invented it, I saw that Maria Klawe was the president of this place called Harvey Mudd. I looked into Mudd and knew it was somewhere I wanted to be. At the end of grad school, Harvey Mudd happened to have an



open position, so I applied, and now I'm here! I became a professor because I wanted to focus on solving challenging problems that I found engaging — and scientifically interesting — which was more compelling to me than working in industry.

**Prof. Ben:** I really liked teaching when I went to grad school. I was under the impression that professors got to study, read, and enjoy themselves while making a million dollars, since we only saw them three hours a week. Then, I got to grad school, and I saw what my advisor did, which was write a bunch of grants so that I could have a job. At Mudd, I knew I could spend most of my time teaching, which was really appealing.

**What's your favorite part of teaching?**

**Prof. Bang:** I really like to be present when people are having moments of insight. For instance, this seems to happen a lot in my CS 131 Programming Languages class, when people implement certain functions that are tricky and challenging, and then they push through it and eventually have this moment of realization of how everything comes together.

**Prof. Ben:** I love rediscovering ideas with folks. It's kind of like exploring together. I also love when all the professors are sitting around and working on the same thing and having different insights. That's a very collaborative learning experience that I enjoy. The fun part is figuring out how to help that happen, which is a little bit of a puzzle.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

**Prof. Bang:** I like to read a lot of books, mess around on the guitar a little bit, and shop on Etsy a lot (maybe too much).



**Prof. Ben:** Seeing my family. I have a younger brother; he and his wife just had a kid, so I enjoy seeing them. I also do music lessons on Zoom with my mom every weekend. That's something we started during the pandemic. There was also a time when I did three escape rooms in one night with a few other professors — because we really like puzzles.

**Could you tell us about your interest in the media/dramatic arts?**

**Prof. Bang:** I have recently become very interested in how media arts and computer science connect to each other. I made a robotic Turing machine that writes its own code; it was accepted into an art gallery, which was cool! That same work has now been accepted into an art festival taking place in Santa Fe, New Mexico, over the summer. I had another art piece that was more an exploration of neural networks, which in some sense create themselves. That was presented at a conference on society, literature, science, and the arts. I have some more projects planned, so you will see them eventually.

**Prof. Ben:** I've always been interested in various forms of performance because they showcase different methods of self-expression. Prof. Dadabhoy used to teach a Shakespeare class that puts on an in-person play during Alumni Weekend, but we recently switched to co-teaching Radio Shakespeare, where we explore Shakespeare's plays through literary- and performance-based techniques such as close reading and vocal techniques — all used to put together a radio performance. I think it's awesome to get to know students in a totally different context because we get to explore everyone's identities, and it's super fun.

**You're working with Prof. Ben/Prof. Bang? What do you think of that?**

**Prof. Bang:** I love Prof. Ben; he is amazing. I could not say enough good things about Prof. Ben, he is extremely thoughtful and great to work with in every imaginable way.

**Prof. Ben:** Prof. Bang is a super kind and curious guy. Who could ask for more! He knows a lot about philosophy and theory of mind, in addition to woodworking and a million other things.

Rapid  
Fire🔥  
Questions

**Favorite boba drink?**

**Prof. Bang:** I don't like boba

**Prof. Ben:** Taro



**Weirdest gift you've ever received?**

**Prof. Bang:** Onion-shrimp aspic salad

**Prof. Ben:** Platypus slippers



**Biggest fear?**

**Prof. Bang:** I have no fears

**Prof. Ben:** This interview



**How many hours do you sleep?**

**Prof. Bang:** A solid eight or nine hours

**Prof. Ben:** Eight hours

**Would you rather fight 42 duck-sized horses or 1 horse-sized duck?**

**Prof. Bang:** 42 duck-sized horses

**Prof. Ben:** 42 duck-sized horses



**Eye color? What's the hex code?**

**Prof. Bang:** I don't know. But it probably doesn't have a lot in the R — probably more in the G and the B channels.

**Prof. Ben:** #33cc33



**How tall are you?**

**Prof. Bang:** 73 centimeters (5'9")

**Prof. Ben:** 5'3"

**Social security number?**

**Prof. Bang:** Maybe we'll skip that one

**Prof. Ben:** 123-45-6789



# Judiciar Part II

Story by Ian Gray McGuire

Art by Alex Silver

Warped light pierced through a half-broken set of window blinds affixed to the east wall, hazily illuminating a house coated in cobwebs, knick-knacks, and an assortment of dusty old paintings strewn about in lazy piles. The wind whispered through the walls, weaving cold air within a set of bedded blankets and beneath their occupant's wrinkled skin.

The mistress of the house in question, Ms. Pollyandul, though she preferred to go by her first name, rose and robed in a hurry, muttering dark-browed curses about sleeping in too late as she grabbed a painting from a stack and marched stiffly out the door, down to Fallowfield proper, before even the rooster dared crow.

With growing vexation, Ms. Pollyandul approached the stately Solveiga estate, internally debating whether to take the coward's choice and flee the scene or deal with the brunt of the forthcoming belligerence as early as possible for outside the house, tending to her geraniums, stood Mrs. Solveiga herself.

Mrs. Solveiga was a shrewd-looking woman whose wiry old frame was most often draped by an anachronistic dress, the type that might have been considered fetching at balls hosted centuries back. Despite this, she had a voice like thunder and the indomitable spirit of a badger, both of which Ms. Pollyandul had been made to be sorely acquainted with over the course of numerous occasions.

At Ms. Pollyandul's housewarming party, Mrs. Solveiga had arrived uninvited, spent much of her time complaining about the quality of the food, and gifted Ms. Pollyandul, who had every intention to remain proudly unwed for the rest of her life, an upholstered crib, a stuffed white rabbit, and other child-rearing equipage as house-warming presents, saying, "Why with a new house such as this, it's about time you cast off those spinster sentiments and earn for yourself a nice man to start a family with."

---

*“a pout-nosed, bitter-souled, money-hoarding, loud-mouthed hag who only gets by by hanging onto her husband's wastefully lavish coat-tails.”*

---

Later that week, Ms. Pollyandul refused to serve Mrs. Solveiga anything but the lowest-quality ale, on account of her being "a pout-nosed, bitter-souled, money-hoarding, loud-mouthed hag who only gets by by hanging onto her husband's wastefully lavish coat-tails." In retaliation, Mrs. Solveiga incited a boycott of Pollyandul's Place, one which fell on deaf ears for all but the most highbrowed citizens of Fallowfield. And of course, whenever Mrs. Solveiga beat Ms.

Pollyandul in the invisible race of "who will wake up earliest," she'd be sure to voice her utter disdain and faux compassion for Ms. Pollyandul's comparatively young and spry bones, calling out, "Why if it isn't Miss Early Bird, finally deigning to descend from her roost on the mount to grace us with her presence," in a tone dripping with mockery.

All this to say that when Mrs. Solveiga finally did speak, Ms. Pollyandul was most surprised.

"Oh, why, what a lovely morning, Jullianna! And so good to see you so soon in the day."

"I won't suffer no sarcasm from you, Missus," said Ms. Pollyandul with a touch of pride, feeling on the offensive for once, "An don't you dare think I'll forgive you for that hackneyed nonsense with Old Bettsy just because you woke up on the right side of the bed for once in your sorry wrinkled life!"

"Why Jullianna, why do you feel the need to bring up such gauche events? I'm just here for my geraniums — lovely little beauties aren't they — not to spark ire with my dearest neighbour."

"Stuff it!" Ms. Pollyandul shouted as she made her retreat from the scene, horribly unsure as to whether Mrs. Solveiga had truly turned over a new leaf, or merely adopted a new means of tormenting her. Shaking her head in confusion, grip tightened on the painting she carried, and eyes cast to the ground, Ms. Pollyandul made her way into the town centre, where she was greeted with a second surprise.

Standing before her was a beautiful statue depicting a powerfully built man in a full suit of armour and mounted on an exalted steed; the horse reared back, and the man's blade poised, ready to strike an enemy that was not there. Engravings ringing the plinth told of winning this land from the Thounvar by blood and steel, and founding a town to commemorate one sole hero's valour.

Despite all its splendour, there was one thing wrong. It was not Fallowfield's town statue.

Ms. Pollyandul nearly dropped the painting in shock. For as long as she could remember, the statue had depicted a hunched-over, balding man with a furrowed brow and pen in hand staring wearily at a document that was to be the town's charter.

"By the Torre Nera!" She gasped, looking around wildly as if the culprit could be caught lounging so close to their mocking handiwork.

Not seeing any force of mischief that could so completely remake something so central to her life in the time it took to move from dusk to morn, and not wanting to tangle with it herself, Ms. Pollyandul rushed to where at least the decor was quite wholly under her control.

Leather-skinned hands fumbled out a tarnished iron key and inserted it into



a battered oaken door, before pushing inwards, laying bare an opening to a large sunless interior, choked with grime and clogged with stories long past. Covering the expansive room hung what most would call an excessive number of paintings. Dangled from rafters, nailed to walls, leaned against counters, and one particular circular one mysteriously hung under a table, the paintings were each a work of a lifetime, and Ms. Pollyandul ruminated upon their many giftings as she set herself to her morning affairs.

Throwing open windows to air out the building; lighting candles and fires galore; scrubbing clean a long wooden board that served as her establishment's primary table, kitchen, and register; and finally flipping the front sign to "open," Ms. Pollyandul busied her body so as to distract her mind. Finally, after peering around the room with shrewd distinction, she chose a brass-rimmed rhomboid painting depicting a golden library strewn with spiral staircases, and reverently detached it from the wall, carrying it to the back as she cleaned off the dust with a soft cloth. In its place, she hung the painting she had taken from her house, one showing an effervescent midnight scene illuminated only by weak lantern light cast in spirals of brown and orange. With all set in its

place, she allowed herself a sigh of relief and set her mind to contemplating the day's bewildering affairs.

Only mere minutes later, the bar was swarmed with the muffled paranoia of patrons, each yapping for a drink with a ferocity not seen for months, then quickly squirrelling away with their brews to sit in conspiratorial huddles, spreading hearsay and horror in sheltered whispers.

"Did I miss some sort of holiday?" Ms. Pollyandul quipped, pouring golden ale into the glass of Mr. Carper, a trusted regular of the locale.

"Not that I've heard," he replied with rushed gratitude, "but did you hear the news?"

"Oh don't play coy with me now, Carper. You know rumours and gossip are part and parcel for a place like this, so spit it out before I yank out your tongue." The jest failed to elicit even a smile.

"A Judiciar," Carper spoke in a grave tone, and Ms. Pollyandul gasped. "That damned fool Franken sent for a Judiciar." Eyes suddenly snapped their way, as if even the utterance of the word would draw that thing here, and Carper judiciously

CONTINUED ONLINE





# FOOD COURT

BY KISHORE RAJESH

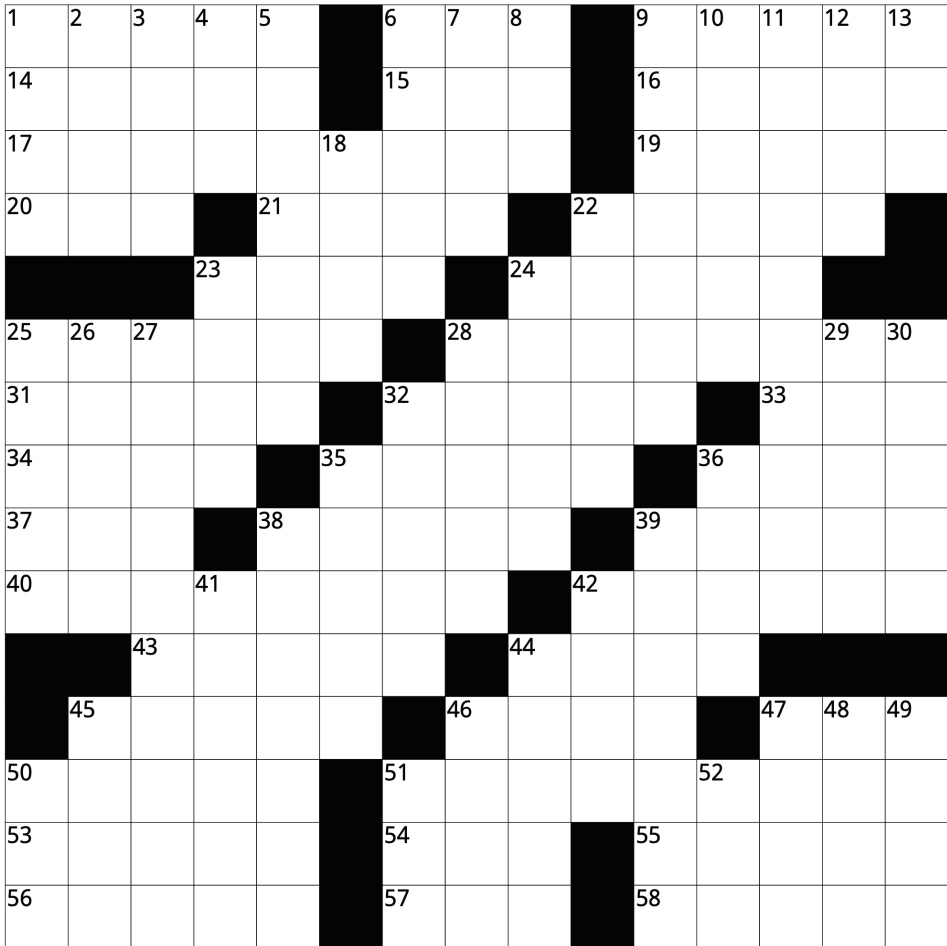
## ACROSS

- 1 \*See 33A  
6 Poker prize  
9 \*See 31A  
14 "They walk" in Spain  
15 Father of Homer  
16 Togetherness  
17 Actress Hsu in Everything Everywhere All at Once  
19 Latin threshold  
20 Whole lot  
21 Inquires  
22 Command to an attack dog  
23 Lash, for example  
24 Bow down  
25 Many people during a boring lecture, for example  
28 Butter chicken, for example  
31 A binary tree node can have up to two of this  
32 Oozes  
33 A fellow  
34 Christian observance with 1-Down  
35 When combined with the location of the starred words, clues the puzzle's theme (and a place in the Hoch)  
36 River next to the Elbe  
37 Dubai location  
38 Rock with crystals  
39 Russian president  
40 References at the bottom of a paper  
42 Big name in small planes  
43 Cruise stops  
44 Short shot  
45 Olympic swimmer Curtis

- 46 One of many in the Libra Complex  
47 Engineering major degree  
50 Relating to Constantine, Francis, or Benedict  
51 Home of San José  
53 Common sense?  
54 Ctrl - \_\_\_\_ - Del  
55 Fable finale  
56 \*See 46A  
57 Drone, e.g.  
58 \*See 23A

## DOWN

- 1 Observe Ramadan  
2 Keen on  
3 Paradise  
4 Snoop Dogg profession  
5 Breathed  
6 "Down by the banks of the hanky-\_\_\_\_"  
7 Kimono belts  
8 Golf peg  
9 Actress Mills and others  
10 Like hot coffee  
11 Centers of attention  
12 Thing  
13 Author Rand  
18 Right now  
22 Loses it  
23 Pool table surface  
24 Baseball Hall-of-famer Tim  
25 One of 78 in this crossword  
26 Musical duo "Gallagher and \_\_\_\_"  
27 Notebook sheet  
28 Poetic rewards, as in Beowulf  
29 "I got the \_\_\_\_ the mornin'" from Annie Get Your Gun



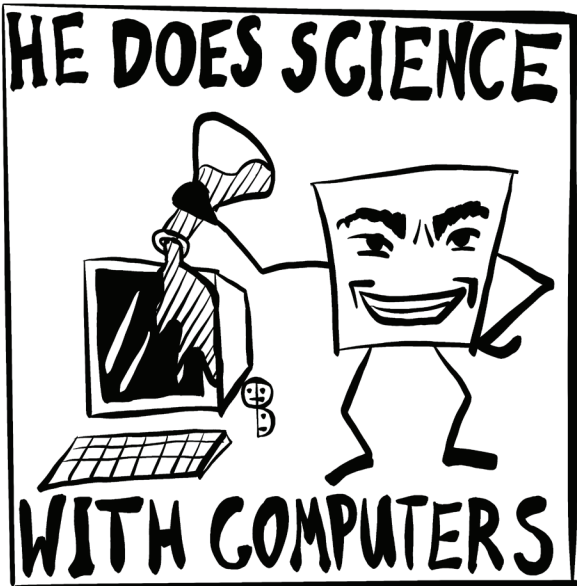
- 30 Laughing animal  
32 Nikes or Jordans  
35 This in Paris  
36 To kick out  
38 Tarzan's friend  
39 Mary had one  
41 Logical phrase  
42 \_\_\_\_ of personality  
44 Cut's partner

- 45 Bed in Barcelona  
46 Green target  
47 Memey oriole, for example  
48 Sign of healing  
49 Michael in 2 Fast 2 Furious  
50 Penn State before university accreditation (abbr.)  
51 Taxi  
52 Kanga's kid

## WALLY THE WART

### Computer Science Appreciation

By Dry Sockets Bob



## BAD TATTOO IDEAS

### Klawe Foreva

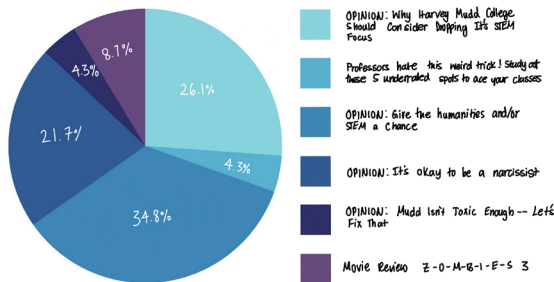
By Dry Sockets Bob



## April Fools' Issue

### Guess the ChatGPT Article Results

In our April Fools' issue, we asked readers to guess which article they thought was written with the help of ChatGPT. Here are the results!



While a few of you guessed correctly, this question seemed to be quite tricky for many. Looks like our AI friend is a pretty good writer!

Anyways, please drumroll for the results...

The ChatGPT article was:  
**OPINION: Why Harvey Mudd Should Consider Dropping its STEM Focus**



Follow @dry.sockets.bob on Instagram for more comics!



# A Confection Worth a Craving

## Cranberry Bliss Bars: An Annotated Recipe

By Mikayla Mann  
Designed by Isabel Godoy

Hello, my dearest dessert devotees and baking buffs! If you've flipped to this article looking for a recipe to satisfy your sweet tooth, you've definitely come to the right place. In this guide, I'll be explaining how to bake Cranberry Bliss Bars. These triangle-shaped goodies showcase a delectable mix of sweet and tangy flavors thanks to some fresh orange zest sprinkled on top of sugary buttercream frosting. Cranberry Bliss Bars originated as a Starbucks menu item in 2004, but they ended up being so popular that people started concocting copycat recipes and making them at home — and they taste just as good! (Actually, I don't think I've ever tried the original Starbucks version, but I'd like to think that homemade sweets are always better.)

Homemade Cranberry Bliss Bars have been a staple in my family for many years. My mom used to make them for our family and friends, but I took over in her stead a few years ago. I've found these bars to be a hit during the holiday season, and they're also super popular as gifts for friends!

Note: I've based this procedure on Food.com's "Cranberry Bliss Bars (Starbucks Copycat)" recipe, which you can find here: <https://www.food.com/recipe/cranberry-bliss-bars-starbucks-copycat-203229>.

### General Baking Tips

1. Be mindful that it takes a while to go through all the steps of this recipe! I'd recommend budgeting 3-5 hours if you're a slow baker, or if it's your first time baking this recipe. Do keep in mind, though, that you can split up the different components of the recipe. For example, you can bake the bar base, refrigerate it, then come back and make the frosting at a later time. Just make sure to budget your time accordingly!
2. I highly recommend using an electric mixer for both the bar batter and the buttercream frosting. Since the batter is very viscous, it's hard to mix by hand — plus, you'll have to whip the buttercream — so an electric mixer is ideal unless you want hand cramps :(
3. You may have heard this before, but don't overbeat your eggs when mixing the bar batter! This will make your end product very heavy and dense, which isn't ideal. You should stop mixing when the batter becomes all one consistency.
4. As for toppings, zest from fresh oranges is the best! I love taking a break to pick oranges from the orange tree in my backyard and zesting them right after. When zesting, make sure to only scrape off the top skin. You should stop when you get to the white flesh underneath.

### Ingredients

First, you'll need to gather your ingredients. I've separated the ingredients out into different lists for (1) the bar base, (2) the frosting, and (3) the topping.

#### Bar Base

1 cup butter (2 sticks, very soft)  
1 cup brown sugar (some cooks reduce this to 2/3 cup)  
1/3 cup granulated sugar  
3 large eggs  
2 teaspoons orange extract (or vanilla extract)  
2 cups flour  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon ground ginger  
3/4 cup raisins (dried cranberries)  
3/4 cup white chocolate chips

#### Frosting

3 ounces cream cheese, softened  
2 tablespoons butter, softened  
3 cups confectioners' sugar (a.k.a. powdered sugar)  
1 teaspoon orange extract (or Grand Marnier, which adds that nice citrus kick!)  
Optional: 1 tsp milk for easier mixing

#### Topping

1/3 cup raisins, chopped  
1-2 tablespoons grated orange rind  
1/3 cup white chocolate chips  
1/2 teaspoon canola oil

### Recipe

Now for the recipe!

1. Preheat the oven to 350 °F. If you're using a glass or dark pan, preheat to 325 °F instead.
2. Line a 10x15 (or 9x13) baking pan with parchment paper, which helps the bars separate the best.

#### Bar Base

3. Soften the butter (I like to use a microwave to warm up the butter until you can easily indent it with a fork) and beat it together with the sugars for about 3-5 minutes. You should see the batter change consistency to become lighter as the butter is whipped.
4. Gently blend in the eggs and orange/vanilla extract.
5. Add in the dry ingredients: flour, baking

powder, and ginger. Beat briefly, and make sure to gradually increase the mixing speed so your flour doesn't fly everywhere!

6. Stir in the cranberries and chips, just until they're incorporated (evenly distributed throughout the mixture).

7. Spread the batter into the pan you prepared (it will be thick, which is normal!).

8. Bake at 350 °F for 20-24 minutes until only the edges are light brown, and a skewer comes out clean. If you're using a 9x13 pan, the bars will be taller, so bake them for 26-28 minutes (when I've baked in this size pan, it's taken closer to 30-35 minutes). Make sure not to overbake, or you'll have dry bars!

9. Let the bars cool completely, or refrigerate them until the frosting is finished.

#### Frosting

10. Blend cream cheese and butter until the mixture feels light and fluffy.
11. Add orange extract and confectioners' sugar and beat until frosting is fluffy and spreadable. I usually add the milk here to make mixing easier.

Bite Break #1: If you're craving sugar, this is a great place to stop and taste your frosting — I promise it'll be delicious!

12. Once your bars have completely cooled, spread the frosting over the bars.

I've found an icing spatula to be ideal for this job.



#### Topping

13. To make the garnish, use a zester to remove the rind from an orange and sprinkle it over the frosting.

Zest tends to stick to itself, so make sure to separate the clumps into small pieces.

14. Coarsely chop the 1/3 cup of raisins and sprinkle those over the bars as well.
15. For the drizzle, mix the white chocolate and oil in a glass measuring cup. Microwave for 1

minute, stirring in increments of 15 seconds until the mixture has just barely melted fully.

Make sure not to microwave all in one go, or your white chocolate chips might turn to dust before they can melt...

Once your white chocolate mixture has reached a "stringy" consistency (meaning it lengthens into strands when you scoop it up with a fork), you're ready to drizzle!

Bite Break #2: A spoonful (or two) of melted white chocolate makes for a deliciously sweet snack!

#### Drizzle

16. Use a fork to drizzle the white chocolate diagonally over the bars. This step is time sensitive, so make sure to finish drizzling before your chocolate hardens.

17. Wait one hour for the drizzle to set before you cut the bars. Here's how you can make the classic Starbucks triangles:

- ✳ Cut into 20 squares by doing 5 cuts by 4 cuts.
- ✳ Cut each square diagonally in half, and you have your triangles!

Bite Break #3: Celebrate the fruits of your labor by chomping into a piece of the masterpiece you just concocted!



Don't forget to share your treats with others, and let me know how they turned out!

