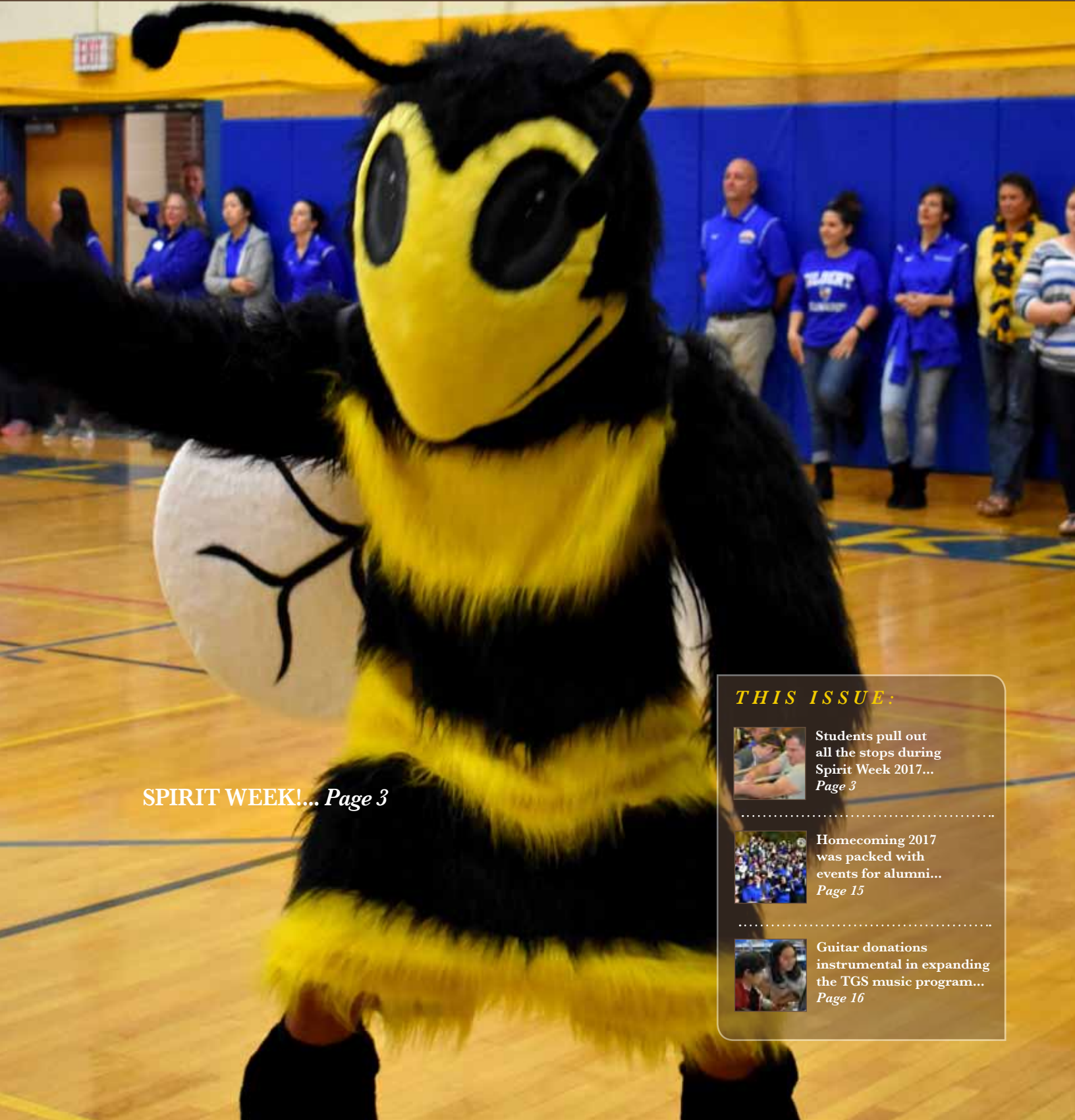


WINTER 2018 Yellow Jacket

ALUMNI MAGAZINE of THE GILBERT SCHOOL



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Mission

The Gilbert School was founded in 1895 by William L. Gilbert "for the improvement of mankind by affording such assistance and means of educating the young as will help them to become good citizens." We are committed to assuring that each student is prepared to be a thoughtful, productive citizen in a complex, global society.

Share Your Stories

We want to hear from you! Did you get a new job? Earn a degree? Write a book? Welcome a child or grandchild? Win an award? Retire? We'll share the good news with our 8000 readers.

Interested in writing an article for the *YellowJacket*? Send your first-person story for consideration. Let your fellow alumni know where your path has led you since graduation and how your time at The Gilbert School has influenced your decisions.

This is *your* magazine. Make your voices heard! Email us at: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

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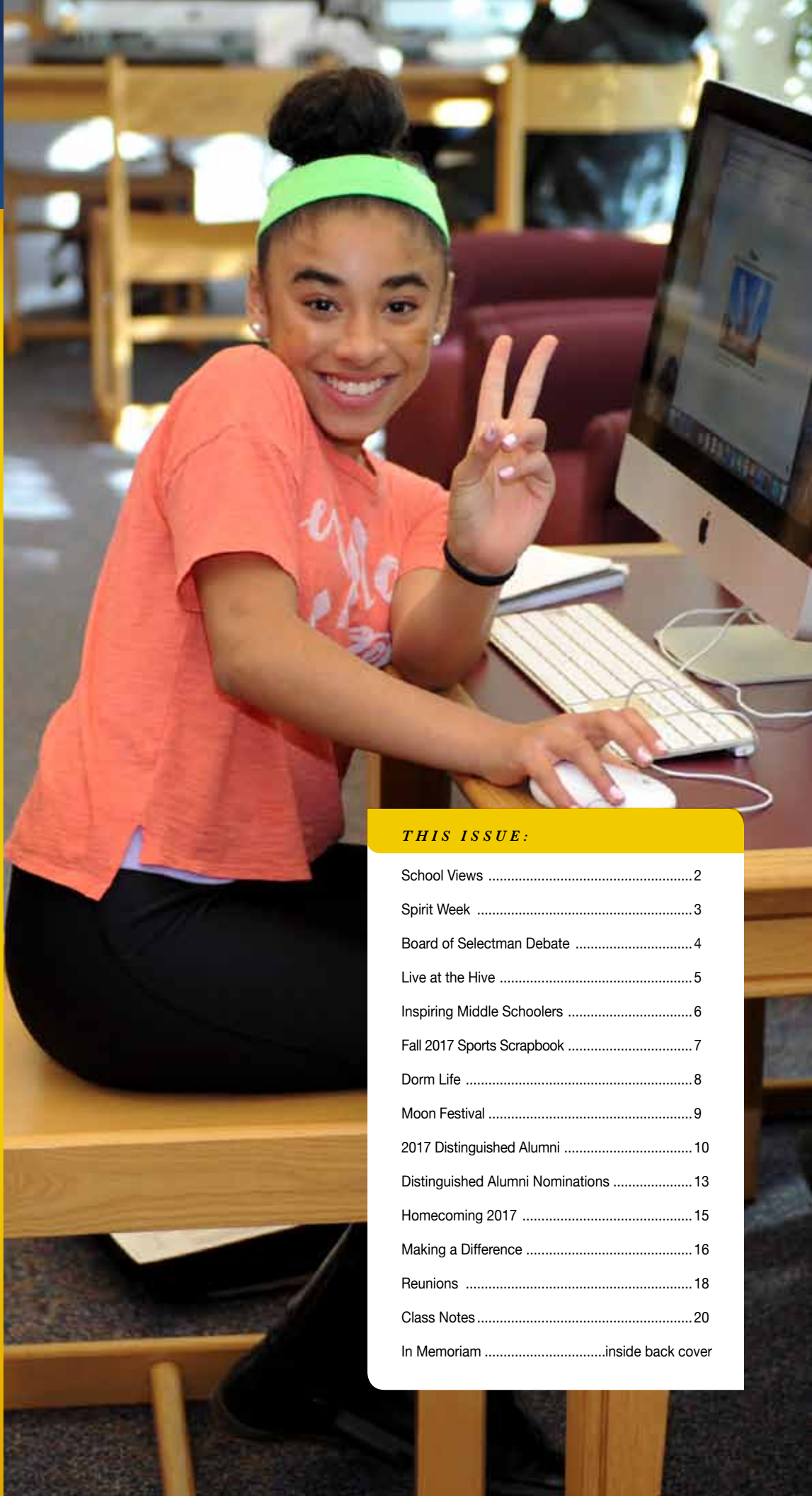
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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS...



A school can be measured in many ways, but unfortunately the only factor that matters to some is a standardized test score. The modern era of education reform has become based on accountability and high stakes testing for both schools and individual students. Left behind is student-centered interest and teacher-driven restructuring of schools. The reality is that we must prepare students for the future world of work careers instead of a focused curriculum and instruction on test taking.

Our school must support the whole child assisting them to discover their interest and identify resources to satisfy their thirst for knowledge in the area of their choosing. We must treat the whole child as they learn. In the age of data driven reform we have lost the importance of humanistic education that children have many factors that could impact their learning in the classroom. The Gilbert School's dedication to project based learning derives from the belief that students learn more by doing than lecture and test taking. Authentic assessment that comes from the development of a project, research through technology, preparation, individually or as part of a team, the final project and the presentation of the results to fellow students is the essence of education that will assist our students to be successful contributing members of a global society. Teachers play a major role in this process by guiding students toward resources and helping them refine their final product.

Finally, I wish to thank the humanism of The Gilbert School Family. As many of you know, I lost my wife to cancer this past October. The support I have received from the Trust, Staff, Students, and Parents has helped my family and me to weather our darkest days. It's what I love about Gilbert and you will not find that type of support on a test. It comes from the heart and a sense of caring that is part of all of us and I see it carried out daily at The Gilbert School.

~ **Dr. Anthony Serio, Head of School**



The Administration, Faculty, and Staff remain committed to helping all of our students thrive from a well-rounded educational program focusing on academics, leadership, athletics, and social/emotional growth. We do this by building strong relationships and ensuring learning is at the center of our daily activities.

It is hard to believe we are halfway through the 2017-18 school year. We are excited to share some of the programs at The Gilbert School that are motivating, empowering, and preparing our students for 21st century learning. With the addition of our College and Career Center, created by Career Counselor, Katieann Pirog, our students are planning their future through a variety of resources and activities. The Career Center provides career, college, and school-to-career activities in conjunction with the Guidance Department, Armed Forces, and Business and Community Partners to help all students be prepared post graduation. We have increased programming opportunities in our Technical Education Department (CTE) with "Live at the Hive", our weekly student run video production, giving our students real world TV production experiences. Under the direction of teacher Steve Hodges, students are applying principles of interpersonal communication in collaborative production work, while increasing their oral and written skills. With our ability to film live, we have been able to film local political debates, allowing community members to gain knowledge and be able to participate in important programming that they may have not have had access to in the past.

I am proud to be a part of The Gilbert School's Heritage, Opportunities, and Innovations. I strive to create a school where all students feel safe to learn in a supportive, responsive environment. I am committed to our students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni, to make the Gilbert School a safe haven for all. It is the responsibility of all of us to make sure that students feel empowered and have a voice to create positive change. ~ **Susan Sojka, Principal**



As you are reading this issue of the *Yellow Jacket*, the Trust is entering into its busiest time of year. Scholarship applications are available for this year's senior class and recent graduates of The Gilbert School to apply for over one hundred scholarships awarded each year by The W.L. Gilbert Trust. Last year we awarded approximately \$140,000. If you know a current Gilbert senior or a recent graduate, please encourage them to complete an application. The Alumni Office is already preparing for the 2018 Blue and Gold Reunion which will be held on May 4, 2018. We will be honoring the Class of 1968 as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending what has become one of the largest events sponsored by the Gilbert Trust.

The International Program run by the Gilbert Trust continues to grow. Through the hard work of Tim Cronin, Director of the International Program and Debra LaRoche, Dean of Admissions we have continued to expand our international contacts. So far this year they have each traveled to China to meet with agents and families interested in The Gilbert School. They have also attended international conferences where they have been able to develop significant interest in The Gilbert School. This year we have a student from Italy attending Gilbert and interest is growing in various countries in Europe, South America, Eastern Europe, and even Africa. The Trust is also looking into the possibility of expanding the program into the middle school grades as agents have indicated an interest in placing students at those grade levels.

I would like to extend my thanks to all our generous alumni who have made donations to the Annual Alumni Fund and who have made gifts directly to the Trust to continue its mission. We are grateful for your loyal and continued support of the Trust and The Gilbert School. ~ **Thomas Botticelli, President, The W.L. Gilbert Trust**



School Views



UConn Choirs hosted their 3rd Annual Young Conductors Symposium for high school student choral leaders. Our talented students spent the day at UConn learning about all aspects of choral leadership, performance techniques, and conducting from UConn Choral Faculty. Choral Director Adam Atkins, Tracy Yao, Gary Wu, Amirah Hussein, Annalee Marvin, Cameron Williams, Anna King, Nolyn Teeling, Kelly Gurtowsky, Brady Warner. September 14, 2017



The new administration team kicks off the new school year at convocation, welcoming back all faculty and staff. Sue Sojka - Principal, Maura Hurley - Dean of Students, Debra Lewis - Director of Curriculum, Julie McDougall - Dean of Student Services. August 28, 2017



Faculty and Staff members of The Gilbert School delivered 46 Thanksgiving meals to some of our Gilbert families. Each family received a turkey, stuffing, vegetables, potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, and a pumpkin pie. A big thank you to the Torrington Big Y for their generous donation and support of this important event. November 20, 2017



Our World Language classes took a field trip to New York City. In one of the highlights of this amazing day, these Latin III students viewed the Egyptian Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Back Row: Kayla Sherrod, Alex Farnham. Front Row: Ellie Oakes-Rogers, Alexis LaMere. October 4, 2017



Our students were given the opportunity to participate in an exciting and informative Microsoft Job Shadow Field Trip. Front Row: Courtney Hamm, Ashley Wang, Jessica Fan, Colin Dou, Michael Ma, Alex Scherer, Abby Corso, Anna Pan, Ella Landy, Maya Masangkay. Back Row: Maryellen Marino, Farouq Alahwas, Alex Lundgren, Steven Xu, Randy Lan, Martin Lou, Landen Minard, Sydney Eisenlohr, Tim O'Meara, Devon Scherer, Jeremy Huber, Eli Pasternack. November 10, 2017



In a fun and challenging enhancement to our PE activities, our students in grades 7 – 12 participated in a National Guard leadership reaction course. In order to complete this challenge, students had to use both speed and problem solving abilities. Students left the gym with both smiles and sheer exhaustion! October 30, 2017



Seventeen students were recognized as Gilbert Scholars in a ceremony on November 21, 2017. In order to be named a Gilbert Scholar, our international students must meet strict criteria in the areas of attendance, academics, character, attitude, engagement, and function as good role models to their peers. Front Row: Sherlock Chen, Gavin Pang, Tracy Yao, Ashley Wang, Yuki Wang, Coral Zhai, Leda Mastinu, T Zeng. Back Row: Eric Zhang, Mervyn Yang, Nick Gao, Gary Wu, Tony Liu, Susie Yan, Anna Pan. Not pictured: Ashlyn Guo, Kevin Pang

SPIRIT WEEK 2017



Students pull out the stops!

by Patricia Martin

Students pulled out all the stops during Spirit Week, which led up to Gilbert's 2017 Homecoming. Spirit Week is a fun and challenging week-long competition for the high school students, featuring a different theme every day. Good-natured competition was encouraged, and any poor sportsmanship, inappropriate comments, and other negative behavior took points off of a class' score.

Monday was the DRESS COMPETITION, with lots of colorful clothes and accessories on display. Students competed in musical chairs at lunch and a trivia competition after school. At the end of the day, the seniors took first place, with the junior class close behind.

Tuesday was HEROES VS. VILLAINS DAY, which filled the halls with both "good" and "bad" guys. At lunch there was a limbo competition, and ping pong after school. Once again, the seniors were in the lead.

Wednesday was HOLIDAY DAY, when students dressed in the colors and outfits of a specific chosen holiday. Lunch featured a hula hoop competition and an ultimate Frisbee challenge took place after school. The seniors remained in first place, with the juniors closing in on them.

Thursday was ERA DAY, when students had to dress in attire reflecting the era they chose as a class. There was a lunchtime "dance-off," followed by the traditional wall building after school. The juniors ended the day in first place with the seniors in second.

Friday was BLUE & GOLD DAY, where everyone showed their Gilbert pride. Lunch featured a pie-eating contest, and the competition ended with a tug-of-war at the pep rally. The juniors upset the seniors at tug-of-war, leading to an overall junior class victory. The Gilbert School staff proved to be tough competition for the students, remaining the undefeated champions in the staff vs. student tug-of-war!



Winchester Board of Selectman Debate — No Contest for TGS Students

by Patricia Martin



For a number of years now, it has been a Gilbert School tradition that the Social Studies, Civics, and AP Government classes coordinate and moderate the Winchester Board of Selectman debate. The 2017 session, held on October 25th, turned out to be a huge accomplishment for the students — no contest!

The evening was a lively, formal affair as 12 candidates took the TGS auditorium stage to make their introductory statements and field questions asked by the students, followed by the opportunity for rebuttals. Although there were some heated moments, the overriding message was one of cooperation between the parties and the desire to see Winchester become a strong, economically vibrant community.

Teachers Jessica Nardine and Wendy Sultaire oversaw the debate, which drew a crowd of 200 people. It was a group effort involving 70 students, including two Civics classes and one AP Government and Politics class. TGS students from other classes helped make it happen, as well. Scott Minnerly's Theater Tech class set up the lighting and sound, and Steve Hodges' Video Production and Photography classes filmed the event, which was also broadcast live.



TGS students were involved with every element of the evening, from preparation to presentation. Their responsibilities included: setting up and cleaning up; creating flyers to publicize the debate; making nameplates for the candidates; and welcoming the candidates and the public upon their arrival. During the debate, students moderated, asked questions, and kept time to keep things on track and running smoothly. It was an impressive and professionally run program.

The teachers were gratified at their students' success. "I was so proud of my students' ability to come together and coordinate this debate,"

says Ms. Nardine. "I have received nothing but positive feedback from the candidates and the community. And project-based learning is a great way to give students an authentic, real-world experience."

"It is so important to get these kids involved in the local government," says Ms. Sultaire. "They are future leaders and someday may be running for office. We want to get them involved and excited about democracy."

What's All the Buzzzzzz About?

LIVE at the Hive!

by Patricia Martin



When high school counselor Gene Batan heard about a television show produced by a public school, a lightbulb went on in his head. He knew that Gilbert had what it takes to create its own successful program, and that it would be a great way to cultivate a sense of community among students, teachers, parents, and residents in the school district. When he presented the idea to Principal Sue Sojka and Media Teacher Steve Hodges, their immediate response was “Absolutely!” Very quickly the TGS student-produced news program “*Live at the Hive*” was born, and everyone is buzzing about it!

A passionate educator, Mr. Hodges has an extensive background as a radio and TV producer, voiceover talent, and photographer. He came to Gilbert in the fall of 2016, where he is teaching video production, photography, and graphic design. His classroom is well appointed, and students have access to state-of-the-art computer programs, digital and video cameras, lighting, microphones, and other professional-caliber equipment, including a green screen. Mr. Hodges adds, “We also have a big black road case I call a ‘TV studio in a box.’ It’s mobile, and holds wireless microphones, three cameras, tripods, cables, and so on. We can do everything from wire the auditorium to a live broadcast.”

“Live at the Hive” is an exciting addition to his curriculum. “It’s a totally ‘real world’ TV production experience,” says Mr. Hodges. “The kids do everything from scratch — creative conception, pre-production planning, shooting, editing, picking the music, and doing the graphics. They are totally dedicated, working on the program during Flex Period, study hall, and after school. They are super creative, and extremely talented.”

There are 12 students on the core “Live at the Hive” production team, with on air reporters Eli Pasternack and Evan Jackson, and International Correspondent Hillson Liu. Leon Hartley creates features and shorts for the show and many others behind the scenes work very hard to finish the show. “I love seeing their rapid growth,” says Mr. Hodges. “Here are kids who never had any experience, and they’ve hit the ground running. They’re doing a fantastic job, and it’s created quite a buzz!”

The video production class has another new program it is working on, which is being produced by TGS sophomores Lydia Bird and Sydney Kolosky. “It’s a 15-minute talk show called ‘The Superintendent’s Circle,’” says Mr. Hodges. “It’s hosted by Dr. Serio and will be broadcast on the local access channel.”

Mr. Hodges sees more hands-on opportunities for his students as his department continues to expand. “My students are not allowed to say ‘I can’t do this,’” says Mr. Hodges. “I tell them to say ‘How can I do this?’ instead. And they always rise to the challenge.”

Mr. Hodges is an inspiring, knowledgeable role model. “I love coming here to Gilbert every day,” he says. “I love what I do.”

TO WATCH “LIVE AT THE HIVE,” VISIT THE GILBERT SCHOOL YOUTUBE CHANNEL TGSTV. YOU’LL SEE WHAT ALL THE BUZZ IS ABOUT!



Inspiring Middle Schoolers to be #futureready!

by Patricia Martin

Founded in 1929, the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) was established to recognize and nurture outstanding middle school students. The organization does not just focus on grades — it looks at the total individual. To be inducted, candidates must excel in five key areas: scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Achieving and maintaining these high standards helps students become “future ready” for success in high school, college, and beyond.

Initiated three years ago by Principal Sue Sojka, the Gilbert School chapter of the NJHS is thriving under the guidance of advisor Tina M. Keegan, seventh grade English teacher. “Membership is an honor, and also carries a responsibility,” says Mrs. Keegan. “Each member must be committed and involved, taking an active role.”

Students are first eligible to apply for NJHS membership in February of 7th grade, and then again in November of 8th grade. A Faculty Council of five middle school teachers and Mrs. Sojka

“I love seeing the kids taking ownership of their projects and developing their leadership abilities...”
— Mrs. Keegan —

review applications and nominate new members. Student officers for the 2017-2018 year are co-presidents Hannah Lawlor and Caitlin Tucker, vice president Liana Masangkay, treasurer Cameron Hollis, and secretary Joseph Mrowka.

The NJHS is committed to community service, and each year the Gilbert chapter selects a project to work on as a group. NJHS community service projects have been innovative, ambitious, and successful. Previously, the students raised money that enabled them to serve a meal at the Open Door Soup Kitchen. They also collected donations and supplies for a Winsted pet shelter and food pantry called “For the Love of Jack.” Just this past spring they promoted literacy by sponsoring a book swap that put a book into the hands of every elementary school student in the Winchester public school system.

“I love seeing the kids taking ownership of their projects and developing their leadership abilities,” says Mrs. Keegan. “They know they are having an impact. It gives them a sense of confidence, and they become role models for other students.”

Sports Scrapbook

Fall 2017



Football The 2017 Football team finished its campaign with a 5 and 5 record. Three of its losses were against state playoff teams. Five players were named to the All-Pequot Team and the final game of the year against Waterbury Career Academy ended in a thrilling 29-22 Victory!

Cheerleading The majority of our girls were brand new to the team this year, so we certainly had a lot to work on, but that didn't seem to slow them down in the slightest. Nothing seemed to stop these girls, whether they had done cheer before or this was their first time, they worked so hard, always brought positive attitudes, and challenged themselves immensely. It didn't matter if it was a practice, game, or an event, these girls really brought their full love, heart, and always their A game! The highlight of their season was the homecoming cheer clinic. This year we had 22 little girls join us for a day of fun! It has become a tradition we just love and look forward to all season! Another highlight was our 5th annual safe trick-or-treat. Everything went smoothly and it seems to grow every year!

Boys Soccer The 2017 Yellowjackets bounced back from a rough 2016 campaign to win three games and draw three in 2017. The boys narrowly missed out on a chance at a state tournament birth, but had numerous highlights throughout the season. They defeated Terryville under the lights, had big road wins against Thomaston and Wamogo, and had a stretch of four straight shutouts. With a taste of some success, the boys set their sites on what should prove to be a big year in 2018!

Girls Soccer The girls soccer team improved over their 2016-2017 record and had three athletes earn Berkshire League Honorable Mention recognition: Marcela Moreira, Dileysi Sarmiento, and Jillian Wexler.

Cross Country This season The Gilbert School Cross Country Team had a Berkshire League All-Star runner. Alexis Kazmarcik came in 9th overall in the Berkshire League Conference. Byron Diely also had a great season with a 13th place finish overall for the boys.

Volleyball The 2017 volleyball team started out as an inexperienced squad but by the end of the season had developed the skills needed to play as a team. The biggest accomplishment was the improvement in their level of play, which was noted by some of our opponents' coaches. Thank you to senior captain Liz Wexler for her dedication and leadership.



Dorm life: New “Home” on Campus Welcomes International Students

by Patricia Martin

After much planning and overseeing by The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, the highly-anticipated international student dormitory officially opened its doors at the start of the 2017 – 2018 school year. This beautifully designed new male residency hall rests on the picturesque 120-acre



says Carissa Mastroianni. “Students are constantly surrounded by supportive peers and adults, and our senior student leaders help build a sense of community.”

And how are students enjoying their new home? “The living environment is great at the dorm,” says resident T Zeng. “The food is good and

“Students are constantly surrounded by supportive peers and adults, and our senior student leaders help build a sense of community.”

— Carissa Mastroianni, Dean of Student Life —

campus of The Gilbert School, currently houses 35 international students, and can accommodate as many as 52.

The dorm is well appointed, with free laundry facilities, wireless Internet, and common rooms. Best of all, the students can make many new friends under one large roof! There are many advantages to dorm life. Being on campus gives students the opportunity to easily participate in school activities, clubs, and sports. Dinner is served in the school cafeteria at 5:30 p.m., so it is easy for them to just walk up the hill for their meal.

Of utmost importance, the dormitory provides guidance and structure while ensuring students’ safety and wellbeing. There are five residential coordinators on site to watch over the students, all working together to enforce school rules and monitor study hall, curfew hours, and lights out.

“As the Dean of Student Life, living on campus has given me the opportunity to experience dormitory life first hand,”



the building is beautiful.” Bieber Lin says, “I like every day at the dorm. From 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. we have study hall and we can practice English while doing our homework.”

“The new dorm is good,” says resident Bruce Chen. “I have my own room this year as a Senior Leader and I have my own refrigerator.”

The International Program team sees other benefits to having a dorm on campus. “Agents and parents are impressed with it,” says Debra LaRoche, Dean of Admissions. “We can now market ourselves as a ‘boarding school,’ which is huge in the global recruiting world.”

Superintendent/Head of School Dr. Anthony Serio is pleased to see the dorm become a reality. “The decision of the Trust to own a dormitory goes back to 2015,” Dr. Serio says. “We wanted to be able to expand the

successful International Program by offering modern housing for students. The new dormitory gives us more room to grow.”

MOON FESTIVAL

Celebrating Chinese Legend, Lore, and Tradition

by Patricia Martin

Students, administrators, teachers, members of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, and the community gathered together on Thursday, September 28, 2017, for The Gilbert School's fourth annual Harvest Moon Festival. Curated by the school's International Program with help from The Friends of Main Street, the evening celebrated the traditional Asian autumn festival, which gives thanks for bountiful harvest and family, and offers hope for peace and prosperity.

This year's festivities included arts and crafts tables featuring face painting, Chinese lantern making, and origami, as well as Chinese students who used beautiful calligraphy to write the names of the guests in Mandarin. The audience was then entertained with a fun video dramatizing the festival's



history, followed by three skilled musical performances by our talented International Program students. From Gilbert's educational partnership with Central Connecticut State

University's Confucius Institute, special guests from China, the Wenqin Art Troupe of Zhejiang University, took the stage, mesmerizing the audience with Asian music, dance, and martial arts.

Both American and international students collaborated on the event, from making the festival history video, to manning the backstage as theater crew, to presenting student performances, making decorations, and manning activity tables. The festival was a wonderful way to make The Gilbert School International Program students feel welcome and for our school and wider community to embrace the Chinese culture while teaching all of the guests about this wonderful Chinese tradition.



2017 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED

The Gilbert School is known for nurturing and inspiring students to achieve their personal best academically, emotionally, spiritually, and for the benefit of their community. Each year, alumni are recognized and honored for their outstanding contributions to society. Here are the 2017 honorees, each one very deserving of receiving the honor of being a Distinguished Alumni of The Gilbert School.

by Patricia Martin



The Gilbert Heritage Award, Elaine A. Fortuna

Elaine Fortuna had a long and distinguished career with The Gilbert School and has dedicated herself to helping to advance the school's curriculum and technologies.

Mrs. Fortuna first came to The Gilbert School in 1960 after receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Saint Joseph. She began her career as a teacher of English and Latin. Then, having received a Master's Degree in English, she became the Chair of the English Department and guided a curriculum revision that brought elective courses and UConn English courses to the school. She also helped establish a chapter of the National Honor Society at Gilbert.

As the school's Library Media Specialist, Mrs. Fortuna led an effort to integrate technology into the curriculum and guided the technology committee in creating a technology plan for the school.

She obtained grant money to wire the school for internet, purchase computers and other equipment for students and staff, and plan professional development to implement the technology plan.

Working with the Long-Range Planning Committee, Mrs. Fortuna advocated for a library media center that would support every part of the education community through traditional and technological resources.

Mrs. Fortuna was a member of the Board of Trustees for 10 years. She chaired the Trust Scholarship Committee, was a member of the School Corporation, and served on several other Trust and School Corporation committees.

"I am very proud of my long association with the Gilbert School. The students and staff with whom I worked, the many friendships I cherish and the ideals the school represents all came to be part of the fabric of my life. I am truly honored to have received the Heritage Award and be an honorary alumna. As alumni we share in a special heritage that will continue to give meaning and value to our lives and to the generations to come."



The W.L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service, Mary Lou Cassotto, Class of 1967

Wherever she has lived, Mary Lou Cassotto has tried to give back to her community and make it a better, safer place. She has always been interested in the rights of women — perhaps because she went to college and law school in the 1970's, when women were still not allowed their own credit cards or to work when pregnant.

In the early stages of the Women's Movement, Ms. Cassotto lobbied for and helped create Connecticut's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. She sat in as a Women's Rights' Consultant for several legislators, chaired the Connecticut Women's Political Caucus, drafted legislation to protect battered women, obtained funding for the first shelter, and obtained funding for the first woman from Connecticut to run for the Senate.

While in law school, Ms. Cassotto was featured in a *New York Times* article about a volunteer probation department she helped establish, comprised of law students. She also co-created the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund.

Because of her interest in children, Ms. Cassotto sat on the committee to establish the first YMCA After School Day Care Center, and because of her love of animals, she helped create the first no-kill shelter in the state. In addition, she worked on a local access TV program on Women and Drama and won a national award for a series she produced, directed, edited, and appeared in on alcoholism.

"Gilbert was the place where I got my beginnings," says Ms. Cassotto of her time at TGS. "Several teachers, like Miss Sheldrick, and guidance counselors, like Mr. Healy, pointed me in the directions to find and claim other parts of myself. They introduced me and helped me navigate to a larger world where I could use the good values that had been instilled in me at Gilbert. Thank you, everyone, for the award. My Italian grandmother used to always say, 'thank you is not a word in the dictionary', but you made me feel so happy for trying to change some of the things that I did. What a wonderful thank you. I felt so honored."



Distinguished Professional Achievement Award Andrea Darcey Ellinger, Ph.D., Class of 1982

Distinguished Professional Achievement award-winner Andrea Darcey Ellinger has a Ph.D. in Adult Education from the University of Georgia. She is currently a Professor in the Department of Human Resource Development in the College of Business and Technology at The University of Texas at Tyler.

Previously, Dr. Ellinger was Assistant Professor of Adult Education and Doctoral Program

Coordinator at The Pennsylvania State University-Harrisburg, Associate Research Educator at The Center for Business and Economic Research in The Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration at The University of Alabama, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Resource Education at the University of Illinois.

Known internationally, Dr. Ellinger has been the recipient of numerous teaching, research, reviewing, and service awards, including: *Malcolm S. Knowles Dissertation of the Year Award*, *Two Richard A. Swanson Research Excellence Awards*, *Cyril O. Houle Fellowship*, *College of Education Outstanding Faculty Award for Service*, *Campus Award for Excellence in Off-Campus Teaching (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)*, *Outstanding Paper Award from the Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence*, *Five “Ten Best Papers from the AHRD Conference Proceedings” Awards*, *The Faculty Award for Research in the College of Business at The University of Texas at Tyler*, *Outstanding HRD Scholar Award from the Academy of Human Resource Development*, *Two Alan Moon Memorial Prizes*, *Two Outstanding Reviewer of the Year Awards from the Journal of Workplace Learning*.

Widely published, Dr. Ellinger’s research interests include evolving managerial roles, managerial coaching, mentoring, informal learning in the workplace, organizational development, organizational learning, the learning organization concept, and employee engagement.

“The Gilbert School holds a very special place in my heart and has served as a pivotal foundational educational platform for me. When I was a student at Gilbert 35 years ago, I was exposed to very caring and competent teachers who taught me the value and importance of learning and the need to commit myself to learning throughout my lifespan. The teachers that I had modeled excellence in teaching which has served me well in my own academic career because I have high expectations of my own learners.

“I took courses offered at Gilbert that many other high school students would not have had the opportunity to take at that time. I became knowledgeable and proficient in accounting (compliments of Mr. Fortuna), typing and basic keyboarding, debating, and cultivated my verbal and written communication, collaboration and leadership skills through courses in Latin, English composition and literature, art and music, history, biology, earth science, algebra, among many others. I developed a passion for music when I took “Poetry of Rock” by Mr. Reynolds. I was very well rounded and well prepared educationally when I pursued my subsequent degrees at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Bryant College (now Bryant University), the Harford Graduate Center (an affiliate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and The University of Georgia. I am in the teaching and research profession largely because of these experiences.

“Returning to Gilbert during Homecoming Weekend in October was a truly delightful homecoming for me. It was wonderful to see many of the teachers that I had so many years ago who still remembered me! It was a pleasure to interact with the students in their classes, participate in the pep rally, and engage with other alumni and award recipients! Being on the Gilbert campus was inspiring and energizing! Receiving this award was truly one of the best highlights that I have enjoyed in my life and career and one that I am most especially proud of. Thank you so much!”



Young Alumni Achievement Award, Jennifer Sherman Willoughby, Ph.D., Class of 1999

During her years at Gilbert, Jennifer Sherman Willoughby excelled academically as well as in athletics. She took AP classes, was consistently on the honor roll, and was a varsity member of her soccer, basketball, and softball teams, serving as co-captain of all three teams her senior year. Ms. Willoughby earned a spot on the Berkshire All Star team, and in 1999 and was named Female Athlete of the Year.

Ms. Willoughby earned a scholarship to Roger Williams University, where she majored in biology and minored in chemistry and mathematics. While there, she played on RWU’s softball and soccer teams. As a forward on the soccer team, she was nominated for the Commonwealth Coast Conference Rookie of the Year award.

Ms. Willoughby earned her first research position at Children’s Hospital Boston Vascular Biology Group lead by Dr. Judah Folkman, a pioneer in oncology research. She then accepted a position at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, an RNAi startup aimed at developing a new technology to treat human disease. While there, she pursued her doctorate in molecular and cellular biology from Boston University.

Most recently, Ms. Willoughby accepted a position in the Alnylam medical affairs group where she will be responsible for strategizing and managing the submission of key scientific manuscripts and communications to support the launch of the first RNAi therapy to be brought to market.

“Returning to Gilbert during Homecoming Weekend in October was a truly delightful homecoming for me. The encouragement I received from my family as well as the Gilbert teachers, coaches, and friends (and their families) enabled me to achieve my goals, disregard opinions of those that suggested my goals were unreachable, and to join a world where I now directly contribute to the scientific community making medicines for those with a life-threatening, rare disease. I look forward to my continued journey as I have much more to contribute and encourage all Gilbert students, especially the young women, to reach for your goals. To those in the Gilbert community, please do consider my accomplishments yours as we strive to make the world a better place for all.”



Outstanding Athlete Award, Leo Mayo, Class of 1997

After Graduating from TGS, Leo Mayo attended Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, where he earned his degree in Physical Education with a Health Fitness minor. Mr. Mayo continued his academic work at American International College and earned his Master's Degree in Administration of Education.

While a student-athlete at Central Connecticut, Mr. Mayo captained the cross country and track teams, earning All Northeast Conference honors in cross country and setting school records in both the 3,000m runs in indoor and outdoor track.

In 2006, Coach Mayo was hired as American International College's (AIC) first-ever coach and given the task of creating a competitive team within the tough Northeast-10 Conference and in the NCAA Division II. The 2017 – 2018 academic year will be his 12th year as its head men's and women's cross country and track coach. During this time he has lead the AIC Yellow Jackets to several Northeast-10 cross country and track & field titles. He also coached numerous New England champions, 2 NCAA national champions, and over 70 All-Americans.

Mr. Mayo has served on the USTFCCCA Executive Committee and as a Northeast-10 conference representative since 2013. He has been honored as Coach of the Year by the Northeast-10 and as the USTFCCCA Regional Coach of the Year NCAA seven times. Along with achieving success on the cross country course and the track, Coach Mayo's athletes have succeeded academically, with each team having a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher.

"I would like to thank the Gilbert Trust for their decision to select me as a Distinguished Alumni Award winner," says Mr. Mayo. "This is such an incredible honor and privilege and something I will always reflect on with great pride."

"Being part of the Gilbert Yellow Jackets football, basketball, and track programs has had a significant influence on my life and has helped shape me in to the person I am today. I will always cherish the memories and friends I made during these years and want to thank everyone who has supported me and guided me during such an impressionable time. I would especially like to thank Coach Kasinetz, Coach Whittley, Coach Douglass, and Coach Welcome. Besides teaching me the fundamentals of each sport and the skills necessary to obtain individual and team goals, they also taught me the meaning of hard work and dedication. These skills, along with the love and support of my family, have carried me through to my adult life."

"As a NCAA collegiate cross country and track & field coach, I am called on every day to use those life lessons that were an integral part of my collegiate athletic career and in my coaching career. That's what sports are all about. I believe they help create a foundation for what type of person you will become later on in your life."

Cindy Fixer, Class of 1978, inducted into Connecticut Women's Volleyball Hall of Fame



TGS Alumna Cindy Fixer has 33 years of experience coaching and encouraging young women on and off the volleyball court. In November of 2017, she was rewarded for her dedication by being inducted into the Connecticut Women's Volleyball Hall of Fame.

Ms. Fixer, who is also a health and physical education teacher at Gilbert, was surprised and honored by the award. "I did not think I did anything special, and was very humbled," she said.

Ms. Fixer started her career as assistant volleyball coach in 1983 under head coach Mary Ellen (Staszowski) Vaccari, Class of 1972. She succeeded Mrs. Vaccari in 1987, and retired from the position in 2015. While she was at the helm, her teams won 13 Berkshire League regular season championships and 8 Berkshire League tournament titles.

Ms. Fixer returned as head coach for the 2017 season at the encouragement of TGS Athletic Director and Physical Education teacher Patrick Cooke ('89), junior varsity coach Lisa (Mangione) Brochu ('84), and Mrs. Vaccari. She is now grooming her successor, TGS alumna and former player, Amanda (Jassen) Jasenski, Class of 2001.

Ms. Fixer has a cherished collection of all the thank you notes she has received from her players over the years. One reads: "You have taught me not only how to be a good player, but life lessons that I will carry on throughout my life."

"This is why I coach," says Ms. Fixer. "This is what matters most."



THE GILBERT SCHOOL
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The Gilbert School Annual Distinguished Alumni Awards are given to those who have demonstrated commitment to, and application of, the standards of excellence for which The Gilbert School is known. Through meritorious service, noteworthy civic and philanthropic endeavors, and/or exceptional personal or professional achievement, these individuals have brought distinction to themselves, their colleagues, their communities—and thereby to their alma mater. We encourage the nominations of those who exemplify and embrace such excellence, reflecting the proud legacy and tradition of our school. We are honored to annually recognize individuals in five categories:

❖ THE GILBERT HERITAGE AWARD

This award is presented to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who, through significant personal or professional contributions or accomplishments during his or her lifetime, has distinguished him/herself within the history of the school, bringing honor and pride to all alumni and representing the traditions and heritage of The Gilbert School. This award may be given posthumously.

❖ YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is presented to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who graduated from Gilbert within the past twenty years. The recipient is chosen based on achievement of outstanding personal or professional success in business, entrepreneurship, or the community. Through such accomplishments, he or she serves as a role model for younger individuals.

❖ DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award is presented to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in his or her professional life. The recipient has brought distinction to him/herself and The Gilbert School through participation, commitment, and leadership in a chosen profession. The length and quality of career accomplishments, dedication to excellence, and respect among colleagues are all noteworthy.

❖ THE W.L. GILBERT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

This award is presented to an alumnus of The Gilbert School or to a member of our greater society. It is not limited to an alumnus or to the Winsted area. The recipient has displayed exceptional service toward the betterment of life within his or her own community or humanity in general. This award honors the significant humanitarian and philanthropic contributions made by William L. Gilbert, founder of The Gilbert School.

❖ OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AWARD

This award is presented to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who participated on a competitive sports team as a Gilbert student and graduated at least ten years prior to the year the award is given. He or she exhibited outstanding character, sportsmanship, and his or her own "personal best" skill level, while contributing to the overall achievements of the team. His or her positive attitude and team approach were evident and respected not only in competition, but also in the classroom and greater community.

Nomination form and supporting documents must be submitted to The Office of Alumni Relations on or before April 30, 2018.

The nominee must be a graduate of The Gilbert School unless otherwise stated in the award's description. Members of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation and The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation are not eligible while currently serving.

Nominations are accepted by alumni and friends of The Gilbert School. Nominations are reviewed by The Alumni Advisory Council and recommendations are presented to The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation for final confirmation.



THE GILBERT SCHOOL
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Please select one award category:

- The Gilbert Heritage Award
- Young Alumni Achievement Award
- Distinguished Professional Achievement Award
- The W.L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service
- Outstanding Athlete Award

Name of nominee: _____ **Class Year:** _____

Profession/Job title/Volunteer role: _____

Organization: _____ email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Person proposing nomination: _____ **Class Year:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Please state the candidate's qualifications here or on a separate sheet:

Please mail this form and any supporting documents by April 30, 2018 to:

The Office of Alumni Relations
The Gilbert School
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098

Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented during Homecoming Weekend in the fall of 2018.
For additional forms or questions, email gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org or call (860) 379-1245.

SPIRITS HIGH

AT HOMECOMING 2017

by Patricia Martin

Starting with the video made by students inviting alumni to “come back home” to Gilbert, then on to the final moments of Saturday’s football game, spirits could not have been higher at Homecoming 2017!

Hosted by The W.L. Gilbert Trust, the festivities kicked off on Friday, October 20th, with a reception in the library welcoming Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, followed by a dinner awards ceremony. The beautifully-decorated cafeteria buzzed with excitement as attendees caught up with one another, applauded the honorees, and enjoyed a delicious meal served by student volunteers.

Saturday offered a full range of special activities for alumni, their families, and friends as they mingled with Gilbert School students, teachers, and fellow alumni. Fall foliage was at its peak and the warm, sunny weather was made to order for all of the homecoming events, including the alumni volleyball game, alumni cross country race, and youth



cheerleading clinic for kids. Saturday morning’s Alumni Brunch gave everyone a chance to visit with classmates, meet the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award winners, view student artwork, listen to The Gilbert School Choir, and watch the YellowJacket Marching Band warming up for its rousing half-time performance. Alumni also had the opportunity to peruse an array of Gilbert School merchandise at the “Nike Store” manned by student volunteers. No one missed the high-energy pep rally, followed by the football game pitting Gilbert NW against Coventry/Windham Tech/Bolton/Lyman. All in all, it was a Homecoming to remember fondly!

Mark Your Calendars
for October 27, 2018!

COME AND CATCH
THE SPIRIT FOR
HOMECOMING 2018!

Guitar donations instrumental in expanding TGS music program

by Patricia Martin

Music has the power to touch people and move them in a special way. And—thanks to the thoughtful generosity of two TGS alumni—Gilbert’s music program has expanded to reach more students than ever, with brand new instruments and classes!

Music lovers Rick Hall ('75) and Mike Scherer ('86) have music in their soul, and when they were students they were enthusiastic players in Gilbert’s music program. With careers in the music industry, they made arrangements for a total of 16 new guitars to be donated to the school. These beautiful instruments are being put to great use by music teacher and Director of Bands Scott Minnerly, who taught the school’s first guitar class this past semester, and now has students strapping them on for Rock/Pop Ensemble.

Mr. Hall, who owns his own company, “Total Rick Hall, LLC” and works as a consultant to other music industry companies, as well as being a “mobile DJ” who spins songs at weddings and private parties, donated six of his own “R. Hall” brand acoustic guitars to the Gilbert music program. Mr. Scherer, who has been a luthier at Ovation Instruments, Inc., in New Hartford since 1992 and is a bass guitarist, was pleased to donate 10



acoustic/electric Ovation guitars to Gilbert. Together, Rick and Mike were instrumental in expanding the TGS music program!

“The guitar project at Gilbert is awesome,” says Mr. Hall. “I was invited to attend their end-of-semester recital program, and was amazed to see the students’ progress during the short time most of them have been playing. Mr.

Minnerly is doing a great job!”

“I started my music education at Gilbert and music is still an important part of my life and my family’s life,” says Mr. Scherer. “I played trumpet in marching, jazz, and concert bands at Gilbert. My older son was part of the marching band, jazz band, concert band, and played in the pit band for the school musicals. Now my younger son is at Gilbert and plays percussion in marching and concert band and bass guitar in jazz band. I have also been a part of the pit crew for marching band and a member of the music boosters at Gilbert for seven years. Music is important because it is something that you can take with you throughout your whole life.”

There were 18 students in the first guitar class. “It was a huge response!” says Mr. Minnerly. “We had just four or five guitars at the start of the school



Rick Hall ('75)



Mike Scherer ('86)



year, and so the donations we received from Mr. Hall and Mr. Scherer meant that we were able to put a guitar into the hands of every student during every class. Not having to share equipment gave the kids a whole different experience, and more hands-on time so they could learn more thoroughly.”

The Pop/Rock Ensemble has 14 kids, divided into three separate bands. “We have guitar, bass, drums, and keyboards, as well as vocals” says Mr. Minnerly. “Each band is learning four or five songs, which they will play during a rock concert in May. It’s another ‘first’ for Gilbert, and will have a fun festival atmosphere.

“I am gratified that some people from the community donated instruments when they read about Gilbert offering the class in the last issue of *The YellowJacket*. It’s great to have the support!”

Just think about it: there are many ways that you, too, might want to give back to The Gilbert School. Your time, talents, and energy are certainly valuable. And perhaps your employer—like Rick’s and Mike’s—may be in a position to donate goods or services that will benefit the students and enhance their Gilbert experience. Remember—just like musical instruments—donations come in all shapes and sizes!

Arconic Grant puts high tech tools into the hands of TGS students

by Patricia Martin

The Gilbert School is always seeking ways to enhance students' learning experiences and help prepare them for a bright, successful future. And these days, having access to state-of-the-art technology is crucial in giving our students an important advantage.

Thanks to the efforts of Library Media Specialist Jody Pillar, Gilbert applied for and was awarded a grant for \$36,000 from the innovative engineering firm Arconic, an international company with an office right in our own backyard in Winsted. The grant money was used to purchase 179 Chromebooks and 7 carts for use throughout the school as well as some invaluable new equipment for The Career and Technical Education Department, chaired by Donald Crossman.

According to *LapTop Magazine*, Chromebooks are the number one computer choice of nearly 50% of schools in the U.S...Which means Gilbert is on top of having the best technology tools available! The mobile platform allows the Chromebooks to travel from class to class, enabling TGS teachers to empower students with a sophisticated computer technology that provides unlimited cloud memory and data storage.

Thanks to Arconic's grant, Gilbert's Career and Technical Education Department was able to acquire a full-length, floor-to-ceiling room divider/



dust curtain for the fabrication lab. "This gives us the ability to design and create within the same room by dividing the workspace," says Mr. Crossman. "Now we have fabrication on one side and design on the other,

which enables us to make much better use of the space we already have. Now all my students are in one room at the same time, which makes a huge difference."

Arconic's funding also allowed the Career and Technical Education Department to purchase a computer numerical control machine, which is an extremely sophisticated piece of equipment. "The machine enables us to take two- and three-dimension designs right off the computer and produce a product out of them in wood or plastic," says Mr. Crossman. "One example of this would be creating a topical map from the student's photos and designs. It's just awesome!"

Principal Sue Sojka says, "We are fortunate that as a result of this grant, our students will have additional supports and opportunities critical for 21st century learning, while preparing them for success in a rapidly changing world."

If your company has grant opportunities that the Gilbert School might apply for, please contact the Alumni Office at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org.

Paying It Forward... ANNUAL FUND & SCHOLARSHIPS

Donations to the annual fund benefit students directly by enhancing academic, athletic, and arts programs, providing technology upgrades, and giving teachers an opportunity to request materials and advanced training. This fund is used for continued growth and improvement in instruction and equipment not covered by The Gilbert School's operating budget.

The W. L. Gilbert Trust Scholarships are also more important than ever as the cost of college continues to climb.

Please consider helping current students, graduating seniors and alumni realize their dreams.

ANNUAL FUND — GIVING IS EASY.

You may contribute online at www.gilbertschool.org or by mail using the enclosed envelope.

For all donations, please make checks payable to:

THE W. L. GILBERT TRUST

with "Annual Fund" or "Scholarship" (or the name of a particular scholarship) in the subject line.

***Every gift makes a difference in a student's life.
Thank you!***

GILBERT TRUST SCHOLARSHIP

All TGS seniors and alumni who are attending college may apply for a Gilbert Trust Scholarship by April 13, 2018. The application is on our website.

GO TO:

**GILBERTSCHOOL.ORG > ALUMNI >
GILBERT TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS**

Questions?

Email: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org



Reunions

SAVE THE DATE!

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL
BLUE & GOLD
Reunion

MAY 4, 2018

HONORING THE GRADUATES OF THE
CLASS OF 1968 AND EARLIER



Class of 1957, 60th Reunion

Janet Hazzard Stack, reunion organizer, writes to her classmates:

“It was wonderful to see all of our dear classmates again that attended the 60th Class Reunion at Mario’s Tuscany Grill in Winsted on October 10, 2017. We had a wonderful time visiting with each other. About 25 people came. There were approximately 19 classmates and the rest were guests and spouses. The owners of Mario’s selected 5 entrees from their menu of which we then selected our choice. The food was awesome, we could not have asked for anything more delicious. The music was the best! Hits from our era played softly in the background. Everyone loved hearing our old time music, but it was quiet enough for everyone to be able to talk. I displayed many different photo albums from our reunions, class luncheons,

the blue and gold dinners, and even albums from grammar school for everyone to view. Seven photo poster boards were also displayed and classmates took home any photos that they wanted to keep. It was a wonderful time for all who attended!”

1st row: Seated: Sandra Garrison Brennan, Josie Garbukas Bernard, George Koenemund, Tom Nelson **2nd row:** Ellen Rosati Carozzo, Dorothy Chamberlain Fournier, Norma Godenzi Spada, Linda Fratini DiBerardino, Mary Sherman White, Pat Jones Adams, Janet Hazzard Stack **3rd row:** Avis Ward Euglove, Lucille O’Neil Stocking, Carol Dombrowski Jeffers, Fran DePaoli Schaller **4th row:** Charlie Day, Bruce Boyle, Bob Desmond. Jeanne Guglielmino Davison came after we took the class photo so she is not pictured



Class of 1955, Luncheon Reunion

Eleven graduates of The Gilbert School Class of 1955 had an enjoyable luncheon reunion at the Green Woods Country Club on July 14, 2017. Many expressed how fortunate they were to have received such a valuable education with such great teachers who motivated many on to higher education and meaningful professions. **Standing in the back row are:**

Robert Herdling, Robert Sturm, Hubert Parmelee, Greg Woodworth, Donald Pranka, Philip Ostapko, and Ted Church. Seated in the first row are: Suzanne [Turner] Dooley, Marcella [Casey] Miller, Truda [Wilbur] Tanner, and Jim Foster

UPCOMING REUNIONS – Save the Date!

CLASS OF 1958 – 60TH CLASS REUNION TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2018 — Contact Bob O’connor at: boboconn@gmail.com or Joanne Finn Casey at caseyfinnj@gmail.com for more information.

CLASS OF 1973 - 45TH CLASS REUNION TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 6, 2018 — Contact Heather Smyth Cappabianca at: hcappabianca@yahoo.com or Diane Dombrowski Cook at cookd@gilbertschool.org for more information.

CLASS OF 1993 – 25TH CLASS REUNION TO BE HELD ON THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 29 – JULY 1, 2018
Please connect and stay up-to-date on reunion plans on the class Facebook Group – *The Gilbert School Class of 1993*.

CLASS OF 1998 – 20TH CLASS REUNION TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 27, 2018 — Contact Amy Linkovich Rodriguez at: amybeth3201@yahoo.com or (860) 921-7184 or Facebook Group - *Gilbert School Class of 1998* for more information.

PLEASE HELP! CLASS OF 1968 – 50TH CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1968 wants to locate all classmates for the upcoming 50th reunion. Please send your current contact information to Alanne Kennedy Turina at alaneketurina@gmail.com or call her at (714) 408-6132.



Class of 1967, 50th Reunion

On October 21, 2017, The Gilbert School Class of 1967 celebrated its 50th Reunion. Class Vice-President Donna Bongiovanni Alfano welcomed the 69 attendees (including 46 classmates) who came from as far away as California, Michigan, and Florida. Class Valedictorian and Class Treasurer, Valerie Morganson Egger, lives in France. While she was not able to attend the reunion, she did visit Gilbert friends earlier in the month during her round-the-world vacation. Craig Schroeder, Gilbert Trustee/Retired Teacher, was the guest speaker. He pointed out some of the changes to the school including the addition of grades 7 and 8 and the establishment of the International Program by The

W. L. Gilbert Trust. Greenwoods Country Club provided an intimate setting for renewing old friendships, laughing, sharing stories of high school, and recounting happenings since graduation. The Reunion coincided with Gilbert's Homecoming and Alumni Weekend. Classmate Mary Lou Cassotto was awarded The W.L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service on Friday evening. A number of classmates attended Saturday's Alumni Homecoming Breakfast and Homecoming Football Game. A huge thanks to **The Reunion Committee:** *Renee Boutin Tsanjoures, Diana Radochio Beebe, Tom Bordonaro, Betsy Groppo Weinbach, A. Kate Robertson, Bill Aleman, Linda Olszanski Calkins, and Donna Bongiovanni Alfano*



Lauretta Nash Nardo, Dale Benedict Salmonsén, Catherine Daigle Olsen, Robert Salmonsén



Ellen Sexauer Demmelmaier, Valerie Morganson Egger



Doty Pinter Bazos, Harry Kraiza, Tom Bordonaro



Katharine Fetzer Reynolds, Robert Voight, Brian Bagnall, Marty White



Mary Lou Cassotto, Maggie Nalette Ghosh, Margaret Santoro Mobilia, Sandra Brentnall Cummiskey, Judy Giannatasio Perotti

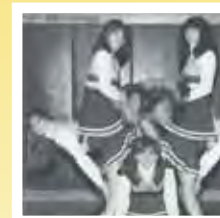


Class of 1984, Annual Trip

Three graduates of the Class of 1984 have a long history! They met in 5th grade at the Mary P. Hinsdale School in Winsted, became friends while cheerleading for Pop Warner Football in town, shared their love for cheerleading throughout their time at The Gilbert School and graduated from TGS in 1984. For the past ten years, they have taken a trip every Columbus Day weekend to catch up and reminisce. They

have visited Savannah, Georgia, Orlando, Florida, and New Hampshire. Their favorite spot is The Lighthouse Resort in Fort Myers, Florida.

At left: *Left to right Alyson Gunzinger, Kelli O'Connor McKenna, Beth Eisenlohr Glotzbach; also pictured in the yearbook photo is Michele Lambour Maillet, Class of 1984.*



2003



Rachel Douglass and Rodney Gagnon write to let us know that they are married and have two daughters, Macie Belle and Lily Grace. For the past 10 years, Rodney has been a police officer in Hartford and Rachel has been working at Connecticut Junior Republic and pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work. Rachel and Rodney have purchased R&B Sports World in Winsted and Rachel will now be running R&B's full time. Best of luck with your new venture!

2003

David Hugel writes to let us know that he was married to his wife Melissa (Traglia) Hugel in 2015 and they welcomed their first child, a daughter, Ava Catherine Hugel on December 22, 2016. Best wishes to the Hugel family!

2015

Samantha Denning, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering, was named a Presidential Scholar for the fall 2017 semester at Clarkson University. Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade point average and carry at least 14 credit hours. Congratulations Samantha!

2017

Ali Brochu, a freshman at Western Connecticut State University started for the WCSU Colonials volleyball team this fall. The team did well and made the conference playoffs. Go Ali!



Adam Atkins, Class of 1990, receives Culturemax Art Educator Award *by Patricia Martin*

On November 14, 2017, TGS Music Teacher and Choral Director Adam Atkins took center stage at Torrington's beautiful art deco Warner Theatre. But it wasn't to lead a choir or sing. This time, he was in the limelight to receive the *Educator of the Year Award* from the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council at its annual CultureMAX ceremony.

The CultureMAX awards were created to recognize those involved in the cultural community in northwest Connecticut and honor individuals and businesses who exemplify excellence in the cultural field or in serving the region's cultural community.

"Honorees go above and beyond," says Amy Wynn, Executive Director of NW Connecticut Arts Council. "We hope that by shining a light on some of the people and organizations who do wonderful things in our region, others will be inspired to make or continue to make a positive impact as well."

Mr. Atkins was lauded for his passion and dedication as teacher and for being an inspiration to his students and exposing them to state-wide events, competitions, and performances.

Mr. Atkins was humbled by being a nominee, and treasures the hand-blown glass sculpture he received as his award. "This award belongs to a lot of other people," he says. "I could not do what I do without the Gilbert School, the administration, and my students, as well as the Laurel City Singers and the First Church of Winsted."



Patrick Cooke, Class of 1989, inducted into Sabino High School Hall of Fame *by Patricia Martin*

TGS Athletic Director, Physical Education teacher, and Class of 1989 alumnus Patrick Cooke graduated from Gilbert nearly 30 years ago. Ever since his high school days, he has been making a big impression on those around him, from students to faculty. Most recently, he has been inducted into the *Sabino High School Hall of Fame* — a public secondary education school in Tucson, Arizona, where he taught and coached for just four and a half years. During that short time he had a great impact!

Mr. Cooke moved to Arizona after graduating from the University of Connecticut, where he earned his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership in 1995. While at Sabino, he taught biology and was very involved with the school's sports program, serving as assistant varsity coach for the basketball team, varsity coach for the golf team, and junior varsity and assistant varsity coach for the baseball team. During his time as a coach, Sabino's baseball team won the Arizona 4A championship.

Mr. Cooke was selected for the high school's Hall of Fame in the fall of 2017, along with the rest of the 1997 state championship team. "Sabino High School was a place that helped shape me as a professional," says Mr. Cooke. "It's where I started my teaching and coaching career. To be included with these kids and coaches in the Sabino Hall of Fame, I feel really blessed."

We want to hear from you! Please share your news... email us at: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

In Memoriam

1938

Gemma DiMauro
December 27, 2017

Constance "Connie"
(Cannavo) Zaccara
January 3, 2018

1941

Ellsworth "Bud"
Beecher
November 27, 2017

Joseph S. Cannavo
September 30, 2017

Clarence "Pete"
Suydam
April 13, 2016

1942

Marie (Angino) Gronski
June 13, 2016

1943

John P. Fracasso
November 25, 2017

1945

Vincent N. Delaney
February 23, 2011

Katherine (Kelley) Riiska
December 19, 2017

1946

Janet (Rouillard)
Beauregard
January 13, 2018

Nicholas J. Lazzaro
March 21, 2017

1947

Dominic Colavecchio
October 12, 2017

Warren Francis Sullivan, Sr.
August 26, 2017

1950

Eleanor (Wabrek)
Adams
December 22, 2017

Joseph "George"
Mangione, Sr.
December 12, 2017

1951

Beverly (Simons) Foley
December 14, 2017

1953

Patricia (Grasso) DiMartino
January 21, 2018

1955

Kathleen (Donohue) Smith
December 12, 2017

1956

Marguerite "Marge"
(Arcelaschi) Ransford
December 12, 2017

Joseph J. Vincent, III
October 19, 2017

1957

Eileen O'Connor
July 13, 2017

Lucille (Roy) Weisse
March 25, 2017

1959

Robert C. Nordland
October 30, 2017

1961

Richard Jay Jackson
December 7, 2017

1965

Alan R. Gossett, Sr.
July 19, 2017

1967

Wayne E. Ayasse
October 17, 2017

1978

Lisa (Perretti) Bodenstedt
May 12, 2016

1990

John "Alex" Fisher
December 6, 2017

2011

Lauren Bardino
December 19, 2017



Ellsworth "Bud" Beecher, Class of 1941

Former long-time faculty member and Class of 1941 graduate of The Gilbert School, Ellsworth "Bud" Beecher, began teaching at Gilbert on September 1, 1952 and retired on June 13, 1983.

During his career at Gilbert he taught Physical Education, Civics, General Science, Earth Science, and Physics. He was also a Driver's Education Instructor.

After graduating from Gilbert and before coming back to teach, Mr. Beecher served in the US Army, was valedictorian of the 1951 class at Arnold State College and received his master's degree from Trinity College.



School Secretary Mary (Bettencourt) Allen September 26, 2017

Mary Allen's extraordinary association with The Gilbert School spanned four decades. She was hired as a school secretary in 1978 and retired from her position in the late 1990's, working closely with Dotty (Wetmore) Robbins, Class of 1954. When Mrs. Allen retired, she continued to volunteer as the Recording Secretary for The W.L. Gilbert Trust and The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation through January of 2016.

Mrs. Allen raised five daughters who all attended The Gilbert School, including Jenny (Allen) Gilley, who is currently a Language Arts teacher at Gilbert.

Mrs. Allen loved her time at Gilbert and made special friends there who remained close with her throughout her life. Her individualism, independence, enthusiasm, and strength were a gift to The Gilbert School and she will be greatly missed.





How Can We Help?

Questions? Comments?
Address or email change?
Reunion? Contact us!

Email

gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Phone

860-379-1245

Mail

Office of Alumni Relations
The Gilbert School
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098

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