

YellowJacket

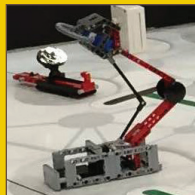
FALL | WINTER 2015

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE GILBERT SCHOOL



SCHOOL SPIRIT... SHOUT IT OUT!

Gilbert alumni and students gathered for Homecoming 2014...page 6



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YellowJacket

FALL | WINTER 2015

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE GILBERT SCHOOL

DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,



We continue to implement the mission of William L. Gilbert to provide a quality education so that Winsted's youth will be thoughtful, well-prepared citizens. As part of this education, the Trust's international program offers collaboration with students from other cultures. This is a twenty-first century skill that is critical for a new generation. Employers want intelligent workers who can add value to their team. This demands not only theoretical knowledge, but also the ability to cooperate with others, diagnose and analyze situations, and create solutions from a divergent conceptualization of possibilities. The W.L. Gilbert Trust, The W.L. Gilbert School Corp., and the TGS administrative team set high standards that enable students to learn these essential skills as we solidly build upon our instructional practices through project-based learning, infusion of global perspectives, and rigorous coursework.

~ *Dr. Anthony Serio, Head of School*



As principal of The Gilbert School, I have the honor of working alongside people who simply want one thing—to prepare our students for the exciting future that awaits them. The glorious history that has been The Gilbert School is filled with stories of achievement, overcoming odds, and developing positive habits of mind. Our faculty and staff are not only dedicated to every student, but they are also the epitome of excellence, and many have been awarded state and national recognition; yet so many others deserve acknowledgment as well. I encourage alumni to send a note of thanks to a former teacher, counselor, coach, nurse, paraprofessional, or any staff member who helped you become the individual you are today. I also encourage you to call the alumni office or school to arrange a tour. The Gilbert School has changed over the years and we'd be happy to share our updated facilities and incredible programs in person.

~ *Alan Strauss, Principal*



It's an exciting time for The Gilbert School as students, student-athletes, teachers, staff, and administrators win awards for academics, sports, innovative classroom approaches, and cutting-edge technology. We have expanded every part of the educational experience established by our founder and we cannot slow down now. It's important that we look ahead in order to maintain and exceed this atmosphere of excellence by ensuring that TGS has the programs, tools, and support needed. If you would like to contribute to the annual fund or to a scholarship, you may give online at www.gilbertschool.org (click on Support TGS) or use the enclosed envelope to send a check payable to The W.L. Gilbert Trust. You can also contact the alumni office to ask about leaving a bequest in your will. Each donation goes a long way toward moving us ever forward, so that our students can proudly say they are receiving one of the best middle and high school educations in the state.

~ *Thomas Botticelli, President, The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation*

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 a full 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 gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

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On the Cover

Students at The Gilbert School show their school pride at the 2014 Homecoming pep rally.



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Fall Photos



The Mr. TGS Show! Ian Scherer was crowned Mr. TGS; Jake Schoenberger, First Runner-up; James Yuan, Mr. Congeniality; Rik Emery, Mr. Talented; Jefferson Bortoloti, Mr. Beach Body; and Paxton Lewis-Franklin, Contestants' Choice.



Congratulations to Scott Minnerly, band director, who was named this year's district-level Teacher of the Year.



Middle school students enjoyed the challenge of the Ropes Course during physical education class.



Ten student-athletes accepted the 2013-14 CIAC Michaels Achievement Cup award on behalf of TGS for exemplary athletic programs (four years in a row!). Pictured left to right: Riley Brennan, Isabelle Rein, Jake Wendel, Grace Valickis, Ali Brochu, Tim Smith, Andrew Christensen, Logan Smith, Cam Goulet, Mike Fracasso



8th graders Zach Kirsch and Abby Corso, and seniors Julie Vincent and Rik Emery received the CT Association of Public School Superintendents student award.

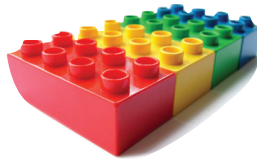


Jennifer Cabrera, Aidan Bortoloti, Jacob Krassner, and Dylan Amery show off the new middle school PE uniform.

Extra! Extra!

Robots Take Over Gilbert!

Walking through the science wing after school on a Monday or Thursday, you will hear the whir of motors, the click of LEGO® bricks, and the conversations of problem solving in action. These sounds can be heard on a weekly basis at The Gilbert School, where the LEGO Robotics Program is drawing students grades 7–9 to build and program robots. In only its second year of existence, the program is growing, brick by LEGO brick.



a robot to navigate through a model home with four different rooms to find and extinguish an actual fire (candle). While neither of our two teams succeeded, the students learned a great deal, met teams from all over the world, and even won a \$200 prize from the Connecticut chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers for having the most creative robot in their division.

With the 2014–15 school year came a new test: the FIRST LEGO League Challenge. Students were required not only to program a robot to accomplish a variety of tasks, but also to work together to complete a research project and create a solution to a real-world problem related to this year's theme, "learning." In just over two months' time, our TGS teams came up with new and improved ways of learning how to bake and ways to teach preschoolers how to type.

The Gilbert School LEGO Robotics Program was created in the fall of 2013, thanks to the foresight of The Gilbert School administration and The W.L. Gilbert Trust. Craig Levesque, then a recently hired eighth grade science teacher, was asked to be the lead teacher for the program.

Craig enthusiastically jumped at the opportunity and says, "I had some experience with LEGO robotics because I worked with a STEM enrichment program at a previous school. I witnessed the excitement of students using LEGOs to learn and watched them collaborate to solve complex, real-world problems. The chance to help establish a robotics program at Gilbert was a no-brainer for me."

A few months later, Brian Ingmanson was hired to be the new seventh grade science teacher. Like Levesque, he didn't hesitate to contribute his time and guidance to this innovative launch.

"Our robotics program enables our kids and our school to jump ahead of the curve and acquire—excuse my buzzword—21st century skills. Our kids are making this program successful and that fills me with pride," Brian explains.

During the first year, the students built vehicles out of LEGOs and began learning the basics of programming using the LEGO Mindstorms software. With this software, students are able to autonomously control how their robots move and function.

Last April, the students had their first chance to showcase their newly acquired skills at the Trinity College Fire Fighting Home Robot Contest. They had to program



Our Gilbert LEGO Robotics Program won two awards there: Best Mechanical Design and Best Inspiration. In addition, one robot placed in the top three during the robot game portion of the competition. These honors were quite an achievement considering how young our program is!

"Even with our successes, we are still striving for improvement," says Levesque. "Our goal is to continue to nurture the critical thinking and teamwork skills of our students, to incorporate more LEGO robotics into the classroom, and to do well and have fun at the competitions we enter."

The future looks bright at The Gilbert School!

Healthy Children, Healthy Minds

by Kelli Gilbert, Gilbert School Nurse

Healthy Children, Healthy Minds is an interdistrict middle school program designed to improve physical fitness and nutrition. Through a series of fun, cooperative, and challenging activities, combined with a hands-on approach in preparing a variety of healthier foods, students learn that choosing a healthy lifestyle offers them the added benefit of increasing their academic performance in school.

The Gilbert School was selected by Education Connection (one of CT's six nonprofit regional education service centers) to enroll in this fully funded program, thanks to generous grants. Ten middle school students participated in six weekly events, held on Friday afternoons after school. We spent two days at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT, where we hiked the beautiful grounds of Winding Trails, conquered the SUPERSLIDE, and climbed a 40-foot tower. Nutritionally, we learned how to pack a healthy bag lunch, made our own



trail mix, and roasted cinnamon apples over an open fire. It was a great time!

On another Friday afternoon, we visited a neighboring middle school and joined in games, used some really fun biking equipment, and made our own guacamole. Then there was the day Chef Justin taught us how to make nutritious spring rolls at Education Connection. That was our drum circle day, too! During a trip to New Morning

Market, we learned about organic foods while scanning the aisles during a scavenger hunt. And who could forget our water Zumba® and spin bike class at Healthtrax?

I thoroughly enjoyed being the staff coordinator for this marvelous program. Thank you to Education Connection and the grants that helped our Gilbert students have such a fabulous experience while learning and internalizing valuable health and fitness lessons at the same time.

The W.L. Gilbert Trust International Program

by Timothy Cronin, Director

The International Program began with 22 students from China in the fall of 2013, and by the second semester of our first year, we had 30 students from China and France. We welcomed 40 international students in the fall of 2014 and more arrived in January!

Each student is carefully matched with one of 13 homestay families who include them in typical American family life. The W.L. Gilbert Trust has also purchased four homes near the school. All homes have house parents who live with the students and help them acclimate to American culture, prepare meals, plan weekend events, and ensure their well-being.

The W.L. Gilbert Trust sought and hired an impressive and dedicated team to oversee and guide the academic and social activities of our international students. As Director of the International Program, I work with Carissa Mastroianni, Dean of Student Life; Jim Czaja, Guidance Counselor; Michelle Myers, Program Coordinator; and Nicholas Venn, Academic and Social Support Coordinator. Our team is led by Dr. Anthony Serio, Head of School.

Our ultimate goal is to attract promising students from all



over the world. With this in mind, the Trust international team has traveled extensively during the past two years, meeting with students and agents from more than 30 countries. These “agents” remain our liaisons while the students are at Gilbert, helping us to maintain communication with their parents,

especially when language is a barrier.

As a result of our travels, we have also established four sister schools: two in China, one in Italy, and one in the United Kingdom. We hope to engage in both student and curriculum exchanges with these schools in the coming years.

The International Program has created a diverse, multicultural atmosphere at The Gilbert School, and the international students have been embraced by the school and the larger Winsted community—but those are not the only positive outcomes. The entire student body benefits when students learn about one another's cultures and customs, creating an environment of acceptance and respect. The W.L. Gilbert Trust is proud to contribute to global understanding and cooperation.

A Sensational Semester in Sports

by Patrick Cooke, Teacher, Athletics Director, Class of 1989



Austin S. (2016)

The Gilbert Athletics Department is proud to announce the student-athletes who shone on and off the field this fall.

YellowJacket junior Austin Stoeke was named to the 1st team All-Berkshire League (BL) for boys' soccer as a goalkeeper, making him the best keeper in the entire BL.

In Gilbert/NW football, senior Mitchel Jackson (NW), offensive line, and junior Jake Jeffko (NW), punter, were named to the 1st team Uncas Division All-Offense team in the Pequot Football Conference.

Sophomore volleyball player Ali Brochu brought home the accolades, being named to the 1st team All-Berkshire League as well as receiving statewide recognition by earning All-Max Prep honors and being named to 2nd Team Class S All-State.

For the fourth year in a row, The Gilbert School was chosen as a CIAC Michaels Achievement Cup exemplary program. Selection is based on sportsmanship, participation, athletic scholarship, personnel, equity, chemical-free initiatives, and athletic achievement.

Off the field, our student-athletes have compiled over 1000 hours of volunteer service. From working in the soup kitchen to making pies for the elderly to weeding the community garden, our student-athletes continue to have a productive and positive impact on their surrounding communities.

TGS student-athletes would love to see some Gilbert grads as we wrap up the winter sports season. Come show your support at a girls' or boys' basketball game, swim meet, or wrestling match. Join in the enthusiasm of the cheer squad—who also participate in competitions around the state when not busy infusing their spirit throughout the school. Then get ready for spring sports in April. See you at the Hive!



Ali B. (2017)

Get all your fan gear here!

WWW.GILBERTSCHOOL.ORG

CLICK ON "TGS NIKE LIDS STORE"



SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

All TGS student-athletes must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no Fs and must complete community service hours to earn a varsity letter. To become a BL scholar-athlete, they must not only earn a varsity letter, but also make the honor roll. The first time a student-athlete is recognized as a BL scholar-athlete, she or he receives a scholar-athlete patch along with a gold bar from the principal and athletic director. Every time another scholar-athlete award is earned, a gold pin is added to the patch. Look for patches and pins on letterman jackets around the school and throughout the community!

Log on to

www.CIACSports.com

to keep up with all TGS games, results, and weather-related changes.

TGS Welcomes New Coaches!

Brad Toomey (first-year English teacher): Boys' Soccer

Samantha Seiler (first-year business teacher): Cheer Squad

Darek Schibi (1999): Wrestling

Christine (Sanden) Royer (1983): Diving

HOME COMING 2014

What a day! We celebrated this year's Alumni Award winners, listened to the beautiful voices of The Gilbert School Concert Choir—directed by Adam Atkins (1990), watched an alumni volleyball game—organized by Cindy Fixer (1978), and cheered for the football team. There were also plenty of activities for little ones (face painting, crafts, a petting zoo), school tours, a cheerleading clinic, and lunch in the cafe or tailgating in the parking lot.



Bill (past TGS tennis coach for over two dozen years) and Beverly Sanders



Gilbert/Northwestern vs. Ellington



YellowJacket Marching Band



2014 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients—Professional Achievement: Andrew Matthews (1989); Young Alumni: Michael Werner (2000); Community Service: Milly Hudak (1953); Gilbert Heritage: Susan (Roberts) Rouleau (1964); Outstanding Athlete: Willis Whalen (1984)



Alumni Volleyball Game...Back row: Cindy Fixer (1978), Brittany Parks (2008), Emily Vincent (2008), Jessica Stenman (2010), Wendy (Morhardt) Lincoln (1986), Mackenzie Russo (2013), Sue (Robitaille) Napierata (1990), Lisa (Mangione) Brochu (1984); Front Row: Amanda (Jassen) Jasenski (2001), Chelsie Girolamo (2012), Allison Battista (2012), Kaylah Leonard (2104), Jessica Valenta (2012); Not pictured: Amanda Morhardt (2013), Monique Parles-Abreu (1998), Liza (Vaccari) DiMartino (1993), Mary Ellen (Staszowski) Vaccari (1972)



THE GILBERT SCHOOL
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

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

❖ **THE GILBERT HERITAGE AWARD**

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

❖ **YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

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

❖ **DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

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

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

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

❖ **OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AWARD**

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

Nomination form and supporting documents must be submitted to The Office of Alumni Relations on or before May 30th. The nominee must be a graduate of The Gilbert School unless otherwise stated in the award's description. Members of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation and The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation are not eligible while currently serving.

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



THE GILBERT SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Please select one award category:

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

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

Profession/Job title/Volunteer role: _____

Organization: _____ email: _____

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

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

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

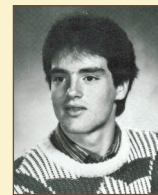
Please mail this form and any supporting documents by May 30 to:

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.

Overcoming Adversity

by Andrew Matthews, Class of 1989



This is a story about a child who lived in daily fear of abuse and thought there was no hope for a positive future. However, through the encouragement, love, and support of those I would later consider family, I overcame adversity to find peace and happiness. Moreover, I became stronger, built character, and now work to make a difference in the lives of others.

Imagine a child afraid of physical violence as the school bus approaches his house each afternoon because he fears his alcoholic father will be home. Imagine a child who wakes up every day praying to God that when the school nurse asks him how he got that bruise, he can convince her it was accidental because he is scared of the consequences that night if the truth is discovered. Children who live under similar circumstances lack the desire, determination, and motivation to learn. As a result, they fail to thrive in school and are in danger of inflicting the same violence on others later in life just as it was inflicted on



Andrew with Joanne and Jim (1961) Sterpka

short period of time, I lost 85 pounds, my grades drastically improved, and I was spending a lot less time in detention and the principal's office. These experiences inspired me and gave me the desire to one day have a family of my own.

It was at this pivotal moment that the Sterpka family welcomed me into their lives. They opened their hearts with an unconditional love I had never experienced. I felt blessed. Jim and Joanne Sterpka, both teachers, quickly became amazing "parents" to me. They were compassionate, nurturing, understanding, and patient. Joanne, my new "mother," taught me that loving someone was not only shown by words, but by actions as

she stayed up countless nights teaching me basic reading and math. One of the most important lessons that Jim, my new "father," imparted was that a simple look of disappointment on his face had a greater impact than physical discipline. Jim and Joanne genuinely cared, never judged me, never gave up on me, and, most importantly, did not allow me to give up on myself. They saved my life. I discovered that an individual

As we prepared for graduation, you could hear the words "We are a family!" throughout the hallways of Gilbert.

them. These high-risk children need to understand that they are not alone, and that with help—sometimes the help of complete strangers—their lives can be saved.

In 1985, as a freshman at The Gilbert School, I had little self-esteem, weighed 245 pounds, and read at a third-grade level. Hopeless and sometimes homeless, I lacked the discipline and self-respect necessary to be a productive student. I often wound up in the principal's office or stayed after school for detention. Academically, I was failing. By 1987, my biological mother had married for the third time and had a total of nine children. I finally realized that living in poverty in an abusive household was not acceptable.

With the help of many classmates, life started to change for the better in 1988. I became a proud member of Gilbert's football team and built friendships that would ultimately last a lifetime. Without hesitation, these friends, who were grateful for their own strong family bonds, invited me into their homes for family meals, birthdays, and holidays. In a

does not have to be a biological parent in order to be a mom or dad, and there is no place for physical violence in any home.

As we prepared for graduation, you could hear the words "We are a family!" throughout the hallways of Gilbert. This feeling of family among classmates was unique and unquestionably contagious. Each of us recognized that regardless of individual circumstances, we were never alone and always united. I was selected as the Class of 1989's "Most Changed." The real honor, though, was that I had finally found the true meaning of family.

I wanted to show my parents, the Sterpkas, how grateful I was for the love they gave and the sacrifices they made to give me the foundation to succeed. After Gilbert, I graduated with an associate's degree in criminal justice from NCCC and then a bachelor's degree from WCSU, where I majored in justice and law. I went on to attend UNH, earning my master's degree in forensic science. In 2005, I attended the

Massachusetts School of Law, where I was elected Student Bar Association president and presented with the Dean's Award. In May of 2008, I received my Juris Doctor degree, passed the Connecticut Bar exam, and was sworn in as a member of the Connecticut Bar.

I was drawn to the field of law enforcement because of what I had



Andrew and family

experienced as a child. I began my career as a police officer for the Yale University Police Dept., next became a CT state trooper, was then promoted

to detective within the State Police Major Crime Squad, followed by a promotion to the rank of sergeant. In 2010, I was elected president of the CT State Police Union and elected for a second term in 2014. In 2011, I was also elected to the executive board of the National Troopers Coalition (NTC), which represents 42,000 State Troopers from 41 states. In February 2015, I became chairman of the NTC.

I am proud of my achievements, but I remain humble and respectful of others, remembering my own rough start. I did not realize it at the time, but my childhood is the reason I am so committed to defending and representing those less fortunate.

To give back to the community and do my part in protecting other children from fear and abuse, I also volunteer with Senator Blumenthal on "Men Make a Difference, Men Against Domestic Violence" for the Interval House, which is dedicated to preventing and breaking the cycle of family and partner abuse. (<http://intervalhousect.org>)

Having witnessed the effects of alcoholism, I have never had an alcoholic beverage, never experimented with drugs, and have never and will never use physical force on my spouse or my beautiful children. I am honored to be the husband of Attorney Crystal Chow-Matthews and the father of three-year-old Grayce Sau-Ying and one-year-old Aiden Jin-Wah. As a tribute to the parents and classmates who did not give up on me, I will never give up on my family. ☺

Gilbert... Launchpad for Life



*by Erin (Nagel) Cook, Class of 1996
Major, USAF Reserve, & Mother of Three*

How did Gilbert set me up to navigate my wild, 18-year ride in the Air Force? Themes of character development, leadership, and relationship building run through my personal survey of the past.

Six days after graduating from Gilbert, I flew to Colorado Springs and started Basic Cadet Training at the US Air Force Academy. Eager to do something new in a new place, I welcomed the rigorous challenges of military life. Boy, was I naive: Military life is hard! Push-ups, yelling, running, more yelling, more running, more push-ups. I lost 27 pounds, was routinely reprimanded for not having my underwear folded into 4" x 4" squares, and had a haircut that earned me the nickname "Broccoli Head." After the misery of basic training, next came calculus, electrical engineering, unarmed combat, and a year of standing at attention. I made it to graduation and began work as a full-time aircraft maintenance operations officer, married, and completed my master's degree—all at the same time and in Japan. Since then, I've moved 10 times in 14 years, changing jobs with every move. I've brought three newborns home from the hospital, weathered my spouse's deployments, and lost dear friends to the longest war in our nation's history. I've decided to change gears once again and homeschool my children while we live in the farthest reaches of the Oklahoman desert. (No offense to Oklahoma, but there isn't much else to do out here.)

There is no way I could have survived all that without being set up for success. I credit Gilbert for committing to the character development of its students, which helped lay a strong foundation for me. One way they did this was by offering a traditional



Erin and family

education—complete with Latin and old-school typing. If you teach people the hard stuff, then they find the easy stuff even easier. This is what author Shel Silverstein called “the gravel in ya guts and the spit in ya eye.” I found that character development also came with discipline; it only took a few detentions to learn what was important. Gilbert gave me opportunities to learn about myself and the world around me with clubs and sports as well. It was

“And as I fell from 5,000 feet with a parachute strapped to my back, I thought of Ms. Cloud and Newton’s Laws!”

this comprehensive environment that helped build in me a character able to withstand the constant state of chaos that is military life.

Gilbert also taught me much about leadership and relationship building. The symbiotic nature between the two rests on one word: CARE. Vivid flashbacks of Mr. Youmans spouting history facts or Mr. Lanigan’s contemptuous look at my pitiful bug project, showed me that they cared enough about me, personally, to motivate, share knowledge, and convey disapproval in my (occasionally) shoddy work. As a current homeschool

teacher and former university professor of aerospace studies, I have a deep respect for the leadership and relationships required to motivate students to do their best.

I think that Gilbert’s teachers mastered the crafting and delivery of these traits, and I want to thank them. Mr. Reynolds, Ms. Tresky, Mr. Trout, and Mr. Cangelosi helped me to say what I mean when I write and instilled a love of active voice. Ms. Prelli gave me the understanding that tedious tasks are best accomplished with a happy heart. Mr. Lanigan handed me my first C. From that I learned you cannot blow off the bug project; even if you hate it, you learn discipline from collecting nasty bugs. Mr. Tirrell and Ms. Fish taught me that math can be interesting (until you reach your intellectual cap and fail calculus...twice). And as I fell from 5,000 feet with a parachute strapped to my back, I thought of Ms. Cloud and Newton’s Laws!

Finally, Mr. Higgins provided me the vocabulary to clean my husband’s clock in Scrabble, and explain to my kids why bilateral breathing while swimming means breathing to two sides. Most importantly, I can still hear him say, “Repetitio est mater studiorum” (Repetition is the mother of studies/learning), which helps me torture my own children with multiplication tables, and my past students with many drills in military strategy. Thank you all for setting me up for success. Gilbert, you were a great launchpad. 🇺🇸

60th Reunion at Riverton: Class of 1954

Albert Sullivan says “The event was held at the Riverton Inn on September 18, 2014. It was a very enjoyable reunion luncheon, chaired by Herbert Isaacson and assisted by his son, Ben, and other contributors from previous reunions.”



Edward Mooney and Eugene Diulio

Beryl (Johnson) Reilly, Germaine Lemieux, Sandra (Whitman) Manning, and Effie (Francis) Oellers



photo credits: Lynne M. Anstett - Photography

Save the Date!

50TH
Reunion!

September 26, 2015

The classes of 1964 and 1965 are planning a joint 50th reunion on September 26, 2015 at the Cornucopia in Torrington, CT. Please let the organizers know whether you think you'll be able to attend ASAP.

You may email Marilyn (Gundelach) Bazzano (1964) at marilyn.bazzano@sbcglobal.net or Barbara Hawley (1965) at seagalbarb66@hotmail.com.

Reunion Celebration: Class of 1955

Jim Foster reports “The bonds formed at Gilbert some 59 years ago still prevail as seen from this picture of 1955 graduates who gathered last year to catch up on what everyone has been doing. Few of us were able to accurately predict what we would eventually become or do upon leaving Gilbert. Plans are underway for our 60th reunion, which will be held on September 11, 2015. Details on the location will be sent to all 1955 graduates.” You can contact Jim at Lilydale47@aol.com or 716-648-0202 for more information.



Left to right: Paul Felgate, Glenn Madison, Marcie (Casey) Miller, Elaine Schlapak, Truda (Wilbur) Tanner, Phil Ostapko, Josephine Radocchio, Betty (Curtiss) Driscoll, Greg Woodworth, Madeline (Kilbourn) Johnson, Theodore Church, Hubert Parmelee, Bob Sturm; Jim Foster (seated)

GIANT 84-94 REUNION!

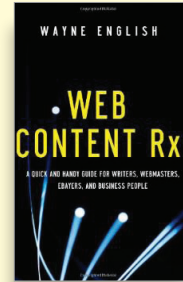
The classes of 1984 to 1994 had a collective reunion on July 26, 2014, at the Knights of Columbus in Winsted. Approximately 150 alumni were in attendance with some coming as far away as California, Arizona, Florida, and Georgia. This fun family day included bocce, horseshoes, softball, volleyball, and a cookout by Jason Bouchard and his catering crew.



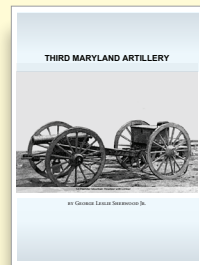
Left to right: Reunion organizers Jason Bouchard (1988), Susan Emond (1984), Holly (Marchand) Cassaday (1990), and Alyson Gunzinger (1984)



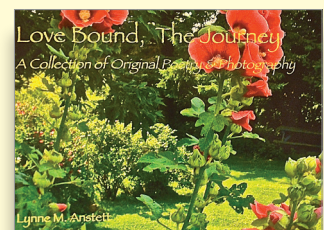
Class of 1984, left to right: Danise (Auriemma) Hall, Heather (Murray) Papp, Tracey (LaForge) Gangi, Martha (Phipps) Swiller, Jim Cormier, Alyson Gunzinger, James Calkins, Cindy Allen, Amby Brown, Sue Emond



Web Content Rx
by **Wayne English**
Class of 1967
<http://amzn.to/1DCMtVk>



Third Maryland Artillery
by **George Leslie Sherwood Jr.**
Class of 1961
email: gsherwood1@juno.com



Love Bound, The Journey: A Collection of Original Poetry and Photography
by **Lynne Anstett**
Class of 1974
<http://www.blurb.com/b/4267450-love-bound-the-journey-a-collection-of-original-po>

Are you an alumnus with a new book out? Send the title, website, and a high-resolution photo to gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org. Let the YellowJacket help spread the word to 8,000 readers.

Paying It *Forward*

Annual Fund and Scholarships

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

The W.L. Gilbert Trust Scholarships are also more important than ever as the cost of college continues to climb. Last year we distributed over \$125,000 to graduating seniors and alumni. You can send a donation to be put toward any scholarship in need of funds or choose a specific scholarship.

Giving is easy.

You may contribute online at www.gilbertschool.org (click on "Support TGS" in the right-hand column) or by mail using the enclosed envelope.

For all donations, please make checks payable to:

The W.L. Gilbert Trust with "Annual Fund" or "Scholarship" (or the name of a particular scholarship) in the subject line. Every gift makes a difference in a student's life. Thank you!

The W.L. Gilbert LEGACY SOCIETY

The philanthropic spirit of our founder, William L. Gilbert, lives on in the generous alumni and friends who have become part of The W.L. Gilbert Legacy Society by leaving something to the school in their wills. Designating a specified sum or percentage of your estate, life insurance policy, or real estate property does not affect your cash flow during your lifetime. If your situation changes, you can modify or revoke it at any time, so there is no financial risk.

To find out more about planned gifts, call the Alumni Communications Director at 860-379-1245, ext. 200, or email gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org.

CHARTER MEMBERS

*Thomas J. Botticelli
JoAnn and Harry Briggs
Concetto Marino, 1982
Ellen (Cormier) Marino, 1983
Jean (Woodward) Partridge, 1950
James A. Pettit, 1971
Steven A. Sedlack, 1960*



Scholarships

All TGS seniors and alumni who are attending college may apply for a Gilbert Trust Scholarship by April 30, 2015.

The application is on our website. Go to: gilbertschool.org → Alumni → Gilbert Trust Scholarships

Questions? Email: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

DISTINGUISHED DONORS OF 2014

Blue & Gold Club (\$500–\$999)

Linda (Godenzi)
Bartholomew, 1968
Fidelity Charitable Fund
Lisa (Lamoureaux)
Garrahan, 1981
Thomas Head, 1947
JoAnn (Young) Leifert, 1980
John Smyth, 1979
Mark & Sheila (Garbus)
Svonkin, 1959
United Technologies
Janice Williams
Class of 1984

The Gilbert Circle (\$1000 or more)

Joan Centrella, 1971
Gary Cook, 2000
Doyle's Medical Supply
Draper Foundation Fund
Heather (Case) & Edward Dzielak, 1986
John Fracasso, 1975
Gifford-DeLeon Golf Tournament
HCC Global Financial Products
Constance (Church) Lizak, 1960
Marsh & McLennan Companies
Reality Executives Northwest
Jing Shu
Mark Vaccari, 1977

Where Are They Now?

CLASS NOTES



1932

Florence (Vining) Thomen says she is “starting a new life in Canaan”—at 101 years old! She adds, “I still have good posture and I stay positive.”



1952

Fouad “Fred” Ferris is retired, having been the Director of HR in the Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services. He is married with two daughters and two granddaughters, and golf is a main hobby. He now lives in Middletown, but was active in politics as a democratic town chairman and numerous civic organizations when he lived in Winsted. Fred is a judge at AKC dog shows in the USA and in foreign countries.

1961

George Sherwood Jr. has been an Adjunct Professor of Physics at Montgomery College in MD since 1969, and served in the US Army Reserve for 29 years until his retirement as a Lt. Col. in 1994. He worked as a nuclear and environmental engineer at the US Department of Energy for over 28 years until 1997. George then worked as a consultant for the DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration from 2004 to 2010.

1965

Paul Amenta and his wife Carol have lived in New Hartford for the last 45 years. They have two sons, James and Brian, who both live in CT. Now retired, Paul still has his part-time business, Little Brook Engraving (www.littlebrookengraving.com). He is also the president of the New Hartford Business Council.

Robert Peetz and his wife Helen have a beautiful granddaughter, Emily Kate, born December 2013 to Robby & Elizabeth Peetz. They will have two grandchildren in May as their daughter Katie and her husband Scott are expecting a child. Bob teaches criminal justice at Midland College in Texas.

1966

Edward Adams Jr. retired after 20 years in the US Air Force and 26 years as a military supply contractor, and has lived in Colorado Springs since 1987. He and his wife (married in 1993 to Theresa) operate Adams Costume Closet. They have six boys (three living), 21 grandchildren (some by adoption), and five great-grandchildren. Ed is also a part-time actor who was in *Summer Sojourn*, a 2007 independent film. He and his wife are Old West re-enactors who play shows in Las Vegas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming.

1967

Wayne English is the owner and founder of Web Content Rx. He is an author, webmaster, speaker, and social networking expert. He has published three books, short fiction, poetry, and local, national, and international pieces in newspapers, newsletters, and magazines, both online and in print.

1968

Alanne (Kennedy) Turina, alumna and TGS faculty member 1973–1983, reports that Charlie, her husband of 41½ years, passed away in December 2013. After 31 years in Orange County, CA, she is retired and has moved to Palm Springs, CA. She enjoys being a “mom” to retired greyhounds and had fun catching up “on all things Gilbert” with a personal school tour in October 2014—with special thanks for the tour to Craig Schroeder.

1973

Jonathan Thrall retired with 22 years in Federal Civil Service and 33 years in the US Air Force Reserve, but says 2014 was exciting for him as far as new jobs: “As an information assurance engineer for the Department of Defense, I spent one month working in South Korea, three months at Fort Knox, KY, three months in Kuwait, and have now settled at the Joint Interagency Task Force South (DEA, FBI, CIA) as a risk management framework engineer in Key West, Florida.”

Jonathan is also pursuing his PhD in information security at Capella University.

1974

Lynne Anstett has two children and a part-time photography business called Imagery Art Works. She published a book titled *Love Bound, The Journey*, and reports that her latest project is a 2015 CT calendar. “I aim to share what I see, by chance or by design, that is beautiful to me,” she says. “The camera allows me to do that.”

Roxanne Petrunti has been busy winning awards for her recipes! In the Topsfield Fair, she won first place blue ribbons for her spumoni pie, spumoni cheesecake, and spumoni jam.

Cherylanne Petrunti has also been winning awards! In the Topsfield Fair, she took home first place blue ribbons for her cherry amaretto preserves, chocolate chew cookies, and crazy brownies.

1975

Gayle Moraski celebrated 40 years of employment at Northwest Community Bank in May 2014, starting part-time when she was a student at The Gilbert School; she is now vice president there. She is also a recent recipient of the Torrington-Winsted Rotary Club’s Paul Harris award for community leadership.

1978

Winsted newspaper readers voted **David Sartirana** the Best Real Estate Agent. He was recently on the cover of *Top Agent* magazine and was their feature story. He has also spent 34 years as a volunteer firefighter and played a role in the television series *Rescue Me* about NYC firefighters after 9/11.

1978 & 1979

Shari-Lynn (LaForge) Cormier (1979) and **Robert Cormier** (1978) celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in October 2014.

1979

Robbin (Schnier) Beauchamp started a new job as Director of Cooperative Education & Career Services at the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. She directs a ten-person team to place all undergraduate students in two full-time cooperative educational experiences. The students are all STEM majors (science, technology, engineering, math). Robbin is happy to meet with Gilbert students and families who are visiting for an admissions tour.

1980

Phyllis “Space” Kaplan has been an employee of BHcare in Ansonia, CT, for 30 years—the second longest employee of the company. She is a recreational therapist and also the supervisor of a social club that helps people struggling with alcohol, drugs, and mental illness.

1981

Lori Riiska received the Paul Harris award, given in recognition of community leadership by the Torrington-Winsted Rotary Club. She is the owner of Lori Riiska CPA. She serves on NW Community Bank’s Board of Directors, is president of the UConn Alumni Association, and sits on UConn’s Board of Trustees for the Institutional Advancement Committee as well as their Foundation and Athletic Club boards. Lori is a trustee of the NW CT YMCA and The Draper Foundation. She helps with nonprofit groups such as the Rotary Club and United Way, and is involved with Litchfield County Business Professionals and the NW CT Chamber of Commerce. Lori resides in Winsted and her two children, **Thomas Welcome** (2002) and **Kimberly (Welcome) Fejzo** (2005) also live in northwest CT.

1982

The Puzzle by **Kati (Devlin) Flood** is now available as an eBook. Check out her courageous story after a terrible car accident (<http://booklocker.com/books/7281.html>).

1984

Mark Sommaruga joined the law firm of Pullman & Comley as a member in their Hartford office in June 2013. His book, *Understanding the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act*, was published later that year. Mark adds, “My son turned five in January and my wife’s job in raising Spencer is far more important than anything that I do in my job.”

1985 & 1986

Michael Scherer (1986) and **Sandi Lynn (Fratini) Scherer** (1985) report that their son Ian “is this year’s band president at Gilbert and is following in his mom’s and dad’s footsteps as proud former members of the YellowJacket Marching Band.”

1987

Elizabeth (Pond) Reza is a certified building biology environmental consultant and electromagnetic radiation specialist. Her business, Current Living (www.ecurrentliving.com), specializes in assessing people’s homes for electromagnetic radiation and provides steps to reduce exposure.

1998

Bobbie Jo (Paden) Mrowka is still happily married to her high school sweetheart Mike. They have three biological children ages 10–16, and have been foster parents for seven years to ten very special children. Bobbie says they “will continue to foster children in need of a temporary home and a forever family.” She is earning her associate’s degree in human services and then plans to obtain a bachelor’s degree in social work.

2002

Alesia Vaccari accepted a new position as Head Women’s Volleyball Coach at Brandeis University. She was also inducted into the CT Women’s Volleyball Hall of Fame in November for her accomplishments as a college player at Springfield College.

**2004 & 2006 & 1973**

William Michael Dallis, grandson of **John Dombrowski** (1973), was born in November 2014. Proud parents are **Jenny (Dombrowski) Dallis** (2006) and **Michael Dallis** (2004).

2005 & 2006

Jeffrey Langill (2005) and **Ashli (Hoxie) Langill** (2006) welcomed their second child, Bria Nichole, into the world in June 2014. Bria’s big brother is two-year-old Brycen.

2008

Spencer Caine was named to Zagat’s “30 under 30” list, which “celebrates Denver chefs, bartenders, entrepreneurs, and other visionaries whose passion is matched only by their talent.” Spencer is the sous-chef at Twelve Restaurant and plans monthly menus with his favorite fresh ingredients.

Jake Smith is working as a theology teacher, campus minister, residential life director, and varsity golf coach at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, CT. Jake thinks he may be a “boarding school lifer!”

2010

Betsy Corbran became Mrs. Betsy Finchum in June 2013, and their first child, Isaac, was born in June 2014. They live in Franklin, TN, and are expecting their second child in July 2015. Betsy is a personal nanny and custom event baker. She and husband Brennan are also involved in several ministries at their church.

**2012**

Nicole Martin and her college marching band, Western Carolina University’s “Pride of the Mountains,” were chosen to lead the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2014—a huge honor!

For the next *YellowJacket*, send your good news to:
gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

For more school
and alumni news...



In Memoriam

1935

*Lillian (Osborne)
Hamilton*
November 1, 2012

1939

*Veronica (Staszowski)
Rusckowski*
August 15, 2014

1940

Mary (McCarthy) Mitchell
January 1, 2015

1942

Rujo Moore
August 21, 2014

Richard Paxton
July 11, 2014

1943

Paul Beecher Hamilton
December 9, 2014

1947

Burrall Pinney
February 15, 2014

1948

Shirley (Lundberg) Laffin
December 24, 2014

1951

Edward Bunnell
December 19, 2014

1951

Barbara (Condon) Crouse
November 16, 2014

Barbara (Burg) King
July 12, 2014

1952

Fannie (Coan) Delaney
December 18, 2014

Gloria (Pease) Saharek
November 12, 2014

1953

Mary (Bazzano) Turgeon
November 2, 2014

Joseph Ferreira
November 19, 2014

1958

Paul Murray
December 1, 2013

1959

Thomas D'Amore Jr.
January 7, 2014

1961

John Teddick
August 4, 2014

1986

Erly Gallo Jr.
August 24, 2014



THE W.L. GILBERT TRUSTEES

The *YellowJacket* is published twice a year by The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation. Members of the Trust not only carry out William L. Gilbert's vision for an educational institution of the highest quality, but are also intent on keeping alumni informed. This magazine makes it possible to share good news and updates from and about past and present students and staff.

CURRENT TRUSTEES ARE:

President

Thomas Botticelli

Vice President

Ellen (Cormier) Marino, 1983

Treasurer

Susan (Moore) Belle-Isle, 1970

Secretary

Deborah (Glynn) Jones, 1970

Natalie (Nalette) Attianese, 1973
Patricia Bourque
Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990
Alan Colavecchio, 1969
Kathleen (Brady) Jones, 1972
Joanne (Cannavo) Marzullo, 1970
David Sartirana, 1978
Craig Schroeder
Charles Seaback, 1972
Steven Sedlack, 1960
Linda Vaccari

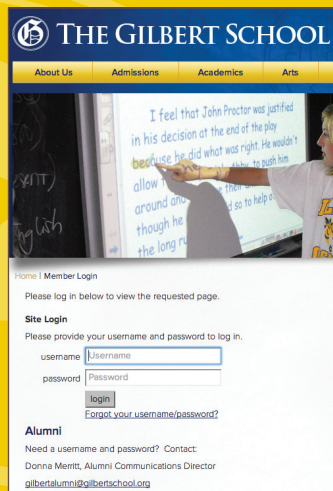
ALUMNI PORTAL

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 and click on "Update Your Alumni Profile" under the "Alumni" tab. Need help? Email the Alumni Communications Director at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org.



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



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