

## ALUMNI PORTAL

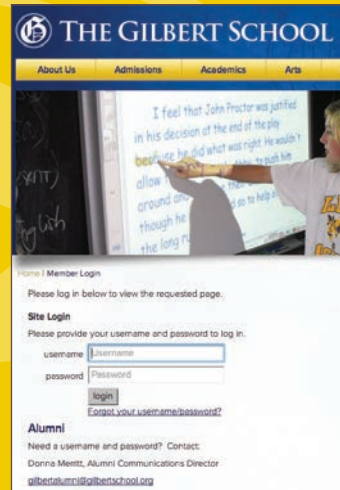
Update your info! You can change your address, email, job title, add a brief bio... And, you can choose to make any of it public so your old classmates can see what you're doing these days. Simply click on what you'd like to share (for example, "email" or "biography") and a box will appear that gives you the option to make that information visible to everyone.

Go to [www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org) and click on "Your Alumni Portal" under the "Alumni" tab.

Need help? Email the Alumni Communications Director at [gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org).



Be sure to follow The Gilbert School on Facebook! We post good news about students, staff, and alumni there. Come see what everyone is talking about!



## How Can We Help?

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

### Email

[gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org)

### Phone

860-379-1245, ext. 200

### Mail

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

The *YellowJacket* is published twice a year by The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation for the benefit of alumni and friends of The Gilbert School.

# YellowJacket

FEBRUARY 2017

ALUMNI MAGAZINE of The GILBERT SCHOOL



Mr. Alan Strauss Awarded Connecticut Principal of the Year... Page 4



### THIS ISSUE:



Our first Blue, Gold and Silver Celebration recognizing our finest administrators, teachers and The Gilbert School itself... Page 2



The Gilbert School awarded the U.S. News & World Report Silver Medal of Excellence & MORE... Page 8



International Program's new student dormitory, on the Gilbert Campus, to open by mid-February 2017... Page 13

## Did you know that Gilbert School has an online store called TGS Sideline Store?

There you can customize many things such as Nike merchandise with the school's logo to your liking and a percentage of the proceeds go directly to our very own Gilbert School!

Visit the store using the link on The Gilbert School homepage and start saving today!



Office of Alumni Relations  
200 Williams Ave., Winsted, CT 06098



## DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,



As the 2016 – 2017 school year progresses, TGS and the state of Connecticut still have not reached an agreement on a long-term contract. Our focus remains on securing a solid educational future for our children, and we will continue to work to come to an agreement with the state. If no progress is made with the state, we will ask that the negotiating authority be given back to the Winchester Board of

Education—where it has been for decades before the state-appointed Receiver was brought in last year. The Gilbert School remains committed to being the best and most affordable educational solution for the Town of Winchester, and the town is clearly supportive of a long-term commitment to Gilbert. Our hope is that we find agreement or resolution soon as we continue to be a proud center of academic excellence serving the community. ~ **Dr. Anthony Serio, Head of School**



The Gilbert School is steeped in tradition with a remarkable alumni base, and yet we are excited by the future and where we are headed as a school community. The past year has been particularly gratifying as Gilbert has been cited for several national awards including a Silver Medal from *U.S. News and World Report* and *Newsweek's* designation as

Connecticut's top school in its annual Beating the Odds survey. Gilbert was ranked as #125 out of 500 schools chosen nationally and the first of three in our State. *Newsweek* noted The Gilbert School's 96.4 percent graduation rate and 97.3 college-bound rate, both of which have risen dramatically in the past few years. The Beating the Odds survey is an annual list which identifies "schools that do an excellent job of preparing their students for college while also overcoming the obstacles posed by students at an economic disadvantage," according to *Newsweek*.

The staff, faculty, and administration of The Gilbert School and The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation are all committed to continuous improvement, incessant accountability and rigor, and self-reflective practice. This is The Gilbert School of today, and I hope you are as proud of us as we are of you. ~ **Alan Strauss, Principal**



The W. L. Gilbert Trust was founded in 1895, and while we are very proud of what we have accomplished in the past we are always focused on the future of The Gilbert School and its continuance as a recognized provider of excellent education. The establishment of the International Residency Program by the Trust four years ago has allowed the Trust to help maintain and grow the student population at the school. The additional tuition revenue paid by the Trust for each international student attending The Gilbert School has allowed the school to enhance and grow the courses offered. The Trust is literally and figuratively changing the landscape of the Gilbert campus. We are in the process of constructing our first dormitory to house students in the residency program. This will help the Trust achieve its goal of recruiting 150 students into this program. That goal should be reached within the next four years.

The Trust also undertook the development of a Master Plan for The Gilbert School looking out the next 20 to 30 years. Three key components of this plan dealt with the addition of a STEAM wing to the school, the construction of a dormitory—which is in progress—and the enhancement of our athletic facilities. As a graduate of The Gilbert School you have much to be proud of and much to look forward to for your alma mater continues to grow and thrive. I hope we can count on your support as we move forward. ~ **Thomas Botticelli, President, The W.L. Gilbert Trust**



### THIS ISSUE:

Blue, Gold and Silver Celebration .....	2
Alan Strauss: Orchestrating Success .....	4
Gilbert School Salutes Veterans .....	7
National Accolades for TGS .....	8
Teacher of the Year, Donald Crossman ..	9
Athletics: Formula for Success .....	10
Support Your Winning School .....	12
W.L. Gilbert Trust International Program...	13
Gilbert Homecoming & Distinguished Alumni Awards.....	16
Distinguished Alumni Awards Nomination Form .....	18
Upcoming Reunions.....	18
Class Notes .....	19
<i>Where are they now?</i>	
In Memoriam .....	21

#### Mission

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

#### Share Your Stories

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

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

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

#### Staff

Editor: Kenneth Healy  
healyk@gilbertschool.org

Writer:  
Patricia Martin  
Wendy Sultaire

Designer:  
Eduardo Barrios  
www.barriosadvertising.com

Photographers:  
Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990  
Shelly Sindland Photography  
www.shellysindlandphotography.com  
Patricia Martin

Printer:  
Goulet Printery, Inc.  
www.gouletprinting.com

# THE GILBERT SCHOOL BLUE, GOLD & SILVER Celebration!

By Patricia Martin



October 23rd was a beautiful fall Sunday in pastoral Litchfield County—an ideal setting for The Gilbert Trust to hold its first-ever Blue, Gold & Silver Celebration.

The entire community was invited to the event held in The Gilbert School's auditorium, followed by a lavish dessert reception where the administration, faculty, staff, students, parents, and members of the community mingled.

The afternoon celebrated several noteworthy milestones: Alan Strauss awarded the distinction of being named Connecticut High School Principal of the Year, special education teacher Kimberly Baker recognized as Winchester School District Teacher of the Year, and TGS technology education teacher and head baseball coach Donald Crossman named 2016 Gilbert School Teacher of the Year. The school also celebrated two honors as *U.S. News & World Report* awarded it a 2016 Silver Medal in the category of "Top Connecticut High Schools" and *Newsweek* named TGS as top "Beating the Odds School" in Connecticut.

The festivities kicked off with the school's marching

band performing *The Star-Spangled Banner* and The Gilbert School's "fight song." Then Craig Schroeder, trustee and TGS community liaison, stepped up to the podium as master of ceremonies, announcing "I have always thought of Gilbert as a special place."

The celebration's keynote speaker was U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal. "The faculty makes The Gilbert School a gem, and a real treasure for the whole state and a model for the country," he said. "You always knew that Gilbert is a great school and a special place. But now it is receiving the kind of recognition nationwide that it really deserves. Making good citizens is what makes Gilbert such a treasure." In recognition of its achievements and accomplishments, Senator Blumenthal presented TGS with a certificate of recognition from the U.S. Senate.

When Principal Alan Strass spoke, he quoted Aristotle, saying "Educating the mind without education the heart is not educating at all." Clearly, The Gilbert School has a heart...Now decorated in blue, gold, and silver. And that is something to celebrate.



1. Dr. Anthony Serio
2. U. S. Senator Richard Blumenthal making remarks at Gilbert's Community Celebration.
3. Gilbert Trust President Thomas Botticelli, dean of student services Julie Mcdougall, associate principal Susan Sojka, and Alan Strauss
4. Connecticut State Representative Craig Miner.
5. Alan Strauss, Senator Blumenthal and Donald Crossman
6. Alan Strauss accepting a Proclamation from State Representative Jay Case
7. Principal Alan Strauss with Kimberly Baker
8. Donald Crossman, Teacher of the Year, and Athletic Director Patrick Cooke

# Connecticut Principal of the Year

## Alan Strauss: Orchestrating Success

By Patricia Martin

When you meet Alan Strauss, you may notice the mala beads looped around both of his wrists. They are not just a trendy style, but have personal significance. “I wear them every day as a symbol of peace and balance, to help me focus on staying centered,” he explains. “They are also



*Mala beads are meaningful to Alan Strauss*

are a reminder to appreciate all the good, positive things there are.”

And when you compliment Alan on the impressive accolades he has received during his short tenure as principal of The Gilbert School, he is quick to give credit to others, explaining that he is simply the orchestra leader. His perspective? “The conductor is important—no question—but I do not play the music. The beautiful sound of educational excellence is made by our amazing teachers, parents, students, administrative team, and the community. They may individually march to their own drum, but collectively play in unison to create a harmonious and beautiful educational melody. That’s where I come in—my job is to bring it all together and make it sound fluid. And it is an absolute privilege and honor for me to be in the position to do so.”

Alan began serving as principal of TGS on August 6, 2012. During the past four years, he has the distinction of receiving a trifecta of prestigious state awards. He was presented with the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) William Cieslukowski Outstanding First-Year Principal Award for the 2013 – 2014 school year. In 2014, the Connecticut Association of School Librarians recognized him as Administrator of the Year. And, in light

of his outstanding work at TGS, the CAS named him Connecticut Principal of the Year for 2016. Yet another impressive achievement is that Alan is the only principal in the state’s history to receive these three distinguished awards, as well as the first to have both CAS awards bestowed upon him. On October 26th he received

from the CT State Department of Education its Excellence in Education award, one more shining example of Gilbert’s rise in the state.

The Principal of the Year Program was established to bring recognition to exemplary school principals and increase public awareness of the critical role they play in educating our children. The program recognizes outstanding middle and high school principals who have provided high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrated excellent leadership skills, a commitment to their staff and students, and service to their communities, and who have contributed to the overall profession of educational leadership.

“As humbling as receiving the awards are, they are significant because they acknowledge the outstanding work being done here at The Gilbert School,” says Alan. “They are really for the school, and recognize the major accomplishments of our staff, our students, and our parents, who are so very deserving. I am honored to play a small part in it.”

Although Alan is a very modest man, there is no doubt that he is worthy of being named Connecticut Principal of the Year. Karen Packtor, assistant executive director at CAS, says, “Alan was the unanimous choice of the selection



*Connecticut Association of Schools High School Principal of the Year Alan Strauss and U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal.*

committee. His application revealed a leader of intellectual and pedagogical depth, with a big heart and a profound love for and pride in his students and community. During his short time at Gilbert, he has succeeded in making dramatic, systemic changes and has skillfully united those around him in the pursuit of excellence.”

Head of School/Superintendent of The Gilbert School Dr. Anthony Serio could not be more pleased about the accolades Alan has received. “He is a very, very strong leader and an advocate for high standards and rigor in instruction,” he says. “The award is definitely a feather in the cap to everybody here at the school and most certainly a tip of the cap to Alan Strauss.”

In light of being named Connecticut Principal of the Year, Alan travelled to Washington, D.C., in September, where he met with the other award-winning principals from around the country as well as the president of NASSP, members of Congress, and the secretary of education. He also met with Senator Richard Blumenthal, Senator Chris Murphy, and U.S. Representative John Larson to discuss the future of education in Connecticut. And—as one of five semi-finalists for the National Principal of the Year award—he made a presentation about TGS and the challenges and opportunities our school system is facing.

“It was an honor to be in conversation with other principals, participate in professional development sessions,

and meet with such brilliant minds,” says Alan. “It was a great platform to affect change as well as talk about what’s happening at Gilbert—which is an absolutely wonderful story—and bring TGS the recognition it, and this town, deserves.”

Alan plans to continue to advocate to the legislature and share the dedication of TGS’ teachers, students, and community in their quest to achieve excellence. By spring of 2017, he will have given over 100 presentations and speeches at school districts, community organizations, and conferences throughout Connecticut, New England, and the Mid-Atlantic. “Gilbert deserves to be in the spotlight,” he says. “To represent The Gilbert School and be in the position to talk about it in front of some of the best and brightest in the country is the absolute highlight of my career, next to working with everyone here.”

Under Alan’s leadership, TGS has had the distinction of receiving two prestigious national citations, with the selections made independently, and without the school’s prior knowledge of candidacy: The *U.S. News and World Report* 2016 Silver Medal in Top Connecticut High Schools and *Newsweek* recognition as the Top “Beating the Odds” School in Connecticut. [See page 8 for details on these awards.]

“The *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report* awards are what I am the most proud of,” says Alan. “They are the

culmination of the dedication and hard work of our teachers and students, as well as the support of our parents. This entire community received the awards.”

Alan’s confidence in the school’s students, teachers, and staff is reiterated by Susan Sojka, Associate Principal. She says, “Alan believes to his core that no matter what a child’s background, socio-economic status, or cognitive ability, that EVERY student can and WILL be successful and that EVERY faculty and staff member will work together to ensure it happens.”

Along with his passion and dedication, Alan’s personal background and professional experience contribute to his dynamic leadership abilities.

Alan—whose roots are in Connecticut—did not initially want to be an educator. A native of Fairfield, his father was a social studies teacher with an illustrious 40-year career, and Alan was not inspired to follow in his footsteps. Instead, he pursued psychology, fashion design, and political science. It was during his junior year at the University of Connecticut that he realized he wanted to work with children.

Alan went on to attend Sacred Heart University’s Fairfield campus for his master’s degree and received his administrator’s certificate and sixth-year diploma from Sacred Heart University’s eastern campus in Griswold. After graduation, he served as an adjunct professor there and returns to the campus every two months as a guest lecturer. He says, “Sacred Heart was fantastic, and I go back to Griswold because I was taught to pay it forward.”

Over the course of his career Alan served in Weston, Naugatuck, and Windsor before coming to TGS. “I have the benefit of having navigated in three very different communities, by design,” he says. “This experience gives me distinct perspectives to draw from in terms of culture, financial conditions, and parental expectations. Plus my psychology background has been a blessing as I can see and understand human behavior.”

Alan intentionally waited a number of years before transitioning into administration. “It takes a long time to understand the intricacies of education,” he explains. “Although the progression from teacher to administrator is a natural one, the leap from teaching to running a school is complicated. After a 22-year teaching career, I am able to

see things at both ends of the spectrum.”

The opportunity to step in as principal at Gilbert came up the same time Alan was offered a position in a Fairfield County school. “I firmly believe things happen for a reason, and I absolutely fell in love with this place,” he says. “Gilbert’s distinct structure both as an endowed academy and a self-contained middle and high school made the job appealing. Moreover, it felt like home from the get go,

and it has become my home.” Alan has his own style of leadership. “Having been a teacher is helpful, and I spent my entire life around a teacher,” he explains. “Teachers need to be appreciated first, then held accountable. I believe teachers need autonomy and need to be supported and empowered. We have great teachers here—my job is to inspire higher levels of practice and get out of the way!”

Alan cares deeply about the academic, social, and emotional well-being of Gilbert students, and provides the right balance of rigor, guidance, and encouragement.

He is a hands-on principal who makes it a point to know everyone’s name, is a constant presence in the halls, and can be seen at most sporting events and after-school activities. “I believe in every child’s capacity to succeed,” he says. “We need to let the students know we care about them, and I am proud that our teachers, staff, and administrators give their hearts and souls to our kids.”

Dr. Serio calls Alan “The best instructional leader and most innovative and forward-thinking educator that I have had the pleasure to work with.” His attitude and approach are bringing TGS to new heights of achievement—resulting in improved test scores, rigorous academic offerings, expanded enrichment opportunities, and a vibrant school culture predicated on positive relationships. There has also been an astounding increase in graduation rate during Alan’s tenure, from 78% in 2012 to 96.4%, and the college-bound rate has risen dramatically as well, to 97.3%.

Alan believes TGS will continue to achieve new heights. “I do not want the Connecticut Principal of the Year Award to be something I put on the shelf,” he says. “I want to continue to make a difference for Gilbert, for the town, and for the role of principals. Gilbert has moved mountains, doing the best we can with what we have. It can and should be part of the conversation of educational excellence, and in



Principals of the Year join together in September 2016 on Capital Hill



# Gilbert School Salutes Veterans

By Wendy Sultaire, faculty, 10th grade American Studies



Veterans Day is an important day at The Gilbert School. For the past five years, school has been in session on Veterans Day on the traditional holiday. The rationale behind the decision to hold school is that students should be in school and be actively learning about and honoring veterans. For the last few years, the history and social studies department has invited local veterans (many Gilbert graduates) to come to Gilbert and speak with the students on Veterans Day.

The program starts with breakfast in the library for the veterans. Throughout the day, students go to the library during their history and social studies classes and listen to the vets share their stories and experiences. Students also ask many questions. This year, over 20 veterans came to Gilbert to speak with the students. The veterans also join the students for lunch in the cafeteria.

One of the highlights of the day is a Color Guard ceremony. Veterans from the VFW and the American Legion attend the ceremony. This year, students from the AP Government class organized the program as a class project. The middle school band played the national anthem. Students gave speeches about the history and significance of Veterans Day. The choir sang “America the Beautiful.” The program ended with a rifle salute and the playing of “Taps.” A special aspect of this year’s program was a check that was presented to the Winsted American Legion Post 43 to help local veterans in need. The students raised \$255.00 for this donation. The Gilbert School looks forward to continuing this tradition of honoring and celebrating Veterans Day.



## Gilbert graduates participating in this year’s ceremony were:

Dan Cook ’73, Hank Scheib ’67, Dave Tazzara ’66, Paul Vaccari ’66, Joe Godenzi ’66, Doug Werner ’66, Shane Bordonaro ’05, and Jen Traun ’99.

If you are a veteran or know of an alumni veteran that would like to speak with students or take part in the 2017 ceremony, please contact Wendy Sultaire at Gilbert.



that conversation TGS can be a lighthouse, where others come to look at us for how we do things.”

Forging ahead, Alan is working on two books that will shine the light on TGS. One is a collaboration with two other principals he met in Washington D.C. entitled *You want to do What? Three Principals and Their Stories of Success*. “We serve in different types of communities—one urban, one rural, and one suburban—so we each offer a unique perspective,” he says. Alan is also in the beginning stages of penning his own book, *To be the Lighthouse, You have to Get Out of the Dark: The Story of a Rural Connecticut School Rising Once Again*. Naturally, it is about TGS!

While education is the top priority, Alan would like to see further growth and expansion. “We are developing a robust International Program, which is proving to be tremendously valuable to the students and the community. I am driven to see a field house that is not just a state-of-the-art athletics facility but could also function as a community center. I envision it a place to hold after-school and summer programs, concerts, state championships, and so on. Our students here in pk-12 need a place to call home and to spend quality time getting support, coaching, art and music opportunities, and the like. It would be a great asset for the students, contribute to the community, help businesses, and have a lasting impact.”

If home is where the heart is, Alan belongs at Gilbert. “This is a fantastic journey with fantastic people, and there is no place else I’d rather be,” he says. “Gilbert has embraced my son, Jack, and I am so thankful to everyone. This community, and in particular our students, deserve educators who do not believe Winsted is a stepping stone as some have said—Dr. Serio, Mrs Sojka, and our entire administrative team believe deeply in this town and in our school. I’m here to stay as long as TGS wants me to stay.”

## Two Major National Accolades for TGS!



**Bravo to TGS! Our dynamic school has been distinguished by not one but two major national awards from highly respected sources: A Silver Medal of Excellence from U.S. News & World Report and a ranking of Top Connecticut School in Newsweek’s annual “Beating the Odds” list.**

### U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT SILVER MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

For the first time in many years, TGS has made *U.S. News & World Report’s* list of the TOP 50 Schools in Connected, coming in at a ranking of 37th. And for the first time in school history, TGS has been awarded the publication’s Silver Medal of Excellence. *U.S. News* looked at thousands of public schools to identify the top performers. The methodology was based on three key principals:

- A great high school must serve all of its students well, not just those who are college bound.
- It must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show it is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators.
- Eligible schools must meet or exceed a national standard high school graduation rate to be considered to be a top performer and be ranked at a national level.



### NEWSWEEK “BEATING THE ODDS” LIST

*Newsweek’s* “Beating the Odds” list identifies schools that do an excellent job of preparing students for college while also overcoming the obstacles posed by students at an economic disadvantage.

Overall, TGS ranked as #125 out of 500 schools chosen nationally as the top public schools for lower-income students, and was ranked number one among the three Connecticut schools that made the list. *Newsweek* noted TGS’s graduation rate of 96.4% and college-bound rate of 97.3%—statistics that have risen dramatically over the past few years.



### RAISING THE BAR

*TGS is gaining national recognition for its educational accomplishments and success in raising the academic bar. “The recognition from U.S. News & World Report and Newsweek speaks to the strength and resilience of our wonderful administration, staff, hard-working students, and their supportive families,” says Dr. Anthony Serio, head of school/superintendent. “Working together, we have established The Gilbert School as a center of academic excellence. These honors are testament to what a true community is all about. And looking to the future I see more great things ahead for us!”*

# TGS is a Family Affair for *Teacher of the Year* Donald Crossman

By Patricia Martin



**Donald (Donny) Crossman has deep roots in the community, and you could say that The Gilbert School is a family affair. “I’ve been in Winsted my whole life, and was raised by my entire family—parents, grandparents, extended family,” he says. “They are the reason I am who I am today.” And there is no doubt they must be very proud of Donny, who has been named the school’s Teacher of the Year.**

With 12 years of experience in education, Donny is now in his third year at Gilbert. A legendary local athlete, he graduated from TGS in 1999 and now teaches technology education and serves as the school’s head baseball coach. But he is not the first in his family to attend Gilbert. “My maternal grandfather, who was an orphan, was in The William L. Gilbert Home for Friendless Children,” says Donny, “and my dad’s father was an amazing student athlete at The Gilbert School.”

The school has also brought romance into the lives of the Crossman family. Donny met his wife, high school sweetheart Brooke, at Gilbert. “I asked her to be ‘more than a friend’ on the steps of the auditorium,” he says. “My grandfather asked my grandmother the same thing when they were at Gilbert. They were happily married for 63 years.”

Donny was totally surprised by the award. “We were in the school auditorium for the announcement, which was attended by every member of the school—kids, faculty, and staff,” he recalls. “Brooke and my son Greyson came out from behind the stage curtain when it was announced. Hearing my name called and standing in front of everyone, I was shocked!”

Beloved by his students and the TGS faculty and administration, Donny has a passion for teaching. While presenting Donny his Teacher of the Year Award at the Blue, Gold, and Silver Celebration in October, Principal Alan Straus said, “Teachers are the heart of the school. And a good teacher teaches from the heart, not from the book.”

Donny also has a passion for sports. He lettered in the school’s state champion basketball team in 1998 and 1999 and was in baseball for four years, where he was a three-time All-Berkshire League selection. Donny went on as a baseball scholarship player at Division I Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and played in two NCAA regional tournaments. And he still holds the CCSU pitching appearance record for a single season. In the Tri-State League, he is a two-time CY Young Award winner and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in August 2016. As Gilbert’s head baseball coach, he is training other young athletes to excel with heart. According to Patrick Cooke, TGS athletics director and dean of students 10-12, “Donny has a great demeanor that will attract more kids into the sport. Our numbers are going up.”

Donny feels right at home being at TGS. “I was on Cloud 9 when I had the opportunity to come to Gilbert,” he says. “I love this place, and plan to be here until they kick me out.”

# Sports + Academics + Leadership = The Athletics Department's Formula for Success

By Patricia Martin



The Gilbert School dean of students for grades 10 – 12 and director of athletics Patrick Cooke says “There’s blue and gold blood flowing in my veins, deep and rich.”

Patrick was born and raised in the area, graduated from TGS in 1989, and taught and coached in Tucson, Arizona, and at an alternative education school in Shelton, CT, before returning to Gilbert. “I caught wind of the Varsity Baseball job opening up, and began coaching at Gilbert while continuing to teach in Shelton,” he says. “Then the science teacher position opened up, and I was back here fulltime.”

Patrick has hung up his teaching jacket and is now in his second year as dean of students and sixth year as athletic director. And although he misses the classroom, he says “I’m enjoying taking my leadership abilities to a new level. Being the dean of students allows me to interact with students differently, and I believe my background enables me to really

connect with them and help them. And I love working with student athletes. It’s a passion.”

The YellowJackets and Junior Jackets are thriving with Patrick at the helm of the athletics department. “We have an activity for everybody—team sports and solitary challenges like cross country,” he says. Patrick’s goal is to get as many students as possible to participate in at least one sport because of the benefits of being involved in a physical activity and team environment. “The numbers came back from a study in Illinois showing that kids who play sports have better GPAs, take more challenging courses, have less disciplinary issues, and make better personal choices,” he explains. “In fact, 95% of the CEOs in Fortune 500 companies were high school athletes.”

Testament to TGS’ athletic spirit, the school was a Michaels Cup Award winner four years in a row, from

2010 to 2014. This state honor is not just about athletic performance. Its components include: sportsmanship, participation, scholarship, certification (such as CPR), and being chemical free. “Athletic success is just 5% of the score—it’s not just about winning and losing,” says Patrick.

Success on and off the field are important, and academics are an integral part of the equation. The focus of developing a student-centered, education-based model at TGS is shared by a strong team: administration, teachers, and parents all working together for the benefit of the children. The school now has a computer data base, the PowerSchool Program, that teachers make daily notes on student progress, and which coaches can access. If the coach sees an issue—like homework not being done or a poor test score—he can then reach out to the parents to alert them and turn the situation around.

Gilbert also initiated new academic criteria for sports participation: an athlete must have a 2.0 average and no Fs to be eligible to play. “We believe in sending a positive message about the importance of academics and it’s reflected in our sports eligibility requirements,” says Patrick. “Our goal is to help all kids excel academically. If they have a D, we want to help move it up to a C. With a C, let’s move up to a B. And if a B, strive to make it an A.” The numbers are proving that this strategy is working: 85% of all TGS athletes have shown improved GPAs.

Leadership is another key focus of the athletics program, and the school’s new Leadership Council is cultivating talent by identifying students with strong potential. “We are encouraging our athletes to be model students and lead by example,” says Patrick, “and we are developing their skills and giving them the tools to empower them to do it.”

The leadership component is actively nurtured throughout the year. The school has partnered with The National Guard—which trains cadets and SWAT teams—to physically challenge TGS students on its Leadership Reaction Course. Students are also invited to attend a formal event with the Windsor Locks Aviation Unit. The kids are required

to dress professionally, in shirt and tie or career wear/business attire, while participating in the leadership discussions and meeting with adults in leadership positions.

In addition, the school holds three workshops throughout the year with the Positive Coaches Alliance (PCA). This national program works with athletes, student council leaders, class officers, student committee leaders, and other kids to train them and help develop skills to be effective leaders. TGS expects to expose 80 to 90 students to the program by the end of the year, with the goal to get every student two sessions with PCA by the time they graduate.

Another leadership initiative has been introduced this year at Gilbert: The Class Act Schools Sportsmanship Program, an initiative of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) in association with the Connecticut Association of Athletics Directors. This program empowers schools and student leaders to take ownership and responsibility for sportsmanship on and off campus, and helps open up discussions between students and administrators for brainstorming strategies to make it successful.

In November, Patrick led a group of 10 TGS student leaders to the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, CT. Attendees included other student athletes, coaches, athletic directors, and school administrators, and activities included inspirational messages from guest speakers, break-out sessions, and group discussions. “The conference is

always packed and the energy is fantastic,” says Patrick. “We have such high expectations for our students, we need to teach them how to lead so they can go full speed ahead. This conference inspires them.”

Sports + academics + leadership is the Gilbert athletics department formula for successfully preparing students for a bright future. And Patrick is happy to be involved. “I had awesome coaches and awesome teachers,” he says. “My goal is to give student athletes the same experience. People did it for me and now it’s my time to pay it forward.”



Dean of Students and Athletic Director, Patrick Cooke '88



# Support Your Award-Winning School!



The past year has been one of the most exciting in the long history of The Gilbert School. Three major awards from *U.S. News and World Report*, *The Connecticut Association of Schools* and *Newsweek Magazine* confirm we have known for years: that the Gilbert School is one of the best schools in Connecticut and in the United States! These awards are a direct reflection of our commitment to delivering an outstanding education to our students. The Gilbert School continues to send exceptionally prepared students on to college, the work place, and the military.

The Gilbert School is a great place and with the support of our friends and alumni, we're even better! Please support our mission with your gift to The Gilbert Fund. Your support allows us to enhance the Gilbert experience for our students.

## PLEASE MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY

Refer to enclosed envelope, or make your donation online at:

[www.gilbertschool.org/page.cfm?p=1070](http://www.gilbertschool.org/page.cfm?p=1070)

Donate via PayPal or by credit card.

Your support will allow us to continue providing our students with an education that is second to none.



# The W.L. Gilbert Trust International Program: *Making a World of Difference*

By Patricia Martin



**I**n the few short years it's been established, the W.L. Gilbert Trust's International Residency Program has had a tremendously positive impact. Inaugurated in August 2013, it has made a world of difference—enriching the lives of TGS students, adding rigor and vibrancy to the curriculum, enhancing the financial wellbeing of the school, and contributing to the community.

The International Program was shepherded by Gilbert Trust President Thomas Botticelli. When he looked into other school programs throughout New England, he had the vision to pursue one for TGS as he realized that an international program would boost enrollment and help the budget. "As other school models had already demonstrated, I knew an International Program would be sustainable, and allow us to provide world-class education at an affordable price to the Gilbert community," says Mr. Botticelli. "It was an integral part of the Trust's strategy to offset falling enrollment in the district and help alleviate the financial burden of tuition for Winchester."

After analyzing the pros and cons of establishing a program, the Trust enlisted Head of School/Superintendent Dr. Anthony Serio to spearhead the program. Dr. Serio then pulled together the dedicated International Team, which now includes Tim Cronin, director; Debra LaRoche, dean of admissions; Carissa Mastroianni, dean of student life; and Michele Myers, assistant director of student life. "The Trust grasped the importance of the program, and I hit the ground running," Dr. Serio says. "I sensed from Day One that an international program would be a boon for Gilbert. And it certainly has been, and will continue to be, invaluable."

The International School Program started with an



outreach to China. “This is typical of startup international school programs as China has an affluent population that can easily afford the tuition, and the nation sees the value of providing their children with the benefits of a Western education,” says Mr. Cronin. “We are now focused on building the program up and expanding it to other countries.”

Toward that end the Trust has added U.K. resident Gill (pronounced “Jill”) Leigh-Ford to the International Team. A long-time friend and fan of TGS, Ms. Leigh-Ford is highly respected and well connected with school administrators throughout Europe. Additionally, the TGS International Team routinely travels nationally and internationally to recruit students and build relationships with schools and consultants who can help grow the program. Last fall Mr. Cronin and Ms. LaRoche attended the International Consultants for Education and Fairs (ICEF) in Berlin.



(\$14,000) to the school to cover its tuition. The balance of the funds are allocated for room and board, cost of additional services, health insurance, payroll (the program has generated 30 new jobs in four years), and other expenses. “This is money that filters into the community,” says Dr. Serio. “Moreover, because of the additional revenue, the per-pupil cost to the town of Winsted has been reduced.”

The program’s impact has been measurable, and substantial. TGS has already benefitted dramatically, with the school budget up \$1.5 million, a staff increase of eight full-time equivalent teachers, and an expansion of the number of AP, honors, college prep, and elective programs. The fruits of the enhanced academic rigor are reflected in the school’s improved graduation and college-bound rates, as well as TGS receiving a *U.S. News & World Report* Silver Medal of Excellence and making *Newsweek’s* “Beating the Odds” List.

**“The international element brings a rich multicultural dimension to the school and different points of view, exposing students to new ideas and perspectives.” – Dr. Anthony Serio**

This annual event brings together more than 1,000 educators and education agents from all around the globe for three days of intense networking. While there, they had the opportunity to present the advantages of a TGS education to a worldwide market, and the connections they made will undoubtedly expand the program in the coming months.

The program has grown at a remarkable pace. The inaugural year brought 31 international students in grades 9 – 12, and by the end of the current school year the number will top off at 86. With the eye on the future, the Trust’s ultimate goal is to enroll 150 international students. Making room for expansion, in July the Trust broke ground for a new dormitory on campus that will house an additional 52 young men from overseas. It will be ready for occupancy in mid-February 2017.

With an international residency tuition of \$47,000, the Trust gives approximately 1/3



TGS is proud to offer a global education environment that expands the horizons of all students. “The international element brings a rich multicultural dimension to the school and different points of view, exposing students to new ideas and perspectives,” says Dr. Serio. “These experiences will stay with them for life.”

TGS students and their international counterparts are encouraged to engage with each other. As part of their immersion, the international students get to pick their own Western name, and are often very creative with their choices—for instance, some have adopted the name of their favorite celebrity or a cartoon character.

To help make the transition to TGA easier, the school initiated a Student Ambassador Program, which currently has 45 members. The ambassadors befriend the international students and help them acclimate to the school, Western customs, and traditions.

It starts on the day the international students land at JFK and are greeted by ambassadors holding signs that say “Welcome to The Gilbert School.” Then, when they are shown to their Gilbert home-away-from-home—either a homestay family or Trust-owned dorm home—they find goodie bags prepared by the ambassadors.

The ambassadors and their international companions enjoy a variety of special activities together, such as trips to the Big E and the Yale Museum of Art. The ambassadors also introduce the foreign students to American customs and traditions, such as a good old fashioned barbeque, pumpkin picking, and Christmas cookie decorating. Student Ambassador Advisor Kelli-Ann Gilbert—who is also the

was held on the Gilbert Campus for the first time—was bigger and more exciting than ever. It featured a student presentation about the history and the symbolism of festival, Dragon Dancers, Martial Arts demonstrations, face painting, Chinese lanterns and other decorations made by students, and traditional food.

The ambassadors and international students are active volunteers who contribute to the community. “The kids volunteer at The Open Door Soup Kitchen in Winsted,” says Ms. Gilbert. “At the end of the school year last year, they organized a car wash fundraiser and used the money to buy groceries so they could cook and serve an authentic Chinese dinner to residents.”



TGS nurse and a homestay mom—says “The program is great because it lets the kids get to know each other beyond the classroom.”

Dean of Students 10 – 12 and Athletic Director Patrick Cooke and High School Counselor Kim Fiducia are two other TGS staffers who have opened their doors and hearts as homestay parents. “We had our Sara for three years, and I call her ‘my Chinese daughter’ and she calls me ‘mom,’” says Ms. Fiducia. “Our family even went to China visit her family. Sara—whose Chinese name is Shuyi—graduated last year, is going to Wheaton College in Massachusetts, and spent this past Thanksgiving with us.”

TGS provides a variety of activities designed to bring the student body together, such as an Open Gym, which features a different sport each month. The most recent was a soccer drill with Rob Lamb, a pro soccer player and recruitment coach from the United Kingdom. There are other special programs throughout the year, such as the Asian Moon Festival, which takes place in September. TGS coordinates the festival with the YMCA and with assistance from the Confucius Institute in Winsted. The 2016 festival—which

Integration is deepened at TGS with a Mandarin class, taught by Kevin Hu of the Confucius Institute, and the institute also offers Cultural Sensitivity Training for teachers, students, and ambassadors. To further immerse the international students into the culture, they are asked to participate in at least eight different extracurricular activities per semester—everything from attending a sporting event to going on a field trip. They are given a “Passport to Success,” which is stamped for every activity they complete.

The memories of time spent at TGS will last a lifetime. Ashley Siqi Wang, now in grade 11, says “Ever since I came to Gilbert, my life has been altered. The experience here is unique and unforgettable. I believe that the things I learned and the opportunities that Gilbert have offered to me have shaped me into a better person.”

“It’s an exciting time here,” says Dr. Serio, “and there’s a world of possibilities that lie ahead.”

# Gilbert!

# Homecoming

AND THE

## 2016 Distinguished Alumni Awards

*In its long and illustrious history, The Gilbert School has nurtured students to bring out their academic and personal best. TGS graduates have gone on to achieve great success while contributing to their families, their communities, and the world at large. In 2016, the school was pleased to recognize five outstanding individuals during its homecoming celebration.*

## AWARD WINNERS

### **Patrick Cooke, Outstanding Athlete Award, TGS Class of 1989**

TGS dean of students for grades 10 – 12 and director of athletics, Patrick was born and raised in Winsted. He has a distinguished background as an accomplished athlete and has earned the reputation of being an inspiring leader.

When he was a freshman, Patrick joined the soccer team, under the guidance of Coach “Moe” Morhardt, and participated in several varsity games. He then went on to play basketball and baseball, which included a state championship. Patrick went on to receive his BS degree in biology from Eastern Connecticut State University and his master’s degree in education from UConn.

Patrick left the area to teach and coach football, basketball, golf, and baseball in Tucson, Arizona, then returned to CT where he joined an alternative education school in Shelton, CT. When the opportunity to coach varsity baseball at TGS opened up, Patrick jumped on

it. He came back “home” to Gilbert full time when the school’s science teacher position became available.

Patrick is in his second year as dean of students and sixth year as athletic director. A registered athletic administrator with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association, he is passionate about working with student athletes. Patrick is currently pursuing certification as a certified athletic administrator, and plans on becoming a certified master athletic administrator.

### **Alison Shea, W.L. Gilbert Young Alumni Award, TGS Class 2007**

A member of the National Honor Society and President of Peers, Alison graduated salutatorian and president of TGS in 2007. She received her BS degree in biology from Salve Regina University, with a specialization in neuroscience. While there, Alison was vice president of the Campus Activities Board, a tutor with the Academic Center

for Excellence, and published novel research in her role as Pharmacology and Toxicology Research Fellow and Mentor.

Alison worked as a clinical research assistance, investigating pediatric Crohn’s Disease and Ulcerative Colitis for Hasbro Children’s Hospital, and then spent time in the pharmaceutical engineering field.

In 2014, Alison began studying law at New England Law Boston, and is expected to earn a Juris Doctor Candidacy in May 2018. At the same time, Alison continued her pharmaceutical career while maintaining Dean’s List recognition, and was the recipient of a Dean’s Scholarship Award.

Alison is an associate member of the New England Law Review, a participant of the New England Law Review Community Outreach Program, a Summer Fellow with the Center for Law and Social Responsibility, and a member of the Women’s and Children’s

Advocacy Project. In her spare time, she is an advocate for organ donation and healthcare rights.

### **Kathleen Spencer Kilpatrick, W.L. Gilbert Heritage Award, TGS Class of 1970**

Following her studies at TGS, Kathleen went on to graduate from Sweet Briar College, where she now chairs the Preservation Task Force.

Kathleen worked with the United States Department of Interior as a senior special assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Interior, and was a presidential nominee and Senate-confirmed official with the National Endowment of Humanities.

In 2003, Kathleen brokered an easement to prevent the development of Werowocomoco, a town that served as the headquarters of Chief Powhatan, an Algonquian political and spiritual leader when the English founded Jamestown in 1607. The actual site was lost for centuries until the Department of Historic Resources’ archeologists began their exploration, under Kathleen’s leadership and commitment to funding.

In 2013, Kathleen was appointed curator of the Virginia State Capital and executive director of the Capitol Square Preservation Council. Her responsibilities encompass a nationally significant historic park dating back to 1816, several iconic outdoor works of art, and several buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Jefferson-designed Capital building. Thanks to Kathleen’s leadership, the Capital—which was completed in 1788—is now formally inscribed on the tentative list of World Heritage Sites in recognition of its architectural value.

### **Deirdre Houlihan DiCara, Distinguished Professional Achievement Award, Class of 1973**

While in high school, Deirdre knew her career would be dedicated to the non-profit, social service sector. A graduate

of Wheaton College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in urban studies, she has 30 years of experience as a non-profit administrator.

At 28, Deirdre was the youngest executive director/CEO in the nation for leading the Girl Scout Council of Northwestern Connecticut. For 23 years, she provided leadership to nearly



*Gilbert School Distinguished Alumni award winners received their awards at a ceremony on Friday, Nov. 4. From left: Deirdre DiCara, Patrick Cooke, David Oyanadel, Alison Shea and Kathleen Kilpatrick.*

4,000 girls and volunteer adults within the jurisdiction. She has also led the Winsted Health Center Foundation and Youth and Family Services.

In 2013, Deirdre became the executive director of FISH/Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut. A warm, safe haven for the region’s homeless and the hungry, FISH is dedicated to providing food, shelter, and hope to those in need.

Deirdre was instrumental in the development of the HUD 202 low-income, Susan M.B. Perry Senior Housing Project in Winsted. She has received numerous honors for her community service involvement, contributions to the business environment, and improving the overall quality of life.

Deirdre is an advocate for children, the homeless, and the hungry; a community leader of non-profit organizations; and a board member, supporter, and volunteer for many community activities throughout northwestern Connecticut. In 2015,

The Register Citizen newspaper named her “Person of the Year.”

### **David Oyanadel, W.L. Gilbert Outstanding Community Service Award, Class of 1989**

David was born and raised in Santiago, Chile, and moved to Connecticut in 1987. He earned his associate degree from Northwestern Connecticut Community College and bachelor’s degree from Eastern Connecticut State University, both in computer science. He also holds a master’s degree in education/instructional technology, and is working toward an MBA at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Davis focuses his work on computer technology—most recently on green economic activities that create social and economic changes. His entrepreneurial concepts are already taking shape in partnership with organizations that serve Haiti, Nepal, and Togo.

David is a cofounder of Innovative-Diffusion, a “green” company that provides solar energy in developing countries and works in partnership with non-governmental organizations and nonprofits. It has also partnered with Embrace Relief, Clifton, NJ, which brings volunteers together to collaborate on humanitarian aid and disaster relief.

David’s business philosophy is to make a living while, at the same time, create useful services people can benefit from. Two of his company’s products include a refrigerated medical storage unit that can operate without being connected to a power grid and a solar-energy generator that charges electronic equipment.

David is also a member of the Lions Club, and has earned its “Connecticut’s Knight of the Blind” Award for excellence humanitarian service accomplishments.

# Distinguished Alumni Awards

## NOMINATION FORM

**Please Select One Award Category:**

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

**Name of Nominee / Class Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/Job title/Volunteer Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / Email: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Person Proposing Nomination / Class Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / Email: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please mail this form and any supporting documents by**

**June 30, 2017 to:**

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

*Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented during Homecoming Weekend in the fall.  
For additional forms or questions, email: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org  
or call 860-379-1245, ext. 200*

# Upcoming Reunions

## 50th Reunion Class of 1967

Date TBD

For More Information,

**Please Contact:**

A. Kate Robertson at:  
gilberthighschool1967@gmail.com

## 55th Reunion Classes of 1961 & 1962 Combined

May 20, 2017

Knights of Columbus Hall

3:00 p.m. Registration

4:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner,

Program, Dancing

**Please Contact:**

Class 1961

Marjorie Simmons at:  
simmonsmarj@gmail.com  
or (860) 618-5515

Cetta Consiglio Fogarty at:

confog9@yahoo.com  
or (860) 749-3795

Class 1962

Janice Gablemann Southworth at:  
jsouth44@optonline.net  
or (860) 482-1971

Ellen Barrett Cunha at:

ellenbc5@cox.net  
or (860) 844-8832

# Class Notes

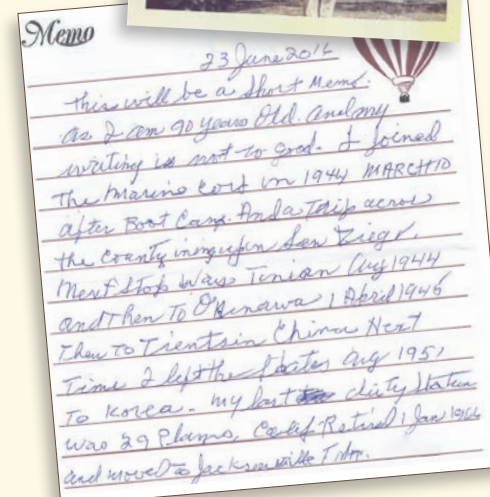
Where Are They Now?



**1936** From Frances (Weigold) Green: "So enjoy the Gilbert alumni magazine. Sorry I could not attend the Blue and Gold Reunion. I'm now 98 and I live in Longmont, CO. Enjoy life!"

**1941** Ruth (Allen) Rogers' son William wrote to say that his mom is living in a nursing home in Hannacroix, NY. She would love to receive letters and news from her Class of 1941 classmates. If you would like to reach out to Ruth, please contact us in the Alumni Office and we will help you connect!

**1945** John Anstett sent this note...



**1952** The family of the late Colonel Fred Cherry invited alumnus Daniel Smith to give a tribute at the funeral service of his close friend in February 2016 in Suffolk, VA. Daniel and Col. Cherry became close friends following their 1995 meeting, when they both received awards from the Congressional Black Caucus in recognition for outstanding military and community service against racial discriminatory practices in the United States.

**1954** "I worked for 29 years at the Barkhamsted School," says Cassandra (Clark) Messenger. "My husband Merlin (deceased) and I were married 57 years. I studied art and have sold many paintings. Barkhamsted School used my art in many classes. I attended Hillyer College in the 50s. I have three sons, three granddaughters, and two great-grandchildren. I retired in 2004 and spend time enjoying nature."



**1964** After graduating from Gilbert, Bob Buttafuso served four years in the Navy and then went to work for Univac Federal Systems Division in Washington, D.C., as a computer analyst. In the early seventies, he worked for Computer Sciences and helped develop the NYC Off-Track Betting System, and spent the rest of that decade working for a four-man computer communications firm contracted by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to develop and install their dues accounting network nationwide, still in use today. In 1981 he turned his hobby of metal detecting into a full-time business, selling and repairing metal detectors for Whites Electronics of Sweet Home, OR. In addition (Bob has been busy!), he is the author of *Civil War Relic Hunting A to Z* and *Civil War Hut Digging A to Z*. He also developed a software program called ADS 2000 to inventory collections, was president of the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association (and continues as their web master and annual Civil War Show chairman), co-starred in the TV reality show *American Digger* with his friend and professional ex-wrestler Ric Savage for 12 episodes in the spring of 2012, and sells Civil War relics on eBay at cwrelics.com. Bob says, "I recently acquired a partner for my now 35-year-old detector business and am working less and enjoying old age a little more. Wife and I just celebrated our 48th wedding anniversary!"

**1972** Dennis Marolda and his Vitamin J jazz band played at Gilbert's first annual Wine and Beer Tasting in March. (Dennis is the guy in the red tie.) The event was a success and raised funds for the music department. You can find out more about the band at dennismarolda.com.



**1978** Ron Melé now holds a dual citizenship in America and Italy. He says, "The dual citizenship is my way of celebrating my Italian heritage. While I was in the Air Force, I had a short assignment in Italy; the Italian officer I worked with became very interested in my family and set me up to find family there. They were ecstatic! My grandfather had left in 1907 and never returned, so most of the family knew of him, but nobody knew anything about him. Later on I began learning to speak Italian and someone in a chat room on Rosetta Stone asked me if I was pursuing a dual citizenship. I looked into it and discovered I was eligible. After a lot of paperwork and a lot of patience, I was recognized as an Italian citizen in February and got my Italian passport in May."



**1984** Martha (Phipps) Swiller says, "I am living in Los Angeles with my husband and three daughters. I see my siblings Andrea (1979), Alan (1981), and Erica (1986) regularly even though we all live in different states."

continued

**1999** Katie Donovan (1999) and Daniel Mangione (2003) welcomed their first child, Donovan Daniel Mangione, on December 30, 2015. Katie and Dan live in East Hartland, CT. Katie is a certified school guidance counselor and works for CREC Polaris Center in East Hartford, and Dan is a mechanic at Farmington Valley Equipment in Farmington, CT. They will be married in October in Norfolk, CT.

**2008** Congratulations to Jorge Pimentel, who was married in February 2016.



**2012** Briana Brady recently graduated from her university as the valedictorian of her undergraduate class with a GPA of 3.99.

**2013** Currently attending Central Maine Community College, Robert Skinner was chosen as a basketball honorable mention All-American by the U.S. Collegiate Athletic Association this past season. He was also selected to the All-Star team for the Yankee Small College Conference.

**2014** Lenyn (Pepe) Napoleon was named Globe Institute of Technology's 2016 Baseball MVP and also Rookie of the Year. <http://globeinstituteoftech.prestosports.com/sports/bsb/2015-16/bios/.Vzt-ThvA61o.email>

For the next YellowJacket, send your good news to: [gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org)

For more school and alumni news...



## DATE NIGHT Class of 1949!

Roger Jones, Class of 1949, shared this photo taken at the home of Bill Hutton,

**Front Row Left to Right:**

Edward "Ted" Bunnell (1951)  
Charles Dietlin (1949)  
Joe Gillette (1950)  
Francis Nichols (1950)

**Back Row Left to Right:**

George Manchester (1950)  
Bill Hutton (1949)  
Roger Jones (1949)  
Jack Ryan (1950)  
Neil Kelsey (1948)  
George DeMars (1950)



## In Memoriam

**1931**  
Irene Mary (Lossin) Morrow  
June 12, 2015

**1935**  
Theodore Davis  
February 5, 2016

**1936**  
Robert O'Brien  
April 23, 2016

**1938**  
Shirley (Eggleston) Miller  
October 15, 2016

**1939**  
Elinor (Osborn) Clark  
October 2014

**1942**  
Margaret (Clark) Hotvedt  
January 10, 2015

**1943**  
Paul Hamilton  
December 9, 2014

**1943**  
Norman Stevens  
July 31, 2016

**1944**  
Robert Weigold, Jr.  
July 4, 2016

**1945**  
Leo Thomsen  
June 26, 2016

**1946**  
Richard Pustinger  
March 29, 2016

**1947**  
Benjamin Warner  
February 5, 2013

**1948**  
Francis Bordonaro  
June 24, 2016

**1948**  
Ralph Bunnell  
May 8, 2014

**1948**  
Jack Shogren  
October 2015

**1948**  
Gordon Zuchegna  
June 8, 2016

**1949**  
Charles Dietlin Jr.  
June 7, 2016

**1949**  
Joyce (Carey) Hicks  
April 5, 2015

**1950**  
William Newman  
February 12, 2016

**1951**  
Marjorie (Hall) Dombrowski  
August 2, 2015

**1951**  
Joan (Thierry) Jones  
February 29, 2016

**1951**  
Sr. Marie Noella Lachat  
October 7, 2016

**1951**  
Josephine (Kisiel) Pustinger  
December 24, 2012

**1951**  
Dr. Robert Wilton  
March 19, 2016

**1952**  
Jeannette (Marquis) Peck  
June 13, 2015

**1953**  
John Athorn  
May 24, 2016

**1953**  
Joseph Caritey  
March 14, 2016

**1953**  
Peter Cooper  
May 12, 2016

**1953**  
Cecil Phair  
July 27, 2016

**1956**  
Dorothea (Sultaire) Crump  
October 2014

**1961**  
Leo Schellenberger  
April 14, 2015

**1962**  
Michael Podhajecki  
July 24, 2015

**1963**  
Jeffrey Marshall  
February 11, 2016

**1965**  
John Stocker Jr.  
January 21, 2016

**1966**  
Norma (Andersen) Narus  
October 15, 2015

**1969**  
Mary (Stannard) Consiglio  
February 11, 2016

**1973**  
Michael Dallis  
March 10, 2016

**1980**  
Julie Phillips  
May 10, 2016

**1987**  
Peter Fratini  
August 22, 2015

James Fortuna  
Former TGS  
Faculty Member  
July 9, 2016



## In Memory of Mark Svonkin

Mark Svonkin was an emeritus member of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation until his passing in January of 2106. He also served a four-year term on The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation, and was an outspoken advocate for students and a strong member of the negotiating team. He was my friend and I fondly recall and appreciate all the positive attributes he brought to the table.

**Steven A. Sedlack, Chairman**  
W.L. Gilbert School Corporation

**MARK SVONKIN**

*Intelligent in using his mind  
Strong in developing his beliefs  
Generous in sharing his ideas  
Unafraid in expressing his opinion  
Accurate in knowing himself  
Honest in opening his mind  
Passionate in promoting his causes  
Genuine in dealing with others  
Committed in leading his life  
Delighted in seeing the humor  
Warm in conducting his friendships*

## Donation Thank You Notes

We mourn the passing of the following TGS community members. In their memory, generous donations have been made. They would be honored to know that they have been remembered in this way and that they continue to make a positive impact on the students of The Gilbert School.

**Julie Phillips, Class of 1980**

The Susan Gifford DeLeon Fund: Almost \$3000 has been raised in Julie's memory. This fund was close to Julie's heart and was established in order to provide curriculum-based or student-generated projects that enable students of The Gilbert School to participate in educational science trips, be educated in the principles of conservation and recycling, and encourage them to volunteer in any area of environmental stewardship in our community.

**James Fortuna, Former TGS Faculty Member**

The Gilbert Faculty Fund Scholarship: Over \$1000 has been donated in Jim's memory. This fund was established by The Gilbert School faculty in 1928. It helps a Gilbert student to achieve his or her dream of attending college.

**Mark Svonkin, Trustee Emeritus**

Over \$10,000 has been raised in Mark's name. The W.L. Gilbert Trust is working with Mark's wife to determine how these funds can be best put to use to serve our students and faculty.

*If you wish to contribute to any of the above, please make checks payable to The W.L. Gilbert Trust and use the memo line to indicate the purpose (e.g., Faculty Fund in memory of Jim Fortuna).*