

ABBREVIATED VITA

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George F. Thompson
217 Oak Ridge Circle
Staunton, VA 24401-3511
(c) 540-746-5263
thompsongeorge33@gmail.com
www.gftbooks.com

PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

Book Publishing

George has been immersed in the book publishing world since 1984 as a pioneering acquisitions editor and publisher, author/editor of 8 place-based books, and founder and director of 15 book series. He has developed and brought to publication more than 500 books, supported in part by more than \$2,600,000 in financial support from numerous foundations, non-profit organizations, federal and state agencies, and other philanthropic donors. George's books have garnered more than 115 major editorial awards, including "best-book" honors in 35 academic fields and categories. Historically, George's books and book series appeal equally to the academic (scholar, student, professional) and general reader, and they consistently receive sterling reviews in academic and professional journals in addition to widespread attention in the larger world.

GFT authors have been interviewed about their books on local and national public radio and television programs, including Twin Cities (MN) PBS, NPR's *Radiolab*, the *Diane Rehm Show*, Cary Barbor on *All Things Considered*, Scott Simon's *Weekend Edition*, KSFR's "Cline's Corner" (Santa Fe), KPNR's "State of Nevada" (Las Vegas), WPFW's "On the Margin" (DC), and WWNO's "The Reading Life" (New Orleans). GFT books have received glowing reviews in professional journals such as *Atlas Obscura*, *Environmental History*, *High Country News*, *Hyperallergic*, *Journal of Folklore Research*, *Journal of Historical Geography*, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, *Landscape Architecture*, *Lenscratch*, *LensWork*, *Library Journal*, *Panorama: Journal of the Association of Historians of American Art*, *photo district news (pdn)*, *The Photo Review*, *Photographer's Forum*, and *siteLINES*.

GFT books and authors have also been featured in *Zeke Magazine*, *World Literature Today*, *Waterkeepers Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington State Magazine*, *Washington Post*, *VVA Veteran*, *Tuscaloosa News*, *Seven Days*, *South x Southeast*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Slate*, *Seven Days*, *Santa Fe Magazine*, *San Francisco Book Review*, *The Ritz Herald*, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *Politico*, *Planet Weekly*, *Picture This Past*, *Photomonitor*, *photo-eye*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Pasatiempo/The New Mexican*, *Paris Review*, *Our Mississippi Magazine*, *New Republic*, *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *Midwest Book Review*, *Mexico News Daily*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Indianz*, *The Guardian*, *Dubuque Telegraph Herald*, *Der Spiegel*, *Denver Post*, *Delmarva Review*, *The Daily Yonder*, *ColdType*, *City Book Review*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Christian Century*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Burningwood Literary Journal*, *Boulder City Review*, and *The Atlantic*, among others.

Herewith a chronological record of George's publishing career that began at the Johns Hopkins University Press and then the Center for American Places (Center for the Study of Place) before he started his own imprint, George F. Thompson Publishing, L.L.C., in 2011.

The Johns Hopkins University Press (1984–2004)

Acquisitions Editor (1984–1989) and Independent Editor (1990–2004)

- Brought to publication approximately 300 books under the JHUP imprint.
- JHUP books developed by George were supported in part by approximately \$500,000 in financial support from foundations, nonprofit organizations, federal and state agencies, and other philanthropic donors.
- JHUP books developed by George won “best-book” honors as awarded by more than two dozen professional associations and organizations, including those awarded by the American Historical Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, Association of American Geographers (now known as the American Association of Geographers), Association of American Publishers, Caribbean Studies Association, Center for Historic Preservation, Environmental History Association, P.E.N. Center U.S.A. West, Society for the History of Technology, Society of Architectural Historians, Vernacular Architecture Forum, and Whitney Museum of American Art (a complete list appears on pages 6–7).
- Developed lists and acquired books in American studies; Anabaptist and pietist studies; architectural history (a new program that George developed for JHUP); Atlantic history and culture; geography and environmental studies (a new program); the history of medicine, science, and technology; landscape architectural history (a new program); landscape photography (a new program); and planning history (a new program).

- Directed JHUP’s reprint program for paperbacks acquired especially from trade houses such as Alfred A. Knopf, McGraw-Hill, W. W. Norton, and Vintage in New York City.
- Served as JHUP’s principal liaison with five documentary history projects: The Papers of Thomas A. Edison, Dwight David Eisenhower, First Federal Congress of the United States of America, George C. Marshall, and Frederick Law Olmsted.
- Managed and directed three of JHUP’s existing book series: the history of medicine, the history of science, and the history of technology.
- Founded and directed nine new book series for JHUP: *American Land Classics*; *Center Books in Anabaptist Studies*; *Center Books in Natural History*; *Center Books on Contemporary Landscape Design*; *Center Books on Space, Place, and Time*; *Center Books on the International Scene*; *Creating the North American Landscape* (“likely the most decorated book series ever published by a university press,” according to Penelope Kaiserlian, Director Emerita of the University of Virginia Press); *Landscapes of the Night*; and *The Road and American Culture*.

Center for American Places (1990–2007); renamed the Center for the Study of Place (since 2007)

Founder and Director

The original mission of CAP, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was to enhance our understanding of and appreciation for places in the Americas—urban, rural, social, and wild—especially through the development and publication of books and book series. That mission expanded in February 2007, when CAP changed its name to CSP in order to extend its geographical coverage beyond the Americas and embrace the discovery and dissemination of knowledge about places throughout the world.

- Brought to publication approximately 100 books under CAP’s imprint and in partnership with more than forty university presses, professional trade presses, and art museums, especially the Johns Hopkins University Press but also Abrams, Amon Carter Museum of Art, Chicago Park District, Columbia College Chicago, Dewi Lewis, Dartmouth University Press, Forests Forever, Kodansha, Laguna Wilderness Press, Lodima Press, McGraw-Hill, Museum of Modern Art, Museum of New Mexico Press, Nevada Museum of Art, North Dakota Museum of Art, NYU Press, Ohio University Press, Princeton Architectural Press, Radius, Routledge, Rutgers University Press, Society of Architectural Historians, Staten Island Greenbelt Conservancy, Swallow Press, University of Arizona Press, University of Chicago Press, University of Colorado Press, University of Florida Press, University of Georgia Press, University of Iowa Press, University of Kentucky Press, University of Minnesota Press, University of Missouri Press,

University of Pittsburgh Press, University of Texas Press, University of Virginia Press, University of Wisconsin Press, University Press of Mississippi, University Press of New England, John Wiley and Sons, and Yale University Press.

- CAP books were supported in part by more than \$700,000 in grants and donations from numerous foundations, non-profit organizations, and other philanthropic donors.
- CAP books won “best-book” honors in dozens of academic fields as awarded by numerous professional associations and organizations.
- Founded five new book series (in addition to the nine that George founded and managed for Johns Hopkins University Press): *Center Books on American Places*; *Center Books on Chicago and Environs*; *Center Books on the American South*; *Center Books on the American West*; and *My Kind of*.
- Served as the principal publishing consultant for the Society of Architectural Historians’ *Buildings of the United States* series (2004–2007), co-published *Buildings of Pittsburgh* (2007) with SAH, and directed the transition from Oxford University Press to the University of Virginia Press as the publisher of the *BUS* series, a major undertaking that has succeeded well.
- Founded the Cotton Mather Library, which since 1995 has served as a retreat for artists, scholars, writers, and kindred spirits in Arthur, Nebraska, a gateway to the American West in the beautiful Sand Hills. The library is also an active repository of place-based material, including an acclaimed collection of books and the “Creating the North American Landscape Collection” of photographs and other fine art.
- Served as the umbrella nonprofit during the 1990s for the development of the Rocky Mountain Land Library, based in Denver, which is now world famous.
- In 2001, accepted the American Land Publishing Project as part of the Center’s research and publishing program (still active).
- Served as the home nonprofit for the publication of *Voices from the American Land*, a series of place-based chapbooks featuring the poetry of writers Patricia Clark, Thomas Rain Crowe, Barbara Duncan, Annie Finch, Joanne Kyger, Quraysh Ali Lansana, Charles E. Little, Barry Lopez, Tony Mares, Brent Martin, Patricia Monaghan, and Norman Schaefer, among others. Developed with and supported by grants from the Pleasant Rowland Foundation, New Mexico Humanities Council, and Conservation and Research Foundation.

George F. Thompson Publishing (since 2011)

Founder and President

- Brought to publication approximately 100 place-based books under the GFT imprint and, selectively, in partnership with trade presses such as Liveright/W. W. Norton, art publishers such as Radius, museums such as the Denver Art Museum and Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, non-profit organizations such as the David and Inez Myers Foundation, the Milton and Tamar Maltz Foundation, the Traub Fund of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, Furthermore (a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund), the Foundation for Landscape Studies, and Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, and university presses, including Virginia, Johns Hopkins, Georgia, Arizona, and Alabama.
- GFT books have received “best-book” honors and been finalists for annual book prizes in numerous fields from numerous professional associations and organizations, regularly winning awards from leading independent publishing centers.
- GFT books have been supported in part by more than \$1,400,000 in grants and donations from numerous foundations, non-profit organizations, museums, and philanthropic donors.
- Resurrected and re-envisioned the *My Kind of* series and *Creating the North American Landscape* series (now called *Creating the Human Landscape*).
- Inaugurated the innovative Publisher-in-Residence (PIR) program in 2012, in which George travels to university and college campuses to offer advice, counsel, and direction to faculty and graduate students about navigating the publishing process (both books and journals): what editors and publishers are looking for, how to prepare a manuscript or journal article ready for external peer review and eventual publication, how to consider and integrate illustrations into materials, how to work with an editor and publisher, how to negotiate a better book contract, how to create an inner circle, how to expand one’s network and outreach, how to set priorities and benchmarks and improve one’s time management, how to maintain a healthy work-life balance, and much more. Each program is customized to meet respective institutional needs.

For example, George visits the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on three separate weeks each semester, advising faculty from all departments in the College of Arts and Sciences and graduate students in all academic fields. Other clients, present and past, include Bowdoin College, CENTER Santa Fe, Middlebury College, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Towson University, and the Universities of Baltimore, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas at Austin.

Faculty who have worked with George have had their research articles appear in top-tier flagship journals and received book contracts from more than 40 publishers, among them Amherst College Press, Amsterdam University Press, Bloomsbury, Brill, Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, Cornell University Press, Fordham University Press, Harvard

Education Press, Iberoamericana/Verveut, Indiana University Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, Kendall-Hunt, Lexington Books, LSU Press, Manchester, McGraw-Hill, The MIT Press, NYU Press, Northern Illinois University Press, Oxford University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Peter Lang, Princeton University Press, Reaktion, Routledge, Rutgers University Press, Springer Verlag, Temple University Press, University of Alabama Press, University of Arizona Press, University of Arkansas Press, University of Colorado Press, University of Illinois Press, University of Michigan Press, University of Minnesota Press, University of New Mexico Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, University of Pittsburgh Press, University of South Carolina Press, University of Texas Press, University of Toronto Press, University Press of Florida, University Press of Kansas, Utah State University Press, Vanderbilt University Press, W. W. Norton, Wesleyan University Press, West Virginia University Press, and Yale University Press.

Journals

The Black Warrior Review (1974–1975), University of Alabama

Founding editorial member (as an undergraduate) of “one of the nineteen literary magazines that matter” (*Writer’s Digest*) and the oldest continuously run literary journal by graduate students in the United States. George evaluated poetry for the inaugural issues.

Landscape Journal: Design, Planning, and Management of the Land (1981–1984), University of Wisconsin Press

The first book review editor and editorial assistant (reviewed and edited manuscripts) of the only research journal in landscape architecture, which received the 2008 Honor Award in Communications from the American Society of Landscape Architects in recognition of *LJ*’s high impact over the years. George’s work on *LJ* was a key factor in his decision to pursue book publishing as a career.

PUBLISHING RECORD

Awards and Honors

- Books that George has developed and brought to publication have received more than 115 major editorial awards, honors, and prizes, including multiple “best-book” designations in 35 academic fields and categories as awarded by the Agricultural History Society, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, American Folklife Society, American Historical Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, Association for Collegiate Schools of Planning, Association of American Publishers, Association of American Geographers (now the American Association of Geographers), Association of Collegiate and Research Libraries, Caribbean Studies Association, Center for Historic Preservation, Colorado Center for the Book, Elizabeth Avedon, Environmental History Association, Foreword Reviews/INDIES, Independent Publisher Book Awards, International Latino Book Awards, Landmarks Council of Illinois, Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers Association, New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, New York Society Library, PEN Center U.S.A. West, photo-eye, Pioneer America Society, San Francisco Media Alliance, School of American Research for Excellence in Anthropology, Society for History in the Federal Government, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Society of American City and Regional Planning History, Society of Architectural Historians, Society for the History of Technology, Vernacular Architecture Forum, and Whitney Museum of American Art, among others.
- Inducted (1989) into the Honor Society of Sigma Lambda Alpha, the academic honor society of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.
- Publications Award (2000) for lifetime achievement from the Association of American Geographers. George was the first individual to receive this prestigious award; previous winners at the time were Rand McNally and the University of Chicago Press.
- Publisher’s Citation (2002) for work as the founder and director of the *Creating the North American Landscape* series from the Vernacular Architecture Forum.
- Communications Award (2005) for lifetime achievement from the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture.
- One of eight “Players of the Year that are supporting innovation and bringing fresh perspectives to the world of photography,” as designated by the flagship journal *pdn (photo district news)* in its *Photo Annual 2006*.
- Two Honor Awards (1990 and 2003) and a Merit Award (1993) from the American Society of Landscape Architects for George’s editorial work on *Saving America’s Countryside: A Guide to Rural Conservation* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990); *Soil Conservation in the United States: Policy and Planning* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993); and *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago’s Parks* (Center for American Places, 2003).

Books

George has been an author and editor of the following eight books:

Beyond the Great Divide: Denver to the Grand Canyon, co-author with Cotton Mather and P. P. Karan (Rutgers University Press, 1992)

- One of 12 volumes in the *Touring North America* series, published in association with the 27th International Geographical Congress.

Landscape in America, editor (University of Texas Press, 1995)

- Designated a “Notable Book of 1995” by *Harpers* magazine.

Registered Places of New Mexico: The Land of Enchantment, co-author with Cotton Mather (New Mexico Geographical Society, 1995)

- Volume 1 in the *Registered Places of America* series.

Ecological Design and Planning, co-editor with Frederick R. Steiner (John Wiley and Sons, 1996; paperback, 2007; translated into Chinese)

- Volume 7 in *The Wiley Series in Sustainable Design*.
- Supported by a \$20,000 grant from the Design Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The National Road and *A Guide to the National Road* (two volumes), project director and director of photography (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996)

- Winner of the Antoinette Forrester Downing Book Award in 1997 from the Society of Architectural Historians in which the jurors wrote: “It undoubtedly is among the most ambitious architectural and historical surveys ever conducted.”
- Supported by a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a \$50,000 grant from the Pioneer America Society.

Chicago Portfolio: Where Geography and Photography Meet, editor (Center for American Places, 2006)

- Issued simultaneously as a limited edition of 250 softcover copies (104 pages) and in John C. Hudson’s *Chicago: A Geography of the City and Region* (University of Chicago Press, in

association with the Center for American Places, 2006), the first geography of Chicago to appear in more than 30 years.

Nature and Cities: The Ecological Imperative in Urban Design and Planning, co-editor with Frederick R. Steiner and Armando Carbonell (The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin, 2016)

- Designated a “Book of the Year” by the American Society for Landscape Architects.

Book Series

George has founded and directed 15 book series, of which two—*Creating the Human Landscape* and *My Kind of*— are active.

- *American Land Classics* (Johns Hopkins University Press)
- *Center Books in Anabaptist Studies* (Johns Hopkins University Press)
- *Center Books in Natural History* (Johns Hopkins University Press; then the Center for American Places and University of Chicago Press)
- *Center Books on American Places* (Center for American Places with distribution by the University of Chicago Press)
- *Center Books on Chicago and Environs* (Center for American Places and University of Chicago Press)
- *Center Books on Contemporary Landscape Design* (Johns Hopkins University Press)
- *Center Books on the American South* (Center for American Places and University of Georgia Press)
- *Center Books on the American West* (Center for American Places with distribution by the University of Chicago Press)
- *Center Books on the International Scene* (Johns Hopkins University Press; then the Center for American Places)
- *Center Books on Space, Place, and Time* (Johns Hopkins University Press)
- *Creating the Human Landscape* (TBD)
- *Creating the North American Landscape* (Johns Hopkins University Press)
- *Landscapes of the Night* (Johns Hopkins University Press)

- *My Kind of American Place* (TBD; previously known as the *My Kind of* series with the Center for American Places at Columbia College Chicago with distribution by the University of Chicago Press)
- *The Road and American Culture* (Johns Hopkins University Press; then the Center for American Places with distribution by the University of Chicago Press)

Catalogs and Portfolios

Editor, *Our Time On Earth* (2020), 24 pages (catalog).

Editor, *Requiem for the Innocent: El Paso and Beyond* (2020), 26 pages (a limited edition portfolio of twelve, signed by the artists).

Essays/Articles

“Foreword” to *High Plains Farm* by Paula Chamlee (Lodima Press, 1996), 9–10.

“The Value of Place,” CITE magazine, Special Issue: “Texas Places,” (1997); reproduced in *Texas Places*, edited by Bruce C. Webb and Nonya Grenader (Rice Design Alliance and Texas A&M, 1997).

“The Places of America,” a long profile of George and his publishing career by Ed Malles, *Alabama Alumni Magazine* (April/May 1998).

“Connecting the Dots,” an afterword to *Consuming the American Landscape* by John Ganis (Dewi Lewis, 2003), 137–38.

“Our Place in the World: From Butte to Your Neck of the Woods,” *Vernacular Architecture Forum Newsletter*, Number 123 (Spring 2010): 1 and 3–6. This is the first of three commissioned articles for the newsletter.

“Getting the Word Out through Books,” *Vernacular Architecture Forum Newsletter*, Number 126 (Spring 2011): 1 and 3–6. This is the second of three commissioned articles for the newsletter.

“Field Notes: What Publishers and Authors Are Facing in the New Market Society,” *Vernacular Architecture Forum Newsletter*, Number 132 (Spring 2012): 15–21. This is the third of three commissioned articles for the newsletter.

“Behavior Is Belief,” the foreword to *Our Time on Earth* by Tom Young (George F. Thompson Publishing, 2020).

Poems

Poems from George’s chapbook of poems entitled *All Children Should Be Fish* have appeared in *The New Orleans Review*, Special Southern Issue (1974); *The Black Warrior Review* (1975); *New South Writing* (1975); and *Nothing Rich, but Some Things Rare*, an anthology edited by Megan Benton and Bradley Hutchison (Gorgas Oak Press, 1984).

EXHIBITIONS

National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (1998)

- One of four panelists in a special public discussion regarding the exhibition, “Ansel Adams, a Legacy: Masterworks from the Friends of Photography Collection.” George’s address was entitled “Who Speaks for the Land? The Photograph.”

Hodges Taylor Gallery, Charlotte, NC (1998)

- Co-curated, with Martha A. Strawn, the exhibition, “Creating the North American Landscape.” The exhibit was (and still is) the first ever to be developed in association with the Association of American Geographers, which held its annual convention that year in Charlotte. Featured artists were: Virginia Beahan and Laura McPhee, Barbara Bosworth, Gregory Conniff, Karen Glaser, Frank Gohlke, Peter Goin, Alan Gussow, John Pfahl, Martha A. Strawn, Margaret Stratton, Bob Thall, and Charles Walters.

Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL (1999)

- One of four panelists in a special public discussion regarding the exhibition, “The New American Village by Bob Thall.”

New Image Gallery, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA (2000)

- Curator, “The Contemporary American Landscape through Photographs.” Featured artists were: Gregory Conniff, James Dow, Terry Evans, Peter Goin, Eric Paddock, Sandy Sorlien, Martha A. Strawn, Bob Thall, and Charles Walters.

TEACHING AND PRESENTATIONS

- George co-taught courses in landscape photography with Stuart Klipper in the Department of Art at Colorado College in Colorado Springs (1992, 1993, 1995) and courses in landscape history and cultural resource preservation in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1982).
- George has (upon invitation) given scores of lectures, seminars, and workshops—on publishing, landscape photography, and environmental and geographical topics—at Arizona State University, Bowdoin College, CENTER Santa Fe, Cornell University, Eastern Mennonite University, Elizabethtown College, Howard University Book Publishing Institute, James Madison University, Messiah College, Middlebury College, New Mexico Geographical Society, North Carolina State University, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Shenandoah University, Towson University, 27th International Geographical Congress, University of Alabama, University of Baltimore, University of Colorado, University of Connecticut, University of Georgia, University of Nevada-Reno, University of North Carolina, University of South Carolina, University of Texas at Austin, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Power & Light Company, among others. On multiple occasions he also spearheaded annual special sessions on publishing at the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Society for Photographic Education, and Southern Association of American University Presses.

- In 1997, George was invited to serve as the chairman and master of ceremonies of the special session commemorating the life and work of J. B. Jackson, a founder of landscape studies, at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Fort Worth, Texas.
- In 1998, George was a keynote speaker at the symposium banquet honoring the life and career of Yi-Fu Tuan, Vilas and John K. Wright Professor Emeritus of Geography, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The title of the international symposium was “Progress.”
- In 1999, George was a featured presenter at the two-day workshop entitled “Location” at the Workspace for Choreographers in Sperryville, Virginia. His address, presented on consecutive evenings, was entitled “Get Grounded: Act I: A Sand Painting and Act II: Getting beyond the Facts.”
- In 2008, George was the keynote speaker at the 35th Annual Meeting of Openlands, held in the historic Chicago Stock Exchange Trading Room at the Art Institute of Chicago.
- In 2013, George was a featured panelist at the Oxford Conference for the Book in Oxford, Mississippi.
- In 2016, George was a featured panelist at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art regarding the publication of Michael Kolster’s book, *Take Me to the River: Photographs of Atlantic Rivers*.

PERSONAL

Born in Denver, Colorado, in 1954 and raised in the coastal towns of Byram, Cos Cob, and Greenwich, Connecticut, George has lived in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia since 1983. He was educated at the Brunswick School in Greenwich (diploma, 1971), where he won the Harvard Prize Book Award, the University of Pennsylvania (General Studies, 1971–1972), where he lettered in ice hockey, the University of Alabama (A.B. English/Creative Writing, 1973–1977), where he was a founding editorial member of *The Black Warrior Review*, the University of Wisconsin-Madison (M.A. Landscape Architecture/Landscape History, 1980–1983 and 1990), where he graduated summa cum laude and received the Departmental Service Award, and the Johns Hopkins University Press, where he began his publishing career as an acquisitions editor from 1984 to 1989. In 1978, George married Cynthia Roberts Thompson, a decorated Professor of Dance at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Their daughter, Haley, is in her final year of nursing school, and their grandson, Coleman, is enjoying life as a 4-year-old.