

Chronicle



Chronicle

Havergal Old Girl/Alum
Magazine 2025

Chronicle is published once a year by Havergal College to help Old Girls/Alums stay connected with the Havergal community.

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We are grateful to the Old Girls/
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in the 2025 *Chronicle*. Thank you
for sharing your fascinating stories.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION

Courtney Clinton '04



For this issue's cover, we collaborated with Old Girl/
Alum, Courtney Clinton '04. "For me, this year's
theme is a call to action — an invitation to tap into the
incredible knowledge and creativity of our alumni.
The challenge is to ensure that the ripple extends
outward, inspiring and including our wider community."

Courtney Clinton is a multidisciplinary digital artist of Anglo-Canadian origin based in Saint-Hyacinthe, on unceded Ndakina territory. Her practice combines digital fabrication, installation, and public art to explore questions of cultural identity, collective memory, and our evolving relationship to place. Through collaborative, research-driven projects, she brings together diverse voices to reimagine shared histories in contemporary contexts.



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havergalchronicle.ca

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Kate Crokam, Executive Director of Advancement
Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Chronicle*



Naomi Melvin '09, Co-Editor in Chief of *Chronicle*

Photography by Shlomi Amiga

The Sensation of the Ripple Effect

In this edition of *Chronicle*, we're pleased to share a conversation between Kate Crokam, Executive Director of Advancement, and Naomi Melvin '09, Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Chronicle*, as they reflect on the collaborative efforts of Old Girls/Alums and the school in shaping Havergal College's story.

KATE Naomi, every time we work on *Chronicle*, I'm reminded how much of a partnership it is between Old Girls/Alums and the school. From your perspective as Co-Editor-in-Chief, how does this collaboration show up in the magazine?

NAOMI For me, we're inherently connected with mutual desires! We want *Chronicle* to feel rooted in the Old Girls'/Alums' experience beyond the ivy, while also providing a clear lens into what is happening at Havergal right now. By weaving together stories from the past and the present, from true collaboration between the Havergal Old Girl Association (HOGA) community and Havergal College, we can highlight the ripple effect of the community. The experiences and support of Old Girls/Alums continue to shape and inspire the Havergal of today, and we hope today's happenings within the school continue to inspire those who once walked these cherished halls.

KATE That "ripple effect" really captures it. Old Girls/Alums strengthen the Havergal experience in so many ways: through philanthropy and mentorship, and by sharing their stories with students and with one another. How do you see this issue reflecting that?

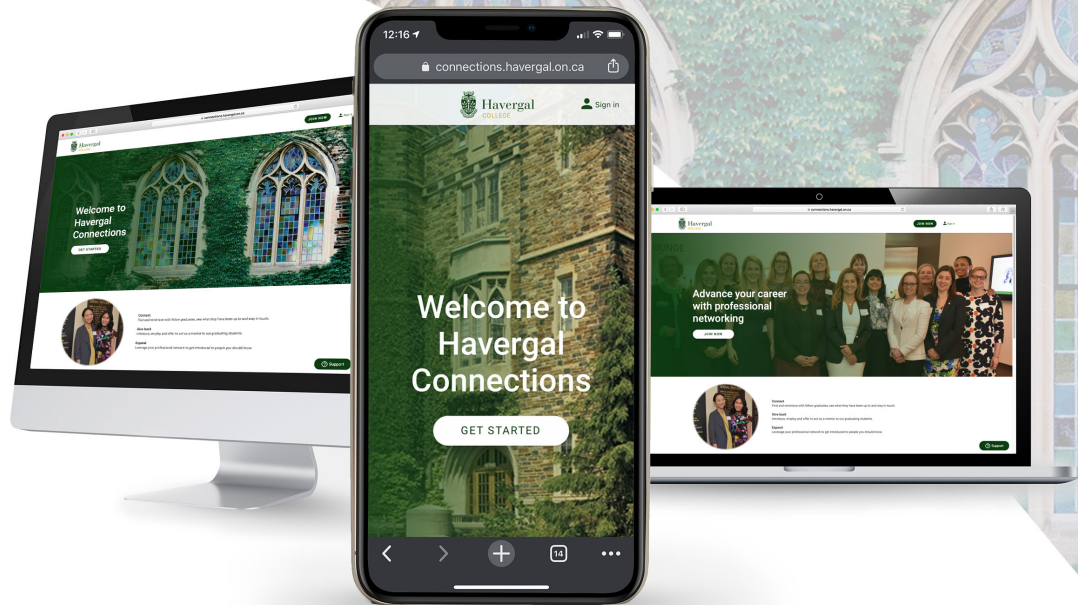
NAOMI This issue shines a light on that connection in many ways. From celebrating our award recipients to showcasing milestone reunions to sharing updates on initiatives such as Ahead of the Game, you can see the threads that bond us all together. The past and the present are deeply connected, and that interplay makes the community stronger.

KATE Exactly. It is a reminder that Old Girls/Alums are not only part of Havergal's history, but also an active part of its present and future.

NAOMI Completely. That is what makes this work so meaningful. Every story reinforces that Havergal is a community where connections last, and where each generation encourages and inspires the next.

Through this ongoing collaboration, *Chronicle* continues to celebrate the enduring friendships, shared traditions and forward momentum that define Havergal.

As you immerse yourself in the pages of this year's *Chronicle*, we hope that you, too, feel the ripple effect imprinted on your unique journey — whether it's started from a person, a space, a class or a tradition at Havergal.



Join Connections: Havergal's Online Alumni Portal

connections.havergal.on.ca

Connections is an online platform for the alumni community. It provides Old Girls/Alums with a space to interact digitally: to network, reminisce, stay in touch, post job opportunities, become a mentor (or mentee) and/or grow their Havergal contacts. All Havergal community members can enroll in Connections by visiting connections.havergal.on.ca and clicking the "Join Now" button. Users who sign up with the email address that we have saved in our database will gain immediate access to the platform. Anyone with a new or different email address may have to wait one business day to be approved.

Once you are connected, you can enjoy all that Connections has to offer as you browse through news feed posts, peruse event photos, read past issues of the Chronicle, learn about different community events and more. The greatest thing about the platform is that it has all of the best features of a social media networking site without the targeted advertisements and with a more sophisticated look and feel.

We can't wait to connect with you all on Connections!

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to oldgirls@havergal.on.ca.

Letter from Havergal's Principal



Dear Havergal Old Girls/Alums,

Walking through our halls, on the field or into a classroom, I am reminded how learning at Havergal goes far beyond academics. It shapes who our students are becoming. Every conversation, every challenge and every moment of connection between students and teachers help them grow, building the skills, values and confidence they carry into the world. These experiences do not just shape their present, but they also ripple outward, influencing the future in ways both seen and unseen.

At Havergal, our focus is on helping students understand themselves, connect meaningfully with others and take purposeful action in the world. From Grade 12 students exploring their strengths through the Core Strengths Development Index to younger students tackling challenges together in the Junior School, our community encourages curiosity, resilience and reflection. These experiences don't just prepare our students for what comes next — they also shape the culture, character and vibrancy of Havergal today.

It's inspiring to see how this approach translates into leadership, mentorship and service. Our girls step forward in countless ways: supporting younger peers, leading initiatives or standing up for causes that matter to them. This commitment to growth and making a difference is at the heart of what we call the "Havergal Difference Maker," and it's a legacy that many Old Girls/Alums will recognize from their own experiences here.

The generosity and engagement of our community make this possible. From the support of donors to the guidance of families and the enthusiasm of Old Girls/Alums, every contribution helps open doors, create opportunities and extend the reach of a Havergal education. The ripple of that impact continues to grow, touching generations of students and strengthening the bonds across our extended community.

To our Old Girls/Alums, families and friends: thank you for the ways you continue to support, champion and inspire. Your involvement ensures that Havergal remains a place where young women are equipped not only to succeed, but also to make a meaningful difference in the world.

With gratitude,

Dr. Katrina Samson
Principal, Havergal College

I Wonder What Happened To...

From hallways to heartstrings: Joan Webley '00 recalls her momentous year in Havergal Boarding, the warm support of Head of Boarding Shelley Frank and her husband Jamie Frank, and the stories that follow us home.



Written by Joan Webley '00



Mr. Frank and Joan at the Father-Daughter dance.

I went to Havergal Boarding School for exactly one year — Year 13. One single, transformational year. What immediately comes back is being in the snow for the first time, the unfamiliar Havergal rituals and the accents and habits of my fellow Boarders — girls who had grown up on island cultures close to mine, others from very different worlds. Despite the briefness of my stay, boarding at Havergal College became one of the most formative experiences of my life. Mostly because of the people whom, ironically, I am pretty much completely out of real contact with.

If I'm being honest, I've become too good at good-byes. I've moved around a lot — across cities, across countries, across cultures. It's a pattern shaped by life's circumstances, both chosen and unchosen. And somewhere along the way, I learned to pack lightly when it comes to emotional attachments. Not because I don't feel deeply, but because I do. The constant shifting has made me careful with how and when I let myself fully attach. Or reattach.

But the truth is, I actually carry so many people with me and often wonder where they are and how they're doing.

We live in a time when wondering seems unnecessary. With a few clicks, I can often find out where someone works, who they married, what city they live in.

But then there are some people who never get “recommended” or don’t “follow” you, and what then? For me, people such as Mrs. and Mr. Frank, the Head of Boarding and her husband, come to mind. They were also new to Havergal the year I arrived. And us girls put Mrs. Frank through a bit of a wild ride, but they were such an amazing couple. Mr. Frank even took me to the Father-Daughter dance! We thought they were terrific then, but as an adult I admire them even more and always wish them well in my heart.

I also often think of my English Literature teacher, who encouraged me to share my love for dub poetry in class. She was the first non-Jamaican to really embrace and celebrate the work of Mutabaruka with me, and her enthusiasm was eye-opening. She also chose one of my short stories to be published in the Independent Schools’ annual collection — the first time I ever saw my writing in print. I’ve gone on to publish more since, but she was the first to validate and encourage that part of me, and I remain grateful.

Social media allows me to follow the outlines of people’s lives, but not the inner world that once drew me to them. I miss the old way of knowing — conversations that wandered late into the night, unexpected glimpses of vulnerability, laughter that didn’t need to be polished for public display. Maybe this is just part of growing up: accumulating unspoken gratitude for people who passed through our lives, even if only briefly, and learning to accept that not every connection is meant to last — but that doesn’t make it any less meaningful.

And maybe, this reflection is a quiet call to reach out, not just to wonder what happened to someone, but also to ask. To reconnect. To say, “Hey. I still remember you. You mattered to me.” Because, sometimes, that’s all someone needs to hear. 🗨️

“Social media allows me to follow the outlines of people’s lives, but not the inner world that once drew me to them. I miss the old way of knowing—conversations that wandered late into the night, unexpected glimpses of vulnerability, laughter that didn’t need to be polished for public display.”

—Joan Webley '00



From left to right: Harrison, Celeste, Shelley & Jamie Frank

WHERE ARE THEY NOW: THE FRANKS

After Joan’s reflection, we reached out to Mrs. Frank, who shared her own fond memories of her years at Havergal Boarding School.

“Thank you for remembering us. What a privilege it was to be part of the Havergal Boarding community, working with students to create a warm and supportive environment. We often reflect on our time at HC with too many memories to recount — highlights being the Tremblant trips, evenings chatting in the BSO with Ms. Davis, [our daughter] Celeste riding her car down the halls, Christmas tree hunts at Drysdale’s, beach parties with Nora Evans, coaching the Swim Team with Lily Berry, the great Ms. Scandretti and, of course, a certain shaving cream episode in my office!

After Havergal, our family moved to Newmarket [Ont.,] where I worked as the Director of School Life at Pickering College. Celeste recently graduated from Queen’s University in Global Development Studies and Education, and is now teaching for the TDSB [Toronto District School Board]. Our son Harrison is in his second year at Western University studying Music Administrative Studies. I now work in guidance, and the Frankster continues to practise paramedicine in Toronto. Thank you to Havergal staff and students for a wonderful five years!” 🗨️

As the new Havergal Old Girl Association (HOGA) President, Anna (McMeekin) Morrison '03 builds on her family's three-generation Havergal legacy and invites all Old Girls/Alums to stay connected and give back.

Written By Kate Crokam

Photography by Shlomi Amiga

CARRYING THE RIPPLE FORWARD

From left to right: Julie (Todd) McMeekin '73, Anna (McMeekin) Morrison '03, and Eve McMeekin '05



For the McMeekin family, Havergal is more than a school; it's a thread woven through three generations, connecting grandmother, mother and daughters across decades of traditions, friendships and values that continue to ripple outward.

It all began with their grandmother, Jocelyn (Davis) Lazier '44, who attended Havergal as a Boarder during the Second World War. Her stories of camaraderie in the Boarding School, the routines and rigour, and the friendships that sustained her left a lasting impression on her daughters. Her fierce loyalty to Havergal and her funny, affectionate recollections created the foundation for the McMeekin legacy.

Julie (Todd) McMeekin '73 followed in her mother's footsteps. She remembers the bustle of student life: organizing House Shout, preparing for Sports Day, planning Celebration Saturday and throwing herself into plays and community life. "The more engaged we are, the better life is," she says. Morning Prayers also left an indelible mark: be kind, be honest, treat others with respect, think not only of yourself, but also of others. "Those are still the core values I hold dear, and they shaped not just my experience at Havergal, but also our family."

Years later, Julie would return as a Junior School teacher while her daughters were in the Upper School, bringing new lessons from the Reggio Approach in Italy that changed how she taught and how she parented. "I found I could lead more effectively by listening and following. It was another ripple Havergal helped set in motion."

"Our strength as a community is in our collective involvement. Havergal is special because people show up, care, and give back. I hope to inspire younger Old Girls to see Havergal not just as the school they attended, but as a lifelong community."

—Anna (McMeekin) Morrison '03

Her daughters grew up steeped in the school's traditions long before they ever put on the green tunic. "As a child, I vividly recall the Grandchildren's Party, the Centennial Celebration and Celebration Saturday," says Anna (McMeekin) Morrison '03. "Even before I became a student, I knew Havergal mattered deeply to our family." That bond shaped both her path into HOGA and now her new role as President.

Eve McMeekin '05 describes a similar sense of pride in carrying the family legacy. She recalls receiving her acceptance letter in 1999: "It felt like a continuation of something bigger than me." Her highlights include rowing for Havergal and winning School Boys with her crew, but the friendships are what endure the most: "The girls I met during my time there are still the people I talk to every day. Having people in my life with that shared experience is priceless."

A joyful moment for mother and daughters: Julie (middle), Anna (left), and Eva (right)



For Anna, leadership in HOGA is about extending that ripple forward. “Our strength as a community is in our collective involvement. Havergal is special because people show up, care and give back. I hope to inspire younger Old Girls/Alums to see Havergal not just as the school they attended, but also as a lifelong community.”

Julie sees it as *déjà vu* to watch her daughters retrace her steps — knee socks, kilts, Prayers and all. Eve

finds meaning walking the halls and spotting her mom’s portrait as Head Girl in 1973. And all three agree that Havergal has been a touchstone, a constant through change, connecting their family across more than 80 years.

As Anna begins her presidency, her hope is simple but powerful: that her family’s ripple effect continues and that even more Old Girls/Alums feel inspired to create their own. ●

“Be kind, be honest, treat others with respect, think not only of yourself but of others. Those are still the core values I hold dear, and they shaped not just my experience at Havergal, but our family.” —Julie (Todd) McMeekin '73



Now
& Then



A LOOK BACK AT THE HISTORY THAT SHAPED OUR SCHOOL

Written By **Melissa Meevis**
Alumni Engagement Officer

THEN In this archival photograph, four Havergal girls radiate joy as they playfully strum their tennis racquets, dressed in classic white knee-length tennis dresses. Tennis has long been a cherished tradition at Havergal, nurturing both spirited competition and personal growth. Beyond the courts, these lighthearted moments captured creativity, camaraderie and resilience, teaching students teamwork, endurance and leadership. Their smiles reflect a timeless delight in movement and play, linking generations of Old Girls/Alums through shared memories. For more than a century, Havergal tennis has inspired passion for the sport, while fostering connection, confidence and a love of lifelong athletic pursuit. 🎾



now Today, that same spirited energy thrives on Havergal's newly upgraded tennis courts, where students embrace the game with enthusiasm and focus, laughing and posing in the comfort of modern athletic wear. Tennis supports physical wellness, sharpens individual endurance and cultivates teamwork and discipline. The beautiful modern facilities allow girls to refine their skills, build perseverance, celebrate achievements and enjoy the thrill of both friendly competition and shared moments on the court. The smiles and laughter of today's players echo those of past generations, showing tennis as a timeless source of joy and connection at Havergal. 🎾

Noteworthy news and happenings at
Havergal's Junior, Middle, and Senior Schools.

CAMPUS NEWS



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Deepening Community Connections through Service—This year, Havergal’s Grade 6 students strengthened their relationship with the North York Harvest Food Bank beyond food collection. Each class visited the food bank to witness the vital work behind the scenes, from sorting and packaging donations to understanding the impact on nearly 17,000 local people relying on its services. This hands-on experience deepened students’ awareness of community needs and inspired a greater sense of responsibility and possibility for making a difference.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Empowering Students through Student-Led Conferences—For the first time this year, Junior School hosted Student-Led Conferences, shifting the traditional parent-teacher meeting to a student-driven experience. This format encourages children to take ownership of their learning by reflecting on their progress, setting goals and engaging directly with their families. Feedback from students, parents and teachers was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the meaningful conversations sparked by this new approach and its role in nurturing students’ voices and their self-awareness.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

House Spirit and Student-Led Fun—Spirit is something you see and feel every day in the Junior School. It comes to life when our community gathers for House Meetings, cheers one another on during intramurals, and proudly participates in House Shout or Spirit Week celebrations. From friendly competition to shared traditions, students show enthusiasm, pride, and a strong sense of belonging. These moments of connection foster joy, teamwork, and a vibrant school culture where every student feels included and celebrated.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Building Emotional Intelligence with RULER—The RULER approach, now in its third year at Havergal, continues to help Junior School students develop emotional literacy. This year’s focus on Classroom Charters and the Mood Metre has introduced a shared vocabulary that empowers students to recognize and express their emotions — and to understand those of their peers. RULER’s impact reaches beyond wellbeing time, enriching lessons in Mathematics and Literacy as students explore emotions and motivations in stories and problem-solving. This shared emotional language strengthens our school community by fostering common values and positive behaviour.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Leadership in Action—This year, Middle School students embraced leadership in new and meaningful ways, from serving as Form and Spirit Reps to joining Senior School student councils. Lunchtime programs led by older students offered even more opportunities for connection, confidence-building and creativity.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Belonging by Design—Students across all grades co-created community agreements that reflected their shared values and hopes for an inclusive school environment. Workshops with Nicole Cozier, Executive Director, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging, deepened this work, helping students understand the importance of equity, fairness and seeing one another with empathy and respect.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Screens Down, Friendships Up—Students reconnected in person with the launch of a new digital device policy, joining lunch events, participating in Coalition of Single Sex Schools of Toronto (COSSOT) socials in record numbers and building deeper friendships. The screen-free environment nurtured a more positive, vibrant school climate.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Real-World Learning—Through the Win@Social program and the student-led 1,000 Can Initiative, Middle School students tackled real-world issues such as online hate, the ethics of AI and food insecurity. These experiences sparked important conversations and inspired meaningful action.



SENIOR SCHOOL

A Full-Circle Experience: Grade 12 Camp—Whether students joined in Grade 7 or Grade 9, they'll remember their camp experiences as bookends to their Upper School journey. In September, our Grade 12s headed off campus to reconnect and reflect. They explored their unique strengths through the Core Strengths program, began thinking about the legacy they'll leave behind and even dove into post-secondary planning. Time away brought them closer together — and back to school with a renewed sense of purpose.



SENIOR SCHOOL

New-to-Grade 9 Mentorship Program—Starting somewhere new can be daunting — but not at Havergal. Our long-standing buddy program pairs new Grade 9s with a peer in their House, and this year we went a step further. Thanks to a student-led initiative from our Admission Prefects, we piloted a mentorship program pairing Grade 9s with Grade 11 mentors based on shared interests. The goal: long-term connections, built on trust and experience. When students help shape programs, they meet real needs — and this one's already making a difference.

SENIOR SCHOOL

Grade 12 Programming: Real-World Ready—We took career prep to the next level this year by connecting our grads with Havergal’s own HR team. Students had their resumé reviewed and participated in mock interviews to sharpen their skills — and their confidence. Our School Captain, Carol Rong, was one of many who took advantage of the opportunity to learn from experts, including tips on networking and using LinkedIn.



SENIOR SCHOOL

Teacher Advisory Programming —More than just a homeroom, our Teacher Advisory Program (TA) prioritizes deep trust and connection, establishing advisors as key figures in a student’s support system. We measure success by the comfort of our students, the active engagement of our families and the authentic knowledge our staff holds for every child. These mixed-grade groups, led by our advisors, ensure a supportive environment where students feel safe to grow and take risks.



BOARDING

Global Connections, Local Community—From international advisory dinners to weekend outings, the Boarding School continues to foster bonds that reach across the globe.



BOARDING

Active in Every Corner of School Life—From the curling rink to the stage, Boarding students embraced every opportunity this year. Seven Boarders rowed for Havergal, others acted and sang in the school musical and Fay Sun earned the Coaches Award for Curling. With three Boarders named Prefects for next year — the most in recent memory — the future of student leadership looks bright.



BOARDING

Student Leadership & Spirit—Boarding students made their mark this year, from leading spirit events to proudly launching the “Boarder Supporter” sticker — an initiative to recognize those in the community who make a difference in the lives of Boarders. Grade 12 Boarders also led tours during our Old Girl/Alum dinner, showcasing both leadership and pride in their Havergal home.



BOARDING

Growing Our Global Family—Boarding’s Parent & Grad Student Tea in June welcomed over 30 guests — the highest turnout in years — reflecting a growing sense of community and connection.



Ciela Errington '75
performing at
The Tranzac Club,
Toronto. Photography
by Galit Rodan.



A passion is a funny thing. No matter where you go in life, it follows. This is true for many Old Girls/Alums who found a special talent in the halls of Havergal, only for it to become an enduring calling. Like a magnet that continues to pull, these passions often start as an extracurricular or hobby and then become so much more: a way to make an impact, connect with others and find yourself.

Written by
Tatum Dooley

Photography by
Thomas Bollmann
Jennifer Roberts
Galit Rodan
Mark Sommerfeld

NOTES THAT REVERBERATE

These four Havergal Old Girls/Alums have different passions and life paths, but they have a common trait of seeking out what they love and excelling in it. These callings aren't about fame or financial reward. Instead, they're about challenging oneself and connecting to a community.

For Katie (Aird) Porter '79, that takes the form of ceramics that she makes alongside a community of artists and generously disperses to her friends and family, so her wares continue to live lives of their own. Ola Jacunski '07 writes speculative fiction, pushing the limits of where her mind can take her to capture universal and specific experiences that others can relate to. The leadership and confidence Melissa Cavelti '90 gained from playing the stand-up bass at a near-professional level transferred to her career in finance. And in a full-circle turn of events, it now influences her position as the Chair of Orchestra Toronto. Music is also the passion that Clela Errington '75 followed, recording multiple solo albums that correspond with major life milestones.

In each of the trajectories you're about to read, the introduction to their hobby, which grew into a lifelong pursuit, began at Havergal, whether it was directly in class, the choir or an Independent Study Project.



“It’s only clay and you can try again. It’s an apt saying that applies to so many things in life.” —Katie (Aird) Porter '79

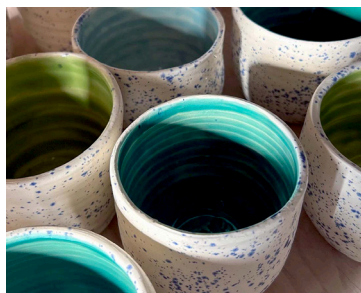
Katie (Aird) Porter '79's motto for working in pottery is simple: “It’s only clay, and you can try again.” It’s an apt saying that applies to so many things in life. When you’re throwing something on the pottery wheel, you don’t know exactly how it’ll turn out. For Katie, the end product isn’t as much the point as how it connects her to others.

Katie threw her first pottery on a wheel in Grade 13 at Havergal — an old-fashioned kick wheel in Mrs. Bermiller’s class. She’s loved pottery ever since: looking at it, making it and, most importantly, sharing it with others.

After a hiatus of a number of years, it was her children who brought her back to making pottery seriously. In 2007, after dropping off her son at school one day, she passed Creative Clay’s studio in Toronto and noticed deeply pigmented blue pots in the window. She signed up for night classes and hasn’t stopped since.

Katie’s designs often incorporate elements of the surrounding nature in Ontario, from the maple leaves of Georgian Bay to the stones and branches she finds on her property in Uxbridge. These nods to the local geography and objects create a physical connection to the ephemeral world around her.

For Katie, it’s not important to sell her wares. Instead, it’s about connecting with others and the journey the pottery will go on to live. For her daughter, Ayrlea Porter '08 — also a Havergal grad — she made →



Katie (Aird) Porter '79 shares the stories behind her pottery work. Photography by Thomas Bollmann









Ola Jacunski '07 with her dog Virgil at her home in New York City. Photography by Mark Sommerfield

white speckled containers with sprouting pine trees planted in them for Ayrlea’s wedding guests to take home and plant. For her son Charlie’s recent wedding, she made fused-glass maple leaf dishes and the serving plates.

“They’ll have their own story with it,” says Katie. “A friend of mine, last week, I had done some mugs up for her, and she sent me a picture just a couple of days ago. She’s still using them. It’s nice to know that people appreciate it.”

“It’s sometimes easier to say things as a metaphor than it is to explain every single nuance. I think that sci-fi, fantasy, and horror all allow for that, while also providing a sense of removal. There’s still emotion, but you can process it a little bit differently.”—Ola Jacunski '07

There are two sides to Ola Jacunski '07: an analytical one that thrives on logic, and a creative one that blooms with crafting fictional stories that resonate. As her day job, Jacunski works as a data scientist at the tech company Shopify. In her free time, she writes.

Ola’s goal is ambitious. She wants to write stories that connect to her audience to show them they’re not alone.

“There’s a lot of stuff that I’ve dealt with that stories have helped me with. I am hoping that the same things that I have struggled with, folks might be able to read and also have that moment of, ‘I’m not alone,’” says Ola.

After completing a BA in biology and English literature from Columbia University, Ola went on to receive a PhD in computational biology. After that, in 2020, she returned to school once again to get an MFA in creative writing from the New School. Her love of writing, research and academia has its roots at Havergal.

“In Grade 12, we had the opportunity to complete an Independent Study Project for our English class. You get to pick any subject and write about it. And so I, as a ridiculous human, picked Freudian psychoanalysis and the evolution of the modern-day villain as my subject,” remembers Ola.

That early research shaped how she approaches storytelling today. Ola writes vivid speculative fiction, imbuing her short stories with otherworldly settings and science fiction themes.

Ola explains how genre fiction can help get to deeper themes that resonate: “It’s sometimes easier to say things as a metaphor than it is to explain every single nuance. I think that sci-fi, fantasy and horror all allow for that, while also providing a sense of removal. There’s still emotion, but you can process it a little bit differently.”

There’s one story in particular that achieved this for Ola, opening up her world to the possibilities of what fiction can accomplish: Ken Liu’s, “The Paper Menagerie.” Ola remembers it being one of →







the first times she saw her own experience reflected in a story. The experience resonated and became one of the reasons she started *khōréō*, a magazine of science fiction by immigrant and diaspora writers.

Writing is often seen as a solitary pursuit. That's not always the case. For Ola, she is connected to a community of like-minded writers. That was part of why she founded *khōréō* magazine — as a way to build a network of writers with shared experience with the power to connect with people who need their stories.

“As soon as I heard it, I was like, ‘That is the best thing I’ve ever heard in my life.’ I love the vibrations. I love the low notes. From there, basically, I just became obsessed with it.” —Melissa Cavelti '90

Melissa Cavelti '90 often stands out in an orchestra as one of the few women who play the double bass (a 2018 survey by the news website Quartz found that 95 per cent of full-time orchestra double bassists were men). That's one of the benefits of attending an all-girls school — positions that are typically gendered are more evenly distributed.

“At an all-girls school where those like-gendered lines didn't matter as much, I don't think, *I'm the only girl bass player*. I think, *I'm one of the bass players*,” says Melissa.

This outlook and confidence carried Melissa into her career on Bay Street in Toronto, where she led large teams of mostly men without a second thought. While she paused playing the bass during her tenure in finance, the focus, resilience, commitment and confidence that she learned from the bass remained constant companions.

“Everybody was asking me to join different groups, so it broadened my social circle, and I started talking to people from different grades,” says Melissa. “Then I was band head, so I had that leadership position at Havergal. It really helped give me the confidence that I probably wouldn't have had as a young girl,” she continues.

The music director, Mrs. Muir, played a central role in guiding Melissa toward the bass. After conducting an ear test to determine if students could hear if notes were in tune, it was discovered that Melissa had one of the best ear tests Mrs. Muir had ever conducted. So, in Grade 8, Melissa joined the string section. After a side quest playing the violin, the first time Cavelti heard the double bass being played, she knew she wanted to switch.

“As soon as I heard it, I was like, ‘That is the best thing I’ve ever heard in my life.’ I love the vibrations. I love the low notes. From there, basically, I just became obsessed with it,” says Melissa.

Now, Melissa has taken on another leadership role. Right before the pandemic, she joined Orchestra Toronto. She quickly realized that she was in a position where she could combine her love of playing the bass in an orchestra — an orchestra filled with volunteer musicians →



Melissa (middle) first year playing bass at Havergal. Sabine Smith '90 (left) holding the viola, Angelika Gollnow '91 (front) with the freckles. →

Melissa Cavelti '90 rehearses at the Meridian Arts Centre. Photography by Jennifer Roberts









Clélia Errington '75 performing the songs from her new record at The Tranzac Club, Toronto. Photography by Galit Rodan

who rival professional ones — with her business and leadership skills. In 2023, Melissa became the Chair of the organization, implementing new changes such as auditions, mandatory rehearsals and fundraising goals.

For Melissa, the two roles aren't too dissimilar. Both demand attention and commitment, something she's willing to give her all to.

“There's an expression about how your limitations can form your approach, and not necessarily in a bad way. I've developed based on my limitations as a guitar player. You accept your limitations and your strengths, and you just play to those.” —Clela Errington '75



Clela Errington's latest release *Walkin' Each Other Home* available @clelaerrington.com.

“There was a fantastic music director at Havergal. Elizabeth Muir basically developed the whole music program,” says Clela Errington '75, a singer-songwriter with four solo records under her belt.

From carol services every Christmas to singing with the choir, music was a constant during Clela's time at Havergal. As part of the choir, she had the opportunity to travel to France and the U.K. and even made two recordings. Upon graduating, Clela won a music prize that came along with beautifully bound songbooks. Since then, she hasn't stopped singing, playing the guitar and writing music.

Clela's style is an eclectic mix of jazz, folk and the blues. This style traces her life trajectory from Havergal to Montreal, then hitchhiking to Prince Edward Island and afterwards studying jazz in Toronto. She combines all these musical influences and references at her current monthly residency at the Tranzac Club.

On stage, it's most often just Clela and her guitar. “There's an expression about how your limitations can form your approach, and not necessarily a bad way. I've developed based on my limitations as a guitar player. You accept your limitations and your strengths and you just play to those,” she says.

These so-called limitations — whether it be minor stage fright or one's level of guitar playing — push Clela creatively and culminate in a style of playing that is uniquely hers.

Clela didn't record her first record until she was in her 40s, and since then, her records have tracked major life changes. The first record she recorded (other than the ones at Havergal) was at the end of her marriage, when she was in her 40s.

“All of a sudden, I felt like I had things to say. It was because of a big life change, where I felt like I had something to say. So I pursued writing material and making a record for the first time, but not until I was middle-aged. It rolled along, and the creative force came full on,” says Clela. “I've just made a record, and it was 10 years ago that I made the last one.”

When Clela performs, it's as if she's relaying a message energetically. All else falls away, and she enters a flow state where it's just her up on stage — translating a message to the audience with her song. 🎵





Showcasing the remarkable achievements and personal journeys of our Old Girls/Alums, who continue to inspire and shape the world beyond Havergal.

PROFILES

In the storied life of Alice Payne '59, ripples do not simply echo. They spark currents. Currents of change, courage and connection that have quietly shaped the landscape of geology and, more intimately, the lives of those fortunate enough to know her.



ALICE PAYNE



A pioneering geologist, trailblazing leader and recipient of the Order of Canada, Alice has spent her life not only mapping the Earth's secrets, but also carving out space for those, particularly women, who were told they did not belong. In a world that often told her "No" because of her gender, her Western roots or her unapologetic nature, Alice refused to simply listen to those who doubted her. Instead, she worked harder, pushed further and staked her own claim, again and again.

Throughout it all, Alice stayed tethered to what mattered most: her friends. Especially the ones she met at Havergal. "Friends you can phone at four in the morning — that is the measure of good friends. And I have lots of them. I am just so thankful."

From Yellowknife to Havergal:

Alice Learns a Different Kind of Prospecting.

Born in East Edmonton and raised in a house built in 1912 on six sprawling city lots, Alice had a childhood defined by freedom, fortitude and a father who deeply believed in all she was capable of. Her summers were spent in Yellowknife, where she followed her father, a prospector with a steadfast belief in his daughter's grit, through the northern bush. By Grade 5, Alice had already decided on her future: she would be a prospector, too.

That vision was not universally embraced. When she told her school guidance counsellor her plans, his response was swift and dismissive: geology was not a profession for women. She should consider becoming a teacher, a nurse or a secretary. Alice replied that if she could not stake claims, she would join the RCMP, instead. At least there, she could ride horses.

That conversation, she admits now, makes her laugh. And having spoken with Alice myself, I can say it captures her perfectly. She is a woman who, to her core, is self-assured and equally certain of the strength and potential of women everywhere.

Defying Expectations in Cowboy Boots.

When it came time to choose a high school, following the advice of fellow mining families, Alice's parents sent her to Havergal College. Alice arrived in cowboy boots and jeans, a self-described "crazy Westerner" who thought the school's promise of horses meant she would be riding through campus fields. Students who had access to the Toronto Hunt Club did not feel that she necessarily "fit in," but that also did not bother her.

"The idea was to work hard, do well and get out. I never perceived there was going to be a problem, and if there was, I did not care."



“Never give up. That is what I would tell my younger self.
And it is what I would tell anyone.
Especially the girls coming up behind me.”

In her three years at Havergal, Alice condensed the curriculum, took extra maths and sciences, and finished early. What stayed with her was not only academic discipline, but also the friendships. The kind that last decades. The kind that endure even the roughest consulting jobs, the longest solo summers in the field or the hardest days in male-dominated boardrooms. “Lifelong friends, that is what Havergal gave me. And that is really important in life, to have really good friends.”

Building a Career on Determination and Heart.

Alice’s career took her from remote consulting contracts to one of the first female management positions at Gulf Canada, where she worked for 15 years. She broke barriers again as the first woman to serve as President of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists.

And yet, as she had anticipated, the road was far from smooth. Many companies would not hire her. One told her she was “too old.” Others suggested she work in coal or fossils “back-room work,” as she called it, instead of the adventurous fieldwork she lived for. So, she worked even harder. She completed environmental studies, gravel surveys and last-minute projects in remote places, anything that kept her in the game.

Eventually, she phoned an old boyfriend in Calgary and said, “Get me interviews. I want a nine-to-five job, so I can go home on weekends and make cookies for my kids.” He did.

First, Alice got the job and then she changed the industry.

Creating Ripples for the Next Generation.

It was not enough for Alice to forge a path for herself. She wanted to widen the way for others. As President of the Petroleum Society, she helped launch a federal initiative to subsidize summer STEM jobs for young women. Companies would hire them; the government would pay their salaries. Later, she developed programs that placed Grade 8 girls in energy companies for immersive STEM days.

“I got fired up to do all that stuff for women in the 1990s. And it worked. They had three per cent women in science and technology when I started. When we finished, it was 19 per cent.”

Today, around 50 per cent of graduating Havergal students move on to pursue an education in STEM. Alice sees now, in hindsight, the power of the encouragement she received from her parents. The trust they placed in her vision. Not everyone receives that. So, she made it her mission to be that voice, particularly for children, and most importantly for girls.

“My parents encouraged me to follow my dream. Not everybody has that. So now I tell them: ‘Never give up. Do things well. Set a good example. And whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability.’”

The Lasting Legacy of a Life Well Lived.

At 85, Alice is still active. She curls. She gardens. She swims. She is still making ripples persistently, as she always has. And while the accolades are many — the Order of Canada, honorary degrees and glass ceilings shattered — it is the friendships and the future she has helped build for others that she seems most proud of.

“‘Never give up.’ That is what I would tell my younger self. And it is what I would tell anyone. Especially the girls coming up behind me.”

Alice Payne’s ripple effect did not only shape an industry. It also shaped generations. And in true Alice fashion, she did not demand space. She claimed it — and still dares others to follow. 🌟

WRITER Hannah Crossgrove ’15 was a Boarder at Havergal when she discovered the joy of being surrounded by inspiring young women, many of whom remain her closest friends today. The sense of belonging and possibility she found at Havergal continues to shape her path. After studying Media, Information and Technoculture at Western University, Hannah built a career in philanthropy across health care and the arts. Returning to Havergal as Associate Director, Major Gifts, she finds this the most meaningful chapter yet — helping ensure future generations of girls can share in the same transformative journey that defined her own.

Written by Judy (Betteridge) Haust '71 Photography by Jason Eng

In 2004, Mary (Krug) Ndlovu '60 received a Havergal Lifetime Achievement Award. Her story is essentially a love story.



MARY (KRUG) NDLOVU





PROFILES / MARY (KRUG) NDLOVU

At 23, she seemed destined for a life of academia in North America when happenstance caused her to choose a road far less travelled, leading her all the way to Zambia. That ripple soon turned into more of a tsunami, when another life-changing decision found Mary calling Africa home for the next 50 years.

Growing up in North Toronto, Mary, a “lifer” at Havergal (Grades 1 through 13), was always a conscientious student. Her fond memories include recalling that Miss Steele (later to become Dr. Steele, our esteemed principal in the '60s and '70s) used to teach history in an unconventional way: she would read historical novels to the girls. Maybe not so surprisingly, Mary went on to do a BA in History and Modern Languages at the University of Toronto, followed by an MA in Russian History at Columbia University, in New York City.

While pursuing a PhD at Columbia, Mary found herself becoming disillusioned with the politics of academic life. She yearned to do something more meaningful than writing a thesis. What she particularly enjoyed was learning about other people and cultures. A fellow Canadian at Columbia had worked in India and encouraged her to apply to Canadian University Service Overseas (CUSO). Mary landed in Zambia, posted at a girl's school run by missionaries. Surrounded by British teachers, she felt her exposure to African culture was lacking, so she was able to arrange a transfer to the University of Zambia, where, as a research assistant in the History Department, she was tasked to compile a bibliography of Zambian history.

It was at a house party in Zambia that Mary met Edward Ndlovu, a Zimbabwean exile, politician and freedom fighter. The couple fell in love, and when Mary's first CUSO contract ended, she returned to Canada for a year to further her education, returning to Zambia as a fully qualified teacher. The fascinating story of the couple's life together in Zambia, and later Zimbabwe following that country's independence in 1980, is revealed in Mary's book, *An Outsider Within: A Memoir of Love, of Loss, of Perseverance*, published in 2024. In a nutshell, their life was heavily fraught with political strife and not without danger while raising their three children, born in 1973, 1976 and 1980. However, turning their backs was not an option.

While all this political activity was taking place, Mary continued her work in education, travelling throughout the western part of Zimbabwe to visit students on teaching practice. In 1992, Mary left her government position and joined an NGO, the Legal Resources Foundation, which offered free legal services to disadvantaged Zimbabweans in both urban and

rural areas. She developed and implemented a program to train paralegals, who would inform people about their legal rights, offer remedies and provide rudimentary advice for adapting to the changing laws.

She retired from full-time employment after 10 years and began to freelance in legal and human rights, and democracy. She also prepared education and training materials for NGOs. Later, she was commissioned to write the histories of three different Zimbabwean NGOs. Mary thoroughly enjoyed her work and the people, but with her three children having moved to Canada and Barbados, she decided it was time to leave her extended family in Zimbabwe and return home. In 2016, she settled with her younger daughter in Calgary.

Mary feels her most meaningful impact resulted from establishing the Edward Ndlovu Library in Gwanda, Zimbabwe, in 1992, in honour of her late husband, who had become a member of the Zimbabwean Government a year before his untimely death in 1989 from cancer. The library system has since grown and continues to employ local people and promote literacy in communities that would otherwise have no access to books or resource materials. A memorial trust — Edward Ndlovu Community Libraries — was set up in Canada in 2015. It evolved from an informal voluntary network to a registered Canadian charity, providing annual financial and activity reports to the Canada Revenue Agency.

Looking back over the decades, would Mary do it all again, despite the formidable challenges? Yes! Her advice to young Havergalians starting out in life: make use of any opportunity you have to learn all you can about the world and different cultures, then figure out how you fit into it. ☺

WRITER Judy (Betteridge) Haust '71, a Marguerite, attended Havergal from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 13. She happily maintains close ties with the school in her long-time role as Co-rep for the Class of '71. Since graduating from Western University in 1975, Judy has enjoyed honing her writing skills through various employment and volunteer opportunities, including business, educational and health-focused publications. As a contributing writer for *Chronicle*, she delights in interviewing and writing about fellow Havergalians from different years. A resident of Toronto, Judy and her husband Bill have two sons, three grandchildren and a 20-year-old chatty conure!

The life of Michelle Koerner '83 exemplifies the profound “ripple effect” — how purposeful decisions, evolving passions and a commitment to unmet needs can generate transformative impact.



MICHELLE KOERNER



Michelle Koerner '83's journey, defined by visionary leadership and an enduring sense of community responsibility, has produced significant contributions across two vital spheres: the arts and, more recently, the urgent field of wildfire management.

A spirit of leadership was fostered from her high school days at Havergal. She pursued Political Science at the University of Toronto, laying a rigorous intellectual foundation for a career driven by curiosity, critical inquiry and a resolve to effect meaningful change. In 2018, she completed a Fellowship in Global Journalism at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, deepening her capacity to communicate ideas to broad and diverse audiences.

Michelle's early and enduring passion was for the arts. Over a 35-year career, she held roles at TIFF, TVO and Rogers Broadcasting, sharpening her strategic and marketing expertise. As Director of Marketing at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO), she implemented innovative, inclusive strategies to develop new audiences and drive attendance — rooted in her belief in art's power to educate, inspire and unite diverse communities. Michelle's commitment to cultural advocacy is reflected in long-standing board positions at Canada's National Ballet School, the Art Canada Institute, the AGO and her role as Vice-Chair of the National Gallery of Canada Foundation. She is the founding Chair of the AGO's Women's Art Initiative, which champions the visibility and legacy of women artists at the AGO and within Canada's cultural landscape.

A pivotal turning point came through a question from her eldest daughter: "What are *you* doing for the environment?" This personal challenge ignited a profound shift in Michelle. That shift gained momentum when Michelle heard Dr. Lori Daniels — Canada's leading fire scientist — on the CBC, discussing Indigenous-led stewardship and science-based approaches to wildfire resilience. Compelled by the urgency of the

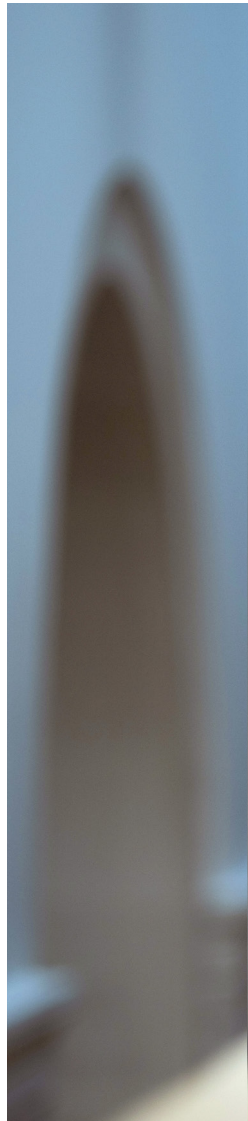
issue, Michelle sought out Dr. Daniels at the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia (UBC). That meeting was catalytic.

In 2023, Michelle became a co-founder of the Centre for Wildfire Coexistence at UBC, working closely with the Forestry Department to secure vital funding and rapidly scale the centre's national impact. For Michelle, Canada's wildfire emergency is a critical national issue, an urgent call to action driving her relentless efforts to develop a co-ordinated federal fire strategy and budget.

Today, Michelle's dual passions — art and the environment — are converging in new and powerful ways. She is currently collaborating with award-winning Canadian filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier on a feature-length documentary exploring the human and ecological dimensions of wildfire. Simultaneously, she is envisioning a major fire-themed art exhibition featuring Canadian, Indigenous and international artists to amplify the intersection of creativity and science in advancing public understanding and catalyzing change.

Michelle is driven by an intuitive ability to identify where change is needed — and to act decisively. Her belief that "anything is possible" underpins her talent for assembling expert teams and building communities united by purpose. Her work is personal and is profoundly motivated by a desire to create a safe, sustainable future for her children and her community, imbuing every impactful endeavour with a legacy that truly inspires. ●

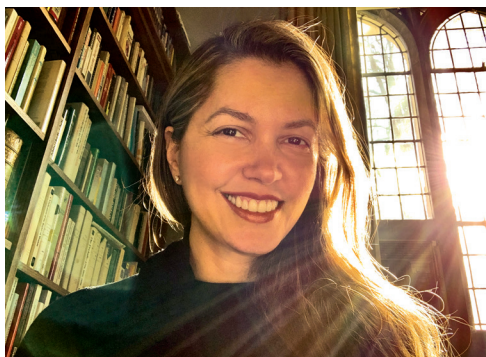
WRITER Sonia Agrawal '02 is a Global Account Executive at Google and has been innovating with some of the world's most interesting retail and technology clients leveraging AI. Prior to Google, she spent more than 10 years at IBM in a variety of sales, marketing and client management roles. She was this year's esteemed speaker as part of the Havergal College Noria Family Women in S.T.E.M. Speaker Series. Sonia graduated from Carleton University with a degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. She is keenly interested in amplifying female voices and breaking the stigma of mental health issues.



“The intersection of art and science is a vital nexus – complementary, powerful, and capable of driving society toward discovering meaningful solutions to the challenges of our time.”



Early experiences can ignite a lifetime of impact. As a teenager hiking in the Himalayan forests, Indrani Pal-Chaudhuri '91 tried to help an impoverished girl by giving her money, only to watch it be stolen by other kids in need. "I realized token efforts aren't enough," she recalls. "We need systemic change." That realization became the driving force behind her life's mission.



INDRANI PAL- CHAUDHURI





“From Nobel Prize–winning innovation to Indigenous-inspired collaboration, The Regeneration Generation highlights heroes and solutions, while Open Origin powers profitable and sustainable progress — so humanity, ecosystems, and economies can thrive together.”



(l-r) Indrani, Ajay, and Krishna Pal-Chaudhuri, co-founders, celebrate the 25th anniversary of SRI's SEESchool Ramakrishna Vedanta Vidyapith in Ranaghat, West Bengal, with students whose lives it continues to transform.



Indrani (left) with friends of the Puyanawa Nation — partners of the Shakti Regeneration Institute and featured in *The Regeneration Generation* — in Acre, in the Brazilian Amazon.



Announcing Open Origin's Energy Catalyst City Consortium at the Science and Innovation Priorities forum during the United Nations' 4th Financing for Development Summit (FFD4) in Seville, Spain, with Mei Ling Fun and Mary Ann Thompson Frenck.

Born in India, shaped by both its beauty and harsh realities as witnessed through her volunteer work, Indrani's family moved to Canada for greater opportunity for girls. At Havergal, as a shy scholarship student who also worked multiple jobs, she often felt out of place. Yet it was at Havergal, through music and photography clubs, that she found her creative voice. Modelling in Tokyo and Milan, she invested her earnings into something far more lasting: a free school for women and children in West Bengal, co-founded with her father. Today, that school has grown into the Shakti Regeneration Institute, which has provided education to more than 8,000 students, and its partner campaigns have received four billion media impressions.

While studying anthropology at Princeton University, Indrani's photography caught the eye of David Bowie, leading to collaborations with Beyoncé and Lady Gaga, as well as campaigns for hundreds of global brands and non-profits. Awards soon followed: Academy Award–shortlisted filmmaker, two Cannes Gold Lions, Tribeca Disruptive Innovator. All this, yet Indrani felt called to tackle bigger challenges.

Her journey took her deep into the Amazon with *The Regeneration Generation*, an in-progress feature film and global movement celebrating Indigenous Forest guardians, Nobel Prize winning thinkers, and businesses leading sustainable transformation. Becoming co-lead of an XPRIZE Rainforest team, she brought together scientists, Indigenous innovators and AI to develop biodiversity monitoring systems. Now, advancing an Amazon Bio-Cultural Green Bond, she is applying Indigenous governance systems to improve

climate finance to better protect forests, restore ecosystems and empower communities.

To meet the escalating energy demand for AI, transportation, and fertilizer, and recognizing the urgency of the green transition, Indrani co-founded Open Origin and its Energy Catalyst City Coalition with an ethos of collaboration over competition. As a visiting lecturer at Princeton and convener at the Science Summit at the United Nations during Climate Week NY (2025), she brings ministers, scientists, Indigenous leaders and change-makers together to design the systems humanity urgently needs. Now, Indrani invites partners who believe in systemic change to join these collaborations and scale solutions for human thriving.

From her early days in India to Havergal's ivy-covered walls to Princeton and beyond, Indrani has truly shaped herself into a global change-maker. She reminds us, at each leg in her journey, of the tremendous impact of the ripple effect.

Read more on indrani.com, openorigin.industries, and shaktiregeneration.org. ©

WRITER Lexi Ensor '13 is an active member of the Havergal community, serving as HOGA President from 2023-2025 and on the Board of Governors from 2020-2025. In her professional life, Lexi works in government relations, where she currently leads Ontario GR at one of Canada's leading tobacco companies. With a background in consulting and government, she has built a career shaping policy, driving business outcomes and influencing decision-makers across sectors. When she's not working or volunteering, you can usually catch Lexi on a dock in Muskoka with a good book or attempting to land a hole-in-one on a golf course.

Ever since her days as a proud Edie at Havergal College, Brenda Ha '95 has been on a path of breaking barriers, evolving her career and championing change. Today, she stands as one of the founding members of AFC Toronto, a professional women's soccer club helping to reshape the sports landscape in Canada.

BRENDA HA





Desjardins



“If we, as women who care about equity,
don’t step up and advocate for change, who will? It’s up to us to say,
‘This isn’t right — and we’re going to fix it.’”



I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Brenda to talk about seizing opportunities, building community and what it means to be a catalyst for lasting change.

LAUREN Why professional women's sports? And how did your involvement with AFC Toronto come to be?

BRENDA I first began to really notice the inequity between boys' and girls' sports through the lens of my children's experiences. When my son played soccer, I saw that the boys' teams were offered opportunities that the girls' teams just didn't get. It was disheartening. While serving on the Board of my son's soccer club, I learned about an opportunity to join a team bidding for the Toronto franchise of the new professional women's soccer league. Initially, I saw it as something "they" were doing — I didn't imagine myself having a role in it.

I was on the outside looking in, watching this exciting movement unfold. But with the encouragement of my family, I began to shift my thinking. I asked myself: "Why not me?" That mindset shift was pivotal. If we, as women who care about equity, don't step up and advocate for change, who will? It's up to us to say, "This isn't right — and we're going to fix it."

LAUREN You hosted your first AFC Toronto home game this past spring. What was that experience like?

BRENDA Absolutely incredible! The amount of work it took to get to that moment was enormous, but standing there in the stadium, looking around at all the fans who showed up not just

for soccer, but also to support women and girls, it made every bit of the effort worth it.

LAUREN There will no doubt be young girls in those stands who will look back one day and say that attending an AFC game changed their lives.

BRENDA I love that. And what's even more powerful is that the ripple effect goes beyond just girls. There were so many families, boys and young men in the stands that day. It's about normalizing women's sports, creating a world where future generations won't even understand the inequities we've had to fight against. That's how real cultural change happens.

LAUREN Was there someone who started a ripple effect in your own life?

BRENDA Definitely. When I was at Havergal, Ms. Brenda Robson was a huge inspiration. She embodied leadership in a way that was authentic and strong. I still find myself thinking, *What would Ms. Robson do?*

LAUREN Any advice for the next generation of change-makers?

BRENDA Absolutely — focus on people and community. No matter what you do, it's the relationships that matter most. Help others not because you expect something in return, but because it's right. Be curious, stay open, ask questions and don't be afraid to go after what you want. If you don't ask, you don't get. Lean into your network, be resourceful and put yourself out there. 🗨️

“No matter what you do, it's the relationships that matter most. Help others not because you expect something in return, but because it's right.”

WRITER Lauren Palombo '01 works as the Director of Real Estate Development for a North America-wide development group. She holds a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Toronto and is also a qualified real estate salesperson under the Real Estate Council of Ontario. Lauren served on the HOGA directorate for a number of years and is passionate about alumni connection and community mentorship. She currently lives in Toronto with her husband and two children.

Havergal College continues to nurture an environment of innovation, leadership, and global awareness.

HAVERGAL CULTURE

HVERGAL DIFFERENCE MAKER

Written by Lindsay Norberg

The work of shaping young women is always evolving at Havergal. In classrooms, on stage, on the field and in the wider community, today's students stretch their thinking, build their confidence and grow through challenges. They learn to understand themselves and others, to stay curious and to turn that curiosity into action.

These experiences don't just prepare them for what comes next — they shape the kind of school we are today and the kind of community we are building together.

Understanding Myself and Others

For one Grade 12 student, this work starts with self-reflection: "I strive to develop an understanding of my-

self and others by recognizing my strengths and capacity for growth and also acknowledging these qualities in others." For others, it may take the form of mentoring younger students, leading community partnerships or councils, or championing equity and inclusion initiatives. However it unfolds, each step reflects a commitment to growth, connection and helping girls develop the tools to make a difference.

Grade 12 students have the opportunity to participate in the Strength Development Index that helps them understand their personal motivational values system and its connection to how they use their strengths. This program helps them learn more about themselves and others, and how they can lead from a place of their strengths and values.





“As Deputy Principal, I see daily how our students live out these qualities in ways both big and small. They are curious learners, compassionate friends, and courageous leaders.

The Difference Maker framework helps us name and celebrate the skills and values that have always defined a Havergal education. What excites me most is knowing that these students will carry forward their curiosity, compassion and courage into every stage of their lives, shaping communities, lifting others up and leading with integrity, just as generations of Havergal Alum have done before them.”

—Lindsay Norberg, Deputy Principal

At Havergal, students are encouraged to be aware of their own identities and to consider the identities of those around them. These perspectives shape how we see the world and how the world sees us. Anchoring decisions in values, broadening understanding beyond one’s own experience and engaging with difference are all part of the fabric of Havergal’s learning environment.

Continually Learning and Growing

Curiosity is a powerful driver in the Junior School. One group of students recently described their learning as “working together to solve puzzles, asking questions and sometimes even getting things wrong — because that’s when you learn the most.”

This philosophy runs deep: learning at Havergal is not grounded in perfection, but in resilience. Students learn to navigate setbacks, take ownership of mistakes and view them as opportunities for growth. They are taught to research



Student leaders for 2025-26 attend a Leadership Retreat.

effectively, read critically and apply rigorous thinking — skills that serve them well in a changing world.

As one student put it: “Continuous growth means not only learning new things, but also questioning what I know and being open to change.”

Being Inspired to Act

The ultimate expression of a Havergal education is action. Whether they are leading initiatives for their peers at Havergal, taking action in their local community or standing up for issues that matter to them, Havergal students understand that they can

make a positive impact.

This spirit of stewardship and commitment to others, so familiar to generations of Old Girls/Alums, has always been a cornerstone of the Havergal difference.

What Makes Havergal Unique

While many schools talk about preparing students for the future, Havergal’s Difference Maker framework is distinctive. It’s not just about academic excellence; it’s about developing the habits of mind and heart that enable students to thrive no matter where life takes them. From the earliest grades, Havergal students are encouraged to link learning to values, to connect with diverse perspectives and to act with purpose.

This intentional focus on shaping resilient, globally minded leaders is part of what makes a Havergal education unique and why generations of Old Girls/Alums recognize these qualities in themselves and in one another long after graduation. ●

Old Girls/Alums remain an integral part of the Havergal community. *Chronicle* celebrates their pursuits, events, and achievements.

OLD GIRLS/ ALUMS NEWS

Photography by Shlomi Amiga



Anna (McMeekin) Morrison '03, President, Havergal Old Girls Association

Note from the President of HOGA

Dear Old Girls/Alums,

As I begin my first year as President of the Havergal Old Girls Association (HOGA), I have been reflecting on what makes our Alum community so distinctive. It is not only the shared green tunics in old photographs or the familiar hallways we once walked. It is also the enduring sense that we belong to something larger than ourselves — and the knowledge that each of us carries the power to make a difference in the lives of others.

Every day, I hear about Old Girls/Alums who are creating ripples that extend far beyond their time at Havergal: supporting one another through life's changes, championing causes in their communities and keeping alive the traditions and friendships that first took root at school. Sometimes these ripples are profound, such as mentoring a younger Havergalian or leading in a new field. Other times, they are subtle but no less meaningful, such as recognizing a familiar name on a playground years later or a conversation across generations that sparks connection and belonging.

HOGA's role is to celebrate these ripples, nurture them and make space for even more to flourish. This publication is one way we do that. Within these pages, you will find stories of resilience, leadership, creativity and care — reminders that being a Havergalian is not confined to a single chapter of our lives but is the thread that continues to weave through them all.

I am deeply grateful to the HOGA Directorate for the thought, energy and care they bring to this work. Their guidance ensures that the ways we connect remain relevant, inclusive and true to the spirit of our community.

As you read, I invite you to reflect on the ripple effect your time at Havergal has had in your own life and how you, in turn, carry that legacy into the world. However, you choose to stay connected, know that you are part of something enduring and that your presence strengthens our community.

With gratitude,

Anna (McMeekin) Morrison '03
President
Havergal Old Girls Association

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

As you turn the page on your Havergal story and step into your next adventure, we're thrilled to officially welcome you to the Havergal Old Girls/Alums community! Your years at the school were filled with growth, learning and unforgettable moments — and now, you're part of a lifelong network that spans generations and the globe.

Whether you're heading to university, taking a gap year or exploring new opportunities, know that the Havergal Old Girls Association (HOGA) is here to keep you connected and supported as you go. The friendships and experiences you've built will

always tie you back to Havergal.

We're also proud to introduce your Class of 2025 Reps — six remarkable grads who've stepped forward to help keep your class connected: Tahlia Cornthwaite, Kaitlyn Daley, Victoria Grignano, Chloe Hancock, Sarah Mosholian and Carol Rong.

They'll keep you in the loop, help round up classmates for reunions and make sure you stay linked to the broader Old Girls/Alums network.

We can't wait to see where life takes you and we'll be cheering you on every step of the way. Welcome, Class of 2025! We're so glad you're here.



2025 CLASS REPS



Tahlia Cornthwaite '25



Kaitlyn Daley '25



Victoria Grignano '25



Chloe Hancock '25



Sarah Mosholian '25



Carol Rong '25

HONOURING ACHIEVEMENT

The 2025 Havergal Old Girl Awards of Distinction shine a spotlight on the remarkable accomplishments of our community. This year, the extraordinary contributions of our Old Girls/Alums have led us to recognize two recipients in each award category, reflecting the leadership, creativity, and dedication that continue to define the Havergal community.



Judy (Baggaley) Savage '81

Havergal Old Girls Lifetime Achievement Award

Judy (Baggaley) Savage has led the Lions Gate Hospital Foundation (LGHF) as President and CEO since 2001, transforming healthcare philanthropy on the North Shore. Under her leadership, LGHF has raised over \$400 million, with annual donations growing from \$3 million to \$45 million and the endowment increasing from \$6 million to \$90 million. Judy spearheaded major campaigns including the Paul Myers Tower, a new Oncology Clinic, and the Hope Centre for Mental Health and Addictions, as well as BC's first youth concurrent disorders unit. She also directed LGHF's rapid COVID-19 response, raising \$1.3 million in critical funds. A Queen's graduate and Certified Fund-Raising Executive, Judy is known for her clarity, compassion, and results-driven leadership, building strong networks of donors, volunteers, and healthcare leaders.



Mariko Tamaki '93

Havergal Old Girls Lifetime Achievement Award

Mariko Tamaki is an acclaimed Canadian writer of comics, prose, television, and film. Best known for *This One Summer* (with Jillian Tamaki), her work has reshaped contemporary Young Adult literature with honest and nuanced storytelling. Mariko has received numerous accolades including the Eisner Award for Best Writer (2024), as well as Ignatz, Joe Shuster, and Doug Wright Awards. Her recent novel *Roaming* was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ+ Comics. She has written for Marvel and DC Comics and developed screen projects for Apple TV+ and Disney. Through her work, she brings visibility to LGBTQ+ experiences and offers young readers powerful stories of identity, resilience, and belonging. Mariko lives and works in Los Angeles.

Twitter @marikotamaki Instagram @marikotamaki

Honouring the extraordinary women
who embody our values, bridge our generations, and
redefine what it means to lead with purpose.



Stephanie Applin '04

Susan Ditchburn Young Alumna Award

Stephanie Applin is an arts leader with a background in fundraising, choral music, and opera. Since 2021, she has been Director of Advancement at Tapestry Opera, helping produce award-winning premieres, overseeing the launch of the Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre, and expanding the Women in Musical Leadership program to support women and non-binary conductors across Canada. Previously, Stephanie was General Director of MYOpera and a founding member of Indie Opera Toronto, producing operas that redefined Toronto's independent music scene. She also managed festivals and events across Europe with Mandinga Arts in London, UK. Stephanie holds a master's degree from City, University of London, and serves as Chair of the Opera Canada board, which produces the national opera awards, The Rubies.



Jocelyn Ho '04

Susan Ditchburn Young Alumna Award

Jocelyn Ho is the founder and CEO of Rare Plant Fairy, a luxury nursery that has grown from her Detroit apartment into a 12,000-sq-ft facility with 25+ employees and an in-house tissue culture lab. Her company supplies rare tropical plants worldwide and advances conservation by propagating endangered species such as the ghost orchid. Recognized as a 2025 EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® Regional Award Winner, a Crain's 40 Under 40 honoree, and one of Michigan's 50 Companies to Watch, Jocelyn also champions STEM education, mentoring Detroit youth through field trips, hands-on learning, and financial support. Her mission is to preserve biodiversity, elevate the horticultural industry, and deliver one million pots of happiness into homes and communities.

This year has been marked by memorable moments and community milestones. *Chronicle* reflects on the events that brought the Havergal spirit to life.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Throughout the year, Havergal has hosted a full slate of Old Girl/Alum gatherings and events that celebrate our community and nurture connections. From the lively reunion events, where laughter and cherished memories were shared to the engaging Havergal Connections Presents series featuring leaders and experts, each event underscores the strength and unity of our global network. Our commitment to mentorship was evident in the Noria Family Women in STEM Speaker Series and ongoing career spotlight events, offering students valuable insights and guidance. As we reflect on moments like the Merry & Bright holiday event and regional gatherings across Canada, we celebrate the joy of reconnecting and the enduring bonds that define the Havergal experience.



Mentorship & Legacy

Mentorship and legacy continue to be touchstones of alum engagement at Havergal. Highlights included the Noria Family Women in STEM Speaker Series with Sonia Agrawal '02, who shared her career journey and inspired students to explore opportunities in science and technology. Other meaningful gatherings included Former Faculty & Staff and Old Girls/Alums Prayers, the University Transition Brunch where recent grads offered advice to Grade 12 students, and the HOGA Annual Meeting and Aperol & Appetizers on Avenue, which celebrated community, volunteerism, and connection.



❶ Former Faculty & Staff and Old Girls/Alums Prayers and Reception.

❷ Noria Family Women in STEM Speaker Series featuring Sonia Agrawal '02.

❸ Recent grads offering advice and encouragement to Grade 12 students.

Havergal Connections & Career Spotlights Inspiring the Next Generation

Old Girls/Alums shared insights, experiences, and mentorship with current students and our community through Havergal Connections Presents and our Career Spotlight series. Highlights included AI For Good, a conversation exploring the promise and pitfalls of artificial intelligence; Always Online, a virtual discussion exploring digital wellness in the lives of students; and Career Spotlights on Medicine and Veterinary Science, where Old Girls/Alums spoke candidly about their paths and inspired the next generation to dream big.



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- 1 Panelists share insights on the role of AI in shaping our future.
- 2 Old Girls/Alums in medicine guide students through career pathways.
- 3 Four Old Girls/Alums in veterinary medicine shared their journeys with our Grade 12s.

Holiday Traditions & Gatherings

The holiday season remains a highlight for our community, bringing Old Girls/Alums together across generations. The HOGA Holiday Children's and Grandchildren's Party filled the halls with festive joy, while the All Things Merry & Bright Young Alum Holiday Social created space for laughter and reconnection. Traditions continued with the Easter Prayers Service, a cherished time for reflection and community.



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- 1 Carol Service remains a cherished tradition, uniting our community in reflection, beautiful music, and the magic of the season.
- 2 Families celebrate the season at the HOGA Holiday Children's and Grandchildren's Party.
- 3 Young Alum reconnect at the annual holiday social.

Reunion 2024— Honouring Connections and Traditions

Reunion 2024 brought Old Girls/Alums back to campus for a week-end of celebration and connection. The Annual Old Girls'/Alums' Luncheon welcomed those who graduated 50 years ago or more, with special recognition for the Cinquantenaire Class of 1974 and the Stoneager Class of 1964. The program also featured the presentation of the Old Girl/Alum Lifetime Achievement Awards and the Susan Ditchburn Young Alumna Award.

The celebrations continued with the Former Boarders' Dinner, the first-ever HOGA Pickleball Tournament, and the Reunion Cocktail Reception, which wrapped up the weekend with laughter, stories, and lasting connections.



1 Members of the Class of 1984 gather in celebration of the distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award and the remarkable legacy of their classmate.

2 Cinquantenaire and Stoneager classes recognized at the Luncheon.

3 Old Girls/Alums return to Havergal for their Reunion Cocktail Party.

4 Annual Old Girls/Alums Luncheon.

5 Class of 1974 gather for their group photo in the Ellen Knox Library.

6 Friendly competition at the inaugural HOGA Pickleball Tournament

7 Former Boarding Students returned to campus for Reunion Weekend for dinner and a tour.

8 Friends reunited.

1 Building connections with Old Girls/Alums in Hong Kong.

2 Old Girls/Alums gathering in New York City.

3 Old Girls/Alums gather for connection and community in Halifax.

4 Global alum community reconnects in London, UK.

5 California Alum enjoying an evening together.



Regional Connections— Across Canada and Around the Globe

From Halifax to Hong Kong, London to New York, Havergal's Old Girls/Alums came together for regional events that spanned cities and continents. These gatherings offered opportunities to celebrate shared memories, build new connections, and strengthen our global network.





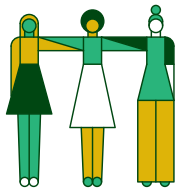
HAVERGAL CONNECTIONS

Written by **Kate Crokam** Illustration by **Greg Mably**

Since its launch in 2020, Havergal Connections, Havergal Old Girls Association's digital alumni platform, has become an essential hub for Old Girls/Alums, graduating students, and the broader Havergal community. Over the past five years, Havergal Connections has not just connected graduating classes; it has deepened relationships, fostered mentorship, and enriched a sense of belonging across all graduating years.

At the same time, Connections serves as a news source for regional gatherings and Reunion events that have remained central, offering in-person moments to complement virtual ones. Reunion weekend, our Annual Old Girl/Alum Luncheon, and Former Boarder Dinners continue to draw graduates back and reinforce shared memories.

Over these five years, Connections has matured with more than 2,000 active users, more features, and more stories, and through it all, a growing sense that being part of Havergal means being part of something that lasts.



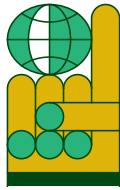
A Strong Foundation for Connection

When the Connections portal went live in 2020, it came at a time when personal contact was limited. Many events were paused, but the need for staying connected was more important than ever. Havergal Connections provided an accessible, modern platform where Old Girls/Alums could reconnect, share stories, and reach out to one another globally.



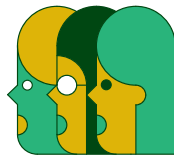
Expanding Global Reach and Local Gathering

With more than 9,500 Old Girls/Alums across 70+ countries today, one of the strengths of Connections has been bringing together people who might otherwise never meet. Whether reconnecting with old classmates in Toronto or forging new relationships across continents, the portal has helped bridge distance.



Fostering Belonging and Strategic Growth

Havergal’s strategic plan Empowering Excellence places connection, well-being, and belonging among its core pillars. The success and development of Havergal Connections feed directly into this vision, helping ensure that Old Girls/Alums feel valued, supported, and engaged long after graduation.



Strengthening Volunteers and Class Reps

Behind many of the platform’s successes are the volunteer Old Girls/Alums who serve as Class Representatives, event organizers, mentors, and connectors. Their ongoing commitment has helped maintain continuity from year to year and generation to generation. Through times of change, they have been critical in keeping classes connected, organizing reunions, and sharing community stories. Much of this activity now happens, in part, on Havergal Connections.



Mentorship and Leadership

A major feature of Connections has been facilitating mentorship, professional development, and leadership opportunities. Old Girls/Alums can offer guidance or identify areas where they are seeking support, while leaders in our community share their experiences with those entering new professions or looking to grow in their fields. Structured programs and speaker events communicated through Connections have allowed Old Girls/Alums to give back in ways that build confidence, knowledge, and networks for those following in their footsteps.

Getting Started on Havergal Connections.

Log in and explore
Go to connections.havergal.on.ca and sign in. You will land on your personalized Connections homepage. *Tip: Signing in with LinkedIn makes setting up your profile a breeze.*

Complete your profile
Add a photo, a short bio, and your areas of interest. This helps others find and connect with you.

Connect with your classmates
Find fellow graduates, see what they have been up to, and send a message to reconnect.

React and reply
Engagement does not have to be big. Like a post, leave a comment, or ask a question. Every interaction helps build community.

Post something
Share a personal update, Havergal memory, or professional opportunity. Keep posts short, positive, and relevant. Include a photo or link for extra impact.

Join a group
Look for groups that align with your role or interests, such as “Film and TV Professionals” or “HOGA Class Reps.” *Tip: You can also create your own if you see a gap.*

Find a mentoring relationship
Search the directory to connect with Alumni in your industry who are seeking or offering mentorship.

Promote your business
Create a new listing in the Business Directory and even offer specific perks to the Havergal alumni community.



Scan the QR code to join the HOGA community.
connections.havergal.on.ca

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*Preparing young women
to make a difference*

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