

SPRING 2010



Frank
McCann
Former Faculty

James
Fortuna
Former Faculty

THE
YELLOW
JACKET

The Alumni/ae Magazine
of
The Gilbert School



Arne Grandell '82 Delivers Powerful Message



Arne Grandell '82 shows the AIDS quilt to Gilbert health class students.

By TERRY COWGILL

To most teenagers, AIDS is little more than an abstraction — a condition that happens to other people or one that no longer poses a grave threat because of the innovative pharmaceutical treatments now available.

But when Arnold “Arne” Grandell ‘82 came back to Gilbert last December for the first time in almost 30 years, he was determined to impress upon current students how devastating the disease can be, even if you live to tell the tale.

Last fall, Grandell, an experienced and certified AIDS educator, offered to come back to campus Dec. 7 to reconnect, display the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and speak to Gilbert’s health classes

about the painful trials and tribulations he went through when he was diagnosed as HIV-positive in a Waterbury clinic on June 13, 1993 — a moment etched indelibly in his mind.

“I asked them when I was going to get sick, when I was going to be in pain, when I was going to die,” Grandell told a meeting of health class students at Gilbert. “Each time they said, ‘We don’t know.’”

So off to his doctor Grandell went, determined to get some answers. Unfortunately, there were few to be found beyond a baffling assortment of expensive medications at \$3 or \$4 per pill. Not long after beginning the extraordinarily painful treatments, Grandell attempted suicide. He survived and immediately tried to come

to terms with his illness and do something positive.

But it wasn’t easy. First he had to deal with the intense side effects of the medications, which included diarrhea, vomiting and fatigue. At one point, the situation was grim enough that Grandell slept on a mattress in the hallway so that he could be as close as possible to the bathroom. After a couple of weeks, things got a little better. But the number of pills he has to take every day is staggering. So, too, at \$4,000 per month, is the expense.

To illustrate his point, Grandell took a dozen or so containers of medication and dumped them out on the table for the health class students assembled in the library-media center. Half of the vials were to combat HIV and the other half were to contain the side effects of the HIV meds.

“Our generation failed,” Grandell said. “We should have given you a world without HIV and we didn’t. This virus robs you of your hopes and dreams so that the only thing you want is to live and survive.”

Grandell said about 56,000 new cases of HIV infection are reported every year.



See Grandell, page 15

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THE YELLOW JACKET

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Editor: Terry Cowgill, Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

On the cover: Two blasts from Gilbert's past, former assistant headmaster Frank McCann and former business teacher and football coach Jim Fortuna at a reception on Homecoming weekend in October.



The Groppo Family



Bill Riiska '70, Marge Riiska '43 and Tom Botticelli

HOMECOMING 2009

PHOTOS BY DEBBY
(GLYNN) JONES '70



The Alumni Chrous

Hundreds of alumni/ae returned to campus Oct. 10 to watch the Alumni Band perform, honor fellow graduates and attend a luncheon in their honor. Oh, and the Yellow Jackets beat Old Saybrook in football 32-16!



Lisa (Mangione) Brochu '84 and Mary Ellen Vaccari '72



Dotty Robbins '54



Tim McCann '95 and Sue Rouleau '64



The Alumni Band

2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Gilbert Heritage Award

Honorary Diploma

John G. Groppo '40

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Timothy J. McCann '95

Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

Joan M. Centrella '71

The W.L. Gilbert Award for

Outstanding Community Service

William T. Riiska Sr. '41 (posthumous)

Outstanding Achievement in Athletics Award

Mary Ellen (Staszowski) Vaccari '72



Tom Botticelli and Joan Centrella '71

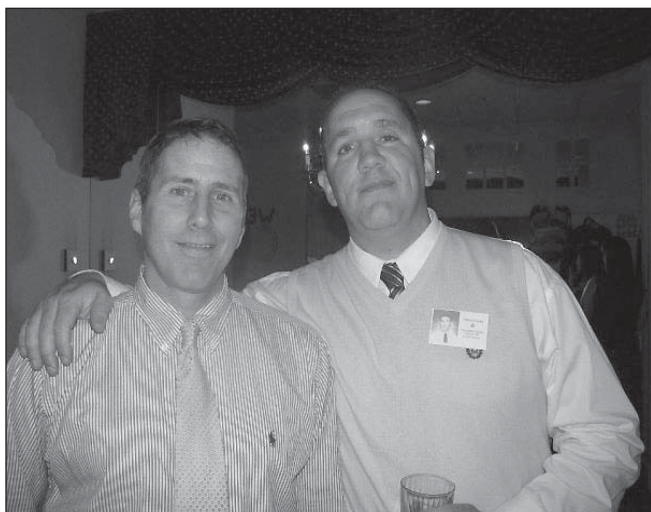
Class of 1999 10th Reunion



Friday, November 28, 2009
Grand Oak Villa
Oakville, Connecticut



Class of 1989 20th Reunion



Friday, November 28, 2009
Simsbury Inn
Simsbury, Connecticut

Gilbert's Annual Fund

Dear Friend of The Gilbert School,

If you're a Gilbert graduate, or a friend or relative of one, you know first-hand how special a Gilbert education can be. And nothing makes that educational experience better-rounded than those little extras: that memorable field trip; that special musical instrument; or that fascinating piece of equipment in your favorite teacher's classroom.

While The Gilbert Annual Fund does not directly fund athletics, it does benefit our student athletes by providing opportunities to learn outside the classroom or the athletic field. Last year, for example, members of the baseball team traveled to Cooperstown, N.Y., where they not only toured the Baseball Hall of Fame but played an exhibition game against cross-town rival Wamogo at Doubleday Field. Coach Patrick Cooke '89 said the experience for his players was simply unforgettable.

This fall Gilbert's athletic program was awarded a Michaels Achievement



Cup by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference. The award for the 2008-09 school year recognized Gilbert for its "exemplary athletic programs" and 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."

How better to honor our athletes than by making them better people? How bet-

ter to make them better people than by providing them a great education? That's precisely what your gift to The Gilbert School 2009-10 Annual Fund can do. Please give generously.

With all best wishes for a warm and joyous spring,

Tom Botticelli
President
The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation
Winsted, Connecticut



The Gilbert School Annual Fund

Teamwork On Display

Provides tens of thousands of dollars a year in funds for items not covered by the operating budget. Past examples include:

- An Apple mobile learning lab
- 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

Make your gift online at:

www.gilbertschool.org

Click on "Alumni" and

then click on "Supporting Gilbert."

Make checks payable to:

The W.L. Gilbert Trust
200 Williams Ave
Winsted CT 06098
Memo: Annual Fund



Family, Friends of Groth Form Scholarship

Family and friends of the late John Adam Groth, a graduate of The Gilbert School Class of 2006, are establishing a fully endowed college scholarship fund in John Adam's memory. The scholarship will be administered through The Gilbert School.

John Adam, who grew up in West Hartland and was a senior at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, died tragically on Nov. 25 as a result of an auto accident – just shy of his 21st birthday. His parents, Bud and Joanne Groth, his brother Jared (a senior at Gilbert), along with a wide variety of friends and family members, have stepped forward to honor John Adam's academic ability, fun-loving and caring character, and passion for athletics.

While at Gilbert, John Adam was an honor student and captain of the wrestling and track teams. As a pole-vaulter he was a state champion two years in a row. As an accomplished gymnast he competed in the men's Junior Olympic National Gymnastics Championships. His love of gymnastics brought him back to coaching and teaching during the summertime, most recently at the Northwest Gymnastics Center in Winsted.



At UConn, John Adam was looking forward to completing his studies in kinesiology and nutrition. He played UConn rugby, worked out at the gym and loved his down time with his friends and family.

Preference will be given to an applicant who plans to attend or is attending any branch of the University of Connecticut, who excels at athletics, and has integrity and strong leadership skills. The recipient of the award will be determined by the Faculty Scholarship Committee of The Gilbert School.

Donors who are interested in supporting the fund should make checks payable to The W.L. Gilbert Trust with "The John Adam Groth Scholarship Fund" in the lower left and send them to The Office of Development and Alumni Relations, 200 Williams Avenue, Winsted, CT 06098. Donations are tax-deductible. To make a gift online, go to www.gilbertschool.org, click on "Alumni" and then click on "Supporting Gilbert." Then send an email to cowgillt@gilbertschool.org with the name on your credit card and specifying that you would like to make your gift to the John Adam Groth Scholarship Fund rather than the annual fund.

The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, the non-profit organization that supports the school, maintains in excess of \$1 million in higher education scholarship funds and awards more than \$60,000 per year to Gilbert graduates.

In Memoriam

1928

Elizabeth Hoffman

January 2009

1930

Anna H. Landi

February 14, 2009

1933

Francis J. Brennan

September 4, 2009

1935

Clarence B. Anderson Jr.

August 25, 2009

1939

Beulah G. Smith

October 31, 2009

1941

Laura (Cameron)

Della Valle

April 10, 2008

Joseph E. Noviaskey

September 11, 2009

1948

Richard H. "Dick" Hall

July 17, 2009

1964

Michael J. Piette

November 4, 2009

1999

Ryan Bartholomew

October 31, 2009

2006

John Adam Groth

November 25, 2009

Patrick Smith '90: 'Yes, You Can!'

Take one look at Patrick O. Smith '90 and you can see the intensity in his eyes. The man has a passion for law enforcement and doing the right thing. But more importantly, he has a passion for helping young people achieve their goals. And that drive and intensity has led him back to Gilbert.

Since graduating from Gilbert 20 years ago, Smith has amassed an impressive resume, holding a variety of important positions in the military and law enforcement. He returned to Gilbert in November for Young Alumni Day, an event in which younger graduates come back to their alma mater to share experiences and give advice to current Gilbert seniors about what to expect in higher education, the military or the work force. And he returned about a month later to speak with students in a smaller group assembled by the school's



Patrick Smith '90 has a passion for law enforcement, success and overcoming adversity — all which he shared with Gilbert students during a recent visit. — PHOTO BY TERRY COWGILL

Guidance Department.

"I wanted to get to the Patrick Smiths of today to get them to see they can take responsibility for themselves," Smith said in a recent interview. "I want to show them that they can overcome difficulties even if they don't have a stable background."

By his own admission, Smith had a difficult family life. He was the youngest of four with a single mother struggling to raise the children on her own. And he coped with adversity by acting out.

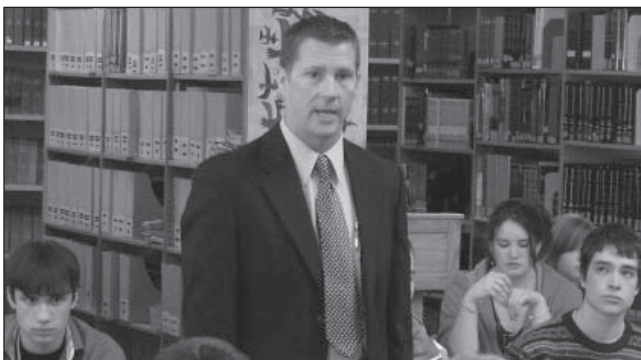
"I was a wise guy," he added. "I

dealt with everything through sarcasm."

The greatest turning point for Smith happened when he was a senior and attended a presentation given by a Gilbert graduate who was a staff

sergeant in the Marine Corps. The sergeant gave a talk on his career in the military and serving in the special forces. Smith was spellbound and knew almost immediately where his life would take him. In the fall of his senior year at Gilbert, Smith joined the Army's delayed entry program, in part because a recruiter told him he had a good aptitude for the military and he also had a family history of involvement in the military: a grandfather who served in World War II and an uncle who was in the Marine Corps during Vietnam.

Then after graduation it was off to Fort McClellan in Alabama for basic training, culminating in Smith's admission to the 701st Military Police Company. The first Persian Gulf War was just getting underway and Fort McClellan had



See Smith, page 10

Class of '49 Holds 60th



Francis Nichols '50



Eleanor (DiMartino) Pratt '49.

The class of 1949 held its 60th reunion on June 13, 2009, at the Greenwoods Country Club on Tarringford Road in Winsted, reports Roger Jones '49.

There were 37 attendees, one (George Schultz) traveling from as far as Oregon and others making the trip from Michigan and New Hampshire.

There were 105 members in the original class of 1949.



Joan (Rouillard) Lambour '52, Francis Lambour '49



Carole (Simmons) Rubino '49, Beverly (Andrews) Bartos '49

*Ken Pratt,
Lorraine
(Beaudoin)
Useforge '51,
Charles Use-
forge '49*



Janice (Bruey) Gabelmann '49, Janet (Seymour) Poole '49, Carrie Poole.

... Smith, cont.

a chemical warfare battalion. Smith underwent training in biochemical warfare, became a member of the Special Reaction Team, received a top secret clearance and served at a base in Germany.

"It was pretty challenging for a young kid, 18 to 19 years old," he recalled.

After four years, Smith returned to Winsted and enrolled in the criminal justice program at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, eventually landing a job as a patrol officer with the Torrington Police Department. On one particularly harrowing day, Smith and two other officers rushed into a burning house and pulled out a victim who survived. For that heroic action, he and the other officers received the Medal of Valor.

Meanwhile, perhaps because of his high-level clearance and the fact that he had already gained experience providing security for VIPs in Germany, Smith was being recruited by the United States Secret Service. He took the bait and underwent a series of background checks, and after a year or so he heard back and was hired as a Secret Service officer with duties that included protecting the First Family in The White House. Smith was assigned to the Protective Services Division of the White House branch.

"It was surreal," Patrick recalled of his assignment in 1997. "Here was a kid from Winsted standing with an automatic weapon 10 feet from President Clinton."

But all was not glory. Smith

arrived at the White House just as the Monica Lewinsky scandal was heating up. Contrary to longstanding tradition, Secret Service agents and officers were being called to testify under oath about the president's behavior. Smith says he and his colleagues remember it as a scary time during which there was talk of transfers and personnel movements. Plus, he worked punishing hours, traveled the world, and had to be away from his family for long stretches.

"The ongoing joke is that you're married to the Secret Service," Smith quipped.

'It was surreal. Here was a kid from Winsted standing with an automatic weapon 10 feet from President Clinton.'

Then about a year later while back in Connecticut on vacation, Smith ran into a police officer in Farmington who suggested he apply to become an officer. Smith stayed in Farmington for nine years, earning officer of the year honors for two separate incidents in which he participated in the gunpoint apprehension of armed shooting suspects.

While in Farmington, Smith served on a regional EST team and the North Central Emergency Services Team as a sniper and scuba diver. After purchasing back accredited police and military time towards his retirement, Smith applied and received an early retirement in 2007. Smith was then hired

as a special agent with the United States Housing and Urban Development-Office of Inspector General (HUD-OIG) investigating white collar fraud. Smith was assigned to Region 1 in Boston, serving out of the Hartford field office.

In late October of 2008 Smith was approached about a business opportunity to own and operate a private investigations firm in Avon, and it was too much for him to resist. The hours are more flexible and there are greater financial rewards. Smith, his wife Jennifer and their two children now live in Barkhamsted. Smith is a graduate of the University of Connecticut.

He recalls several teachers and coaches who made a difference in his life while he was at Gilbert, including Tom Cangelosi, Jay Youmans and Joe Dombrowski.

"These were teachers who held me accountable," Smith added.

"They just demanded that you perform and would not accept excuses. Had those teachers let me slide, I could have made very different choices."

— Terry Cowgill

THE YELLOW JACKET

The Alumni/ae Magazine
of
The Gilbert School

How do you like our new design? Your comments are welcome at:
cowgillt@gilbertschool.org

Around the Years: Class Notes

1930

Dr. Ben Katzin writes: "Thank you for sending me the [Fall 2009] Yellow Jacket. I especially enjoyed the letter from Margaret Selover who was a neighbor and whose brother Charles was a classmate of mine. I have many fond memories of my four years at Gilbert and the outstanding education we received. I am now retired after many years of practice of internal medicine and have time to reflect on the fine education we received from an unusually gifted faculty under the guidance of Mr. Hood, the outstanding principal." Dr. Katzin lives in Litchfield.

1944

Robert N. Cadrain and Jane (Richardson) Cadrain write: "We were Class of 1944 "class sweethearts." Married in 1945, he enlisted right after high school war time. His ship was so banged up from combat, they sent it back to New York to decommission it. So Bob had 28 days wait for a new ship and we married. We were 19 years old and everyone in the family wanted us to wait until after World War II. They said we were too young. On Nov. 3, 2009, we were married 64 years. I think it worked." The Cadrains live in Winsted and have two children and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

1946

Ed Lord is retired as superintendent of Simsbury's parks and recreation department and lives in Farmington.

1965

Harold "Mac" MacFarland has been named one of Barron's Magazine's Top 1,000 Financial Advisors in the United States (number 10 in the state of Missouri), as identified by The Winner's Circle Organization. The Winner's Circle recognizes the industry's most exceptional Financial Advisors — each of whom represents the highest levels of ethical standards, professionalism and talent in the business. Mac, Senior Vice President-Investments of UBS Financial Services Inc, is the senior and founding member of The MacFarland Financial Group. His group is well known in the metro St. Louis area for their financial expertise and charitable support.

1974

Steve Rines and his wife Holly celebrated their 16th anniversary on Sept. 11, 2009. The couple lives in Sandisfield, Mass.

1976

The October 2009 issue of Travel and Leisure Magazine, along with In Style, Food & Wine and Time Magazine's special fall section on style and fashion mentioned The Wandering Wardrobe as one of the best Boutiques in Port Townsend, Washington. **Beverly Michaelsen** has owned and operated this specialty consignment clothing store since 1998.

1977

Bill Jacquemin is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his company, the Connecticut Weather Center. Soon the company will be releasing a new storm warning service called Storm Force. It will also broadcast live on the Internet from a TV studio in the Weather Center. Bill lives in Danbury.

1978

David Sartirana writes: "I did a walk on part on the tv show Rescue Me with Denis Leary. I played the part of an NYPD officer. I have some pictures on my Facebook page under 'A Star is Born'." Davis is broker and owner of Realty Executives in Winsted.

1981

Elizabeth M. "Betsy" Rogers will be running the 114th Boston Marathon on April 19. She writes: "Those who may remember me would probably be shocked given I wasn't into sports back then! It's actually the second time I'll be running it (I ran it last year as well). Assuming everything goes well it will be my 48th race of marathon distance or longer!"

1982

Jim Langer writes that he "is happily ensconced on a small foundering farm in Asheboro, NC, with a rustic 1800 cabin as a studio and 1853 farmhouse. His wife, Joanie, and daughter, Sabine, share the chores and joys of rural life between commutes to Greensboro College, where he teaches drawing, art history and figure drawing, and is director of the art galleries."

1985

Laura Vaillancourt-Sorochak was

honored by Greenville County (South Carolina) Schools as first-runner-up to District Teacher of the Year for 2009-10 school year, and as the Palmetto State Social Studies Teacher of the Year. Laura has worked for Greenville County Schools for ten years and as an educational therapist in behavioral health residential care. Laura and her husband Bill, children Anna (16) and son Nick (10) live in Greenville, S.C., where they settled in 1996. One of Laura's greatest inspirations at Gilbert as a teacher was Mr. Reynolds, who through his Poetry of Rock class, "showed her that teachers can reach their students if they are willing to connect with them through creative and authentic experiences."

Paul Gallo writes: "Two news items: I got married last June, to the former Katie Oskey of Camarillo, CA. And also the Class of 1985 is looking at a soft date of the weekend of July 17 for their 25th Reunion Celebration. Hope all is well back in Jacketland."

1989

Steve Smith writes: "I'm married (11 years) to Amy M. Smith and have two step sons Justin (15 yrs) and Robert (14 yrs) Haynes. Currently I'm serving in the Navy (15 yrs) and stationed in Everett, Washington on the USS Shoup DDG 86."

1991

Michelle (Bartholomew) Kehaya gave birth to a daughter, Alexis Rynanne, on Dec. 2, 2009. Michelle is married to David Kehaya. Alexis joins sisters Elise and Lily. The Kehayas live in Colebrook. Gina (Riccardo) Marandino married Robert Marandino Jr. on May 2, 2009.

1998

Karen (Keczkemeth) Pulit writes: "My husband Daniel and I just welcomed our second daughter, Madison, on Oct. 23, 2009! She joins her big sister Molly who turned 4 yrs old this past October. The Pulits live in West Barnstable, Mass."

1999

Joshua Wells is a police officer in District 3, Washington, D.C.

See Class Notes, page 15

THE GILBERT SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The Gilbert School Distinguished Alumni Awards are given in recognition of 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 The Gilbert School. We encourage the nomination of individuals who exemplify and embrace such excellence, reflecting the proud legacy and tradition of their alma mater. Based on that legacy and tradition, we are honored to recognize individuals in the following five categories:



THE GILBERT HERITAGE AWARD

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

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who graduated from Gilbert within the past twenty years. The recipient will have achieved outstanding personal or professional success in the community, in business or in entrepreneurship. Through such accomplishments, he or she serves as a role model for younger individuals.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in his or her professional life. The recipient will have brought distinction to themselves and The Gilbert School through their participation, commitment and leadership in their chosen profession. The length and quality of career accomplishments, a commitment to professional excellence and respect among professional colleagues is noteworthy.

THE W.L. GILBERT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School or to a member of our greater society (not limited to alumni nor to the Winsted area). The recipient will have displayed exceptional service to the betterment of life within their own community or to humanity in general. This award is in honor of the significant humanitarian and philanthropic contributions made by William L. Gilbert, founder of The Gilbert School.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN ATHLETICS AWARD

This award may be presented annually to an alumnus of The Gilbert School who, through participation on a sports team while a student at Gilbert, exhibited outstanding character, sportsmanship and his or her own “personal best” skill level while contributing to the overall achievements of the team. The recipient’s positive attitude and team approach was evident and respected not only within the competitive venue but also in the classroom and greater community. The recipient may also have distinguished himself or herself in the field of athletics after graduating from Gilbert. The recipient must be an alumnus of a class that graduated at least ten years prior to the year of the award.

The completed nomination form, along with all supporting documentation, must be submitted to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations no later than June 1, 2010. In order to be eligible for nomination, the nominee must be a graduate or former student of The Gilbert School unless otherwise stated in the description of the award. Current members of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation and The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation are not eligible while in service to these boards.

The Gilbert School Alumni Advisory Council, representing all alumni of The Gilbert School, will review the nominations and present their recommendations to the Executive Committee of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation for final confirmation. The Alumni Advisory Council reserves the right to include for consideration an ongoing list of potential nominees provided by The Gilbert School Alumni Office. Nominations will be accepted from alumni and friends of The Gilbert School at large.

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: _____

Current profession/job title
or volunteer affiliation: _____ Organization Name: _____

Nomination proposed by:

Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Address:

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

It is required that you include a brief summary of the candidate's qualifications to support each nomination. You may use the space below or attach a separate sheet(s) to this form.

[illegible]

The 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented during
Alumni Homecoming Weekend in October.
Please send this form, along with any supporting materials, by June 1, 2010, to:
The Gilbert School
Office of Development and Alumni Relations
200 Williams Avenue
Winsted, CT 06098
Additional nomination forms are available to download from our website at
www.gilbertschool.org

Coach Vaccari Inducted Into CT Volleyball Hall



PHOTO BY TERRY COWGILL

Several of Mary Ellen Vaccari's former players from across the decades returned to support her during her induction into the Connecticut Women's Volleyball Hall of Fame at an awards ceremony Nov. 24 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. Vaccari is third from left in the front row.

SOUTHINGTON — Mary Ellen Vaccari, the longtime former volleyball coach at The Gilbert School, was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Volleyball Hall of Fame at an awards ceremony Nov. 24 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

More than 100 people attended the cocktail-and-dinner event at which Vaccari and five other coaches and players from around the state were honored.

Vaccari, a 1972 Gilbert graduate,

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 cheer-leading opportunities and, by Vaccari's senior year, a basketball club. That was pretty much it.

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.

In the ensuing years, Vaccari 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. One of Vaccari's former players, Cindy Fixer, took over the helm when Vaccari retired from coaching volleyball.

In accepting her induction, Vaccari said she has "been known to write a pretty good speech," but acknowledged she is "the world's worst speech-giver, as anyone who has heard me will attest to." Vaccari then introduced her college-age son, Adam, who read her remarks.

Of her years in the throes of fierce competition at Gilbert, Vaccari said that her husband Leo "learned quickly that on some game nights, it would be better for all of us if he took the kids out to dinner while I cooled off at home."

"From that first day of practice in 1976, I saw our students athletes enjoy the highs and lows of competition, knowing that the skills they were developing to be successful at volleyball and at being members of a team were essential to their success in life," Vaccari wrote.

"And the game has given me personally much more than I could have imagined when I took the job of volleyball coach at the Gilbert School," she concluded. Vaccari then asked players from her past teams, many of whom were in attendance, to stand up and be acknowledged. Others who were inducted into the Connecticut Women's Volleyball Hall of Fame that night included: Brittany Dickinson (Bunnell High School player); Holly Oslander Ismail (North Branford High School player); Robin Salters (University of New Haven player and coach); Gail Ericson (Bristol Eastern High School coach); and Val Dickinson (posthumous, official and referee).

— Terry Cowgill

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.

facebook

**For regular updates,
 join 700 other mem-
 bers and follow
 "The Gilbert School
 Alumni" on
 Facebook!**

Class Notes, cont.

Jennifer A. Traun-Baker writes: I now have 4 children ages of 9, 7, 4, 2. I have been married for coming on 9 years to a soldier in the U.S. Army who will be deploying shortly. I also have a job as a court security officer in Trigg County, Kentucky, and love everyday of it!" Jennifer is married to Richard Baker.

2000

Mike Braunstein started a new career as a project engineer for Quest Global on Jan. 25. He lives in Middletown.

Rob Grigg writes: "I graduated from Western Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in business management. I also received two leadership awards from the university and one from the dean for my leadership role in a student organiza-

tion (SHRM). I just recently moved to Philadelphia where I am working for an International Fortune 500 company."

2001

Jordan Moore and his wife Diana welcomed a new baby girl, Ava Claire, on July 28, 2009. Ava joins big sister Alexia, who is 3. Robert and Susan Moore '78 are the proud grandparents.

2007

Congratulations to **Brittany Smyth** for making the Dean's List for the fall semester at Mitchell College in New London, CT. Brittany's GPA was 4.0. She is majoring in hospitality and tourism. Brittany is the daughter of Terry & Becky Smyth of Winsted and granddaughter of George and Carole Haley of Rangeley, Maine.

Gamari To Receive State Honor



Mike Gamari, Gilbert's long-time athletic, will receive an exemplary service award from the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors this spring.

At a banquet March 25 at the Marriot in Rocky Hill, Gamari will be honored with the Robert Duncanson Meritorious Service Award. Duncanson is considered the founding father of the association, which established the award to recognize athletic administrators "who devoted many years of exemplary service to high school athletics in Connecticut and have conducted themselves with integrity, sportsmanship and honor," according to the CAAD.

The CAAD is an organization comprised of educators whose primary goal is promote excellence for its athletic programs in member schools of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC).

Gamari has been at Gilbert for 42 years, the last 25 as athletic director.

— Terry Cowgill

... Grandell, cont.

Forty percent of those diagnosed are teenagers between the ages of 15 and 18.

"The only thing I can say is protect yourself so that this doesn't become your life," Grandell said to an audience of teenagers who were stunned into silence.

Grandell has been teaching about HIV/AIDS for eight years and presented a few years ago at the International AIDS conference in Mexico City about educating young audiences on HIV/AIDS prevention, education, funding and treatment. Grandell has also traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby Congress in support of funding, research and health benefits. He has also helped develop and launch a

halfway house for HIV/HEP C clients and provides testing and counseling for adults where he lives in New Hampshire.

The quilt on display in the small gym included the very first 12-foot-by-12-foot section of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which includes the panel of Marvin Feldman, best friend of NAMES Project founder Cleve Jones and the inspiration for the starting of the original quilt. According to Grandell, the first section is rarely released for smaller displays such as the one at Gilbert.

After viewing the quilt, several students approached Grandell and either hugged him or shook his hand to congratulate him on his courage and to thank him for sharing his experiences with them.



Young Alumni/Career Day

About 30 young alumni (at left) returned to campus the day before Thanksgiving to talk about life after Gilbert.

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 2000 - 10th Reunion

Nov. 26, 2010

Class of 1980 - 30th Reunion

Aug. 21, 2010

Class of 1978 - 32 Reunion

Aug 14, 2010

Class of 1960 - 50th Reunion

Oct. 10, 2010

Blue & Gold Reunion

May 7, 2010

Homecoming

TBA

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



Email:

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