Students Return to Improved Campus

Karina Korsch ’15
Entertainment Editor

While Hopkins students and faculty enjoyed a summer vacation, campus remained busy with a very different tune: construction crews. The campus underwent multiple construction projects this summer, from the anticipated complete remodel of “the Pit” and new gatehouses to surprising new technologies in Malone.

The most awaited (and massive) project completed on campus, the renovation of “the Pit” upgraded the football playing field to a completely new level. The easily-flooding grass field is gone, replaced by crumb rubber-infilled turf. The project includes a new filmsing tower on the far side of the field, allowing coaches to easily record and analyze games and practices. The field also features “vastly improved spectator seating areas” surrounded by new and improved landscaping, said Chief Financial Officer David Baxter, a key player behind the planning and completion of the project.

With the football field completed in time for preseason, Baxter said, “Having been on the team of Hopkins folks that shepherded the project from conception to completion it is great to turn it over to the rightful owners - the Hopkins student athletes.”

Construction this summer also featured two new gatehouses at the main entrances to campus – Forest and Knollwood. The gatehouses are a part of Hopkins’ larger program of tightened security in response to the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012. The gatehouses were announced last December. The gatehouses will be used to monitor the traffic flow of all of the people coming on and off campus, including students.

Architecturally, the installations are traditional glass and clapboard kiosks topped with copper roofs. Each gatehouse includes a console to monitor security cameras, another new tenet of security. The number of security cameras on campus has vastly increased, with many new surveillance cameras installed around campus.

Other new construction projects include an extended bus loop sidewalk, which allows buses to pull up farther, and a renovated shower area for female coaches in the girls’ locker room.

One significant addition to Hopkins is a structure that is actually off The Hill. In June, Barbara Riley moved into what will now be known as the permanent Head of School residence, Swensen House. The large home at 840 McKinley Avenue previously belonged to past parent, former Trustee, and Hopkins’ finance guru David Swensen, who made the purchase of the house easy for the school.

The scale of this home’s entertaining areas will allow the Hopkins community to enjoy the facility as a center for all sorts of gatherings.

Add to the more visible facilities projects, the Bouchet Seminar Room in Malone has quietly received a technology upgrade. Filled with new cameras and screens, the room is now a “total distance learning classroom environment,” said Baxter. Distance learning is an online teaching method used by universities, and increasingly by high schools, to offer college-level courses online. The upgrades in campus buildings and technology put into place this summer have opened an intellectual door to campus to an exciting new year.

Preparuring for her Urban Studies test while away at The Master School’s CIT/Year, Precious Musa ’14 maintained her calm disposition as she awaited word from Dean of Students Lars Jorgensen ’82 on the outcome of the Student Council (StuCo) Presidential Election. When the call came, Musa was informed that she had pulled off an unusual feat: winning a StuCo election while on a leave of absence from Hopkins.

“I was shocked,” said Musa. “The fact that we did not even need a runoff really surprised me. Everyone was so excited - my friends at City Term and at Hopkins.” Musa earned the majority of votes in the first round of balloting and was thereby named Student Council President for the 2013-2014 school year.

Musa, who previously served as Class President from 2010-2012, plans to build on her previous StuCo experience during her tenure. “So much of what we do comes down to teamwork and focus. We always have to be planning our affairs in advance and working together as a Council and as a student body to promote the success we desire, whether it be for Canned Food Drive or dances or anything else,” Musa said.

In order to facilitate that goal, Musa plans on implementing “The Slip System” as a means of providing students with a voice in their class governance. She said that “The Slip System will be an option for anyone who wants a say in what gets done. Students will get the slips in advance and can put down what they want to see more of at lunch, ideas they have for events, and really anything that they feel will contribute positively to their experience here.”

Furthermore, Musa plans on undertaking original ideas for student events and the Canned Food Drive, currently developing plans for a student event featuring bounce houses and working with Insomnia Cookies on a “Canned Food Drive Donation Day Proposal.” She also hopes to revitalize Hopkins dances, which have seen a notable decrease in attendance from year to year. “So many people only go to the Homecoming Dance, the S.U.R.E. [Students United for Racial Equality] Dance, and Prom. I want to explore the idea of replacing some of our old dance themes with new ones that will excite the student body and draw in a larger number of people who want to have a fun time.”

Musa credits her victory to the groundwork laid by her supporters on the Hill while she was away in New York. “I learned so much from City Term that I will be able to apply to my new post on StuCo. However, I really did miss being at Hopkins last term. A strong group of friends and supporters really put the effort in to get my message out while I was away and am extremely grateful to them. I was also very fortunate to be able to return to Hopkins to give my campaign speech, which allowed everyone to understand what I stood for and, I think, helped me win the election.”

Supporters of Musa are excited to see what their new President will accomplish over the next year. Joshua Feinberg ’14 said, “I’ve known Precious since freshman year, and she’s always struck me as someone who keeps everyone’s best interests close to her heart. If there’s anyone who can tackle the difficult job of being Student Council President, it’s her. No doubt about it.” Omari Caldwell ’16 added, “I really think we are going to like Precious as Student Council President. I think she has a great attitude and is definitely willing to assist all people with their problems. There are tough tasks that will test her abilities, but I know that she can accomplish anything she attempts. She knows how to address the true issues that underlie the issues that we face.”

Musa is optimistic about the year that lies ahead of her. “Edward Hopkins and John Davenport had a strong mission in mind for this school. Over three hundred and fifty years later, we continue to stand for the same values fifty years later, we continue to stand for the same values upon which we were founded. I am confident that if we work together as a student body and take on our objectives with passion and pragmatism, we will surely find our success and prove ourselves to be the hopeful youths Hopkins and Davenportreamed for us to be.”
New Faculty Hit The Hill

Patricia Goldsmith

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP? I grew up on the south shore of Long Island but have spent the majority of my adult life in the western part of the United States.
WHAT IS YOUR ACADEMIC BACKGROUND? My B.A. in English is from Kirkland College, which was the women's coordinate of Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y. I also hold a Masters of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School.
WHAT COURSES ARE YOU TEACHING? I am the newest member of the college counseling team and won't be teaching any formal courses.
WHO OR WHAT HAS INSPIRED YOU MOST IN LIFE, AND WHY? At the risk of sounding corny, I find the students with whom I work to be positively inspirational. Each one develops significant talents and strengths; watching young people grow into their full human potential is a great gift for which I am enormously grateful.
WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT? I was very lucky to have been at Harvard when some of the greats were there - Harvey Cox, Larry Kohlberg, Carol Gilligan. My study group used to sit on the floor with Carol Gilligan, discussing how girls learn. The conversations were always cutting edge and enormously exciting.

Joseph Kugelmass

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP? I grew up in Mendocino, California. It's a small tourist trap on the North Coast; before that, it was a logging and fishing town. East of Eden, which is a pretty decent film, was made there. For fun, we'd take the mid-night train going anywhere.
WHAT IS YOUR ACADEMIC BACKGROUND? I have a Ph.D. in English literature. I wrote my dissertation on modernism using art as a substitute for religion -- Joyce, Eliot, Wilde, James. I got the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of California, Irvine. Irvine was an interesting mix of professors doing deconstruction, and teams of construction workers doing actual construction. I went to college at Stanford University, and got dual degrees in English (Creative Writing) and in Standing Around Talking About Stuff.
WHAT COURSES ARE YOU TEACHING? English 9, English 10, and an English elective. I'm also teaching a course on ninja skills, but I can't talk about it, because it's a secret.
WHO OR WHAT HAS INSPIRED YOU MOST IN LIFE, AND WHY? Woody Allen. He was able to say profoundly funny serious things, and to make every kind of movie he likes. He also wrote a story called "The Kugelmass Episodes," which taught me that having a ridiculous last name can be a good thing in the end.
Tell us about a work of art that has impacted you, and why? Fight Club. I was so awed and stunned when I finished it, and so confused by whatever on Earth it was I'd just seen, that I turned around, bought another ticket, and sat down to watch it again.

Tilden Daniels

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP? I grew up in New York City and in Washington, CT., in Litchfield county. I consider myself from both places.
WHAT IS YOUR ACADEMIC BACKGROUND? I studied French and visual arts at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. I did my graduate work, MA and PhD, at the University of Pennsylvania in French, also spending time at the University of Geneva in Switzerland where I also earned a Masters degree.
WHAT COURSES ARE YOU TEACHING? French 4 literature and cinema, French 5 culture and conversation, and French 6.
WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT? My favorite experience as a student was in college when I spent one year in Paris, France.
ARE YOU A SPORTS FAN? SPORT? TEAM? PARTICIPANT IN? I'm a fan of professional running and climbing. I participate in both sports, and now I prefer long trail runs, rock climbing and alpine climbing. Last year I ran a 50 kilometer trail race in California. This summer I climbed several mountains in Washington state's northern Cascades including the majestic Mount Baker. The trip this summer also included skiing, another sport that I enjoy. I'm excited to help coach cross country and track at Hopkins.
TELL US ABOUT A BOOK, FILM, TELEVISION PROGRAM, PERFORMANCE, ETC. THAT HAS IMPACTED YOU, AND WHY. Sans intéret (1985 - English title of Vagabond) is a French film directed by Agnès Varda. The film tells the story of a young homeless woman who wanders through the SOUTH south of France during the winter. The film reminds me of the importance of acts of kindness and generosity.

Joseph Addison

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP? I was born in Charles Town, West Virginia and raised in Richmond, Virginia.
WHAT IS YOUR ACADEMIC BACKGROUND? I majored in English at Amherst College. After graduating, I worked at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. I have also worked at schools in Washington, D.C., and Pachuca, Mexico.
WHAT COURSES ARE YOU TEACHING? Writing my undergraduate thesis on the works of J.M. Coetzee.
WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT? Writing my undergraduate thesis on the works of J.M. Coetzee.
ARE YOU A SPORTS FAN? SPORT? TEAM? PARTICIPANT IN? I grew up playing soccer and running track and was lucky enough to be able to do both at Amherst. I still love both sports and play and run as much as possible. I am also a big Tottenham Hotspur fan.
TELL US ABOUT A BOOK, FILM, TELEVISION PROGRAM, PERFORMANCE, ETC. THAT HAS IMPACTED YOU, AND WHY. I know very little about art, but David Černý's works scattered around Prague made a huge impression on me while I was studying abroad there.

Derek Byron

WHERE DID YOU GROW UP? Mendham, New Jersey.
WHAT COURSES ARE YOU TEACHING? Architecture, Woodworking, Web Design, some theater tech assistance (lighting, sound, set design).
WHAT PARTICULAR "TIDBIT" SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT YOU? I have a small design/build architecture firm based in New Haven. If I'm not at Hopkins, you'll likely find me somewhere in the area designing and/or building anything ranging in scale from a light fixture to a house.
ARE YOU A SPORTS FAN? I don't really follow any sports teams too closely, but I am an avid skier, a lacrosse enthusiast and always up for watching some minor league hockey. I helped out this past season coaching the 9th grade lacrosse goalie at Hopkins, and previously served as the goalie coach to the women's varsity team while at Bucknell.
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL AND WHY? Dog...man's best friend. And now that I have children, they're proving to be loyal companions to the little ones, as well.
WHERE DID YOU GROW UP? I grew up in Troy, MI, a suburb of Detroit.

WHAT IS YOUR ACADEMIC BACKGROUND? I earned my B.A. in Computer Science and Theatre Studies at Western Michigan University and my M.A. in Computer Science at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor.

WHAT COURSES ARE YOU TEACHING? I teach Programming Languages, Data Structures, and Social Computing.

WHAT PARTICULAR “TIDBIT” SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT YOU? I am an avid cyclist and enjoy spending my free time on the road exploring new places.
Off the Hill: Hopkins Students Conquer Summer Sports

Nicole Kogan ’14
Managing Sports Editor

In the words of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “Gone are the birds that were our summer guests.” This phrase seems to echo perfectly our sentiments toward the bygone vacation months. Ah, summertime, wenostalgically sigh: “twas the chance to unwind, a time to sip lemonade whilst tanning on endless, sandy beaches.

But in true school spirit, some Hopkins students willingly dismissed this stereotypical notion of the hot June, July, and August months. In a chimeric display of such sporting equipment as knickers, hiking boots, light sabers, and lacrosse sticks, these intrepid sportsmen ventured to keep the spirit of athleticism alive, while the rest of us lounged in chairs in front of sprawling ocean views. Their summers were replete with intense athletic regimes, in hopes of remaining fit, as well as preparing for respective sporting seasons.

Benjamin Zackin ’14 dedicated his July to trekking across the entire Long Trail in the north-bound direction, or “NOBO” in trail slang. Hiking from the Vermont-Massachusetts to the Vermont-Canada border, his travels totaled 273.4 miles. Enduring heat-waves and thunderstorms, Zackin was determined, as he ascended peaks such as Smuggler’s Notch, Camel’s Hump-Mountain, Mount Abraham, and Mount Mansfield on foot.

Zackin described the surreal opportunity of sitting at the top of a turned-over off-skis lift overlooking the clouds in the valley below: “My favorite moment was setting up my hammock underneath the off-loading platform for Middlebury College’s ski lift, and staying the night up there, only to wake up to an incredible sunrise,” he said. As for Zackin’s future hiking aspirations, he joked that: “One of these days, I hope to scale the mountain from the Forest Road parking lot to class.”

Hopkins swimmer Josh Furth ’14 prepared for the winter athletic season during his summer. Furth was invited to represent the United States at the nineteenth Macabiah Games in Israel as a member of the American delegation. “As one of the youngest members of the team I had the opportunity to learn from my teammates. Swimming alongside Olympic medalists and national champions, I also learned a lot about race-day mentality and stroke technique that I can’t wait to implement in the coming seasons,” Furth said.

Furth, like many summer athletes, pointed out that his journey provided him not only with preparation for swim season, but also with long-lasting friendships: “There are so many experiences from this trip that I will remember. Still, for me, the entire experience was most memorable for the friendships formed and the camaraderie shared; we even earned the reputation as the most energetic members of the American delegation.”

Furth continued, “The entire team has stayed in touch since leaving each other. We’ve had giant group video conferences, and I’m looking forward to seeing a few of them when they are in the area this year.”

Members of the Hopkins Fencing Team spent their summers ‘dropping the gauntlet’ to prepare for their athletic conquests. Jen Horkovic ’18, Aaron Kogan ’17, and Jarrett Pollner ’15 journeyed to their fencing club in Westchester, New York, to gain bouting practice.

“It’s a really good chance for me to get some extra epee blade work done before the start of Hopkins Fencing,” Kogan explained. Kogan also traveled to Columbus, Ohio, for the US Fencing National Championships, where he placed in the top 64.

John Hsu ’14 ventured to the ICONN Fencing Center to improve upon his lunges, advances, and parry-ripostes. Samira Bandaru ’14 opted for a different form of preparation, however, and followed the path of the Jedi by dueling with light sabers during her summer.

Hopewell Hollow ’14 also developed her fencing skills, but for an entirely different sport: modern Pentathlon. This smorgasbord of an athletic contest combines five different events: shooting, swimming, equestrian, fencing, and cross-country. Whitlock said, “Pentathlon is the four best sports and running put together. It’s physically and mentally exhilarating, and it’s the ultimate athletic challenge. Finishing the event gives me the best feeling ever.”

As a team, we were quite successful in our efforts,” concluded Banks.

Not only did competitors improve their skills, but they engaged their competitive spirit. “As a team, we were quite successful in our efforts,” concluded Banks.

Although Longfellow may urge us to lament the passing of summer, the plethora of athletic opportunities taken on by Hopkins students should translate into an equally exciting, adrenaline rush of a school year.