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• GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION •



Class of 1987 News & Events



GEORGETOWN CLASS OF 1987

Fall Newsletter

Crafted for you by the Class of '87 Committee

WELCOME AND HAPPY FALL!

Dear Class of 1987,

There is something timeless about the fall season slowly rolling in on a college

campus. Excitement for the year ahead can be felt in the air. Cooler temperatures lure students out onto the campus lawns. The leaves begin to change color.

On the Hilltop, fall hasn't felt the same in some time and this year campus has awoken with excitement. The university welcomed back its students, finally together again—though with cautious optimism. We still cherish memories of each year we returned to Georgetown and take comfort in knowing that those experiences are being lived today by young Hoyas. And for us, members of the Class of 1987, we get to launch ourselves into our 35th Reunion year! On behalf of the Class Committee, we sincerely hope you join us on the Hilltop to share memories both old and new, come June. This winter you can expect details to be shared by us on class party details, Reunion 2022 panelists, lectures and much more! Make sure to bookmark: reunion.georgetown.edu and visit that page later in the year for Reunion 2022 updates.

In keeping with an autumnal 'back to school' edition of our class newsletter, we sat down with Tori Hunt (C'87, Parent'19) to discuss her work in education. We've also included a survey for you to let us know what you've been up to—much like we did for our 10th Reunion. A link to that 10th Reunion Newsletter is included below. A little further down, we've posted some fun 'then & now' tidbits as well as updates on university news and an In Memoriam section in remembrance of our dear classmates who have passed away.

Enjoy the reading and don't hesitate to [reach out](#) with any questions or if you're interested in joining the reunion planning team.

Hoya Saxa,
Your '87 Class Committee

CLASSMATE SPOTLIGHT



In each Class of '87 Newsletter, we feature one of our classmates whose accomplishments or personal experiences uniquely demonstrate the spirit of Georgetown and the Class of 1987.

In this edition, we feature **Victoria 'Tori' Hunt (C'87, Parent'19)** founding principal of Dos Puentes Elementary School, a NYC Department of Education Spanish/English dual language school in Washington Heights in Upper Manhattan, NYC.

A Woman for Others

Just a few short weeks after graduation, Tori, along with 19 Georgetown classmates, departed the States to begin a year as part of the Otto Hentz, S.J., service project in Chimbote, Peru. An undergraduate degree in History, admittedly “horrible” at languages and speaking “zero” Spanish, she began what would be a life-changing experience that has led to a commitment to education, multilingualism, and multiculturalism.

Following six weeks of language immersion in Lima, Tori settled into Chimbote, a small city north of Lima. She lived with a local family of 11 people in a

thatched house without running water for a year. Though the family had very limited means and intermittent employment, they took Tori in as one of their own. She became part of their immediate and extended family. This provided her insight into the strength of their relationships but also their struggles. During her year in Chimbote, Tori learned enough Spanish to work with another volunteer to run a summer school program and help a nun with a needlework cooperative with local women. Her year in Chimbote was fundamental in understanding the privilege of education, the privilege of opportunity, and the beauty of different cultures and perspectives.

A few years after returning from Peru, Tori found herself looking for ways to build from the lessons she learned in Chimbote. She joined Teach For America and was sent to Houston, Texas, to teach Spanish-speaking children in a bilingual third grade class. While her Spanish had improved, her assignment was to only support her students' English development through a transitional bilingual model.

After two years in Houston, Tori realized she loved working in a school but needed to return to her own studies to learn to do that work better. Tori relocated to NYC where she spent the next 10 years as a third grade teacher in a dual language program at PS 165 on the Upper West Side. In a dual language bilingual program, both Spanish- and English-speaking students work alongside one another serving as language models in their first language as they learn the second language. The goal of a dual language program is to support full bilingualism, biliteracy, and multicultural understanding. This felt much more aligned to the power of adding languages, rather than replacing them, building from the opportunities that Tori had experienced in Peru.

Concurrently to being a teacher, Tori pursued both a master's degree in bilingual/bicultural education and a doctorate in leadership in bilingual education from Teachers College, Columbia University. At the completion of her doctorate, she chose to return to a school rather than become a collegiate

professor because the “biggest joy of working in education is being around the kids.” She made it abundantly clear that completing her master’s and doctorate programs while maintaining her teaching roles would never have been possible without the loving and unwavering support of her husband, Tony. Tori explained getting a doctorate while being a parent to two of her own kids requires a lot from all those around.

After serving as an assistant principal for six years, Tori was presented with the opportunity to start her own school. Along with three colleagues, Tori founded Dos Puentes Elementary School, a NYC public school in Washington Heights. The school was created to serve the many Spanish-speaking immigrant children in the area as well as English-speaking families that want their children to become bilingual. It was here that Tori could harness the experiences from Peru, her education, and her time as an educator to build a social and academic foundation designed to create opportunities for all students from a variety of backgrounds. Dos Puentes (Two Bridges) was founded on four cornerstones: first, all students will become bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish; second, family engagement is central to the school; third, the curriculum is delivered through a hands-on approach that promotes inquiry and discovery, including lots of field trips, projects, gardening, art, music, and dance; fourth, Dos Puentes has formal university partnerships with Teachers College, Columbia University, and City College of New York , as well as less formal partnerships with Bank Street, Fordham, and Hunter College. These partnerships show students that we are all learners and learning is a lifelong pursuit.

Dos Puentes Elementary is now in its ninth year and serves more than 400 students. While the pandemic has created many challenges both in the school and for the larger Washington Heights community, Tori is proud that the school, her staff, and the community continue to thrive. The community works to build from the lessons learned about technology, student independence, and social and emotional support to help the Dos Puentes community to

continue to move forward.

Jesuit Impact

Tori did not grow up in a religious household (her mother was raised Jewish, her father raised Episcopalian) but her parents emphasized the importance of character and morals. During her formation at Georgetown, it was those values that connected her to the Jesuit ideal of being in service to others. Her experience with the Jesuits and her belief in “giving back commensurate with gifts received” led her to volunteer in Peru. Living in an impoverished community where education and opportunities were limited had a profound impact on her worldview and ultimately informed her academic and professional decisions, culminating in the founding of Dos Puentes Elementary School.

Campus Then and Now

Tori believes that getting accepted to Georgetown was competitive back in the day, but not like now. Watching her daughter Gabriella’s (NHS’19) experience, it is certainly much harder to be accepted now. But once she was in, Gabriella did not feel the competitive undertones present in so many prestigious universities. This is a tribute to the Jesuit tradition of individual education and community.

Certainly, the campus has grown. Tori remembers Healy Basement as the center of student life. Now that has all moved to the Leavey Center. Tori also identified time in Lauinger Library as a marked change between her experience and Gabriella’s. While Tori was regularly at Lauinger—not always studying—because so many resources and academic tools are accessible online, Gabriella could study anywhere. Gabriella “was at Lauinger *maybe* five times.”

Tori believes that what hasn't changed is that while Georgetown is "a serious school, the students still know how to have fun!" She and Gabriella both regard their undergraduate years marked by a wonderful education, great friends, crazy and silly experiences, and lots of parties big and small.

Memories of the Hilltop

Tori's favorite memories of her time at Georgetown center on the people she met and the friendships forged through their shared experiences. One of her first memories as a first-year student was getting donuts from the kitchen staff in New South at 4 a.m. in the morning with Paul Cacamo (SFS'87) and Abby McKenna (C'87). She worked at the Corp for three years and loved Saxa Sundries and being personnel director. There were many memories of parties in the huge parking lot that is now covered in dorms, and flag football games on Healy Lawn. The Tombs provided space to augment time in Lauinger. She credits the exchange of ideas with people of such diverse backgrounds and different political bearings/orientations for helping develop a broader perspective. Tori remembers a deep sense of community and inclusivity across campus. And of course, The Pub.

IN MEMORIAM

Our classmate, Shin Ju 'Jennie' Tsai (C'87), passed away this summer on August 5, 2021. She will be missed dearly.

THEN AND NOW—CLASS OF '87

September

- The beginning of the year was marked by the opening of the university's newest residence hall, the 660 bed Village C.

Built on the site of the former O'Gara building, Village C is the last in a series of projects begun in 1975 to increase student on campus housing capacity from 1,500 to the present 4,100. Village C houses mostly sophomores and juniors and has allowed the university to guarantee all students three years of on campus housing.

- Dean of Student Affairs Jack DeGioia announced that he would form a committee to establish guidelines for university policy toward student protests. This move was seen as related to the anti-apartheid protests, led by the Student Coalition Against Racism, which reached their height with the student takeover of the entrance to the White-Gravenor building in the spring of 1986.

Drinking Age Raised

In what most observers see as an election year political ploy, Mayor Marion Barry has signed a law raising the drinking age in the District of Columbia from eighteen to twenty-one for beer and wine. The District already requires that persons be twenty-one to purchase hard liquor. The law went into effect on October 1, and those not eighteen by that date missed the "grand-father" clause that exempts those presently between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one from the new law.

As we begin planning for, and getting excited about, our 35th Reunion, we invite you to check out our [10th Reunion Newsletter](#), kindly provided by Patty Connery Ducharme (NHS'87). The newsletter was constructed of feedback from classmates sharing life updates back in 1996-97. Certainly makes for an interesting and fun look back to that time in our lives. We are creating a similar newsletter for our 35th and would [love to hear about what you and your Hoya](#)

[friends have been up to](#) “since last we met”!

Do you remember what we were doing in the fall of our senior year?

Here are some movies and songs that might bring us back to that time!

Top 12 Movies

1. Top Gun
2. Stand By Me
3. The Fly
4. Karate Kid Part II
5. Aliens
6. Nothing in Common
7. Ruthless People
8. Crocodile Dundee
9. Back to School
10. Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Top 12 Songs

1. Venus—Bananarama
2. Take My Breath Away (Theme from "Top Gun")—Berlin
3. Higher Love—Steve Winwood
4. Dancing on the Ceiling—Lionel Richie
5. Friends and Lovers—Carl Anderson & Gloria Loring
6. Stuck with You—Huey Lewis and The News
7. Sweet Freedom (Theme from "Running Scared")—Michael McDonald
8. Words Get in the Way—Miami Sound Machine
9. Papa Don't Preach—Madonna
10. Walk This Way—Run DMC

CLASS EVENTS

Join Us To Pray The Rosary—With Hoyas from the Classes of '85, '86, '87, '88

All are welcome to join fellow classmates during these challenging times for some quiet reflection, solace, and prayer, led by Fr. Mike Garanzini, S.J.

Consider joining us even if you haven't prayed the rosary in a very long time!

We encourage any level of participation, all are welcome to sit with us in this spiritual and communal space to reflect together.

Thursdays at 8 p.m. EDT

[Zoom link](#)

By phone: 3017158592

Meeting ID: 948 7874 3032

Passcode: 636458

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Class of 1987 Newsletter: Want to work with classmates on our future newsletters? It's a light lift and fun. Learn more by emailing ptm2@georgetown.edu.

Class of 1987 Facebook group: Join hundreds of fellow classmates by joining our Facebook group! There is so much wonderful content to keep everyone connected. We use this platform as a fun space to post throwback photos and share ongoing updates across the board. Our group is a good resource to keep updated on class social events, including webinars and virtual cocktail parties. [Join the group.](#)

Alumni Mentorship Georgetown Scholarship Program (GSP): Join 400+ alumni to offer support to a first-generation undergraduate student beginning in their sophomore year as they navigate networking, career paths, the college experience, and job search process. Please reach out to gspmentors@georgetown.edu for mentorship opportunities.

Georgetown Alumni Career Network: Are you an established alum professional? Make valuable connections and help fellow Hoyas by lending your expertise through the Georgetown Alumni LinkedIn group, Hoya Gateway, or connect with professional alliances. [Learn more on the website.](#)

Regional Clubs: Check in with your local Georgetown University Alumni Club

to get involved in your area. Regional clubs hold virtual and in-person events throughout the year and offer several ways to get connected with local Hoyas! [Visit the club membership page.](#)

UNIVERSITY NEWS

[Sustainability expert working at 'intersection of social justice and environmental issues' joins Georgetown as V.P.](#)

Meghan Chapple, Georgetown's first vice president of sustainability, will build on Georgetown's ongoing sustainability work and lead the university's strategic actions to make our university and world more sustainable.

[Georgetown Entrepreneurship announces 2021-2022 entrepreneurs and experts-in-residence Georgetown Entrepreneurship](#), which serves all of Georgetown University from the McDonough School of Business, has announced its 11th annual cohort of entrepreneurs-in-residence (EIR). EIRs provide expertise, advice, mentoring, coaching, and other assistance to students, faculty, alumni, and administrators.

[Hoyas for Others: our response to recent disasters](#)

Georgetown's Center for Social Justice has set up a disaster response page directing members of our community to organizations supporting various global events that you can support.

[Alumnus gift supports medical research through milestone-driven Medical Center Gap Fund](#)

In an effort to support promising, early-stage research, for which there are limited federal dollars designated, the newly launched Georgetown University Medical Center Gap Fund will provide annual support to biomedical research that has demonstrated proof of concept and has potential to benefit society



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