

## Back-to-School Session: The Class of 1974, Making a Difference

Rhodes Art Center, Raymond Hall

1:00pm – 2:30pm, Friday, May 31



Join panelists Margaret Honey '74, Valerie Jarrett '74, Betty Edwards Johnson '74, and Robin Winter-Sperry '74, as they explore the personal journeys they've made since NMH, making a difference across multiple disciplines from education and energy to public service and medical affairs. Edward Pitoniak '74 will serve as moderator.

### Meet the Panel:

#### Margaret Honey

After 15 years in children's educational development and 15 years as president & CEO of the New York Hall of Science, Margaret became president & CEO of the Scratch Foundation in 2023.

Her career has focused on non-profit leadership—strategic planning, fundraising, and a consistent focus in her area of expertise in creative STEM learning. Her particular interest is motivating young people about science and technology learning, described in her book *Design, Make, Play: Growing the Next Generation of STEM Innovators* (2013). Margaret has connected her PhD in developmental psychology with the use of digital technologies in many environments. The Scratch Foundation supports the world's largest coding community for kids, a 10-year-old coding platform now in 196 countries and available for free.

#### Valerie Bowman Jarrett

Valerie has had a career of distinguished service including as the Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama from 2009-2017. During that time, she oversaw the Offices of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs and chaired the White House Council on Women and Girls. Early in her public service, Valerie served as deputy chief of staff to Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and as commissioner of Chicago's department of planning and development. In the private sector, Valerie was also CEO for 14 years at the real estate development and management firm, the Habitat Company. During the same period, she was a member of and then chaired the Chicago Stock Exchange. As a volunteer, Valerie was board of trustees chair and vice-chair, respectively, at the University of Chicago Medical Center and University of Chicago. She is currently CEO of the Barack Obama Foundation, which in addition to overseeing the Barack Obama Presidential Center runs the My Brother's Keeper Alliance, founded by

Obama when he was president. Valerie's New York Times bestseller *Finding My Voice: My Journey to the West Wing and the Path Forward* was published in April 2019.

### **Betty Edwards Johnson**

In her 40+ year career as a team leader, manager, and geophysicist at Chevron, Betty broke down technical and institutional barriers, becoming a subject matter expert in non-seismic geophysics, basin analysis, and new venture exploration, contributing to exploration campaigns around the world and launching many technical "firsts." Betty managed multi-disciplinary teams and technology programs to deliver solutions to the most challenging geological problems, resulting in two patents, several peer-reviewed papers, and numerous professional presentations and papers. As Earth Science Organizational Capability Manager, as well as several professional organizations, she recruited, hired, coached, and mentored hundreds of scientists in their successful careers within and beyond Chevron. Prior to retirement, Betty served as General Manager of Subsurface Talent as a strong proponent of employee engagement, technical competency development, and inclusive leadership culture during the industry's transition towards a more equitable, sustainable, lower-carbon energy system.

### **Robin Winter-Sperry, MD**

Robin has had a distinguished career in the pharmaceutical industry including at Sanofi /Genzyme and Novartis, and as leader of a global consulting firm. She is currently the Field Based Medical Excellence Lead for Oncology International at Pfizer in the area of Medical Affairs, working with healthcare professionals worldwide to improve healthcare (therapeutic agents in development and marketed) through scientific exchange and evidence generation to improve the patient journey. Robin has been at the forefront of the evolution of field-based medical affairs globally and has been involved in over 28 product launches. She also pioneered the recognition of Medical Science Liaisons (MSLs) as a critical role in the biopharmaceutical and device industry and is responsible for creating and developing many of the industry's leading Medical Affairs and Medical Liaison teams.

### **Moderator:**

#### **Edward Pitoniak**

Ed began his career by spending 17 years in the magazine business, eventually serving as Editor in Chief of SKI Magazine. In 1996, Ed and his family moved from New York to Whistler, BC, where he worked in ski resort operations for 8 years. That led to Ed becoming the CEO of a public hotel REIT in Vancouver in 2004. Since then he has served on 5 public company boards and has run another hotel REIT based in Toronto. In 2017 Ed became the founding CEO of VICI Properties, a New York-based experiential REIT that owns such iconic assets as Caesars Palace, The Venetian, MGM Grand and Mandalay Bay, and invests in such iconic brands as Canyon Ranch and Cabot Golf. Ed is married to artist Kate Barber, also '74, who organized the Class of '74 art exhibition for the reunion weekend.

***Don't miss these other panels featuring '74 classmates:***

**The Northfield Campus, Past, Present and Future Panel Discussion**

*Rhodes Art Center, Raymond Hall – Friday, 9:30-10:30am*

Join Barbara Freedman '66, Don Glascoff '63, P'12, Josephine Hart '74, and Patrick Ford, Thomas Aquinas College, Northfield, to learn about the Northfield campus consolidation decision, and the sale of the campus. Patrick will also provide an update on the growth and future plans of Thomas Aquinas College.



**Josephine (“Josie”) Hart, '74:**

Josie Hart is an experienced finance and business development professional. Following a distinguished career with IBM, she set her sights on more entrepreneurial endeavors where she has leveraged her background in architecture, finance and business. She served as the CEO of National Land Partners, one of the country's oldest and largest buyers and sellers of recreational land, and has held key positions as founder, partner, and advisor for several startups ranging from telemedicine to work force application software.

In parallel with her professional career, Josie has been busy with work in the community and nonprofit arenas serving on bank, hospital, and youth-related boards. She is completing her 15th year on the NMH Board of Trustees. During that period, she served on the Northfield Stewardship Committee, Building and Grounds, Master Plan, and Advancement committees and as Chair of the Audit Committee and as a Vice Chair of the BOT during the transition to one campus including the repositioning of the Northfield facilities, historic building of housing and program space in Gill, and a historic capital campaign. She is currently a member of the school's Committee on Trustees, Finance Committee and is leading the Planned Giving component for NMH's "This Moment, This Place" comprehensive campaign. She is also a co-chair of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Planning and Class Gift Committees.

**Doing Well & Doing Good: An Intergenerational Conversation on Citizenship & Leadership**

*Rhodes Art Center, Raymond Hall – Saturday, 11:15am – 12:15pm*

*Panelists:* Mariah Calagione '89 (Moderator), Toni Bush '74, Rob Werner '79, Dawson Her Many Horses '94, Daisy Gordon '09

Each year, NMH centers learning around a theme that connects to one of our core principles. Throughout the year, that theme is woven into everything we do: classes, activities, athletics, special events, and guest speakers. This year's theme is Citizenship and Leadership and we are continuing our learning into Reunion. Join this distinguished panel of alumni as they discuss what Citizenship and Leadership means to them, the role an NMH education played in their early understanding of each, and how they have leveraged their professional lives to influence and bring change in the world. [Panelist bios.](#)



**Antoinette (“Toni”) Bush ‘74**

Toni Bush was the Executive Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs for News Corp, a global media company and home of Dow Jones, The Wall Street Journal, New York Post, newspapers in the UK and Australia, HarperCollins Publishers and Realtor.com, among other businesses from 2013 to 2022. Ms. Bush was responsible for leading the company’s government relations efforts in the US, the UK and Australia and headed the company’s Philanthropy Committee. Prior to News Corp, Ms. Bush was the partner in charge of Skadden Arps’ Communications Group and represented global media, entertainment and telecom entities.

Ms. Bush was Executive Vice President of Northpoint Technology Ltd., where she led legal and regulatory strategies. She also served as Senior Counsel to the Communications Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and worked on numerous bills, including the landmark Cable Act of 1992. She chairs the boards of The HistoryMakers and serves on the boards of a number of entities including The Smithsonian Institution, Ares Management LLC, Children’s National Hospital and The Economic Club of Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of Northwestern University Law School and Wellesley College.