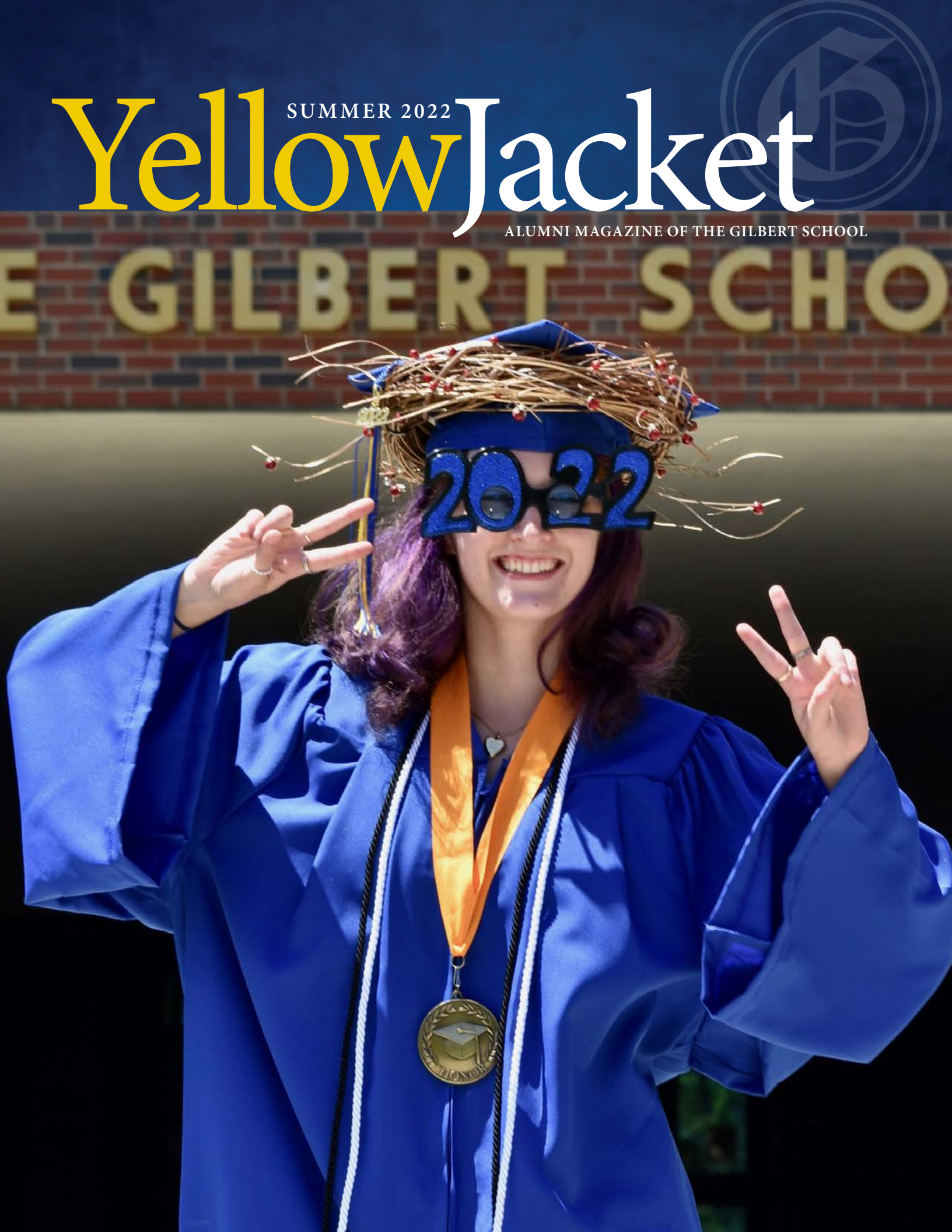
SUMMER 2022

Yellow Jacket

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE GILBERT SCHOOL



Dear Alumni and Friends...



Charles Seaback, Class of 1972, President, The W. L. Gilbert Trust

As the 2022 School Year comes to a close, it is important to reflect on our motto: **Heritage, Innovation, Opportunity.** In these historically unsettled times, these words hold true in defining the beliefs of The Gilbert School. Despite the global pandemic and its aftermath, The Gilbert School remains steadfast and continues to honor, embrace and adhere to these noble ideals.

The incredible **Heritage** of The Gilbert School endures. After 126 years, The Gilbert School community continues to provide compassion, empathy and personal attention to our students. This level of attentiveness is attainable because of our modest size. Our dedicated staff strive to support every student's social and emotional needs while providing an excellent education.

This **Heritage** is best reflected by our alumni and supporters. Your generous contributions support critical programs and scholarships, all of which directly benefit our students and young alumni. A relevant and poignant example of a new and overwhelmingly successful program is the Wingman Program. This is a student-led social and emotional learning program that emphasizes kindness and inclusion, inspired by the Dylan's Wings of Change Foundation. This program is possible only because of the generosity of alumni. Additionally, the school has hosted motivational speakers to address bullying, dangers of vaping, perils of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and school violence. Regarding the school's infrastructure, the science department recently upgraded its lab equipment and the school installed a state-of-the-art auditorium sound control board. On the 2nd of June, 2022, $152,557 in scholarships were awarded to deserving seniors and alumni. Our most prodigious scholarship awards one exemplary student $10,000 per year, renewable for up to four years. These scholarships are crucial to supporting our leaders of tomorrow in their pursuit of higher education, which due to the rising cost of tuition, may otherwise not be affordable at respectable and prestigious colleges and universities.

Innovation is what drives our students to be creative and strive to find solutions to world problems. Fostering Innovation helps our future leaders to stay ahead of the competition. It is the hallmark of the evolution of Gilbert from its founding to the academy it is today. The Gilbert School serves as the local high school for the Towns of Winchester and Hartland and also is a reputable international middle and secondary school with students attending from China, Brazil, Korea, and Mexico. These foreign students directly integrate with our local students, which not only cultivates diversity, but this immersive experience better prepares all of our students to succeed in a global society.

126 years of experience provides a solid foundation, but to continue our heritage of excellence, we each need to seize this **Opportunity** to help our students now. Together we can forge ahead to improve our future. The world of education is ever-changing and increasingly important. It is exciting, yet is expensive. ***On behalf of The W.L. Gilbert Trust and The Gilbert School family, please consider contributing to our 2021-2022 fund drive.*** **Your gift matters** and will help provide invaluable education to our youth and create fond memories for new generations of Gilbert alumni.

Continued

On the cover: *Alex Cassaday, Class of 2022, celebrates on graduation day. On June 9, 2022, 52 students graduated from the small but mighty Class of 2022. Greg Shugrue, Head of School, and Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, Class of 1990, Chair of The Gilbert School Corporation, handed out diplomas to the class. Classmates celebrated their achievements directly following the ceremony at Project Graduation, an all-night, safe, substance-free celebration, held at Quassy Amusement Park. Congratulations to the Class of 2022!*



Charles Seaback, continued

Please take a few minutes to read about our remarkable students and alumni, possibly your classmates and friends, featured in this edition of the Yellow Jacket. Also, please consider sharing information about your own life's journey with our Alumni Office. We will be honored to include your story in our next edition. **Heritage, Innovation, Opportunity.** These are our guiding principles and your distinguished legacy. Thank you and we appreciate your support. Stay safe and be well.

Greg P. Shugrue, Head of School



Educating the Gilbert student is a collaborative process that involves the school, parents, and alumni. It is my goal to promote that collaboration all in an effort to benefit the students at The Gilbert School. As we strive for excellence in our school, it is my hope that we chart our path forward in a purposeful and collaborative manner. We share a mutual goal of providing an academically rigorous experience where all students are challenged at their level and leave The Gilbert School with fond memories and the skills and tools to be successful in their next journey. The only way for us to overcome the challenges we face in educating today's children is to come together as a learning community and let ourselves be driven by the supposition that everything we do is not about what we teach, but about what our students learn.

No single institution more aptly serves as a symbol of a community's values than its schools. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the school and school leaders to build collaborative partnerships with the community, and in our case its alumni, wherever possible.

Trust with all stakeholders is built by consistency and transparency. The school and its personnel must strive to build and maintain trust with those that they serve. It is through consistent communication, teaching practices, and approaches, that we as a learning community will grow and reach our goals of educating every child and preparing them for whatever comes after life at The Gilbert School

I look forward to our collaborative partnership in the most important of endeavors… the Gilbert student.



Continued



Timothy Cronin, MBA, CEO, The W. L. Gilbert Trust

It is my honor, as CEO, to share that The W. L. Gilbert Trust welcomed students from three new countries this past year who added greatly to our Gilbert School community. For the first time since we began our international program nine years ago, the countries of Mexico, Brazil, and Indonesia sent amazing students who shared their athletic, academic, and cultural strengths to our program.

Carlos Garcia, grade 10 from Mexico, joined the boys' soccer team and was the first to make a goal for the season, in addition to adding to the success of Gilberts boys' winter wrestling team. On Wednesday, June 10th, the Auxiliary President, Reverend Lin McGee from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of Winsted, awarded Carlos a "Patriotic Youth Award" for his exemplary display of patriotism. Carlos went to the rescue of a Navy veteran who had fallen on the sidewalk on Main Street this winter while walking home from a visit to the YMCA. Carlos helped him walk to safety and was honored and thanked for his act of patriotism to a veteran.

Jhonatan Silveira, grade 11 from Brazil also joined the Gilbert boys' soccer team. While in his Gilbert classes he met a Brazilian student who comes from the same regional area as Jhonatan's home town. Their new friendship was shared throughout the school year. One of Jhonatan's most enjoyable activities was tubing for one January afternoon at Butternut Basin in Massachusetts, as this was Jhonatan's first time experiencing snow.

Richard Sebastian, grade 10 from Indonesia, honored us with amazing academic accomplishments, making High Honors for each marking period quarter. He was often found helping to tutor other students from the international program and enjoyed daily trips to the YMCA to play basketball with his new found friends from other countries.

The joy as CEO of our international program, is seeing the yearly growth of each student, not only with the improvement of their English communication skills, but also their school participation and academic achievements. On Thursday, June 9th, we congratulated nine international graduates who were accepted to impressive colleges and universities in the United States. We wish all of our international students well as they head on to their next educational journey or head home to their countries for the summer. Our program is culturally richer for each of the international students who join our Gilbert family.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE GILBERT SCHOOL! THANK YOU!

Greg Shugrue: *A Strong New Leader at the Helm*

by Patricia Martin

As has been the way of the world, The Gilbert School has faced a number of changes and challenges during the past couple of years.



First the devastating COVID-19 pandemic radically altered our way of life, impacting how students were instructed and teachers taught. It has been an unprecedented situation, and an entirely new way of doing things had to be developed. The school administration, teachers, staff, parents, and students all rose to the occasion, following CDC guidelines and adjusting to the "new normals" of masking, social distancing, remote learning, and hybrid learning.

In addition, TGS bid a fond farewell to two dedicated administrators who retired at the end of the 2020 – 2021 school year: Dr. Anthony Serio, Head of school, and Sue Sojka, Principal.

Fortunately, a strong leader has taken the helm—Greg Shugrue—who has stepped in as the new Head of School. Greg previously served for 16 years as the principal of New Milford High School, where he led, mentored, and managed the large school that served 1,600 students. By 2021, the time felt right for him to transition to running Gilbert.

"I welcomed the challenge of being one person wearing two hats, as principal and as superintendent," says Greg. "Every day is different, and you need to regroup and respond to needs as they arise. You have to be flexible."

Greg also appreciates being in a more intimate school setting. "A middle and high school with 450 students is a big plus as the connections between adults and students are strong," he says. "I've also been impressed with the staff and its dedication to caring for the kids and fostering their successes."

As the academic year was about to begin, the new head of school conducted an exercise that clearly demonstrated the staff's involvement with and insight into their students. "I hung an 8-1/2" x 11" photo of each of our students and identified each one by name," Greg says. "I then asked the teachers and counselors to walk down the hallway gallery and sign their names on the photos of the students they knew something about. I am happy to say more than 90% of the photos had signatures. The ones that didn't were new kids from out-of-state. That was impressive!"

Greg commented on how students were resilient and adapted throughout the pandemic, first learning remotely, then being back on campus, as well as coping with changing mask mandates. "Some of the students had not been in the school for a year, and those entering 8th grade had never set foot in the school," he explained. "It's great to have the student body all under one roof again!"

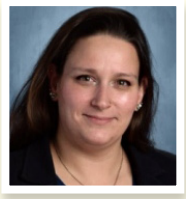
Greg was quick to point out some positive developments of the past couple of years, despite the difficulties. "One upside is that every student now has their own Chromebook laptop, which is a great teaching tool," he says. "And every teacher has Google Classroom, which gives kids access to homework, lesson plans, and activities. SATs are also done electronically now, too. It's a whole new tech era in school."

TGS has always been committed to excellence and providing the best education to our children. Greg is dedicated to furthering Gilbert's mission and is looking forward to the future. "I am feeling positive," he says, "I'm hoping that the start of the next school year will have a more traditional starting point and look more like 2019 rather than 2020 and 2021."

New Faces at Gilbert

by Patricia Martin

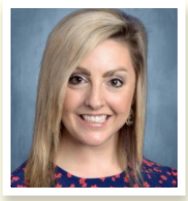
As students and staff once again got to file into the halls of The Gilbert School, they were able to welcome some new faces to their team. Meet some of them here describing their first year!



"I have been a Spanish teacher for 12 years and I came to Gilbert after 11 years of service at New Milford High School. What I really love most about TGS is its smallness; it truly is like a family. I love hanging out with the students of Gilbert every day, and I learn just as much from them as they do from me. My first year has been pretty smooth as far as transitions go. I feel like I've been here for much longer than eight months. Everyone has been so warm & welcoming." — ***Jessica Pelletier***



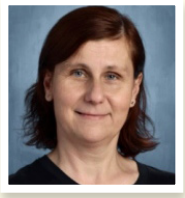
"I'm happy to join TGS in 2021-2022 as a first year teacher. This year I taught Academic Support. My certification is in English 7-12. I also coached the Boys Varsity Soccer Team and the team won the Sportsmanship Award. What attracted me to TGS and what I continue to appreciate are small classes, a family feel, and an atmosphere of mutual support." — ***Nikita Tarabara***



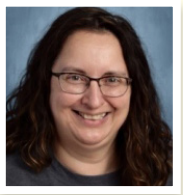
"I am beyond honored and humbled to be a part of The Gilbert School this year. I have been a middle school English teacher now for 10 years, switching between both grades 7 and 8 throughout my career. I joined The Gilbert School, because I absolutely love the small school atmosphere, the friendly faces, and the drive from both staff and students to take on new challenges. My first year has been a welcoming and pleasant experience. I thoroughly enjoy working in the middle school with grade 8, and I am overwhelmed by the talent of these students. I've met so many wonderful people, and I am looking forward to the next step here in my journey." — ***Stephanie Singleton***



"I have been an Art teacher for 4 years and previously worked at Isabella M. Pearson School where I taught 3rd-6th grade art. I am very fortunate to continue my career at The Gilbert School where I get to teach many of my previous students. My dream is to work with Middle and High school students, developing their art at a higher level. TGS is a small yet welcoming and friendly school where unity and kindness are at the forefront of the school climate. I started midyear this year and it has been such a wonderful experience. My transition into teaching Middle and High school students has been seamless, with the support and guidance from administrators and teachers. I am looking forward to growing alongside my coworkers and students here at The Gilbert School." — ***Rebecca Billingsley***



"I have been a language (French and Spanish) teacher for over 15 years. I am excited to share my passion for languages and cultures with the Gilbert School students. My first year at The Gilbert School has been a very positive experience - the enthusiasm and curiosity of students, as well as their genuine interests in discovering the practices, products, and perspectives of other cultures has been truly remarkable. I am looking forward to continuing my professional journey as part of The Gilbert School family." — ***Magdalena Kruk***



"I am thrilled to have become a part of The Gilbert School family this year! I have been a teacher of mathematics students at middle and high school levels for 28 years; at TGS this year, I have taught Geometry, Probability and Statistics, and SAT Prep Math. What attracted me most to TGS was the small size and family-like atmosphere, along with the many opportunities for both students and faculty to get involved within the school community. I have valued the collaboration with my colleagues and students throughout this school year and look forward to my future at The Gilbert School!" — ***Maryann Salvatore***

WINGMAN Program Inspires Students to Fly Above and Beyond

by Patricia Martin

According to the "Butterfly Effect," a tiny change in a big system can affect everything—for instance the way that the flap of butterfly wings might ultimately cause a hurricane.

This theory guides the "Wingman Program" a unique, youth leadership program. Wingman was developed in 2015 by Dylan's Wings of Change, a nonprofit foundation established by Ian Hockley in memory of his son, Dylan, who was one of the first-grade victims of the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.





Wingman coordinators, Kim Fiducia and Jessica Pelletier

Traditionally, a "wingman" is a pilot who rides alongside and behind a lead fighter jet to provide support and protection, literally watching the leader's back. In schools, Wingman is a social and emotional learning program that incorporates team-bonding and trust-building activities. It inspires children to go above and beyond for others, instilling in them the courage, empathy, and leadership to create strong, inclusive communities.

Wingman began at The Gilbert School in the fall of 2021, co-lead by specially trained school counselor, Kim Fiducia and Spanish teacher, Jessica Pelletier. The program is open to grades 7 – 12, and the two faculty leaders began recruiting kids to join the program. "We believe that empathy is an emotion that should be fostered from an early age, by engaging with others and learning to share stories," says Jessica. Kim adds, "Learning empathy starts with kindness, respect, and gratitude, and it can grow. Our motto at Gilbert is 'No one gets left out. All are honored, seen, and heard.'"

In addition to Jessica and Kim, there are six other Gilbert staff members involved with Wingman. "We call them 'Champions'" Jessica says. In addition, the entire faculty at TGS participates in activities that are facilitated by Wingman leaders.

To be a part of the Wingman program, students, must be in good academic standing, committed to leading by example, and want to change and grow. "We aimed for a f air representation of the whole school community," explains Kim.

There is one "Wingman Day" each month, with sessions lasting for 40 minutes. The Wingman student body is divided into smaller groups, and two Wingmen Champions facilitate special activities that are fun, engaging, and designed to foster team building. "The open-ended nature of the exercises ensures no scripted or fake outcomes", says Jessica. "Rather, we get authentic interaction in a safe space where people can be themselves."

Gilbert students are trained as facilitators and take the lead running group-building activities with their peers. Some of the interactive Wingman exercises have included "Zip Zap Zop," which is an out-of-your-seat, fast-moving game, "Tin Can Pass," which involves sitting in a circle and passing a tin can to the person sitting next to you using only your feet, and "Rock, Paper, Scissors," a game of luck with opponents giving each other simultaneous hand gestures. No matter what the activity, the goal is to reduce social isolation through building interactions and relationships.

"The students enjoy being together and participating in an activity that is led by their peers," explains Jessica. "They enjoy brainstorming solutions and communicating with one another face-to-face. Since the onset of COVID, with remote learning, kids lost a component of human interaction. Now the Wingman Program enables them to engage with one another once more."

Gilbert plans to implement the Wingman Program again next fall. "We see a great benefit with the program," says Kim. "We strive to become an even stronger school community by being more inclusive and further developing student-to-student and student-to-staff relationships, which reduces social isolationism. Wingman is a great program to move us forward."

Gilbert's All Abuzz with Broadcast News

by Patricia Martin

Do students of Digital Media teacher Steve Hodges say "Lights! Camera! Action!" or "Roll Sound! Roll Camera!"?

Regardless of whether or not they use these classic commands, Steve's students have the benefit of a new, full-fledged TV production studio. It's an active creative hive where they make broadcast news every semester.

The Gilbert School now has this pro-grade studio thanks to a $65,000 grant that Steve applied for with retired former TGS principal, Sue Sojka. Once the funding was awarded, Steve went to work planning, designing, engineering, and building much of the TV studio with his own hands, creating it from the ground up.





Steve sketched the schematics for the studio design and layout, created the grid where lights and curtains would be installed, and enlisted his students to help when it came time to run wires and install connectors. "This was such an exciting opportunity!" says Steve. "I had to figure out the most appropriate use of the fundings and spec out the equipment to be sure it was the best application and value for the school."

The broadcast-ready studio gives students real-world experience with three cameras, a green screen, teleprompter, and recording and editing equipment for producing live and recorded programs. Students also use field cameras to film activities and events on location at the school and around the community.

The studio was up and ready to run last year. However, due to COVID, it was used nominally, then hardly at all. Now it is back in full swing and going strong!

Steve currently has 30 students in his TV Tech classes and can accommodate up to 40. TV1 and TV2 are one-semester courses in which kids learn various aspects of production. TV3 is Advanced Broadcast, which extends for a full year.

His students are immersed in every aspect of production—developing program ideas and content, writing scripts, performing, directing, conducting interviews, and handling all the various tech elements, from recording to editing. "Kids learn to lead and develop confidence," Steve says. "I love watching them grow!"

Some of the studio's ongoing programs include "The Buzz" news program and "Feature with a Teacher" interviews with Gilbert teachers. The curriculum also allows Steve's students to collaborate with other Gilbert classes to produce skits and special programming.

In addition, Steve's TV team goes off campus to serve the Winchester community. For example, this past year his students covered the Winsted Veterans Day program and Winsted's 250th anniversary celebrations. "My kids are totally hands on, and doing authentic, high-caliber work," says Steve. "I'm so proud of their accomplishments!"

Momentum is building, and there are plans to collaborate with the Spectrum Channel 191 in the near future. "Our goal is to have our material played on the local cable access channel and to develop more original programs," explains Steve. "It would be great for the students to have their work seen by the community, and great for the community to learn more about what's going on at our school. Five years ago, when I came to Gilbert, there was no TV studio or programing to speak of. Now it's a pretty powerful tool for us to have!"

If you're ready to learn more and see some of the great work coming out of the TV studio, subscribe to the Gilbert YouTube channel: **https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI6fC-14ZF-JfrDkvVL3oXg**

It's buzzing with broadcast news!

Making Music During the Pandemic: *Creative Solutions to Tough Challenges*

by Patricia Martin

There was no playbook for dealing with the pandemic. It changed the way teachers taught and the way students learned in unprecedented ways. There was total remote learning, then hybrid learning with some of the students on campus and some working from home on alternating days, while still other students remained strictly remote.

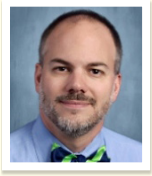




While the pandemic was challenging for all teachers and required them to adjust and adapt their curriculum for the novel circumstances, it made unique demands on Gilbert's Music Department. How do you teach a choir when they cannot hear one another? How do bands rehearse virtually while everyone is muted, unable to listen to each other? In essence, the singers and musicians were practicing in a vacuum, relying on their teachers to lead the way, encouraging and guiding them as best as they could under the isolating circumstances.

As daunting as this situation was, music teacher/band director Scott Minnerly and music teacher/choral director Adam Atkins rose to the occasion. They improvised creative solutions that got their grades 7 – 12 classes through the disruption of COVID until they could all be under the same roof, practicing and performing together.

STRIKING UP THE BANDS



Band Director Scott Minnerly recalled the day things shutdown. "Our spring musical, Willy Wonka, was scheduled to open on March 13, 2020, and had to be cancelled," he said. "It was awful, everything came to a halt. Initially we thought it would just be for two weeks, then a month, and then it turned out that school was not reopening at all. At least the kids got to have a dress rehearsal on March 12th in front of their parents."

Band rehearsals became virtual, with Scott playing a recording for the students to listen to. They could hear the recording, and see one another, but they could not hear each other because they had to be muted. "I worked from home, and I was the only one who could hear them," he said. "It's a group experience being in an ensemble, and it became like individual practice time instead. It was hard for the kids, but they persevered."

One bright spot was that Scott's students got to "perform" with "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, which is the top marching band in the country. "I played a recording of the band, and the kids were virtually conducted by the band's conductor, who they could see on screen," he said. "That was exciting for them."

Once Gilbert reopened, small groups of Scott's students got to perform together, alternating the days that they were on campus. This meant the entire band was never together at one time. "We'd have a band of 20 kids on Monday, a different band of 20 on Thursday, and some kids never came in but rehearsed totally remotely," Scott explained. "One day we might have four flutes, and the next day, none."

Scott's students began playing in the small gymnasium at Gilbert, positioned 12 feet apart, and later when safety mandates changed they were six feet apart. Other adjustments had to be put into place as well. "We put bell covers over the instruments, and the kids had to wear 'music masks,' which have little flaps that open when needed," Scott said. "We also had to place 'puppy pads' by brass instruments for the spit. It took us about 10 minutes just to get the room set up before we could start playing."

Continued...

Music Making During the Pandemic, continued...

From November of 2020 until January of 2021, all learning was remote with virtual rehearsing, and there had not been a live concert since winter 2019. "The kids were happy when they finally got back into school and doing something more normal," Scott said. "We had our first outdoor concert in May 2021 in the school parking lot."

Scott's students got to participate in a Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM®) concert, which is a national event that takes place every March. "This year we got to perform inside, in the gym," he said. "I am glad we could celebrate together, it's meaningful."





CONDUCTING CHORUSES THROUGH COVID



Choral Director Adam Atkins said the pandemic was an adventure that no one expected. "It was hard, because singing is a collaboration, and interactive with other people," he explained. "Everyone is working toward a single goal as a group. It's a synergy."

Friday the 13th of March 2020 everyone was sent home and lessons became fully remote. "I did not see my students live again for the rest of the year," Adam said. "No one expected it."

Adam continued to teach from school while the students learned from home. "Some subjects can more easily be done remotely, and students can do their assignments from home," he said. "With chorus, we could not do what we'd do in the classroom, but I still worked in the school, where I had a piano, white board, sound system, and camera—resources I did not have at home."

Just like with Scott Minnerly's remote teaching of his band students, Adam could conduct the choir students and see and hear them, but students could only see and hear him. "Rather than being part of the whole, students could just hear themselves," he said. "Being by yourself, and listening to yourself, you hear every mistake. This can make you more judgmental about your performance. And kids had to turn in digital recordings, which are simplified as there's no interaction, no process and performance aspects."

Adam's students had the hybrid learning experience from September of 2020 through April of 2021. "Some students were live and others were on their computers, interacting digitally with the students who were in class," he explained.

Finally, in April of 2021, all students were able to return to Gilbert. Adam recalled the May parking lot music concert as well. "It was noisy, with wind and airplanes and cars, but a dream after a year of not being together."

At the December 2021 concert in the auditorium, the teachers had to clear everything with the Department of Public Health and submit plans that followed all safety precautions from that time. Students ended up standing in four rows, each row with seven students that from end to end were 40 feet across because of the safe spacing guidelines.

With restrictions minimized, Adam was pleased that Gilbert could hold the Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM®) concert in March, with kids standing just six feet apart. "Everyone was in the same room, which was great," said Adam. "The middle school students could hear what the high school students had been doing for the past two years."

Adam is proud of his students. "They were great!" he exclaimed. "We never had any issues with change and transition. The kids were tremendously flexible.

"Hopefully, we'll never have to go through this again," he continued. "With music, live collaboration and interaction are key, and it evolves moment to moment. It's a give and take, and students learn from each other."

TGS 2022 Musical: *A Peachy Production!*

by Patricia Martin



A fantastical and imaginative production that takes you on an exciting magical journey! That was the Gilbert 2022 musical extravaganza, James and the Giant Peach!

With words and music by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul and book by Timothy Alan McDonald, the show is based on the storybook by Roald Dahl. It has all the elements to entertain and entrance an audience!

There's an imprisoned and enterprising young boy tormented by his two cruel and greedy aunties, a mysterious magical peach he rescues, and insect friends he makes along the way as they go on an amazing adventure together. The audience is led from one incredible scene to another by the narrator, who is a storyteller, emcee, and confidant. It's an ambitious show and the students rose to the occasion with an outstanding production worthy of a standing ovation!



James and the Giant Peach featured about 50 actors, singers, musicians, stage and tech hands from Gilbert Middle School and High School who made the play come alive. The show was directed by James Donohue, a professional actor and director with Seven Angels Theater in Waterbury, who has been directing TGS musicals for the past 10 years.



According to Scott Minnerly, TGS music teacher and band director, "It's a great experience for the kids to work with a stage professional." Scott's Theatre Tech classes designed and built the sets, did all the lighting, ran the soundboard, and served as backstage crew.

Gilbert music teacher and choral director Adam Atkins worked with the singers as well as conducting the pit orchestra. "The kids did great, and the Baptist/ Gospel number was so upbeat I'm sure it stayed in people's heads for a long time!"

James Donohue applauded the students who worked tirelessly on stage, offstage, and backstage on the production. "They created the sweetest and peachiest whirlwind-of-wonderful musical," he said. "Over the last ten years of serving as the Director of TGS Drama, I have found myself impressed with the students' dedication and enthusiasm as they bring the words and notes from the page to the stage.

"For many, theater can be an escape from reality for a moment. And in today's world--more than ever--we could use a break." He continued. "As you put away your travel-size hand sanitizer, it is obvious that the realities of today's world can seem overwhelming. Knowledge is an important tool to help us navigate through these scary times, but let's not forget that imagination is the secret ingredient."

This year, James dedicated the performance to "those who believe a better world is possible." Thanks to Gilbert School thespians and crew, the world became a lot brighter this April!

Lauren Bannon Named *Teacher of the Year*

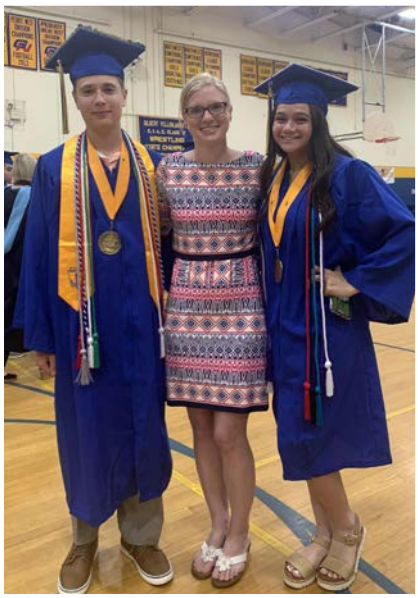
by Patricia Martin



It's an established Gilbert tradition that each year the teachers and staff nominate the teacher they feel is deserving of the honor of being proclaimed "Teacher of the Year." This year's recipient of the award—by an overwhelming majority of nominations—is math teacher, Lauren Bannon.

A graduate of SUNY Cortland with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics Education and a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, Lauren joined Gilbert right out of college 11 years ago. The first year she taught middle school math, and for the past decade has been teaching high school math. "I love teaching and building relationships with my students," she said. "I enjoy the challenge of working with students who may be struggling with math and getting them to enjoy it and excel."

Another Gilbert tradition is that the Teacher of the Year award is presented by the previous year's winner. "I was very shocked!" Lauren said when her name was called out and the award was presented by Patrick Cooke in front of the entire student body, faculty and staff, and her family. "My husband, Quinn, my daughter Natalie, and my son Jack were on stage, along with my parents. I am so thankful and humbled my peers think so highly of me—this is such an honor!"





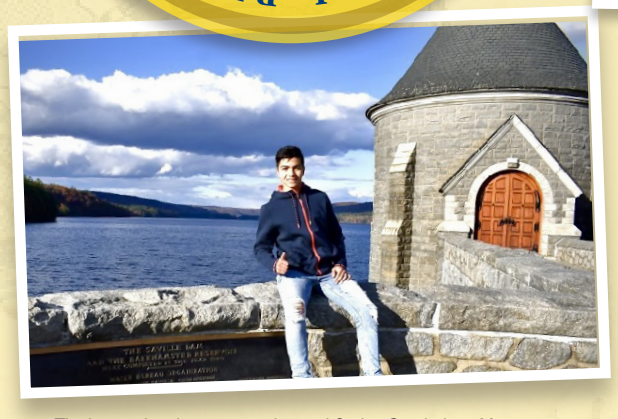
Head of School Greg Shugrue believes that Lauren represents all that is good about The Gilbert School. "Gilbert is thrilled to have Lauren represent us as the 2023 Teacher of the year," he said. "Lauren is a student-first teacher who goes above and beyond for her students. She is engaging, student-centered, and always striving to make meaningful connections with her students. Her classroom is a place where learners feel encouraged, safe, supported, and challenged."

A busy working mom, this summer Lauren plans to recharge by enjoying time with her family. "My daughter is five and my son is one-and-a-half," she said. "We'll spend a lot of time relaxing at Candlewood Lake. It's so beautiful!" When she returns to teaching in the fall, Lauren knows she has a home-away-from-home at Gilbert. "I love it here so much, and I love our school traditions," she said. "It's so tightknit, there's definitely a family feel."

POSTCARDS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM



In January, Dean of Admissions, Debra LaRoche Walls, along with her husband Stuart, chaperoned four students to Butternut Basin in Massachusetts for a fun day of tubing. The temperature for the day was a chilling 10 degrees but everyone enjoyed themselves. The students who joined for the day were Richard Sebastian from Indonesia, Carlos Garcia from Mexico, Alan Wan from China, and Jhonatan Silveira from Brazil.



The international program welcomed Carlos Garcia from Monterrey, Mexico this fall. One of his first sight-seeing visits in the area was to nearby Seville Dam in Barkhamsted.



International senior student, Alan Wan, joined the Gilbert Soccer team this fall. Alan was the alternate goalie for the team. He joined the international program in 2019 and graduated this June. He will be attending American University in Washington, DC this fall. We wish Alan the very best as he moves on to his college career.



Andrew Park, 10th grader from Korea, played on both the Junior Varsity and Varsity Gilbert Boys' Gilbert Basketball teams this season. In addition to participating on the basketball team, he was chosen for the Berkshire League Team for Track. For all four quarters this school year Andrew was a High Honors student. He will be returning to Gilbert in the fall for his junior year. His educational goal is to be accepted to an Ivy League university upon his graduation in 2024.



In April, Residential Coordinator, Christina Rutherford, took a few of the international students out to dinner for a cultural meal. The best part of the evening was a visit to the ice cream parlor for a delicious ice cream dessert! Students who enjoyed the evening were Carlos Garcia, Jhonatan Silveira, Alan Wan, and in the back row, Ivan Lyu.



The international program welcomed it's first full-year student from Brazil this fall. Jhonatan Silveira joined as an 11th grade student and has made many friends who attend Gilbert from his hometown area. Jhonatan joined the boys soccer team in the fall and we look forward to him returning for his senior year in late August. He brings warmth and charm to us from his Brazilian culture. He can be seen almost daily at the Winsted YMCA working out with his new friends. He is a welcome addition to our international family.

Continued...



Carlos Garcia, 10th grader from Monterrey, Mexico had a very active year making many new friendships at Gilbert and joining many sports teams. Carlos was an integral part of Gilbert's Wrestling team. Here he is ready to meet his opponent.



POSTCARDS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Coming from Mexico, #22, Carlos Garcia was a natural soccer player when he joined Gilbert's soccer team this past fall. He scored the first goal of the season! This year, the soccer team began with a new and encouraging coach and had a large number of new soccer players, making it a challenging and learning year for the team. Carlos plans on returning to Gilbert in August to rejoin all of the new friends he has made and will play for his second year on the soccer team. Way to go Carlos!



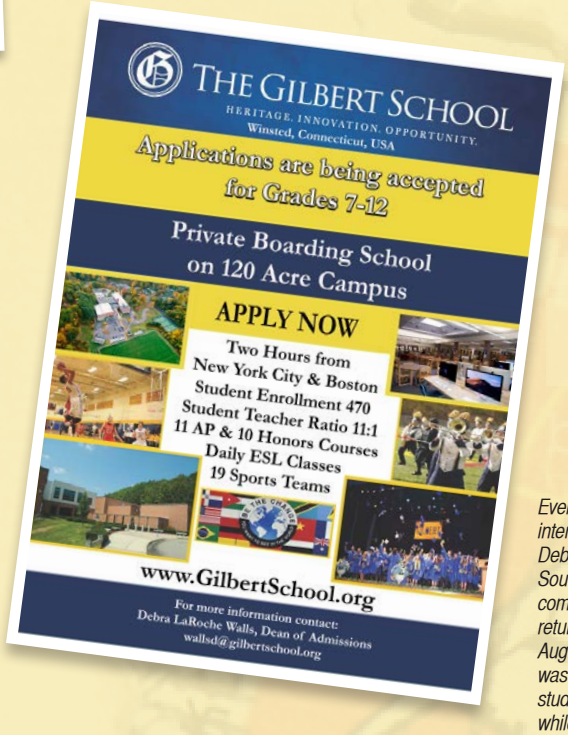
Bruce Zheng joined the Gilbert School in January 2019 with a dual enrollment with Hartt School of Music in Hartford. This fall, he was awarded a certificate in recognition of the Pursuit of Excellence in Music from the Connecticut Music Educators Association. Bruce has been in music and band classes and performed in concerts and the marching band since his arrival to the international program. He recently received his acceptance letter to attend Hartt School of Music and has been awarded a $24,000 scholarship for each of his four years at Hartt. Thank you, Bruce, for all of the great percussion musical talent you added to our school performances at Gilbert. Best wishes as you continue your college journey!



This fall, we welcomed for the first time two 11th grade students from Sao Paulo, Brazil. The students, Luiza Magalhaes, and Jhonatan Silveira, were hometown friends and shared the flight to JFK and one semester together. Luiza enrolled at Gilbert for one semester for her first American experience. Jhonatan, who completed the year, joined the boys soccer team and made his first High Honors quarter this past April. Jhonatan enjoyed attending Gilbert's Prom and has made friends with ninth grader, Bernardo, who is from his home town in Brazil. We look forward to welcoming Jhonatan back to Gilbert to complete his senior year. Obrigado Jhonatan for a great year with us!



On June 9, 2022, nine international students earned their Gilbert School diploma. Each of the students from China have been with the program for at least three years. The graduates have all been accepted to impressive U.S. colleges and universities and we wish them continued success in their future accomplishments. The graduates are Iven Cai, Frank Guan, Kyle He, Kevin Li, Alan Wan, Kai Wang, Derrick Xu, Kristofer Zhang and Bruce Zheng. Best wishes to all the Gilbert graduates!



Every year since 2013, The Gilbert School has been welcoming international students from around the globe. Dean of Admissions, Debra LaRoche Walls, is honored to welcome new students from South Korea, Brazil, and Vietnam this coming fall. Applications are still coming in and interviews with students take place every week. New and returning international students will be picked up at the JFK Airport in late August for a complimentary coach bus ride to the Residency Hall that was completed in the spring of 2017. The hall houses the international students and the Residential Coordinators who are their guardians while attending their school year at Gilbert. If you know any international student interested in joining Gilbert, please reach out to Debra at wallsd@gilbertschool.org to begin the admissions process.

Sports Scrapbook

Highlights by Buckley W. Morgan, II, Athletic Director

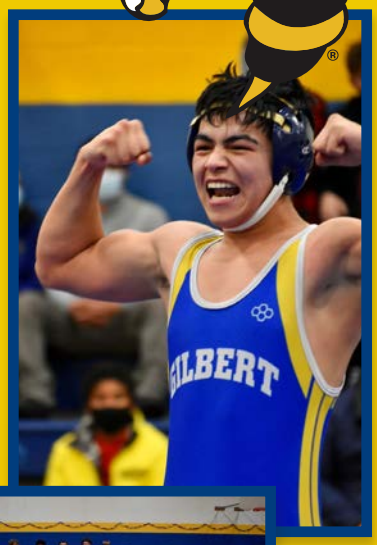


At The Gilbert School we call our athletes "Student-Athletes" for a reason. Academics comes first and our students do an outstanding job of balancing academics and sports. These are our Scholar Athlete statistics by season:

Fall Season - 57 Varsity Athletes, 75.5% made Scholar Athlete Status
Winter Season - 57 Varsity Athletes, 53% made Scholar Athlete Status
Spring Season - 48 Varsity student-athletes, 73% made Scholar Athlete Status

Our Scholar Athletes must meet all the requirements to make the varsity team and be on the school honors or high honors list. The Scholar Athlete epitomizes the term "Student-Athlete".

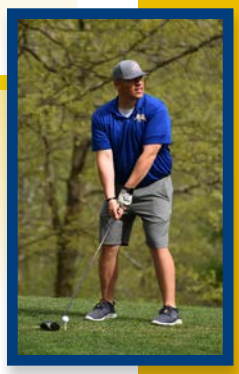
We had two Scholar Athletes who were chosen as the best of the best for their academic and athletic abilities. These two student athletes were honored at a state-wide banquet, along with Scholar athletes from every other high school in the state. Congratulations to Ajla Gutic and Nathan Fields!



Congratulations are in order as Gilbert had five student athletes selected for Berkshire League All-Star status. These athletes are selected by all of the Berkshire League coaches as being the best in the league for that sport.

Ajla Gutic - All Star for Track and Field - Discus
Emily Arel - All Star for Girls Basketball and she is only a freshman right now!
Sam Goncalves - All Star Wrestling 120 lbs.
Hosam Abdullah - All Star Wrestling 126 lbs.
Jonathan Eagan - All Star Wrestling 132 lbs.







Gilbert School Athletics returned to The Blue and Gold Golf Tournament fundraiser on May 14th, after a three-year break due to Covid. ***It was a very successful event with 124 golfers participating and over $15,000 raised for Gilbert Athletics.*** Next year we hope to fill the course with 136 golfers. Plan to participate!







Continued...

Sports Scrapbook Continued

















Jennifer Allen Gilley, *1987*





Jennifer (Allen) Gilley, class of 1987, earned a BA in English from University of Connecticut in 1991, Master of Education from University of Saint Joseph in 2011, and Master of Arts in English Literature from Trinity College in 2019. She currently teaches English at The Gilbert School and Northwestern Connecticut Community College.

Jennifer teaches the Creative Writing Class at Gilbert and the following are highlights of student projects. In this workshop-driven class, students analyze the elements of high quality writing by exploring various genres, including short stories, poetry, creative non-fiction and more.

After studying exemplary works, students write their own creative pieces, honing their skills by drafting, editing, revising, and sharing their work.



For the Music Quest project developed by English Department Chair, Francesca Daniele, students worked in small groups to identify characteristics of high quality writing within the music they enjoy. Each group created a visual representation of a literary device and presented an oral explanation of how the device functions to enhance the overall meaning of the song.

Hannah Valdespino, Class of 2024, Angelina Morales, Class of 2023, and Kohana Mehl-McKee, Class of 2023, display their collaborative Music Quest poster. Photo by Steve Hodges.



During the planning phase of the script writing unit, students compared storytelling to a search for buried treasure inspired by a story map template shared by Jason Hellerman on his screenwriting website called No Film School.

Kohana Mehl-Mckee, Class of 2023, holds her story map. Photo by Steve Hodges.

A Beautiful Car

by Hannah Valdespino

What a beautiful car.
Sleek black paint job
Silver rims, durable tires
But it's the small details
That really make her a Winchester

Sammy's toy army man shoved in the ashtray
Dean's legos shoved in the heat vent
Their initials carved in the dashboard
Make her truly theirs

When the heat comes on
Hear the legos rattle like a snake
The jingle of keys in the ignition
As the engine purrs away

Even after she was rebuilt from the ground up
These little details still remained
Even through the roughest weather
And harshest conditions
The paint job still remains shiny as if new

She carried them through thick and thin
Never let them down, not once
Even after everything she's done
Driving cross-country multiple times
She still purrs like a dream
She's a beautiful car.



In a written reflection of the poem, Hannah shares: "My goal for this piece was to make it good enough to the point where Dean Winchester [one of the main characters on the television show Supernatural] would think it's a good poem about his car. I actually felt better about it after sharing it with the class. I used a fresh idea that I thought was cool."

Creative writer, Hannah Valdespino, Class of 2024. Photo by Steve Hodges

Dr. Priscilla Allen, *1986*

Interviewed by Angelique Hernandez, Class of 2024





What have you done since you graduated from The Gilbert School?
Oh, goodness, a lot, that was almost 40 years ago! I earned a BA in Sociology from Keene State College in New Hampshire, a Master of Social Work from UConn, and a PhD from Fordham University in New York City. I was a social worker in the town of Canaan and then at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and later in Madison, Connecticut. I also worked as an Ombudsman in Connecticut, advocating for people in nursing homes. After earning my PhD, I moved to Louisiana where I have been teaching graduate and undergraduate students in social work for over 20 years. I have traveled widely due to my job as a social work professor. I am very blessed to live and teach in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with my 10-year-old son and two dogs.

Fun fact: Dr. Allen sat at the same table with the president of Fiji and they hit it off. The evening ended with the two singing "Hotel California" together.

What do you remember from your time at The Gilbert School?
I remember so many things, but "Poetry of Rock" class with Mr. Reynolds stands out. He urged me to pursue college out of state. I remember taking typing with Ms. Scaia, Algebra with Ms. Lang, who loved Bruce Springsteen, and Economics with Mr. Hunt. I also remember witnessing the Challenger explosion in 1986 in class. I remember eating delicious lunches for $1.25 in the cafeteria.

My sister (Mrs. Gilley herself – Jennifer Allen Gilley, Class of 1987 and current English teacher at Gilbert) was my strongest support and most cherished best friend. My time at Gilbert was both vulnerable and joyful. It was nice to hang around with a variety of different groups of people, and to gather in remote places when we didn't have cell phones, but we always found each other. I was a cheerleader and I sang in the choir at Gilbert. My parents came to all of my meets and concerts. I loved the support of the faculty. I joined the swim team even though I was a terrible swimmer. I threw the shotput (badly) in track which always makes me laugh, but Mrs. Vaccari and Mr. McKie were encouraging. I was lucky that my sister and I had such a strong bond and that we had a creative group of friends.

What things might you regret about this time?
We all will have those dark corners. I pushed my boundaries and thought I knew more than I did at times, but I learned the most from people who pushed me the hardest. Sometimes I wish I could go back and tell myself not to be in such a hurry to grow up. I could have worked a little harder in some of my classes and listened more to my teachers, who often knew my strengths even when I didn't.

What from your time at Gilbert applied to real-life?
I'm grateful for all of it, and high school is real life - we grow older and learn more, but we are who we are and if we're lucky, we are grateful for the people who helped shape us. At Gilbert, I was exposed to history, people, writing, art, music, I even learned to do my taxes in the 9th grade with Mr. Fortuna. I learned to start seeing myself as a whole, capable, individual from a beautiful town in Northwest Connecticut. Winsted is a part of who I am. Gilbert was a wonderful place to have attended as it gave me a solid base from which to grow.

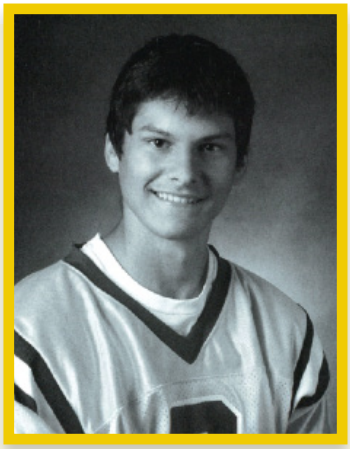


Angelique Athena Hernandez, class of 2024, is a young artist who aspires to draw and write one day. Creativity flows from her like the aurora borealis in colorful waves in the sky. She has gotten many compliments on her artwork and won a medal in grammatical subjects. She is interested in reading and thinks writing romance tales is one of the best dreams there can be.

Casey Ramthun, 2010

Interviewed by Angelina Morales, Class of 2024





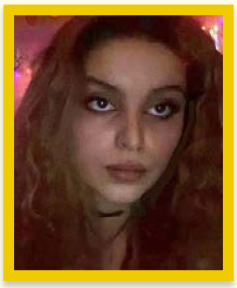
What have you done since you graduated?
I kept pursuing school after I graduated from Gilbert. I went to Kendall College of Art and Design, an art school here in Michigan, where I live now. When I graduated, I fell into substitute teaching and continued going down the path of education. I went back to Kendall and got my Art Education Certificate. I am now an art teacher at City High Middle School. I am really happy with the road I took.

What's your favorite part about being an art teacher?
Definitely working with the middle school students. It's really fun to see their random drawings that they want to show me their work every day. Just drawing with them and seeing what they are making is very enjoyable.

What do you remember from your time at Gilbert?
The thing I remember the most are my friends. I felt that we had a really amazing graduating class. Also, I remember the teachers, Ms. Lewis, Mrs. Hurley, and Mrs. Steinway were great mentors for me, especially now that I ended up as a teacher. I also remember the awesome staff and students at Gilbert. It really was a fun experience, even if we got up to trouble a little bit.

What lessons from Gilbert did you apply to the real world? That's a loaded question. I learned how important it is to have good friends and to stick by their side. I had a really awesome friend group there. I moved to Gilbert freshman year, the month before school started. I wasn't really feeling sure of things because I left a lot of my friends back here in Michigan. However, I was very fortunate to fall in with a lot of cool groups of people. Overall, a great lesson is, don't be afraid to make new friends.

What advice would you give to current students?
Don't be afraid to try new things. I went back to school, twice, three times, and changed what I wanted to do. If your path takes you down multiple roads, then that's totally fine. Seek out new information.



Angelina Morales, Sophomore, a high honors student at The Gilbert School, has been selected for awards in English, Math, and Science for multiple years. She recently published three pieces on Teen Ink, one of them getting an editor's choice award. Angelina loves to paint, read, and write.

Theodore Smith, 2017

Interviewed by Avianna Tejeda, Class of 2025





What do you remember from your time at Gilbert?
The things that always stick out to me are being a part of the kind of smaller communities within Gilbert, such as the soccer team and the music department. Gilbert itself is a small community. It's something I always liked. The school I teach at is about the same size as Gilbert, maybe a bit smaller, and the college I went to was pretty small as far as colleges go. Another thing that I remember was once your teacher was done being your teacher, they didn't disappear. They were always there to offer support and guidance and I thought that was a pretty nice element of life at Gilbert.

What lessons from Gilbert did you apply to the real world?
I was a big procrastinator. It was hard for me to get things done. I mean, I ended up doing pretty well, but it was always last minute. I had teachers telling me you've got to figure this out or you're going to struggle when you get to college. They were right. I was able to kind of get my stuff together and understand the meaning of that advice. I would call that my most important life lesson from Gilbert.

What advice would you give current students?
Something I tell my students now is that you don't have to have your life figured out by the time you're a senior. You don't have to know what you want to major in during college and you certainly don't have to know what career you want to go into. I think we have to allow students more time to figure that out. If you want to take a gap year, you take a gap year. If you want to go to a community college and figure it out, or if you just want to study something but you're not sure what you want do, feel free to explore. That's what I ended up doing. I went to Holy Cross, it's a four-year school. I actually went there to get a history degree, and then I fell in love with philosophy. It's not the most lucrative career but it is my passion. You don't have to rush, just breathe a little bit.

What was your first job?
"My first job was at a coffee shop called "Cool Beans".

What's your job now?
Currently, I'm a Theology and Philosophy teacher at Marianapolis Prep School in Thompson, Connecticut.

What was your favorite class at Gilbert?
There were a lot of good ones. That's a difficult question to answer. It was probably AP Lit with Deb Lewis but I also really enjoyed Latin with Mr. Higgins. If I had to pick it would probably be AP Lit because that was terrific. I still have the tee-shirt. AP Lit 2012, good times!

Who was your favorite teacher at Gilbert?
Well, these are the hard-hitting questions. I did have a lot of teachers that I loved. I feel like I'm going to end up forgetting somebody, but I would probably throw Scott Minnerly on the top of the heap. Bands are pretty special for those who are involved. But if it's an academic--not that band is not academic--it was probably Ms. Lewis or Mr. Hicks.



Avianna Tejeda, Grade 9, enjoys cooking for her family, eating pasta, and writing silly short stories. She loves reading conspiracies and trying to prove whether they're real or not. She has been on the honor roll every quarter of her first year at Gilbert. She hopes to go to a good college. She's a Gordan Ramsey-loving aspiring writer who tries to get out of her comfort zone.

Molly Aiudi, 2017

Interviewed by Kohana Mehl-McKee, Class of 2023





What have you done since graduating from Gilbert?
I went to Susquehanna University on a writing scholarship, which was very nice. I studied Creative Writing and Publishing/ Editing and I specialized in fiction, but I also write poetry and non-fiction. I was an intern at the Lakefield Journal the summer after my freshman year of college. I was there for three weeks as an unpaid intern, and I learned a lot about the newspaper industry, interviewing, and writing articles. I did some freelance writing of health articles for them. After that, I worked at Susquehanna's library as a service desk clerk. Another exciting thing I did while in college was study abroad in Ireland. After college, I landed my current position of supervising the children and teen departments at the Beekley Library in New Hartford.

What do you remember from your time at Gilbert?
Oh, wow - so much! I was highly involved in the school. I was in honors and AP courses, the marching band, the jazz band. I also played sports. I was on the volleyball team and the softball team. One of the most memorable things that happened to me at Gilbert was applying to so many different colleges during my senior year. I didn't think anything of it when I applied to Susquehanna. I only applied because they had a good writing department. I just remember thinking when I got an acceptance letter in three days that the program was going to be horrible. It turned out to be an incredible program. I remember all the help I got at Gilbert when I was applying. I got such great letters of recommendation from the staff.

The thing that had the greatest impact on me during my time at Gilbert was when I was truly allowed to stretch my senior year and do an independent creative writing study with Mrs. Gilley. I was able to experience a breakthrough with creative writing and academic writing and learn how they aren't mutually exclusive. I am so incredibly grateful for that.

What lessons from Gilbert did you apply to the real world?
Gilbert is the type of school that allows you to be involved everywhere: honors, sports, band. A lot of schools won't allow you to do all those things at once, so I feel that one of the big lessons I learned was that I was able to go into my undergraduate years with a well-rounded mindset. I knew how to branch off at the university and with my writing because everything that I experienced in Gilbert would always play a hand. Also, I think Gilbert was a much more liberal and diverse place than Susquehanna. I had a very different perspective than a lot of the people around me, so I was able to go there with that mindset. Honestly, I think that helped me influence other people there.

What advice would you give to current students at Gilbert?
Just to really take advantage of the many different opportunities. I don't think a lot of other schools give the same amount of personal attention. At Gilbert, there is such a good student-to-staff ratio and the teachers are so accommodating. Really gaining that relationship with that staff and taking advantage of all the opportunities presented at the school, especially if you're pursuing higher education, is my advice.



Kohana Mehl-McKee is a Junior at The Gilbert School. Mainly, she focuses on fiction writing, including but not exclusive to novels, prose, and poetry. She served as a writer's apprentice for the Mark Twain House and Museum through the Hartford Arts Center, where she wrote a creative portfolio in addition to exhibit pieces and won "Overall Best" and "Best World Building." Recently, she won a regional "Silver Key" award in the Scholastic Writing Competition, and she's also been published in Teen Ink. Along with writing, her interests include reading, playing piano, and researching political theory.

Ellen Geraghty, *1998*
Paying It Forward is a Way of Life

by Patricia Martin



TGS alumni Ellen Geraghty spoke from her cell phone on the road as she and her partner were leaving Boston and heading out into the great unknown for whatever comes their way. "I feel like the world is our oyster," she said. "I have a desire to love and serve and give back, and believe divine guidance will show us where to go and what to do next."

Ellen graduated from Gilbert, Class of 1998, as did her brother, Dan, Class of 1996, and her sister, Karianne, Class of 1999. She excelled at basketball during her time at Gilbert under coach Gerry Hicks, Class of 1969, and was a two-time captain. Ellen also became Gilbert's all-time leading scorer with 1,806 points, a four-time All-Berkshire League athlete, and a three-time all-state selection. She later won two America East Conference titles and played a Women's National Invitation Tournament and two NCAA tournaments at the University of Maine, Orono. In 2007 Ellen was awarded The Gilbert School's Distinguished Alumni Award in Athletics.

The Gilbert experience helped to shape Ellen and her drive to be not only the best she could be but to be giving and caring. "We had wonderful, gracious teachers, staff, parents, teammates, and classmates, with a heart for community," she explained. "They instilled in me what it means to work hard, be a lifelong learner, and think big! They guided my steps, providing me with great opportunities. I'm so grateful and I will do all I can to keep paying it forward."





Ellen knows her time at The Gilbert School prepared her for success in college. "My teachers were supportive and the classes were demanding," she said. "I took AP and UConn courses, so by the time I graduated I had more than an entire semester of college courses completed."

Ellen graduated from The University of Maine in 2003 with a degree in psychology. During and after her time there she competed for Athletes in Action around the world—from the U.S. to the Czech Republic and from Spain and Columbia, adding stints as a professional in both Sweden and Columbia. "The opportunity to play basketball has impacted the entire trajectory of my life," she said.

Continued...

Ellen Geraghty, Continued...



Ellen went on to earn her Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia in 2017. She has now just "retired" from serving as a mobile crisis clinician in the Boston area for the past four years. "I had a great supervisor and great training," she said. "The people we served were in imminent danger to themselves or others. We were taught to treat everyone with love and respect, and go the extra mile. It was a very humbling and beautiful opportunity to learn and grow, and put the world in perspective."

Awareness of the need for mental health services for struggling athletes is now widespread. "It's no longer going unnoticed, or not talked about—the floodgates have opened," Ellen explained. "It's at all levels—NBA, WNBA, the Olympics, gymnastics, pro soccer, and more. It's about the mind and body both working. Being an athlete with experience as a crisis clinician, I've been there, done that, walked the path. I'd like to pay it forward and become a resource to support and help others."

This past April, Ellen earned another honor when she was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. The organization "seeks to honor those who, in a superlative fashion, have contributed to the enhancement of women's basketball in Connecticut—either through participation, service, support, or achievement."

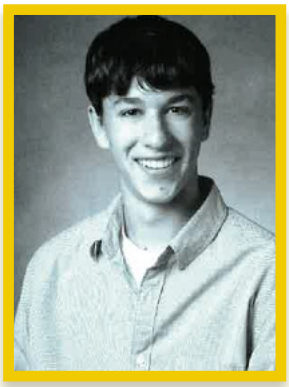
The ceremony took place at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, which Ellen said was "Exciting and scary!" She was gratified by all those from her Gilbert days who made a special effort to attend the celebration. "My teacher, Mr. Schroeder, my teacher and coach, Mr. Hicks, and my athletic director, Mr. Gamari were all there," she said. "Also, my Gilbert teammates Holly Zelenkewich, Class of 1998, and Erin Donovan, Class of 1998. They all came to see me inducted, which meant a lot!"

So far, Ellen has lived an accomplished life of passion, talent, and service. And now she'll be moving forward to the next chapter in her life and new adventures, as she continues to seek opportunities to keep paying it forward!



Nicholas Berger, 2010
Working On Water Gets in Your Blood

by Patricia Martin



Whoever thought a young man from a landlocked small town in Connecticut would end up the captain of a tugboat stationed in Houston, Texas, one of the busiest seaports in the world?

That's exactly what happened to Nick Berger, TGS class of 2010, who explains, "Working outdoors on water gets in your blood."

Nick is a third generation Gilbert grad. His maternal grandparents went to Gilbert, his parents met at Gilbert, and his older sister Victoria, Class of 2005, graduated five years ahead of him. "My parents still live in Winchester," said Nick, who is now raising his own family in the Greater Houston area.



Nick fondly recalls his English teacher, Deb Lewis, who is now the Assistant Principal for the High School at Gilbert. "I was a good student and had good relationships with other students, and she wanted me in her class because she had 13 girls and no boys," he said. "I also think she liked that I was a bit rebellious. I think she enjoyed a bit of a challenge."

While at Gilbert, Nick spent four years on the swim team. "I managed to set two records," he said. "One for the 100-meter breaststroke and the other for the 200-meter relay. I don't know if anyone else has broken them since."



While he excelled at swimming, Nick's love of being outside on the water began when he and his family would go to their beach home in Weekapaug, Rhode Island. "We had a Boston Whaler and rode all around the islands and the Connecticut shore," he recalls. "I fell in love with the freedom of it."

Following his graduation from Gilbert, Nick wanted to learn how to design boats and went to SUNY Maritime College, which is located in the Bronx under the Throgs Neck Bridge. "I got an engineering degree in naval architecture, and can design anything that floats," he said.

But Nick realized that he did not want to work inside, sitting in an office all day—he'd rather spend time outside, on a boat. This led him to graduate with a U.S. Coast Guard 3rd Mate's license, which qualified him to work on ships within the U.S. Merchant Marine fleet.

"There are several levels," explained Nick. "Third Mate is an entry level officer, then there is 2nd Mate and 1st Mate, followed by Captain. When you're in school, you need to get practical experience on sea-going vessels, which is called 'sea time'. You also must continue to take classes and pass tests."

While he was training, Nick accrued sea time travelling to 11 countries on a converted freighter that was 565' long and held between 400 and 500 students. "We were put to work—operating winches, doing vessel maintenance, and other hands-on tasks."

Nick continued with his studies and took the battery of proficiency tests required to get a captain's license. "I've been a captain for three years in July," he said proudly.

Nick now leads a crew of three, operating the 100' long Haden II tugboat, assisting oil tankers, container ships, and other large vessels to dock safely at the Port of Houston. "Hayden II is the quintessential black and red 'Little Toot,'" he said. "We live onboard and I walk to my office every day, which is now the wheelhouse. The four of us trust one another implicitly to keep one another safe when we're on duty. We are like a family."

Nick spends seven days onboard the Hayden II, working two shifts during each 24 hour day, and then has seven days off to spend at home with his wife, Amy, seven-year-old son Beckham, and two-year old son, Warren. Technology helps them to stay connected when dad's on the job. "We Facetime every morning before school, and every day after school. Houston has everything and is a great place to raise a family."

REUNIONS

We Are Celebrating Reunions Again!

When you are ready, let us know how we can help. Contact us at: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Class of 1955

The Class of 1955 celebrated their 66th reunion at a luncheon on September 4, 2021. Eight classmates and some friends met at Mario's Restaurant in Winsted. Classmates drove from as far away as Boston, Long Island, and Buffalo to attend this very special event.

A special memory board with photos of their time at Gilbert was enjoyed by the attendees during their social hour before lunch. Gilbert Trustee Craig Schroeder was on hand to speak to the group about the status of Gilbert and the many interesting changes since the Class of 1955 walked the halls of The Gilbert School.

The meeting was so enjoyable that the classmates plan to try to make this an annual event. Best wishes to the Class of 1955!



Left to right sitting: Kay (Lambert) Sobol, Sylvia (Noel) Bovi, Beverly Navin, Marcella (Casey) Miller, Donald Pranka, Josephine Radocchio. Top row left to right standing: Robert Sturm, Paul Felgate, Marie (Brady) Smith, Ken Church, Jim Foster.

Class of 1957

The Class of 1957 celebrated their 65th Class Reunion with a luncheon at Mario's Restaurant in Winsted on Friday, June 17, 2022. Fourteen classmates and six partners and friends enjoyed delicious food and an afternoon of catching up at this special event. The classmates and friends spent some time looking at photo albums and class trivia from their past, shared by Janet Stack. Fran Schaller made beautiful gift bags for everyone, tied with a flower and a 65 in honor of their reunion. Fran also brought roses for the classmates that have passed away.

Classmates who attended: Bill Angus and his wife Carol, Bruce Boyle and his wife Judy, Juneth (LaGier) Christiansen, Yvonne (Dutcher) Connor and her husband Bill, Antoinette (Lazzaro) Lewis, Carolee (DiMartino) Salisbury and her daughter, Charlie Day, Tom Nelson, Dave Hurlbut and his wife, Linda (Fratini) DiBerardino and her husband Vinny, Ellen (Rosati) Carrozzo, Fran (DePaoli)Schaller, and Janet (Hazzard) Stack.



Carolee (DiMartino) Salsibury



Vinny & Linda (Fratini) DiBarardino



Juneth (LaGier) Christiansen & Yvonne (Dutcher) Connor



Carolee (DiMartino) Salisbury, Janet (Hazzard) Stack, Charlie Day



Judy Boyle, Bruce Boyle, Janet (Hazzard) Stack, Bill Angus

Upcoming Reunions – Save the Date!

Class of 2012

Celebrating their 10 Year Class Reunion

Saturday, July 9, 2022
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Brewery Legitimus
283 Main Street
New Hartford
Please contact Samantha Lovetere at
samanthaj.lovetere@gmail.com for more information.

We hope to see you there!



Class of 1972

Celebrating their 50th Class Reunion

A Weekend of Fun and Catching Up!
Friday, October 21 & Saturday, October 22, 2022

Dennis Marolda and his DenMar Jamz band will play at **Little Red Barn Brewers,** 32 Lake Street in Winsted for a Welcome Home Happy Hour on Friday, October 21st from 6 to 9 p.m. It promises to be a casual but lively evening – feel free to drop in for just a drink or two. . . or make a night of it!

The Saturday Night Dinner, featuring Oldies Music, will be held at the **Green Woods Country Club,** 300 Torringford Street in Winsted starting at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, please contact
Roger Leighton at (585) 261-0438
Rich Beebe at (203) 725-6637
Jeanie Fracasso at (860) 309-8929



Illustration by Andrew Leighton

Class of 1997

Celebrating their 25th Class Reunion

Saturday, November 12, 2022
5:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Green Woods Country Club
Winsted, Connecticut
More details to come!

Please contact Andi (Nagel) Gendell at
andigendell@gmail.com **or (619) 820-4957**



Class Notes ~ *Where are they now?*

Items included in the *Class Notes* Section of the *YellowJacket* are submitted directly to us by alumni or are gathered from public sources such as local newspapers. The purpose of alumni news is to pass on good news, good wishes, and to recognize your accomplishments. The more information we receive from you, the more fun and informative we can make this section, **so PLEASE keep us up to date on your latest news!**



1946
Edward Scofield writes:
I am a WWII Navy veteran, a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, I served on the Stamford Board of Representatives from 1957 - 1962, and I served as P.T.A. President. I have four children and four grandchildren. I am a retired architect.
A life well lived, Edward!



1947
Gloria McKinnon-Perret writes:
Greetings. I am now a widow as of December 16, 2020 thanks to the awful Covid 19 virus, but I did have 61 wonderful years. I wonder how many of my class of 1947 are still living.
We wonder too, Gloria!



1950
Mary (Mollica) Fantino writes:
Hello Gilbert! I have such good memories of Gilbert. It has been a long time and I wonder how many are still with us. I talk to Gloria John often from Torrington. I would love to know who else is still alive. I will turn 90 on February 22, 2022 – wow! I have two living sons who are 66 and 70 years old. I have two granddaughters and two great grandchildren, Maddy and Ryan. My health is very good and I'm still walking. Life is good!
We are so happy for you, Mary!



1950
Jean (Woodward) Partridge writes:
I still hold so many wonderful memories of growing up in Winsted. I recently moved into a retirement community.
Best Wishes Jean!



1957
Alan Lawson, Sr. writes:
I am a retired U.S. Army Sergeant and retired Winsted Police Department Detective Sergeant. I married Denise (Shopey) Lawson, Class of 1955, former Winsted Police Department Officer. I recently moved from Florida and now reside in North Carolina.
Thanks for writing, Alan!

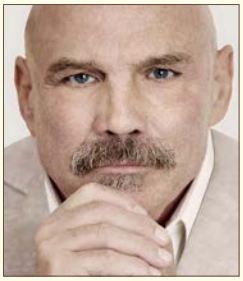


1960
Irene (Chryznowski) Dakin
Irene writes that she was recovering from Covid and was anxiously awaiting meeting her great grandchild, Rylie, and she could not wait! Irene tells us that with her busy life and her grandchildren marrying and bringing husbands into the family fold, she is having such fun.
We are glad to hear it, Irene!



1960
Paul Manchester writes:
Greetings from Silver Spring, MD, from Paul Manchester, Class of 1960! I have had a 43-year career as an economist with the federal government. I am still doing some consulting work as well as overdue chores at home. My wife Ruth works part-time teaching Art History at a local community college and serves as parish nurse at our church. Our daughter Sarah (well known for winning $1 million on Wheel of Fortune a few years ago) is a math teacher. She and two of our four grandchildren also live in Silver Spring. Our son Dan, a crackerjack computer programmer, and his family live across the Potomac River in Arlington VA.
Best Wishes, Paul!

Continued



1968
Patrick Kilpatrick writes:
I ran for governor of California in the fall of 2021. I am writing and producing films. All of the children and grandchildren, Ben, Ian, Niko, Mila, Kia, and Olive are doing great! *That sounds wonderful, Patrick!*



1971
Joan Centrella
Dr. Joan M. Centrella, currently director of the **Bridge Initiative for Science and Technology Policy, Leadership, and Communications** at West Virginia university was honored with **NASA's Distinguished Service Medal** for a distinguished career of outstanding service to NASA, through scientific accomplishments and inspired leadership. This is NASA's highest form of recognition that is awarded to any Government employee who, by distinguished service, ability, or vision has personally contributed to NASA's advancement of United States' interests. The individual's achievement or contribution must demonstrate a level of excellence that has made a profound or indelible impact on NASA mission success, and therefore, the contribution is so extraordinary that other forms of recognition by NASA would be inadequate. *Congratulations, Joan!*



1971
Janice (Lataille) Senter
Class of 1971 alumni, Janice (Lataille) Senter and her husband, Dwight Senter, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 8, 2022. They have a son, age 48, who lives in North Carolina and a daughter, age 46, wo lives in Connecticut. Janice and Dwight live in West Virginia. *Congratulations, Janice and Dwight!*



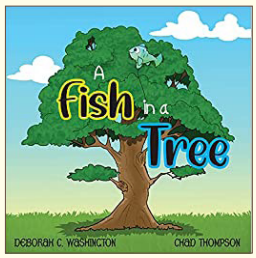
1971
Deborah Casey Washington writes:
Although I spent nearly eight years in the insurance industry, followed by 34 years in the US Post Office, the last 17 as Postmaster of my hometown, East Hartland, I have had a love of writing since third grade, when I won my first writing contest. I still remember some of the unusual, challenging writing prompts that our high school English teacher, Mrs. Sheldrick gave us.

I followed my passion for writing in many ways. During high school, I recruited some friends and we started a town newspaper, which we produced monthly for two years.

I wrote numerous articles for local publications, won a limerick contest, and two short story contests, but never invested enough time and energy on writing.

After retiring I thought I would spend more time writing, but found that many volunteer opportunities, spending time with my grandchildren, and trying to weed through a lifetime of accumulations filled my days. One day when my grandson excitedly came to me and said, "Grammy, Grammy, I saw a fish in a tree!", I immediately responded, "A fish in a tree, how can that be?" My wise husband said, "that sounds like a book." And soon it became just that.

My children's book, *A Fish in a Tree: A Children's Rhyming Story*, is for ages 4 – 8 and is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The book follows a fish shaped balloon that gets stuck in a tree and gently shows in rhyme that balloons don't mix with nature, and gives a lesson in reuse, recycle and renew, a lesson that children are never too young to learn.



I have a hard time fathoming that I graduated from Gilbert 50 years ago, but I will testify that it is never too late to pursue your dreams. After all, my uncle had a joke book published when he was 83! You can follow me on Facebook at Deborah C. Washington, Author, or on Instagram at deborah.c.washington, or at **www.dcwashingtonbooks.com**.

Thank you for the inspiring message, Deborah!

A Fish in a Tree:
A Children's Rhyming Story
Purchase at:
Amazon
Barnes & Noble

Connect with Deborah at:
Facebook
Instagram
Website

Continued

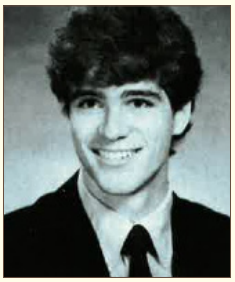
Class Notes, continued



1976
Michael Kelley writes:
I have been working at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. for the last 14 years. I am currently developing an International Mars Ice Mapper Mission, managing two orbital Mars missions, two space telescope missions, and an asteroid mission. I am serving as Lead Program Scientist in the Planetary Defense Coordination Office and overseeing The Antarctic Search for Meteorites Program. *Amazing accomplishments, Michael!*



1982
AJ Cappabianca writes:
I have been the owner of H&R Block in Winsted since 1987. I have one child, Andrew, who is starting college in 2022. He will either be attending Providence College or Fairfield University. *Congratulations!*



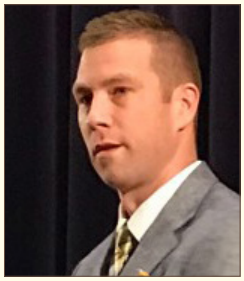
1986
James Walter writes:
My wife Ginger and I are proud to share with the Gilbert Alumni Office that we were blessed to bring into the world a baby boy named Ethan Zachary Walter who was born 11/15/2021 at 8 lbs. 1 oz. Mother, baby and older brother Declan are doing well although Ginger and I are really feeling our age with these newborn hours we are keeping. Apparently, I am destined to have the youngest child in my class. *Best wishes, James, Ginger, Declan & Ethan!*



1993
Richard Sherman
Richard writes that he is now living in Washington, D.C. and has a new job as a Senior Advisor at Blank Rome Government Relations. *Congratulations, Richard!*



1997
Joshua Leslie writes:
I graduated from Norwich University with a MS in Leadership in September of 2020 and followed that by getting married to my beautiful wife Rachel in June of 2021. *Congratulations, Joshua!*



1999
Donald Crossman
Donny Crossman, currently Department Chair and Career Technology Education teacher at The Gilbert School has been selected by The Connecticut Association of Schools as the winner of their "Outstanding Leadership Award." The criteria for this award include initiating innovative practices, overcoming situational obstacles, developing a clear vision, and demonstrating a willingness to take risks. Donny oversaw the first-ever summer school program at The Gilbert School, leading High School Associate Principal Debra Lewis to nominate him for this prestigious award. *Congratulations, Donny!*



2014
Julia Autumn Ford, performer, musician, and songwriter, recently joined the teaching staff at the Litchfield Music Center. She is currently running a series of summer music camps for children. *Awesome, Julia!*



2017
Courtney Clough writes:
After graduating from Gilbert, I went on to attend Roger Williams University where I received my B.S. in Marketing, Management, and International Studies. I graduated in June of 2021. I am now currently living in the Upper East Side of New York City, and work at ICSC as an Events Associate. *Best Wishes, Courtney!*



2021
Gilbert Flores & Felicity Flores
both made the Lyndon Hornets Soccer team at Northern Vermont University. Gilbert is a striker and Felicity is a midfielder/defender. *Congratulations to you both!*

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Whatever good news you have to share, your Gilbert Family wants to know! Photos for publication are always welcome!
Send news to the Alumni Department at:
gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Donations

Thank You Alumni and Friends for Your Generosity!

The following donations were received between June 16, 2021 and June 1, 2022.
Every effort to ensure accuracy has been made. However, if you locate an error or omission, please accept our apologies and notify the Alumni Office at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Enrichment Donations

Gilbert Circle ($1000 +)
Dr. Joan Centrella, 1971 & Dwight Allen
Paul B. Manchester, 1960
Charles & Ellen (Vaccari) Seaback, 1972
Dr. Anthony Serio

Blue & Gold Club ($500 - $999)
Patricia Bourque
JoAnn & Harry Briggs
Rita (Fracasso) Broggi, 1960
Alan & Pam (Flaherty) Colavecchio, 1969
Dr. Richard, 1979 & Greykell Dutton
Gregory Eldridge, 1977
Lisa (Lamoureaux) Garrahan, 1981
Christine (Wiarda) Hurley, 1987
S. Peter Manchester, 1958
Attorney Ellen C. Marino, 1983
Concetto J. & Ellen (Cormier) Marino, 1982/1983
Northwest CT Realty
David Sartirana, 1978

Patrons ($200 - $499)
Elizabeth Allen, 1982
Alison Bourque, 1994
John Bushnell, 1951
Donald Crossman, 2000
Beverly (Peterson) Davis, 1957
Ted E. Davis, 1956
Philip J. DiCara, 1943
Karen (Horn) Dooks, 1960
Heather (Case) Dzielak, 1986
Elaine A. Fortuna
Joe Fortuna, 1982
Gregory J. Hughes, 1968
Deborah (Glynn) Jones, 1970
Michael Kelley, 1976
John W. Lappin, 1958
Gerald Morton, 1965
Robert P. O'Connor, 1949
Dorothy (Wetmore) Robbins, 1954
Donald S. Schiavone, 1948
Steven & Sheila (Dings) Sedlack, 1960/1963
Martin J. & Gloria (Bazzano) White, 1967
Terry (Leshay) Wilson, 1960

Yellow Jackets ($100 - $199)
Richard & Natalie Attianese, 1967/1973
Susan (Moore) Belle-Isle, 1970
Jenni Bourque, 1988
A.J. Cappabianca, 1982
Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990
Irene (Chryznowski) Dakin, 1960
James DiMartino, 1964
Andrea (Darcey) Ellinger, 1982
Jeanette Emerick, 2005
Moe Finn, 1954
Cynthia A. Fixer, 1978
Jacqueline (Hunt) Flagg, 1954
Charles Fritz, 1965
Richard J. Gayer, 1953
Mary (Avery) Gessner, 1954
Anne Goodenough, 1960
Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972
Neil & Elizabeth (Dings) Kelsey, 1948/1950
Patrick Kilpatrick, 1968
John Kolasinski, 1981
Victoria (Bordonaro) Larson, 1973
J. Thomas Light, 1958
Noreen B. Marchand, 1965
Peter & Jennifer (Hanson) Marchand, Jr., 1988/1993
Fred Marzullo, 1959
Carol (Hamilton) Miles, 1963
Shirley (Kolega) Moore, 1943
Alanna (Kaplan) Munoz, 1987
Mary (DiVita) Newman, 1964
Philip W. Ostapko, 1955
Todd & Elizabeth (Pinter) Parsons, 1979/1982
James A. Pettit, 1971
Robert Provan, 1956
Carlton C. Roberts, 1958
Dale (Benedict) Salmonsen, 1967
Rebecca Lynn Beach-Schrock, 1963
Linda M. Svetz
Leo & Mary Ellen (Staszowski) Vaccari, 1976/1972
Stephen & Sandra (Lemelin) Vaill, 1961/1960
Lynne (Sedlack) Vincunas, 1965
Matthew Watson, 1977
Patricia H. Weingart
Michael Zonghetti, 1976

Boosters ($50 - $99)
Meghan (Kane) Ambrozaitis, 2014
Christopher R. Atwood, 1973
Joseph C. Barber, 1989
Thomas A. & Judy Bordonaro, 1967
Gary Colavecchio, 1971
Bob Davis, 1991
Joan (Youmatz) DiAgostino, 1960
Mary (Mollica) Fantino, 1950
John & Beverly (Simons) Fratini, 1961/1963
Brian & Sandra (Soucy) Griswold, 1970/1974
James M. Heller, 1957
Lisa Holmes, 1978
Ruthann (Bruno) Horvay, 1968
Herbert Isaacson, 1954
Eric Jones, 1982
Robert E. Lee, 1958
Wendy (Vaill) Lewis, 1964
Sally (Crossman) Mangione, 1956
Jeanette (Turgeon) Neary, 1957
Jean (Woodward) Partridge, 1950
Gloria (McKinnon) Perret, 1947
Ray & Astrid (Haskins) Robitaille, 1989
Nancy Suydam, 1949
Linda & Paul Vaccari, 1966

Laurel Court ($1 - $49)
David Beauregard, 1978
Douglas Brand, 1976
Barbara (Miner) Bremer, 1978
Vincent Buzinsky, 1956
Joanne (Finn) Casey, 1958
Dorothy (Taslitt) Cohen, 1951
Alan & Deridre (Houlihan) DiCara, 1969/1973
William & Elizabeth (Curtiss) Driscoll, 1956/1955
Joseph & Ann Marie Fasciano, 1952
Kirk Frazee, 1970
Douglas H. Fredenburg, 1947
Maria Guglielmino, 1972
Stephen Habery, 1950
Jean (Dudley) Hoagland, 1960
Mary Ann (Belladella) Holmes, 1951
Gail Hoxie, 1962
Warren J. Hughes, Jr., 1950
Alan & Denise (Shopey) Lawson, Sr., 1957/1955
Peter Madden, 1956
Lois (Kellogg) Mangione, 1958
Larry C. Phair, 1976
Josephine Radocchio, 1955
Edward Scofield, 1946

Enrichment Donations, Laurel Court, continued...

Richard Sherman, 1993
Tyler Stone, 1978
Mary (Sturm) Sullivan, 1953
Michele (Garbus) Sultaire, 1970
David Torson, 1968
Mark & Denise (Cassese) Torson, 1976/1977
Alanne (Kennedy) Turina, 1968
D. John Vaccari, 1942
Sally (Passini) Wabrek, 1963
Phyllis Wells

Scholarship Donations

Lauren Bardino Memorial Scholarship
Lauren Bardino Memorial Foundation
Stephen & Rita (Andrews) Bardino, 1981/1983

Jason T. Boutin Memorial Scholarship Fund
Michele (Boutin) Cousins, 1999
United Bank of Switzerland

Timothy M. Casey Scholarship Fund
Joanne Aliano, 1974
Chelsie M. Girolamo, 2012

John Adam Groth 2006 Memorial Scholarship
The Upton Family

Ingmanson Engineering Scholarship
Ingmanson Empower Scholarship
Ingmanson Science Scholarship
Brian A. Ingmanson

Irving S. Milano Scholarship
William & Gayle (Milano) Gemetro, 1964

Jody M. Mochak Memorial Scholarship
Robert & Liza (Vaccari)DiMartino, 1990/1993

Northwest Community Bank Scholarship
Northwest Community Bank

Terrence Hastings Tirrell
1973 Memorial Scholarship
49th Annual Terrence Tirrell
Open Golf Tournament
The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation
Lt. Col. Robert F. Ryan

Terrence Hastings Tirrell
1973 Memorial Scholarship
In Memory of John Dombrowski,
Class of 1973
Tom, Judy, Amanda & Brian Bordonaro, 1967/1997/2004
JoAnn & Harry Briggs
Rose Cataldo
Diane (Dombrowski) Cook, 1973
Helen, Diane, David, Dennis Dombrowski & Families
Michael & Sandra Gamari
Giant Steps Daycare, Inc.
The Gilbert School Education Association
Gregg Hunt
Ann Marie & Charlie Hyres
Mark Jones & Joanne Aliano, 1974
Dianne LaBonte
Victoria (Bordonaro) Larson, 1973
Karen Sue (Kammermeyer) Lutz, 1973
Sally (Crossman) Mangione, 1956
Duncan & Lisa McClave
Richard McKie, 1964
Deborah & Robert Mongiat
Jane Davidson Montori
Sandra (Height) O'Connor, 1971
Rose & Robert Osborne, 1958
James Patterson
Lynn M. Richardson
Charles Seaback, 1972
Charles Tirrell, 1975
Renee & Paul Skrainski
Edward & Charlann (Zecchin) Smith, 1974
Daniel Smyth, 1973
Kathleen R. Tirrell
Leo & Mary Ellen (Staszowski) Vaccari, 1976/1972
Judith Warren

Irving C. Valentine Scholarship Fund
James & Wendy(Valentine) Martin & Family, 1972

The Brian F. Welcome and
Gary J. Welcome Scholarship Fund
Lance & Barbara (Ford) Fradette, 1970/1974
John & Gloria (Kittredge) Girolamo, 1960/1961
Linda Groppo, 1965
Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972
Jacqueline (Morgan) Hall, 1979
Theresa (Groppo) Jacob, 1969
Brian Maloney, 1960
John F. Morgan
Meredith & Georgie Morhardt
Leo & Karen (Ford) Nardi, 1971/1975
Robert G. Poole, 1971
Beverly (Royer) Riiska, 1956
Sturdy Memorial Hospital
Mary Betsy (Groppo) Weinbach, 1967
Douglas & Linda (Barber) Werner, 1966/1968
Gloria (Groppo) Williams, 1976
Lisa Zagrodnik

Othneil G. Williams Scholarship
Eliot Williams, 1960 & Susan Williams

Athletic Fund Donors

Donations to the Girls' Basketball Team
Anonymous

Donations to the GNH Football Team
Kevin & Angela Bortolotta
Jeffrey & Jennifer Benaitis
Dymax
GKB, LLC
Harney & Sons Tea Corporation
William C. Marcano
The Mechanical Advantage
William Perotti & Sons, Inc.
John D. Pinton, Pinton Management, LLC
Phyllis B. Rigby
Ski Sundown, Inc
SOS
Dr. Nadene B. Stein, 1980
Frank 1988 & Gigette Ursone
John & Sanda Ursone
Jill Vantine

Fund Donors

Donations to The Fred and
Mary Centrella Fund,
For Student and Faculty Enrichment
Dr. Joan Centrella, 1971 & Dwight Allen

Donations to The Draper
Foundation Fund,
a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation
Jim & Shirley Draper

Donations to The Mary & John
Fracasso Fund for Student Activities
John P. Fracasso, Jr., 1975

Donations to The Susan Gifford-DeLeon Fund
Lida Gifford, 1987

Donations to The Gilbert School Band
In Memory of Kenneth Soucy,
Class of 1978
Ronald & Rebecca Calabrese
Brian, Sandy (Soucy), Emily Griswold, 1970/1974/2008
Deborah Kane
Brian & Diane Miller
Barbara (English) Marchione 1974 & Family
Leo & Karen (Ford) Nardi, 1971/1975
Edward & Charlann (Zecchin) Smith, 1974
Gary Soucy, 1980
Mark Sullivan, 1978
Walter & Carole (Correnti) Swanson, 1970/1969

Fund Donors, continued...

Edward Keeley Memorial Fund
Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972
Carolyn (Keeley) Maas, 1973
Erica Maas Shippee

Donations

Alumni Department Donations
Jim Foster, 1955
Josephine Radocchio, 1955

The Gilbert School Advisory Program
Roger Leighton, 1972

The Gilbert School Esports Program
Datahal, LLC

High School Yearbook Donations
Jennifer (Dwyer) Hoey, 1991

Holiday Angels Donations
Diane & Scott Kirsch

The Gilbert School Science Department
Gillian (Magee) Fenton, Esq., 1980
& Dr. Matthew J. Fenton

Memorial Gifts

Tom & Judy Bordonaro, 1967
In Memory of Janet (Staszowski) Barnes, 1940

Shirley (Kolega) Moore, 1943
In Memory of Janet (Staszowski) Barnes, 1940

Jack M. Sneider
In Memory of Nancy (Kane) Sneider, 1950

James J. Staszowski, 1976
In Memory of Janet (Staszowski) Barnes, 1940

Joe Staszowski, 1969
In Memory of Janet (Staszowski) Barnes, 1940



You Can Make a Difference!

Gifts of every size positively impact The Gilbert School community!

Visit www.gilbertschool.org to make a secure online donation today.

Contact us at (860) 379-1245 or gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org for information.

In Memoriam

1932
Emily V. (Haddad) James
March 21, 2018

1936
Frances (Weigold) Green
January 30, 2021

1937
Ruth (Greene) Pinkerton
October 28, 2015

1940
Janet (Staszowski) Barnes
January 3, 2022

1940
Robert N. Pedersen, Sr.
July 25, 2021

1941
Edna (Root) Angus
February 3, 2022

1941
James J. Barber
February 3, 2022

1941
Catherine "Kitty" (Nelligan) Picard
June 17, 2022

1942
Douglas Edmond Roberts
May 3, 2022

1943
Mary (Reidy) Hansen
September 14, 2005

1943
Ethel (Wilber) Millard
November 10, 2021

1944
Edmund Dery
July 30, 2021

1945
Anthony "Skitch" Aquilino
January 21, 2022

1945
Arline (Beecher) Cote
February 9, 2022

1945
C. John DiCara
December 9, 2021

1945
Maria (Lavieri) Sollitto
December 30, 2021

1946
Ernestine (Ferrante) Narducci
January 30, 2020

1946
Calvin Stewart
August 5, 2021

1946
William E. Welcome, Sr.
August 10, 2021

1947
June (Wolford) Snyder
October 25, 2021

1948
Martha (Locascio) Shelesky
January 10, 2022

1948
Peter G. Mulville
July 16, 2021

1949
Willy Bakken
July 21, 2021

1949
Rosemarie A. Bosco
March 16, 2022

1949
Joan (MacCallum) Bunch
July 26, 2021

1949
Cynthia (Plante) DeMartino
August 27, 2021

1949
Caroline (Olszanski) Franz
July 18, 2021

1949
Gloria (Kittredge) Grasso
October 20, 2021

1949
Roger William Jones
February 5, 2022

1949
Elizabeth "Betty Ann" (Clauss) Rogers
February 8, 2022

1950
Frances (Jacobs) Corey
June 24, 2021

1950
Marian (Santoro) Hall
March 16, 2022

1950
Nancy (Kane) Sneider
June 12, 2021

1951
John Alden Bushnell
March 19, 2022

1951
Jayne "Duke" (Burwell) Gustaffson
March 29, 2022

1951
Nancy Ann (MacCallum) Hudon
July 22, 2021

1952
Leverett Clark
August 13, 2021

1952
Diana (Beach) Hine
December 24, 2021

1952
Jacqueline (Asselin) Mottai
November 23, 2021

1952
Herman Weingart
July 17, 2017

1953
Mary (Vernali) Brady
June 28, 2021

1953
John "Jack" Milton Darcey
January 9, 2022

1953
Clara (DeSanti) Haburey
April 14, 2022

1953
Mildred "Milly" (Williams) Hudak
February 1, 2022

1953
John P. Lavieri
February 16, 2022

1953
Mildred (Buzinsky) Petrunti
January 16, 2022

1953
Ivan S. Sharfman
May 16, 2022

1953
Robert C. Sullivan
October 18, 2021

1954
Anthony Casciani, Jr.
April 8, 2022

1954
Edward Carlton Slater
August 21, 2021

1954
Gail (Gramlich) Vincent
September 13, 2021

1954
Shirley (Dwyer) Williamson
January 14, 2022

1955
Suzanne (Turner) Dooley
December 18, 2021

1955
Leo P. Fracasso, Jr.
July 9, 2021

In Memoriam

1955
Jeanette (Beecher) O'Brien
May 23, 2022

1956
Jane (Raymond) Eschenbaum
September 4, 2021

1956
Joyce (Cadrain) Roberts
December 30, 2021

1956
Linda Marie (Gallant) Smith
March 14, 2021

1957
Thomas J. Davis
May 6, 2022

1957
Nancy (Pickard) Gibbs
November 1, 2019

1957
Shirley Ann (Onion) Martinez
January 10, 2021

1957
John J. Phillips
May 2, 2021

1957
Charles K. Schwartz
February 14, 2022

1958
Orene (Slater) Morgan
July 20, 2021

1959
Bernardino "Bernie" Nanni
September 27, 2021

1959
Anne "Boo" (Boothe) Pharo
February 23, 2022

1959
Donna (Dickerman) Rohkohl
August 26, 2017

1959
Richard Zimmerman
October 11, 2021

1960
Janice (Turgeon) Kelemen
June 6, 2021

1961
Peter Hanley
December 26, 2021

1962
Rev. Dr. Robert S. McKie
June 2, 2020

1963
Betty Jane (Pickard) LaCasse
February 5, 2022

1965
Nancy (Boyle) Chamberlin
January 17, 2022

1965
Robert C. Goulet
February 8, 2022

1965
Adele (Groppo) Kellogg
December 13, 2021

1966
Judy (Picard) Bottomley
October 26, 2021

1967
Linda (Mitchell) Gardner
September 19, 2021

1968
Gaeton Angelo English
July 20, 2021

1968
Gerald P. Winn
Decmeber 18, 2021

1969
Mary Passini-Moore
April 10, 2022

1969
Charles R. Rategan, Jr.
May 27, 2022

1969
Glenn E. Winn, Sr.
October 22, 2021

1970
Linda (Gillette) Thompson
February 23, 2022

1973
John A. Dombrowski, Jr.
April 23, 2022

1974
Raymond W. Winn
May 22, 2021

1975
Kenneth Joseph Fracasso
October 23, 2021

1975
Donald A. Whitman, Jr.
December 31, 2021

1977
Frank C. Barnum, Jr.
December 9, 2021

1978
Peter K. Gersky
April 21, 2022

1978
Kenneth L. Soucy
February 27, 2022

1979
David Scott Mitchell
March 7, 2022

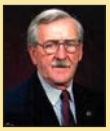
1979
Christine Royer
October 7, 2021

2006
Kevin Michael Audia
October 23, 2021

2008
Amber (Potter) Zappia
August 9, 2021

2009
Kendra Beneke
April 5, 2022

The W. L. Gilbert Trust
Trustee Emeritus



Class of 1949
Roger William Jones
February 5, 2022

OBITUARY:
Maloney Funeral Home

Former Faculty of The Gilbert School



Richard T. Healy, October 1, 2021

Richard T. Healy began his long career at The Gilbert School as a social studies and history teacher in 1957. In 1963 he traded the classroom for the guidance office and counseled students as a guidance counselor from 1963 to 1973. Mr. Healy then served as Gilbert's vice-principal for more than 20 years, retiring in 1981. **OBITUARY**





John A. Dombrowski, Jr., Class of 1973, April 23, 2022

John A. Dombrowski, Jr. taught at The Gilbert School from 2002 – 2015. Mr. Dombrowski taught in the business department, began and advised the DECA program at Gilbert, and was a Yellow Jacket Football coach. **OBITUARY**





David Gewanter, April 15, 2022



David Gewanter was a highly regarded mathematics and physics teacher. Mr. Gewanter brought his talents to The Gilbert School science department at the end of his impressive teaching career. He taught physics at Gilbert from 2015 until his retirement in 2021. A former student said that he taught students "to be honest to themselves and others, to learn by doing, and to make the most of your lives." Both in and out of the classroom, he always taught that gratitude and joy were essential to good living, and emphasized the importance of love and kindness in all one's affairs. **OBITUARY**

THE GILBERT SCHOOL

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Welcome a child or grandchild? Win an award? Retire?
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Interested in writing an article for the *YellowJacket*? Send in 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!

Please send your updated email address to us at:
gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

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How Can We Help?

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Email Changes?
Reunion? Contact us!

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Phone
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Mail
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