

David Abbott

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Nonprofit management, Cleveland (retired).



LIFE

My first “career” was as a reporter for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland. I loved the daily newspaper business and Cleveland, but I realized after a few years that I wanted to be a more active participant and advocate in civic life than traditional journalism allows. So, I went to law school and returned to Cleveland where more or less by accident I found myself in a series of jobs in politics, government, nonprofits, and eventually as president of The George Gund Foundation, where I spent 19 years before retiring at the end of 2021. And along the way I never managed to practice law. One stop on my nonprofit journey was as the director of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, which always garners disproportionate attention and surprise compared to the rest of my resume. (It surprises me too.) It was great fun in many ways, but it just wasn't really me so I stayed less than two years.

Jan has been a civil trial lawyer for decades and has always been a very active civic and political volunteer. Our careers meshed nicely and we somehow managed to raise three sons who took seriously our suggestion to think of themselves as citizens of the world as well as of our country. (As an example, our son Max, at last count, has traveled in 54 countries.)

DENISON MEMORIES

Denison dramatically changed my life. As a first-generation college student from a small town, I was not especially well-prepared. But Denison continually challenged me, opened my eyes, and broadened my mind—through classes, personal relationships with faculty and fellow students, and extra-curriculars. Indeed, so many of my Denison memories are of the countless late-night hours spent in the Denisonian office on the top of Slayter. It was a lot of work but also a nonstop laugh riot. “. . .but they while their companions slept were toiling upward in the night.”

NEXT TO DO

I'm the head of a brand-new board tasked by the mayor with converting Cleveland's historic West Side Market from a city-run to a nonprofit-managed operation. It also needs about \$50 million in deferred repairs and renovations. This will be a very complicated multi-year effort.

Other than that, Jan and I plan to travel as much as we can, seeing our kids along the way but also visiting many other places we have yet to experience. (We're trying to catch up with our son Max!)

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EDUCATION

Major: Political Science

Clubs and activities

Editor of The Denisonian; Delta Chi.

Other degrees and certifications:

MS, Journalism, Columbia University; JD, Harvard Law School.

FAMILY

Jan Roller '76, and I have been married since 1979. Except for four years in Boston, we have lived in Cleveland where we raised three sons. Max is now a business consultant in Singapore after several years living in other Southeast Asian cities. Hank spent 10 years in China but now works in the animated film business in Los Angeles, where he lives with his wife, Hong, and our two young granddaughters. Sam is a nonprofit government consultant in Chicago where he lives with his wife, Arushi. It is an interesting but unexplainable fact that our kids have all developed strong Asian ties. Max lives there. Hank used to live there, and his wife is Chinese. Sam's wife is Indian.

In Peru (2022). One more off the bucket list.





Our family.



With our first granddaughter, Youyi.



Dave in 1974. Where did all that hair go?

Dave and Jan in 1974.

Christopher Cross

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Retired judge working part-time as a mediator and arbitrator for JAMS/Denver (all types of alternative dispute resolution), Denver, Colo.



LIFE

I taught 8th grade Earth Science as a substitute in Lansing, Mich., until the regular teacher returned from a series of surgeries. In the spring of 1975, I went to work as a geologist on the Alaskan Pipeline and worked there until June 1976. Mary and I moved to Denver for our respective graduate schools and never left. After law school, I started with the Denver District Attorney's Office and worked there until 1984, when I went to work at a large law firm in Denver. After two and a half years, I opened up my own firm, doing criminal defense, personal injury, and professional liability litigation. In 1997, I was appointed as a county court judge (misdemeanors, restraining orders, small civil cases) in Arapahoe County, Colo. In 2008, I was appointed as a district court judge (felonies, divorce, large civil cases, probate) in the largest judicial district in Colorado and served until my retirement in 2017. I joined JAMS/Denver as a mediator/arbitrator and continue to do alternative dispute resolution (although taking fewer cases each year). Throughout my legal career, I lectured and spoke frequently for Continuing Legal Education classes and to civic organizations and taught several law school classes.

I volunteered for a variety of organizations, primarily working with kids or participating in work projects, including building playgrounds for an orphanage in Jerusalem and a shelter in Denver. I worked with the Lakota tribe in Oglala, S.D., for over 20 years, conducting basketball camps, playing with the kids, and building a full-scale gymnasium and community center (among other projects), and was involved in numerous Habitat for Humanity-type activities in Denver.

Over the years, I competed in triathlons and running races (from 5Ks to a marathon), skied, mountain-biked, climbed mountains (although I have curtailed my vigorous activities due to heart issues and bad knees), coached kids sports, refinished furniture, and traveled extensively, both nationally and internationally. I read voraciously and have spent 15 years writing a historical fiction novel, "Beat the Drum for Justice," on the shameful history of racism in America, the hopes raised with emancipation, Reconstruction, and the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, the demise of Reconstruction, and the failure of the Supreme Court to protect the rights embodied in the Reconstruction Amendments, which served as a prelude to Jim Crow and segregation. I will publish it in June 2024.

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EDUCATION

Major: Earth Science / Education Certificate

Clubs and activities

Swim team (1970-1974, Tri-Captain 1974); Sigma Chi.

Other degrees and certifications:

JD, University of Denver (1979).

FAMILY

I married Mary Kaites '76 at Denison in Swasey in 1976. We had one child, Nicholas, and divorced in 1989. I married Nancy Cribari in 1995. She had a son, Joe. We adopted Connor. After various moves, all three boys, with their wife/significant others, live in the Denver/Fort Collins area. We have one granddaughter, Callie Grace, born in 2022.

Chris and granddaughter Callie.



One of life's joys has been keeping in contact with Denison friends, swim teammates, and several professors (Ken Bork and Bob Malcuit, among others).

DENISON MEMORIES

Swim team training trips to Florida over January Term; Swim meets and going to Nationals; Being a teaching/lab assistant for Ken Bork's geology classes with an "office" in Barney 307; a geology field trip over spring break through West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York with "Rocky" Mahard; living in the Sig House with great roommates and friends; the intelligent and talented men and women I met at Denison.

NEXT ON MY LIST

I'm about to publish my first novel. After marketing the book, I have been ordered to clean and glean my office and basement. More travel, golf, fly fishing, and playing with Callie (and other grandchildren?).

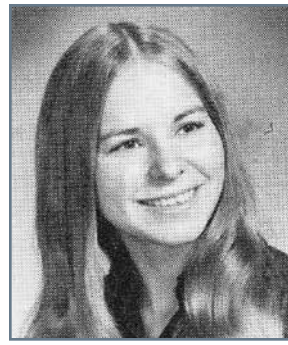


Chris with Nancy, Connor, Nick, and Joe.

Christine Bowen (Johnson)

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Retired high school math teacher, Toledo, Ohio.



LIFE

I had hoped to work in college-student personnel after earning a master's degree in that field, but I was unable to find employment in the chosen region. I fell into selling Blue Cross/Blue Shield to small companies, first for Blue Cross, then as an independent, commission-only agent. I stopped to raise the children for a time, then chose teaching as my next career. I thrived on teaching and working with remedial students, ultimately pitching the addition of a learning center to the parochial school that employed me. I opened and ran that center, providing academic support for all students.

My husband, Mark, became ill with cancer in 2017. I retired in May 2018, and Mark died six weeks later. Six weeks after his passing, I enrolled in the graduate math program at the University of Toledo to obtain the qualifications necessary to teach college classes. I completed the MS in mathematics in May 2023. The plan was to teach at the University of Toledo, where I had found a warm and supportive community. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused a sharp decline in enrollment at the University of Toledo and by the time the reduction in teaching staff was certain, it was too late to land a second choice. I am now in the challenging circumstances of finding meaning in my life in the absence of a spouse as well as the lack of my usual role of teaching and supporting students.

DENISON MEMORIES

Fourth-floor Slayter (great study location), study carrel corners at Doane Library with friends, rising insecurities, pulling all-nighters to write a paper, the night the power went off and candlelight parties erupted all over Shorney Hall, sorority initiation and singing "What do you get when you fall in love" on the quad to some hunky frat boy (thank you, Dale Robertson), the Bandersnatch, J-term with sharecropper families in Tennessee, mounting insecurities, urban semester in Philadelphia, Monomoy with Judy, busing tables in Curtis, thanking the professor for the C in Philosophy, friends that were patient with my insecurities.

NEXT ON MY LIST

Listening to *"The only tyrant I will accept in this world; the still, small voice within me."* ~ Gandhi.

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EDUCATION

Major: Psychology

Other degrees and certifications:

MA, Education, College Student Personnel BGSU (1977); MS, Mathematics, University of Toledo (2023). Licensed social worker; Licensed Math, 7-12 grades, Reading endorsement.

FAMILY

My late husband, Mark, was my classmate in 6th grade and a fellow trumpet player in the high school band in Elyria, Ohio. Only casual friends in those days, we started dating after college graduation. The relationship developed quickly, and we were spouses and soulmates for 40 years. Along the way, God brought two children into our lives, the progeny of others, but joyfully accepted into our family. Sarah is married, lives near my home in Toledo, and has provided me with a grandson, Markus, while Paul lives the single life in Chicago. Sadly, Mark died in 2018, the victim of cancer, but I consider myself lucky to have been with a good guy for 40 years.

My favorite guy, grandson Markus.





A 1966 Lyman, 25-foot sleeper, piloted by Captain Tina Johnson.

Left: Receiving my MS in mathematics in May 2023.



Early days: Barb Brundige, Sue Sartarelli, and Jessie Pflager.



Urban semester in Philadelphia: Diane Allison, Joy Hasel, Cheryl (from another school), Kathy Keough, Pam Watt.



Skit on Crawford 3W.



Sunning on the roof of Monomoy.

Martha Kimball (Cathcart)

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Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Research Laboratory Director,
Professor of Molecular Medicine for MS, PhD, MD & Postdoc
students.



LIFE

I'm embarrassed to admit that I went to Denison because it was easy. My older sister was there, Nancy Kimball (Rinek) '71. When I visited my sister before choosing DU, she and her roommates gave me the 'big sell'. Well, I fell for it. I got in with early admission and thereby avoided applying to many colleges, which seemed daunting for a girl from a small town in Michigan.

I met my future husband, David Cathcart '72, in October of my freshman year, and dated him even though Nancy and her roommates warned me to stay away from him. Ha-ha. Turns out we have a heavy DU influence in our family: Nancy married Mitch Rinek '69, my son Blair went to DU '10, as well as my brother's two daughters Megan and Lindsay Kimball ('06 and '09). Dave and I married in 1975 with many Denisonians present. We are still happily married.

We lived in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He was an attorney at a small, but mighty boutique law firm. I completed my PhD studies at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and then ran my research laboratory at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation (CCF) for 35 years where I was a professor of Molecular Medicine.

It didn't occur to us until 1987 that we might want kids, so we began that adventure. Our son Blair was born in 1987; Grant in 1989. Blair, after graduating from Denison, joined the Ohio governor campaign as a volunteer and was hired within a week and then moved into the Governor's office. He has worked in Ohio government ever since. Blair found Stacie, and they married in 2007. They now have two beautiful children. YAY! Our son Grant went to Rice University and then got his PhD at the University of Tokyo, both in Electrical/Computer Engineering. He is currently a consultant traveling the world and working with Sharp Electronics. We now can't remember life before

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EDUCATION

Major: Biology

Clubs and activities

Delta Delta Delta; Pi Society; Junior Advisor in Shorney; Orchestra member (String Bass); Lab Rat in Biology; member, Dun-Lapp Lounge.

Other degrees and certifications:

PhD in microbiology from Case Western Reserve University; Postdoctoral Fellow in immunology at Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Dave and I in France (2023).



Our family.



kids and, in spite of us, they turned out great! Best adventure yet!

Since science is an international sport, I had the opportunity to travel the world and give research talks, lectures and visit many countries. My research was mainly in areas of molecular inflammation. I was fortunate to pursue my career in the era of the development of a myriad of novel molecular tools and the sequencing of the human genome. It was a very fun and exciting career.

I was always involved in education. I had adjunct appointments at three educational institutions, and I was a professor in the newly formed Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. This MD program along with our new PhD program was designed by us to integrate both research and medical training to foster informed clinically relevant research.

Throughout my career I was an active volunteer for the American Heart Association and National Institutes of Health, serving on and chairing many committees. I was also active at CCF including serving on the Board of Governors and Board of Trustees. I finally burned out and joined my husband in retirement. Since retirement I have been active in my community serving on various boards and traveling with Dave nonstop.

DENISON MEMORIES

At Denison I had wonderful roommates, friends, sorority sisters, and faculty. Some of my favorite times were spent in the laboratory of Dr. Phil Stukus. He was an amazing teacher and mentor. I learned a lot by being his lab assistant. He helped guide me toward my chosen career and kept in touch throughout. Thanks Phil!

I value the writing skills that I polished at DU. These skills helped me tremendously in my career. Few recognize that scientists cannot keep a laboratory functional unless they can write persuasive grant applications and compelling publications. I was in that position. Without receiving grants and publishing manuscripts, my lab could not survive. Fortunately, I kept the lab alive and thriving. Thank you, Denison.

I also want to thank Denison for honoring me with an Alumni Citation in 1994. And I am forever thankful for all the good friends I have made. Stay in touch!

NEXT ON MY LIST

We have recently and finally been blessed with two grandchildren, Alice and Elliot, Blair's kids. They live in Columbus, not too far from our current digs in Chagrin Falls, and we can return them when we want! We look forward to spending LOTS of time with them. We love cooking (and eating) and mushroom hunting (no, not those kinds of mushrooms!). We also love hiking wherever we go. We plan to continue a rigorous travel schedule and spend lots of time at our century-summer home in Michigan.



*Martha's senior roommates:
Barb Brundige (Decker),
Linda Daniell (Murrell),
Susan Lothrop (Higgins),
Martha, and Kathy Lange
(Fuller).*