SUMMER 2023

Yellow Jacket

ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE GILBERT SCHOOL



Dear Alumni and Friends...



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

It is that time of year to reflect on The Gilbert School's motto and its enduring values of ***Heritage, Innovation, Opportunity.*** It is commendable to see how our school has evolved and embraced innovation while remaining rooted in its heritage. The efforts to address emerging social-emotional concerns and promote a diverse and inclusive environment are crucial for the well-being and success of every student. The Gilbert motto encapsulates the core beliefs and goals of the school.

Heritage signifies the school's longstanding history, traditions, and the enduring values it upholds. After 127 years, The Gilbert School community continues to provide compassion, empathy, and personal attention to our students. This level of attentiveness is attainable due to our modest size. Our dedicated staff strive to support every student's social and emotional needs while providing an excellent education.

Innovation highlights the school's commitment to fostering creativity, problem-solving, and staying at the forefront of educational advances. It is what drives our students to be contributing citizens and to find solutions to local, regional, state, national and even global problems. It is the hallmark of the evolution of Gilbert from its founding in 1895 to the fine institution it is today.

The Gilbert School serves as the local middle school and high school for the Town of Winchester and educates a diversified international community with students enrolling through the Gilbert Trust Residency Program. The school has a dormitory on campus and welcomes students from grades 7-12 from many countries including Germany, South Korea, China, Brazil, Iran, Vietnam, Indonesia, Mexico, Qatar, Japan, and Taiwan. These international students integrate directly with our local students, cultivating diversity and better preparing everyone to succeed in a complex global society.

It is important to acknowledge the challenges that arise with the rapid pace of technological advancements and the unrestricted access to information. While these developments bring valuable opportunities for learning and growth, they also create potential risks, such as misinformation and harmful online behavior. The Gilbert School takes a proactive approach in addressing these emerging social-emotional concerns by implementing innovative programs that specifically target issues like school violence and bullying. Enhanced on-site counseling services play a crucial role in providing support for all students who may be affected by these challenges. Moreover, the improved school safety measures are essential in ensuring the physical security of students and staff. By implementing measures that promote a secure learning environment, The Gilbert School demonstrates its commitment to the safety and well-being of its community. The school is taking a comprehensive approach to preparing students to cope with the evolving landscape of information technology, while also emphasizing the importance of inclusion, empathy, respect, and responsible digital citizenship.

Opportunity is available for you to make a lasting legacy by supporting our annual fund drive. The field of education is continuously evolving, and its significance in society is ever-increasing. It offers exciting possibilities for growth and development, but is also accompanied by significant costs. Investing in education is an investment in the future of individuals and communities. By providing financial support and resources, we can ensure that students have access to quality education, empowering them to thrive and contribute to society. Through collective efforts and contributions, we can work together to make education more accessible, affordable, and enriching for all students. On June 5, 2023, Gilbert proudly awarded $123,157 in scholarships to our 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, might otherwise not be affordable at respectable and prestigious colleges and universities.

We at Gilbert are proud to continue our heritage of educational excellence and make a positive impact on the future of our students. Please consider contributing to the Gilbert 2023-2024 fund drive. Your gift matters and will make a significant difference in the lives of our remarkable students and help create fond memories for new generations of Gilbert alumni.

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On the cover: *Principal Debra Lewis and her daughter, Danica Poirier, Class of 2024, visit the Connecticut State Capitol. Ms. Lewis was honored by State Rep. Jay Case on the House Floor during session to congratulate her for winning the CAS first year Principal of the Year award for High School. Congratulations, Ms. Lewis!*



Charles Seaback, continued

We encourage you to read about some of our featured students and alumni and consider sharing your own life's journey with our Alumni Office for our next edition.

Our guiding principles of **Heritage, Innovation, Opportunity** reflect our commitment to providing invaluable education to our youth in a safe and nurturing environment. Thank you and we appreciate your support.
Stay safe and be well.



Greg P. Shugrue, Head of School, The Gilbert School

Providing an education for The Gilbert School students is a collaborative process that involves our school's administration, faculty, support staff, parents and community. As the Head of School, it is always my goal to promote that collaboration, all in an effort to benefit our students as we strive for excellence and chart our path forward in a purposeful manner. We all share a mutual goal of providing an academically rigorous experience where all of our 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 our school and our school leaders to build collaborative partnerships with our community, and The Gilbert School alumni, wherever possible.

Trust with all stakeholders is built by consistency and transparency. Our school and its personnel strive to build and maintain trust with those that they we 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 School student.





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

The mission of The W. L. Gilbert Trust is to enhance the learning experience for the students at The Gilbert School. One way the Trust achieves that mission is by offering Enhancement Grants to the school for items that might not fit in the school budget. Over the years the Trust has purchased new bleachers, sound boards, microscopes and kilns just to name a few. These grants are funded by the donations we receive from the annual appeals that we send to our alumni. Without the generous donations from our alumni, these grants would not be possible.

The Trust also began the International Program in 2013. Since its inception, we have graduated hundreds of international students from The Gilbert School who have gone on to study at top 100 Universities in the United States. Many of these students have even gone on to Ivy League institutions to complete their master's programs. For the first couple of years, our international program was heavily populated by Chinese students but I am happy to report that this year was our most diverse group yet. We had fifteen students, representing eight different countries. Students joined us from China, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Qatar, Finland, Mexico, and Brazil. Next year we will be welcoming our first student in the international program from Germany. This program has helped to increase enrollment at The Gilbert School and cut down the cost of tuition for the town of Winsted. The international program is expected to grow over the next couple of years and we are excited for the possibility of an even more diverse program and in turn, a more diverse school as a whole.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE GILBERT SCHOOL! THANK YOU!



School Views





Music Department Special Adjudication

The Music Department had an exciting in-school field trip. Dr. Jared Staub from Plymouth State University adjudicated the high school band, middle school band, and the jazz ensemble. Gilbert alumna, Nhung Truong-Lustig, Class of 2008, adjudicated the middle school chorus, high school choir, and chamber choir. April 28, 2023



New Yellowjacket Marching Band Uniforms

The Yellowjacket Marching Band displays their new uniforms at the annual Memorial Day Parade. May 29, 2023



Latin Day

Latin lives at Gilbert with our students and dedicated Latin teacher, Sarah Frechette. The Latin Department was busy this year with mock trials, mock elections, a Wadsworth Atheneum visit, Saturnalia activities, and an edible Roman roads challenge! Here our seniors enjoy Latin Day adventures.

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School *Views*



Adventures in Leadership

Members of The Gilbert School National Honor Society participated in Adventures in Leadership at Winding Trails in Farmington, Connecticut. Students worked in teams to complete a variety of challenges which focused on problem solving, collaboration, and communication. The final activity was a boat building challenge. Each team had to construct a boat which would support four team members as they paddled through a water course. Congratulations to our future leaders!



Living History

History and Social Studies teacher, Wendy Sultaire, hosted a presentation with the junior class and some of our alumni Vietnam Veterans. From left to right, Doug Werner, Class of 1966, Dan Cook, Class of 1973, Hank Schieb, Class of 1967, Dave Tazzara, Class of 1967, and Joe Godenzi, Class of 1966 had an informative discussion with our students. Among many other important facts, they were told that Hank Schieb is the most decorated Vietnam Veteran in the State of Connecticut. What a history lesson! June 5, 2023



Cultural Fair

This year the 10th grade English classes presented their first annual culture fair! During the fair, students displayed a culmination of identity and culture inspired projects that they have worked on throughout the year. Guests and students alike got the wonderful opportunity to engage with, learn about, and experience culture in a variety of forms. The fair was organized by English teachers, Jessica Sosnicki and Jennifer Allen Gilley, Class of 1987. The students are looking forward to holding this special event again next year! June 6, 2023

Continued...

School Views

Cinderella

Magic overtook the land as our 7 – 12 grade students gave a stellar performance in Cinderella, our spring musical. Over fifty students participated as actors, stage hands, technicians, musicians, and in every role that was needed to produce an amazing show. Bravo! March 24-26, 2023





National Junior Honor Society

An induction ceremony was held for the newest 7th grade members of our National Junior Honor Society. Congratulations to our current and new members. We know you will do great things! May 25, 2023



Amazing Talent

Gilbert senior, Eric Pelletier represented The Gilbert School at the Connecticut All-State Music Festival, at The Hartford Marriott Downtown & Connecticut Convention Center. He performed on bass clarinet. Congratulations, Eric! April 1, 2023



Scholarships

This year Gilbert Trust Scholarships were given to 59 Gilbert seniors and alumni. Over $110,000 in scholarship awards were given to our outstanding students! Our sincere thanks go out to our 100s of donor families, both past and present. Your generosity helps to make the higher education dreams come true for so many of our deserving students. June 5, 2023

Gilbert's Award-Winning First Year Principal Debra Lewis

by Patricia Martin



Since she joined TGS in 2001, Debra Lewis has been passionately dedicated to the school's students, faculty, and administration. She started at Gilbert in her second year of teaching, continuously contributed to its steady growth and evolution, and led the school this past year as principal. And in May, her commitment, hard work, vision, and leadership won her the Connecticut Association of Schools' First Year Principal of the Year Award.

Debra has had an illustrious career at Gilbert, teaching English for 16 years, and for the last eight of those serving concurrently as the English Department chair, overseeing nine teachers and the ELL, Literacy, and grades 7 - 12 English and Social Studies programs. She then oversaw the entire district's 7 – 12 academic program for three years until the position was eliminated due to restructuring. For the next four years she served as the Associate Principal for the high school, and starting with the 2022 – 2023 school year was appointed Principal of Gilbert's 7 – 12 middle school and high school.



Debra finds being a Principal challenging and rewarding. "The biggest challenges revolve around the mandates that are nonnegotiable from the state, all while trying to maintain a positive school climate and a culture of academic rigor and accountability—it's a balancing act," she explains. "The most rewarding part of being Principal is being able to continually work with our talented students and faculty."

Teaching remains Debra's passion, and when she went into administration she made herself a promise to never to forget what it's like to be a teacher. "No matter what role I am in, I am forever a teacher," she says. "Every day I still utilize the core skills and values I developed as a teacher.

"Everyone who works in a school is a teacher to some degree, but being a veteran teacher with over 16 years' experience undoubtedly prepared me for the majority of situations this position has presented," she continued. "Students have always been my priority and will continue to be. Every decision I make prioritizes how it will affect students first and teachers second as they are the most important entities in any school."

Debra believes that Gilbert offers a wealth of programming all the while meeting the educational standards set forth locally and nationally. She says, "Our school is truly a place where students not only sharpen skills and learn how to be productive citizens, but where they can truly discover their passions and figure out how they can build a successful future around them."

So, what does it take to become Principal of the Year? According to the Connecticut Association of Schools, they are skilled in leadership, relationship building, organization, communication, and goal setting. The organization's website states, "Deb Lewis, principal of

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The Gilbert School, has been selected as the recipient of the William Cieslukowski Outstanding First Year Principal Award for the high school level. This prestigious award recognizes Ms. Lewis's exceptional leadership, dedication to students' needs, and transformative initiatives within the school community.

"Since assuming the role of principal, Deb has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the students and their individual needs. She has consistently placed students first, ensuring their voices are heard and their concerns addressed. Through various recognition programs, perfect attendance awards, and celebrating academic milestones, Deb has created an environment where students feel supported and valued.

"The nomination form cited her approach as 'much like a coach or mentor.' Using this approach, she has revitalized the school climate, building positive relationships with staff and promoting academic excellence throughout the school. Recognizing the challenges faced by teachers, she introduced wellness programs to foster a positive work environment and support their well-being.

"Her leadership exemplifies a visionary approach, willingness to take risks, and resilience in the face of adversity."





Upon receiving the award, Debra said, "I am very excited and honored to serve as Principal of The Gilbert School and humbled to learn I was the recipient of the First Year Principal of the Year award! I'd like to thank my admin team for nominating me. We as a school have come together this year and done some amazing work in the academic and school culture arenas but there is so much more to come! My administrative team and I will continue to make our school the best place to learn and grow for our students and faculty because that is exactly what they deserve: the very best!"

At the end of the school year, Debra received yet another award. She was recognized by the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL) with the 2023 Administrator Award, which recognizes her dedication to supporting the role and duties of the Library Media Specialist within The Gilbert School.

"I appreciate the consideration that Deb has shown me as well as her encouragement to bring the space back to a location that we can all be proud of," says Karen Pfeffer, TGS Library Media Specialist.

Serving in her new role as Principal, Debra's first year has been incredibly busy and extremely rewarding. "The leadership team identified priorities early in the summer last year, and we've worked diligently to execute these plans," she says. "Having a supportive and collaborative team working alongside me has made the transition to Principal seamless. I've never seen nor worked with a more dedicated faculty and administration. We've made some great gains with regard to school culture and academics, and most of that is credited to the dedication of our faculty. Gilbert is truly one of a kind. I can't wait to plan more this summer for an even better year two!"

Karen Pfeffer: New School Library Media Specialist with Vision

by Patricia Martin

Librarian Karen Pfeffer is just completing her first year at TGS and thanks to her vision has already created a special oasis that welcomes reflection, relaxation, and engagement.

Born and raised in Litchfield, CT, Karen brings maturity, creativity, and a wealth of experience to Gilbert. After graduating from high school in 1983, she attended the University of Connecticut's Torrington Branch. After three years she transferred to Central Connecticut State University. Then her scholarly pursuits were temporarily put on hold. "Life interjected and I left school to raise a family," she explains.

Karen worked in Torrington as a paraprofessional for 14 years, the last four of which she served as a library media center paraprofessional at Torrington Middle School. It was an inspiring time that provided her with invaluable experience. "I had amazing mentors in Marilyn Hoitt and Mary Lee Quinn, the middle school's Library Media Center Specialists," she says. In addition, she worked for the Community Family Learning Center in Forbes School.

After her two children entered college, Karen found she was ready to return and finish her own education. She attended Charter Oak State College, earning her BA in General Studies. She went on to Southern Connecticut State University, where she was awarded a Master of Library Information Science in May 2019.





Post-graduation, Karen's first position was with the New Hartford Public Schools working with students in grades Pre K to 6. In addition to running three libraries, she taught "STEAM Education" (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) with subjects that included robotics and coding. In addition, she worked with Goodwin University to provide students with a manufacturing program.

When Karen came to Gilbert, the school had been without a School Library Media Specialist (SLMS) for several years. "As the new SLMS, my goals were to assess the current collection, create collaborative experiences with core subject teachers, and provide a safe environment for the students," she says.

During the past year, Karen has been able to work in several different subject areas with a focus on research. These included health, social studies, English, and multi-language learning classes. She explains, "I enjoyed being in a position to watch other teaching styles and being able to incorporate my own skill set. In addition, I worked with 7th grade students in

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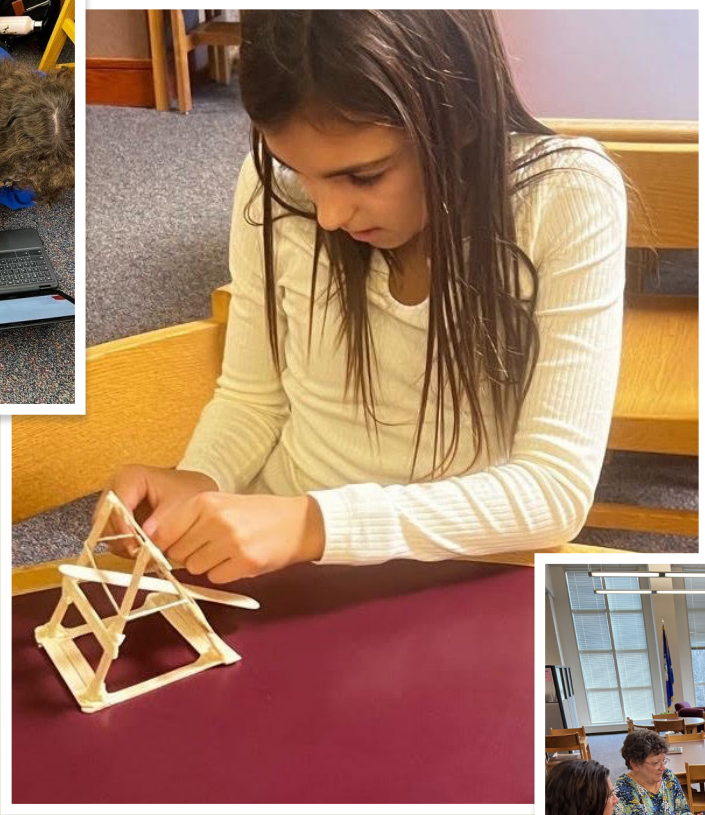
a Library Studies Class incorporating some of my previous experience with STEAM education, digital citizenship, and library skills."

As the year progressed under Karen's guidance and vision, the Library Media Center has become a destination students gravitate to for learning, exploring, relaxing, and collaboration. "I have students who visit early in the day to socialize with friends, a group that comes in during their lunch periods to play chess or build puzzles, and study hall students who use the room for free play using the Makerspace materials," Karen says. "My future goals are to create an environment in which multiple classes are able to use the space, as well as developing the Makerspace Area to include 3D printing, sewing, crafts, robotics, and other hands-on activities."

As most teachers around the country have experienced, COVID impacted the world of education. "Students have become more technically skilled but missed many of the social skills that are developed during their educational experiences," says Karen. Thanks to her focus on expanding the library's service offerings and emphasis on interaction and collaboration, Gilbert's new SLMS is guiding students to a brighter, more inclusive future.

Reflecting on the past year at TGS, Karen says "I appreciate the enthusiasm that greeted me from both the faculty and the students as well as starting the school year with an amazing group of other new teachers. There's a great support system here and I am grateful for the strong sense of loyalty and spirit that I've found now that I've joined the Gilbert School family."



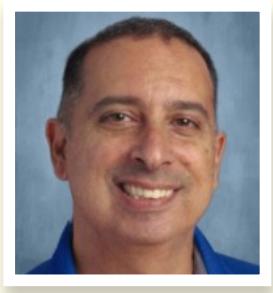




New Faces and New Roles at Gilbert

by Patricia Martin

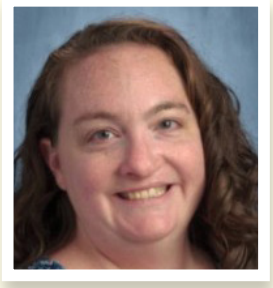
We welcomed some new faculty and staff to Gilbert this year, and some of our team also tried out some new roles. Meet some of them here describing their first year!



"Once I figured out how things worked at Gilbert, I began to get the hang of it, and now I have a pretty solid rapport with all of my classes. My team has been especially helpful and there for me at every turn, as well as the administration here at Gilbert, which is, by far, the best one I have ever worked for. You truly feel like you are appreciated here, and even a brief email is all it takes to feel like you are a part of something." ***— Christian Mormile - Middle School Language Arts Teacher***



"I appreciate the warmth and consideration shown to me by the staff of The Gilbert School during my first year. The Administration has been extremely accommodating and willing to listen to my plans and are working with me to increase the support of the Library Media Center to the entire school community. I chose The Gilbert School as I was looking for a sense of being part of a greater team and school spirit. I am pleased to say that it is exactly what I found. I am thrilled to be a part of an organization that recognizes the importance of the Library within the school culture." ***— Karen Pfeffer - Library Media Specialist***



"I have thoroughly enjoyed this year at The Gilbert School, teaching a variety of core and elective classes in the English Department. This year will wrap up my 11th year teaching! I have spent the last 9 years of my career working in a magnet program. I came to Gilbert because I was looking for a stronger, more constant sense of community...and I am thrilled that I have found it! Having family ties to Winsted and raising my young boys in a neighboring town, it was important to me that there were spaces where my work and my family could interact and mesh. I also wanted to join a community that was open and supportive, one that would serve as a strong foundation for opportunities for growth and continued exploration in my coming years of teaching. TGS has given me all of this and more. I have been widely and warmly welcomed, administrators are supportive and encouraging, my fellow colleagues are simply outstanding, and the students have been really fun to teach, learn from, and work with! I look forward to many more years here." ***— Jessica Sosnicki - High School English Teacher***

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"Joining the TGS community in August of 2022 as the Middle School Counselor has been one of the best decisions I've made for my career and personal wellbeing. Being part of the Middle School team is fun, challenging, exciting, and most of all, rewarding.

I grew up in New Hartford. I went to school locally at Saint Anthony School in Winsted and high school at Northwestern Regional 7, graduating in 2011. In 2019, I earned my Masters in School Counseling from the University of Saint Joseph in West Hartford and have been working as a middle school counselor since then. Despite the rivalry spirit between TGS and NWR7, I grew up with many Gilbert students as friends and have maintained some of them to this day.

I attended four Gilbert homecoming dances, two proms, and countless basketball games. In July 2022 I married a 2007 TGS graduate with numerous Gilbert alum in attendance at the wedding. Needless to say, I have had connections to Winsted and Gilbert all of my life.

I feel fortunate every day to be here - to work with a team of people that value my ideas, experience, and opinion and trust me to support their students. I'm part of a community that appreciates my work, challenges me, and helps me to become a better counselor, colleague, and person."
— Marijo Thompson - Middle School Counselor



"I have been a Football Coach here at Gilbert for the GNH football team since 2006, Head Coach since 2008. I retired from my previous profession in 2022 and took on the position of In School Suspension Supervisor. In this role it allows me to not only monitor the academics and activities of football players, and other student athletes but also gives me an opportunity to interact with the rest of the student population, faculty and staff on a daily basis, and hopefully provide a positive influence." ***— Scott Salius - ISS Supervisor, Football Coach***

Senior Spotlight

The Sky's the Limit for Mary Sullivan

by Patricia Martin

When senior Mary Sullivan graduated from Gilbert in June, she was looking forward to the future opportunities that await her outside the school's walls.

Not that she's stayed cloistered inside the walls of TGS these past four years! Mary is an enthusiastic and engaged student, an avid athlete, an Eagle Scout in one of the first Girl (Boy) Scout troops, and performed the role of Mrs. Salt in the school's production of Willy Wonka—a show that was not destined to open because the pandemic was proclaimed. However, the students did get to present an impressive dress rehearsal the night before. In addition, Mary has been taking flying lessons since August 2022, focusing on getting her private pilot's license.



"Gilbert has always been a place to learn and love," says Mary. "I've found a lot of my favorite hobbies and interests through experiences here at the school, and participating in different STEM activities made me realize I want to pursue engineering."

Mary says some of her fondest memories come from spending study halls with her AP History and Government teacher Mrs. Jessica Nardine. "She is a teacher who has pushed me to learn new things and pushed me to do well in my other classes too," says Mary. "She's also been very supportive, and always provided a place for me to talk about how I was feeling during the day."



As an athlete, Mary joined the cross-country team and fell in love with running, eventually becoming the Gilbert team captain. She also coached a ski team and instructed beginner skiers.

Inspired by her STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities, Mary plans on attending Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, studying ocean or environmental engineering. She says, "I have a goal of being able to take some environmental conversation courses, too, as I would like to have that be part of my life."

But it's the sky that calls to Mary, who's been fascinated with space and flying since she was in kindergarten and hopes to have a career as a corporate or commercial pilot. "When I went to the airport and rode a plane to visit my grandparents in England, I would sneak peeks into the cockpit and dream about what it would be like to take the controls," she explains. "Then I saw the movie Top Gun when I was around10 years old. I looked at my dad and said, 'I want to do that!'"

Mary admits that she enjoys working hard and the challenge of taking risks. "Like

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Maverick, the character in Top Gun played by Tom Cruise, I like to push myself to see what I can achieve," she says. "Flying a plane tests you constantly. The pre-flight, the flight plan, assessing the weather, and then taking off and making sure you are ready to react to whatever the atmosphere throws at you keeps me on my toes. Flying a Cessna is like no other feeling in the world, and the views are amazing!"

Mary's instructor, Bob Joslyn, emphasizes how a pilot has to maintain total control of an aircraft. Mary explains, "Control is a critical part of flying. Never did I imagine the thrill that being in control of a plane would give me. Not only am I able to see the world from a whole new perspective, but there is no time to think about anything else, especially when challenges occur." Mary has learned important life lessons as a budding pilot. "There is a lot that flying a plane has taught me about myself. Specifically about control," she says. "I never realized how much control I had over my life until I was given full control of a plane. I know I want to be an engineer and fly planes. I know I want to serve my country in some way, and now I know that I am not only capable of being in control, but that I am ready to take on life. When I fly, I see a whole different angle of the world that I do not get to see when on the ground. It shows me how beautiful this world is. Being a pilot unlocks the sky, and I just want to keep climbing.'

Waving goodbye as she graduates and moves forward into her future, it's clear the sky's the limit for Mary!



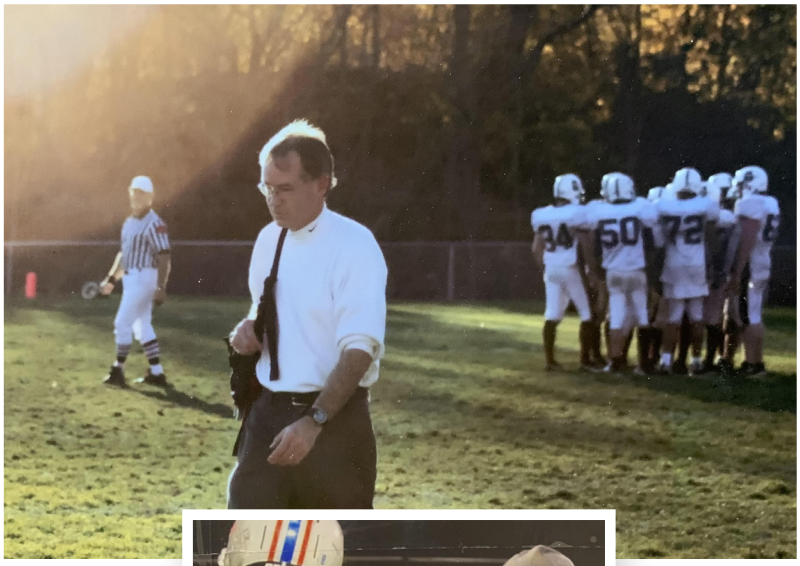






Gilbert Bids a Fond Farewell to Beloved Bob Snyder

by Patricia Martin



Early in the day on June 9th, Bob Snyder walked out the door of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, where he worked mornings for the past 12 years, and later in the afternoon walked out of The Gilbert School, both for the last time in his long, illustrious career.

A Certified Athletic Trainer for four decades, Bob has been with Gilbert for 24 years. "I've gotten to work with the children of kids I had back when I started," says Bob. "I've also been working with Gilbert's Pat Cooke and Don Crossman, who were former students of mine. I've loved developing relationships with student athletes as well as teachers, administrations, athletic directors, RNs, and parents. The Gilbert School has always supported me as their athletic trainer. I'm forever grateful for my time here."



Gilbert is grateful to Bob, as well. During a celebration in the auditorium on May 26th, Bob was surprised when it was announced that the 2023 yearbook was dedicated to him. It was a very emotional moment as a video montage was shown featuring various staff members, alumni, and students who recalled their favorite memories of Bob. "It was overwhelming!" says Bob. "Donny Crossman got me to the auditorium under the pretense that he needed my assistance with a grant. It's such a tremendous honor to have the yearbook dedicated to me as this will be the last senior class I will see graduate. It's really special!"



Working alongside the school's former Medical Director Dr. Dutton and current Medical Director Dr. Keith Penney, Bob has covered Gilbert's home sporting events as well as away games. His responsibilities as an athletic trainer involved emergency management of athletic injuries, injury evaluation on the field as well as in the training room, the management and treatment of injuries, and rehabilitation.

"Many of the injuries I see can be rehabbed in the training room," Bob explains. "Gilbert has a nice-sized one with several treatment tables and a taping table. It has all the tools I needed. My approach was to make the student athlete feel comfortable and confident that their injury would be evaluated thoroughly and professionally, with the goal of getting them back on the playing field as soon as possible. I tried to put them at ease the minute they stepped into the training room."

During his time at TGS, Bob felt he was totally supported by administrators and athletic directors. "There are so many athletic trainers working for other high schools that never really have support and backing," he says. "Coaches can also be difficult to work with as many of an athletic trainer's decisions on the playing field entail taking a kid out of competition. At Gilbert, I have never in my 24 years had a coach or athletic director question my decision concerning an athlete. They

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have always respected my position, and that's why this small school in the Northwest corner will always hold fond and everlasting memories for me."

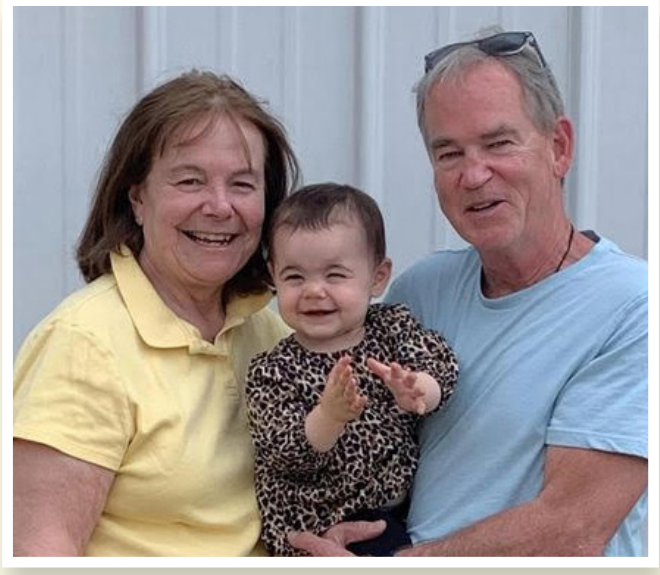
"Every athlete and coach know of Bob's work," says Buckley "Buck" Morgan, Gilbert's ISS Coordinator and Athletic Director. "We have depended on him to take care of our athletes when they are hurt or just need some tape on a bum muscle. He was truly a great resource during COVID in following and understanding all the COVID mandates and return-to-play protocols. He was ever present and fully committed to our student athletes."

Bob Grew up in Ohio and went to Wilmington College, where he majored in Health & Phys Ed with a Minor in Athletic Training. He ended up moving to Connecticut at the urging of Wilmington alumni Mike McKenna, who is from Torrington and graduated two years ahead of him. "Mike and his father, "Doc" McKenna, opened a sports medicine clinic in the YMCA and had a position open," Bob explains. "That's how I ended up here in the Northwest corner."

Bob lives in Barkhamsted, with his wife, Gilbert alumni Linda Lippincott, Class of 1972, who retired from Botelle Elementary School in Norfolk once Bob retired. The couple have two grown children, son Christopher and daughter, Liz, as well as a young granddaughter, Liz's baby Maeve.

The next phase of Bob's life is starting with retirement. "It feels surreal knowing I left the hospital for the last time in the morning, and then left Gilbert in the afternoon, and that's it," he says. "I punched out and am on vacation 'til forever!" Bob and Linda have some great plans to look forward to, including a trip to Scotland in July and a trip back to Wilmington in September for Bob's 40th college reunion, as well as spending time with Maeve. "We've both retired, and plan on keeping ourselves busy!"





Teacher of the Year Samantha Zaprzalka:
"Embodies what an Exemplary Teacher is!"

by Patricia Martin



"Holy cow! I'm speechless!" Samantha Zaprzalka exclaimed when it was announced she was Gilbert's 2023 Teacher of the Year.

Samantha, who is also known as "Sam" and "Zap," has been at TGS for nine years and teaches business, finance, career, and technology to grades 7 - 12, coached cheer for eight years, and this year became the student council advisor. She is married to Tim Zaprzalka, who teaches Phys Ed at Pomperaug High School in Southbury. The couple live in Terryville and have a 13-month-old daughter, Zoe.

"I've loved every minute of working at Gilbert," Sam says. "Because it's small, you get to know every student whether or not you have them in your class, and you're friendly with all your coworkers. It feels like a family community."

Before she announced Samantha's award, previous Teacher of the Year Lauren Bannon talked about the qualities that make a teacher great. "They have an engaging classroom presence, value real-world learning, exchange best practices, and have a life-long love of learning," she said. "This year's teacher demonstrates all these qualities."

Lauren went on to say that Samantha communicates, collaborates, listens, and adapts willing to change, while engaging with students. She also values the importance of teaching them life skills they can use to be successful. "She truly embodies what an exemplary teacher is," Lauren said.

Colleagues also gave accolades to Sam, saying she shows up at school each day with passion and a contagious smile on her face. Others cited that she always takes the time to help others and gives her all to her students. Sam is also known for her contagious school spirit.

Lauren gave more kudos to Samantha during the award ceremony, stating she rose to the occasion during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Samantha was positive and patient, spending hours helping other teachers learn the 'ins and outs' of Google Classroom."

Samantha explained that "With Gilbert being a Google school I really started to embrace every aspect of it and decided to become level 1 & 2 Google certified. When COVID hit, it gave me the opportunity to become a Certified Google Trainer and I was able to train my coworkers during such a difficult and uncertain time."

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Connecticut born and raised, Samantha grew up in Hebron and moved to East Lyme during her sophomore year in high school. She received her bachelor's in Business with a minor in Marketing from Mitchell College in New London and her master's in Education from the University of New Haven.

"When I started teaching, marketing was my favorite aspect until teaching Finance and Career helped me realize how much it is truly needed," Samantha said. "I find so much joy teaching kids valuable tools they can use in the real world, such as how to create and adjust a budget, write a resumé, or practice and get confident with a mock job interview. There really isn't anything better than seeing that 'aha' moment when kids understand 'hey, this is really something I can use right now, like comparing bank accounts or filling out a job application.'"

Samantha strives to truly connect with her students. "I want to help them grow and not be afraid to talk to a teacher," she says. "It's important they have someone they develop a rapport with and feel they can turn to."

The new Teacher of the Year has faith in her students. "I know they have the potential to learn, succeed, and grow," she says. "I'm committed to providing them with the tools they need to reach their full potential and grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in their lives."







POSTCARDS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

By Debra LaRoche-Walls, Dean of Admissions

Since the 2014 inception of the international program at The Gilbert School, a wide variety of amazing students from around the globe have traveled thousands of miles to attend. Historically, the program numbers have ranged from 24 to as high as 80 students. In 2017, a contemporary two-floor residential hall was completed within a convenient five-minute walk to school, that allowed all of our international students to be housed under one roof.

Dean of Admissions, Debra Laroche-Walls, shares that this year we welcomed our first middle school student from South Korea. That quickly opened the door for another 7th grade student from the same country who joined the program for the January 2023 semester. From the onset of the international program, The Gilbert School has welcomed high school students from the following countries: France, Italy, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Korea, and China, most whom have graduated and gone on to impressive colleges and universities in the US. Each country brings their own cultural specialties that add to diversity and richness of the Gilbert school community.



Birthday Celebration *Joanne Kang, 8th grade student from South Korea, Miu Hasagawa, 10th grade student from Japan, and Yui Lee, 7th grade student from South Korea, are all celebrating Miu's birthday on June 6th with a delicious fruit torte pie. A cultural Japanese dinner was also prepared by Cristina Rutherford, past Residential Coordinator at the Residency Hall. Birthdays are always celebrated for our international students during the school year. Happy Birthday, Miu!*



Beach Boys Holiday Concert
Dean of Admissions, Debra LaRoche Walls and 11th grade student, Gabriel Maia from Brazil, enjoyed a night at The Premier Theater at Foxwoods to see The Beach Boys Holiday Concert in December. Gabriel shared that his all-time favorite American band is The Beach Boys. Before Gabriel headed home after completing a semester at Gilbert, Mrs. Walls surprised him with tickets to the show. It was Gabriel's best Christmas gift ever and a night he will always remember.



Coaches Choice Award
Ivan Lyu, Class of 2023, received the Coaches Choice Award for his outstanding professionalism on The Gilbert School Boys Soccer Team for the fall 2022 season. Coach, Mrs. Ingryd Flores and Assistant Coach, Caleb Goodell presented Ivan with the glass trophy at the Gilbert School Auditorium. The Coaches Choice Award goes to an athlete who shows dedication and commitment, helps the coaches, and is the first to follow directions and comply with the guidelines of an athlete. Ivan was the only athlete who attended 100% of the soccer practices and games and always went the extra mile. In addition, Ivan was always positive and shared an uplifting attitude with his teammates. Congratulations, Ivan!



Camera Man *Senior student, Ivan Lyu from China, was captured by Mrs. Holly Cassidy, Chair of the W. L. Gilbert School Corporation, as Ivan was preparing to get his video camera ready to tape the annual Rock and Pop Concert held on June 2nd in The Gilbert School 700- seat auditorium. The concert is made up of individual student bands performing together under the direction of Music Director, and teacher, Mr. Scott Minnerly. It is one of the favorite school events that students, parents, friends, and faculty enjoy attending every year.*



Dean of Admissions
Last fall, our very own Dean of Admissions, Debra LaRoche Walls was honored with the title, Ms. Connecticut Senior America. Debra competed in the national pageant held in Hershey, Pennsylvania and was the first runner-up. She traveled throughout Connecticut this year, making many appearances at venues such as The Big E for Connecticut Day, The Beardsley Zoo Barnum Family Day in Bridgeport, the PAL Christmas Show and more! Thank you for representing senior women and our state!

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POSTCARDS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM



Lake Compounce *Ivan Lyu, grade 12 from China, Fabricio Naves, grade 11 from Brazil, Carlos Garcia, grade 11 from Mexico, and Jhonatan Silveira, grade 12 from Brazil, all enjoyed a fall kick-off field trip to area amusement park, Lake Compounce, in Bristol, Connecticut. The boys enjoyed sharing the day together in this fun venue, getting to know each other, learning about three different countries and enjoying the sights and rides at the park. It was a beautiful fall day that was enjoyed by all.*



Soccer Team *The Gilbert School Boys Soccer Team were joined by international students, Ivan Lyu from China, Jhonatan Silveria from Brazil, friend, Bernardo Aguiar, and Carlos Garcia from Mexico. Other international students on the team were Andrew Park from South Korea and Fabricio Naves from Brazil. The students were coached by Mrs. Ingryd Flores from The Gilbert School.*



Vietnamese Soccer Fans *This year, the Gilbert international program welcomed two amazing students from Vietnam, Jay Tran, grade 11 and Eric Nguyen, grade 10. Both boys were happy to attend an away boys soccer team to cheer on the Yellowjackets and to see their fellow international students in action on the field. The game gave Jay and Eric an opportunity to share time out of the classroom, to enjoy a traditional fall foliage New England afternoon, and to support their new school and dorm mates.*



Graduation *Class of 2023, proud international students, Ivan Lyu from China, Youssef Nahali from Qatar, and Jhonatan Silveira from Brazil! We are proud of our international students going on to their next educational journeys. Ivan Lyu will attend Arizona State University, Youssef Nahali, Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida, Jhonatan Silveira, Barry University, in Miami, Florida, and Evan Zhao (not pictured), will attend SUNY Buffalo. Best wishes to all of our Gilbert graduates!*



Ivan Lyu Graduation *Ivan Lyu was an international student for three years at Gilbert. In his senior year, he truly stepped up to a leadership role as a Dorm Leader, he was a member of The Gilbert School Boys Soccer Team, he received the Coaches Choice Award for outstanding dedication, he was a member of the Student Ambassador Program, and he was on the spring semester Track Team. It was a proud evening to have Ivan's parents travel from China to share this educational milestone for their son. We thank Ivan for all of his contributions to both the international residence life, and as a well-loved student at The Gilbert School. We will miss Ivan at the dorm and in our school hallways. Best wishes at Arizona State University!*



Youssef Nahali Graduation *The farthest traveled graduation guest award goes to Amel Yak, who traveled from Qatar to see her son, Youssef Nahali receive his diploma from The Gilbert School! Dean of Admissions, Debra Laroche Walls and all of The Gilbert School community wish Youssef the very best in his swimming career and college journey to Florida Institute of Technology, in Melbourne, Florida. Congratulations, Youssef!*

Sports *Scrapbook*















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Sports Scrapbook

















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Sports Scrapbook





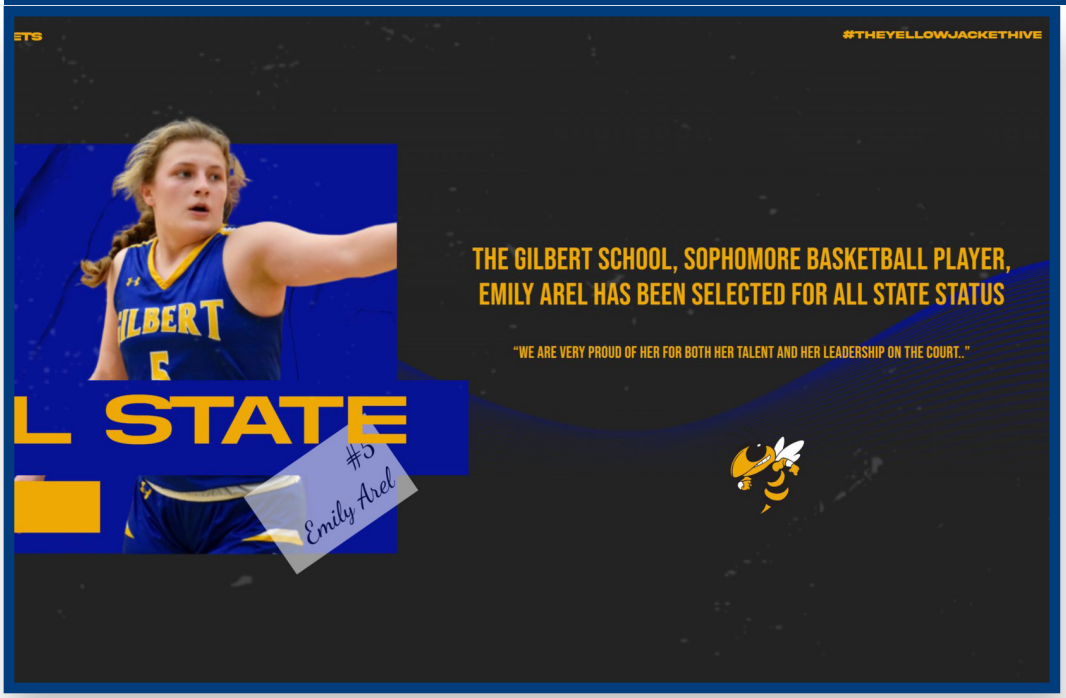




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Sports Scrapbook

SOPHOMORE, EMILY AREL SCORES 1,000TH POINT! *We look forward to the rest of your stellar basketball career at The Gilbert School. Congratulations!*









SENIOR, EMMA SCHIBI, A VARSITY CHEERLEADER FOR FOUR YEARS MADE THE ALL-STATE CHEER SQUAD FOR CONNECTICUT. *Emma is planning to continue to cheer at Eastern Carolina University in the Fall. Congratulations!*



THE GILBERT SCHOOL VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM AT YARD GOATS STADIUM APRIL 13, 2023.

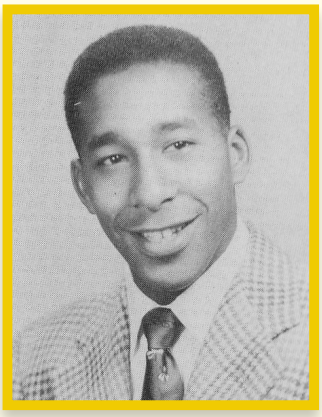
Daniel Smith

March 11, 1932 – October 19, 2022

Honoring America's Last Son of a Slave Considered the Black Forrest Gump

by Patricia Martin





Born of humble beginnings, Daniel (Dan) R. Smith, Sr., TGS class of '52, achieved national and international acclaim during his long and distinguished life. By all counts he was a man of humility, intelligence, integrity, and heroism who lived life guided by his inner moral compass. While he was alive, Dan was believed to be the last known person whose father was born into slavery. He passed away at age 90 on October 19, 2022, just a few weeks prior to the publication of his memoir Son of a Slave: A Black Man's Journey in White America.

Dan's father was Abram (A.B.) Smith, born into slavery in 1863 on a plantation in Virginia. As such, A.B. was considered "property" rather than a person. He continued working as a farm laborer after the slavery was abolished, eventually making his way up north to Connecticut.

In 1926, when he was 63, A.B. married 18-year-old Clara Wheeler, a native of Sharon who was White, with Scotch-Irish and Cherokee ancestry. Dan was the fifth of their six children, born on March 11,1932 in Winsted when his father was 70 years old. At the time, Winsted had approximately 9,000 residents, and only 20 were Black.

Dan's father worked as a janitor at the Winsted's Gilbert Clock Company. When he was five or six, Dan recalls sneaking into his parents' bedroom to listen to his father tearfully telling his older siblings about the cruelty inflicted upon slaves, such as whippings, crying posts, and the hanging tree. Yet despite these disturbing memories, A.B. was proud to be an American and forbade his children to speak ill of our nation. "It's a free country," he'd say. "You can do anything you want and be anything you want."

A.B. also encouraged his youngsters to be kind. Dan remembers his father saying, "Life has no meaning unless you help others. When we do something for other people, we should not expect something equal in return. Instead, we should hope that they will benefit from us and help others who are less fortunate." There's no doubt Dan took these words to heart.

Tragically, when Dan was six years old, his father was killed by a hit and run driver while walking home from his job at The Gilbert Clock Company. A.B. had no savings and no life insurance, leaving the family destitute. Dan, his mother, and his siblings were hardworking and did what they could to get by.

When he was 12 years old, Dan worked for the local garbage man. Next, he worked as the "pin boy" at the local bowling alley. He also worked at "Smitty's" chicken farm with Alfred Youmatz, who turned out to be his best friend for life. In 1946 he got a summer job as a tobacco picker for the Consolidated Cigar Company. Ironically, Dan learned that a few years earlier the company had an arrangement with Morehouse College in Georgia and other southern Black schools to provide lodging and means for the students to work there. It turns out that Martin Luther King, Jr., was one of the students who came to work in the Connecticut fields. It was many years later, during the Civil Rights Movement, that Dan met him.

Dan attended The Gilbert School, where at the time he was the only Black student. He became very popular and was elected vice president of his class. He also loved music, sang in glee club, and was elected its president. His senior yearbook stated "Known for his big, friendly grin, Danny is liked by all. That booming bass of his is certainly an asset to the Glee Club. He's reliable and extremely considerate."

During high school, Dan had a few surrogate fathers, all of whom were White. One was Jonathan Ells, an attorney in Winsted and a member of the Kiwanis Club which sponsored the boy scout troop Dan belonged to. Then there was James P. McCabe, his boy scout troop leader. Another man who had a big influence on Dan was Dr. Raymond B. Church, a veterinarian he worked for and where he developed his lifelong love for animals, especially dogs. Encouraged by Dr. Church, he became a member of the county dog obedience training club, taking part in American Kennel Club competitions at New York's Madison Square Garden.

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After high school Dan joined the newly desegregated armed forces. He was hoping to serve in the Army's K-9 Corps but was told it wasn't taking Black soldiers. Instead—and because of the medical skillset he learned working with Dr. Church—Dan served as a medic, assigned to the 121st Evacuation Hospital in Young Dong Po, South Korea, treating wounded soldiers and becoming certified as a Red Cross water safety instructor. In later years, Dan was instrumental in creating the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

When he returned to Connecticut, Dan knew he wanted to go to college. Along with his savings, he had money from the GI Bill and worked for a year to make more money for college. One of his jobs was teaching swimming to youngsters for the Winsted Red Cross. His athletic skills would soon be put to another use: rescuing a drowning man during the flood of 1955.



In August of '55, Hurricane Connie and Hurricane Diane produced major flooding. Connecticut was the hardest hit state and Winsted one of the hardest hit places.

In his memoir Dan recalls that on August 18th he attended the Burrville Dog Training Club then went to his mother's house, which was on a hill and untouched by the flooding. In the meantime, water from the Mad River was rushing through upper Winsted, destroying homes, stores, and anything else in its path.

The next morning Dan walked down to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church where he was joined by Alfred Landi, an adolescent neighborhood boy. Standing together, they watched the turbulent Mad River violently rush along Main Street. From the embankment they saw a rescue boat trying to head to the safety of dry land. Suddenly a woman onboard panicked, stood up, and capsized the boat, spilling everyone onboard into the rushing river. Without hesitation, Dan stripped into his skivvies and dove into the river. In his memoir he says, "Once in the water, my muscle memory took over. I was in my swimming style or custom." He saw a man struggling, swam to him, and was able to rescue him from the roiling river.

For risking his life to save the life of another man, Dan was cited as a hero by a number of major magazines and newspapers. And years later, Alfred Landi wrote Dan a letter stating "…I have never, to this day, seen a braver or more selfless act."

Later that summer Dan had what he considers his most racist encounter when trying to save a teenage girl who was drowning at the Barkhamsted Reservoir. She was unconscious but Dan felt a strong pulse on the side of her neck. He began giving her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation when he was stopped by a police officer who yelled "Hey You! She's dead, already dead." In his memoir Dan says "I knew she was alive…It dawned on me what he meant. I was Black and she was White…To think someone would rather have her die than have her white lips touch my black mouth. Incomprehensible."

In 1956, Dan attended Springfield College in Massachusetts, where he was again one of the few Blacks in a predominantly White school. He was a successful student, majoring in general studies with minors in sociology and psychology. While there he became a prominent student-athlete, sang in the glee club, and was elected president of the student council before graduating in 1960.

The 60's were a new, transformative decade for our nation and for Dan. Following graduation Dan worked as a psychiatric social worker before being accepted by Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine in Alabama. But by 1963 he decided he could contribute more to people than animals and got involved in human rights and civil rights.

First, he led an anti-poverty program headquartered in an old abandoned church in Hayneville, Alabama, just outside of Montgomery. The office was burned to the ground—presumably torched by the Ku Klux Klan. The local White judge who helped Dan set up the office with phone service and electricity also faced retribution when one of his barns was set on fire and 21 of his Black Angus cows were poisoned. That same night and the next day, three Black churches in nearby counties were firebombed. Dan was devastated but undeterred by these events. He continued the program the very next week after the fire and thanks to fundraising and donations was able to rebuild the office.

While he was running the Hayneville office Dan experienced terror on the highway one night when commuting the hour back to his home in Tuskegee. Traveling through a dangerously racist section of Montgomery, the vigilante KKK Night Riders got on his tail. For 20 harrowing miles Dan sped along, pursued by a car carrying four White racists. He managed to dodge and veer,

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thwarting his harassers as they rammed his bumper, yelling "Pull over, nigger!"

With the KKK in hot pursuit, Dan kept going until he finally arrived at the outskirts of town, taking refuge in a service station. He said he wasn't scared, he was angry, as he recalled, "If they caught me, I wouldn't be here."

By now heavily committed to civil rights, Dan attended Reverend Martin Luther King's March on Washington in 1963 with a White friend of his from New York. They stood as close to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial as they could while listening to King's "I Have a Dream" speech. In 1965, Dan joined Rev. King on the third Selma to Montgomery march.



In 1968, shortly before Rev. King was assassinated, Dan moved to the Washington, D.C., where he worked for the Office of Economic Opportunity to establish neighborhood health centers throughout the U.S. By then he was married to his first wife, Sandra Hawkins, and they were raising two children together.

Dan later led a major program at the National Institutes of Health—the Area Health Education Center—which is still going strong after almost 50 years. He then worked on international health programs in Sub-Saharan Africa. While there, he was invited to the installation of Desmond Tutu as the Archbishop of Cape Town. Upon his return he was propositioned by a CIA officer who asked him to spy on the African National Congress liberation movement, which he declined.

The 2011 winner of the Distinguished Professional Achievement award of The W. L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, Dan mingled with other Gilbert notaries. In June 2018, he participated in events for the 50th anniversary memorial of Robert Kennedy's assassination. Because he was friends with Tom Skakel, Ethel Kennedy's nephew, Dan was invited to attend the Kennedy family BBQ in Georgetown the night before the memorial. The next morning he went to Arlington National Cemetery for the memorial service, which included Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Representative Nancy Pelosi, Representative John Lewis, President Clinton, among other luminaries.

Along with his civil rights activities, Dan worked for the government for more than 25 years in education, health, and antipoverty programs. He became a prominent and successful man and lead an exemplary life of public service. During an interview with CBS Mornings, he said, "We need more kindness. And I look back, in terms of my crazy life, and I think it all came from my father saying, 'Do good things."

After he retired in 1994, Dan volunteered at Washington National Cathedral, where was appointed head usher. At the Cathedral he escorted presidents Bush, Clinton, and Obama. The cathedral holds yet another special memory for Dan. His first marriage had ended in divorce, and in 2006 he married Loretta Neumann in a ceremony held there. Dan lived a few doors down from her and met at a party she hosted. They had a number of things in common, including practicing kindness.

Loretta also has a passion for being of service. She was appointed by President Clinton to head his American Heritage Rivers Initiative. She later worked for former Rep Mark Udall (D-Colorado). Since retirement, Loretta has been active in many national and local nonprofit organizations and founded several, including the Takoma Theatre Conservancy and the Alliance to Preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington. In 2002, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Historic Preservation by the DC Preservation league. Loretta also helped Dan finalize his memoir while he was in the hospital.

It was a momentous day for Dan when he attended Barack Obama's inauguration with Loretta. "It was overwhelming — just overwhelming," he said. "I just could not believe in my life that I would see a Black president, that America would vote for a Black president. When Obama came on, I cried. It was so emotional. It was just a wonderful feeling about America."

Because of his many intersections with major historical events, political leaders, and illustrious personalities, Dan has been called the "Black Forrest Gump." He was truly an extraordinary man who made a tremendous impact during his lifetime. And he continues to do so with the publication of his memoir, sharing his amazing and enlightening stories. **Son of a Slave: A Black Man's Journey in White America** is available on Amazon **https://www.amazon.com/Son-Slave-Blacks-Journey-America/dp/1938609433/**

Veronique Paques, *1988*

"You Can Call me 'Chuck'"

By Patricia Martin







Why on earth would anyone call a bright, lovely young woman "Chuck?"

This affectionate nickname was given to Veronique Paques, a Belgian foreign exchange student who graduated from Gilbert in 1988, when a relative of her host family had difficulty pronouncing her name. In frustration he announced, "I'm just going to call you 'Chuck!'"

The name stuck within the family, and with some of her fellow Gilbert students. Host mom Ann Lavieri said, "She'll always be 'Chuck' to us." And when Veronique came "home" to visit with her American family after not seeing them for over 30 years, they celebrated with a cake decorated with the message "Welcome Home Chuck!"

Veronique graduated from high school in Belgium when she was 18. She was inspired to come to America as an exchange student because "My cousin had been an exchange student and it was a great experience for him. I wanted to experience it for myself."

Veronique came to Winsted by way of the Rotary Club. "My former husband was the president of the Winsted Rotary Club," Ann explained. "When I was in high school, we had a lot of exchange students and then the program died down. We were interested in getting it started again, and so we got it up and running and became the first host family with the new program, welcoming Veronique."

Back in Belgium, Veronique took care of all the necessary paperwork to travel to the U.S., then she told her family she wanted to go away for the year. "I have five brothers and sisters and am the baby of the family," she said. "It was hard for my parents to see me go but the let me leave."

When she got to Gilbert Veronique totally immersed herself in the American way of life. "I had a great year at Gilbert," she said. "The students were really nice, very friendly. They made me feel so welcome. They embraced me."

Veronique made friends easily, worked on the yearbook and The YellowJacket, and was on the softball team—a sport she'd never participated in before. "I was not very good but never had the feeling that the other players did not want me on the team. I really enjoyed it!"

The teachers also made Veronique feel welcome. "I had such great teachers," she said. "They really connect with you at Gilbert. You have a genuine relationship, not just time spent in the classroom."

Veronique excelled in her classes at Gilbert, and particularly enjoyed language arts. "I studied English in Belgium, and it is not my first language", she explained. "And English is really not quite the same as American. I learned American English at Gilbert."

Veronique also enjoyed her Spanish classes. "My Spanish teacher, Mrs. Hampel, studied in Spain when she was a student and we had lots of pleasure talking about Europe during class," she said. "And I really did improve my Spanish that year!"

She continued, "I also took American History and Family Living. We did not have these courses in Belgium."

Ann says Veronique totally immersed herself, getting everything she could from the Gilbert experience and from

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being in the Winsted community. She recalls how charismatic and mature Veronique was as a student, and how people gravitated to her. "Our friends and neighbors were very taken with her and often invited her to visit or have dinner with them," she said.

When it came time to graduate. Veronique asked if she could give a speech. "I wanted to talk about how much being at Gilbert meant to me, and how everyone touched my life."



Ann and her family are Veronique's second family. Over the years they have talked and stayed in touch, and after decades finally got to spend time in person. "It is great to be together again, recall stories, and return to see Gilbert and Winsted," said Veronique. "Ann is my second mom, and I know I will always have family here."

When Veronique came back to visit, Veronique and Ann went to the library and perused the 1988 yearbook. "She remembered so many people, and has such strong memories of Gilbert," said Ann. And—not surprisingly—the yearbook lists "Chuck" as Veronique's nickname!



Today, Veronique is married to Michel, a photographer and high school photography teacher. The couple have three adult children, and live in Veronique's hometown of Liege, Belgium, where she works as a speech therapist, specializing in helping children with special needs.

Veronique explains that one of the ways her Gilbert experience influenced her is how she approaches new people. "I learned to keep an open mind," she said. "The students and teachers let me be a part of them. Now when I see someone new, I always go up, introduce myself, and say hello. Gilbert taught me to open my mind, be present, and experience all that I can."

Her Gilbert and Winsted contacts are invited to write to Veronique at veropaques@hotmail.com. She'd love to hear from her American friends!

Emily Griswold, *2008*

Facilitating TGS' Commitment to Staff Wellness

By Patricia Martin





Being an educator is extremely rewarding. But by its very nature it is also a demanding and stressful career. You add the complications, concerns, and uncertainty of coping with the COVID-19 outbreak, and teaching became even more challenging. Since there was no precedent or playbook in educating students during a pandemic, Gilbert's teachers and administrators had to quickly shift gears, adapt, and innovate, making it up as they went along. They persevered and assisted one another during a time when stress levels were at their highest and burnout a genuine threat.

Because Gilbert is committed to staff wellness and self-care, enter Emily Griswold, '08, founder and CEO of 11:11 Wellness, headquartered in Washington, D.C. After working with the administration and staff for six months to understand the current organization, culture, and needs, she created a customized Wellness Kick-Off Retreat held on campus on March 3rd. "My approach is not 'cookie cutter,'" Emily explains. "I listen to what people say and turn it into actionable steps. My program is driven by what individuals need."

Gilbert's in-person "Community Care" program focused on helping everyone connect by learning who their colleagues are outside of work, listening to and understanding communal needs for wellbeing, and feeling the warmth of genuine support and sharing.

Emily was the perfect candidate to return to Gilbert and conduct the wellness and self-care program. Her father was a culinary arts teacher, and she was a special education teacher for 10 years, so she understands what it takes to be a teacher—and what it can take out of you. "We need time and attention when we're depleted," she says. "We need people who are willing to show up and offer support with zero judgement."

Emily's wellness business specializes in working with schools. She understands how academia has changed over the years, and the impact that has on teachers, counselors, and administrators. "There are pressures that force standardized testing, which create additional performance pressure and the need for data analysis," she explains. "We go into the teaching profession caring about students and the future of the world, but now we must also be results-oriented statisticians. Teachers love what they do and need to be sustained. I want to help bring the care model and genuine connection back into focus. Fortunately, Gilbert is a unique place, a very special place. It has not lost that sense of community and caring."

Born and raised in Winsted, Emily has experienced Gilbert as a family affair with a lifelong impact. "My parents went to Gilbert, and my siblings went to Gilbert," she says. "Though I now live in a big city, I'm proud of having grown up in a small town. Winsted shaped who I am."

Emily's TGS teachers were instrumental in helping her come into her own. "The teachers at Gilbert are not just instructors, they really 'see' who you are and reach out in meaningful ways," she says. "They were encouraging and supportive, and pushed me, too."

Middle school and high school are pivotal years in a child's development, and Emily credits Gilbert for helping her blossom. "I am unique and sensitive, and spent a lot of time trying to conform and people please," she says. "Because Gilbert is small and intimate, I was encouraged to explore and try all kinds of things, from marching band to softball. I was exposed to a lot, and it allowed me to be multifaceted and creative."

Every school culture is different, with different dynamics. Still, they all require authenticity and community to nurture a healthy environment. "Gender, race, sexuality, religion, age, and abilities are conditions that impact how you show up," says Emily. "Being open and feeling supported are vital in creating

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a strong, caring community. Everyone deserves to feel they can be who they truly are. Self-care and wellness practices are crucial for teachers, who are at the front lines. They impact the mental health and future wellbeing of kids, who need positive, loving adults in their lives."

Emily founded 11.11 Wellness just as the pandemic was about to start. "I focused on education, which is a helping profession," she explains. "It's my wheelhouse, and what I care about. I want to help individuals get rid of the blocks that keep them from being their authentic self. My hope is that everyone gets to be who they really are and share the unique gifts they have to offer."

Preparation for the retreat in March was the first phase of working with Gilbert. Then the retreat itself provided empathy, encouraged deep listening to what others had to say, and supported open, honest sharing. "After expressing themselves and listening to others, the staff can now try out what they've learned. Then we'll develop a real-world workable plan to make it sustainable.

"The goal is to work toward creating a strong, healthy community that has everyone's best interests at heart, where people truly care about one another. Fortunately, Gilbert already has this culture—we're simply capitalizing on its strengths."

Emily was thrilled to return to TGS. "It was great to see some of my favorite teachers," she says. "My English teacher Deb Lewis who is now principal, Scott Minnerly, Gene Michaud, and Bob 'The Trainer' Synder, among others. They were a huge part of my life, and I am happy to be in a position to give back to Gilbert now."









Jorge Pimentel, *2008*

Baseball Coach Shares his Passion for TGS and Sports

By Patricia Martin





Jorge Pimentel, '08, was happy to return to Gilbert as Varsity Head Baseball Coach, sharing his passion for the school and for the sport.

Jorge moved to the USA from Puerto Rico when he was nine years old and did not speak English. Because of the language barrier and not knowing anyone, he often felt out of place. Fortunately, baseball helped him bridge the sense of alienation. "Baseball has always been a safe haven for me, a place where I felt I always belonged," he says. "I felt comfortable. My teammates quickly became friends and the coaches became my mentors."

While he was at Gilbert, Jorge was an infielder and a pitcher under Pat Cooke and later served as his assistant coach from 2013 – 2015. At the same time, Jorge also served as the youngest member of the Winchester Board of Selectmen.

Coaching is a dream come true for Jorge. "I've always wanted to coach, and started at age 16," he says. "My biggest joy about coaching is helping student-athletes become better in every aspect of their life. The relationships I've had with my coaches have had a huge impact in my life outside of just baseball. I love the ability to connect with my players and help them grow as young adults as well as athletes."







His days at TGS have meant a lot to Jorge. "My experiences at Gilbert helped me create friendships and relationships that still to this day play a huge role in my life," he says. "My closest and longest friends all stem from being a student here. And the relationships I've had with my coaches have had a lasting influence on me."

Jorge and his family—wife Tina and daughters Aria, age six, and Malia, age four—live in Simsbury, Connecticut. Besides coaching at Gilbert, he works as an IT Application Analyst at Hartford Health Care and enjoys a full and busy life. "I coach my oldest in t-ball and basketball," he says. I try to stay active and play slow-pitch softball in Winsted and Torrington. I am also a board member in the Berkshire Bears Athletics, where I also serve as the 13U Baseball Coach."

Jorge's connection to Gilbert and his pride in the Yellowjackets remain strong. "TGS will always have a place in my heart," he says.

Molly Wilson, 2010
Something Magic is Afoot

By Patricia Martin





While there's no doubt she's worked hard for her many successes, fortune has smiled on Molly Wilson along the way.

A performer, acting teacher, costume designer, social media sensation, and brand collaborator with DirectTV, Hulu and Showtime, Molly graduated from TGS as well as the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts in 2010. "My time at Gilbert shaped me in a lot of ways," she says. "I'd go to Gilbert for half day, then to the Academy, then back to Gilbert for cheerleading practice," she says. "Our principal at the time, Mr. Hatch, was such an incredible advocate for the Academy kids and made sure we were given tutoring hours to maintain good grades, fought for and secured our transportation to and from Hartford, and supported our dreams very early on."





Other Gilbert staff members were also there for Molly. "My guidance counselor, Mrs. Fiducia, pushed me out of my comfort zone by encouraging my parents to send me to New York City during my Junior year to attend the Pace University Summer Scholars program. If it wasn't for Mrs. Fiducia's encouragement I wouldn't have attended because I was too self-conscious. But she assured me, saying 'NYC is nothing to be scared of—NYC should be scared of YOU!' She gave me more than guidance, she gave me unwavering support."

Molly's younger brother, Ian, is also a graduate of Gilbert who currently lives in Los Angeles working as a sound engineer. She credits her parents for encouraging their creativity and dreams. "They showed a strong work ethic and supported my brother and me in whatever we wanted to do," Molly says. "My mother used to say 'the sun and moon shine in their own time. Your time to shine will come.'"

Molly, who serves as the Education Manager at The Warner Theatre, started performing while attending Torrington's Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory. When she turned eight, she realized she loved the emotion of dance and started taking tap and jazz at the Warner Theatre, eventually moving into Shakespeare and scene study classes. "I studied with Izzy Carrington, who went on later to be my mentor, then hired me at the Warner," Molly says. "She's since retired, and I now work for Eve Wolftrand, the Education Director."

Molly graduated from Pace in 2014 with a BFA Acting degree and a minor in Costume Design. "Being in New York City was the most incredible thing to ever happen to me," she says. "I worked in the Pace Uni Costume Haus for all four years of college working on school performances but also doing Wardrobe Supervision Off-Broadway. I made my Off-Broadway performance debut, my national television debut, and starred in two films, all the while trying to focus on school, working two jobs bartending and

Continued...

costuming, and auditioning. I went on to act on Broadway and continued to make films. I eventually broke into the horror genre and started having great success and recognition for my work, including receiving the Best Actress Award at the International Horror Film Festival."

It seems like destiny that Molly moved back to Connecticut to recharge after performing as the lead in It's All About Lorrie at the American Theatre of Actors in Manhattan. "I needed a break after closing the play," she says. "It's easy to get lost in a role when you play a character and I had to get back in touch with Molly. I returned to Winsted to spend time with my parents."

That's when some magical moments started happening for Molly. "Suddenly, there was a two-week lockdown that turned into the three-year ordeal with the COVID-19 pandemic," she says. "During this time, while theatres were closed, I secured a position at The Warner Theatre where I started acting. As the Education Manager, I've developed a passion for providing arts education."







It also seems like destiny played a hand in another of Molly's big successes. Being homebound, she relied on technology for entertainment and also wanted to keep herself creatively engaged to avert the depression of being quarantined. That's when she became a social media sensation and influencer by making videos for Tik Tok. "The way I got into Tik Tok is random and unexpected," Molly says, "After I downloaded it and scrolled a few days, I realized a lot of people got tons of recognition for lip synching. Many of the famous Tik Tokkers were doing it different than I would, so I jumped in as I spent a lot of my childhood lip syncing showtunes. I took a shot playing different characters, and as an 'old millennial' on an app made for much cooler and younger people, I was ready for Gen Z to completely DESTROY me. But they didn't. Viewers thought my attention to detail was intriguing and I was having a lot of fun. As of May 1st I have over 100,000 followers."

After a couple of years of content creating, Molly decided to try SFX makeup and "Cosplay," which is a performance art where participants wear costumes and accessories to represent a specific character. This new move on Tik Tok caught the attention of DirectTV. The company had joined with Hulu to partner on the Showtime original horror series Yellowjackets about a high school soccer team on their way to a national competition. When their plane crashes, the kids wind up forming a cannibalistic tribe to survive in the woods. "It's very much a Lord of the Flies vibe," says Molly. "After seeing some of my characters, they asked if I'd do a cosplay look for a marketing campaign to promote the spring season. They needed an artist who could recreate a very dark, horror-based character while incorporating music from the show in a one-minute promotional video."

In yet another stroke of magic, Molly still has her TGS Yellowjacket letter jacket, which with a little embellishment replicated the jacket in the series. Moreover, Gilbert's Yellowjacket mascot painted on the gymnasium floor in Winsted is the same coloring and style as the logo on the show.

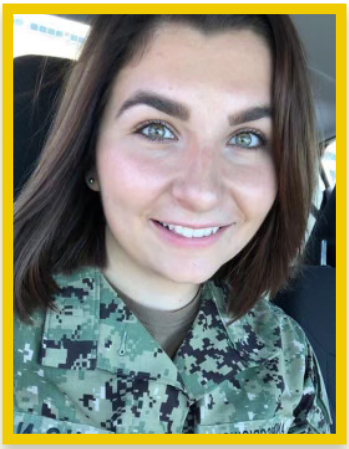
It was only natural for Molly to film a segment on location at TGS. "It was so cool I got to visit the gym I spent so many hours in at cheer practice," she says. "The Hive is standing the same—proud as ever—and we, the Yellowjackets alumni, are still buzzing. I'll forever be proud to be a Jacket!"

While Molly thinks it's kind of crazy things worked out the way they have, one could say it's because magic is afoot!

Mackenzie Andrews Griswold, 2015

Making Super Bowl History

by Patricia Martin





Just before kickoff at Super Bowl LVII, country music star and eight-time Grammy Award-Winner Chris Stapleton had the privilege of singing The Star-Spangled Banner. In a breathtaking moment at the conclusion of the anthem, the first all-female team of U.S. Navy pilots performed a military flyover in perfect formation, commemorating 50 years of female naval aviators. This was an unprecedented event, and Gilbert alumna Makenzie Andrews-Griswold '15 was a member of the Navy team that made Super Bowl history that day!



The U.S. military has participated in the Super Bowl flyover tradition for more than 50 years. The historic 2023 flyover took place on February 12th at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, as the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles were preparing to face off. During the traditional pregame ceremony, four female Navy pilots flew in a diamond formation at approximately 345 mph. Mackenzie, who is an aviation structural mechanic second class assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 97, maintained the F-35C aircraft flown during that historic event by Lt. Suzelle Thomas. While she did not have a bird's eye view, Mackenzie was down on the field for the momentous occasion, watching as her teammates soared above.





Mackenzie joined the Navy the fall after she graduated from Gilbert. "September will be my eight-year anniversary," she says. "Navy life, or military life in general, definitely takes mental strength as well as physical strength. It's probably one of the more difficult but rewarding things I've ever done. After my first deployment I realized firsthand how important the military is and the impact it has on keeping us safe."

Makenzie's father and other family members inspired her to become a mechanic. "Growing up I'd watch them toil with wood and cars, so I always had an interest in it," she explains. "Working on an aircraft seemed like a rare opportunity. Learning how to do my job was tough in the beginning but there are basics you learn that make the job much easier. Also, the fact that I'm passionate about what I do makes me want to know as much as I can to be the best I can be."

Mackenzie credits her family and Gilbert for teaching her important life lessons. "My parents and much of my family taught me that if you work hard great things will come," she says. "And my experiences at Gilbert impacted my life by teaching me that knowledge is the best tool you could have. School also taught me not to be afraid of trying something new, even if it seems intimidating."

The military has afforded Mackenzie with other great life experiences. "The Navy has provided me with the best travel experiences," she says. So far, I've been to France, Singapore, and Thailand, among other places." Currently stationed in California, Mackenzie likes to spend her free time with her two dogs, her friends, updating her house, and exploring California. "Especially the national parks," she adds.

Mackenzie's family couldn't be more proud of her and her recent achievement at the Super Bowl. According to her aunt Georgi Andrews, "She was chosen to be a part of the team and now she is going to be a part of history."

The Return of the Blue & Gold

by Patricia Martin





The hallway and lobby leading to The Gilbert School auditorium was filled with a lively crowd of alumni, administration and faculty, members of The W. L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, and Members of the Alumni Advisory Council. Happily bantering, they had gathered together on May 5th for the 19th Blue & Gold Celebration to honor alumni from the classes of 1970, 1971, 1972, and 1973.

The celebration was a special reunion for these 50-year graduates as the event had been put on hiatus due to the pandemic. It was extra meaningful as for the first time in four years everyone was finally able to socialize under one roof.

To accommodate the large group, the evening's format was changed from the traditional sit-down dinner in the cafeteria to a more informal mingling, which was an arrangement guests commented that they enjoyed. There was an array of wonderful finger foods, desserts, coffee, and soft drinks available throughout the evening, provided by Lynn Metcalf and her dedicated staff. As they socialized, the alumni were able to take a stroll down "Memory Lane" watching a video montage featuring photos from their yearbooks accompanied by a 70's soundtrack. The show was created especially for the evening by Jeb Leach, class of 2023, assisted by technology teacher Steven Hodges.

Inside the auditorium, emcee Craig Schroeder, Trustee of The W. L. Gilbert Trust, started the festivities by commanding "Class, come to order!" Following applause and laughter, Schroeder announced that the four classes being celebrated were walking the halls of Gilbert when he started his tenure, making the evening's celebration extra special for him.

Following Schroeder, guest speakers Charles "Chick" Seaback, class of '72 and President of the Trust, Greg Shugrue, Head of School, Timothy Cronin, CEO of the Trust, and Donald Crossman, class of 1999, Trustee, and Associate Principal, each took a turn at the mic. Welcoming the honorees back to school, they talked about Gilbert's advancements and developments, the achievements and challenges faced by students today, and thanked the alumni for their school spirit and continued support.

Next, four special guests from the Class of 2023 participated in the celebration. Attendees were entertained by the musical performances of Eric Pelletier on bass clarinet and Timothy Crandall on piano. The talented duo performed an excerpt from "Ballade" by Eugene Bozza, and then Crandall performed a piece entitled "World's Smallest Violin" by AJR. Two other exemplary students, Greyson

Continued...


Illana Martinez and Greyson Ursone


Eric Pelletier


Timothy Crandall

Ursone and Illana Martinez, then spoke, sharing their insights into their careers as students at Gilbert. After graduation, Greyson and Illiana will be attending Uconn in the fall.

Schroeder then introduced Holly Marchand Cassaday, class of 1990, Trustee, and Chair of the W. L. Gilbert School Corporation. As Crossman read the names of the alumni, starting with the class of 1970, Cassaday awarded each one individually with their certificate and a commemorative Gilbert lapel pin.

Following the celebration, alumni were invited to take a self-guided tour of the school, view the student art on display, and visit the school store to browse for official TGS swag. They were also encouraged to fill out forms nominating classmates and friends for a Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Golden Graduates then filed out of the auditorium, chatting and laughing as they walked back to the hallowed halls of what Shugrue called "The Little Gem" that is the Gilbert School. It was a very uplifting evening for all!


1970


1971


1972


1973

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 – 68th Class Reunion Luncheon

The Class of 1955 celebrated their 68th reunion with a small gathering on May 20, 2023 at The Tributary restaurant in Winsted. Despite the rain that fell, they had a lovely lunch and caught up on each other's news. They let us know that their main topics of conversation centered on the major issues facing the US right now and the pesky medical problems facing all of us as we get older. The Class of 1955 has an excellent record of gathering each year in order to keep in touch with very special friends from high school. We hope they continue the tradition each year!



From left to right, Jim Foster, Hubert Parmelee, Robert Sturm, Paul Felgate, and seated, Josephine M. Radocchio.

Class of 1972 – 50th Class Reunion



The Class of 1972 celebrated their 50th Class Reunion on October 21 – 22, 2022. They had an amazing weekend and shared their reflections with us.

Our 50th Reunion celebrations may be over, but all of us who were able to attend our October gatherings are still enjoying the memories of the great times that we shared that weekend. Reconnecting with so many classmates, after we let way too many years slide by, has been one of the highlights of the past couple of years.









Members of Gilbert's Class of 1972 were so excited to get together again that they planned not one but two events to celebrate their blue-and-golden reunion in the fall of 2022.

On Friday, October 21, 2022 several dozen classmates, spouses, and other guests gathered at the Little Red Barn Brewers on Lake Street in Winsted for a Welcome Home Happy Hour. The entertainment for the evening was provided by classmate Dennis Marolda and his DenMar Jamz band.

On Saturday, October 22, 2022 several classmates joined other Gilbert alumni before the Homecoming festivities to take a tour of the School led by Associate Principal Donald Crossman to see and hear about the many changes — both physically and academically — that Gilbert has experienced in the past half century.

Saturday evening, several dozen classmates and their guests reconnected again for a buffet dinner at the Green Woods Country Club on Torringford Street in Winsted.

More than 40 classmates were able to attend one or both events, along with a number of guests (including former faculty members Craig Schroeder, Moe Morhardt, and Moe's wife, Georgie, who were invited to the Saturday social hour). During the dinner, Class President Roger Leighton presented coffee mugs, designed by his son Andrew, to members of the Reunion Committee, as well as to classmates who had traveled the farthest to attend the Reunion Weekend (two from California — Gail Fetzer and Kris Jamieson Macdonald), and other classmates (including the longest married and the one with the most children). Messages from several classmates who were unable to attend were shared with those assembled and a memorial display was set up to remember deceased classmates.

As the Saturday evening event ended, classmates were already asking when the next reunion will happen ... so don't be surprised when we begin planning our 55th Reunion for some time in 2027!

Class of 1982 – 40th Class Reunion

The Class of 1982 celebrated their 40th reunion on October 15, 2022 at Norbrook Farm Brewery in Colebrook. We had about 30 attendees and a VERY special guest, Craig Schroeder, who educated us on all the latest Gilbert happenings. Our theme was to have a very easy going "Stop By and Say Hello" vibe. We enjoyed locally made drinks and Food Truck offerings. The laughter and the good times we shared have us looking forward to our next gathering!






Class of 2003 – 20th Class Reunion

The Class of 2003 celebrated their 20th Class Reunion on June 24, 2023. The reunion was held at Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted. There was a food truck and a 90s cover band, which was perfectly fitting for a 20th class reunion! A great time was had by all!




Mr. Schroeder, Brian Anderson, Nicole Deloughery, Ashley Jones, Chris Clarke, Rodney Gagnon, Lauren O'Connor, Joe Pennell, Bryan Dauphinais, Matt Gillette, Russell Gorman, Kimberly Ahrens, Wendy Valerio, Dave Hugel, Rachel Gagnon, Ashley Soldan, Erin Dwyer, Lauren Marino, Shanel O'Neil, Lindsay Cannavo





Class of 2012 – 10th Class Reunion

The Class of 2012 celebrated their 10th Class Reunion on July 9, 2022. They met at Brewery Legitimus in New Hartford and had a wonderful time catching up with classmates and old friends!






Upcoming Reunions – *Save the Date!*

Class of *1958*

Celebrating our 65th Class Reunion!



Friday, September 29, 2023
1:00 p.m. Social and Luncheon
Green Woods Country Club
300 Torringford Street, Winsted

We are a very active class that started with our 10th Anniversary and have continued to celebrate all of our reunions every 5 years. We sincerely hope that you make a special effort to attend our 65th Reunion! We look forward to seeing you in September!

Please contact the committee for more information:

Bob O'Connor	boboconn@gmail.com	(860) 666-3205
Joanne Finn Casey	caseyfinnj@gmail.com	(860) 480-0690
Lois Kellogg Mangione	lois@mangione.org	(860) 305-0228

Class of *1963*

Celebrating our 60th Class Reunion!





Friday, September 8, 2023 – Little Red Barn Brewers, Winsted
Saturday, September 9, 2023 – Knights of Columbus Hall, Winsted
Sunday, September 10, 2023 – Good Friends Restaurant, New Hartford

We hope to see you at any and all of our special weekend events!

For more information, please contact Sheila (Dings) Sedlack
Sheila (Dings) Sedlack ssedlack@charter.net (860) 379-5310

Class of *1973*

Celebrating our 50th Class Reunion!





Saturday, October 21, 2023
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Green Woods Country Club
Winsted, Connecticut

Social hour with appetizers followed by a buffet dinner. Didn't we just graduate? Where has the time gone? We hope to see you there!

For questions, please contact Carol (Keeley) Maas at:
ckmaas@yahoo.com

Upcoming Reunions, Continued – *Save the Date!*

Class of *1978*

Celebrating our 45th Class Reunion!

Saturday, August 12, 2023
11:30 a.m.
Maasser Park
112 Rockhall Road, Colebrook

The Class with Class! Lunch, dinner, and entertainment – or we will entertain ourselves!

For questions, please contact Joe Nichols
jbkarjoe@sbcglobal.net or (860) 480-2606 or
Visit The Gilbert School Class of 1978 Facebook Page



Class of *1980*

Celebrating our 43th Class Reunion!

Saturday, July 8, 2023
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Norbrook Farm Brewery
204 Stillman Hill Road, Colebrook

With Special Guest: *Mr. Craig Schroeder!*



* Craft Beer, Wine, Spirits
* Family friendly, kid friendly, dog friendly
* Miles of hiking and mountain bike trails, 18 hole disc golf, cornhole, horseshoes
* 600 ft patio with gas fire pits and fabulous views
* Tables, tents if inclement weather and various food trucks
* Food and Drink for purchase only.

Bring snacks to share as well as family photos and memories to share with your classmates. See You There!

For more information, please contact Dennis Dombrowski
Dendom@comcast.net (717) 618-2118

Upcoming Reunions, Continued – *Save the Date!*

Class of *1983*

Celebrating our 40th Class Reunion!



Saturday, September 30, 2023
5:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Norbrook Farm Brewery
204 Stillman Hill Road, Colebrook

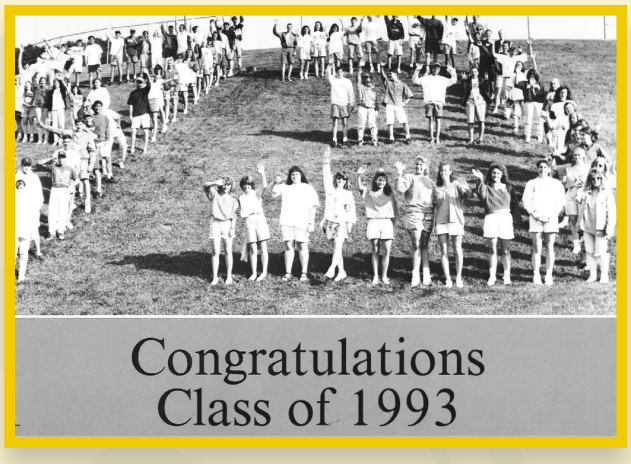
We are working out the details. More information will be coming soon! Keep in Touch! We can't wait to see everyone!

For more information please contact:

Rita (Andrews) Bardino	(860) 307-4630
Kristin (Lavieri) Roberts	(860) 605-5410

Class of *1993*

Celebrating our 30th Class Reunion!



Saturday, August 5, 2023
5:00 p.m.
Norbrook Farm Brewery
204 Stillman Hill Road, Colebrook

We hope to see you there!

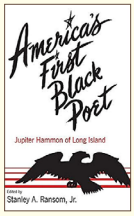
For questions, please visit:
The Gilbert School Class of 1993 Facebook Page

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!**

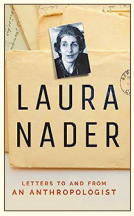


1945
Stanley A. Ransom, Jr. writes:
I am 95 and a half, my birthday is 1-24-1928. I am interested in learning how many of the Class of 1945 are still alive and might like to meet at a future Gilbert School reunion. I know my friends, C. John DiCara and Harold Fleming have died. I know that Betty Wharton lives in Colebrook, and I recall that she married a 1945 Gilbert classmate. I am very active in several organizations. I am a retired Library Director in New York State. I am married to a retired librarian, and we have 4 children. I am an author, and have written a book, **America's First Black Poet; Jupiter Hammon of Long Island.** In 1970 I created a national celebration of Black Poetry Day on October 17th, Jupiter's birthday. Through my efforts, the New York State Legislature in 2022 created Black Poetry Day in New York State. I am also a folk singer, called The Connecticut Peddler. ***Thanks so much for the update, Stan!*** *If anyone would like to get in touch with Stan, please contact the Alumni Department at* **gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org** *and we will put you in touch with him.*





1948
Laura Nader
Laura Nader has a published piece entitled, Pedagogical Issues: The General Education Challenge in the new book, **The Ethical University: Transforming Higher Education,** edited by Wanda Teays and Alison Dundes Renteln. Laura has also published a book entitled, **Letters To and From an Anthropologist.** Congratulations, Laura!



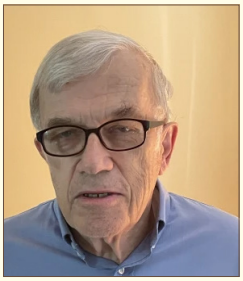


1960
Joseph Bazzano writes:
I have lived in Florida since 2002. I retired from teaching after 35 years in Simsbury, Connecticut. I have been married for 55 years to my wife, Cindy. We have 3 children, Lisa, Matthew, and Michael and 5 grandchildren, Joey, Gia, Gracie, Ella, and Jack. Life is good!
We are so glad, Joe!



1960
Dorothea (Ells) Jurgenson writes:
I graduated from Gilbert in 1960, then from Middlebury College in 1964, majoring in biology. For several years I taught in some specialized biology programs and worked seasonally for the National Park Service. In 1972 I entered the University of Arizona, where I earned an MS in genetics, and also met my husband, James Jurgenson. We were married in 1975. We lived first in New Jersey, where Jim worked at Rutgers University, then in Carlisle Pennsylvania (Dickinson College), then moved to Iowa in 1992 where we both taught biology at University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls until this year. We live in the small town of Denver, IA north of Cedar Falls. We have three children: Eric, a physicist and data programmer, who lives in Colorado and has three children, Mark, an opera singer and public school music teacher in Sumner, IA, and Ashlea, a Pharmacy student in Lawrence, Kansas. ***Thanks for the wonderful updates, Dorothea!***

Continued



1960
Paul B. Manchester writes:
After I graduated from Gilbert in 1960, I received a B.A. in Math & Economics from Yale. After serving in the Peace Corps, I received a Ph. D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota. I then served as an Economist in the Executive Office of the President and taught Economics for 7 years. I subsequently served as a regulator in housing finance in the Executive branch of the Federal government from 1990 until I retired from the Federal Housing Finance Agency in 2021. I authored numerous publications during these positions. Since retirement, I have authored columns for a mortgage industry publication. My wife Ruth and I moved to a retirement community in Silver Spring, Maryland in March of 2023. ***Thank you for the good news, Paul!***



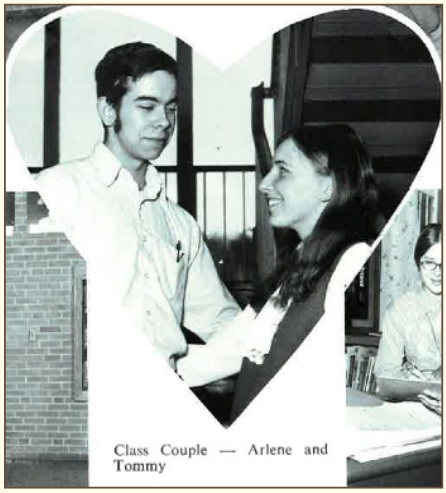
1962
Gail Hoxie writes:
The latest addition to my bookshelf is **Trio** a culmination of Ginny's journey to her birth mother and her Irish roots. Trio combines all three steps to this sweet awakening. Ginny, Dinner with Sharon Flynn, and Meggie come to life in unison with Ginny's walk through her world into yours. ***Congratulations, Gail!***





1970
Kirk Frazee writes:
I now have three grandchildren – Oliver, born in 2020, Lincoln, born in 2021, and Felix, born in 2022. ***Congratulations, Kirk!***

1971
Tom and Arlene (Brady) Boutin write:
We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on September 9, 2022. We were the Class Couple of the Class of 1971! We were married on September 9, 1972 at St Joseph's Church in Winsted. We raised two children, Jason Boutin, Class of 1995


Class Couple — Arlene and Tommy

and Michele (Boutin) Cousins, Class of 1999. Prior to retirement, Tom was a Mechanical Engineer and Arlene was the Collector of Revenue for the Town of Winchester for 20 years. We enjoy spending our free retirement time visiting our three young grandsons and traveling whenever the opportunity presents itself. ***Congratulations, Tom and Arlene!***



1974
George Burgess
On April 5, 2023, George Burgess, Class of 1974 took part in the United States of America Snowboard and Freeski Association National Championships held at Copper Mountain, Colorado. He competed in the snowboarding Parallel Giant Slalom and Parallel Slalom events in the 60+ division. Following the Parallel Slalom event, George was awarded the Bronze medal by 2022 Olympic Gold medalist and 2017 World Championship Gold medalist Nick Baumgartner for finishing in third place. Five of the competitors George faced had previously won national titles in one or more snowboard disciplines. In 2005 George began competing in regional snowboarding events throughout New York and New England. After several years away from the sport he returned to compete in the 2022 Nationals. This was his fourth trip to the Nationals. ***Congratulations, George!***



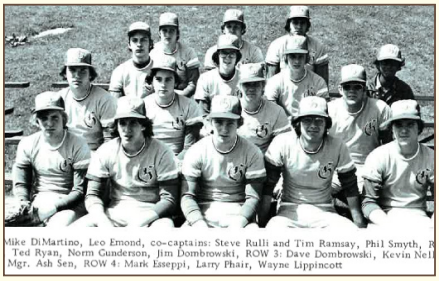
2023 USASA Nationals Slalom Race, George Burgess



2022 Olympic Gold Medalist, Nick Baumgartner presenting George with the Bronze medal

Continued

1976
Larry Phair writes:
I have retired after 25 years from umpiring high school and little league baseball. ***Congratulations, Larry!***


Mike DiMartino, Leo Emond, co-captains: Steve Rulli and Tim Ramsay, Phil Smyth, R
Ted Ryan, Norm Gunderson, Jim Dombrowski, ROW 3: Dave Dombrowski, Kevin Nel
Mgr. Ash Sen, ROW 4: Mark Esseppi, Larry Phair, Wayne Lippincott



1979
Robbin (Schnier) Beauchamp
Robbin was recently promoted to Assistant Provost at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. She joined Wentworth as Director of Cooperative Education and Career Development in September 2014. Robbin has over 25 years of college career services and human resources experience. She grew up in Winsted, and graduated from Emerson College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communication and Television Production. She obtained her Master's degree in Administration/ Organizational Policy from Boston University. Robbin previously worked in Career Services at Stonehill College in Easton, MA and Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. Prior to working in higher education, Robbin worked in Human Resources for a decade as a Recruiter, Trainer, Benefits Administrator and Manager at Boston University, Joslin Diabetes Center and Putnam Investments. Robbin is a frequent presenter at professional association conferences on topics such as leadership, neurodiversity and closing the wage gap. Robbin has been recognized numerous times by the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers, where she served on the board and co-chaired an annual conference, for her many contributions to her profession. In addition to earning her degrees, Robbin has completed the National Association of Colleges and Employers week-long Management Leadership Institute and their Career Coaching Intensive. Robbin was in the inaugural class of the Career Leadership Collective's Mastermind, a nine-month program specifically for chief career services officers. Robbin holds the designation of Global Career Development Facilitator and is a certified Life, Career, Executive and Woman's Empowerment Coach. Robbin welcomes contact from Gilbert students and families who are exploring colleges in Boston. Reach out to her at robbinleisa@hotmail.com. ***Thank you, Robbin!***



1979
Nina (Bergersen) Tryon writes:
Too much change! I'm now working 3 – 4 days a week as a CNA in a nursing home. My oldest granddaughter got her driver's license. My 2 ½ year old grandson will have a brother in July. I am so glad they are 2 minutes away! My other grandson is ½ hour away in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Last but not least, my husband has stepped down as pastor and is doing full time sales work for the same cleaning company he was working for before becoming a full time pastor. ***Lots of good news, Nina – thanks for sharing!***



1982
Rita (Asselin) Wood writes:
I retired in June of 2022 after 34 ½ years as a speech/language pathologist and now I run the Fox Creek Inn in Chittenden, Vermont. Check out www.foxcreekinnvt.com and come visit! ***Congratulations, Rita!***



1984
Mike Karolyi
According to an article by Mike on i95, The Home of Rock'N'Roll website:
I am very happy to announce that I am moving into the Home of Rock and Roll, I95 in Danbury. It's an honor for me to share the studio with the legendary Ethan Carey, Lou Milano, Large Dave and the rest of the personalities that you listen to every day. I am thrilled to be back on-air in Connecticut and I invite you to tune in, download the I95 mobile app and hang out with me weekday afternoons from 3p-7p. It all starts Monday, May 8, 2023! I was born and raised in Winsted, CT and spent much of my teen years going to concerts at the New Haven Coliseum, Hartford Civic Center and who didn't spend many nights at Toads Place and Tuxedo Junction? I spent nearly 30 years on the radio in Hartford, CT. In my time at WCCC I had the privilege of interviewing so many of the artists I grew up listening to. Imagine a kid from Winsted getting the opportunity to speak with Jimmy Page, David Lee Roth, Ozzy Osbourne, Steven Tyler and so many more! I am looking forward to sharing those stories, getting you up to date on everything that is happening

Continued

today with Classic Rock and making some new memories at I95 in Danbury. Hang out with me weekday afternoons from 3p-7p for 40 minutes of non-stop Classic Rock every hour on the Home of Rock and Roll I95. **Read More: Karolyi's New Home For Rock and Roll Is I95, Danbury**



1989
Joe Barber writes:
On October 1, 2022 I marked 26 years in the Office of Community Service and Civic Engagement at Trinity College, and as of December 1, 2022, I have been director of the same office for 20 years. ***Congratulations, Joe!***



1996
Thomas Clapper
Karen Latina, Class of 1978, writes about her nephew, Thomas Clapper: Tom graduated from Gilbert in 1996 with a swimming and diving scholarship to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. Unfortunately, he suffered a knee injury and lost his athletic scholarship. He enlisted in the Army in 1998 where he was a Crew Chief/Mechanic for Chinook helicopters. Once he completed his service, he enrolled in Armstrong Atlantic State University (now part of Georgia Southern University) and graduated in 2008 with a B.A. in Political Science. In 2009, he moved to Washington, D.C. where he worked at Caderock Naval Warfare Center in Bethesda, MD in their IT department. From there, Tom became interested in expanding his career in IT and computers, and eventually into cyber security. He worked for several Department of Defense contractors as an Information Security Manager working on classified programs. Since 2018, Tom has been an Information Systems Manager for SpaceX in Hawthorne, CA. Though the job is very stressful, he has often commented that he feels like a kid living his dreams, especially during the times that he has had exclusive access to some of the original NASA rockets. He and his wife, Alicia, are expecting their first child. ***Wonderful news, thank you, Karen!***



2016
Tori Richards
Tori has opened Wild One Salon in Winsted. After gaining experience in different salons in Bloomfield and Avon, she renovated and created her new shop with her own design and creations in a country and western theme. Visit and support Tori at 538 Main Street in Winsted. ***Congratulations, Tori!***

The 2023 Annual Blue & Gold Golf Fundraiser was held on June 3, 2023 at Fairview Farms Golf Course in Harwinton. This is a fundraiser for The Gilbert School Athletics Department. Thank you to all of our alumni who supported our athletes! Watch for the announcement for next year's tournament and dinner.



Thank you to TGS teacher Josh Penn and his family who played golf and sponsored a hole.



Golfers, Tom Hicks, Class of 2006, Dylan Keith, Class of 2020, Conor Bailey, Class of 2019 and Shane Centrella.



Golfers Jacob Krassner, Class of 2019, Joe Brugman, Class of 2019, Dylan Amery, Class of 2019, and Tyler Tucker, Class of 2019.

Calling all alumni! Send us your news for the next issue!

Whether you've recently married, celebrated an anniversary or an addition to your family, received a promotion, changed occupations, started a business, written a book, won an award, went on an adventure, or just want to send greetings to your classmates, – we want to know! Photos for publication are always welcome! Send your news to the Alumni Department at gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org. Let us hear from you!

Donations

Thank You Alumni and Friends for Your Generosity!

The following donations were received between June 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.
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 +)
Thomas Amenta, 1956
Dr. Joan Centrella, 1971 & Dwight Allen
JoAnn (Young) Leifert, 1980
Paul B. Manchester, 1960
Attorney Ellen Cormier Marino, 1983
David Poucher, 1968
Charles & Ellen (Vaccari)Seaback, 1972
Dr. Anthony Serio

Blue & Gold Club ($500 - $999)
Lisa (Lamoureaux) Garrahan, 1981
Dr. Richard, 1979 & Greykell Dutton
Christine (Wiarda) Hurley, 1987
Concetto, 1982 & Ellen (Cormier) Marino, 1983
Dorothy (Wetmore) Robbins, 1954

Patrons ($200 - $499)
Susan (Moore) Belle-Isle, 1970
Patricia & Jack Bourque
Andrew J. Brady, 1973
JoAnn & Harry Briggs
Joseph C. Carrozzo, 1954
Alan & Pamela (Flaherty) Colavecchio, 1969
Beverly (Paterson) Davis, 1957
Lt. Col. L. Hunter Davis, 1957
Theodore Davis, 1956
Philip J. DiCara, 1943
Peter & Deborah DiMartino
Karen (Horn) Dooks, 1960
Heather (Case) Dzielak, 1986
Jeanette Emerick, 2005
Elaine A. Fortuna
Grace M. Fracasso, 1965
John P. Fracasso, 1975
Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972
Claudia (Moore) Helm, 1974
Gregory Hugues, 1968
Deborah (Glynn) Jones, 1970
Neil, 1948 & Elizabeth (Dings) Kelsey, 1950
S. Peter Manchester, 1958
Noreen (Brown) Marchand, 1965
Fred T. Marzullo, 1959
Carol (Hamilton) Miles, 1963
Shirley (Kolega) Moore, 1943
Laura Nader, 1948
Ruth (Ursone), 1992 & Antonio Napoleone
Carlton C. Roberts, 1958
Donald S. Schiavone, 1948
Steven, 1960 & Sheila (Dings) Sedlack, 1963
Nadene B. Stein, 1980
Dr. Dongngan Truong, 1988

Yellow Jackets ($100 - $199)
Harry, 1960 & Lynda Attianese
Andrew J. Brady, 1973
Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990
John, 1962 & Lynda Colavecchio
James DiMartino, 1964
Eugene Diulio, 1954
Sue (Dickerman) Donofrio, 1961
Cynthia A. Fixer, 1978
Jacqueline (Hunt) Flagg, 1954
Edith (Altschuler) Freireich, 1947
Mary (Avery) Gessner, 1954
Michele (Walter) Glass, 1977
Anne Goodenough, 1960
Stephen Habery, 1950
James M. Heller, 1957
Kenneth J. Hodge, 1975
Kathleen (Brady) Jones, 1972
Dr. Michael S. Kelley, 1976
Victoria (Bordonaro) Larson, 1973
J. Thomas Light, 1958
Salvatore Marino, 1961
Josephine (Staszowski) Ochotnicky, 1943
Robert P. O'Connor, 1949
Elizabeth (Pinter), 1982 & Todd Parsons, 1979
Richard Perry, 1971
Robert Provan, 1956
Raymond & Astrid (Haskins) Robitaille, 1989
Rebecca (Beach) Schrock, 1963
Roland C. Seymour, 1963
Tyler M. Stone, 1978
Paul Svetz, 1960
Mary Ellen (Staszowski), 1972 & Leo Vaccari, 1976
Paul, 1966 & Linda Vaccari
Matthew Watson, 1977
Patricia H. Weingart
Michael T. Zonghetti, 1976

Boosters ($50 - $99)
Joseph C. Barber, 1989
Richard J. Beebe, 1972
Thomas Bordonaro, 1967
Joanne (Finn) Casey, 1958
Barbara (Lynch) Collins, 1947
Matthew Connole, 1963
Ellen (Barrett) Cunha, 1962
Joan E. (Youmatz) DiAgostino, 1960
Robert G. Desmond, 1957
James English, 1957
Brian, 1970 & Sandra (Soucy) Griswold, 1974
Stephen Habery, 1950
Lisa M. Holmes, 1978
Gail M. Hoxie, 1962
Herbert G. Isaacson, 1954
Adam L. Jaworksi, 2020
Dorothea (Ellis) Jurgenson, 1960
Alan,1957 & Denise (Shopey) Lawson, 1955
Robert E. Lee, 1958
Wendy (Vaill) Lewis, 1964
Sally (Crossman) Mangione, 1956
Janis (Foster) Miller, 1951
Eugene Nalette, 1959
Jeanette (Turgeon) Neary, 1957
Paula Ryan-Richard, 1965
Nancy Suydam, 1949
D. John Vaccari, 1942
Phyllis J. Wells
Rita (Asselin) Wood, 1982

Laurel Court ($1 - $49)
Linda (Speziale) Barberet, 1974
Joseph C. Bazzano, 1960
Douglas W. Brand, 1976
Barbara (Miner) Bremer, 1978
Ann (Marino) Brochu, 1951
Richard, 1970 &
Sandra (Soucy) Griswold, 1974
Maria Guglielmino, 1972
Kirk Frazee, 1970
Douglas Fredenburg, 1947
Jean (Dudley) Hoagland, 1960
Mary Ann Holmes, 1951
Warren J. Hugues, Jr., 1950
Anna (Kulinksi) Lovetere, 1975
Judith (Roberts) May, 1956
Shannon Mitchell, 2013
Paul & Barbara Patch, 1969
Larry C. Phair, 1976
Barbara J. Reilly, 1950
Carolee (DiMartino) Salisbury, 1957
Janice (Weber) Scarey, 1964
Mary (Sturm) Sullivan, 1953
Mindy (Garbus) Sultaire, 1970
Norman N. Swanson, 1956
David Torson, 1968
Alanne (Kennedy) Turina, 1968

Continued

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
Steven, 1960 & Sheila (Dings) Sedlack, 1963
UBS Matching Gift Program
Robert, 1970 & Laura (Brochu) Winn, 1974

Timothy M. Casey Scholarship Fund
Joanne Aliano, 1974
Wendy Penn

The Gilbert Faculty Scholarship Fund
Peter & Deborah DiMartino

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

Francis & Elaine Kane Scholarship
Kelley (Kane) Gage, 1982

Irving S. Milano Scholarship
William & Gayle (Milano) Gemetro, 1964
Arthur, 1960 & Dora (Carpentier) LaMere, 1964
Deborah & Richard Malo
Elaine D. Smith
Hervey & Marilyn Wright

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

Terrence Hastings Tirrell
1973 Memorial Scholarship
50th Annual Terrence Tirrell
Open Golf Tournament
Lt. Col. Robert F. Ryan

Terrence Hastings Tirrell
1973 Memorial Scholarship
In Memory of John Dombrowski,
Class of 1973
Andrew J. Brady, 1973
David & Marjorie Cox
Anne & Edward Dodge
Joanna & John Korte
John & Pamela Lestage
Stephanie & Simon Wethered

Othneil G. Williams Scholarship
Jean (Woodward) Partridge, 1950
John "Jack" Woodward, 1953

Athletic Fund Donors

Donations to the Varsity Baseball Team
Caleb A. Goodell, 2021

Donations to the Wrestling Team
Stephen, 1961 & Sandra (Lemelin) Vaill, 1960

Fund Donors

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

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

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

Donations to the Edward Keeley
Memorial Fund
Richard S. Yadach, 1976

Donations

The Gilbert School Advisory Program
Class of 1972 – 50th Class Reunion Gift
Richard J. Beebe, 1972
Collette Bement, 1972
Susan (Church) Caufield, 1972
Carmelina (Indino) Connole, 1972
Karen (Holmes) Cornell, 1972
Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972
Maria Guglielmino, 1972
Gail (Centrella) Henderson, 1972
Rosemarie Inzinga-Patnoe, 1972
Joseph Lavernoich, 1972
Roger Leighton, 1972
Kristin (Jamieson) MacDonald, 1972
Wendy (Valentine) Martin, 1972
Charles & Ellen (Vaccari) Seaback, 1972
Susan (Brown) Smith, 1972
Cheryl Thomes, 1972

The Gilbert School Science Department
Gillian (Magee) Fenton, Esq., 1980
& Dr. Matthew J. Fenton
In Memory of John Angus Carter, III, 1954
and Priscilla Carter Magee, 1949

Memorial Gifts

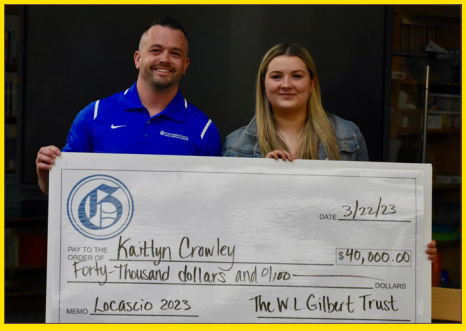
Andrea (Darcey) Ellinger, 1982
In Memory of Dominic Colavecchio, 1947

Tribute Gifts

Dr. Richard, 1979 & Greykell Dutton
In honor of Dr. & Mrs. Richard S. Dutton

The 2023 W. L. Gilbert Trust Scholarship Awards

At a special awards ceremony on June 5, 2023, over $110,000 in scholarship awards were given to our outstanding students! This year Gilbert Trust Scholarships were given to 59 Gilbert seniors and alumni. Our sincere thanks go out to our 100s of donor families, both past and present. Your generosity helps to make the higher education dreams come true for so many of our deserving students.



Timothy Cronin, CEO of The W. L. Gilbert Trust presents Class of 2023 Phyllis C. Locascio Scholarship winner, Kaitlyn Crowley, with her scholarship award.

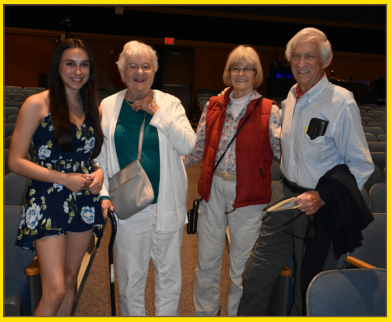
Continued



Ellen (Cormier) Marino, Class of 1983, representing the Robert L. and Mary Ellen Cormier Scholarship, with recipient, Nolan Adams, Class of 2023.



John Wiarda, representing the Phyllis C. Locascio Scholarship, with recipient Liana Masangkay, Class of 2022.



Jean (Woodward) Partridge, Class of 1950, Shirley Woodward, and John Woodward, Class of 1953, representing the Irving J. and Pauline N. Woodward Scholarship, with recipient, Makayla Dileo, Class of 2023.



Maryellen (Staszowski) Vaccari, Class of 1972, representing the Evelyn A. Cady Scholarship, with recipient Emma Schibi, Class of 2023.



Joanne and Bud Groth, representing the John Adam Groth 2006 Memorial Scholarship, with recipient Greyson Ursone, Class of 2023.



Joanne and Bud Groth, representing the John Adam Groth 2006 Memorial Scholarship, with recipient Greyson Ursone, Class of 2023.

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



1937
Lina (Florio) Eastman
October 23, 2022

1940
Elizabeth (Tiffany) Thompson
May 19, 2023

1941
Lois (Honold) King
June 28, 2022

1942
Virginia (Burdick) Hawley
November 9, 2022

1943
Babette (Herman) Barrett
January 8, 2023

1943
Donal F. Fitzgerald
February 18, 2023

1945
Rose (Milano) Antiuk
July 10, 2022

1947
Catherine (Wuori) Hayes Cowles
September 27, 2020

1947
John J. Stowe
February 18, 2021

1947
Louise (Langevin) Sullivan
August 6, 2022

1948
Charles Bouchez
March 7, 2022

1948
Edwin R. Kelley
August 6, 2022

1949
Henry Spencer "Spenny" Coleman
October 22, 2020

1949
Anne Hargrett-Lavieri
December 25, 2022

1949
John F. "Jack" Morgan
March 10, 2023

1949
Elaine (Johnson) Williams
December 25, 2022

1950
Caroline (Portinari) Gubetta
July 16, 2022

1950
James M. Hunter
April 24, 2022

1951
Jean Elizabeth Hayes
February 19, 2023

1951
David E. Ransom
December 29, 2022

1951
Olga (Mazarella) Wolfe
December 7, 2022

1952
Richard W. Hall
February 6, 2023

1952
Cynthia Kent
July 30, 2022

1952
Carmine Lavieri, III
February 10, 2022

1952
Daniel R. Smith
October 19, 1952

1952
Lucille (Noel) Wilcox
March 28, 2023

1952
Marguerite (Grenier) Zaccara
June 29, 2022

1953
George Edwin Griswold
September 12, 2022

1953
Eugene Joseph Isabelle
April 9, 2023

1953
Jeanne (Angino) Mulville
February 16, 2023

1953
Robert Youmatz
November 10, 2022

1954
Maurice Finn
December 17, 2022

1954
Carole (LaCasse) Stadler
December 25, 2022

1955
Theodore F. Church
July 25, 2022

1955
William A. Julian, Sr.
January 29, 2023

1955
Virginia (Parks) Kapinos
November 30, 2020

1955
Janice Kascenska
November 9, 2022

1956
Frances Lavieri
April 6, 2023

1957
Carol (Dombrowski) Jeffers
February 7, 2023

1957
Henry "Tom" Thomas Nelson
April 12, 2023

In Memoriam

1957
Judy (Athorn) Scott
November 1, 2011

1958
John W. Lappin
February 26, 2023

1959
Sandra Lee (Bogue) Caron
July 24, 2022

1959
Robert Grazia
January 18, 2021

1960
Rita (Fracasso) Broggi
November 4, 2022

1960
LilyAnn (Milano) Denza
August 3, 2022

1960
Joseph A. Forster
July 11, 2022

1960
Raymond J. Grigos
June 23, 2022

1960
Eliot P. "Bang" Williams
October 31, 2022

1961
Diane (Sesko) Piacente
February 16, 2023

1964
Roger W. Moore
December 22, 2022

1966
Betsy (McKie) Macdonald
September 25, 2022

1966
Cornelius Calnan Walsh
May 18, 2023

1967
Steven Horvath
November 3, 2018

1967
Charles E. Martin
December 29, 2022

1967
Robert J. Voight
December 29, 2022

1968
Charles L. Nichols
November 9, 2022

1968
Donald E. Nichols
August 30, 2022

1969
James Pettit
November 3, 2022

1970
Charles J. Pasko
June 20, 2022

1971
Ingrid E. Sidoti
August 2, 2013

1972
Sally (Hyde) Baumann
August 6, 2021

1973
Barbara (Lamont) Carl
October 27, 2022

1973
Robert D. Carotenuti
June 30, 2022

1973
Teresa (Saunders) Daniels
August 8, 2021

1973
Brian Flaherty
July 28, 2017

1973
Marta M. Voight
May 19, 2022

1974
Lawrence Eggering
January 30, 2023

1974
Debra (Goulet) Komons
October 20, 2022

1975
Richard Charles Hamm, Jr.
January 14, 2023

1975
Joanne (Ellis) Lamer
January 19, 2023

1976
William J. Dudley, Jr.
February 11, 2023

1978
Theresa E. "Terry" Zonghetti
February 23, 2022

1981
Lynn (Czerwonka) Grondin
November 27, 2022

1982
Ronald Walter Wightwood
December 16, 2022

1987
Alan J. Sanderson
February 16, 2023

2005
Sean Patrick O'Neil
August 1, 2022

2016
Zachary Robert Zecchin
September 22, 2022

FACULTY



Elizabeth (Tiffany) Thompson
Class of 1940
January 2, 1923 – May 19, 2023

Elizabeth Tiffany Thompson, Gilbert School Class of 1940, taught at The Gilbert School from 1960 – 1970. Mrs. Thompson taught English and French and is fondly remembered for the uncompromising standards she maintained in both her English and French classes at Gilbert.

https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/hartfordcourant/name/elizabeth-thompson-obituary?id=52090778

The Gilbert School

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Customize great items like, Nike apparel, backpacks, caps, stadium blankets and more — with your pick of school logos! A percentage of the proceeds benefit our own Gilbert School! Visit the store using the link on The Gilbert School homepage and start saving today!

Keep the Buzzzz Coming!

Alumni! We want to hear from you!

Did you get a new job? Earn a degree? Write a book?
Welcome a child or grandchild? Win an award? Retire?
We will share the good news with our alumni and friends!

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

PLEASE SUPPORT THE GILBERT SCHOOL! THANK YOU!

How Can We Help?

Questions? Comments?
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gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

Phone
(860) 379-1245

Mail
The Gilbert School Alumni Office
140 Willow St., Ste. 6, Winsted, CT 06098

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Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990

Additional Photo Credits:
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