

BARD COLLEGE

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIXTH

COMMENCEMENT



The President's Awards Ceremony

Friday
the twenty-seventh of May
two thousand sixteen
6:30 p.m.

*The Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College
Annandale-on-Hudson, New York*

PROGRAM

Welcome

Mackie Siebens '12
President, Board of Governors, Bard College Alumni/ae Association

Remarks

David E. Schwab II '52
Chair Emeritus, Board of Trustees, Bard College

The Bard Medal

Patricia Ross Weis '52

Charles S. Johnson III '70
Trustee Sponsor

Leon Botstein
Faculty Sponsor

Charles "Chuck" Simmons

Brandon Weber '97
Trustee Sponsor

James Brudvig
Faculty Sponsor

The John and Samuel Bard Award in Medicine and Science

Erik Kiviat '76

Stanley A. Reichel '65
Trustee Sponsor

Felicia Keesing
Faculty Sponsor

The Charles Flint Kellogg Award in Arts and Letters

Steven Sapp '89 and Mildred Ruiz-Sapp '92

Roland J. Augustine
Trustee Sponsor

Jean Churchill
Faculty Sponsor

The John Dewey Award for Distinguished Public Service

David Harman

David E. Schwab II '52
Trustee Sponsor

Jonathan Becker
Faculty Sponsor

The Mary McCarthy Award

Jorie Graham

Andrew S. Gundlach
Trustee Sponsor

Mona Simpson
Faculty Sponsor

The Bardian Award

Carolyn Dewald

Mackie Siebens '12
President, Board of Governors

James Romm
Faculty Sponsor

Terence F. Dewsnap Sr.

Mackie Siebens '12
President, Board of Governors

Deirdre d'Albertis
Faculty Sponsor

The Bardian Award (continued)

Gennady L. Shkliarevsky

Mackie Siebens '12
President, Board of Governors

Mark Lytle
Faculty Sponsor

Peter D. Skiff

Mackie Siebens '12
President, Board of Governors

Matthew Deady
Faculty Sponsor

Recognition of Reunion Classes

1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986,
1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011

Remarks

Leon Botstein
President, Bard College

Closing

Mackie Siebens '12

Dinner will be served in Weis Atrium,
Felicitas S. Thorne Dance Studio, and
Stewart and Lynda Resnick Theater Studio.
Ushers will direct you.

Everyone is cordially invited to hear
Bard College student soloists and composers in concert
with The Orchestra Now (TÖN),
Leon Botstein conducting,
in Sosnoff Theater
at 9:30 p.m.
and to enjoy Annandale Roadhouse at
Kline Commons immediately
following the concert.

THE BARD MEDAL

Patricia Ross Weis '52

Patricia Ross Weis '52 grew up in Manhattan, daughter of Hyman J. Ross and Frances Goldman Ross, and niece of Emanuel Goldman, a Bard trustee. She went to Birch Wathen School before embarking on the intellectual adventure of her life at Bard, where she majored in political science. She continued her studies at the Graduate Faculty of The New School for Social Research.

She credits Bard for her lifelong love of learning. The College was a magnet for intellectuals of the time, including William Faulkner, whom she read in English class with Professor William Humphrey, and Dylan Thomas, whom she saw pass out drunk at an Albee Social event. Among the visitors to campus was Eleanor Roosevelt, who lived nearby at Hyde Park. Professor Irma Brandeis introduced her to the wonders of Florence, and she was close to Heinz Bertelsmann, her adviser and professor of international relations; she and her husband honored him by their gift of Weis Cinema in the Bertelsmann Campus Center.

Patricia was thrilled by Bard's beautiful countryside, and she recalls the extraordinary hospitality of the College's faculty. She loved the academic structure and the seminar model, which lent itself to a desire to learn.

She and her husband of fifty-seven years, Robert F. Weis, chairman and CEO of Weis Markets, moved to Sunbury, Pennsylvania. She is mother to Jennifer, Colleen, and Jonathan, and grandmother to nine. Dedicated to medical research and education, the Weises have been exceptionally generous to colleges and universities that have played roles in the lives of their family, including Bard, Franklin & Marshall College, Susquehanna University, and Yale. Through the years, she and Robert cultivated interests in music and built an exemplary collection of twentieth-century art.

This year marks Patricia's thirtieth as a trustee of Bard College. She remains a dedicated, independent, outspoken member of the Board, resolutely committed to the traditions of the College. She has contributed liberally, creating (in addition to Weis Cinema) the Weis Atrium in the Richard B. Fisher Center for the

Performing Arts, Weis Lecture Hall in The Gabrielle H. Reem and Herbert J. Kayden Center for Science and Computation, and supporting the annual scholarship fund.

At Franklin & Marshall, where Patricia served as trustee and is now on the Board of Visitors, she and Robert also have been preeminent donors. Their philanthropy made possible the construction of Weis College House and the endowment of the Robert F. and Patricia G. Ross Weis Professorship in Judaic Studies. They helped found the Judaic Studies Program at Yale and supported the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies.

A granddaughter of the Rabbi of Belfast, Northern Ireland, Patricia is a supporter of Jewish organizations. Members of Congregation Beth-El in Sunbury, she and Robert helped facilitate the construction of a new synagogue. Enamored of Robert Venturi's Stevenson Library at Bard, Patricia offered him the opportunity to design the synagogue, his first. An avid concertgoer, she is a longtime patron of the Metropolitan Opera and supporter of its Saturday broadcasts.

Patricia's greatest love is for her family. Her husband died last October; she now divides her time between children and grandchildren in Pennsylvania and New York, where she continues her devotion to the arts and communities she supports—Bard among them.

Charles S. Johnson III '70
Trustee Sponsor

Leon Botstein
Faculty Sponsor

The Bard Medal honors individuals whose efforts on behalf of Bard and whose achievements have significantly advanced the welfare of the College. The Bard Medal was the inspiration of Charles Flint Kellogg, who believed that Bard should establish an award recognizing outstanding service to the College.

THE BARD MEDAL

Charles “Chuck” Simmons

Chuck Simmons came to work at Bard in 1971. He began as a carpenter and in 1975 took on administrative responsibilities for the College’s buildings and grounds under the tutelage of Richard “Dick” Griffiths. Chuck’s devotion to Bard became highly visible in May 1982, when the Buildings and Grounds barn burned. Owing to his leadership (Dick was away), no one was hurt and whatever could be salvaged was.

In 1986 Chuck succeeded Dick as director of Buildings and Grounds. Where Dick was brash and outspoken, Chuck was reserved and unfailingly gracious. But both shared a disciplined work ethic and deep commitment to the College and their colleagues. During the past fifteen years, Chuck has concentrated on new construction and renovation, overseeing all capital projects. The most recent of these are the final two residence halls in Resnick Commons; the buildings, which opened this year, are named for Sarah McCausland and Evelina Martin Brown. Chuck, now director of Physical Plant, is undertaking his final assignment for Bard, planning the integration of the Montgomery Place estate; he will retire at the end of August.

“Retire” may not be altogether accurate. Although it is hard to believe, Chuck has maintained a nearly second career—sheep farming—with his wife, Heidi, associate director of Central Services. Chuck began this sideline, which he intends to continue, in the 1980s. He has shown widely, won eight national championships, and is a vital presence at the annual Dutchess County Fair and the Sheep and Wool Festival, where he is among the lead exhibitors.

Chuck, born in Poughkeepsie, served in the United States Navy between 1968 and 1972, completing two tours of duty in Vietnam. He attended the State University of New York at Delhi under the GI Bill for his degree in building construction and management. He joined the Navy Reserves in 1972; in the 1980s he was appointed one of four Senior Chief Petty Officers in the nation. Chuck served in the Navy for more than a quarter of a century; he retired in 1995.

The integrity, candor, humor, and patience Chuck has exhibited in his forty-six years at Bard are extraordinary. When he began working at Bard as a twenty-one-year-old, the gulf between town and gown could not have been wider. But whatever styles, manners, and politics were exhibited within the Bard community never got in the way of his dedication, grace, and kindness. The beauty of the campus, condition of the buildings, and concern for safety and the environment are a tribute to Chuck's leadership.

An abiding belief in the quality of work and dignity of the individual are hallmarks of Chuck's service to the College. Bard's modest resources were never a source of complaint but rather presented a welcome challenge. Chuck has shown that ingenuity and persistence are indispensable to the task of keeping the campus running year in and year out, as well as to the goal of improving it. Throughout his years of service, he has understood the potential of the College, the role it could play in the Hudson Valley, and the crucial contribution he could make.

The entire Bard community, particularly his colleagues in the administration and Buildings and Grounds, salutes Chuck with profound affection and gratitude for his contributions.

Brandon Weber '97
Trustee Sponsor

James Brudvig
Faculty Sponsor

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THE JOHN AND SAMUEL BARD AWARD
IN MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

Erik Kiviat '76

Renowned for his environmental work on endangered and invasive species, Erik Kiviat is a passionate observer of the creatures that share the ponds, fields, forests, and marshes of the Hudson Valley. Born in New York City, Kiviat moved to Dutchess County at age one, when his parents bought an old farm in Clinton Corners and turned it into Jug Hill, a nature camp for children. As a child, Kiviat spent hours observing plants and animals along the edges of the camp's pond. He has been studying the natural history of the region ever since.

Kiviat's patient, grounded, and iconoclastic approach to nature and conservation is epitomized by his stance on *Lythrum salicaria*, or purple loosestrife. This glorious, shrub-like perennial sends up tall stalks coated with tiny magenta flowers in late summer and fall, creating a surge of color on the margins of wetlands throughout much of the country. Its stalks, leaves, and roots have been used as medicines since the Middle Ages, and the plant fascinated Darwin for its unique sex life. But this invader, brought from Europe and Asia centuries ago, has now spread across the continent. Most environmentalists consider it a scourge that should be eradicated. Kiviat, who has spent decades watching the loosestrife in eastern Dutchess County's Thompson Pond, resists value judgments. He has seen birds nesting in its stalks and other plants using its hardy structure as a support. He takes the long view, documenting both its benefits and damaging effects.

Kiviat is similarly unafraid of confronting his own biases. More than a decade ago, when West Nile virus was first reported in New York City, public health concerns prompted calls for extreme measures to combat virus-spreading mosquitoes. Kiviat, an ardent protector of wetlands where mosquitoes breed, saw an opportunity to challenge his tenets. Hudsonia Ltd., the environmental research institute he cofounded in 1981, received a contract from Dutchess County's health department to monitor the region's mosquito populations. Kiviat recognized that the virus's rapid spread and effects on human health could justify the very kinds of mosquito-control efforts he had long opposed.

The breadth of Kiviat's work is as impressive as his rigor and integrity. He is an authority on the effects of hydrofracking, codiscoverer of a new frog species in the New Jersey Meadowlands, designer of a habitat restoration project for the endangered Blanding's turtle, and an expert on the taxonomy of ferns and mosses.

Kiviat received his master's degree from the State University of New York at New Paltz and Ph.D. from Union Institute and University. He has written more than eighty articles and two hundred technical reports, as well as manuals such as the *Biodiversity Assessment Manual for the Hudson River Estuary Corridor*. His 1991 *Ecology of Bard Lands* is a local classic. Less well known is that he was a published Beat poet in the 1960s. In 2014, he received the Great Work Award in honor of Thomas Berry from the Environmental Consortium of Colleges and Universities. He lives in Rhinebeck with his wife, Elaine Colandrea.

Stanley A. Reichel '65
Trustee Sponsor

Felicia Keesing
Faculty Sponsor

The John and Samuel Bard Award in Medicine and Science is named after two 18th-century physicians, father and son, whose descendant, John Bard, was the founder of Bard College. The award honors scientists whose achievements demonstrate the breadth of concern and depth of commitment that characterized these pioneer physicians.

THE CHARLES FLINT KELLOGG AWARD IN ARTS AND LETTERS

Steven Sapp '89 and Mildred Ruiz-Sapp '92

Alex McKnight, for many years the beloved director of Bard's Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), introduced Steven Sapp to Mildred Ruiz on her first day at Bard. Soon after, she auditioned for a role in Steve's Senior Project play, "Purgatory." Steve remembered their introduction, and she got the part. Then he heard her sing. He was thrilled, and the wonderfully successful Sapp-Ruiz collaboration took flight.

After graduating, Steve and Mildred, both New Yorkers, cofounded, with two others, The Point Community Development Corporation, dedicated to a cultural and economic revitalization of the Hunts Point section of the South Bronx. In 1995, they also created Universes, a national ensemble theater company of writers and performers of color who fuse theater, poetry, dance, jazz, hip hop, politics, down home blues, and Spanish boleros to create works for the stage. The highly successful Universes has traveled widely, including trips to Sudan, Colombia, Morocco, Spain, Chile, Poland, and the United Kingdom. It offers artistic and teaching residencies, and has been awarded grants by the NEFA National Theater Project, NPN Creation Fund, and Ford Foundation, among others. The pair has received a Bessie Award and Doris Duke Artist Award in theater.

Mildred described to an interviewer: "Imagine a 13-year-old Puerto Rican boy boarding a Pan American plane, alone, to the mainland to work asparagus fields; and later on, exhausting himself driving cabs and cleaning hospital bathrooms. Imagine a young girl who had been an unpaid child domestic worker in Puerto Rico being rescued by her brother and brought to mainland United States so that she could sing and write her poems of love and pain, and dream of a different existence. These are my parents—reminding me that the reach of my roots spans this landmass, a sea, and an ocean. Their lives, and the lives of so many, fuel my drive to bring our stories to American stages." Steve wrote: "I can still feel the same impulse that has burned inside me since I was young, trying to corral all the sights and sounds of my surroundings. How do I make sense out of all the noise,

music, and voices I hear? How do I give voice to those who have no voice? How do I continue to commune with community, keep my activism active, and demand that my art be artistic?”

Universes has been electrifying crowds and sparking conversations about what it means to be an American since it was founded. The company’s *Ameriville* used Hurricane Katrina as an entry point to explore race, class, poverty, and immigration; *Party People* (a two-time Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama finalist, to be performed this fall at the Public Theater in New York City) is about former Black Panther Party and Young Lords members untangling a traumatic past.

The company’s next work, set to open in 2017 at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, features August Wilson’s poetry in a high-energy, music-filled exploration of the legacy and reconstruction of collective memory. We are honored to celebrate Mildred Ruiz-Sapp and Steven Sapp.

Roland J. Augustine
Trustee Sponsor

Jean Churchill
Faculty Sponsor

The Charles Flint Kellogg Award in Arts and Letters is given in recognition of significant contributions to the American artistic or literary heritage. It is named in honor of Charles Flint Kellogg (1909–80), a Bard College alumnus and trustee, who was an internationally respected historian and educator. Dr. Kellogg was instrumental in establishing the Arts and Letters Award, which, before his death, was given in the name of Alfred Jay Nock, the noted journalist and biographer, who was also a Bard alumnus and faculty member.

THE JOHN DEWEY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

David Harman

David Harman is a fitting recipient of the John Dewey Award for Distinguished Public Service. A committed educator who has devoted his life to improving teaching, literacy, and intercultural understanding, Harman brought together Al-Quds University President Sari Nusseibeh and Bard College President Leon Botstein to form what is now the Al-Quds Bard College for Arts and Sciences (AQB). In large part due to Harman's vision and continued engagement, AQB stands as the only dual-degree program between an American and Palestinian institution of higher learning, and now features an undergraduate liberal arts and sciences B.A. and a master of arts in teaching, which is the first of its kind in the Middle East and now the largest graduate program at Al-Quds University.

Harman's career in education began as a high school teacher at Hebrew University's Secondary School in Jerusalem. He went on to obtain his master's degree and doctorate from Harvard's Graduate School of Education. In addition to being on the faculty at Hebrew University, Harman has held faculty appointments at Harvard and Columbia, and been associated with numerous educational projects in Israel, the United States, and around the world, including literacy initiatives in India, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. In Israel, he served as the head of the national literacy campaign, guided educational planning at the Ministry of Education, and has been, and continues to be, engaged with a number of educational and social policy issues and programs. He has written more than seventy articles in journals and chapters in edited volumes, mostly on educational planning, education system design, adult learning and education, curriculum development, distance learning and teaching, innovation in education, and language development and acquisition. His biggest contributions have emerged in the sphere of adult literacy and learning, including the books *Functional Illiteracy in the United States: Issues, Experiences and Dilemmas*, *Turning Illiteracy Around: An Agenda for National Action*, *Illiteracy: A National Dilemma*, *Community Fundamental Education*, and *Learning to Be Parents*.

Harman is a fixture at many of Jerusalem’s important cultural institutions, serving on the boards of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and Jerusalem Cinematheque, among others. For many years he has served as chair of the Board of Overseers of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. In a city that is often riven with division and conflict, his voice consistently stands out to advocate for reason, empathy, and pluralism. He is passionate about education, particularly of the disadvantaged and excluded, viewing it as essential for social advancement. His diplomatic skills have proven critical to the development of the Al-Quds Bard partnership, helping navigate the shoals among United States, Israeli, and Palestinian authorities while keeping the focus on its primary goals: developing educational opportunities for Palestinian youth and preparing secondary educators to become more effective student-centered teachers. Through it all he remains determined and optimistic, the consummate diplomat and, above all, a real mensch.

David E. Schwab II ’52
Trustee Sponsor

Jonathan Becker
Faculty Sponsor

The John Dewey Award for Distinguished Public Service was established in 1990 to recognize extraordinary contributions by Bard alumni/ae and others to the public sector or in the public interest. It continues Bard’s tradition of honoring public service embodied in the Episcopal Layman Award, which was given until 1983. The Dewey Award honors the eminent American philosopher and educator John Dewey, the father of progressive education and an outspoken advocate of a system of universal learning to support and advance this country’s democratic traditions.

THE MARY McCARTHY AWARD

Jorie Graham

Jorie Graham has published eleven collections of poems and two volumes of selected poems, one of which, *The Dream of the Unified Field*, won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1996. She is Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard, the first woman to hold that position. The professorship, one of the oldest at Harvard, contractually permits her to tether a cow in Harvard Yard, an opportunity Graham has thus far forfeited.

Graham was born in 1950 in New York City. Her parents, sculptor Beverly Pepper and journalist Curtis (Bill) Pepper, took her to live in Italy; she received her baccalaureate in Rome. She studied philosophy at the Sorbonne, then film at New York University. Her interest in poetry was sparked there, when she walked past poet M. L. Rosenthal's classroom and overheard the last couplet of T. S. Eliot's "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock." She received her M.F.A. at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she later taught for many years. She has one daughter and lives in Cambridge with her husband, the poet, artist, and scholar Peter Sacks.

Graham's many distinctions include a MacArthur Fellowship and the Morton Dauwen Zabel Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She has also been the subject of poems; her ex-husband James Galvin's "Cherry Blossoms Blowing in Wet, Blowing Snow" is tacked on my wall. The poet James Longenbach wrote in the *New York Times*, "For 30 years Jorie Graham has engaged the whole human contraption—intellectual, global, domestic, apocalyptic . . . she imagines the hermetic poet as a public figure, someone who addresses the most urgent philosophical and political issues of the time simply by writing poems."

In her introduction to *The Best American Poetry 1990*, she addresses the problems experienced by contemporary working poets. "For how often can we hear that 'no one reads it,' or that 'no one understands it,' without experiencing a failure of confidence, however inchoate? And how easily that failure of confidence converts to self-hatred." She argues that the public retreats from the form because poetry

implicitly criticizes materialist values: “It rests on the assumption that material values need to be seen through . . . in earnest or truer, or more resonant, more supple values. No doubt many of the attacks against poetry come from those of us who, uncomfortable with our slippery marriage to American materialism and its astounding arrogant excess, wish, however unconsciously, that poetry would avert its scrutiny.” She’s talking specifically about poetry, but I would include what we call literature, a big tent that encompasses verse, prose, drama—any discourses that insist on the more “resonant, supple values.”

She argues *for* poetry, with all its difficulty. It can heal, she contends, by forcing the reader to “privilege the heart and intuition.” She likens this experience to the feeling after exercising a crucial muscle rarely used, “something part body, part spirit. Something the species should never evolve away from. Something I shouldn’t be living without . . . what we remember upon waking, what we remember at birth—all the brilliant Irrational.” Here’s to that.

Andrew S. Gundlach
Trustee Sponsor

Mona Simpson
Faculty Sponsor

The Mary McCarthy Award is given in recognition of engagement in the public sphere by an intellectual, artist, or writer. Mary McCarthy taught at Bard twice, from 1946 to 1947 and again in the 1980s, at the end of her life. The Mary McCarthy Award honors the combination of political and cultural commitment exemplified by this fearless, eloquent writer and teacher.

THE BARDIAN AWARD

Carolyn Dewald

Like Herodotus, the Greek author she has written about so meaningfully in many prominent articles, Carolyn Dewald is an explorer. An intrepid woman in the male-dominated field of ancient history, she has blazed trails in the study of the fifth-century Greek historians that many classicists now follow. In her use of gender-based and literary models in the study of historical writings—above all the structural analysis in her pioneering *Thucydides' War Narrative* (University of California Press, 2005)—she has been an inspiration to many of today's leading Hellenists as well as to the Bard students who have passed through her doors. Though those doors are now closing with her retirement from teaching, others stand ready to open: an ambitious commentary on the first book of Herodotus's *Histories*, the fruit of many years' research (with coauthor Rosaria Munson), will soon help fellow explorers find their way through the most wide-ranging narrative found in any extant Greek prose text.

A product of Swarthmore's storied classics B.A. program, Carolyn attended the University of California, Berkeley for her Ph.D. at the end of the 1960s and found herself at one of the epicenters of that era's social revolution. Her experience of the days of People's Park helped shape her outlook on classical Athens, another society that underwent rapid and profound liberalization, and also nurtured her deep concerns with fairness, justice, and humanitarian values. In the various academic posts she has held, including at Stanford, Carolyn has worked hard to create caring, fair-minded communities and protect the rights and interests of more vulnerable colleagues. She has lived like an ideal citizen of a Greek *polis*, seeking to express *areté*—moral virtue—by her participation in public life.

Carolyn came to Bard in 2003. One does not often find scholars of international stature who choose, at the senior level, to move from a well-funded research institution (University of Southern California) to a small liberal arts college; still less often does one find them taking on a full teaching load and committing, year after year, to the arduous assignment of Beginning Greek. Carolyn's unusual move has been a huge boon to Bard. Ancient history—never fully represented in the Bard curriculum before—suddenly had a vibrant presence, and the Classical

Studies Program branched out thanks to Carolyn's courses on Greek religion, Greco-Roman historiography, and constructions of gender and sexuality in the ancient world. An enthusiastic supporter of Bard's First-Year Seminar, Carolyn, together with codirector Joseph Luzzi, steered that program during its highly successful 2009–12 incarnation, "Self and Society in the Liberal Arts."

Herodotus, as we know from ancient biographers, departed mainland Greece for Thurii, in southern Italy, when he "retired" from historical research. Carolyn, by contrast, will remain nearby and continue to teach part time, as opportunities arise, for the Bard Prison Initiative and the College. With the presentation of this Bardian Award, then, we do not say goodbye but rather extend our thanks for the enrichments she has brought and the many ways she has striven to make Annandale a shining city on a hill.

Mackie Siebens '12
President, Board of Governors

James Romm
Faculty Sponsor

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THE BARDIAN AWARD

Terence F. Dewsnap Sr.

Professor of English Terence Dewsnap—man of few words, impatient with palaver or intellectual vanity—has built a life of teaching and scholarship in the Annandale community that has quietly yet profoundly influenced generations of students and colleagues. For those who have come to know him well over the years, his name is synonymous with integrity. Many learned the art of faculty governance by watching him deal with the inevitable ups and downs of college politics as he chaired an often fractious, if always colorful, Division of Languages and Literature. A stalwart member of the American Association of University Professors, Terry has never been afraid to stand up to anyone or anything. When speaking before the Bard faculty on behalf of a cause, whether common or not, he did so with courage and dignity.

Born in 1933, Terry grew up in Revere, Massachusetts, not far from the famous beach with its amusement park and horse tracks. His aunt, champion swimmer Annie Morecroft (called the Pride of Revere Beach), performed aquatic feats at the former Wonderland Amusement Park, now more widely known as an MBTA station than as a place of spectacle and derring-do. A true son of Massachusetts, Terry studied mathematics at Boston College, where he met his future wife, Catherine Desmond, in a class about the poet Milton—a seating assignment that changed his life. As a senior, Terry was named editor of the college literary magazine and pursued a master's degree in English. His dissertation on the poet Thomas Sturge Moore and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin followed in quick succession.

Terry and Catherine Dewsnap settled in Annandale-on-Hudson in 1963, raising their children on campus in Walters Cottage, where they entertained new faculty members, fellow poker players, and lonely students eager to connect to the warm, welcoming domestic life found in abundance there. Perhaps that is why babysitting for the Dewsnap family was a form of employment particularly coveted by literature majors during those years.

A founder of the Victorian Studies concentration, Terry has taught undergraduates to appreciate the increasingly unfamiliar, if not downright arcane, delights of triple-decker novels, nineteenth-century periodicals, and classic detective fiction. As the guiding light of Irish and Celtic Studies, Terry generously shared both an enviable library and encyclopedic learning with fellow lovers of James Joyce, Padraig Pearse, and all things Hibernian. With publications on figures ranging from poet Richard Murphy to the great satirist Flann O'Brien, Terry Dewsnap embodies Irish literature at Bard, an intellectual commitment culminating in his 2008 monograph, *Island of Daemons: The Lough Derg Pilgrimage and the Poets Patrick Kavanagh, Denis Devlin, and Seamus Heaney* (University of Delaware Press). Exploring the rich history of St. Patrick's Purgatory on Station Island, *Island of Daemons* features the lucid, cant-free prose that Terry has exhorted students to cultivate over the last half century. In his writing, as in his life, we see something both modest and rare: a man of clear, unshakable honesty.

Mackie Siebens '12
President, Board of Governors

Deirdre d'Albertis
Faculty Sponsor

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THE BARDIAN AWARD

Gennady L. Shkliarevsky

Professor of History Gennady Shkliarevsky arrived at Bard in 1985 as a one-year replacement for Professor John Fout. His arrival coincided with the dawn of a new era in Soviet-American relations and the Cold War. The reform-minded Mikhail Gorbachev had come to power and most of us at Bard were eager to have a better understanding of the transformations taking place in the Soviet Union. The College had not previously offered much in the way of Russian history or Russian studies. Shkliarevsky provided us with both a window into the Soviet period in Russian history and a better grasp of the events leading to end of the Cold War.

In 1993 he published his important study, *Labor in the Russian Revolution: Factory Committees and Trade Unions, 1917–1918*. A reviewer said of the book that it revised the “oft told story of labor in the revolution.” Unlike the standard treatment—describing workers’ heroic self-mobilization and their apparent support for the Bolsheviks—Shkliarevsky explained how laborers became “tools in the creation and consolidation of the Bolshevik dictatorship.” More recently, Shkliarevsky has turned in his intellectual career to more theoretical questions, such as the formation of knowledge, the history of science and philosophy, and the future of democracy in an era of global unrest. Many of his colleagues appreciate the passion with which he has periodically called us to moral attention. They have also valued his generosity in working with students, serving the College, and placing things Russian at the center of our campus conversations. When a Moderation or Senior Project board needed a third member, Shkliarevsky always said “yes” whenever he could. In a college dedicated to teaching, he centered his career on his students and his determination to enlarge their understanding of Russian history, the role of ideas in the past and present, and the foundations of our understanding of the world in which we live.

Above all, Bard is indebted to Shkliarevsky for his conception of, and tireless efforts to bring about, liberal arts education in Russia, which came to life as Smolny College. Smolny, a close collaboration between Bard and St. Petersburg State University, became a viable idea in 1994 and opened its doors to students in

1999 as Smolny College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It is now the St. Petersburg State University's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences, housed in Brobrinskiy Palace, once home to Catherine the Great's illegitimate son. Since its founding, Smolny College has served as a prototype for other Bard overseas campuses in Berlin, the West Bank, and in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. For his tireless pursuit of knowledge, for his dedication to his students, and for his many other contributions to the intellectual life of the College, Bard salutes Gennady Shkliarevsky.

Mackie Siebens '12
President, Board of Governors

Mark Lytle
Faculty Sponsor

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THE BARDIAN AWARD

Peter D. Skiff

It is hard for most of us to imagine the Bard College to which Peter Skiff arrived in 1966 and equally hard to imagine what the College will be like after he is gone. He has been a unique presence in Annandale, influencing colleagues and students in ways that few have done before and assuredly none will do hereafter.

When Peter came to Bard College, he was a one-man Physics Program. Not many students came to Bard intending to study science, but those who did were well served by dedicated faculty who reimagined what it meant to study science, either as one's central focus or as part of a liberal arts education. The success of this approach is evident. An impressive number of Bard students concentrating in physics from the 1960s through the present went on to receive Ph.D.s or carry out other advanced work in science, finding that the way they had been encouraged to think and work by Peter Skiff, Burt Brody, and others prepared them well for the creative demands of science work.

“Physics is not a spectator sport”—that was Peter's mantra. He pushed his students and fellow professors to be active thinkers and doers of science. Every assumption was questioned, every accepted methodology was tested. Unsolvable problems were to be confronted, not sidestepped. His exams usually contained problems set on the mythical planet Zog IV, where “ $F = m a$ ” might not hold, or where the Ideal Gas Law was subtly different. As Peter showed anyone who worked with him, only by pushing up against limits of knowledge did one discover why some constraints were there for good reasons and others were just challenges that could eventually be overcome.

His impact extended far beyond the sciences. Almost certainly, more students from across the College studied with Professor of Physics Peter Skiff than with any other member of the science faculty, past or present. His overpopulated courses on History and Philosophy of Science, Astronomy, and Cosmology defied classification; he presented a panoramic cultural view that fully integrated science into other intellectual pursuits. He said, “My overriding theme has been to synthesize different subjects into a coherent program of contextual studies. I

think I have constructed ‘courses’ that help students develop both competence and curiosity in the various subjects.” A testament to his success comes from Bruce Chilton ’71, Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Philosophy and Religion, who states unequivocally that Peter’s courses were essential to his undergraduate education: “He taught us that one could construct a coherent worldview from experience that did not rely on anyone else’s validation.”

Peter has been an active scientist and thinker across disciplines throughout his time at Bard, publishing articles in journals such as *American Journal of Physics*, *American Archaeologist*, *Computers in Physics*, and *Journal of Dialectics of Nature*. This breadth and depth of knowledge was a resource and an inspiration for the Bard community for fifty years. We will all miss him, none more than the author of this appreciation.

Mackie Siebens ’12
President, Board of Governors

Matthew Deady
Faculty Sponsor

The Bardian Award formalizes the Bard College Alumni/ae Association’s tradition of honoring the service of longtime members of the Bard community.

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