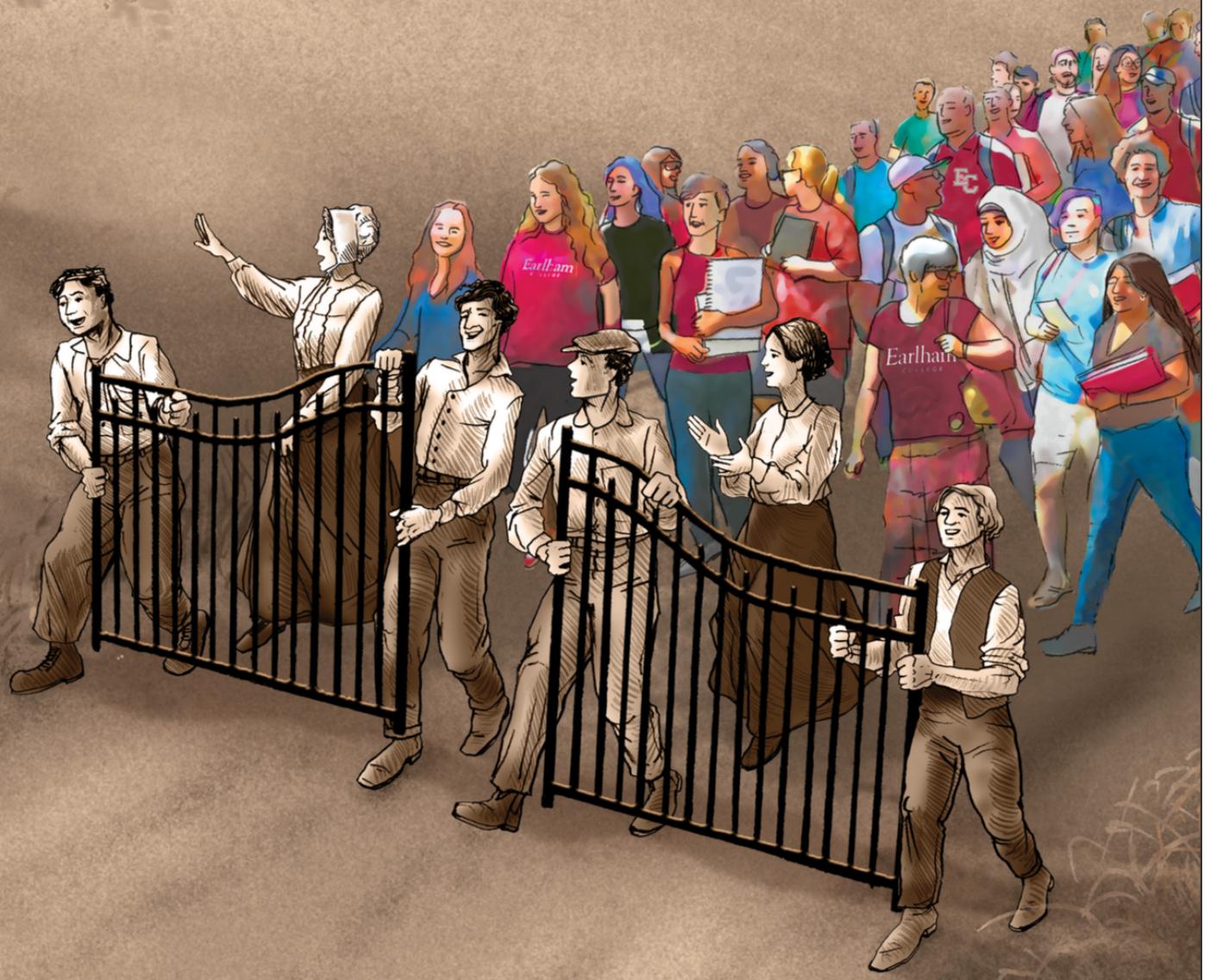


GOING TO TOWN

# Earlhamite

THE MAGAZINE OF EARLHAM COLLEGE / SUMMER 2018



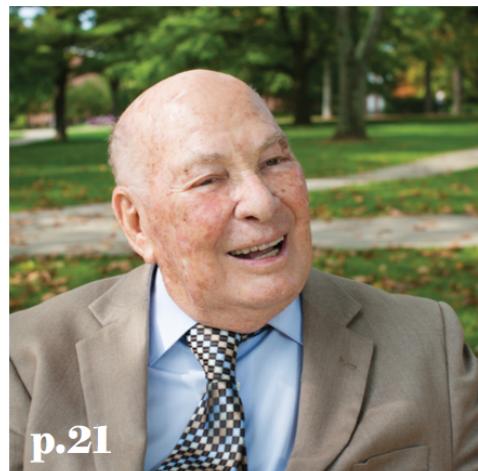
bearing tidings of prosperity and vicissitudes of  
Earlham to its friends and supporters ... **SUMMER 2018**  
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Earlham's hometown,  
partner and place to  
change the world.

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A professor's dream  
became a regional  
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In Richmond and  
beyond, supervised  
ministry through  
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its students find  
fitting ministries,  
and sometimes  
surprising ones.

# HOMETOWN START-UPS

Having to bike at night during a summer research experience in Richmond helped Ali Shahram '19 understand the limitations of public transportation in the city. Bus timeliness seemed hit or miss, even during regular bus hours, and it required cash — a tougher barrier than one might think when most everything else is paid for with a swipe of a card.

Shahram and LeAundre Knight '19 put together a plan for a more convenient and effective transportation system in Richmond by incorporating GPS and online tracking, lengthening hours of

"We quickly found that our plan was much stronger when we decided to partner with the city rather than to compete against it," Shahram says. Shahram and Knight will work with the city over the summer on implementation plans.

They are encouraged by the response from Richmondites. Team Easy Connect's solution turned out to be as much about connecting people as it did with connecting the technology involved.



LeAundre Knight '19 and Ali Shahram '19

service, and increasing payment options. Naming their project Easy Connect, they placed their ideas into contention for Earlham's Prize for Creative Capitalism, a business plan competition in which student teams are judged on innovation, social impact and the potential for their idea's success in the marketplace. They won second place and the \$5,000 Blue Buffalo Award in the competition.

Their first ideas were to figure out a way to bypass the city's transportation system entirely.

"People here are warm and welcoming," says Knight. "I didn't expect to find people in Richmond that friendly." He sees even more potential for cooperation as groups from Earlham and Richmond continue to work together.

Another Richmond-based Creative Capitalism entry was team Richmond Reliable, which included Tianxiang Tan '20, Yujeong Lee '21 and Fuad Aref '20. Their plan to connect homeowners with contractors took home fifth place in the awards, and perhaps brought about the

**"WE FELT THAT AS EARLHAM STUDENTS, WE SHOULDN'T RESTRAIN OURSELVES TO JUST ONLY THE EARLHAM CAMPUS. AS STUDENTS WE SHOULD ... GET TO KNOW THE COMMUNITY OF RICHMOND BECAUSE WE ARE A PART OF THAT TOO."**

—Yujeong Lee '21

greatest appreciation for Richmond by any group. They are currently seeking funding to build out their application.

"We could have chosen anywhere in the world, but we decided we wanted to do our idea here in Richmond," says Lee.

Tan was hopeful, but unsure of how their plans to work in the community would be received.

"The more we interacted with the people of Richmond, the more welcoming and supportive we found them," Tan says. "We want other students to learn this. A lot of people in the Richmond community are really passionate about our idea. And if more Earlham students see that this might make a difference, they might contribute their talents to Richmond."

Lee says she learned about a Richmond myth that if you drink from the fountain at Glen Miller Park, you will return to Richmond.

"I made it a point to drink that fountain water," she says. "I would like to work in Richmond."