



# ***The Four Columns***

## *Hood News is Good News*

*Summer 2023*

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## **Hello Hood Alumni!**

It's been a wonderful summer, full of gatherings, picnics, travels, and all kinds of hot-weather fun (see our Reunion 2023 photo section below!). Soon, though, the kids and grand kids will all be back at school. Hood welcomed the Class of 2027 on August 18, and businesses and cultural institutions are beginning the Fall/Spring cycle once again.

Our theme for this edition of *The Four Columns* is all about reading and writing! From lazy summer beach reads, to fall academics and winter curl-up-with-a-blanket literary rituals. We're talking to alumni authors in very different genres about their work, and to Hood faculty about their favorite reads. We are also asking the question: *how do you read now?* We want to know how and what you're reading, so share your thoughts in our [Alumni Reader Survey](#) (you'll have a chance to win our coziest Hood blanket!).

*Enjoy the remainder of summer, have a great fall. And...read on!*

Kellye Greenwald '86, director of alumni and constituent engagement

Michelle Burnett, assistant director of alumni and constituent engagement

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## *A "Voyage Into the Past"*

Mary-Eileen Laughland Russell '84, AKA Elena Maria Vidal

From her first published novel, *Triannon*, in 1997 to her most recent continuing work on the *Henrietta of France* Trilogy, Elena Maria Vidal has remained consistently inspired by European history in her many works of fiction. She told us how she chose her nom de plume, how her Hood french professor made her whole career possible, and why "now is probably the best time to be an author in the entire history of the world." ([MORE](#))

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## *A Fusion of Passions*

Diane Beers '88

Diane Beers '88 had an early love for animals and nature, but she studied history and sociology at Hood. In her Temple University Ph.D. program, she discovered how to combine her two devoted interests with research and the authorship of her book, [For the Prevention of Cruelty: The History and Legacy of Animal Rights Activism in the United States](#). We ask the Holyoke Community College (MA) professor about her journey and what's next. ([MORE](#))

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### **Upcoming Alumni Events:**

- Aug 25: Back-to-School educator alumni Happy Hour at Alumnae House, 5-7 p.m.
- Sept 9: Coffee & a Hike at High Knob, Gambrill State Park, 9 a.m. ([RSVP](#))
- Sep 21: Virtual Happy Hour: "The New Core: Heart, Mind, and Hands" 6-7 p.m. ([LINK](#))
- Oct 6-8 Homecoming & Fall Family Weekend
- Oct 11: Boston Alumni Happy Hour at [Trillium Brewing](#) in Canton MA, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Your [Alumni Executive Board \(AEB\)](#) is accepting inquiries and nominations for board membership. For more information, email us at [alumoffice@hood.edu](mailto:alumoffice@hood.edu)

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2023 HOMECOMING &  
FALL FAMILY WEEKEND

SAVE THE DATE  
**OCT. 6-8, 2023**







## *Food Writing is Her "Bread and Butter"*

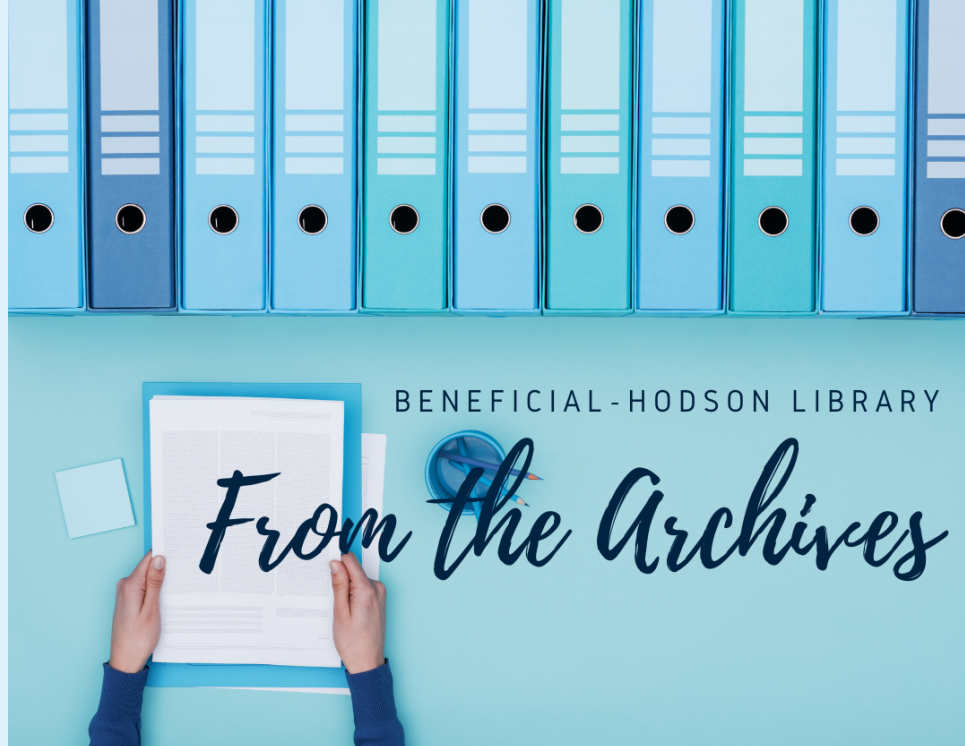
Nancy Baggett '65

Nancy Baggett has had a remarkably prolific career writing award-winning cookbooks. She's had articles in major publications like Bon Appetit and Food and Wine, and given interviews to the likes of NPR and the Today Show. Now she is in the midst of her very own "lavender renaissance." We asked her about her writing process, developing recipes, and her memories from Hood. ([MORE](#))

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## **Alumni Book Authors, the Beneficial-Hodson Library Needs Your Help!**

Did you know that the [Beneficial-Hodson library and Learning Commons](#) has a dedicated collection of books written and published by alumni? This collection is not exhaustive, and we want to increase our holdings, but we don't always know which alumni have published books. You can help us do that by searching our new online catalog to find your book - no special login or ID required! (find out how, [HERE](#))



Know a high school student  
who would love Hood?

Tell seniors to add Hood College  
to their common app!

Student not a senior? Help Hood connect with  
them at [hood.edu/alumnireferral](https://hood.edu/alumnireferral)



***Reunion 2023 Recap***



Look who came Home to Hood! Reunion 2023 was a blast. Enjoy more of our photos [here](#). See the photos you and other guests shared [here](#). Congratulations to our Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, [Marcia Coyle DiBiagio '73](#), [Mary L. Townley '83](#), and ["Lola" Falisinnu '03](#); and the Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award recipient [Spencer Knoll '13](#).

The Class of 1973 committee organized a beautiful chapel service to commemorate their 50th reunion, and four members of that class presented thoughts on what the Four Pillars of Hood mean to them. Read them [HERE](#).

And, speaking of the seasons. . . that's right! Mark **June 7-9, 2024**, on your calendar – it's Reunion Weekend for classes that end in a '4 or '9, with a spotlight on the class of 1974 as they celebrate their 50th!

We'll also be recognizing another milestone in the College's history. 2024 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of Hood's Black Student Union, and we invite ALL our BSU alumni to head back to campus to celebrate!

Want to get involved? Grab a classmate and [volunteer](#) as Reunion Co-Chairs for your class! [Nominate](#) a worthy classmate for an Alumni Award! Volunteer at a weekend event! And remember, though we're highlighting those 4's & 7's, Reunion Weekend is for *everyone, every year*, so make your plans to come Home to Hood in 2024!





Support Blazer Athletics! Register for the Blue & Grey Golf Tournament [HERE](#)



## *A Faculty Perspective: Writing and Teaching in the Digital Era*

How A.I. can work *for* academia; and introducing the new low-residency M.F.A. in creative writing at Hood.














**Currently, the question** may not be so much “what are you reading and writing?” as “*how* are you reading and writing?” The emergence of user-friendly A.I. like ChatGPT is sparking tectonic shifts and new questions in almost every imaginable field, particularly in teaching, writing, and creating. We decided to consult an expert who confronts these challenges every day: Hood College’s own Elizabeth Knapp, Ph.D., poet and Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Department of English & Communication. ([MORE](#))

## *Faculty Reads*

A great book is a great book, however you compose or consume it. We asked Hood faculty, (including Pres Chap!), to give us their favorite book recommendations for summer, or anytime. Find them [HERE](#).



## bookmark alignment chart

<b>lawful good</b> book ribbon 	<b>neutral good</b> sentence pointer 	<b>chaotic good</b> scrap paper, receipts 
<b>lawful neutral</b> e-book AA Q standing athletic not have an 	<b>true neutral</b> proper bookmark 	<b>chaotic neutral</b> leaf 
<b>lawful evil</b> memorising the page number 	<b>neutral evil</b> leaving the book face down 	<b>chaotic evil</b> dog ear 

## Alumni reader survey

Take the survey [HERE](#)-- we want to know what and *how* you're reading these days. We'll share results on the Hood College Alumni Facebook page this fall. Everyone who takes the survey is entered to win a cozy Hood blanket!

Could you help a student find a job or internship? Do you need Career Services yourself?

Visit the **Catherine Filene Shouse Center for Career Development & Experiential Education**



***Throwback: The "horse" days of summer***



Children at Hood College Riding Summer Day Camp, 1967. Photo courtesy of the Hood College Archives.



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