

Volume 11, Issue 1; Fall 2009

The Gilbert Yellow Jacket

A publication of the Alumni Relations Office of The Gilbert School

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT
GILBERT
& ALUMNI RELATIONS

Seniors of 2009 Bid Gilbert Adieu

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commencement Photos	3
Blue & Gold Reunion	4
Scholarship Dinner	8
Class Notes	11
Happening On Campus	12,13
In Memoriam	10
Alumni Theater Event	14
Mystery Photo	15
Upcoming Events	16



Salutatorian Rachel Skaret addresses her classmates at the 2009 Commencement Exercises.



Class of '84 25th Reunion, page 5



Craig Schroeder retires, page 9.

Almost 90 seniors received diplomas and said a fond farewell to Gilbert during the school's 115th commencement exercises June 23.

In his address, commencement speaker and retiring science teacher Craig Schroeder used chemistry to teach what he hopes will be valuable lessons in life to the graduates, most of whom will be moving on to institutions of higher learning, but some of whom will enter the military or the workforce.

For the last five years, Schroeder has been sending out a daily email to his colleagues that includes a pithy quote or bit of advice from philosophers ranging from the famous to the obscure. In addressing the graduates, he mixed his own wisdom with that of others.

Invoking Einstein's Theory of Relativity, Schroeder added that, "Your actions determine other people's reaction to you." The 40-year Gilbert teacher also emphasized the importance of having goals. The setting of ambitious goals, he said, "prevents energy from dissipating."

Valedictorian Eric Parsons urged his fellow graduates to "live life and take risks," while salutatorian Rachel Skaret, who as a resident of Hartland had the choice of attending other high schools, said she was glad she chose Gilbert.

"When I was in eighth grade I had a dream that I went to Granby High School," Rachel recalled. "It was the most boring dream of my life."

The 89 seniors then received their diplomas from Superintendent David Cressy, Principal Dan Hatch (who also addressed the graduates) and Steve Sedlack, who chairs the W.L. Gilbert School Corporation.

- Terry Cowgill

For more graduation photos, see page 3.

Coach Vaccari Selected For CT Volleyball Hall Of Fame



Coach Mary Ellen Vaccari

It really is a remarkable story. A young woman is asked to coach volleyball her first year of teaching at Gilbert. She agreed, even though she had never played the sport competitively. Eventually she led her team to several league titles and two state championships. And there was the year she was chosen coach of the year by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association.

Now the coaching career of Mary Ellen Vaccari '72 will reach its pinnacle with her induction into the Connecticut Volleyball Hall of Fame Nov. 24 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

Vaccari coached the Lady Yellow Jackets for 10 years after returning to Gilbert to teach physical education. She had just graduated from Southern Connecticut State University. When Vaccari (then known as Mary Ellen Staszowski) was a student at Gilbert, there were virtually no girls' competitive sports at the school. There were numerous cheerleading opportunities and, by Vaccari's senior year, a basketball club. That was pretty much it.

"While I was at college, they started volleyball and badminton

clubs [at Gilbert]," said Vaccari.

Then along came Title IX, the landmark federal legislation passed a few days after Vaccari graduated. The effect of the law was to greatly increase the number of competitive athletic opportunities for girls and young women at both the scholastic and college levels.

No exception to the national trend, Gilbert's athletic offerings for girls were expanding at a rapid rate. Charles Fecto, then the headmaster, told Vaccari when she applied for a teaching position that he would hire her under one condition.

"Mr. Fecto said you can have the job as long as you agree to coach three sports," Vaccari recalled. "Title IX was the big impetus for my position."

Since she had not played competitively, Vaccari enrolled in a volleyball coaching course and the rest is history.

After 10 years at the helm of the varsity volleyball team, she handed the keys over to Cindy Fixer, still the current coach and one of Vaccari's former players. Several other Vaccari-coached players have gone on to play seriously in college and/or gone into coaching the sport. Her two daughters also played volleyball in college and both were All-New England.

"Either they put up with my passion or they caught it," Vaccari quipped.

Invitations to the induction will be sent out to as many of Vaccari's former players as we can locate. If you'd like to send her a note of congratulations or let her know how to get in touch with you, send Coach Vaccari an email at vaccarim@gilbertschool.org.

- Terry Cowgill

School Secretary O'Connor Honored at 'Celebration'

At The Gilbert School's Celebration of Education, an awards event that recognizes student and staff achievement, more than 90 students received awards for their accomplishments May 31.

The W.L. Gilbert Trust, the charitable organization that supports the school that bears its name, recognized two of the highest achieving graduating seniors with Trustee Awards: valedictorian Eric Parsons and salutatorian Rachel Skaret.

Also recognized was veteran administrative assistant Sandra O'Connor, who replaced longtime secretary Dotty Robbins almost nine years ago. A 1971 graduate of The Gilbert School, O'Connor was pre-

sented with the honor by Superintendent David Cressy.

"Sandy filled Dottie's shoes and much more," said Cressy, who has worked with O'Connor since he arrived at Gilbert in 2004. "In many ways, she is the glue that holds this place together."

Since it would be a challenge to keep her award a secret, Cressy told O'Connor he was giving the honors to business teacher John Dombrowski, whom Cressy described as his "decoy."

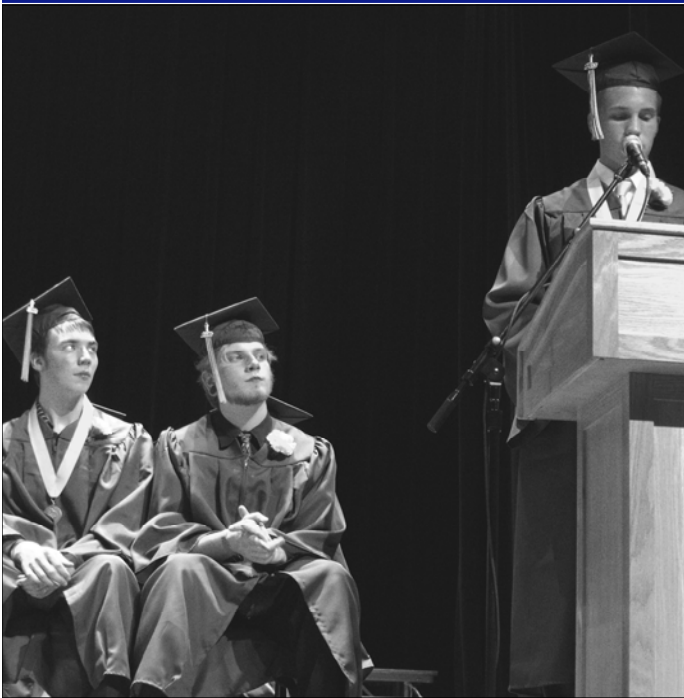
O'Connor, who has four children, three



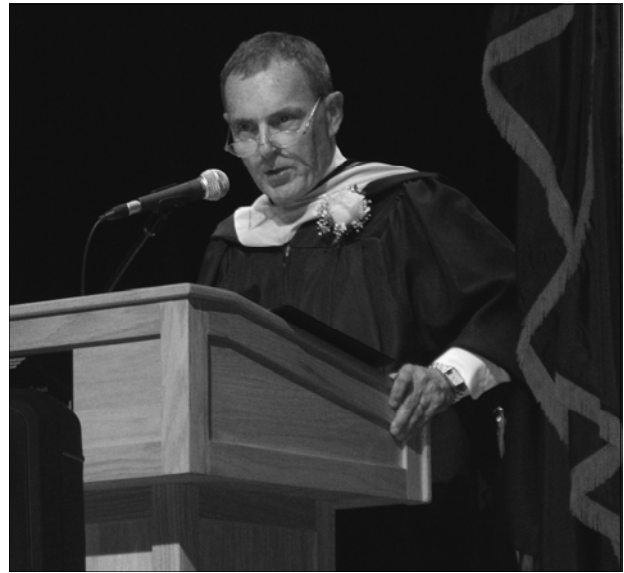
Gilbert School administrative assistant Sandra O'Connor listens as Superintendent David Cressy describes her accomplishments in advance of honoring her with the outstanding service award May 31 in the school's auditorium. At left is Principal Dan Hatch.

of whom graduated from Gilbert, appeared stunned by the honor but smiled happily as she accepted the award from Cressy and Principal David Hatch.

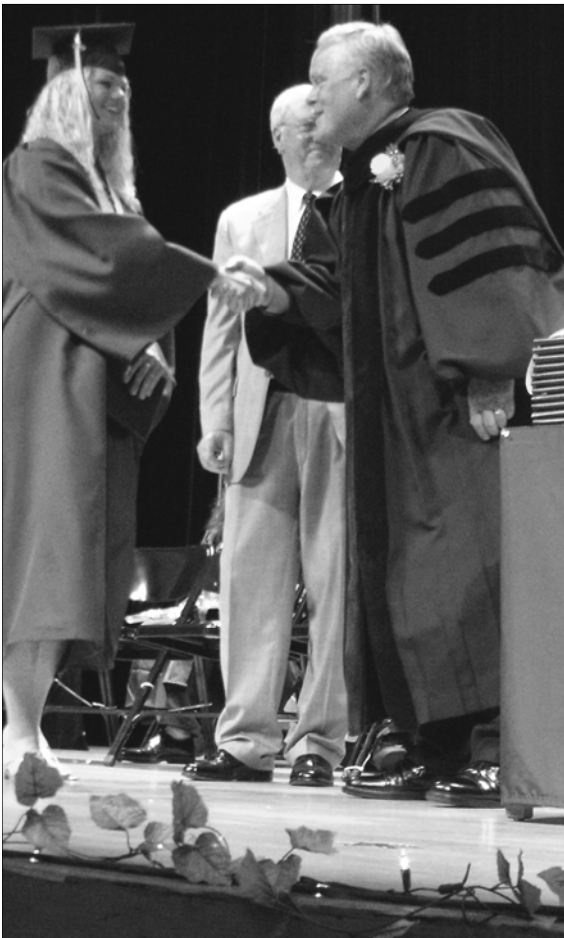
Photo Gallery G



Valedictorian Eric Parsons addresses classmates.



Principal Dan Hatch imparts a few words of wisdom.



Supt. Dr. David Cressy congratulates salutatorian Rachel Skaret on receiving her diploma.



The senior chorus entertains.



Graduates enjoy the address by retiring Gilbert science teacher Craig Schroeder.

R
A
D
U
A

T
I
O
N

2
0
0
9

Reunion Round-Up



More Than 100 Flock To Campus For Blue & Gold

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY TERRY COWGILL

About 120 graduates of The Gilbert School turned out for the eighth annual Blue & Gold reunion in the school cafeteria honoring those alumni who graduated from Gilbert 50 years ago or more.

Attendees enjoyed a light buffet supper, followed by remarks from members of the W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, which sponsored the event, and the awarding of certificates of appreciation to members of the class of 1959.

There was also a student performance by the Gilbert School jazz band under the direction of music teacher Scott Minnerly.



George DeMars '50, Roger Jones '49 and Edward Lord '46 enjoyed the good times after dinner.



Members of the Class of 1959 posed for a group photo before dinner.



Steve '60 and Sheila Sedlack '63 and Renee M. Day were full of cheer.



Mary (Bazzano) Turgeon '53 and Mary S. Sullivan '53 enjoyed the evening.



Fouad G. "Fred" Ferris '52 entertained classmates with stories from the old days.



Bob and Janet LaFlamme (both Class of '53) share a light moment before supper.



Louise (Raabe) Hayes '58 and Lois Mangione '58 enjoyed each other's company.

THE CLASS OF 1984 CELEBRATES ITS 25TH

Almost half of the members of The Gilbert School's class of 1984 gathered Saturday evening, July 18, for a 25th year reunion at the Cambridge Brew House in Torrington. In addition, some members from other classes attended the reunion, bringing the total number of attendees to about 50.

On Friday afternoon, class of '84 member and Winsted native Willis Whalen held a non-contact football clinic for area youngsters. The proceeds from the clinic netted \$600 for a college scholarship for Gilbert students in memory of the late Ean Clough '84.

Whalen, who played football at Gilbert and later at Southern Connecticut State University, is manager of membership services of the NFL Players Association in Washington, D.C. The clinic attracted dozens of boys and girls from the Winsted area. Thunderstorms forced the relocation of the clinic from the football field to the gymnasium.

Members of the Gilbert football coaching staff, including Scott Salius and Dan Jones, also helped run the program. All participants received a gift bag with items donated by the NFL Players Association and there was a random drawing for autographed memorabilia.



Monica Gomez Chambrello '84, Heidi Hutton '84, Tammy Gomez '88, and Dwain Gomez '81.



Mike Karolyi '84 from WCCC radio with Coach Dan Jones.



Willis Whalen '84 rouses the attendees at the clinic.

Photos by
Alyson
Gunzinger
Calafiore '84
and
Terry Cowgill



Monette Sommaruga, Mark Sommaruga '84 and Alyson Gunzinger Calfiore '84



Kevin Ryan '84, Sue Emond '84, Bob Gilson '84 and John Poole '85.



Honor Davidson Glenn '84, Calvin Glenn and Gina Duclayan '84

Gilbert Families Combine To Establish Scholarship



Carmen P.
Bazzano '33

Two well known families with deep ties to Gilbert have combined forces to establish a scholarship to benefit graduates of the school.

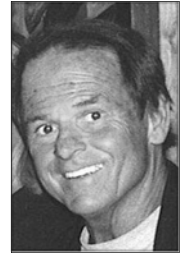
The newly conceived fund, established in memory of Carmen P. Bazzano '33 and William "Doc" Perlotto, will be awarded to a Gilbert graduate who is enrolled in college (or a senior planning to enroll) who is hard-working and exhibits strong leadership qualities.

Mr. Bazzano was a Winsted native and insurance salesman. His involvement in the community ran deep and extended to membership on several town commissions and service as a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

Mr. Perlotto is a beloved former Gilbert School guidance counselor who also served as principal of Oliver Wolcott Technical School in Torrington, where the school's gymnasium was recently named in his memory.

Donations to the Bazzano-Perlotto Scholarship Fund can be sent to The Gilbert School's Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Questions can be directed to Director Terry Cowgill at

cowgillt@gilbertschool.org or to Mr Bazzano's son, Joseph '60, at jcl2mzab@aol.com, or to Mr. Perlotto's niece, Dee Cusati, at robertcusati@sbcglobal.net.



William "Doc"
Perlotto

SUPPORT GILBERT'S STUDENTS AND FACULTY! DON'T FORGET THE 2009-2010 GILBERT ANNUAL FUND!

Each year donors to the Gilbert School Annual Fund support the school through Enhancement Grants awarded to faculty for innovative programs, facility upgrades and guest speakers. Among the projects your generous gifts supported last year:

- An Apple mobile learning lab for the library media center
- A training mannequin for use in forensics and EMT classes
- A field trip to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown for the baseball team
- A vibraphone for the school's various music bands
- Additional "Smart Board" technology for enhanced instruction in the classroom

Gifts are now accepted online through our website via [PayPal](#)—use your credit card or your [PayPal](#) account!

If you would prefer to make a credit card contribution by phone, call the Alumni Office at 860-738-9439.

Help Us Stay In Touch With You!

- When you move or change your name, send an email to gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org or call the Alumni Office at 860-738-9439.
- Periodically update your profile via the *Online Community* link at our website, www.gilbertschool.org. Include your email address! You can also use the *Online Community* to post alumni news and email your classmates!
- Check the "Where are you?" list on our website and let us know if you can help with the whereabouts of lost classmates.
- If you notice an obituary or hear of the passing of a classmate, forward the information to the Alumni Office. Include the date of death and the name and date of the newspaper where the obituary appeared, or other source of information. We will not mark an alumnus as deceased without a way to verify the information if needed.

Former Trustee Jim Davis Passes Away At 79

Former longtime member of the Gilbert Trust Corporation and trustee emeritus James E. Davis, 79, passed away on March 20, 2009, at his Clearwater, Florida, home under the care of Hospice.

Born in Winsted on Sept. 9, 1929, to Olive (Claus) and Thomas Justice Davis, Mr. Davis is survived by his wife, Marlene; three children, Patricia Carrier of Royalston, Mass., Barbara Bremer of Point Pleasant, N.J., and Frederick Miner of Barkhamsted; four grandchildren, Jessie and Eric Bremer, and Ryan and Meredith Carrier; two brothers, Thomas J. of Winsted, and Wesley A. Davis of Pinegroe Grove, Ill.; a sister, Linda Maley of Clearwa-

ter; an uncle and aunt, Theodore and Lorraine Davis; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mr. Davis graduated from The Gilbert School in 1947, attended meteorology college in Oklahoma, and worked as a weather observer for the United States Weather Bureau in Washington, D.C. He was honorably discharged from the United States Army in 1954 after having served in Japan.

Mr. Davis started at Northwest Bank (formerly Mechanics Savings Bank of Winsted) in March of 1954, becoming president and CEO in March 1981. He was active in community services as treasurer of the Red

Cross for more than 25 years, treasurer of The Gilbert Trust for more than 25 years before becoming a trustee. At the time of his death, he was treasurer of the Winsted Improvement Corp., and a chairman of the American Heart Association.

Mr. Davis was a member of the Rotary Club of Winsted, Greenwood Country Club in Winsted, and the Belleview Biltmore Golf Club in Belleair, Fla.

"Those of us who had the opportunity to serve on the Trust with Jim know what a fine man we have lost," said Tom Botticelli, president of The Trust. "Our thoughts are with his family."

Gilbert Alumni Group Boasts 600 Members

Are you a fan of both Facebook and The Gilbert School?

Terry Cowgill, director of development and alumni relations, and Rob DiMartino '90, started a page last fall on the social networking site called "The Gilbert School Alumni."

You can post updates on yourself and check to learn information about classmates or upcoming alumni events and news.

If you're already a member of Facebook, you can log in and type "Gilbert School Alumni" into the search box or check the alumni page of Gilbert's own web site for the link.

Rob is a director at Finalsite, a website development company in East Hartford that specializes in serving the needs of public and independent schools.

The Gilbert Alumni Facebook page now boasts about 600 members and fans. Join the fun.

Update your profile at

www.gilbertschool.org/alumni

New Users:

Your ID number (needed for initial registration) is above your name on the mailing label of this newsletter.

Gilbert Trust Corporation Awards

More Than \$70,000 in College Scholarships



2009 scholarship recipients pose before the dinner.



Rachel Dziedzic, Krista Blackwell and Emily Vincent (all Class of 2008) received college scholarships.



At left, Joe Dombrowski, Gilbert's associate principal and chairman of the faculty scholarship committee, awards the 2009 Ean Clough Memorial Scholarship to Eric Parsons, valedictorian of the Class of 2009.

At right, Cynthia Eseppi Rines '80, entertains guests with her colleagues.

At its annual scholarship awards dinner May 8, The Gilbert Trust Corporation awarded in excess of \$70,000 in higher education assistance to about 50 Gilbert School seniors and alumni.

About 165 award recipients, parents, board members, faculty and staff attended the event hosted by Crystal Peak, the Winchester banquet and special events facility that was also a major sponsor of the dinner.

The Gilbert Trust, the non-profit organization that supports the school, holds more than \$1 million in endowed scholarships and other named funds, many of which have been in existence since the early 1900s. The funds were established by graduates, local businesses and other friends of the school and are awarded each year to deserving applicants.

Other sponsors of the event include attorney Ellen Marino, Goulet Printery, Northwest Community Bank, Robert E. King Certified Public Accountants and Colavecchio Design. Musical entertainment was provided by Gilbert graduates Cynthia Eseppi Rines and Deborah Beckwith Storrs, and Gilbert friend Lynn Whittaker.



Beloved Gilbert Science Teacher Calls It A Career

About 90 colleagues and students past and present gathered at Crystal Peak Friday, June 12, to celebrate the career and life of one of the longest serving members of The Gilbert School faculty.

Craig C. Schroeder, who has taught science to at least two generations of Gilbert students, came to the school after graduating from Trinity College in Hartford.

Social Studies teacher and longtime colleague Gerry Hicks set the tone early on in the event by announcing that, after much deliberation, he and members of Schroeder's family felt strongly that Schroeder should be roasted rather than honored, although they admitted it was possible to do both in one evening.

"In 1969, man first walked on the moon and Craig started to walk the halls at Gilbert," Hicks said. "Oh, I forgot -- Craig doesn't walk the halls anymore; he takes the elevator."

Hicks also recalled how Schroeder was once given the job of after-school hall monitor -- a job for which there appeared to be little need.

"Think about that," Hicks continued. "You've got a guy who's in charge of keeping the peace in an empty building."

Former colleague Kathy Cloud and current math teacher Raymond Robillard both gave multimedia presentations on Schroeder's career and on the changes at the school since Schroeder arrived on the campus 40 years ago.

Others fondly recalled Schroeder's gentle demeanor and rapport with his students developed over the course of the estimated 7,000 school days of his career in Winsted.

Schroeder himself put his own longevity into historical context, noting that the average price of a home was only \$15,000 in his first year of teaching, when many of his Trinity classmates were in law school or starting work with big corporations.

Hicks said Schroeder had much to be proud of. He met his late wife Lisa at Gilbert and they had four children who graduated from the school.

"You've touched thousands of lives," Hicks added. "You



Social Studies teacher and longtime colleague Gerry Hicks '69 gives Schroeder a roasting during Schroeder's retirement dinner at Crystal Peak June 12.



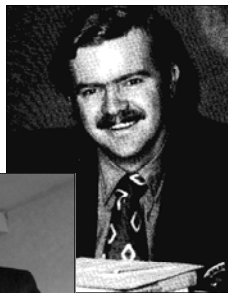
can certainly be proud of that."

On behalf of the faculty and administration, Hicks presented Schroeder with several tokens of esteem including gift cards, a Gilbert School chair, a diploma denoting Schroeder's new status as honorary alumnus and a chef's outfit courtesy of the school's kitchen staff.

— Photos and text by Terry Cowgill

Schroeder accepts this year's yearbook dedication from the senior class in June.

Craig Schroeder, at right, in his classroom in 1972.



MANY CHANGES RECALLED IN 30 YEARS

In his 30 years at The Gilbert School, Craig Schroeder has seen so many changes that it's difficult to know where to begin in describing them.

Since he first arrived at the Williams Street campus in 1969, Schroeder said the student body has grown much more diverse, as has the town itself. In addition, he has seen much greater participation in the school's interscholastic athletic program, especially among girls after Title IX was passed in 1972.

"The rise of the girls has been tremendous to watch," said Schroeder, who coached the girls varsity basketball team for 10 years and was named Connecticut girls' high school coach of the year one season.

Schroeder also recalled how there were no labor unions representing the faculty when he first arrived. Terms of employment were sketched out by the headmaster on a three-by-five card and consummated with a handshake. There were no substitute teachers, so when a faculty member was absent, colleagues simply filled in when they had a free period. And social attitudes were vastly different nationwide — no less so at Gilbert.

"After they offered me the job, they asked me what I was going to do with my moustache," Schroeder recalled. "There wasn't supposed to be any facial hair." No one was to wear jeans in the building and girls and female teachers were expected to wear skirts to classes.

Schroeder was born in Chicago and moved with his family to Old Saybrook when he was in sixth grade. Later, he graduated from Trinity College in Hartford, where classmate Dan Nichols told him his father, Gilbert Headmaster Dave Nichols, was looking for a science teacher. Later, he fell in love with a fellow faculty member, the late Alice "Lisa" Vaccari, married her and raised four children who graduated from Gilbert. After thousands of students and two major renovation projects on the campus, the rest is, as they say, history.



At left, Craig receives a Gilbert diploma making him an honorary alumnus

IN MEMORIAM

<p>1930 Anna H. Landi <i>February 14, 2009</i></p> <p>1932 Phyllis C. Locascio <i>June 21, 2009</i></p> <p>1933 Carmen P. Bazzano <i>April 3, 2009</i></p> <p>1938 Theodore "Dorie" Van Why <i>June 27, 2009</i></p> <p>1939 Charlotte (Warner) Boratko <i>October 20, 2008</i> Thomas E. Donaldson <i>April 23, 2002</i></p>	<p>James A. Hall Jr. <i>March 4, 2009</i></p> <p>Thomas J. Kolasinski <i>April 3, 2009</i></p> <p>1942 Margaret F. "Peggy" (Carroll) Marolda <i>August 2, 2009</i> Lucy (Bazzano) Christian <i>August 3, 2009</i></p> <p>1946 Charles W. Bennett <i>January 23, 2009</i></p> <p>1950 Marie (Humphrey) MacPherson <i>March 23, 2009</i></p> <p>1951</p>	<p>Caroline (Sylvernale) O'Brien <i>August 3, 2009</i></p> <p>1953 Sarah Jane Cameron <i>November 14, 2008</i> Mary (Freeland) Plante <i>January 2009</i></p> <p>1960 Thomas L. Basso <i>August 21, 2008</i></p> <p>1961 Barbara (Viall) Manchester <i>April 2, 2009</i></p> <p>1963 James A. Ducharme <i>February 12, 2009</i></p> <p>1968</p>
--	--	--

Letter to the Editor

Dear Yellow Jacket Editor:

Each issue is devoured. As a member of the class of 1936, I was delighted to see reference to Evelyn Weigold whom I've known since kindergarten at Fourth School. How much we more elderly grads hope for mention of classmates when each issue arrives!

It is impressive to see the large number of scholarship recipients (page 9 of the fall issue). As I remember, there weren't that many scholarships available in the '30s. My brother Charles did receive \$600 a year scholarship for each of his four years at Yale — much appreciated, as he wanted to follow my dad, and the Depression was on.

Gilbert, because of inherited funding and "semi-private" status, as I remember, was able to offer more language choices than public schools. Is that true today? We had French, German and Latin, and I took all three from Annie Mae Larkin and Fannie Krute.

Remember Annie Mae lived across the street from me, and Fannie Krute always wore beautiful high, high heels (sorry to say I've forgotten much they taught)! Of course, they were always referred to as "Miss." I liked both. My mother also had Annie Mae for Latin.

Years at Gilbert are fondly remembered. Since in Depression, and Dad's business was Wall Street, I took an extra year for typing and shorthand. That was the year Herb Oviatt started a drama class (rather far-out for Gilbert then!) and we put on a play written by members. I have a picture of the cast.

Gilbert has always been a good memory and I thank you for the Yellow Jacket.

With all best wishes for the future of Gilbert,
Margaret Selover Barth '36
La Habra Heights, Calif.

Class Notes

1939

Sixty-one years after graduating from medical school, Dr. **Irwin L. Harris** retired from his solo pediatric practice in 2007. He lives in Hewlett Bay Park, N.Y., and is enrolled at Hofstra University in an enrichment program for retired professionals. He can be reached at froo12@aol.com.

1945

Irene (Schmiedell) Ranslow writes: "Hi. Bob and I are still enjoying our retirement years at home in Newberry, Fla. I graduated from the old Gilbert school in 1945. I would be interested in communicating with anyone still around after all these years. My e-mail address is iranslow@aol.com. Our address is 20637 SW 83 Ave. Archer, FL 32618. If you can't find us on a map you might find Gainesville, home of the football champions, University of Florida Gators. We are 20 miles to the SW and, of course, avid Gator fans. We enjoy our middle son and three grandchildren who live next door as well as our youngest son, his wife, and our two grandchildren who live about 40 miles from here. Our oldest son and his wife live in North Carolina and we love to visit there. We have not been back to CT in many years. I guess as we age we have more time to think back to our younger years and wish we had kept in touch. Our dear friends, Shirley and Charley Emerick have passed and so has Shirley's sister Marjorie who lived down here. If anyone cares to get in touch with me I would be thrilled."

1952

Joan (Rouillard) Lambour and **Francis Lambour** '49 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 18, 2008 at The Cornucopia.

1957

In the spring of 2008, **Charles L. Day Jr.** was appointed chairman of the Eagle Scout Scholarship and Recognition Committee for the Florida Society of The Sons of The American Revolution. He can be reached at dmdaycday@aol.com.

1966

Cornelius Walsh reports that he has been retired from the Foreign Service since 2004. Meanwhile wife and classmate Kathleen (Pinter) Walsh is "doing fantastically well as an artist with sales in the U.S., Europe and Africa. Only one grandchild so far."

1968

Janice (Renza) Halliday died Sept. 19, 2007, after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. She left a generous bequest to her alma mater, St. Martin's University in Lacey, Washington, establishing the Jan Halliday Criminal Justice Scholarship Endowment Fund. In her memory, the university named an outdoor seating area for Jan, with a dedication ceremony on April 16, 2009.

1991

Gina (Riccardo) Marandino writes: "I married Robert Marandino Jr. on May 2 of this year. It's a first marriage for both of us."

The couple lives in Bristol.

Kimberly (Gee) Graffeo gave birth to a son, Ryan, on July 7, 2009.

1994

Eleanor "Elly" (Dubois) Sok died while giving birth to her first child, Peter Benjamin Sok, on June 19, 2009. A Simsbury resident, Elly had worked at The Hartford Insurance Company for 11 years. Her son survived. Elly is also survived by her husband Stephen and many other members of her extended family.

2001

Bethany Barry writes: "I am now going by the name Bethany Walsh, having ditched the Barry on Oct. 11, 2008. I married my college sweetheart, Kevin Walsh, in Winsted. Kevin (who grew up in East Lyme, Conn.) and I met at our alma mater, Fordham University, performing improv comedy and traditional theater together. Kevin and I live in New York, NY." Bethany is an assistant at the NYU Clinical Cancer Center and an improv comedian.

2004

Brianna Smyth graduated magna cum laude this spring from the University of South Florida with a GPA of 4.0. She majored in psychology.

2007

Congratulations to Brittany Smyth for making the dean's list for the spring semester at Mitchell College in New London, Conn., with a GPA of 4.0. Brittany is majoring in hospitality and tourism.

Concerning Items in Alumni News... Items included in the *Alumni News* section of the *Yellow Jacket* are submitted directly to us by alumni or are gathered from public sources such as local newspapers. The purpose of *Alumni News* is to pass on good wishes, thoughts and news of your classmates and to recognize accomplishments. If you prefer that we do not include you by name in future issues, please notify the Office of Development & Alumni Relations in writing.

Happening On Campus ...

Gilbert and Winchester Partner For 'Beauty' Jr.

In late March, The Gilbert School, in collaboration with The Winchester Public Schools and the Town of Winchester Recreation Department, presented "Disney's Beauty and the Beast Junior," by Alan Menken, Howard Ashman, Tim Rice and Linda Woolverton.

The production, a partnership between the two schools and fifth graders from the local elementary schools, was a smashing success. It featured two sets of actors playing the lead roles: middle schoolers and high schoolers.

Directed by Penny Owen and choreographed by Gilbert theater arts teacher Dea Simpson, the play tells the story of a young man and young woman who find true love and features the Disney characters who were fast losing their humanity and becoming inanimate objects that made the animated film and Broadway musical so enchanting.

The production was underwritten by a generous grant from the W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, the nonprofit charitable group that supports the school.



Gaston played by Nik Senetcky '09, incites the villagers to kill the Beast during a rehearsal.

Matt Dombrowski '09 Honored By Foundation As Scholar-Athlete



UConn freshman Matt Dombrowski '09 was honored as a student-athlete by the Northern Connecticut Chapter of National Football Foundation May 17 in Glastonbury. On campus March 24 to help Matt celebrate the good news were, from left, Principal Dan Hatch, Paul Cosgrove and Larry Olsen of the foundation, and Gilbert football coach Scott Salius.

Gilbert Athletics Earn State Honors, Program Deemed 'Exemplary'

The Gilbert School's athletic program has been awarded a Michaels Achievement Cup by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference.

The award for the 2008-09 school year recognized Gilbert, which placed second in Class S, for its "exemplary athletic programs." According to CIAC, the honor recognizes high levels of success in "athletic participation, academic success, equitable opportunities, trained and professional personnel, chemical-free programs, athletic achievement and a clear sense of sportsmanship marked by high ethical and moral standards."

The 400-student school will be presented with the prestigious second-place cup on Thursday, Sept. 24, at a luncheon at the AquaTurf in Southington.

According to Mike Gamari, Gilbert's longtime athletic director, the school had strong varsity teams this year in girls soccer and baseball. In addition the Berkshire League champion wrestling team finished the season third in the state for Class S. All totaled in 2008-09, 14 Gilbert athletes made the 1st-team all Berkshire League and four were all-state.

In the last 25 years, Gilbert has won several CIAC Michaels Cups, including two first-places (1987 and 1996), a second-place (1991) and a third-place (1993).

"Mike Gamari and his coaching staff should be very proud of this recognition by the CIAC," said Dan Hatch, Gilbert's principal. "I am extremely pleased for them, for our student-athletes and for our entire school community."



Judge Charles Gill spoke to the Gilbert community in the auditorium April 8.

Distinguished Judge Visits Gilbert For Law Day

Connecticut Superior Court Judge Charles D. Gill, known as a tireless advocate for children, spoke for about an hour April 8 in the school's auditorium.

Judge Gill is well known locally, having served on the bench at the Litchfield Superior Court for many years, retiring from that post in 2008. He now sits on the bench at the Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse as a judge trial referee.

Rather than give a lengthy discourse on his decades-long service in the Connecticut judicial system, after a brief introduction, Judge Gill went straight to almost two dozen questions from Gilbert students. Many of the questions revolved around the state's criminal justice system and the role it plays in the lives of young people.

Judge Gill is the co-founder of the National Task Force for Children's Constitutional Rights, a nonprofit group that promotes children's rights. Since being sworn in as a judge in 1983, Gill was also assigned to courthouses in New Haven, Waterbury, Bristol, Hartford and New Britain.

He has mentored numerous young people, and written three books on subjects ranging from parenting and juvenile delinquency to the legal representation of children. Judge Gill has lectured extensively and has presented a training program to judges and lawyers on children's issues in 15 states.

In addition, Judge Gill has been interviewed or profiled by journalists such as Diane Sawyer, Ted Koppel and John Stossel. He's also testified before Congress, been honored by President Bush in the Oval Office of the White House and by President Clinton in the Rose Garden, and was recently the only American Keynote Speaker at the annual Convention of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

New Pear Trees Sweeten Up Campus

The Gilbert School campus is now a little greener. This spring, buildings and grounds superintendent Ted Buzinsky and his crew planted two Cleveland Select flowering pear trees on the campus.

The gorgeous non-fruit-producing trees were made possible by a landscaping fund established by the Class of 1970. Trees have been planted off the faculty parking lot and on the bus loop.

The trees feature "a brilliant white flower and a glossy green leaf that turns burnt orange in the fall," Buzinsky said.

According to Gilbert Trust member Joanne (Cannavo) Marzullo '70, one of the trees is planted above the spot where her class buried a time capsule on the very first Earth Day.

"Unfortunately no one can find it and we believe it may have been dug up during the renovation project back in the 90s," Marzullo said. "So how fitting that a tree is above that spot."

Ted Buzinsky, Anthony Sullivan and Ken Hintz plant a flowering pear tree off the faculty parking lot. The trio planted an identical tree on the bus loop on the other side of the school building.



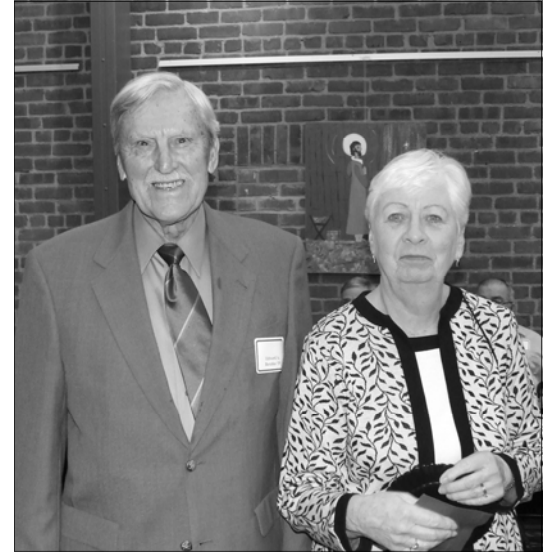
A 'Smokey' Affair:

Alumni Dig Reception and Revue at The Warner



About two dozen alumni and their guests braved a late winter snowstorm to attend a Gilbert-sponsored reception and professional production of "Smokey Joe's Café" at The Warner Theatre in Torrington on Feb. 22.

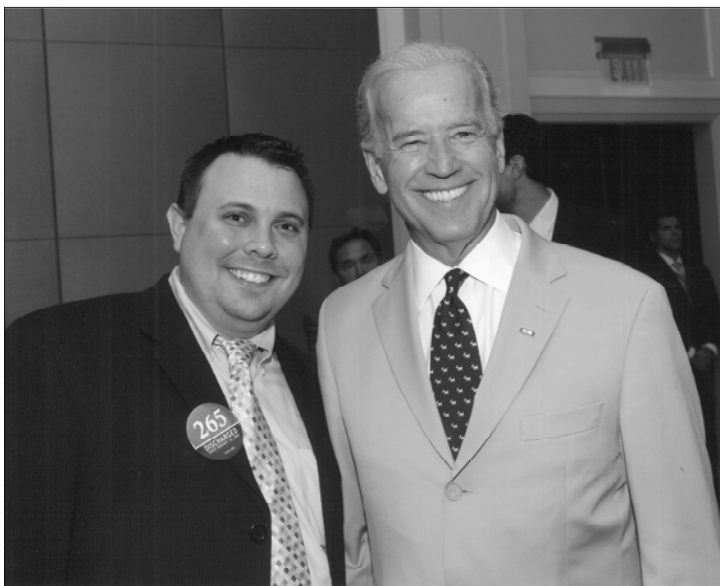
The oldies-style musical revue was a big hit, prompting one alumnus to exclaim, "Let's do this again next year!"



PHOTOS
BY
TERRY
COWGILL



Jason Boutin '95 Learns About Leadership From A Real Pro



Jason Boutin '95 ran into Vice President Joe Biden at a recent conference in Washington.

Jason Boutin'95, winner of last year's Young Gilbert Alumni Achievement Award, participated in a leadership and public service conference on June 25 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, D.C., about a mile from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, where the White House was holding an annual summer picnic for the staff that same night. Many of the people were going back and forth between the two events.

In itself, that wouldn't be big news. But the conference host happened to be a guy who works just down the road at the executive mansion — Vice President Joe Biden. Jason enjoyed his chat with the vice president, but focused most of his energies on the subject of the conference, where he obtained some new ideas and reinforced what he had already learned about giving back.

"Never underestimate the value of relationships and networking," Boutin told *The Yellow Jacket*. "The relationships we establish may be rewarding for the charities and non-profit organizations we serve, but also personally rewarding."

Earlier this year, Jason was also named a 2009 Boardroom Leadership Scholar at Suffolk University's Sawyer Business School. Sixteen graduating MBA students were selected as members of the Boardroom Leadership Scholars program, a unique initiative within the Sawyer Business School.

Each year the Suffolk MBA program invites a nationally known business leader to serve as the boardroom leader.

As part of this year's program, Micho Spring, chair, U.S. Corporate Practice and president of Weber Shandwick/New England, shared her insights on global leadership and communication strategies in a Q&A boardroom session.

To be considered for the Boardroom Leadership Scholars program, students must meet the requirements for graduation; write an essay on what defines a leader in today's global economy; and demonstrate leadership capability, skills and interest.

—Terry Cowgill

Where On The Gilbert Campus Was This Photo Taken?



Email your answers to alumni@gilbertschool.org. Be as specific as you can. The first successful respondent will receive his/her choice of a Gilbert Yellow Jackets gear bag or blanket.

Let us hear from you!

Whether you've recently married, celebrated an anniversary or an addition to your family, received a promotion, changed occupations, started a business, written a book, won an award—or just want to send greetings to your classmates—let us know!

Fill out this form and mail it to the Alumni Office, submit online at www.gilbertschool.org or send us an email! We—and your classmates—would enjoy hearing from you!

Photos for publication in the Yellow Jacket are always welcome!

 Calling all alumni! Send us your news for the next issue of the *Yellow Jacket*!

Your name: _____ Class Year: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send to: Office of Development & Alumni Relations, The Gilbert School, 200 Williams Avenue, Winsted, CT 06098

UPCOMING EVENTS: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Class of 1954 55 th Reunion	Sept 26, 2009
Homecoming	Oct. 10, 2009
Class of 1989 20 th Reunion	Nov. 28, 2009
Blue & Gold Reunion	May 2010 TBA

**FOR EVENT DETAILS
AND MORE,
VISIT US ONLINE:
WWW.GILBERTSCHOOL.ORG**

Register for The Gilbert School Online Alumni Community Today!

Approximately 9,000 alumni receive news from The Gilbert School and are listed within the Alumni Community on our website. Post your email address there and send messages to your classmates, post and read class notes, find out what's happening at your alma mater. Use your alumni ID number located above your name on the mailing label of this newsletter and register today.

The Gilbert School
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098

(860) 379-8521 (Main Office)
(860) 738-9439 (Alumni Office)

Email: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

The Gilbert School Yellow Jacket is produced twice per year for the benefit of alumni and friends of The Gilbert School. Correspondence and changes of address should be directed to Cindy Gould, Editor, in the Alumni Office.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1522
WATERBURY, CT