

On Their Own Terms

By ELIZABETH STEELE P'12



JOHN CHRISTOPHER HARTWICK SCHOLAR ALUMNI:

In 50 years, Hartwick's 285 John Christopher Hartwick Scholars have taken their ambition and education in unique directions. What they share is a strong foundation built on the

power of integrating a liberal arts education with experiential learning “to inspire curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, personal courage, and an enduring passion for learning.”

Meet three JCH Scholars: A hard-working actor/director/educator who is making his Broadway debut; a registered nurse who is now a healthcare attorney in Manhattan; a young, yet experienced, geologist who is beginning doctoral studies at Stanford University.

Flexible and open-minded, determined and resourceful, caring and connected, these JCH Scholars and so many others bring Hartwick's mission to life.



Center Stage

Broadway's **Geno Carr '99** finds success by understanding context.

Life is full of twists and turns for Geno Carr '99, and that's the way he likes it. "The journey is the important part," he observes. "I wish I had known that a long time ago; it would have reduced my stress."

It's the stress of being a professional actor, singer, director, and teacher. "This is not the most secure career path," Carr says, "but they're all different facets of who I am as an artist and a person." Facets that have created his "zigzag career."

Carr goes where the work takes him. Most recently that's Broadway, where he portrays Oz Fudge in the Tony Award-winning musical *Come from Away*. "It's unreal; surreal; iconic," he says of performing on this revered stage. "This is the pinnacle of live theatre in the US and I'm actually doing it!"

The show's been his focus for more than two years, since "workshopping" it in San Diego and through runs in Washington, DC, Newfoundland (where the true story is set), and Toronto. After hundreds of performances, the challenge now is keeping it fresh. "The artistry is in replicating something eight times a week," Carr says. "How do I make each moment work every time? It's hard, but it's fun."

Carr is enthusiastic about his work, and realistic about its demands. His wife, Nancy—also an actor—has moved their toddler

from California to New York for the show's run. The couple met on a national tour and have been on the go ever since, one or the other taking the lead. "It's not always easy, but we both understand," Carr says. "Each opportunity comes with a price to pay."

*I'm a believer
that you learn
always, from every
experience.*

In college, where he double majored in music and theatre, Carr seriously considered the greater stability of music education. His passions still extend to teaching—"sharing

knowledge and experience"—and his résumé includes work at the University of Virginia, Semester at Sea, and more.

Variety is critical for Carr; it's why he never considered studying in a conservatory. "That would have been too narrow," he says. "In the liberal arts I learned all aspects of humanity, culture, history. That now helps me better understand how to create life on stage."

Carr developed his craft on Hartwick's stages—in concerts, one acts, musicals, recitals—and through "the real world immersion" of producing shows during J Term. "At Hartwick I had the freedom to experiment, to learn on my feet, and to exercise my skills," he says. "So many great people helped me better understand my voice as an artist."

What he valued then still moves him today. "I love live theatre," Carr says. "The communion of it—sharing a space, sharing a story. The ripple effect of connecting with people on stage, backstage, in the audience. We're in this together and that's amazing."