OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT
GILBERT
& ALUMNI RELATIONS

The Gilbert School

Yellow Jacket

Volume 8, Issue 1

Fall 2006

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of The Gilbert School

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Congratulations and Best Wishes to the 111th Graduating Class of The Gilbert School

PAULINE FANCHER, CLASS OF 1929, CHARMS CLASS OF 2006

105 graduates and a full auditorium of relatives, friends and teachers were captivated by the stories and the wisdom shared by Miss Fancher.

"...I am pleased with the time behind me and excited about the times ahead."

—*Gabrielle Groth '06*

Valedictorian Gabrielle Groth encouraged classmates to follow their dreams, passions and desires as they search for success and independence beyond Gilbert.

COMMENCEMENT 2006

A 1929 graduate of The Gilbert School, a 1935 graduate of the Pratt School of Fine Arts, and a teacher for nearly 40 years, Miss Pauline Fancher remains quite familiar—and comfortable—within an academic setting. She easily held the attention of the audience and the graduates-to-be with a presence that clearly defined her passion for teaching and learning. She began with a story from her own senior year at The Gilbert School some 77 years ago. Standing up in front of her classmates, she gave a speech on the operating principles of an airplane—lift, thrust and drag. She related those same principles, with a different spin, to the experiences of her own life that eventually brought her back to Gilbert to give the 2006 Commencement Address.

Tops on the list of "lifts" were her fond recollections of the many years spent in the classroom—both as a student and as a teacher. And there was the seven week journey through Europe during which she took many photographs that she would later use to present travelogues. A major "drag" was returning to New York City in 1955 after that trip only to learn that she couldn't get a train home to Winsted because of Martial Law—the flood of 1955 had hit.

Lifts and drags aside, Miss Fancher's messages for the Class of 2006 were clear. "There are two things you need to be successful. One is a good dictionary—the words that come from your mouth are a part of your visibility; a part of your visible self—try to learn a new word every day. The other thing you need is a holy book. The Torah, Koran, Bible, whatever. They teach you how to live...how to get a job...how to bring up your children."

Miss Fancher has come full circle. In 1929 she spoke to her own senior class. In 2006 she encouraged members of the current senior class to remain cheerful through all the "drags" and to trust that they will indeed experience many of life's "lifts" along their own journey. Listening to her spirited remarks was perhaps the first of those! ❖

Pauline Fancher's name is among those inscribed on a disc that traveled to the planet Mars aboard one of two Mars Exploration Rovers launched in 2003. The rovers "Spirit" and "Opportunity" did in fact land on Mars and photos showing the disk can be viewed on the internet.

Miss Fancher addresses the Class of 2006 directly.

"We can do anything...

Three generations of Gilbert alumni—graduate Haley Barber '06 with her mother Tracy Hall '82 and grandmother Janet Thibodeau Hall '56.

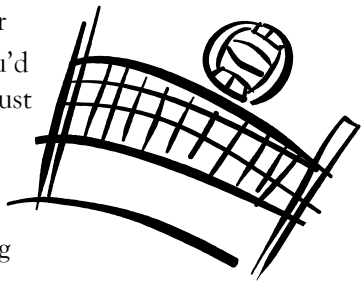
Gilbert School Corporation member and alumnus Charles Seaback '72 presents diploma to his daughter Caroline.

Home for Thanksgiving?
Join us on Wednesday, November 22
(the day before Thanksgiving)

Annual Alumni Volleyball Game
6:30 pm
The Gilbert School Gymnasium

Contact Cindy Fixer or Mary Ellen Vaccari if you'd like to play—or come by just to cheer!

Email:
fixerc@gilbertschool.org
vaccarim@gilbertschool.org



Young Alumni Day
9:30 am

Still in college? Recently graduated?

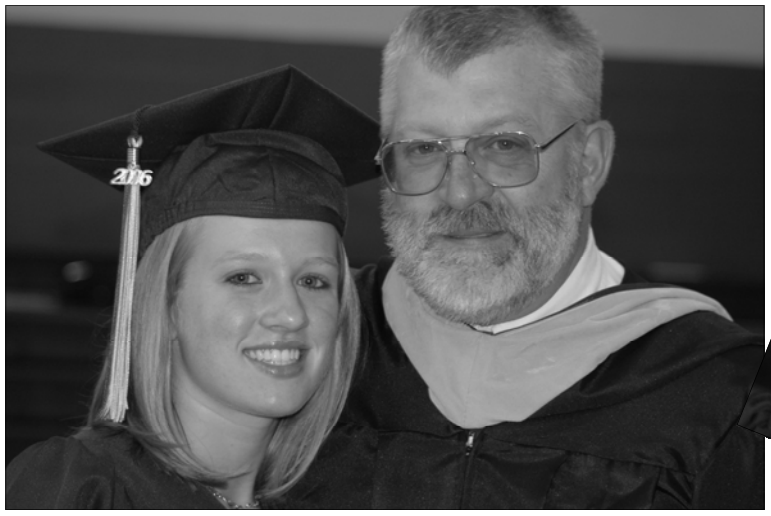
Found that perfect job?

Stop by and visit The Gilbert School—talk with the Class of 2007 about what they can expect as they prepare to go on to college, the military or the workplace. You have a lot to offer—and we know our students will appreciate your comments.

Interested in attending?
RSVP Requested
Email:
gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org
barberf@gilbertschool.org.

...and be anything."

—From Ms. Groth's Valedictory Remarks



Co-Salutatorian Jennifer Dombrowski with dad, Gilbert faculty member John Dombrowski, Class of '73.

Jordan Delaney gets a little help from a friend!

School Happenings

Welcome New Faculty Members!

Pictured above are Katherine Boiczyk (replacing Mrs. Sacks in the Art Department), Lauri Bartholomew (English sub), Jennine Gorman (replacing Mrs. Cloud in the Math Department). At right is Gilbert alumnus Dan Oleksiw '02 (replacing Mr. McKie in Technology Education). We wish them well as they begin the new school year.

Student Activities

American Studies classes provided students with a glimpse back to the 1970s–complete with tie-dye shirts, beads and the "Bee-Gees"!

DECA News

Sixteen members of Gilbert DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), an association of marketing education students, attended the DECA State Leadership Conference at the AquaTurf Club in Southington in March. Over one-thousand DECA members from across Connecticut attended and competed at the conference. Contestants competed in many different marketing areas, including Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Apparel and Accessories Marketing, Travel and Tourism Marketing, Vehicles and Petroleum Marketing, E-commerce Marketing, Hospitality Marketing, and Financial Services Marketing. Contestants finishing in the top three in each category qualified to represent Connecticut DECA at the International Career Development Conference held in Dallas in late April. Congratulations to the Gilbert representatives to that conference: Jeanne Welcome (elected Historian for Connecticut DECA on the State Executive Council); and Chris Smith and Jeff Thompson, who finished third in Travel and Tourism Marketing. ❖

Above: *DECA members wear official jackets to represent the school at special events. The jackets were provided to the chapter through an enhancement grant from The W.L. Gilbert Trust.* ***Right:*** *Chris Smith, Jeanne Welcome and Jeff Thompson with John Dombrowski at the State Conference.*

Costa Rica Trip

Pictured with a painted ox cart typical to the area, Gilbert foreign language students and faculty visited a coffee plantation in Costa Rica during February break. The 2007 trip is planned for Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands during April vacation.

The Gilbert Trust Names Newest Member

At its July meeting, The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation unanimously affirmed the appointment of Judith Counihan Palmer as its newest board member. Judy brings an enthusiastic spirit and a wealth of experience to her post with the Trust. Currently superintendent of the Oxford Public Schools, Judy's ties are most definitely local, having grown up in Winchester and having spent many years in the town as a citizen, an educator and a school administrator.

Judy is a 1981 graduate of The Gilbert School and her two sons John and Matthew attend as senior and sophomore, respectively. Speaking fondly of her student years with Gilbert, Judy looks forward to a new association with her alma mater, hoping to "give back something of value to the school I hold so dear." ❖

Trust President Thomas Botticelli welcomes Judith Counihan Palmer '81 to the July meeting of the Board. Judy will occupy the seat first held by William L. Camp in 1895, one of the original sixteen members of the Gilbert Trust. She replaces Kay Brady Jones '72.

2006 Gilbert Trust Scholarship Recipients Recognized

Every year, The Gilbert School recognizes outstanding graduating seniors and alumni with scholarship awards given through The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation. The Trust holds more than one million dollars in endowed scholarships and other named funds, many of which have been in existence since the early 1900s. These funds were established through the generosity of alumni and friends of The Gilbert School and allow the distribution of scholarship awards to deserving students planning to pursue higher education. This year, approximately $50,000 was awarded to more than 50 worthy recipients at a dinner held at Crystal Peak. The dinner was sponsored by The Gilbert Trust along with local businesses and featured a special performance by the school's Jazz Band.

A highlight of the evening was the awarding of two new scholarships—the Dorothy L. Barton Scholarship and the John W. Winn '39 Memorial Scholarship. The former, given in memory of Miss Barton who spent 33 years as an educator at The Gilbert School, is to be awarded to "an individual who has demonstrated the ability to lead and the desire to dedicate one's life to motivating others to strive for excellence." The Winn Scholarship is to go to a student of "noteworthy character and citizenship" and is in memory of John Winn, Gilbert alumnus, long-time area resident and postal worker. Gilbert was one of three area high schools to have received a significant bequest from the estate of Adele Winn, John's widow, to benefit their students' pursuit of higher education. The Barton Scholarship was awarded to Hannah Kenney '06; the Winn to Crystal Chausse '06. ❖

Faculty Member Richard McKie '64 Retires After 33 Years at Gilbert

Dick had a great time at his retirement send-off. He is pictured below with Gilbert Principal Dan Hatch.

Fellow faculty, friends and family joined with Dick McKie this past June to celebrate his retirement after more than 30 years with The Gilbert School. Dick looks forward to spending more time at his summer home on Cape Cod...but this time he'll enjoy being there in the off-season! He's also planning a trip to Disneyworld—with absolutely no time constraints! We wish Dick the best and hope he'll stop in to visit us soon. ❖

◄*Dick supervised the building of these cases to be used to display Gilbert artifacts and alumni memorabilia. He is pictured with students from his Spring 2006 Construction Systems Class, who were responsible for creating the cases. Funds for materials thanks to the 200 for the 200th campaign of 2006 The Gilbert Annual Fund.*

Update:

2006 Alumni Directory

The anticipated release of the 2006 Alumni Directory is early December. Please contact the Alumni Office with any questions you may have.

Email: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Telephone: (860) 738-9439

Thank You, Class of 1949!

Two new granite benches have been installed at The Gilbert School, thanks to gifts from members of the Class of 1949 given in honor of their 55th reunion.

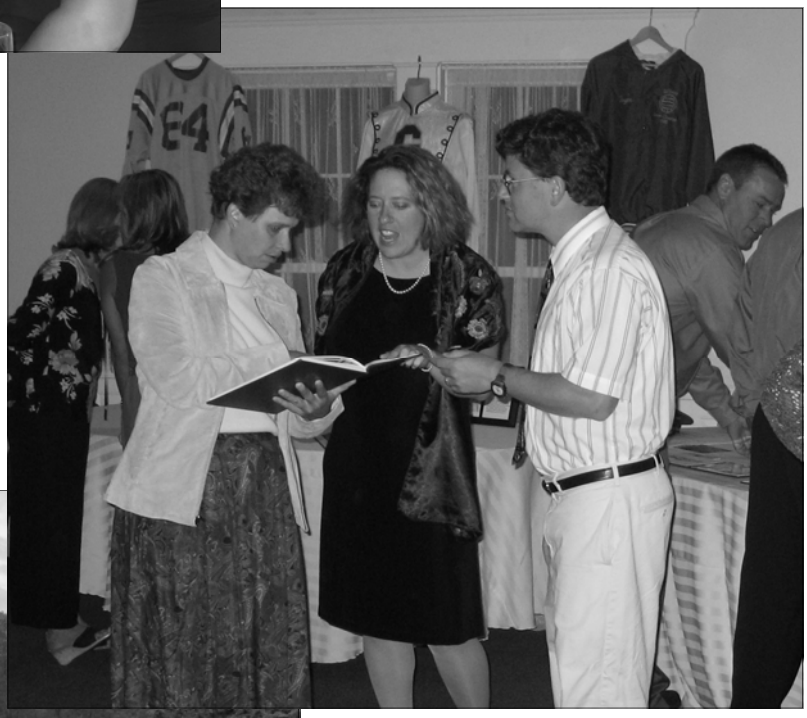
We gratefully acknowledge the work of Roger Jones, George DeMars and Charlie DeMars for getting the benches installed; Cannavo Construction for donating their excavation services; and the school's custodial staff for their assistance.

The benches are a lovely addition to the West Entrance area of the school and complement those given by the class in 2000 in recognition of their 50th reunion. ❖

Reunions

The Classes of 1986 and 1987 got together in September to reminisce and have fun as they celebrated their 20th Reunion.

◀ ▼



Members of the Class of 1956 were honored guests at this year's Blue & Gold Reunion–celebrating alumni from the past 50 years and more.

◀

Alumni Focus—

Stanley A. Ransom, Jr. '45:
A.K.A. The Connecticut Peddler

Congratulations to Stan Ransom, who was recently selected as a 2006 Award of Merit winner by the Leadership in History Awards Committee of the American Association for State and Local History. The recognition is for his "sustained efforts in preserving the folk music of New York State." According to the AASLH, the Leadership in History Award is the nation's most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Stan's interest in folk music pre-dates his 1945 graduation from The Gilbert School. In 1940, he formed the Hartland Harmony Boys with another fifth grade classmate in West Hartland. After Gilbert, he went on to earn a bachelor of arts degree from Yale University in 1951 and an M.L.S. from Columbia University Graduate School of Library Service in 1953. In the 1960s he was involved with the folk music revival on Long island and actively collected and performed the traditional and folk music of Long Island, while director of the Huntington, L.I., Public Library. After coming up to the North Country (upstate New York) in 1974, he immersed himself in Adirondack and North Country folk music and wrote and performed many songs about the area. He plays a hammered dulcimer, six and twelve string guitar, mandolin, autoharp, dombek and tenor banjo.

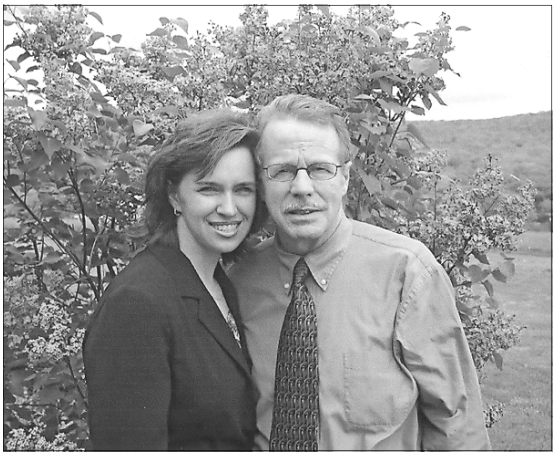
After retiring in 1991 as director of the Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, he began to record his music. In 1992 he recorded his first cassette of humorous songs about Plattsburgh and Clinton County, entitled *Down the Saranac*. This was followed in 1992 by *Adirondack Sampler*, a centennial celebration of the Adirondacks (first on cassette and re-mastered for CD in 2006). This centennial cassette received a Certificate of Commendation in 1994 by the American Association for State and Local History. Several more recordings followed, including *Connecticut Folk Songs* produced in 2005.

Stan is currently on the board of the New York Folklore Society, Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY), and the Lake Champlain Transportation Museum. He is also a member of the National Storytelling Network and does professional storytelling the in the North Country and in Canada. A storytelling CD is in process.

Altogether, Stan has recorded 70 instrumental tunes and 159 songs, of which he has composed 55, mostly on events and topics relating to New York State. His website is www.stanransom.com. ❖

Thomas J. Lilliendahl '64:
Reaching Out in the Czech Republic

Tom and Irena Lilliendahl met in the Czech Republic in 1997 and have served together ever since, ministering for five of those years in Czech. After a brief period of teaching in the United States, they resumed their missionary call in June 2004 and were sent out by their home church, Westchester Family Church of Mt. Kisco, New York.



Irena and Thomas Lilliendahl, missionaries to Eastern Europe.

The Lilliendahls' missionary calling is supported by various denominational and independent churches in the U.S. and Europe, plus family and friends. They have been specifically called to the mountains of Silesia, which is in the northeastern part of the Czech Republic and borders with Poland. Here they assist and encourage pastors from a variety of churches. Since 1992, Tom has worked most closely with churches under Reach Out for Christ, headquartered in Australia and Christian Missions International in Colorado Springs.

Most recently they have helped facilitate substantial growth in three churches in the Jeseniky Mountains. This has been accomplished by a combination of evangelism in parks, pubs, and other public places. The most dramatic growth has come from the Gypsy community. Today the Lilliendahls help lead a weekly Alpha Course, which has twenty-five regular participants. They also have their own home group in Jesenik and two other Gypsy home groups in nearby villages. Much of their time is also spent in organizing an annual Leadership and Business Seminar that brings participants from Europe and the United States.

The Lilliendahls claim their greatest accomplishment to be uniting various church groups through their work as independent missionaries. We wish them much success and safe travels. ❖

Alumni Focus is a continuing feature in the *Yellow Jacket*. Suggestions for future articles are always welcome.

Alumni News

1932

Florence Vining Thomen wants to hear from fellow graduates of the Class of 1932! She writes, "I'm 93 this year, doing fine, still writing for a nearby *Gazette* and crocheting squares for making blankets for Sioux families in South Dakota."

–Florence Vining Thomen '32

1936

Congratulations to *Frances Weigold Green* and her husband Clark, who will celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary on December 26th! Frances writes, "We have eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Moved from Winsted in 1964 to Ft. Lauderdale; after 37 years in Florida moved to Crossville, Tennessee in 2000.

1941

Congratulations to *Ruth Allen Rogers* and husband Bill, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on February 22, 2006!

1943

From *Eliott Reichler* and *Kathleen Novak Reichler '46*: "...have been married for 57 years. We have three children, eight grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. We have lived in Florida for 20 years, the last 10 in Inverness."

1945

Congratulations to *Stanley Ransom!* Stan was recently selected as a 2006 Award of Merit winner by the Leadership in History Awards Committee of the Association for State and Local History. The recognition is for his "sustained efforts in preserving the folk music of New York State." According to the AASLH, the Leadership in History Award is the nation's most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. See related story and photo on page 9.

1952

Virginia "Jean" Maccalous is a retired social studies teacher from Ft. Maloney High School in Meriden, Connecticut. She currently resides in Cheshire, Connecticut.

1954

Cassandra Clark Messenger writes, "My husband and I are both retired. Our oldest son Jon works at the Department of Transportation. Scott, our second son, works at C.S.I. Jeffrey, our youngest, is an artist and author. He published *The Shroud of Torrington*. We have three grandchildren; the oldest, Marisa, is graduating from Mt. Holyoke College this year."

1956

Peter Madden writes, "We went to the Blue & Gold Reunion, Friday May 19. It is hard to believe that it was our fiftieth. There were only ten of us, but it was fun to make connections with those in attendance. Most of us had changed, so identification was a challenge. I don't know what we would have done without the nametags. I certainly have fond memories of my years at Gilbert." You can contact Peter via the Alumni Community section of The Gilbert School website.

1958

Gary Foskett writes, "Elaine and I retired a few years ago. We moved to our dream home, high on a ridge, not far from Rutland, Vermont. We have three grown children (in New York, Massachusetts and Vermont), and six little grandchildren. We're active in our local Episcopal Church and enjoy travel and dining out. I'm also still active in amateur radio (call sign W1ECH), and am an active member of the local Green Mountain Wireless Society radio club. I look forward to the 2008 reunion.

1960

Joseph C. Bazzano retired in 2001 after 35 years of teaching in Simsbury, Connecticut. He and his wife Cindy are enjoying the "good life" living and playing golf in Florida and spending summers in Connecticut.

1963

From *Carolyn Hawley Day*, "My husband Bill and I have just celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary. I have been retired from teaching almost four years and am enjoying every minute."

1964

Congratulations and best wishes to *Richard McKie*, who retired from The Gilbert School in June. Dick spent 33 years on the faculty.

1973

Brian Flaherty writes, "My youngest son Reilly, graduate of Kennebunk High School Class of 2005, made the Dean's List his freshman year at Bryant College in Smithfield, Rhode Island."

1978

Beth Jamieson Dunn writes, "Hi friends and especially class of '78! I am back in Virginia after having spent a year in North Carolina. I still love being an elementary school teacher. This will be my 23rd year! I've been married to Major for 17 years and we have a daughter who is a sophomore in high school, and a son who is a seventh grader. Love keeping up with ya'll. P.S. I have become a NASCAR fan!"

1981

Congratulations to *Judith Counihan Palmer*, who was recently named newest trustee of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation.

1982

Robert Haburey writes that he is looking forward to the 25th Reunion of the Class of 1982 in 2007!

In the summer of 2006, *Eric Sidoti* and family became "Kiwis," moving to New Zealand!

1983

Best wishes to *Linda Shopey*, who was married in November. Linda writes that she was sworn into North Carolina Court on April 3, 2006 as a Guardian Ad Lidum, helping abused and neglected children as their voice in court.

1990

Congratulations to *Rob and Liza (Vaccari) DiMartino* on the March birth of their son, Tristan Paul DiMartino. Rob writes, "Liza and I are doing well and enjoying the kids. Skylar is a big sister for the second time and Jackson is a first time big brother."

1997

Congratulations to *Leo Mayo*, who has recently been named head coach for the track and cross country programs at American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

2002

Kudos to *Melissa Mikuski* who recently graduated from the University of Hartford with a bachelor's degree in Health Science. She is currently enrolled in the master's program for physical therapy. This summer she'll be working in the physical therapy department at Laurel Hills Health Care in Winsted.

2005

Best wishes to *Anna K. Henrickson* and brother *Kurt Henrickson* as they each pursue studies with the Armed Forces. Anna will attend the Armed Forces School of Music this fall as a Marine Corps floutist and Kurt will attend Navy Intelligence School.

Births

Liza Vaccari DiMartino '93 and Robert DiMartino '90
Son, Tristan Paul, born March 30, 2006

Michelle Bartholomew Kehaya '91 and husband
Daughter, Lily Marie Elizabeth, born May 20, 2006

Marriages

Linda Shopey '83 to Kent Russell
November 19, 2005

Landon Weinbach '97 to Shannon Barker
April 22, 2006

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.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Ford Battistoni '37
April 7, 2006

John A. Bouchard '45
February 22, 2006

Nora Babb Caine '46
June 13, 2006

Rita Fitzgerald Conant '41
March 22, 2006

James E. Curtiss '46
August 1, 2006

Robert A. Dery '42
June 1, 2006

Shirley Linn Emerick '45
May 11, 2006

Mildred Weill Gossett '42
May 3, 2006

Eugene A. Grazia '64
Summer 2006

Marjorie Case Hartman '26
March 23, 2006

Edward D. Hermann '60
May 28, 2006

E. Kerr Hutton '58
July 5, 2006

Harold K. Lord '51
April 30, 2006

Constance Simmers Middlebrooks '42
May 30, 2006

Carolyn Crossley Moore '39
May 16, 2006

Phyllis LaRocque Morgan '52
December 24, 2005

Michael J. Nichols '01
June 11, 2006

Rita Turgeon O'Keefe '54
May 10, 2006

Leo L. Royer '52
November 1, 2005

Marguerite Angarano Ryan '35
April 8, 2006

Margaret Carroll Serafini '34
March 25, 2006

Clark B. Sisson '61
June 5, 2006

Edward W. Sobol '47
March 31, 2006

Clare Bunnell Stewart '55
May 26, 2006

Ruth Flotat Wheeler '62
May 28, 2006

Stephen B. Woodworth '31
June 17, 2006

Janice Anderson Wynn '73
July 26, 2006

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 1951 55th Reunion	Friday, October 13, 2006
Class of 1971 35th Reunion	Saturday, October 14, 2006
Homecoming	Saturday, October 14, 2006
Young Alumni Day	Wednesday, November 22, 2006
Alumni Volleyball Game	Wednesday, November 22, 2006
Blue & Gold Reunion	Friday, April 27, 2007
Spring Alumni Gathering	Sunday, May 6, 2007
Class of 1957 50th Reunion	Saturday, October 6, 2007

For event details and more, visit us online: www.gilbertschool.org

Register for The Gilbert School Online Alumni Community Today!

More than 6,000 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. Graduation photos courtesy of Dawn Anstett.

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