



# Telluride Democracy Enters the 21st Century

By Matthew Trail SP81 CB82 TA84, Alumni and Development Director

We think of **L.L. Nunn**, of course, as an engineering and educational innovator. Telluride Association itself was undoubtedly quite an innovative experiment at its founding. Although 100+ years of life can create some institutional inertia, the urge to innovate and do something new, or do it differently, is a recurring theme in Telluride affairs, particularly on the programmatic front. For example, Telluride’s TASP’s in the 1950s, and its creation of a Critical Black studies-focused TASS in the 1990s, were novel programs, and remain distinctive.

The way in which Telluride works has not been immune to change either, for example, in staff roles (Telluride no longer has a “Dean” or “Chancellor” or “Executive Secretary”) or the tools it uses. Thus, the typewriters and ditto machines that older alumni remember with fondness were replaced during the “Office Computerization Initiative” (remember Wordstar?) of the early 1980s, and Telluride has been (increasingly) digital ever since.



Executive Secretary Bea MacLeod, 1970

Staff member Peggy Walbridge at the dawn of the PC age, 1983

Meanwhile, the pace of work increases. Our members have more and more outside commitments and less time to devote to Telluride. Record-keeping requirements have increased, and the legal/nonprofit environment is far more complex than when Telluride was founded in 1911. It’s become increasingly challenging to complete all the review, budget, and planning work in four-day Conventions. In the last few years, the Association has begun to grapple with these changing times in a more systematic way, through a strategic planning process as well as a currently-chartered “Labor Working Group,” tasked to lead the Association in a comprehensive review of the way Telluride is organized and the way it works.

In the meantime, here are a few other ways that Telluride is taking steps to meet new challenges in new ways:

## Midvention

Starting in 2017, Telluride has held mid-year formal business meetings via video teleconference, typically in November and March. So far, the meetings have covered two to three main items each, such as summer program expansion, recruitment objectives, summer program policies, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts, and more. The meetings, which typically are scheduled for around three hours, are complete with

agendas sent out in advance, committee and officer reports as needed, resolutions, and voting.

## Electronic Voting and Decision Making

To save time and increase efficiency and accuracy, Telluride has experimented at Convention with electronic voting programs such as OpaVote, and is also using collaborative decision-making platforms like Loomio.

## Online Collaboration

Telluride has always been a rather decentralized organization, with much of its work carried out by committees and members at a distance from the Ithaca and Ann Arbor offices, and from each other. Online collaboration tools hold the promise to make this work faster and more collaborative. Some of the platforms Telluride has used included Google Hangouts and Slack, videoconferencing services such as Zoom, and a nonprofit version of the customer relationship management software Salesforce for Telluride’s increasingly vital database management. (In conjunction with this, Telluride is also currently working on rescuscitating its online Associates Directory. (Stay tuned for more news soon!) Project management platforms such as Trello and Bugherd have also been helpful for staff and consultants working on Salesforce implementation over the last year.

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# Urban Appalachian Oratorio

By Nate May MB07



In April 2014 I was working as a high school math teacher in Fayette County, West Virginia, when I accepted an offer to begin a master's degree in music composition in the coming fall at the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. I was raised in West Virginia, and the state had grown in importance to me during my time in Cape Town, South Africa, through Telluride's Reese Miller Exchange: seeing the relationship that the musicians I worked with had with their hometown, I had started to think of West Virginia as mine. Beginning with a collaboration with Andrew Munn, an opera singer I met while living at Telluride's Michigan Branch, and who later spent four years as a community organizer in West Virginia's coalfields, Appalachia's land and people had become a powerful force in my personal and artistic life, inspiring a move back to the state after two years of freelancing in Michigan. It was difficult to leave West Virginia again at age twenty-seven, but I soon learned that I was retracing a path worn by Appalachians who migrated to Midwestern cities in staggering numbers, especially between the 1940s and 1970s, when coal jobs were drying up and growth in industry was demanding a larger urban workforce. From the beginning of my time in Cincinnati I knew I wanted to respond musically to this past and present reality. Over the course of the next two years it evolved into the most ambitious project I've undertaken to date.

By the time it premiered in April of 2016, *State* was a 35-minute oratorio for a vocal soloist, a women's choir of roughly fifty voices, three percussionists, piano, and electronics. The premiere took place in Lower Price Hill, a neighborhood of Cincinnati that continues to have a large Appalachian presence. The piece consisted of musical settings of



Oral history contributor Aileen Thomas hugs Nate after the premiere of *State*

oral histories I collected from Appalachian migrants in the city, along with archival recordings of those who stayed behind in the mountains. Funded by Berea College's Appalachian Sound Archive, I found urban Appalachians through the help of local organizations and personal connections. After recording many hours of interviews I decided to focus on three women, using their words exactly as they were spoken to me. Aileen Thomas, the daughter of a coal miner in Laurel Fork, Kentucky, tells of her father's Black Lung and her uncle's death in the mines. She took a Greyhound bus to Cincinnati at a young age, where she met her husband, another Kentuckian, and started a family with the principles they had learned in the mountains. Debbie Shelton's touching story is one that many can relate to, regardless of geography: she speaks of her mother's dementia and death, and the bonds of love that can endure the alienation of a mother who no longer

recognizes her own child. Omope Carter Daboiku, an African-American woman who grew up in an abolition town in Appalachian Ohio, recounts her childhood in a largely unsegregated community when much of the country was suffering Jim Crow-era violence and tensions. When she had children of her own in Cincinnati, she made sure to bring them back regularly to her hometown in order to pass on the connection she felt to the region.

As I had in my previous Appalachian work, I created some confusion by not directly referencing the great oral traditions of mountain music, a select few of which have become the exclusive soundmark of Appalachia as it is depicted in most media. As a West Virginian who, like most living Appalachians, did not grow up immersed in those traditions, I was interested in portraying an Appalachia that is both unexpected and familiar—unexpected in its layering of geographies, histories, and identities, and familiar in the universality of its people's stories. I wrote the music in a contemporary and personal compositional style, and included a banjo repurposed as a percussion instrument to pay homage to the instrument's West African origins and to subversively acknowledge the expectations for what Appalachian music should sound like. Other repurposed instruments were selected from meaningful objects mentioned by the interview contributors: scrap metal, a set of cast-iron skillets, a music box. The choir sang as a swarm while the soloist, Kate Wakefield, who was trained as an opera singer and now tours as part of the two-piece punk band Lung, brilliantly navigated the serpentine melodic material.



Creating and producing *State* taught me many things—about the therapeutic power of simply asking someone to tell their story; about collaboration not only with musicians but with the people who agreed to let me publicly share their lives; about creating a vision that was difficult to describe in words but depended on the support and investment of many funders, contributors, collaborators, and audience members; and about composing music—an isolated act that asked me to channel many bodies, minds, voices, and souls into a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

I now live in a Brooklyn apartment, where I have just finished hanging the maps and photos I carry with me in my own migrations. I moved here to continue composing and teaching after finishing my coursework for a doctorate at Yale. In a few weeks I'll board a train at Penn Station that crosses the Alleghenies and stops a few blocks from my parents' home in Huntington, West Virginia. There I'll have the duration of a brief holiday visit to confront my nostalgia with reality's persistent changes. ♣

continued from cover

Probably the most extensive platform for this collaborative work is Google Drive. Telluride now conducts and stores much of its committee work across Drive, allowing members and staff to more or less easily store and access documents, edit and comment on reports and develop drafts, and more.

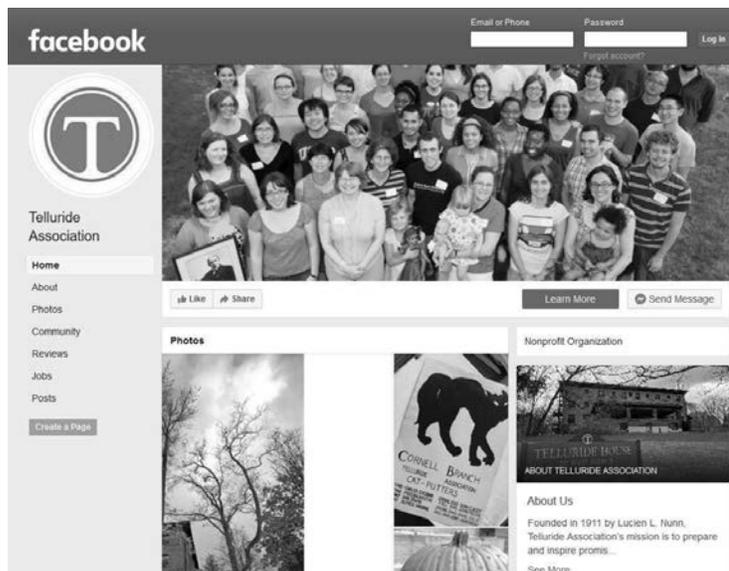
### Online Application Processing

Telluride has largely transitioned over the last decade to an online application environment for its summer programs. This cuts down on staff processing time, enables the more efficient distribution of application reading, and facilitates interviews as well. **Michael Thornton** SP05 TA16, Chair of Telluride’s summer program recruitment committee, notes:

*“I think the shift to digital platforms has made it possible to incorporate many more alumni volunteers into the reading and interview process, which is a project I hope to continue. We’re able to offer a fairer, more systematic review of the huge increase in applications we’ve received over the past few years. Of course there are some trade-offs—we lose a little flexibility, for example—but on the whole the shift has forced us to revisit some of the more inefficient and less valuable parts of our review process, and empower readers and interviewers to make more informed, more helpful decisions.”*

### Social Media

The days when member and alumni engagement consisted of annual fundraising letters, a twice-yearly print Newsletter, and voluminous personal correspondence from Johnny Johnson and Bea MacLeod are long since passed. Today Telluride seeks to both maintain the personal touch and regularly reach out to its 5,000 member-plus community via traditional print vehicles as well as online platforms such as our website, Facebook page, Twitter, and Instagram, as well as mailing programs such as Constant Contact. We’re considering other ways to improve the two-way flow, such as a more lively LinkedIn group or regionally-based listservs to facilitate networking, mentoring, and social get-togethers.



### Issues and Implications

The “brave new world” of technology and tele-democracy is not without its challenges, however. Here are just a few considerations Telluride needs to consider:

- Not everyone has equal access to the technology or the bandwidth to fully or equally participate in these communities. Not everyone is equally technically savvy. How can Telluride minimize such “digital divide issues” and/or make sure they don’t exacerbate existing inequalities?

- Are these new forums or processes the best for deliberation and democratic decision-making? How do they interact with people’s different cognitive “processing” needs and styles?
- What are the tradeoffs between (potentially greater) efficiency and TA’s traditional educational and democratic values and imperatives?
- Does increased access actually make some collaborative work harder, as multiple parties work on and save their work in idiosyncratic ways (yes, we’re looking at you, Google Drive), or use one-off “flavor of the day” electronic tools and platforms unfamiliar to most others?

We asked **Cory Myers** DS10 TA13, chair of Telluride’s Information Technology Advisory Committee, to comment:

*“I think we’re experimenting with how to balance folks’ freedom to use the tools they like in an ad-hoc way versus centralizing resources and standardizing expectations. One way of thinking about this is that at a certain point tools and infrastructure become venues or virtual places; I certainly think of Google Drive and Zoom this way...Conway’s law says that ‘organizations which design systems [...] are constrained to produce designs which are copies of the communication structures of these organizations.’ What we’re exploring is the inverse: we’re trying to find communication systems that match (or even help improve!) our communication (collaboration, governance, etc.) structures—and the values they’re anchored in.”*

Who knows what the future will bring? One thing is for sure—Telluride will be there, somewhere. ❖

### Social Media Sites

Web: [www.tellurideassociation.org](http://www.tellurideassociation.org)  
 Facebook: Telluride Association  
 Twitter: @TellurideAssoc  
 Instagram: tellurideassoc  
 LinkedIn: Telluride Association (and Telluride Association group)

## Nunn on the Moon

by Matthew Trail SP81 CB82 TA84

**I**t turns out that Deep Springs is not the only arid, dusty valley memorialized by a Nunn. Joseph Nunn, who was L.L. Nunn’s nephew and a CBTA member in the 1920s (and later DS Ranch manager) has the lunar crater “Nunn” named after him. For you astronomers out there, the crater is just beyond the eastern limb of the Moon, along the northern edge of Mare Smythii.

Joseph (1905-68) was an engineer who designed and manufactured a series of 12 satellite tracking cameras (“Baker Nunn cameras”) that were in service from the late 1950s until the early 90s. One of them provided tracking data on Sputnik, and another was adapted for an asteroid tracking program.

Now, about that Martian Branch... ❖

*Illustration by Puneet Singh*



# Telluriders Abroad

Over the last 100 years, the *Telluride Newsletter* has regularly featured letters and articles from its overseas associates. From the croquet lawns of Oxford to Mussolini's Italy and the Biafran War, Telluriders have brought their insights, humor, and critical eye to their experiences—and themselves—in these dispatches. While occasionally these reports read very much as a product of their times (or of the idiosyncrasies of the author), they are invariably interesting. The selection below is, admittedly, not representative of the current diversity of Telluride associates due to the dynamics of exclusion and bias that shaped admission and ascent in Telluride programs over the years. However, the accounts excerpted are definitely not all from a uniform identity. Here is a sampling of features from across the decades, with a link to the *Newsletter* issues in which they are found. (All *Newsletter* issues are available online at <https://www.tellurideassociation.org/newsandevents/newsletters/>.)



LL Nunn and unidentified companions visiting the Coliseum, circa late 1800s

**Benjamin Stuart Walcott**, TA11, January 1918. “But my former, and the general, impression that an aviator is a superman with an iron nerve, is quite wrong. For if you could see some of the specimens that are going to defend France in the air! To be very conservative in my statements, some of us are decidedly ordinary persons. It’s true that they, that is flyers, get killed now and then, but it’s war time, so why not? A flyer in time of peace is a bit of a reckless fool like a racing driver, but now he’s just got a very good job in the army.” Two months after writing this letter, in December 1917, Stuart (who was Vice-President of Telluride Association at the time) was killed in combat while flying over France with the Lafayette Escadrille.

**Simon Whitney** DS19 TA21, May 1926. “One can learn much from these young Germans. For loyalty to duty and readiness to sink oneself in something higher, one need not look further than the typical nationalist student: but I believe the democratic students have discovered a better ideal, better because it is not abstract, but concrete. It is not so much to the Vaterland as to the Volk that their devotion is offered. Whether they spend the vacation in the darkness of a mine or tramping the sunny countryside in their Wanderwozel costumes they are keeping in touch with, and mean to keep in touch with, the toiling masses of the German people.”

**Clarence “Mike” Yarrow** DS25 CB28 TA28, December 1937, “A Liberal in Italy.” “Thus it is that the year abroad has convinced me that liberalism is after all a thing worth striving for and sacrificing for. I would say a thing worth fighting for did I not think that in the present day and age it cannot be gained by fighting...”



Mike Yarrow (front row, in hat) with Pasadena Branch members on a visit to the Hopi Reservation in 1950-51. Photo courtesy Allan Lyons PB49.

**Ragnar Arnesen** DS43 CB47 TA43, June 1948: “Arnesen Writes from Paris.” “Eight months in Europe has given me the inevitable desire to stay another year. It took a good six months of them to learn French, find out where to get in line, how to cut the red tape which the French wind more intricately and delicately than we...”

**Alfred Harding** CB42 TA47, August 1949: “Life in Peiping is very calm and getting expensive. Here we probably know less of what is going on in China than you do. It has been very interesting to watch the new regime take over, then to compare our impressions now with what were our past conceptions of the CCP (Chinese Communist Party)...”

**Norris Smith** DS45 CB47 TA47, September 1953, writing from South Korea as an interpreter working on the Korean War armistice: “We proceeded gingerly to the agreed meeting point, hoping that our charts of mine-fields were correct...”



Norris Smith, circa 1945

**Mike J.C. Echeruo** CB63, November 1969: “I haven’t forgotten Telluride. Indeed, I still cherish memories of Telluride, not just the hospitality and the company but the promise of all those young people and all that talent in what I knew was not my country. Out here in the Biafran jungle, we are busy trying to found a nation. Uphill and pathetic, but every minute of it worthwhile.”

**Joe Schwartz** SP70 CB71 TA72, November 1976, writes of his impressions of England and Oxford as a Telluride Lincoln scholar. “Of Course, Your Scout Still Comes in Every Morning to Clean Your Tea Set.”



Lincoln College front quad.

**Alyssa Bernstein** SP77 CB78 TA83, August 1981. “I often find similarities of practice or problems between the House [CBTA] and the kibbutz. Some 30 years ago, I am told, if a married kibbutznik (of the Artzi movement) were having an affair with another woman, the kibbutz secretary would woof him, AdCom [Cornell Branch’s executive committee—Ed.] fashion, for endangering the internal cohesion of the community...”

**Tara Smith (née Shannon)** SP86 CB87 TA88, February 1990. Tara traveled to Nicaragua on a research grant from Cornell's Women's Studies department to study the participation of women in Nicaragua's revolutionary process. "Beyond her formal research pursuits Tara also learned about Nicaraguan culture through the more casual means of living with a family in the Managuan barrio of San Judas. Tara found her stay in the barrio and her family to be an enjoyable experience. 'They treated me like one of their own and put up with my whining and hopelessly bourgeois ways quite admirably.'"

**Dan Barnard** DS92 CB94 TA95, Winter 1997: "Lacunae." "It is disconcerting to have spoken so rosily of community for the first four years of my stay in academia, and then to see communities severed and torn by the most ultra-violent of identity politics." Dan served in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina from April to September 1997 as a commander of a multinational tactical command post platoon.

**Aiofe Naughton** CB00, Fall 2002 (Yarrow Adventurous Education Award winner): "Environmental theater, popularized by Richard Schechner in New York in the 1960s, makes theatre with actors, groups, and communities rather than for them, and most importantly, neither presumes nor prioritizes a fixed text. Belfast provides its own vocabulary and topography of conflict and tribal ritual."

**Flojaune Griffin Cofer** MB05, Winter 2009-10 (Yarrow Award winner): "My [experience] in South Africa overwhelmed, perplexed, and inspired me in ways that I still struggle to describe..." Griffin's service project was focused on an early childhood education conference in Johannesburg, and a college preparation mini-course in Durban. "My travels have inspired greater introspection and appreciation for the global human experience. Greatest, however, is the drive to want to be of service to others in such a way that my travels benefit my community at home and those abroad." ❏

## Update from Olmsted

By Brad Edmondson DS76 CB80 TA90

The place where Nunnian education began has a new owner, and they are looking for partners. Between 1904 and 1913, L.L. Nunn operated the Telluride Institute from Olmsted, a small circle of buildings just downstream from a hydroelectric plant at the mouth of Provo Canyon.



Jack Newell, DS56, and Brad Edmondson, DS76 CB80 TA90, inside Olmsted's intake pipe on August 14, 2019

TA's founding Convention happened here in 1911.

The campus's main building strongly resembles Telluride House at Cornell. The arrangement of the buildings around a central lawn recalls the circle at Deep Springs. "It was here that the basic social, educational, and governing structure of the early Association was set," writes Denis Clark DS69 CB72 TA73. "We live with these still."

For several decades the buildings were lightly used and maintained by Pacificorp, which also operated the original hydropower plant located on the site. But that plant closed in 2015 and was replaced by a new one owned by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District ([www.cuwcd.com](http://www.cuwcd.com)). This summer, the District also acquired the original plant and the Institute campus.

Monica Hoyt, education and outreach manager for the District, says that their main reason for owning the site is to provide clean water and low-cost electric power. But as a public benefit corporation, the District also wants to find a way to restore the historic buildings and put them to good use. Hoyt says that their first priority is to inspect and repair the roofs and other critical elements that safeguard the buildings. A plan for re-use of the buildings is also in the offing, and the *Newsletter* will post updates as it proceeds. ❏

## Nunn's "Cornell House" in Telluride For Sale

As of press time, L.L. Nunn's "Cornell House" in Telluride, Colorado was on the market for \$6,125,000. The home, which was built in 1891, was one of the first in the country to feature alternating current, which Nunn harnessed in creating the Ames Hydroelectric Generating Plant. Nunn built the residence as a school and dormitory for his "Pinheads," his network of young apprentice laborers who would eventually become the basis of the early Telluride Association. The Telluride Institute used the house as Nunn welcomed students from Cornell University who were interested in electrical engineering, hence the name. ❏



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# 2019 TASSers and TASPers Reflect on Their Experiences

By Matthew Trail SP81 CB82 TA84

**111** TASSers and TASPers concluded another successful summer program season for Telluride in August. Distributed across eight seminars and three cities (Ithaca, Ann Arbor, and College Park), the rising high school juniors and seniors studied topics ranging from “Reconceptualizing Black Geographies” and “Freedom Summer” to “Poetry and Identity.” This year’s students were remarkably diverse in socio-economic and racial/ethnic background as well; over 33% were eligible for the federal free and reduced-price lunch program, and nearly 80% identified themselves as from other than a Caucasian/white background.

Those intense six weeks at TASS and TASP typically inspire a broad variety of reactions, most overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Telluride’s summer program committees (TASS Com and TASP Com), recruitment committee (SPARC), the factotum training committee, and Telluride staff carefully review each report and all feedback and appreciate both the warm words—and candor—of our participants. Here are some selections from our post-program surveys this year that reflect this broad spectrum of experiences.



The 2019 Cornell TASP, Photo credit: Robyn Wishna

## TASPer Thoughts:

*“I feel so ridiculously fortunate to have been able to participate in this program. I have met the most incredible people in my life, and I’ve learned things from them that have fundamentally changed who I am as a person. I wish I could do the whole experience again, because I don’t think I have ever been happier, more challenged, and accepted in my entire life. The ironic thing about TASP is that though we all come from such a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, we ultimately understand each other in a way that a lot of our home communities do not. I now leave TASP with a completely different framework of meaning, and integrate myself back in my community.”*

*“I wasn’t even considering applying to any prestigious universities before TASP, but after talking to the people here and being affirmed by staff and faculty, I’ve decided to apply to Georgetown University. After spending six weeks at Cornell, I’ve also decided to apply here. TASP made me feel more comfortable and confident in my ability to succeed and thrive in the future.”*

*“My expectations were that everyone would be a writing-prodigy-nerd type person. I was glad to be proven wrong.”*

*“Academically, my expectations were met. The professors are very experienced and have taught on these topics before so their preparation and commitment was expected. However, I was surprised by their willingness to take constructive criticism from students and change some ways of thinking that they had, although not completely.”*

*“I expected drama to break out among us, as I heard usually does at TASP, but to everyone’s delight we got along very well and we resolved our conflicts among ourselves without reaching out to authority. The most valuable TASP experience I have draws from that: several of us had an extended moral debate, and although several people took issue with the way one party treated the other party, the two parties in question were able to resolve it together and maintain their friendship. It was a highlight of my experience that starkly contrasted with my home community, where even tiny spats can break tight relationships due to lack of understanding.”*

*“The most valuable experience was when in a community forum, I was able to speak about how I felt as an East Asian taking a course that hit so close to home taught by white professors. The conversation was so fruitful and insightful, as we all discussed Orientalism and how that affects our lives. Most importantly, we took steps to BIRT and collectively write the professors about what we were grappling with (our identities in relation to the coursework). That ended up being successful, and we spent one seminar day (as we proposed) on discussing readings about Orientalism.”*

*“In terms of self-governance I’ve learned that the democratic process is slow and oftentimes frustrating but very, very important. Through TASP I have learned how much I value a community where intellectual conversations take place but also where individuals are unafraid to open up and build meaningful connections with others.”*

*“My expectations were probably too high to be reasonably met. I feel like I expected a near-perfect community where all rules of the program would be reasonably followed and where there would be complete autonomy. I do feel, however, that the program has met other needs I didn’t think I had, particularly with regards to social consciousness and self-image.”*



Cornell TASP seminar, Photo credit: Robyn Wishna

*“Addressing the race insensitivity within the community was a really important moment for me. It showed that being a community is not easy.”*

*“I think the housemeetings dragged on too long, even though the vast majority of our BIRTs were passed. Obviously, debate is important, but I feel like it went in circles sometimes.”*

*"I wish there was more freedom at the program to really shape one's own education outside of seminar. At our TASP time in the day was highly structured between individual, study, and free time, where we were not allowed out into town or the greater college area at all unless it was free time. Free time was not as common as I wished it was..."*



Michigan TASSers. What's so funny?

### TASSer Reflections:

*"The TASS community has influenced me to start my own Black Female Union at my school. I am pushing for it now and I will not stop until I get to spread the knowledge I have learned at TASS. So thank you for this amazing experience."*

*"The single most important experience I had at TASS was during the first week, when I and two other peers had gathered at a table in the living room to read and analyze our homework for the night. One of the pieces we had to read was "Blackness" by Fred Moten, and we all sat there for over two hours just reading and talking about how we interpreted what we were reading. We shared our personal experiences and struggles with being Black people, and that was the first time in my life that I'd ever sat with other Black people and just talked about some of the things that we've been through. In that moment, I felt secure in my identity."*

*"It feels impossible to pick just one experience, as, and I'm not over exaggerating, almost everything was incredible. If I had to pick just one though, I would say the night when a group of girls and I got together and just talked. It was in the beginning of Week 2 when we were officially warmed up to each other, and we just poured out our hearts. This is so important to me not because I learned the struggles and secrets of my peers, but because it was the first time I truly felt heard and valued in a space. Afterwards, I remember feeling so light, like I had gotten everything off my chest. From there, everything was up and I built my strongest relationships to date that truly will last a lifetime."*

*"I haven't experienced a space where I wasn't the only Black person so it allowed me to experience different opinions on black life outside of my own. It also gave me more confidence in voicing my own opinions and thoughts."*

*"I am leaving TASS feeling mentally curious. About everything. One, I am curious about something I have never questioned. I had always thought that I would want to go into the sciences, become a biomedical engineer and make money. A simple money-driven dream. But here I've realized that I actually want to be politically active during my life. Do something more academic in the studies of black people, and capitalism awareness. So whatever I decide to do from here on out, I want a focus in those studies."*

*"...TASS gave me a platform to tell my truth, and has given me the confidence to do so in public spaces. At the same time, it encouraged me and allowed me to challenge some of the views I hold, and try to look at issues from multiple angles that I would have never considered in the past. It exposed me to a plethora of new ideas that I will take home with me. My experience at TASS also gave me something I had lost: hope. For years, I have struggled to fit in and find a place I felt truly valued and supported. TASS gave me that. While I am sad to leave the beautiful people I have met and made such strong connections with, I am now hopeful and excited for the future because now, I don't have to envision a time and place where I am fully accepted and loved, I have one forever."*

*"I would change the inner ward facing community sometimes to have more alone time and not be around so many people all day every day."*

*"I would change the location; I think it would be more interesting to have it at a historically black college." ❖*

## Alumni Gather

New Haven area Telluride alumni met November 1st. We hope to have DC, NY and LA events in the Spring. Stay tuned—and let us know if you're interested in hosting! ❖

## Summer Program Deadlines Set

Factotum applications due: December 15th, 2019

TASS applications due: January 6, 2020

TASP applications due: January 13, 2020

All programs run June 21-August 1, 2020

For more information, go to:

<https://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/high-school-students/>

## Summer Program Application Readers Wanted!

If you're a college student or beyond and a Telluride associate, we'd love to have your help reading the nearly two thousand summer program applications we're expecting this winter. Telluride provides the training, evaluation rubrics, and secure access to the online applications. Reading will take place in January and early February and most volunteers spend five to ten hours in total. There are even a number of application reading parties in several cities planned (or arrange your own); it's a fun way to meet other Telluriders! For more information, please write [telluride@cornell.edu](mailto:telluride@cornell.edu) and stay tuned for further announcements. ❖

## 1960s

**PHILLIP MOLL**, SP60, writes, “The theme of my summer at Deep Springs was Character and Goals of the American Economy. It was 1960, Eisenhower was President and the Kennedy-Nixon debates were soon to unfold. I spent a lot of time that summer pounding the piano, assiduously learning the Brahms - Händel variations. That effort turned out to have a more lasting effect on my subsequent life than reading Schumpeter, Max Weber and Galbraith. But the summer, including the farm work, was a salubrious and unforgettable experience, of which the (literal) high point was a walk to the summit of Mt. Whitney, led by Sam Dugan. Of the sixteen members of our Deep Springs group, seven of us made it to the top to admire the view and catch our breath. I went on to become an English major at Harvard, still distracted by my passion for music, which finally won out. I went on to graduate school in music at the University of Texas and from there, to Germany on a DAAD grant. I had a job for seven years as a coach and rehearsal pianist at the opera house in West Berlin and then continued on my own for the ensuing twenty-seven years, mostly as an itinerant accompanist and ensemble pianist, before taking a professorship at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Leipzig, where I stayed for nine intense and enjoyable years. I have lived in Berlin since 1970 and still find it a stimulating place to be, especially for the arts. My wife, Yuko, a singer, also plays traditional Japanese music on the koto, filling the air with its unmistakable, delicate twang.”

**JONATHAN RHYS KESSELMAN**, SP63, retired from his position as Canada Research Chair in Public Finance with the School of Public Policy at Simon Fraser University-Vancouver. He has been selected to serve on an official committee of the British Columbia government to explore a provincial basic income and more incremental reforms of the income security system.

Rhys’ retirement culminated a long career of productive policy-oriented research that influenced many aspects of Canadian tax and social programs. Among them was the creation of the Tax-Free Savings Account in 2009, along the lines of the Roth IRA in the US. Along with his wife Kathleen Maiman, who was the widow of Theodore Maiman, Rhys organized and edited the 2018 Springer Press book titled *The Laser Inventor: Memoirs of Theodore H. Maiman*.

**JAN WILLIS**, SP64, writes that she retired from teaching at Wesleyan in 2013 and moved to Georgia, where she is now teaching part-time at Agnes Scott College. “I have taught a series of courses on Buddhism here, but this Spring I am teaching a course called “Making the Invisible, Visible: A Multi-media Exploration of Race and Racism Through a Buddhist Lens.” She goes on to say that “I cannot imagine what my life would have turned out to be had it not been for Telluride in my life; and, of course, that would not have happened had it not been for Bea MacLeod who came down to Docena, Alabama to meet me, my parents, and my grandparents and then to champion my cause. Such friends are truly angels, their goodness cannot be fathomed.”

**AVI KATZ**, SP66 BB67 TA68, has been active as an illustrator and cartoonist in Israel since 1970. After a quarter of a century as staff artist for *The Jerusalem Report* magazine, he became an international poster boy for freedom of expression when he was fired by the magazine following a cartoon which showed Israeli politicians as Orwellian pigs. The whole story is in his website, [www.avikatz.com](http://www.avikatz.com).



Convention 1970 portraits by Avi Katz

**PATRICIA MADSEN**, SP66, writes: “I retired this spring from 43 years of on-and-off lawyering, including a stint as a referee (much more accurate title than magistrate) and judge. For the last 20 years, I practiced water law, a Colorado thing. My husband, Marshall Brodsky, and I just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary,

the wedding following on 17 years of mostly happy cohabitation. One wonderful stepson, no kids together, alas, but we have a 20-pound bichon-esque pooch who has slipped into what would have been the grandchild slot and fills it well. Anyone who’s visiting Denver is welcome to stop by and say ‘Hello.’”

## 1970s

**CAROL F. LEE**, SP71, received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Law Institute, the country’s leading private law-reform organization, at its annual meeting in May 2019. The ALI’s membership consists of prominent practicing lawyers, academics, and judges. The award is presented to a member who over many years has played a major role in the Institute. Carol was honored for her careful reading and constructive comments on dozens of drafts of Restatements of the Law, Principles of the Law, and Model Penal Code sections aimed at clarifying and improving a wide variety of fields of law.

**SABRA PURTILL**, SP79, has joined the American International Group (AIG) in a newly established role as Deputy CFO, Head of Treasury, Investor & Rating Agency Relations, and Corporate Development, effective August 28.

## 1980s

**LEVIN NOCK**, SP80 CB81, lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife of 20 years, 2 dogs and a cat. He manages a DesignLights Consortium program that promotes energy efficiency through utility incentives for networked lighting controls.

**GYULA GRESCHIK**, SP87, writes that he divides his time between Boulder and Budapest, Hungary, conducting research and consulting as a structural engineer, designer, and analyst, with a specialty in light-weight innovative structures. His most recent research interest is solar cell

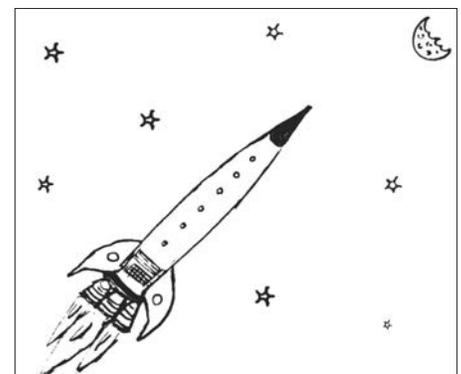


Illustration: Puneet Singh

structural design for future NASA Mars missions: these are deployable structures as well as much of his other work (solar sails, space antennas, etc.) but are unique because of the gravitational and atmospheric conditions on Mars. Gyula's elder son is in college studying to become an engineer, and the other children are not in college yet.

## 1990s

**TODD BAILEY**, SP95, is Power Electronics Lead, Photon Spacecraft at Rocket Lab in Huntington Beach, CA.

## 2000s



*Josh Smith and Hammad Ahmed*

**HAMMAD AHMED**, SP02 TA10, and **JOSH SMITH**, MB02 TA03, got married at their home in Boston in late September 2019. The couple first met through Telluride Association in 2009, when Josh was a TA member and Hammad was an adjunct attending his first Convention. Telluride has had a strong positive impact on their lives, and Josh and Hammad included particular moments in the ceremony to honor that impact and express their gratitude for the Telluride community at large. Other Telluriders in attendance were **Amy Saltzman**, SP02 CB03 TA05, **Govind Persad**, SP01 TA13, and **Alan Mishler**, MB07 TA10.



*Persad, Saltzman, Baby Julian, Smith, Ahmed, Mishler*

**THEO FOSTER**, SS03 SP04 TA09, defended his Ph.D. thesis in History at Northwestern University in late July. His dissertation was titled "Post-Civil Rights in the Hold: Neoliberalism, Race and the Politics of



*Theo Foster*

"Historical Memory." He has started a tenure-track position as assistant professor of African American History in the Department of History, Geography, and Philosophy at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.



*Boroughs swearing in.*

**BEN BOROUGHS**, SP04, has been appointed the Agricultural Attaché in the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He is responsible for reporting agricultural production and trade, identifying export opportunities, enhancing food security and supporting U.S. foreign policy objectives.

**LEVENT TUZUN**, SS05 SP06, has been selected as David Rockefeller Fellow at the Trilateral Commission for the 2019-2022 triennium. He continues to work at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London, where he was promoted to Principal Economist in April 2019.



*Ojewole and Martin.*

**ANGELICAL MARTIN**, MB07 TA13, married Adegoke Ojewole on June 29 in Chapel Hill, NC. Several fellow Michigan Branch alumni were in attendance, including **Emily Wang**, SP05 MB06 TA09, **Kelly Goodman**, MB08 TA10, **Flojaune Cofer**, MB05, and **Anthony Mariano**, SP06 MB07 TA10 (pictured below).



**LAURA BANDUCCI**, MB09, recently earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor of Greek and Roman Studies at Carleton University, in Ottawa. She and her partner, Joe just had their second child, Strauss.

## 2010s

**PETER DANIELS**, SP10 DS13, was a part of the winning team of the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Mediation (CPR)'s International Mediation Competition in April 2019 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**JESSICA DOZIER**, SS10 TA18, received her MPH in Global Health in May. She is now based in Baltimore and working on her Ph.D. at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

**JAHDZIAH ST. JULIEN**, SS12, has started a position as a program assistant with New America's Better Life Lab in DC. It's a mix of writing, project support, and administrative tasks.

**LIN FU**, CB13, has joined the Dyson School of Applied Economic and Management (now part of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business) as a research fellow with the Emerging Markets Program and director of the Cornell China Food Safety Research Program.

**YUXI (CANDICE) WANG**, SP14 TA18, has started a Ph.D. program in cognitive neuroscience at Duke University this fall.

**PAMELA WEIDMAN**, SP12, has started a Ph.D. Program in English at UC Berkeley, pursuing their designated emphasis in film and media.

**KIMBERLY GARDNER**, SS15, was named a 2nd runner-up in the Miss Phi Beta Sigma Scholarship Pageant at Howard University in April 2019. She raised \$500 for scholarships as part of her participation and ran on the following platform:



*Kimberly Gardner*

"...I stand passionately on my platform **STYLES: Successfully Teaching Yourself Lasting Educational Skills**. Six hundred first-year college students forget 60% of the material that they learn by

the end of the semester. With STYLES, I plan to equip students with the tools that are necessary to actively learn and to retain the information that they are taught.”

**BEATRICE JIN**, CB15, is the author of “How to Impeach a President” in the October 3 online edition of *Politico*. Beatrice is a graphics reporter for the organization.

**CARTER (ZOEY) WILKINSON**, DS15 TA19, has been selected as a 2019 Truman Scholar. He is one of sixty-two recipients from fifty-eight colleges around the country, chosen from the largest number of applicants in recent history. Each of the scholars will receive a \$30,000 scholarship toward graduate school. Zoey hopes to get a graduate degree in city planning and return to his hometown of Bozeman, MT to get involved in the housing accessibility and affordability movement.

**SOLOME GIBSON**, SS16, graduated from Evanston Township High School in 2018 and took a gap year before enrolling at Spelman College. During this gap year, she participated in two environmental science and sustainability internships.

The first was the Sacred Keepers Sustainability Lab Monarch Ecology Internship. She also participated in an internship with The Nature Conservancy called Imani Green Health Advocates, focusing on bringing awareness to tree health, community health, and community health advocacy in south Chicago communities. Later she participated in the Chicago Conservation Corps (C3) training leadership class at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, with the goal of becoming a certified C3 Leader and taking what she learned about water, energy, waste, green space, and project development to better Chicagoland and the Spelman community. In June, Solome entered Spelman College for their WiSTEM Accelerator Summer Bridge Program. She intends to major in Environmental Science.



Solome Gibson

Congratulations to **RAGHAV REDDY**, MB17, who defended his dissertation October 8th. His doctoral thesis was titled “Arsenic in Bangladesh’s Drinking Water: Evaluating Factors That Have Hindered Two Decades of Mitigation Efforts, and the Opportunities to Address Them.”



Reddy defends this dissertation.

**PIYAWAT LOUILARPPRASERT**, CB18, was featured in a CNN story July 10th titled “Meet the Rebel Thai Composer Taking Music to Unheard Heights.” Piyawat is a doctoral candidate in music at Cornell. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/10/asia/thai-composer-piyawat-louilarpprasert/index.html> ↩

## Spring Dates

The northern hemisphere may just be settling in for a long winter, but that just means there’s no better time to start thinking Spring and Summer. Two of Telluride’s scholarship programs have deadlines in the Spring months:

### Yarrow Adventurous Education Award. Deadline tentatively in March 2020.

This award funds a Telluride associate who is a full-time student to undertake a non-paying, public service activity during the summer that is outside of an academic institution and clearly reflects Mike Yarrow’s DS25 CB28 TA28 interests in peace and service to humanity.

### Mansfield-Wefald Senior Thesis Prize. Deadline tentatively May 1st

The prize is will be awarded for the best scholarly thesis written by a Telluride associate who will have completed their final year of undergraduate education in the 2019-20 academic year. For more information, go to <https://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/for-university-students/awards/> or email [awards@tellurideassociation.org](mailto:awards@tellurideassociation.org). ↩

## Deep Springs Faculty Searches

Deep Springs College has a number of faculty searches underway, including semester-long, summer term, and sabbatical replacement. Deadlines are coming up! For more information, please visit <https://www.deepsprings.edu/employment/faculty-postings/>. The Deep Springs College President search is also nearing completion; we look forward to sharing this news in a future issue! ↩

**Telluride’s Annual Appeal is just around the corner. We appreciate your generous support to keep our free scholarship programs thriving!**



Late leaf fall, first snowfall at CBTIA

# I N MEMORIAM

**JACOB NACHMIAS**, CB49, died March 2, 2019. Born June 9, 1928, in Athens, Greece, Jack left his home in Sofia, Bulgaria with the rest of his family in 1939 to come to America and escape the Nazis. Jack was legally blind his entire life but refused to consider that a disability. After graduating from Cornell, he obtained his M.A. and his Ph.D. from Harvard. He also studied at Cambridge University in England on a Fulbright scholarship.

He enjoyed a long and satisfying career as a Professor of Psychology with a specialty in visual perception at the University of Pennsylvania, where he also served two terms as Department Chairman. Telluride appreciates his generous support over the years.

**HUMPHREY FISHER**, DS50 TA53, passed away at aged 85 in the early summer. Humphrey was a Telluride Lincoln Scholar in 1956. In his obituary in *The Guardian*, his son describes him as “an academic and priest deeply devoted to diversity and inclusion.” After obtaining his Ph.D. at St. Antony’s in Oxford in 1956, Humphrey started work as a lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University,



Humphrey Fisher DS50 TA53

specializing in Islamic history south of the Sahara, and remained there for a long academic career, retiring in 2001. Humphrey created the religious studies program at SOAS, breaking down barriers between religious specialisms, and provided generous support to diverse students, including those wanting to explore their heritage. In 1986 he moved to Newchurch in the Welsh borders. Long an active Quaker, he became ordained in the (Anglican) Church in Wales by training at a Catholic college, and preached at Presbyterian churches. He also continued his academic career, teaching Islam and its history and drawing together teachers and students of different religions.

**JAMES McCONKEY**, SPF62, died October 24<sup>th</sup> at the age of 98. McConkey was a Professor of English at Cornell for nearly four decades. He taught modern literature and prose, creative writing courses in poetry and fiction, and modern British and American fiction. His writing students included Thomas Pynchon, Joanna Russ, and Richard Fariña. His Cornell I seminar in 1962 was taught with Peter Kahn and was titled “Form, Method, and Expression: The Arts in Our Time.” ❖



## Remembering Two Five-Time TASP Faculty

TASP faculty **HARRY CLOR**, SPF75, 79, 85, 95, and 98, passed away August 25th, 2018. Clor was a beloved teacher and political scientist at Kenyon College, where he taught for 34 years. Friend and Kenyon colleague Fred Baumann CB62 TA64 SPF85 wrote a moving tribute that was published in the *Weekly Standard*, and which is reprinted in Telluride’s blog at <https://www.tellurideassociation.org/blog/harry-clor-1929-2018-liberal-educator/>



Harry Clor (far left) and the 1995 Kenyon TASP

**DAVID SCHUMAN**, SPF78, 79, 80, 81, and 90, died October 8th, 2019, as the result of a bicycle accident several days earlier. David lived in and taught at Deep Springs College with his wife Sharon SPF78 for seven years, including five TASPs there. David earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago and taught for several years, before earning his law degree from the University of Oregon in 1984. David had a long career as both an academic and public servant, including service as Oregon’s Deputy Attorney General from 1997 until 2001 and on the Oregon Court of Appeals until 2014. ❖



David Schuman. Photo courtesy of Sharon Schuman





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