Bard Commencement AND ALUMNI/AE REUNION WEEKEND

2024

2024 Reunion Committee Members

Thank you to all of the alumni/ae volunteers who helped make this weekend a reality.

Friday, May 24, 2024

REGISTRATION

Hosted by the Bard College Alumni/ae Association

			2-7 pm	Commencement Registration
Kayla Adams '19	Michelle Gutierrez '19	Miriam Roday '19		Pick up your tickets for the weekend's events, a campus map, and a
Samantha Adams '89	Bill Hamel '84	Noah Rubinstein '89		schedule. A limited number of barbecue tickets will be available for
Beth Shaw Adelman '74	Martha Hart '04	Steve Sapp '89		purchase on site until 3 pm Saturday. \$28 per adult, \$12 per child 4-12,
Claire Angelozzi '74	Courtney Hay '89	Kim Sargent '14		free for children 3 and under.
Lauran Epstein Ballinger '89	Annah Heckman '19	Peter Scheckner '64		Lobby, Reem-Kayden Center for Science and Computation
Stephen Berman '74	Olympe Hispard '99	Ellen Louise Schwartz '64		
Sally Bickerton '89	Elaine Hyams '69	KC Serota '04	2-10:30 pm	Reunion Registration
Clare Blackmer '89	Roger Isaacs '49	Adam Snyder '89		Check in to pick up your packets with name tags, wristbands, meal
Jane Brien '89	Jessica Kemm '74	Lynn Tepper '74		tickets, and dorm keys. A limited number of barbecue tickets will be
Ina Calver '94	Jono Korzen '89	Toni-Michelle Travis '69		available for purchase on site until 6 pm Saturday. \$28 per adult,
Art Carlson '79	Lee Krist '99	Julia Wallace '14		\$12 per child 4–12, free for children 3 and under.
Tina Chisena '69	Tia Landau '84	Tyler Williams '19		George Ball Lounge, Bertelsmann Campus Center
Charlie Clancy '69	Dexter Lane '74	Valon Xharra '04		
Renee Cramer '94	Bob Lear '64		After 11 pm	Security, Old Gym
Peter Criswell '89	Alexa Lennard '04			
Cynthia Dantzic '54	lsaac Liberman '04		2-4 pm	Bard Rugby Fest and Alumni/ae Games
Karen Dugan '99	Susan Mernit '74			Join the Bard College rugby team as they host the Bard Rugby
Nicole de Jesus '94	Sheila Moloney '84			Alumni/ae Association for the annual alum games! All are welcome.
Mark Feinsod '94	Jeannie Motherwell '74			North field, Lorenzo Ferrari Soccer and Lacrosse Complex
Bella Feinstein '19	Caroline Muir '74			
Madeline Firkser '19	Amanda Naseem '09		5-9:30 pm	Bard College Awards
Richard Frank '74	Kimberly O'Flaherty '89			This inspiring annual event celebrates the exceptional achievements
Jeszack Gammon '19	Scarlet O'Leary '89			of Bard alumni/ae and friends of the College; outstanding faculty and
Jazondré Gibbs '19	Anna Pycior '09			staff who are retiring are recognized with the Bardian Award. Join
Mirjam Grunenfelder-Reig '09	Diana Rickard '89			fellow Bard alumni/ae, faculty, and staff for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
				on the Sosnoff Theater patio, followed by the Bard College Awards
				ceremony, hosted by Bard College President Leon Botstein and
				Mollie Meikle '03, president of the Bard College Alumni/ae Association
Special thank you to the lead supporters of the 2024 Reunion Class Gift.				Board of Governors, and the Bard College Awards dinner. Please be
				sure to pick up your packets from Registration before attending.

Anonymous '94 Laurie '74 and Stephen Berman '74 Jane Brien '89 Arnold Davis '44

Nicole de Jesus '94 Mark Feinsod '94 Roger Isaacs '49 Ed Kimball '74 Isaac Liberman '04

Rob Ross '09 Ellen Louise Schwartz '64 KC Serota '04 John Stevens '94

Alumni/ae event

BARD COLLEGE AWARDS, CONTINUED

6:30 pm	Bard College Awards Ceremony
	Complimentary; advance registration is required. Sosnoff patio, Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts
5 pm	Bard College Awards Cocktall Reception

All are welcome. No reservations required. Seating is first come, first served. Sosnoff Theater, Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts

8 pm **Bard College Awards Dinner**

10.11

5 pm

Advance registration is required. Resnick and Thorne Studios, Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts

Recipients of 2024 Awards

Bard Medal

The Right Reverend Andrew M. L. Dietsche Sandy Zane '80

John and Samuel Bard Award in Medicine and Science

Daniel Fulham O'Neill '79 Andrew Zwicker '86

Charles Flint Kellogg Award in Arts and Letters Adam Conover '04

James Fuentes '98

John Dewey Award for Distinguished Public Service

Erin J. Law '93 Paul J. Thompson '93

László Z. Bitó Award for Humanitarian Service

Adam Khalil '11 Zack Khalil '14 Golden McCarthy '05

Mary McCarthy Award

Karen Russell

Bardian Award

Myra Young Armstead Patricia Eichenbaum Karetzky Joel Perlmann Tom Wolf

9-11 pm **Annandale Roadhouse**

Begin your reunion weekend on Friday night. Enjoy karaoke, complimentary bar food, and beer and wine for purchase. Bring the whole family. Kline Commons

9:30 pm Concert

Bard College soloists and composers in concert with The Orchestra Now (TON), with Leon Botstein, conductor. No reservations required. Seating is first come, first served. Sosnoff Theater, Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts

Saturday, May 25, 2024		11 am - 1 pm	Memory and History: The Legacy of Alfred Spitzer and Edith Neumann
	REGISTRATION		German and Austrian paintings from the turn of the 20th century, a bequest to Bard College from Dr. Edith Neumann.
10 am - 3 pm	Commencement Registration Pick up your tickets for the weekend's events, a campus map, and a schedule. A limited number of barbecue tickets will be available for purchase on site until 3 pm. \$28 per adult, \$12 per child 4-12, free for children 3 and under. <i>Lobby, Reem-Kayden Center for Science and Computation</i>	11 am - 1:30 pm	Blithewood Manor Brunch For graduating seniors, their families, guests, and alumni/ae. \$14 per adult, \$12 per child 4-12, free for children 3 and under. <i>Main Dining Room, Kline Commons</i>
10 am - 3 pm	BPI Registration Hopson Cottage lawn	12 – 7 pm	Stark Blooms: Floral Bouquets for Purchase and Pick Up Stop by the Stark Blooms pop-up tent to buy a celebratory bouquet for your graduate. If you purchased flowers in advance, please bring
9 am - 6 pm	Reunion Registration Check in to pick up your packets with name tags, wristbands, meal tickets, and dorm keys. A limited number of barbecue tickets will		a copy of your email confirmation or the receipt on your phone to retrieve your order. Flowers available while supplies last. <i>Kline Commons, south lawn</i>
	be available for purchase on site until 6 pm. \$28 per adult, \$12 per child 4-12, free for children 3 and under. George Ball Lounge, Bertelsmann Campus Center	11 am - 1 pm	Graduate Programs Brunch For Class of 2024 graduates of the Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture; Milton Avery
9:30-10:30 am	Morning Yoga with Val Start your morning off right. Join Val Nehez '87 for an all-level yoga class. Stretching, poses, and breathing. Everyone welcome, as space allows. Instructional Classroom #1, Stevenson Athletic Center		Graduate School of the Arts; Bard Center for Environmental Policy; Master of Education in Environmental Education; Center for Curatorial Studies and Art in Contemporary Culture; Master of Arts in Teaching Program; Vocal Arts and Graduate Conducting Programs of the Bard College Conservatory of Music; Master of Business Administration in Sustainability; Levy Economics Institute
9:30-10:30 am	Take a Walk in the Woods Take a walk with Logan Tondini '25 and hear about the Bard Guilds program from Paul Marienthal, dean for social action and director of the Trustee Leader Scholar program. Bard students have been learning how to literally build bridges while fixing the College's trails. (Please note: This 1.5-mile walk includes some steep hills.) Meeting point: Community Garden, Blithewood Road Ending point: Honey Field, behind Stevenson Athletic Center		Graduate Programs in Economic Theory and Policy; Master of Music in Curatorial, Critical, and Performance Studies, The Orchestra Now (TÕN); Master of Arts in Global Studies; Master of Arts in Human Rights and the Arts; Master of Arts in Chinese Music and Culture; and Master of Music in Instrumental Studies, and their guests. Advance registration required. \$25 per adult, \$12 per child 4–12, free for graduates, faculty/staff, and children 3 and under. <i>Blithewood north lawn</i>
10:30-11 am	Dedication of the Carla Sayers Tabourne '69 Reading Room The Carla Sayers Tabourne '69 Reading Room will house her newly donated collection of more than 1,000 books about the global Black experience, including history, literature, and fine arts. Join Tabourne, alumni/ae, faculty, and Leon Botstein for the dedication of this space. Attendees can peruse the collection. Refreshments served. <i>Third floor, Charles P. Stevenson Library</i>	1-4 pm	Alumni/ae Afternoon HQ Alumni/ae and their families can meet up with classmates and friends. This year's HQ celebrates 20 years of <i>La Voz</i> —the alumni/ae- founded, award-winning, free Spanish-language magazine serving Latinos in the Hudson Valley—with a Latin-themed food truck, drinks, music, and games. Cash bar, free popcorn, and lemonade. <i>Bertelsmann Campus Center south lawn</i>

1 pm 2:30 pm	COMMENCEMENT Tent opens for seating Commencement Tent, Seth Goldfine Memorial Rugby Field Academic Procession Alumni/ae from reunion classes are invited to join members of the Class of 2024, trustees, and faculty in the procession to the Commencement tent. (Academic attire is required.) Formation at Annandale Road, south of the Chapel of the Holy Innocents Live Streaming of Commencement	2-2:30 pm	Cynthia Presents: A Life of Art, Books, and Bard with Cynthia Dantzic '54 On the occasion of her 70th reunion, artist, writer, and professor Cynthia Dantzic '54 will display a selection of her published books that are now in the library's Bardiana Collection. All alumni/ae, families, and friends are invited to peruse the collection and watch a slideshow of Dantzic's rare personal photographs and ephemera from Bard in the 1950s, including her friend Emerald McKenzie '52 with her seeing-eye dog, Karen. Dantzic's carving of Karen will also be on display. Refreshments served. <i>Charles P. Stevenson Library, first floor</i>
3 pm	Weis Cinema, Bertelsmann Campus Center; and Olin Hall, Franklin W. Olin Humanities Building Commencement Ceremony	4-5 pm	Reunion Class Photos Individual class photos for classes from '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, '14, and '19. Don't miss your class photo! (Note: All other reunion classes will have their photos taken in Blithewood during the
- F	Celebrate the Class of 2024 and the awarding of honorary degrees. James C. Chambers '81, chair of the Board of Trustees of Bard College, presiding, and the Right Reverend Andrew M. L. Dietsche officiating. A professional photographer will take photos of graduates receiving their degrees. Families of graduates will be contacted by Genesee Photo Systems to purchase images. For safety reasons, standing in the aisle is prohibited during the ceremony. <i>Commencement Tent, Seth Goldfine Memorial Rugby Field</i> Commencement Speaker Naomi Oreskes, <i>Doctor of Science</i> Honorary Degrees Imad Abu Kishek, <i>Doctor of Humane Letters</i> El Anatsui, <i>Doctor of Fine Arts</i> David C. Banks, <i>Doctor of Humane Letters</i> R. Howard Bloch, <i>Doctor of Humane Letters</i> Richard G. Frank '74, <i>Doctor of Humane Letters</i> Richard G. Frank '74, <i>Doctor of Humane Letters</i> Rachel Weisz, <i>Doctor of Fine Arts</i>		cocktail reception.) Bertelsmann Campus Center south lawn
		5-6:15 pm	Alumni/ae Reunion Cocktail Hour 1940s-1984 Reunion classes from the '40s, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, and fellow alumni/ae from 1940-1983 come together for the annual reunion cocktail reception. Reunion class photos will be taken. Advance reservations required. Blithewood Manor
		5-6:15 pm	Alumni/ae Reunion Cocktail Hour 1989-2019 Reunion classes from '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, '14, and '19 and fellow alumni/ae from the classes of 1985-2023 come together for the annual reunion cocktail reception. Advance reservations required. <i>Bertelsmann Campus Center south lawn</i>
		5:30-8:30 pm	Commencement Barbecue Gather with family and friends. \$28 per adult, \$12 per child 4-12, free for children 3 and under. Advance reservations recommended. Cash bar. <i>Blithewood north lawn</i>
		6:15-8:30 pm	Alumni/ae Reunion Dinner 1940s-1984 Reunion classes from the '40s, '54, '59, '64, '69, '79, and '84 come together for the annual reunion dinner. Surrounding years are welcome to join. Advance reservations required. <i>Blithewood Manor</i>



6:15-8:30 pm 6:30-8:30 pm	Class of 1974 Alumni/ae 50th Reunion Dinner Members of the Class of 1974 gather to celebrate their milestone reunion. Advance reservations required. Blithewood Manor Alumni/ae Reunion Barbecue 1989-2019 Reunion classes from '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, '14, and '19, make your way to beautiful Blithewood to enjoy your meal with	Sunday, May 26, 2024		
		9:30-10:30 am	Alumni/ae Memorial Service In honor of alumni/ae, faculty, and special friends of the College who died during the past year. Officiants: Bard College Chaplaincy	
			Chapel of the Holy Innocents	
	classmates and friends. Look for your class-year tables under the tent. Surrounding years are welcome to join. Pick up your barbecue, or feel free to bring your own picnic. \$28 per adult, \$12 per child 4–12, free for children 3 and under. Advance reservations recommended. Cash bar. <i>Blithewood south lawn</i>	10:30 am - 12:30 pm	 Alumni/ae Brunch Join Bard President Leon Botstein and Mollie Meikle '03, president of the Bard College Alumni/ae Association Board of Governors, for a celebratory brunch. All are welcome. Remarks at 11:30 am. \$28 per adult, \$12 per child 4-12, free for children 3 and under. Advance registration recommended. <i>Kline Commons</i> Meeting of the Bard College Alumni/ae Association Board of Governors New graduates and all alumni/ae interested in volunteering for alumni/ae committees and programs are cordially invited to attend. <i>Room 115, Olin Language Center</i> 	
8-11 pm	Dance to Eight to the Bar Bard's favorite graduation dance band gives it up for new graduates, alumni/ae, and families. <i>Blithewood north lawn</i>	12:30-2:30 pm		
9 pm	Jazzfest Annual gathering of jazz-loving alumni/ae musicians. Everyone is welcome. Blum Hall, Edith C. Blum Institute, Avery Arts Center			
9:15 pm (approximately)	Fireworks Stake your spot on the lawn and lie back for the best fireworks show in the Hudson Valley. <i>Blithewood west lawn</i>		Schedule is subject to change.	
9:30 pm – midnight	Tear the Roof Off: A Manor House Stereo Moonrise Vinyl After-Party The Class of 1994 invites all alumni/ae to take a trip back in time to a classic Manor Dance Party. DJs ARM 18 (Andrew McIntosh '97) and Boogie Knight (Pablo Salinas '97) will be spinning the records. All are welcome. Cash bar. Magic Bus. <i>Ward Manor lounge and patio</i>			

Campus Exhibitions

Center for Curatorial Studies Spring 2024 Exhibitions

Promenade: Flowers and Figuration in the Marieluise Hessel Collection, curated by Lucas Ondak and Luke Whittaker

Artists: Manuel Álvarez Bravo, Huma Bhabha, Paul Chan, Kudzanai Chiurai, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Samuel Fosso, Nan Goldin, Rachel Harrison, Camille Henrot, Robert Kushner, Deana Lawson, Nikki S. Lee, Robert Mapplethorpe, Otobong Nkanga, Zohra Opoku, Gabriel Orozco, Gordon Parks, Malick Sidibé, Sable Elyse Smith, Pamela Phatsimo Sunstrum, Rosemarie Trockel, Lina Iris Viktor, Kehinde Wiley, and Joe Zucker.

Spillover

Spillover is a collection of 11 curatorial projects that together create a sequence of distinct but converging artistic encounters. Rather than coalescing around a common theme, our projects connect through their leaking points: our shared commitment to experimental art forms, ephemeral materials, and affective atmospheres. Exhibitions are organized by the graduate students of the Class of 2024: Josefina Barcia, Daré Dada, Lucas Ondak, Clara Prat-Gay, Sophie Rose, Aïda Sidhoum, Thalia Stefaniuk, Pallavi Surana, Lili Rebeka Toth, Clara von Turkovich, and Luke Whittaker. In memory of Elisabeth Vollert.

To reserve your free timed ticket, please visit ccs.bard.edu/visit/reservations. Friday–Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm CCS Bard Galleries and Hessel Museum of Art

Resilience: Sculptural Artist's Books

By Carolyn Shattuck MFA '89. Charles P. Stevenson Library, first floor, and Sussman Reading Room, second floor

Memory and History: The Legacy of Alfred Spitzer and Edith Neumann

German and Austrian paintings from the turn of the 20th century, a bequest to Bard College from Dr. Edith Neumann. Saturday, 11 am – 1 pm *Blithewood Manor*

Photography Program Senior Project Exhibitions

Work by seniors graduating in the Photography Program: Harrison Edington, Emma Paxson, and Sullivan Sweet. On view all weekend. *Woods Photography Studio*

Poster Display

Senior Projects from the Division of Science, Mathematics, and Computing will be on view. Friday–Saturday, 8 am – 7 pm Reem-Kayden Center for Science and Computation

Studio Arts Senior Project Exhibitions

Work by seniors graduating in the Studio Arts Program: Brandon Alvarado, Aru Apaza, Raven Atsalis-Gogel, Sophie Bartolotta, Puja Clements, Claire de los Rios, Peter Fields, David Fujita, Lucy Galyean, Equi Hunter, Tina Kinsbourne, Dania Leibowitz, Lily Mencarini, Sage Nelson, Dung Nguyen, Scout Olip-Booth, Jasper Oltmanns, Shannon O'Neill, Heather Phelps-Lipton, Savannah Pina, Caleb Pitney, Felicity Reynolds, Jonah Romm, Aleda Rosenblum Katz, Simantha Sernaker, William Silverstein, Claire Sullivan, Violet Tabacco, Keegan Valaika, Caleb Wagner, Leo Wang, and Clementine Williams. On view all weekend. *Fisher Studio Arts Building*

Transportation

For shuttle routes and bus schedule information, visit blogs.bard.edu/transportation. Commencement closes Annandale Road beginning at 1 pm Saturday.

Taxi Services

Around the Corner Taxi 845-224-4760 aroundcornertaxi.com

Chariot Taxi/Car Service 845-243-1299 chariot.online

Kingston Kab 845-331-8294 and 845-758-8294 kingstonkabs.com Red Hook/Rhinebeck Taxi 845-758-1478 and 845-876-2010 redhookrhinebecktaxi.com

Rhinecliff-Annandale Taxi Service 845-532-5788

Town Taxi 845-758-1010 and 845-876-8100 towntaxi.com

Amtrak Shuttle

For train shuttle information, visit blogs.bard.edu/transportation/

Campus Information

Security (located in Old Gym): open 24 hours 845-758-7460

Emergency

845-758-7777

All Guests Subject to Bard Policies

Bard College endeavors to foster mutual respect and understanding among all members of the College community. To that end, the College will not tolerate discrimination or harassment by any alumni/ae or other visitors. All visitors are subject to Bard's policies, which can be found at bard.edu/nondiscrimination/policies.

Campus Facilities and Resources

Anne Cox Chambers Alumni/ae Center Saturday, 9 am – 5 pm

Bertelsmann Campus Center

Friday, 9 am – midnight Saturday–Sunday, 8 am – 9 pm

Bard College Bookstore

Bertelsmann Campus Center Friday, 9 am - 4 pm Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm

Down the Road Café

Bertelsmann Campus Center Friday, 10 am – 4:30 pm Saturday, 8 am – 3 pm Sunday, 8 am – 3 pm

Halal Brothers

Ward Manor Friday 11 am - 8 pm Saturday 11 am - 8 pm Sunday 12 pm - 8 pm

Montgomery Place

Bard College: The Montgomery Place Campus Friday–Sunday, grounds open from sunrise to sunset

Stevenson Athletic Center

Friday, 7 am – 11 pm Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm. Closed for general use, available to alumni/ae and their guests only. Pool, 9 am – noon (no reservations required) Sunday, closed

Stevenson Library

Friday, 9 am - 5 pm Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm

Support our Local Bard Businesses

FARMS AND LEISURE

Atticus Farm

Kyle Jaster '05 558 Watson Hollow Road West Shokan, NY 12494 atticusfarm.com 845-217-0834

Tivoli Sailing Company

Jerome Hollick '02 tivolisailing.com 845-901-2697

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Body Be Well Pilates

Chelsea Streifeneder '06 7393 South Broadway Red Hook, NY 12571 bodybewellpilates.com 914-466-3173

LOCAL PRODUCTS

Bjorn Qorn

Jamie O'Shea '03, Bjorn Quenemoen '03, and Stephanie Bauman '05 10 Queens Highway Kerhonkson, NY 12446 bjornqorn.com Bjanette Anderson '99 19 West Market Street Red Hook, NY 12571 845-758-8226

Bubby's Take Away Kitchen

LOCAL RESTAURANTS

Fortunes

Brian Ackley '02 and Lisa Farjam '00 55 Broadway Tivoli, NY 12583 fortunesicecream.com 845-757-2899

Le Perche

Chef/Partner John Carr '06 and Lindsay Davis Carr '06 Nina Bachinsky Gimmel '05 230 Warren Street Hudson, NY 12534 leperchehudson.com 518-822-1850

Lil' Deb's Oasis

Co-owned by Chef Carla Perez-Gallardo '10 747 Columbia Street Hudson, NY 12534 lildebsoasis.com 518-828-4307

Santa Fe

David Weiss '86 52 Broadway Tivoli, NY 12583 santafetivoli.com 845-757-4100

Swoon

Nina Bachinsky Gimmel '05 340 Warren Street Hudson, NY 12534 swoonkitchenbar.com 518-822-8938

RETAIL

Hummingbird Jewelers

Margaret Lubman '80 and Jamie Lubman '02 23A East Market Street Rhinebeck, NY 12572 hummingbirdjewelers.com 845-876-4585

Pidgin Antiques and Objects

Kostas Anagnopoulos MFA '99 7811 Route 81 Oak Hill, NY 12460 thisispidgin.com 646-245-0226

Sassafras Mercantile

Lydia Willoughby '03 37 Broadway Kingston, NY 12401 sassafrasmercantile.com 845-481-5387

Thrift 2 Fight

Jillian Reed '21 and Masha Zavala '20 48 Broadway Tivoli, NY 12583 thrift2fight.com 845-757-1019

Zephyr

Caitlin Millard '09 28 East Market Street Rhinebeck, NY 12572 zephyr-on-hudson.com 845-516-5128

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment for Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson

Developed in cooperation with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community

In the spirit of truth and equity, it is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are gathered on the sacred homelands of the Munsee and Muhheaconneok people, who are the original stewards of the land. Today, due to forced removal, the community resides in Northeast Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We honor and pay respect to their ancestors past and present, as well as to future generations, and we recognize their continuing presence in their homelands. We understand that our acknowledgment requires those of us who are settlers to recognize our own place in and responsibilities toward addressing inequity, and that this ongoing and challenging work requires that we commit to real engagement with the Munsee and Mohican communities to build an inclusive and equitable space for all.

This land acknowledgment, adopted in 2020, required establishing and maintaining long-term, and evolving, relationships with the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians. The Mellon Foundation's 2022 Humanities for All Times grant for "Rethinking Place: Bard-on-Mahicantuck" offers three years of support for developing a land acknowledgment-based curriculum, public-facing Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) programming, and efforts to support the work of emerging NAIS scholars and tribally enrolled artists at Bard.

Slavery Acknowledgment

The College acknowledges that its origins are intertwined with slavery, which has shaped the United States and American institutions from the beginning. Starting in the 16th century, European traders trafficked approximately 12 million Africans to the Americas, where they were held as property and forced to work as enslaved laborers. Their descendants were also held as slaves in perpetuity. The exploitation of enslaved people was at the foundation of the economic development of New York State and the Hudson Valley, including the land now composing the Bard College campus. In the early 18th century, Barent Van Benthuysen purchased most of this land and was a slave owner. Later owners of the property also relied on Black workers they held in bondage for material gain. Montgomery Place, which became part of the College in 2016, was a working farm during the 19th century that likewise profited from the labor of enslaved people.

The founders of Bard College, John Bard (1819–99) and Margaret Johnston Bard (1825–75) inherited wealth from their families and used it to found the College. That inheritance was implicated in slavery on both sides. John's grandfather Samuel Bard (1742–1821) owned slaves. His father, William Bard (1778–1853), was the first president of the New York Life Insurance Company, which insured enslaved people as property. Margaret's fortune derived from her father's commercial firm, Boorman and Johnston, which traded in tobacco, sugar, and cotton produced by enslaved labor throughout the Atlantic World. Other early benefactors of the College, such as John Lloyd Aspinwall (1816–73), also derived a significant proportion of their wealth, which they donated to the College, from commercial ventures that depended on slavery. John and Margaret Bard devoted their lives and monies to educational pursuits. In his retirement John Aspinwall redirected his fortune and energies toward humanitarian pursuits.

Recognition and redress of this history are due. As students, teachers, researchers, administrators, staff, and community members, we acknowledge the pervasive legacy of slavery and commit ourselves to the pursuit of equity and restorative justice for the descendants of enslaved people within the Bard community.



Genesee Photo Systems 405.624.1002 www.geneseephoto.com



Scan QR code to pre-register for Graduation Images

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2024!

The Bard College Alumni/ae Association welcomes you. You will always be a Bardian.

> Follow us on social media #bardianandproud | #bard24



Scan the code for a schedule of Commencement events as well as links to streamed activities, the Commencement program, and an interactive campus map.

Photos: Karl Rabe, Samuel Stuart Hollenshead, Chris Kayden