INAUGURATION

Article by Tessa Han | Photos by Lea Twicken | Design by Isabel Godoy

On March 1, 2024, the Harvey Mudd Community officially welcomed President Harriet B. Nembhard through a fanfare-filled two-day inauguration, which included a formal investiture in addition to community engagement events, a Caribbean lunch reception, as well as desserts and dancing.

President Nembhard, a CMC '91 alum, has extensive experience in teaching, administration, and leadership. After receiving her PhD in Industrial and Operations Systems at the University of Michigan, she went on to work at various higher education institutions, where her research focused on improving healthcare operations and reducing healthcare inequity.

The first day of the inauguration celebration included a lecture from speaker Ho Nam '88 as part of the Annenberg Lecture Series, which was followed by a community-building event with local high school students, where science kits were distributed. The second day began with the investiture, which I'll cover more in the rest of the article. Then, a catered Caribbean lunch was served at the Liquidambar Mall Tent, after which

another community building event with local high schoolers was held. Finally, a Desserts and Dancing event was held in the evening to close out the celebration.

The investiture ceremony was set to be held at 10 AM at Big Bridges Auditorium at Pomona College. Before the investiture officially started, dozens of 5C students organized a die-in to call for divestment from weapons manufacturers and Israel-affiliated companies. As a result, the investiture ceremony was streamed for public viewing and Mudd community members viewed it from Galileo Hall.

The investiture began with a brief introduction from HMC Board of Trustees Chair James Bean (HMC '77), who then introduced Professor of Religious Studies Erika Dyson. Dyson's charming speech was a warm welcome with the spirit of Mudd: a call to action and for camaraderie, all spoken with great humor.

This was followed by a performance by the Claremont Concert Choir of Rosephanye Powell's "To Sit and Dream," which takes inspiration from the namesake poem by Langston Hughes.

Kathy French (HMC '97), President of the Alumni Association Board of Governors, then shared remarks reflecting back to the original founding of Harvey Mudd and our first president, Joe Platt. Her speech celebrated the past, while looking to the future, emphasizing Mudd's core qualities. She was followed by current CMC president, Hiram Chodosh, who gave a heartfelt speech highlighting the excitement the 5C community has to learn about and grow with

letter *from the* editors · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · *Spring 2024*

Dear readers,

Thanks for picking up a copy of *The Muddraker*! From spotlights and college updates, to opinions and humor, to poetry and art, this issue has so many wonderful contributions from our staff that we're excited to share with you all.

At the beginning of this issue, you'll find some pieces on college updates. Read about President Nembhard's inauguration ceremony and all the different speakers at her investiture ceremony (pg. 1, 3). We're extending a warm welcome to three new Deans who joined DSA earlier this semester: Dean Nita, Dean Veronica, and Dean Kat (pg. 4-5). This is an exciting year for Mudd — as President Nembhard's first year at Mudd draws to a close, Strategic Planning has been in full swing to determine the college's priorities and direction for the next few years. Our centerspread provides updates on the current process, and some context about when it last happened at Mudd in 2007 (that's 17 years ago!) (pg. 8-9).

Curious about student life and what Mudders think? We spotlight three members of our amazing senior class, who share their reflections and advice to other students (pg. 6). For a dose of positivity, check out some heartwarming messages Mudders wrote about their peers, and read a club feature on The Mudd Advocates (pg. 7). In this era of rapid technological advancements, Mudd students and professors weigh in on the role of ChatGPT in the classroom (pg. 10), and share a primer on quantum computing and encryption (pg. 11).

For a quick laugh, see how Mudders are divided on highly controversial topics (like how a starfish would wear pants) (pg. 12-13). See some photos from around Spain, a glimpse into the semester of one of our Editors-in-Chief who is currently studying abroad (pg. 14). While you're there, check out some comics and test your puzzling skills on the Cardinal Numbers crossword (pg. 15). And finally, flip to the back to read "What's in a name?", a poem that expresses the blurred relations between language and history (pg. 16).

We hope you enjoy the paper, and good luck with finals week!

Happy reading!
Avani, Ella, and Shivani

Design by Shivani Manivasagan

President Nembhard over the coming years.

Next, Professor Susan Martonosi, current Chair of Faculty, spoke on behalf of the Harvey Mudd faculty, who extended another warm welcome to President Nembhard and emphasized Mudd's current commitments to improving STEM education. Then, Laura Palucki Blake, who served on the Presidential Search Committee and is currently the Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Effectiveness, gave a speech highlighting some of President Nembhard's critical qualities, sharing anecdotes as to why President Nembhard was chosen.

We then heard from two Mudders: ASHMC President Kayleah Tsai and Senate Chair Henry Hammer. They shared anecdotes of their experiences with President Nembhard, such as when "during an evening activity, President Harriet noticed that one of the students appeared cold in the chilly desert air. Without a word she retrieved one of the Harvey Mudd embroidered throw blankets for the student and wrapped it around his shoulders. Not only that, but President Harriet insisted on wrapping a blanket around herself as well so that the student did not feel out of place at the formal function." They described other attributes of President Nembhard, particularly her "kindness, foresight, and empathy," and other ways she's already given to Mudd. This speech in particular really stuck with me because of the very tangible examples of how President Nembhard looks out for others in even small ways, and why she will so strongly integrate into the Mudd community.

Next, Laura Larson, who is Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and also served on the Presidential Search Committee, spoke about the presidential search process and the qualities that Larson believes made President Nembhard such a strong candidate. She was followed by Jil Stark, former first lady of CMC, as well as President Nembhard's close friend and "Claremont Mom." Stark shared stories from her time as a student, commented on the interplay between the colleges, and showcased the qualities of Mudd, particularly as they relate to the role of our President.

Following this was John Birge, President Nembhard's PhD advisor from the University of Michigan, who spoke about his time as President Nembhard's advisor, and about the qualities he saw in her that have carried her to success. In something of a full circle moment, Birge

was followed by Hyojung Kang, one of President Nembhard's former PhD students who talked about her time as President Nembhard's advisee, remarking that, "She ensures that students feel cared for and supported in all aspects. She will inspire students, staff, faculty members, and community members to dream big, and embrace challenges with resilience, and always strive for excellence in all that we do."

We then heard from two of President Nembhard's family members: her daughter Naomi Nembhard, who emphasized how President Nembhard's qualities have had an impact beyond her professional and academic life, and Professor David Nembhard, President Nembhard's husband and engineering professor at Mudd. He reminisced on his relationship with President Nembhard and his decision to come and teach at Mudd. He reflected, "I've met so many fabulous, incredible people and have become proud and frankly quite honored to be a part of this community."

Finally, we heard President Nembhard's inaugural speech. Her heartfelt words included her gratitude to the different parts of Mudd's community and to her community, her journey that led her here, and the unique components that make up Mudd (including alumni accomplishments, social justice efforts, and more). She concluded:

"I am filled with hope and excitement for the boundless possibilities — knowing that we are worthy of special endeavors. Thank you for entrusting me with the great honor of leading this remarkable institution. I am deeply committed to serving Harvey Mudd College, and I look forward to working hand-in-hand with each of you in realizing our collective vision. Together, let us embrace this journey

with optimism, courage, determination, and a shared dedication to excellence. Together, let us continue propelling innovation as we push the frontiers of knowledge and inspire future generations of thinkers and leaders. Together, let's soar to even greater heights!"

The program concluded with a performance of "The Campers at Kitty Hawk" by the Claremont Concert Choir, then a final speech by US Poet Laureate Ada Limón.

While I was first lured in by the free donuts, hearing the speakers weave a tapestry of President Nembhard's qualities and experiences and of Mudd's past, present, and future was a genuinely inspiring experience that made me excited to see where Mudd will go. I'm truly looking forward to seeing President Nembhard around campus and how her vision will shape our future. ∎

MEET THE NEW DEANS

Article by Serena Mao ◆ Photos by Mikayla Mann ◆ Design by Isabel Godoy

DEAN NITA KANSARA

Q: Introduce yourself and your new role!

I'm Nita, the Assistant Dean for International Students and Scholars for the Office of Institutional Diversity (OID)! I'm filling in for this role after Dean Nikki left in the fall. I have been at Harvey Mudd since 2021, working as Assistant Manager in the Facilities and Maintenance Department. Prior to my role at Harvey Mudd, I was at Pomona for 21 years, where I worked with student affairs, housing, and academics. I've spent most of my career working with students.

Q: What was your career journey up until now?

My career journey has felt very organic, as my background is in hospitality and food services. I worked abroad before I came to the US. Then, I joined Pomona as the assistant director of their catering program where I still did many student events.

At the Pomona College Oldenborg language tables, I attended the Japanese table to practice my Japanese conversation skills and was also a mentor at the Hindi/Urdu table and other South Asian language tables. I got to know the international students and see the college experience through their eyes, including the challenges they faced being so far away from home. These interactions gave me a greater appreciation of what it takes to be out of one's comfort zone.

In general, OID is working with affinity groups and strengthening all the services we have to serve the student population. NISSO (New International Student and Scholar Orientation) is a big thing on my plate, which I'm beginning to work on. Visas and visa-related regulations have also been on my mind, as a lot of student decisions depend on that.

We're also looking to do events, but we want to take it slowly and be intentional. Recently for Family Weekend, we hosted a dinner in the Riggs Room, because we see ourselves as our own international family! In April, we help organize International Week, a 7C collaboration for international students to showcase their cultures. Beyond this, I hope to build community amongst the international students, as well as create events and partnerships with domestic students and affinity groups.

Q: What would you like students reading this to know?

I want to get to know you, and want to hear directly from you what's working and what's not working! Come and share what's on your mind. I'm always open to meeting with you all. We get to build this together, and I'm a hugely collaborative person! It takes all of us to make this campus a welcoming community for our international students. You can always email and set up a time on my Calendly. My office is right here in Platt — but you'll often find me in the dining hall too!

Q: What was unexpected about this role?

This role encompasses many smaller roles: advocate, educator, advisor, collaborator, and planner. I'm doing some aspect of that at any given time. Luckily, I've had a lot of support from my colleagues in the division, across all departments on campus, and the 5Cs. Everyone has been very welcoming and generous, which I am so grateful for.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Mudd?

The people! Mudd students tend to be stereotyped, but they're really interesting, hardworking, and caring people. I've had so many great conversations with Mudd students through which I've learned so much about Mudd and the college experience. Every time I talk to a student, I learn something new!

DEAN VERONICA CLAIRMONT

Q: Introduce yourself and your new role!

I'm Dean Veronica, the new Associate Dean for the Office of Institutional Diversity (OID) in Student Affairs! A little about me — I'm a first-generation college student, and my parents are both immigrants. They worked so hard to give me the opportunity to go to college and create the life I currently have, and I will forever be grateful for them. That's why I have such a deep passion for this work — I want to continue helping students make that movement upward.

I was born and raised in the San Gabriel Valley. I love going to concerts, cooking, and taking my dog for a walk! (My daughter has begged for a dog since she could talk, and I gave in during the pandemic.)

Q: Why did you choose to apply for this role? What are you most excited about relating to it?

When I saw this role, I was most excited about being able to focus on equity and access, support STEM students from underrepresented groups, and help build a culturally competent HMC community. I am happy to bring my experiences as a first-generation student of color to this role.

Q: What kind of initiatives and events are you looking to kickstart this coming year?

I want to observe, listen, and get to know the community as deeply as I can, before I decide what our focus is going to be for next year. We have a wonderful opportunity with a new president and her strategic planning efforts to be

very thoughtful in the future work that we do. I'm excited for opportunities to promote cultural competence across the community while highlighting diverse voices and providing programming where we can learn from one another.

Personally, I work best one-on-one, whether it's a coffee or a meeting. I'd love to meet with student leaders who can represent their organizations and their affinity groups. These students are already putting in the work and are willing to be the voice of others.

Q: What are you most nervous about?

It's not really what I'm nervous about, but what I'm aware of and need to be careful of — this is important and exciting work where I can get caught up wanting to do a lot, and I can get ahead of myself. I want to make sure I really understand what the needs of HMC specifically are first. There are many things I want to see, from mentorship to speaker series and trainings — but I want to make sure it's thoughtful and intentional.

Q: What would you like a student reading this to know? What would you like to ask students?

I want to hear from you because you have unique stories. Your voice is valued! I want to know what matters to you, what makes you sad, what makes you smile — I want to know all the good and the bad.

My door is always open, and I hope you'll take the time to come chat. I genuinely think that the core of the work we do in Student Affairs is building relationships with students.

Q: What didn't you expect coming into this role?

Not that it was unexpected, but more of a pleasant surprise: every department has been so supportive of me. Whether it was Facilities or Dining, everyone has been really welcoming and supportive, which was refreshing and special. I didn't know about the level of care that exists in the community — it's really genuine from what I've observed so far. Everyone makes the time to look out for one another, and I sense the comfort level that people have with each other.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Mudd?

It's how smart and talented everyone is! It's great to see everyone be leaders and change-makers, whether it's in quiet or very motivated ways. I know that everyone's going to make a difference in the future. I'm nervous for my kids and the world that they're going to grow up in, but I know that things are going to be okay because there's this brilliant group of students who are spreading kindness and growing into makers of change!

If you ever want to chat, my door is always open in the OID office. I have a Calendly that you can use to schedule meetings with me — it's on the QR code on my door and in my email signature. Zoom is also an option. I want to meet students where they are!

Dean Kat Salazar

Q: Introduce yourself and your new role!

I'm Dean Kat, I use she/her pronouns, and I'm the Assistant Dean for Student Accessibility Services! I oversee the Office of Accessible Education, and I support students with disabilities and their accommodations. This encompasses testing accommodations and classroom accommodations, such as getting a notetaker, as well as support for housing, like getting a room on the first floor or access to a kitchen. I work primarily with Dean Amy Bibbens, who is with Academic Resources and Student Success.

Q: What's been your career journey up to this point?

> "I want to hear from you because you have unique stories. Your voice is valued! I want to know what matters to you, what makes you sad, what makes you smile — I want to know all the good and the bad."

While doing my undergrad at Cal Poly Pomona, I became interested in working in higher education. I loved supporting my peers, and I had a job working with low-income, first-generation, and people with disabilities. At that time, I didn't think I'd be able to relate to them until I found out I had a disability myself that I didn't even know qualified as one!

Coming into Mudd, I started with a temporary role as a graduate assistant with the Office of Institutional Diversity. In that role, I worked with first-gen students, transfer students, affinity groups, and the Summer Institute (SI) program. It allowed me to learn a lot about the campus and student population that I was working with. I noticed that it was easier for students to get support at HMC when compared to other public institutions that I had experience with, which was something I always wished for as an undergrad.

Q: What are you planning to do in this coming year?

My main goal is to bring more disability visibility by increasing awareness of the challenges, barriers, and limitations that individuals with disabilities face. In addition to raising awareness of challenges, I hope to facilitate learning of universal design and other ways to create an inclusive community on campus for students with disabilities. I'm hoping to have more collaborations with OID and the Office of Career Services through various programming surrounding disability awareness and advocacy. I'm also exploring collaboration opportunities with an affinity group at Mudd, MINDS, to gain insights into their campus community and potentially organize joint events.

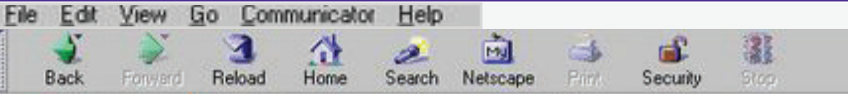**Q: What was most unexpected coming into this role?**

Though I am not new to Mudd, I've found that there are still many things to learn about in terms of the campus and our Office's processes. While I'm excited about the programming I have in mind, I aim to first adjust to my new role then begin these events during Fall 2024. I was also pleasantly surprised by how supportive the students are toward me! I've had students reach out to me and introduce themselves as student leaders, and I'm super happy to see that.

Q: What's a message you'd like to send to the students?

If students have questions about disabilities and what type of accommodations they are eligible for, or if they don't know where to look to find out more about having a disability, they can come to me in the main DSA office or just shoot me an email! If there's something I could ask students, it would be: what is something you want to see more of, and how can we improve our current services or processes?

Q: What's your favorite part of Mudd?

Students are always asking questions and staff and faculty are always communicating about how we can support students. It's a campus that a majority of students live on, which I feel increases students' ability to form a community. I like the Hoch and the food (and pho on Wednesdays)! I'm so appreciative of the support I receive from the staff I'm working with, their willingness to answer questions, and them letting me know that their doors are always open. I'm happy that I have the ability to provide the support for students that I wish I'd had more of as an undergraduate.

File Edit View Go Communicator Help

Back Forward Reload Home Search Netscape Print Security Stop

ALLISON TSAI, ENGINEERING MAJOR

allison.png

Q: What are your plans post-Mudd?
A: I'm going to major in Mechanical Engineering at grad school, where I hope to take more specialized classes and gain some research experience. I want to make non-invasive medical technology using electromechanical systems. I'm hoping to start working in wearables and printables, and maybe later, pursue a PhD.

Q: Have you done research at Mudd?
A: I did research here for 1.5 years with Prof. Santana in his microfluidics and cellular lab. I worked on the 3D bioprinter and also on hydrogels that simulate cellular response.

Q: When you first came to Mudd, did you plan on majoring in mechanical engineering, or just engineering in general?
A: Coming into Mudd, I was interested in biomedical engineering. I still want to work on medical devices, so my passion has stayed consistent. However, it took me until sophomore year to figure out that I want to work specifically on mechanical and electrical systems in medical devices.

Q: How has Mudd contributed to helping you get these opportunities?
A: A lot of classes incorporate hands-on projects into the coursework, so I don't have to go out of my way to get those under my belt. Also, Mudd has given me the opportunity to be in a research lab and I've gained more experience that way. I've also noticed a lot of companies value students who have had a mix of hands-on experience, leadership experience, and collaborative experience. Mudd does a really great job of making sure you get all three before you graduate.

Q: What are you excited for or looking forward to?
A: I'm really excited to see what life is like after Mudd. While I will miss a lot of my friends, I'm looking forward to meeting new people and seeing different types of work in the medical field!

Q: Any last advice for Mudders, looking back?
A: I feel like a lot of people say this, but it's really hard to see it at the moment — I used to think things that I previously did were subpar, and think "It's over, I can never be an engineer." Thinking back, it was those experiences that really helped me grow. Those moments, especially negative moments, can be turned into opportunities of growth. I want to tell underclassmen that although mistakes can be very overwhelming, trust me, you'll be okay.

KAYLEAH TSAI, CS MAJOR

kayleah.png

Q: What are your plans post-Mudd?
A: I am going to work as a software engineer in Salt Lake City and work on a Master's in Education with an emphasis on Student Affairs. I've never lived outside of California before, so it's very new. But part of my Master's program is to do an internship, so hopefully I'll be coming back here to Mudd to complete that.

Q: Is there anything you would've changed about your Mudd experience?
A: I wish there was more interconnectivity between class years. In particular, CO '24 really struggled with this because we were online for a year, so we had trouble becoming friends even with other CO '24 people in 2020. Then, when we came back our sophomore year, a lot of people felt they didn't become close to upperclassmen. We also didn't become as close with the frosh (CO '25) as we could have because we were barely figuring out what we were doing ourselves. So, I think our year is a weird year that didn't really connect very well with the other years, and I'm really happy to see that the other years are doing a lot better.

Q: What's something you're proud of accomplishing at Mudd?
A: The first thing I got involved with at Mudd was Yearbook. In my frosh year, I went to one of the virtual club fairs and asked about the yearbook club, and I was told that it had died. So I thought, "I'll restart it then." It was hard being an online frosh trying to restart a club that needs a lot of support. However, I pulled together a really good group of frosh, and with a lot of support from everybody, we were able to publish a yearbook! Now we've had four yearbooks and, fingers crossed, our next presidents will continue that.

Q: Who is your favorite prof?
A: I love all my profs, so I hope no one takes this offensively, but probably Prof. Yong. He was my frosh advisor and he and my dad were in the same class year at Mudd. They weren't best friends, but they were friends of friends, so that was a neat personal connection. Even though he's not my frosh advisor or my major advisor, he always makes sure to check in and we still have advising meetings together.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from your four years?
A: I'd always seen pictures of bioluminescent waves, and they're hard to find or see because you never really know when they're going to happen. So that's always been something I've really wanted to see, like a bucket list item. I was scrolling on Instagram one day, and someone had posted that they had seen bioluminescent waves in the area the day before. So I texted my friends and said, "Guys, we have to go." I love my friends because it was a Tuesday at like 4 PM and my friends said, "Sure, we'll go." We went and didn't see it for a while, so we were getting ready to head back. But as we were walking back we saw the blue bioluminescence, and I feel like that was a wonderful culmination of my four years.

Q: What advice would you give to underclassmen?
A: I think stepping out and trying something outside of your comfort zone is important. Whether you have a spectacular failure or a wonderful triumph, people will want to support you and encourage you to push your boundaries.

CEVI BAINTON, MCB MAJOR

cevi.png

Q: What are your plans post-Mudd?
A: Right after Mudd, I'm going to be working at a lab in the Bay Area. I would like to see more of the world, maybe by going to grad school somewhere else, but I think I'd ultimately return to California.

Q: If you could implement any traditions at Mudd, what would it be?
A: One would be that somebody, maybe the Sus Reps, should put together a game in LA County before the end of the semester, where you have to use the Metrolink to complete it. I think that would be so fun. And the second would be that when we [seniors] graduate, the frosh should do something to us, like there should be payback for Frosh Run. And maybe the goal should be the more frosh you befriend by the end of the year, the more fun your prank is. And then if you don't befriend any frosh, it's like a real bad prank.

Q: What are some of your hobbies outside of academics?
A: I like hiking. Also, I love making shenanigans in the Makerspace. For me, part of my hobbies involve just getting out into the world with a goal. And it doesn't have to be something big — I can say something like "I need to see a tree today," and that's enough.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Mudd?
A: There are a lot of things — in particular, I really appreciate my social experience. I think I was very lucky; a lot of the parts of Mudd's culture have been really strong and allowed me to make lasting friendships. I recognize the fact that I am very privileged to be a Mudder, because I'm a part of an inclusive environment where I feel like I really know people who can be themselves. Also, I love having inter-year friendships and getting to know people with different majors, dorms, experiences.

Q: Why did you decide to major in MCB?
A: MCB is an interesting beast of a major. I've considered doing most of the majors while I was at Mudd in different ways; there have definitely been times when I thought it would be really cool to do engineering. But I love MCB's flexibility.

Q: If you were an animal, what animal would you be? (assuming ideal habitat)
A: Sea lion, kelp forest. I really like forests, and I think it would be cool to hang out in an aquatic one.

Q: If you could give one piece of advice to frosh you, what would it be?
A: Well, my freshman year was virtual, so that was very different. But I would say to frosh now, make as many friends as you can. Spend time going up to people, meeting your profs, and just getting out. I do a lot of my homework with friends, and while it hasn't made me better at time management, it makes my experience so much more fun. Also, don't be afraid of bothering people, and hanging out in common spaces more. Along those lines, go to office hours — profs really have so much knowledge that they want to share.

Platonic Secret Admirer

Article by Antara Krishnan and Aleicia Zhu | Design by Aanya Pratapneni

Kindness is in the air! The Muddraker ran a platonic version of Secret Admirer to recognize kindness across Harvey Mudd. Here are some of the messages we received.

Clayson Briggs is the most caring person I know. He would even give away his appendix for me.

I appreciate Tito Cuchilla being there for me, even through tough times. I'm grateful he's my friend.

Linda Ramos has the brightest smile at Sontag and so many exciting stories to tell.

Kylee Graper's smile is so contagious and her love for her friends is remarkable.

Henry Heathwood has a very kind nature. His smile lights up morning, day, and night!

Becca is the most wholesome person I know. She sees the best in people and is walking sunshine!

Prof. Kagey goes out of his way to make students feel welcome and like they belong!

Being around Felix Murphy makes you comfortable to be both your grounded and chaotic self.

Prof. George is the best lecturer I've ever had and an overall outstanding human being.

Kenneth Mitchell is a really great friend! He always knows how to make you laugh.

Paco Navarro is such a chill dude who gets stuff done. Mad respect in the kitchen and on wheels.

Svetlana Altshuler is hands-down one of my my favorite people. They can always make you smile.

Richard Chang is the best coworker. I'll miss you next year.

Kate Lam is a very fashionable, bubbly person! I look up to her and am grateful for our friendship.

Alec Roberson has mad fashion sense and looks so confident in their fits.

Aech Loar's hugs are so incredibly healing and he has a heart full of gold. Also SO fun to dance with.

Talking to Chelsey in the CS Office always makes my day better. I also appreciate the chocolates.

Tessa Han has a great sense of humor! I admire how she always voices her opinions.

Georgia Klein has the kindest heart and will stand up for what's right. Love my president!

Ford Ashmun is the best at giving hugs and making you smile. He is a warm tortilla on a cold, rainy day.

Kelly Yang's personality shines brighter than the brightest star! Also the best barista I've ever met!

Amanda Kitrell is really compassionate. She's always the most fun to be around!

Allie Marten is always there to laugh, cry, scream, or snack with you. I'm grateful they're my friend.

Tanvi Krishnan is an absolute genius. No one I trust more to tell me something is a bad idea.

Cheyenne Foo is the crucial piece of the puzzle that makes Mudd great and "piece-ful"!

Cevi Bainton, thanks for being the sweetest person I know.

Nilay Pangrekar is great at connecting with people and organizing community events.

Georgia Klein radiates positive energy. She's so bad at being mean; should be the next U.S. President.

Vani Sachdev is such a quali-tea person. She is tea-riffic and so friendly to everyone she meets!

Elliot Bobrow is such a king. He's a great friend and so kind. Appreciate you Elliot.

Natalie Couch: Adventurer in Chief, horrible driver, great singer. I want to be her when I grow up.

Connor Seto is the most courteous, kind man in a 100 mile radius

Harvey Mudd Advocates Return to HMC!

Article by Antara Krishnan | Design by Leena Ansari

You might have heard of a "new" club on campus: the Harvey Mudd Advocates, a student group dedicated to supporting survivors of sexual assault and fostering a culture of consent at Mudd. The group was restarted in Fall 2023 by Jasper Bown '24, who was concerned by the lack of support for survivors at Mudd — especially in comparison to other colleges in the Consortium, which all have active student advocates groups. Now, Mudd Advocates consists of twelve active members, or Advocates; some focus on providing confidential support, while others organize educational events for the community.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Earlier in the Spring 2024 semester, a group of Advocates went through a weekend-long training on trauma-informed care and sexual violence prevention. They are now holding regular drop-in office hours. Office hours are a safe space where students can receive confidential support, process feelings, and/or access further resources. Bown emphasizes that confidentiality is central to the role of Advocates who provide direct support: "It's a survivor's choice when and whether to share their story or emotions. Survivors may be overcoming all kinds of barriers to seek support — knowing their story will remain private can be important for their safety." The Mudd Advocates plan to host a few events during the semester, ranging from informal chats with the Advocates team to community outreach events on consent and boundaries. They hope to continue to provide peer support and remain as a strong and meaningful presence on campus.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Access this site to view the club's office hours schedule and further resources: https://linktr.ee/hmcadvocates.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AT HARVEY MUDD

Article & Design by Shivani Manivasagan

This semester, Mudd is undertaking Strategic Planning — a process that last happened 17 years ago, where admin, faculty, students, trustees, alumni, and parents engage in a series of community discussions to collectively determine the college's priorities and direction for the next few years. Read on to learn about the Strategic Planning process, explained!

What is Strategic Planning, and why should I care?

Strategic Planning is the process by which Mudd's new president works with the Mudd community (admin, faculty, students, trustees, etc.) to determine the overall direction of the institution for the next 10+ years. The findings from this process will be published in a Strategic Planning Report in October 2024, which will directly guide institutional departments and fundraising campaigns in different topics — including academic programs, research, student experience, campus buildings, and more.

Strategic Planning is occurring this year because it's President Harriet Nembhard's first year at Mudd. As such, the last Strategic Planning was in 2007, Maria Klawe's first year as president. In President Nembhard's words: For the institution, Strategic Planning is "the process of determining where you are now, where you want to be, and how you will get there."

The process started in November 2023 and spans several months, and is completely centered around community discussions. The intent is for the plan to be something collectively created by and owned by the Mudd community. Being a student at Mudd during this time is exciting — it affords us the unique opportunity to directly participate in these conversations, influencing community-wide considerations to help Mudd grow as an institution and better serve its future students.

What is the overall process, and how can I get involved?

In October 2023, President Nembhard released the 100 Days of Community Connections report — a synthesis of thoughts on Mudd that she heard from numerous conversations in the first 100 days of her presidency. She identified six themes: Culture and People, The Student Experience, Academic Programs, Impact on Society, Places and Spaces, and Building Capacity to Invest in Our Future.

The Strategic Planning process aims to flesh out the ideas from the report through more discussion and community feedback. From November to April, several community events have been held for this purpose. These discussions are grounded in several guiding principles: clear definitions of the college's values, essence, and distinction, as well as SOAR analysis (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and expected Results).

As students or community members, the main way you can get involved is through participating in these discussions. Attend the Strategic Planning events, and feel free to directly reach out to members of the Working Groups (see next page) — your thoughts are valued!

Access the Strategic Planning website to find more information regarding timeline, events, etc.

Read the 100 Days of Community Connections report

Timeline

2023 Oct	100 Days of Community Connections Report
Nov-Dec	Preparatory Phase
Jan	Community Discussion
Feb	Values, Essence, Distinction
Mar	Strategic Goals and Initiatives
Apr-May	Stakeholder Engagement
Jun	Finalize the Plan
Jul	Board of Trustees Preview
Aug	Plan Refinement
Sep	Board of Trustees Approval
Oct	Plan Implementation

Stephanie Graham
Senior Editor/Director of Communications

❝ *Throughout this process, President Nembhard especially wants to make sure students have a voice — you're here in this moment experiencing the college, learning from faculty members, and participating in activities. She is very interested to hear what your experience is like, and what you think Mudd needs for its future students.*

The People Involved

The Steering Committee oversees the overall process. Also, three Working Groups were created to have more focused discussions and write a 3-page report on their assigned theme. A member of the Steering Committee is on each Working Group. To see the members of the Steering Committee and each Working Group's Focus Questions and members, access the Strategic Planning website (QR code on left page).

Strategic Planning Steering Committee	Leads and oversees planning efforts, ensuring inputs from the 3 Working Groups are effectively integrated into the Strategic Plan

Imagining Harvey Mudd Working Group	Academic Vision Working Group	Student Experience Working Group
Focus on big ideas to potentially transform the direction of the College and STEM education	Examine future directions of Mudd's curriculum and academic program offerings	Identify ways to improve the overall student experience, especially beyond the classroom

Karl Haushalter
Professor of Chemistry and Biology, Chemistry Department Chair

In our report, we highlighted what we thought were the transformational ideas. Even when we disagree, it's with the common understanding that we're all working toward the same goals of supporting our students and the institution. Of course, the report isn't the same as if just one person had written it — but the goal is to get something that everyone can rally around. I think the report captures where the community is going, and it reflects a broad cross-section of ideas that synthesizes input from faculty, students, staff, trustees, alumni, and the broader community.

What comes next? Implementation & fundraising plans

The final plan will guide the thinking, planning, and efforts of different groups (the President's Cabinet, academic departments, etc.) to be in alignment with the College's overall direction. We can also expect fundraising to support future initiatives that will further these goals.

Kimberly Stafford   *Interim Vice President for Advancement*

The new strategic plan will likely include several initiatives that will require additional operational planning and financial support. Some of that financial support may come from reallocation of existing resources while other support will need to come from campaign fundraising. President Nembhard recently formed a pre-campaign planning committee to determine the process and timeline.

Often, two of the first steps in establishing a plan include assessing the organization's readiness, which is an internal review of staffing and budget, and assessing the organization's capacity for a campaign, which includes reviewing prospects who are likely to be interested in supporting the campaign. Campaigns also generally have two phases, a "quiet phase" where you are actively fundraising for priorities among key donors and a "public phase" where you are reaching out more broadly to all constituencies.

From 2007 to 2024: Revisiting Mudd's 2007 Strategic Vision

Strategic Planning is still in its early stages, so looking back at the 2007 process and the years that followed can give us a better understanding of the big picture, keeping in mind that a lot has changed in 17 years! I'd recommend reading the Strategic Vision Progress Report (right) — it's interesting how so many overlooked parts of our everyday experience at Mudd didn't exist just a few years ago.

The HMC 2007 Strategic Vision report outlines the College's aspirations organized into six themes.

In 2014, a Case Statement was published to launch the public fundraising campaign — for initiatives such as summer research, experiential learning stipends, art & music events, new buildings, etc.

The Strategic Vision Progress Report 2006-2020 comprehensively describes the tangible projects and initiatives that were implemented in the 14 years following Strategic Planning. Highlights include:

- Increased gender and racial diversity in the student body (with historic graduating classes where women made up the majority of certain majors)
- Constructed 3 new buildings (Shanahan Center for Teaching & Learning, Drinkward dorm, McGregor Computer Science Center)
- Created several endowed faculty positions
- Formed the Office of Community Engagement
- Established the Hixon Center & improved campus-wide sustainability
- Launched Homework Hotline (took its first call in 2010, and 20,000th call in 2016!)
- Organized Drinkward Recital Hall Concert series & Visual Arts at HMC Sprague Gallery series

Strategic Planning Impact
Prof. Karl Haushalter's Class, AIDS: Science, Society and Service

Read more about the impact of Prof. Haushalter's class here

Shortly after 2007, small grants were provided for faculty, staff, and students who wanted to pilot a project. I've been teaching a course that directly emerged out of the funding I received from this grant. The course combines the science of the HIV infection with its social and political context, and a lot of my students over the years have really enjoyed it — it's by far one of the most impactful courses I've taught. And it came out of Strategic Planning — the plan didn't explicitly state that there should be a course about the AIDS crisis, but I had this idea, explained how it would support different pillars of the Strategic Plan, and was then provided the resources to make it happen.

"Productive Struggle"
AI in the Classroom at Mudd

Article by Ishita Jain and Alice Tidmarsh
Art by Antara Krishnan | Design by Alice Tidmarsh

Since its release, ChatGPT has raised important questions in many parts of the world — including about the future of employment, the importance of human connections, and the value of student thought in academia. We asked Mudd students and professors about their thoughts on the role of AI in the classroom.

The Muddraker surveyed students to ask if they have felt interested in using ChatGPT or other AI tools for academics, and whether they wanted AI tools integrated into their education. Mudd students reported that the main ways they have considered using ChatGPT are for brainstorming essay ideas, understanding how to approach problems, summarizing concepts, and debugging code. Some feel that ChatGPT helps to make learning a more even playing field as it provides easy-to-understand answers tailored to student questions; however, many students remain wary of the technology. Mudd students who filled out the survey reported that no matter what, they have to fact-check what ChatGPT outputs because it can provide incorrect information. Many also prefer using textbooks and feel technology hinders their learning.
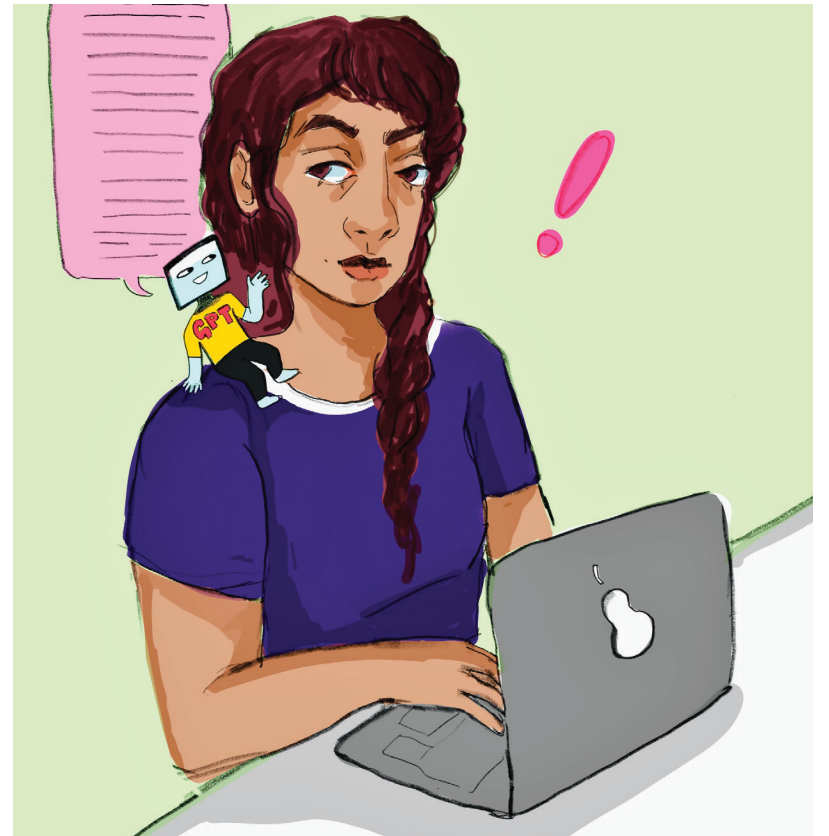
Also, students and professors are both conscious of ethical issues around using ChatGPT. Some students pointed out its environmental impact — each ChatGPT query can take up to 15 times as much energy as a Google search, and data centers require billions of gallons of water for cooling every year (Sreedhar). Professor Josh Brake from the Engineering department mentions that it isn't clear whether the data that ChatGPT uses is copyrighted. Users don't know whose writing might be plagiarized in the response or the source's reputability.

While most Mudd students are skeptical of the technology's uses in education, many believe that class policies

with thoughtful rules about ChatGPT help them explore the technology. For example, Professor Brake's AI policy is that students can use ChatGPT as long as they justify its use. He shared that his intention with the policy was to talk to students and "explore this together in a way of critically engaging with the technology." The policy encourages students to think more deeply about when using ChatGPT is genuinely useful or justifiable, as well as allows them to explore the technology's uses. For example, he has found that ChatGPT is useful for helping students who feel stuck in a rut with problem-solving because it helps them see the bigger picture.

Other Mudd professors have also found ways to help students engage with ChatGPT. Philosophy professor Kyle Thompson uses the technology in his AI and Ethics class, where students participate in a Turing test. They are asked to determine whether they're having a conversation with AI or a student and reflect on the qualities of AI-generated versus human-generated work and the value of human writing in the future. Religious studies professor Erika Dyson used the technology in her HSA 10 section's midterm; after completing a group research project, students fed an essay prompt on the same topic into ChatGPT and wrote papers critiquing its response. ChatGPT provides a unique opportunity for students to carefully analyze what makes an essay weak or compelling, and it can help students identify areas where their understanding of the topic may still be lacking.

As professors explore where ChatGPT can be useful in the classroom, they're also trying to show that it cannot replace the student writing process. Professor Thompson explained that using ChatGPT at any step of the writing process "undermines the intent of the assignment" because it gives students a shortcut that removes "the productive

struggle of education." He believes in the value of wrestling with the material, as it helps in understanding and synthesizing ideas. Dyson shares a similar sentiment; when students use AI to write papers, they miss out on the "opportunity to have somebody really engage with what they think," as peers and professors offer feedback on the student's own arguments and analysis.

While AI tools may be tempting to students who feel stuck or are working in a time crunch, professors encourage students to look to other available resources. Thompson reminds students, "We have a network of caring, thoughtful experts that you can go talk to… they're not going to give you everything at once and just spew out some response." Other resources can help students through the writing process in an engaging, thoughtful way that ChatGPT can't replicate. Professors, writing center tutors, and other professionals at Mudd will help students to work through their productive struggle so they can truly grasp the material and contribute to a broader conversation. The process of organized, credible research and citation is one that ChatGPT circumvents, and according to Dyson, it's one that is valuable; "We are showing our readers who we're in conversation with and that is much more interesting, I think, than if we all sat around in our solitary geniuses."

Sreedhar, Nitin. "AI and its carbon footprint: How much water does ChatGPT consume?" Mint Lounge, 22 October 2023.

Quantum Computers Can And Will "Decrypt" Encryption

cout << "Article by Sudharsan Gopalakrishnan, Design by Becca Verghese";

"You know, in a 5 to 10 year timeframe, quantum computing will break encryption as we know it today," claimed Google CEO Sundar Pichai at a gathering for The World Economic Forum in 2020 (Veritasium, 2023). Let's dive more into what exactly quantum computing is, and why it has the potential to change the future of encryption.
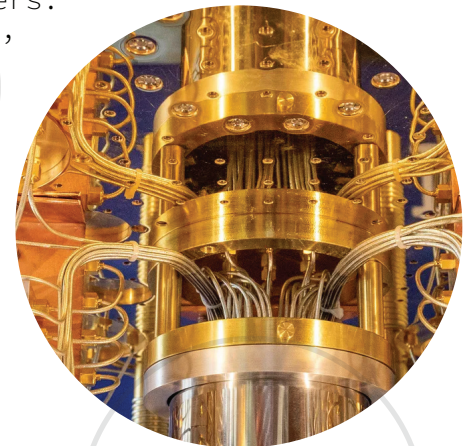
>> What Is Quantum Computing?

>> Quantum computing is a multidisciplinary branch of computer science that takes advantage of the fundamental laws of quantum mechanics, a field of physics that describes the behavior of subatomic particles (IBM, n.d.). It is useful in solving extremely complicated problems that classical (traditional) computers cannot solve efficiently — like factoring large numbers, searching unstructured databases, and constructing complex deep learning models (Davis et al., 2023).

>> So how do quantum computers actually work?

>> Classical computers function with "classical" bits, each of which has the state of either 0 or 1 at a particular time. Based on this, increasingly more complex structures from logic gates to latches to RAM can be made, forming the traditional PCs and laptops we use today (IBM, n.d.). In contrast, quantum computers use qubits, or basic units of quantum information that can exhibit a state of 0 and 1 at the same time through a quantum property known as superposition. Because quantum information is stored in such superpositions, quantum computers can effectively process numerous computations simultaneously. This allows them to provide many possible solutions to complex problems by computing parallelly — rather than sequentially like traditional computers. Quantum computers can thus solve complex problems exponentially faster (Quantum Inspite, n.d.). This is how they achieve their rather indisputable and accelerated performance compared to classical computers.

For quantum computers to efficiently perform large calculations, scientists use the idea of quantum entanglement. Quantum entanglement is the idea that two different quantum systems are correlated such that obtaining information about one system can provide information about the other system (Dilmegani, 2023). In other words, within quantum computing, the quantum states of two qubits can be linked, enabling simultaneous multi-qubit manipulation with just a single operation. This process, known as quantum parallelism, allows for multiple calculations to be performed simultaneously and greatly increases computational efficiency. Scientists can determine which qubits are entangled through quantum operations. On the other hand, qubits become disentangled through a process called decoherence, where environmental factors such as radiation can change the qubits' states uncontrollably, leading to information loss.

>> The Future of Quantum Computing

>> Quantum computers have received mixed reception.

Let's begin with the positive. Quantum computers currently hold a lot of promise in AI applications. Day by day, newer and faster microchips with more processing power are being designed, but the laws of classical physics place constraints on the amount of processing power achievable with these microchips. However, as explained previously, quantum computers can solve problems substantially faster and more efficiently, potentially setting the stage for the next generation of computing power. Such tremendous power can take AI to unimaginable heights, overtaking GPUs and other mechanisms that perform calculations faster and more efficiently. Large AI models such as ChatGPT are trained with very large datasets, which can only be processed efficiently with large computer power. IBM and other companies have already announced partnerships with various businesses in the finance, space, healthcare, government, transportation, and academia sectors. JPMorgan, for example, has expressed interest in developing their own quantum algorithms for their use of AI, optimization, and cryptography. Also, DHL has made efforts towards implementing quantum computers for substantially increasing the efficiency of their package delivery systems (The Impact of Quantum Computing in 7 Industries, 2021).

In spite of such aspirations for quantum computers in the future, its gargantuan power may be as detrimental to our digital society as it is beneficial. Let's revisit the idea of encryption — how our data is protected from unauthorized users. Mathematically, there are various kinds of encryption algorithms used to transform valuable data in such a way that it can only be decrypted if you know the special numerical key.

One of the most important encryption algorithms is called RSA. It is an asymmetric algorithm — it uses one numerical key to encrypt data and a different key to decrypt it (Veritasium, 2023). The keys in RSA are derived from multiplying two extremely large prime numbers which generates an ever larger number. Even for a supercomputer, it would take millions of years to factor the two prime factors from the large number. However, a fully functional quantum computer can do so within just a matter of minutes, thanks to its large superpositions of states and thus its ability to perform enormous computations simultaneously. In fact, thousands of organizations are storing their valuable data as unreadable encrypted data in the hopes of eventually encountering substantially stronger, quantum-based decryption algorithms that can make their data readable again (Beveridge & Butcher, 2023).

While quantum computers appear to be tremendously powerful, scientists are still far from creating fully functional quantum computers, especially at a large scale. While a few quantum computers have been created, there currently exists a very limited number of qubits. This limits how complex of calculations the currently existing computers can perform today. Right now, the uses for quantum computers are merely experimental as a means for understanding how they work (Frederiksen, 2023). Second, qubits must be kept at extremely low temperatures, the failure of which can allow environmental noise such as heat to destroy the information they store (Valich, 2023).
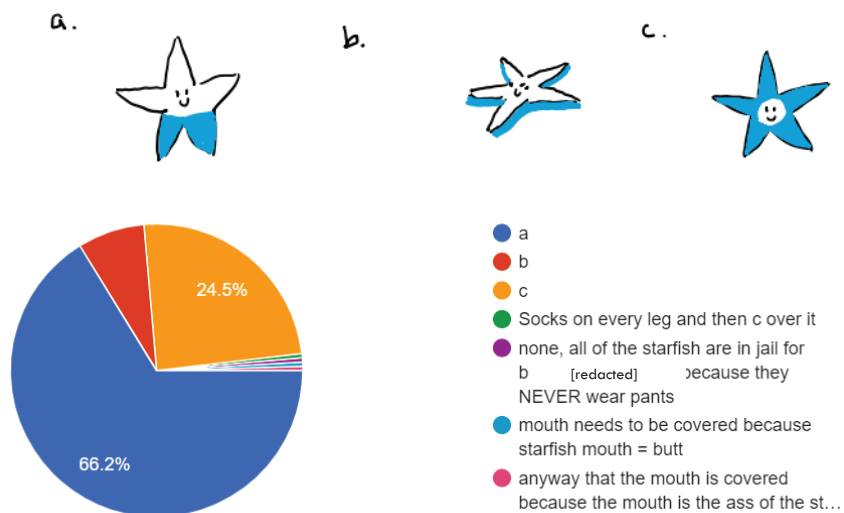
cout << "For now, we shall wait and observe!";

Sources available in the full article at themuddraker.org

"Very Important, Highly Sophisticated Scientific Poll"

Article by Claire Stuvland | Art by Liv DeBoer | Design by Isabel Godoy

As Mudders who touch grass on a daily basis, Liv and I wanted to learn more about the students at Harvey Mudd and their opinions on highly contentious topics. We sent out a poll to the student body to find out how they approached these topics. Our poll received a grand total of 216 responses, which is about a quarter of the student body! Thanks for the outstanding participation y'all.

Our first question asked about how a starfish would wear pants:

The majority (66%!) of respondents decided that starfish should wear pants like how Patrick Starr does in Spongebob Squarepants. I suppose this was expected but I am slightly underwhelmed.

Some divergent responses:

> "any way that the mouth is covered because the mouth is the ass of the starfish"
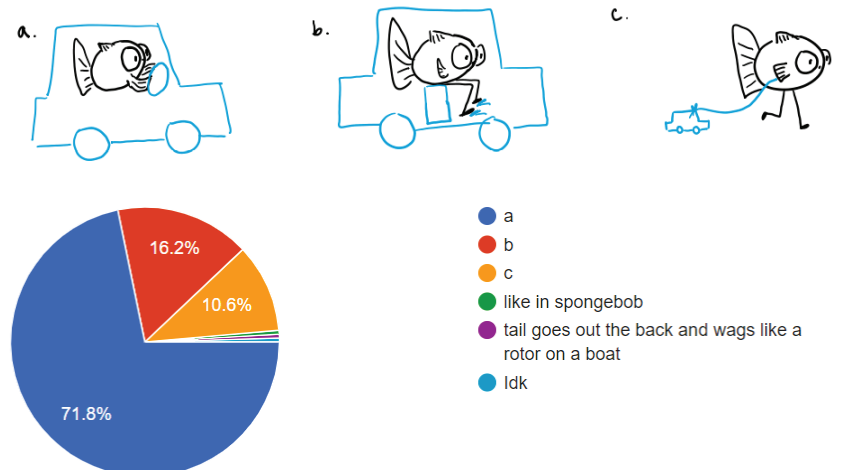
I must say, the above response does make a valid point: pants should cover the derriere of an organism, so I would like to personally apologize for choice c. However, I do think that starfish deserve to have all of their limbs covered.

> "none, all of the starfish are in jail for [redacted] because they NEVER wear pants"

This is wild!! First of all, this response makes the claim that jailed starfish don't deserve pants!! I'm not quite sure I agree with this, because I am of the opinion that all starfish have a right to pants and nothing they do can impact that. Second of all, it's partly our fault. We are responsible for giving pants to starfish, and we've failed to do that. What pants do you expect starfish to wear?! Third, I suppose you are right. I think you've embarrassed all the starfish in the world.

Our second question was about how a fish would drive a car:

Most people (a huge majority of 72%) said that a fish would drive a car with their fins. I'm not entirely sure I can agree with this — how would the fish push the gas and brake pedals? I feel like if I were a fish who drove this way, I would have gotten into an accident very quickly just because having to reach down to push on the gas and brakes would have distracted me from the road. One response might have noted a fix to this problem: The tail should actually go "out the back" and wag "like a rotor on a boat." This way, the fish might be able to better accelerate while driving.

Another response said that a fish would drive a car "like in Spongebob," which I guess means this:
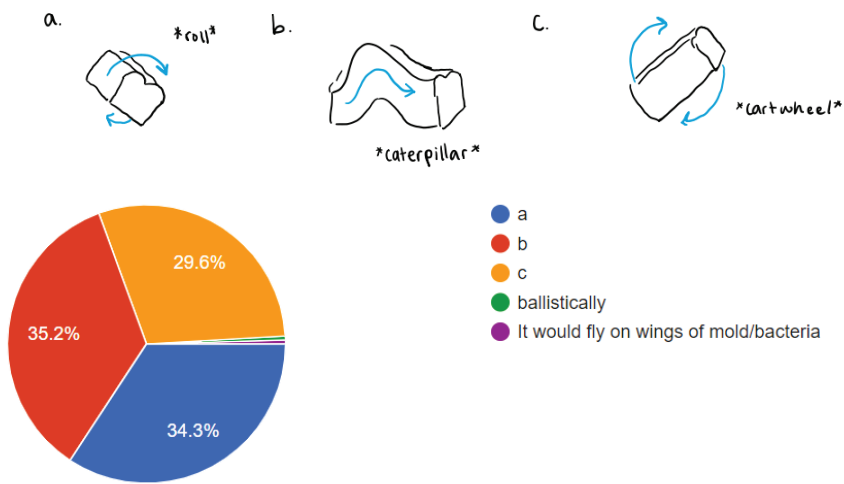

I would like to claim that this is very similar to situation b, in which the fish would grow legs, as only the coolest fish are inclined to do, and control the gas and brakes with them.

Lots of food for thought here.

We then asked about how a loaf of banana bread might run the mile:

3. How would a banana bread run a mile race?

a. *roll* b. *caterpillar* c. *cartwheel*

- ● a
- ● b
- ● c
- ● ballistically
- ● It would fly on wings of mold/bacteria

29.6% | 35.2% | 34.3%

Mudders were very split on this subject; about a third of respondents voted for each scenario. Personally I am a fan of the movement depicted in b, where the banana bread inches along the track. I think the motion is more continuous than c, where the banana bread flops into a cartwheel for each step, and more effective than a, where the banana bread moves forward about 5-7 inches per roll.

The extra responses were:

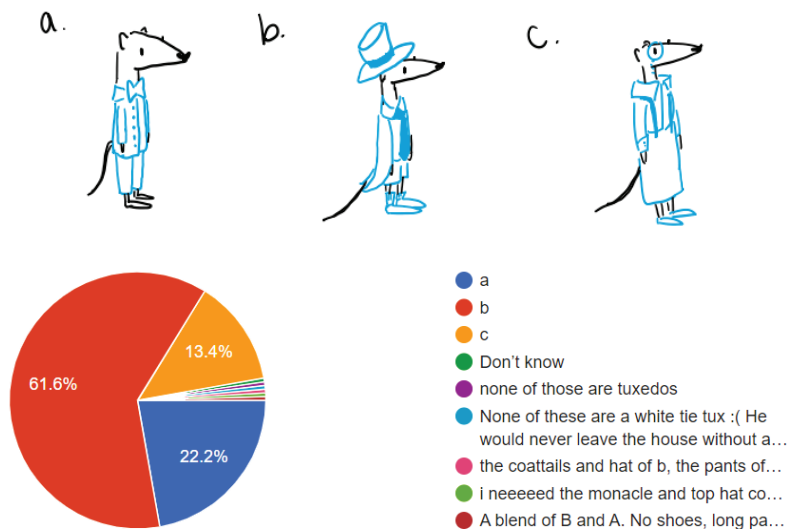> A loaf of banana bread would run "ballistically."

This option is very intriguing because how would that work? Would the banana bread have special starting blocks (keep in mind that this is for the mile, in which runners don't use blocks) made to shoot it out? I am not sure this would be very effective, because tracks are ovals and ~4 laps equals a mile. I'm unsure about how the banana bread would cross the finish line. This might also be cheating. Also, if you want to say that the banana bread could be fired like a missile with active guidance, I am afraid to inform you that this would break SO **SO** many rules. That would be the equivalent of banana bread duping.

> A loaf of banana bread "would fly on wings of mold/bacteria."

This response was very upsetting to me, because where is the mold coming from? Are we assuming that the banana bread is moldy? Now I am sad. :(

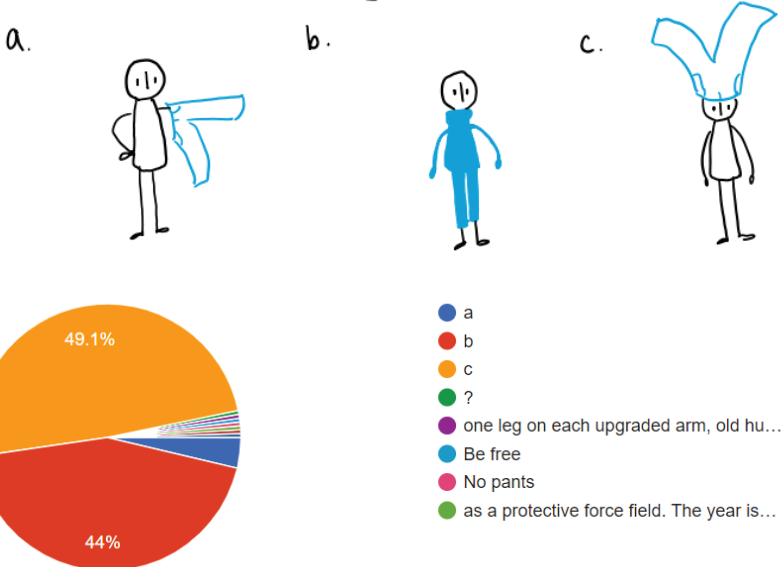## We wanted to know how a highly domesticated mongoose would wear a tuxedo:

4. How would a highly-domesticated mongoose wear a tuxedo?

a. b. c.

- ● a
- ● b
- ● c
- ● Don't know
- ● none of those are tuxedos
- ● None of these are a white tie tux :(He would never leave the house without a…
- ● the coattails and hat of b, the pants of…
- ● i neeeeed the monocle and top hat co…
- ● A blend of B and A. No shoes, long pa…

61.6% | 13.4% | 22.2%

A majority of Mudders said that a highly domesticated mongoose would wear a top hat! I quite like this option, although personally I prioritized the monocles and voted for option c. A few of the extra responses noted that a highly domesticated mongoose would actually combine aspects from each of the outfits, which I absolutely, vehemently agree with. I suppose once we see mongooses in a top hat and a monocle, we'll know that humans are no longer the superior species on this planet. I await this day with great excitement.

Last, we asked about how an upgraded human would wear pants:

5. How would a human (upgraded version) wear pants?

a. b. c.

- ● a
- ● b
- ● c
- ● ?
- ● one leg on each upgraded arm, old hu…
- ● Be free
- ● No pants
- ● as a protective force field. The year is…

49.1% | 44%

The responses were very split between options b and c, with c being slightly more favored. As a fan of pants, I most certainly agree. I think that we, as a species, should culturally evolve to wear pants on our heads, simply because pants are cool and should be shown off in this way. However, I can see why many Mudders liked option b; as a fan of pants I think we should wear pants on more of our bodies.

3 of the extra responses claimed that Humans 2.0 would have "no need for pants." This idea was in 3 of the 7 extra responses, which may not seem significant but it is interesting that people came to this idea independently. As a fan of pants, I don't like this idea but nevertheless it is an intriguing hypothetical scenario.

Other extra responses:

> "one leg on each upgraded arm, old human torso hole facing forward"

As a fan of pants, I do like this response! Pants on arms would be so awesome. Whoever wrote this, please consider pursuing a career in fashion.

> "as a protective force field. The year is 3024, the concept of pants is long gone, the designer bubbles are in."

This is a very peculiar idea. Do we have bubbles made from recycled pants? Pants that are just Very Large and protect us like those inflatable bumper balls? Hello future startup CEO, please prototype this. New E4 project just dropped.

> "You assemble the pants legs incorrectly so that the two halves of the waistband are sewn together and the crotch seam is open, producing a straight tube with a hole in the middle, and then you fit your entire body into the cylinder with your face looking out of the hole like it's one of those Halloween costumes of the brightly colored dancing spaghetti man outside a car dealership."

The artist, Liv DeBoer HM '27, simply said that this response was "10/10" and that she is "disappointed [she] didn't think of it [herself]." I have nothing to add. Good day, sir [gender neutral].
In conclusion, Mudders do have opinions and do not touch enough grass.

Memories in Madrid: Photos and reflections from my semester abroad

Article, Photos, & Design by Shivani Manivasagan

Hi, it's Shivani! I'm a junior studying abroad in Madrid, Spain. While I dearly miss the people at Mudd, I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to break out of the Mudd Bubble, experience a new way of life in the city, and see more of the world. I'd love to share some photos, memories, and thoughts from my semester.

One of the city's main squares, also contains the geographical center of Spain! I loved how bustling it was.

I'd often come to this park, El Retiro. It was so nice to sit in the sun by the water and journal, or listen to music and people-watch.

Some of my lovely Mudd friends came to visit me during their spring break, and we watched this beautiful sunset from a rooftop on Madrid's main street.

Iconic historic square in Madrid. My most intriguing memory here is when I stood with my Mudd friends and we passed around a calamari sandwich to share. Then, we got boba.

I frequented Naji, a coffee shop that sells an iced pistachio latte — one of the best drinks I've ever tried. I first went there with my Mudd friends, and whenever I returned to the cafe after that, the owner recognized me from that first time I came with my friends.

I grew up in the Bay Area, so having an efficient, well-connected, and clean and safe metro system in a walkable city was new for me. I love navigating, and during the first few weeks, I really enjoyed gaining an intuition for how different areas were connected.

I love music and how it draws people in regardless of age, background, language — I particularly felt this last one, living in a country where I'm not fluent in the language. At one point, I ended up with €15-20 in coins, which I used to tip every street musician I saw until I ran out.

On travel — I was surprised how much students travel while abroad. Everyone around me seemed to have something booked every weekend. And while I love seeing new places, being able to travel (especially so frequently) is a privilege, and I'm not sure that I have the "travel bug" in the same way some others do. I've realized that the people I go with are almost always the highlight for me, more than the place. That being said, I'm grateful I got to travel a bit with my friends. Here are some Spain highlights:

My Mudd friends and I took a 5-hour overnight bus to Granada, Spain. The upside of arriving at 6 AM was that we got to see this amazing sunrise.

You're looking at "una vista espectacular," a phrase coined by the Alhambra Audio Guide website and jokingly repeated countless times by my friends. Also, it was magical hearing my friend play "Granada" on the piano to these sweeping views.

I visited Seville, Spain on a solo day trip, and it was raining so hard. But when I stepped into this plaza, I was just really happy to be there. (Interesting fact, a Star Wars scene was filmed here to depict a different planet.)

I went to Barcelona with a close friend, and we saw these beautiful colors in La Sagrada Familia (which, fun fact, also makes an appearance in Dua Lipa's "Illusion" music video; not sure why I know this).

Studying abroad — the good and the bad — has taught me a lot about myself. I love being in a big city, and the freedom and independence that comes with great public transit and walkability. At the same time, I find a lot of personal fulfillment from being near loved ones (I think half this page talking about memories with my friends gave that one away), and I can't wait to return to that in my senior year at Mudd.

As someone who often overthinks the big things, I've found that little moments often spark the most joy when living alone — stepping out of my apartment into nice weather, seeing sunrises and sunsets, people-watching, photographing birds and flowers and cats, listening to music, perhaps treating myself to an iced pistachio latte…

And whether you're in America, or halfway across the world in Spain, or somewhere in between, I hope you can try to find some comfort and meaning in those little moments in your own life.

Cardinal Numbers

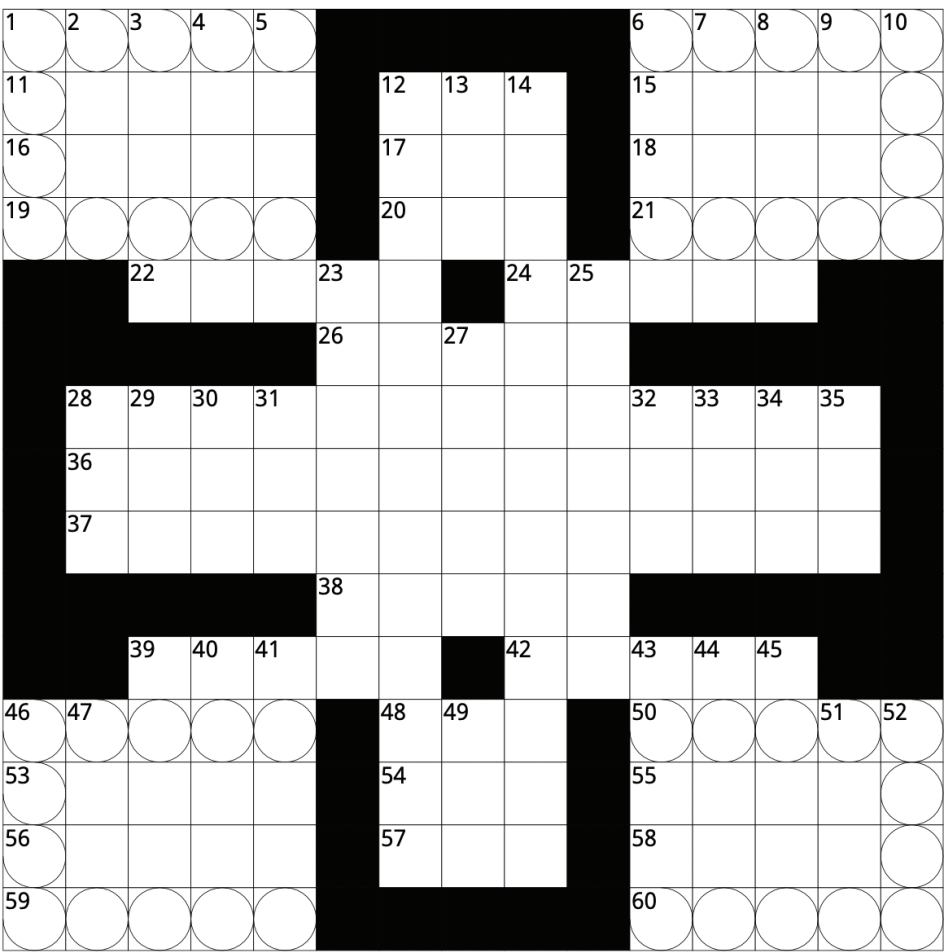Puzzle by Kishore Rajesh | Design by Avani Anne

ACROSS

1 A place for boats
6 Marks
11 Mathematician whose name shows up in many STEM classes
12 Like an impostor in the game Among Us
15 French student's writing assignment
16 Rise over run
17 Employ
18 It can be red or amber
19 A place for boats
20 When repeated, a child in The Flintstones
21 Marks, perhaps
22 Idiots
24 ___ use
26 Excavate a series of steps
28 Emulating Linda Flynn-Fletcher or Lawrence Fletcher
36 What the four corners of this puzzle represent, at Mudd
37 Solid-state Hall effect sensors, for example
38 One who's older, in an adage
39 ___ part (role plays)
42 Like biryani or kimchi
46 It can be found in a garden
48 Q's neighbor
50 Long tall glass, for example

53 Bye-bye, in Montreal
54 Part of Case
55 I felt, in Toledo
56 Accidental recipient of many Christmas letters
57 It has twenty-one pips, usually
58 ___ the loneliest number
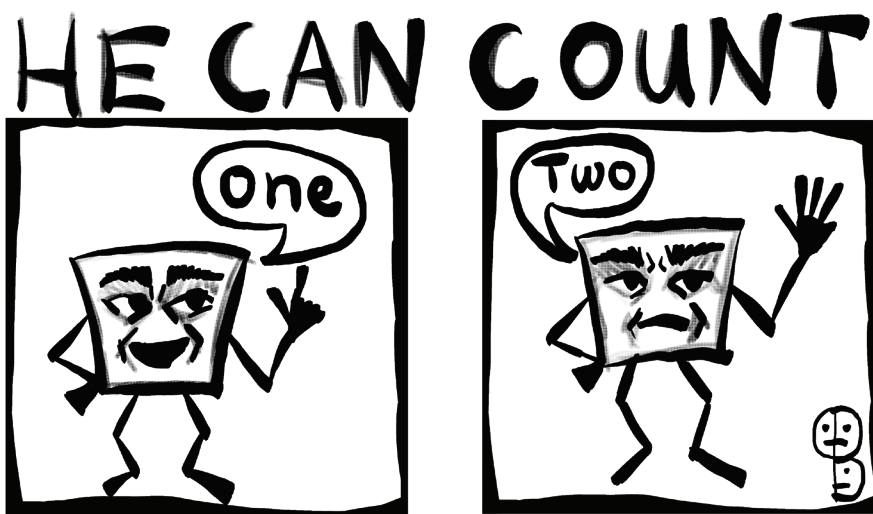59 It can be found in a garden
60 Site of long tall glasses

DOWN

1 A place for a boat
2 Island dance
3 Bye-bye, in Honolulu
4 Graveyards for finished coding projects, perhaps
5 Releases
6 "Cuz everything is bursting at the ___"
7 K. T. of "80s Ladies"
8 ___ hooks
9 It can be sweet in February
10 Marks, perhaps
12 What all claims in an HSA essay should be
13 LA/L.A. location
14 The phospholipid bilayer, for example
23 Former broadcaster of "Football Friday"
25 Cane's meal
27 They inspired Trader Joe's Joe-Joes
28 Something that fades soon, for short
29 Charlamagne ___ God
30 Tool to test epilepsy, for short

31 Wrestler's win
32 It can be tater or tiny
33 Anger
34 Spectroscopy one might use in frosh chem
35 A type of directed acyclic graph where every path is a stack, for short
39 The number of arguments a logical function takes
40 Third tier
41 Senate minority

whip John
43 "You wanna bet?"
44 There ___ limits
45 Forty-___
46 It can be found near a garden
47 Sharma of The Kerala Story
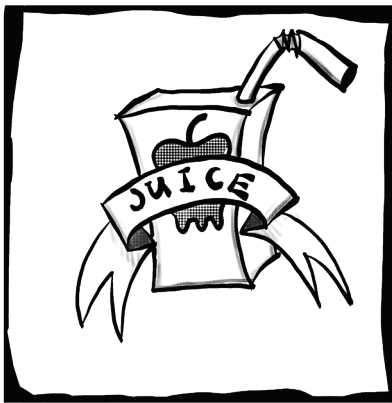49 Boxer Laila
51 Bickering
52 Long tall glass, for example

ADVENTURES OF WALLY THE WART
Math Major Appreciation Post

By Dry Sockets Bob

BAD TATTOO IDEAS
Juice

By Dry Sockets Bob

What's in a Name? [Action Required]

What's in a name?
The summing up of a face
An enshrined identity, holy and whole
A definition so deep, a legacy to upkeep
Written into stars, engraved in our souls
So,
our name must mean something, right?

With a question partly answered, we go to the next:
Well, what's in a phrase?
Holding our stories, our worries and glories, at least that's what I say
Wording so delicate and sometimes deliberate, it's a perception–
NO
a Prescription;
a heavily suggested dose of thinking, phrases create stories, that's why it matters
What & How
We Say It.

With a second question partly answered, we move to the third:
How does a history arise?
Stories in abundance, composed of phrases by names who've all lived some sort of life
However, the wording of the story, the one clothed in glory
is the strain that often survives

These days we are seeing more clearly,
questioning the pedagogy that has arised
Some phrases, some academic sources, some emails…
we must learn to critically analyze
With a creation to keep, a lesson to reap
It's time– open your eyes

For many,
A story may be told, held captivate or said bold
Weaving some grains of a past
A half stranded moment, a web dissolved in chlorine
It's a struggle to get it back

If it's not told initially, and hid quite unofficially by pants stained with red
The buildings that remain are boasting, begging for praise,
Oh no! It's gone entirely to their head

Now unraveled, uncovered history:
Brought to light, no longer a mystery
So,
they claim they've changed
But the blood remains, pants covered in stains, only revealed
when they are "forced" to be disproportionately enraged

We, the youth who speak, fight in the weeds,
where they've used faux bandaids as gags
While people full out bleed, they really only worry for cursed gold
clutched in their own hand

They forgot that the reason for taking the job
Was to protect the others around them
Somehow they lost right from wrong, citing the gray shade between friends
While I agree morals are gray, it's still clear what they say is an excuse
Repeated extensively beyond its means

And **how** do we know?

We know, first, by the way they destroyed the roots of
arboles verdes, removing those here before

We know as they sigh,
still
they sit with "hands tied", pre-Occupied
forcing the innocent to be martyrs

We know by the way they can't hear what we say,
when we ask with reason
Instead, they silence our voice and
Bring newsworthy cruelty, perpetuating a life of treason

We know by the way they preach impact, but when questioned
Don't hesitate, arming themselves with quick *defense*
My phrases cause fear, I really tried (and am still trying) to make it clear
I want to stop *murder* and blissful (yet intentional) ignorance

And just in case meaning got lost, I want to italicize:
Pacifism is the point of our resistance

In recent days, it's become more apparent
A resistance has caught ablaze
To fight the fact that an iterated sequel is trying to suffocate movements
from within in many sorts of ways

These vicious goals were made in a past from which we must stray
fight from A Beginning
We can gratefully note what got us here,
while still changing the ending

So now, we battle utopia within a dystopia
day by day becoming urgently more real

And don't get me wrong, I'm so grateful for the slog
The grains of sand to treasure, that made me here
The sparkling quartz, is all saved in doubly hearted notes
But, that doesn't mean we can't critique

True love after all, so much better than that of
confused love, for blindness is not an appeal

The power to learn, grow, change and discern
It's something created in time
But time's getting near, too near I fear, for a leisurely walk in line

here to close, Dear Reader (I suppose),
(ad)Just (to) two (un)easy questions to ponder:
    1. A split in the mind, wrinkles sometime: do *you* do what's good or what's defined?
    2. What's in your name, at the end of the day, what phrases do you write in your lines?

- a.n.anne