



THE GLEANER

2021

INSPIRE 150

Revitalizing the Academy
Building for future
generations

PAGE 4

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY





Arriel Quant '21, Ksenija Martinovic '22, Sara Qiuyu Cutillo Soria '21, and Camila Roman '22 living in the Warren dorm on South Campus.

OUR MISSION

The Woodstock Academy prepares all students by providing diverse opportunities through a rigorous curriculum and a variety of programs in order to cultivate the necessary skills to become lifelong learners and global citizens.

THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

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ON THE COVER

The Academy Building
clocktower and spire
Photo by Joel Tretheway



The Woodstock Academy



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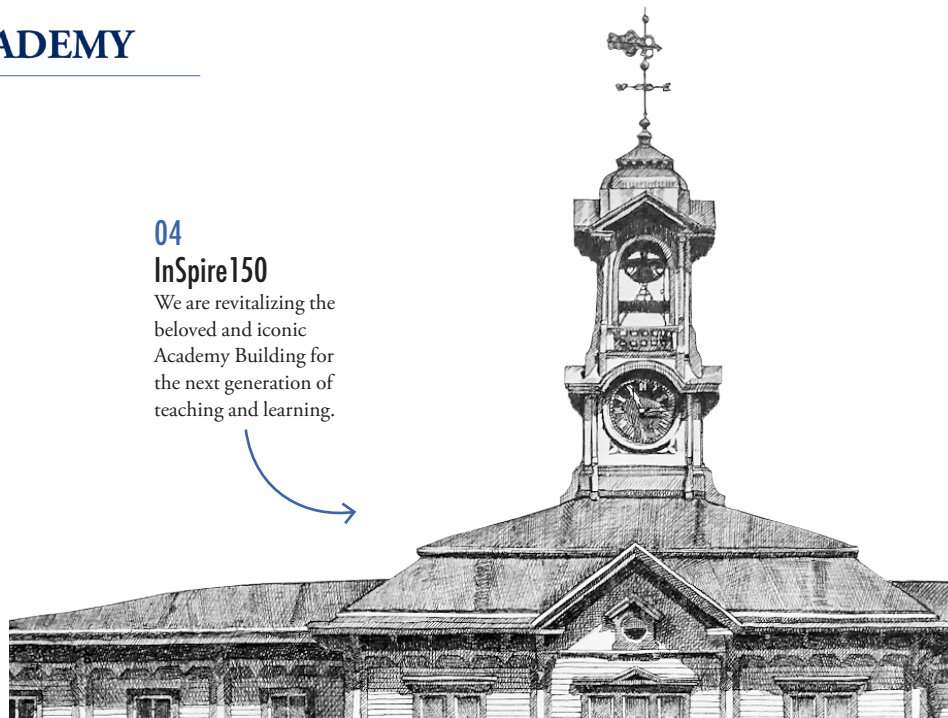


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04

InSpire150

We are revitalizing the beloved and iconic Academy Building for the next generation of teaching and learning.



Taylor '01

THE GLEANER

2021

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL'S DESK

As I am writing this, we are all feeling the impact of a terrible pandemic, seeing nation-wide political divisions, and discussing social justice reforms. Yet, even with all of us questioning so many things, it is important for you to know that The Academy is still meeting its mission as an institution. While it may appear different, what our staff and students have accomplished during this time should make you very proud.

In my office on North Campus sit a few pictures of my late grandparents. These pictures embody some of my earliest memories; my paternal grandfather is wearing his standard golf shirt with his crooked finger and my maternal grandmother is sitting with a crossword puzzle book close by. They are a daily reminder of the foundation on which I am built.

The Academy is no different. Our campus is filled with reminders of our historic foundation.

Completed in 1873, the historic Academy Building is a treasure in the town of Woodstock. Its magnificent, iconic clock tower has long been the traditional symbol of our beloved school. Like the pictures we have of our past relatives and friends, it serves as a reminder of our personal history and lays the foundation for us as an institution.

As we approach the 150th anniversary of the Academy Building, I enjoy chatting with alumni about what experiences they remember. I have heard about assignments in Latin and English classes, enjoyed stories about plays in the hall, and learned about shenanigans that I would rather not write about. But no matter which experience alumni speak about, the Academy Building always takes center stage.

As you may already know, we are undertaking a campaign to update and modernize this centerpiece of our institution. I ask you to support this meaningful and worthy project. Please help us reach our goal to ensure that future generations of students will build their own memories and have rich educational experiences which are in alignment with our mission as an institution.

In Partnership,

Christopher J. Sandford
Head of School

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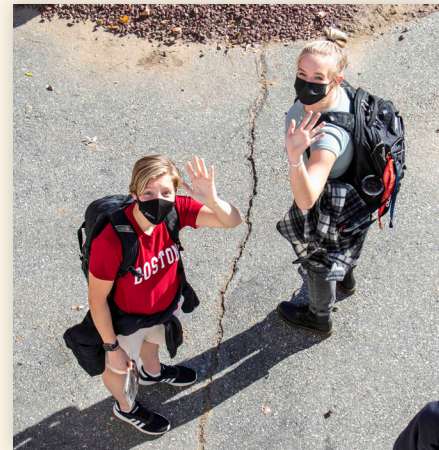
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NEWSFEED



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INSPIRE 150

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ACADEMY BUILDING

As you drive north on Connecticut Route 169 through Woodstock, the iconic spire of the Academy Building peeks out from above the trees. Across the town common sits The Woodstock Academy's oldest building—a wooden structure with tall windows and topped with a stately clock tower and spire.

By Julia Budd '11, *Editor*





RESTORING AND REVITALIZING THE BELOVED ACADEMY BUILDING AS IT TURNS 150 YEARS OLD

ORIGINS

“When people think of The Academy, this is the building they think of. This is the face of The Academy,” said Ethan Bove ’21. Not only is The Academy Building a local landmark, but it also serves as a symbol of the school. For decades some variation of the clock tower and spire has served as a logo for the school.

“I feel honored to be a part of this tradition. Especially for a school that has such a long history,” said Zhiyan Stella Du ’21. As a middle school student in China, Zhiyan and her family researched high schools to attend in the United States. It was images of the Academy Building that drew her to look more closely at The Woodstock Academy and its history and ultimately lead her to spend her four years of high school here.

The Academy’s campus has been comprised of several buildings since its founding in 1801, but the Academy Building has endured the longest. In the almost 150 years of its existence, nearly every student who has attended The Academy has taken a class within its walls.

“It’s the point of origin of all that happens here,” said Martha Beckwith ’80, president of The Woodstock Academy Foundation and Academy Trustee.



CHARACTER AND QUIRKS

For those who have spent time at The Academy, the building is like a character within the story of their WA experience. A character with both charm and quirks of history and tradition. Every student has a unique connection to the building: memories of dragging desks across the creaky wood floors for a Socratic seminar or Model UN simulation, an “aha” moment in calculus or Latin class on the third floor, rehearsing lines for a play on the small stage in the central auditorium, waiting for the bus in front of the building, or sitting in a classroom where they first formed a connection with a friend from another town or another country.

But along with the charm of the building comes the practical need for functional updates. The advent of the building’s 150th anniversary is the catalyst for a multi-year project to restore, upgrade, and repair the Academy Building to both preserve its historic nature and revitalize the building for generations to come.

More efficient heating, renovated bathrooms, stabilizing the time-worn clock tower, new roofing according to the original design, increased accessibility on the first level, and window restoration are among the planned renovations.

“Those things may seem inconsequential to learning,” said Michael Harten, dean of academics at The Woodstock Academy, “but really they are essential to students being in the right frame of mind to learn, and faculty too. So to take care of some of those environmental concerns in an older building allows students and teachers to do what they are here to do, which is to think to talk, to learn, and not worry about those needs.”

When people think of The Academy, this is the building they think of. This is the face of The Academy.



The Academy Building was painted white in the 1970s and 80s.

MODERN EDUCATIONAL NEEDS MET WITH A HISTORIC STRUCTURE

Beyond practical and functional upgrades, is the need to revamp classroom spaces to suit today's educational needs. For decades classrooms were designed around an instructor teaching rows of students from the front of the classroom, but today The Academy strives for student-driven learning and collaboration. Something as simple as the configuration of desks or tables in a room can make a huge difference in the atmosphere of a classroom.

"To marry the old and the tradition with the innovative classroom practices and innovative classroom spaces, I think that's a really powerful thing that we can provide for the next generation of Academy students," said Harten.

Social studies teacher Greg Smith said, "I think it is so necessary to teach history in the most historically significant building in this area." In recent years the Academy Building has been home to classes from across the disciplines, including world language, math, social studies, and English.

To marry the old and the tradition with the innovative classroom practices and innovative classroom spaces, I think that's a really powerful thing that we can provide for the next generation of Academy students.

Jacque Rivera, prep basketball coach at The Woodstock Academy, said the Academy Building is one of the first stops he makes on campus tours with prospective students and families. "I think it's a bridge between the alumni and our current students and those to come after because it has so much character. It screams academia; it's a traditional New England building."

As The Academy works to preserve its history and create indoor spaces that inspire innovation and collaboration, plans are also in the works to create an outdoor classroom adjacent to The Academy Building. The amphitheater-like space will be a place where classes, teams, clubs, faculty, and alumni can gather for classes or special events.

When science department chair Melany Gronski heard about the plans for an outdoor classroom she began to dream of the possibilities, "this classroom space gives us the opportunity to switch it up," Gronski said. She imagines bringing her class outside to "get into small groups, collaborate, and be in the sunshine when it's warm."

MAKING IT POSSIBLE

"Any project on a historic structure comes with significant costs since we want to preserve the look and feel of the original structure but increase its functionality as a modern education facility," said Christopher Sandford, head of school at The Woodstock Academy.

A few classrooms have recently received cosmetic updates thanks to several generous donors but it will take significant investment to bring the Academy Building to its true potential.

The Woodstock Academy is exploring all funding options to efficiently complete this project, including a recently approved Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit from the State Historic Preservation Office for \$1.58 million or up to 25% of the total estimated costs of the project. The Academy Building was eligible for this funding from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development since it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

"This tax credit gives us a significant head start in our fundraising," said Jonathan Sturdevant, associate head of school for advancement.

The InSpire150 campaign has just begun, with the goal being to complete the renovations in 2023, just in time for the 150th anniversary of the building's 1873 construction.



ACADEMY STUDENTS IN 1995 AND 2019



CURRENT ACADEMY BUILDING CLASSROOM



PHASE 1

Clocktower Restoration
Time frame: 2021

- new structural bracing
- new roofing
- new painting
- restoration of the clock faces
- restoration of the weathervane
- new clock controllers and bell interface

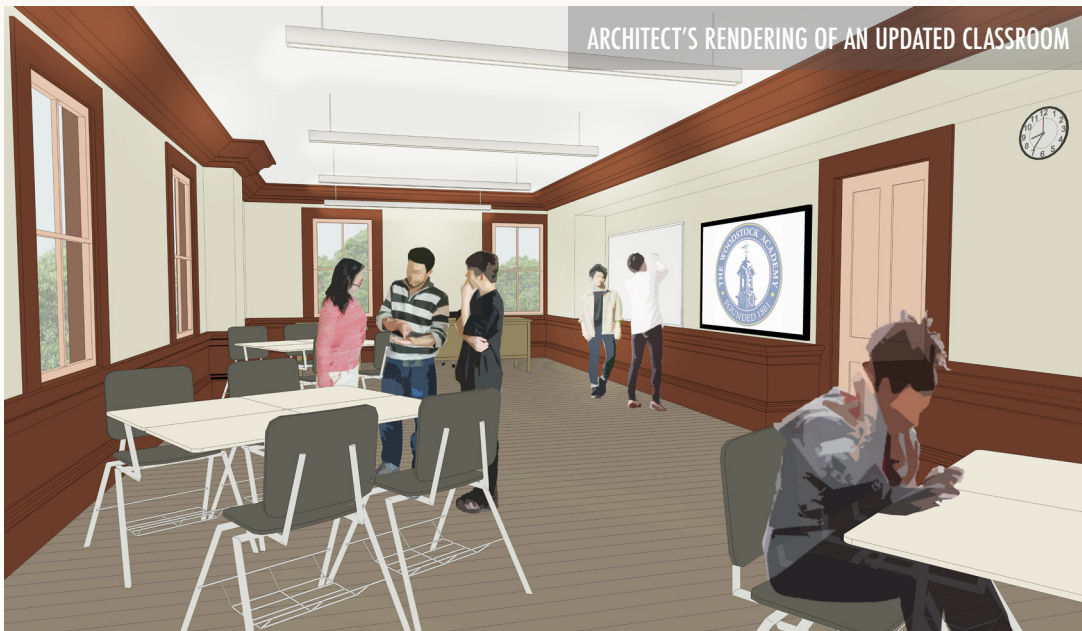
PHASE 2

Building Restoration & Refinishing
Timeframe: 2022-2023

- new metal batten seam roofing matching the original roof from 1873
- combination of new and restored windows
- handicap accessibility on the first level
- restroom upgrades
- restoration of the central auditorium (A200)
- new electrical and heating systems throughout
- new fire protection systems throughout
- new AV systems throughout
- stabilization of the existing wood framing at the base of the building

RENOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF AN UPDATED CLASSROOM



CLOCK TOWER DAMAGE



CEILING DAMAGE



WINDOW DAMAGE





LOCAL CHANGES, WORLDWIDE IMPACT

The Woodstock Academy’s Model United Nations Program is just one of many programs that will significantly benefit from The Academy Building’s renovations.

For much of The Academy’s history, the large central room on the second floor of the Academy Building served as the school’s main auditorium and a gathering space for the community. The high ceilings, large south-facing windows, and wooden stage were the setting for theatrical productions, dances, meetings, and school-wide gatherings. Over the decades, with the construction of larger spaces such as the Bates Memorial Auditorium and the Alumni Fieldhouse, the Academy auditorium was put to use as a classroom, study hall space, art room, and even as a practice space for the cheerleading squad.

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE TOPICS WE'RE DEBATING IN CLASS, IT'S ABOUT HOW THEY LEARN TO HAVE A VOICE.

The next chapter for this central auditorium is to be reconfigured into the primary learning space for classes, such as International Relations, that will benefit from the large flexible layout. The international relations curriculum and the adjacent Model United Nations program requires space for both formal debate and informal collaboration.

Sara Dziejczak, social studies department chair and Model UN program advisor, described Model UN this way, “Students take on the role of a country so instead of looking at issues or events from a U.S. perspective they look at it from the perspective of developed and developing countries and they argue that perspective in a formal debate. So much like at the real UN where the Security Council debates issues on peace and security, in my classroom we become that entity.”

Students give speeches, collaborate in small groups, and engage in debate. Since the inception of the program, it has made-do with an average classroom space, but now the time has come for the physical space to match the high caliber of the program.

Each year the Academy sends delegations to Model UN conferences around the nation and continually ranks among the top programs. In early 2020, The Academy received the first-place award for performance and the second-place award for research at the national Model UN conference in New York, New York. The Academy’s delegation received also another top award at the national conference in 2019.

While receiving awards is an honor, Dziejczak shared that what makes her most proud is to see her students set individualized goals and improve during a conference or over the course of their entire time participating in the program.

“It's not about the topics we're debating in class, it's about how they learn to have a voice. They learn to clearly express their opinion with facts and they feel confident in a room. That truly is what Model UN is all about,” said Dziejczak.

Ethan Werstler '18 attested to the practical benefits, “I think that the value of a solid high school education that revolves around, at least from my Model UN experience, diplomacy, interpersonal communication, public speaking— those are skills that will follow me the rest of my life.” Since his time at The Academy, Werstler has been able to put these skills into practice by returning to the national high school Model UN conference as a facilitator and as a student trustee at the University of Connecticut.

Julia Low, a 2013 Academy graduate currently on the path to becoming a lawyer, shared, “taking International Relations and participating in Model UN, helped me develop my public speaking and confidence in speaking in front of others that I wouldn't have gotten in other classes. Working on that skill, thinking on the spot, and being able to come up with analytical points in front of other people in kind of a short amount of time is going to help me, hopefully, become a better lawyer.”

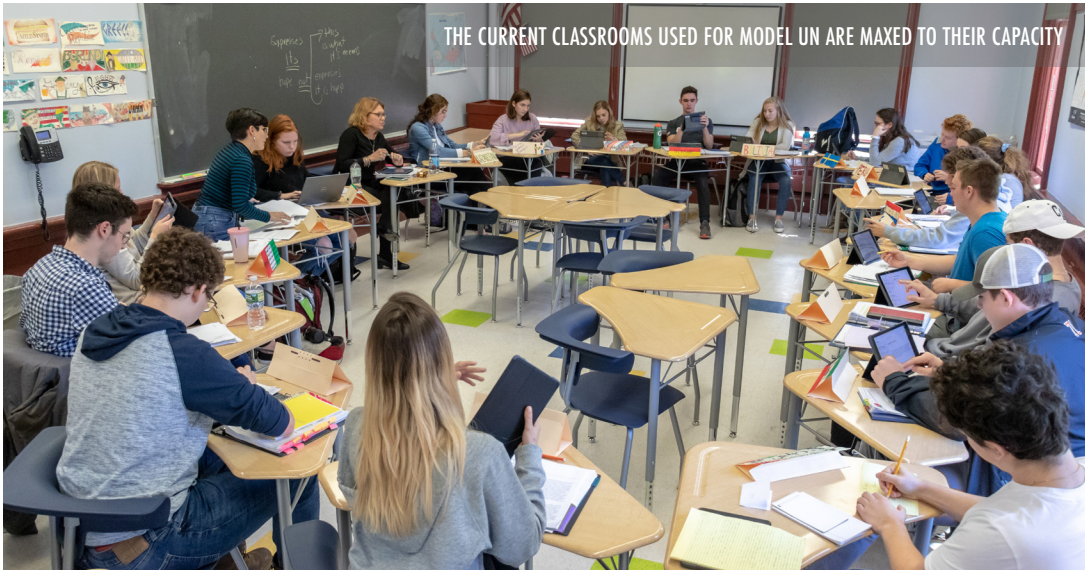
While many Model UN alumni have pursued politics, law, or international and humanitarian careers, the goal is not to put students on a specific career path, but to equip students to be lifelong learners and global citizens.

John McGinn '14 preferred math and science classes as an Academy student but after taking a history class with Dziejczak he decided to give International Relations a try. “She stressed that if you want to work on your presentation skills or your public speaking more, that this is the class for you. I was kind of a quiet kid so it made a lot of sense to come here and sharpen those skills,” said McGinn. Those skills have helped McGinn be a better colleague and a better professional as he establishes his career as an actuary in Connecticut.

Every Model UN alumnus and alumna has memories attached to The Academy Building—circling desks for debate, creating placards with the name of their delegate or country, and standing in front of the burgundy podium.

“While learning does not have to be limited to physical space,” said Christopher Sandford, head of school, “we’ve seen throughout our own experience, that physical space does make an impact on learning. We’ve seen it with other programs at WA. Music, theater, or strength and conditioning, all have spaces specifically tailored to their unique educational needs, and that is what room A200 will become for our Model UN program. We’ve seen great things from students who have participated in Model UN in the past, and I think this new space will help our students reach an even higher potential.” **W**





THE CURRENT CLASSROOMS USED FOR MODEL UN ARE MAXED TO THEIR CAPACITY



ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF A200, THE CENTRAL AUDITORIUM



MODEL UN NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY, 2020

WATCH

Watch the InSpire150 video to hear the impact of The Academy Building on generations of students and see the planned improvements.



GIVE

You can give directly to the InSpire150 renovations at woodstockacademy.org/inspire150

LEARN MORE

To explore more giving options towards the InSpire150 campaign or to learn more, contact Jonathan Sturdevant, associate head of school for advancement.

jsturdevant@woodstockacademy.org
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We're increasing financial access to experiential learning opportunities that cultivate a lifetime of learning.

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS

By Jonathan Sturdevant, Associate Head of School for Advancement

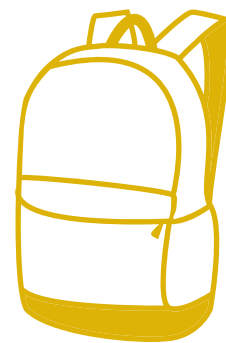
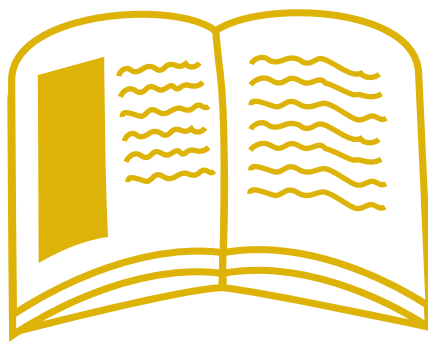
One of the most advantageous parts of a Woodstock Academy education is the seemingly endless list of experiential learning opportunities available outside the classroom. Whether competing in a national robotics competition, traveling to another country with an exchange or tour program, practicing diplomacy at a Model UN conference, or playing with the band at Disney World, there is something that appeals to everyone. One of the challenges is lowering the financial hurdles for some students to participate in one or more of these opportunities. Depending on the activity, costs can reach up to a couple thousand dollars.

In the spring of 2019, The Academy applied for a grant from the Edward E. Ford Foundation. The proposed plan was to use the money awarded to support students with financial need who want to participate in experiential learning opportunities. We were awarded \$100,000 to use for this purpose, with the condition that we raise an

additional \$200,000 (the foundation would match our fundraising at fifty cents on the dollar). As a result of our community's generosity, we were able to raise more than \$200,000 in the following year and received the full \$100,000 matching grant from the Edward. E. Ford Foundation. Our original intention was to spend that \$100,000 supporting our students over the first three years of this program, but like for many other things, COVID-19 changed that plan. So, we will spend it over the first four years of the program, and the \$200,000+ we raised has gone to a permanent endowment to ensure this program exists for our students in perpetuity.

What is now in place as a result of this grant process is known as the E.E. Ford / BIGS program. BIGS stands for Beagary Investment Grants & Scholarships as once again the Beagary Trust took a leadership role for us in support of this effort. This project was critical. Our alumni talk about not only their favorite teachers and classes, but also about impactful experiences that have shaped their careers, began their love of travel, or forged friendships. Whatever they may be, these experiences have an exponential impact on many of our students' lives.

Associate head of school, Holly Singleton '86, shared that it is "the most important thing that The Academy has done since I've been here." She added, "We've always provided great programs and opportunities but have not yet been able to bridge the gap and make them accessible for all. This program solves that issue." Every student who applies for a grant is required to contribute something financially, but this program ensures that many who would never have been able to participate otherwise will be eligible for financial support and have these chances in the future. **W**





3D & Robotics class



2018 Music trip to Quebec, Canada



2020 Music department trip to Disney World



2018 Trip to Greece



Mr. Sumner's architecture class



Model UN conference in Montreal, Canada



Kaitlin Birkin's grand-prize-winning submission hanging outside of the Loos Center for the Arts.

MESSAGES *of* HOPE

By Madison Millar, *Assistant Editor*

In the spring of 2020, Woodstock Academy students were challenged to share messages of hope in the form of art with the community.

For many, staying at home and social distancing has been a trying, stressful, and solitary time. Despite the difficulty of handling these real and powerful emotions, students of The Woodstock Academy came together to guide those in need of hope during the pandemic.

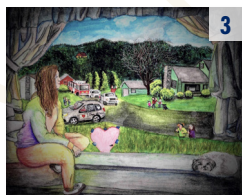
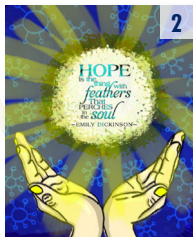
Mixing a generous amount of inspiration, creativity, and empathy, the Messages of Hope poster contest was born. Students created an 8x10 poster or similar digital

media to share their message of hope with the public. Because students were at home participating in eLearning, they may not have had access to the art supplies found in the studios on campus, but they were able to use their WA-issued iPad to create and submit their work.

The best submissions contained a strong, positive message of hope and used both visuals and words to convey their own theme. They also took into consideration the elements and principles of design to guide their composition. Out of more than 100 submissions, there were three winners and two honorable mentions. **W**

Grand Prize Winner: Kaitlin Birlin '21
Gold Award: Yiyang Hu '20 ¹
Silver Award: Chloe Forsten '21 ⁴
Honorable Mention: Lily Quinn '20 ²
Honorable Mention: Annika LeBoeuf '23 ³

Hope can come in all shapes, sizes, and perspectives, just like the artwork made by students at The Woodstock Academy.



MEET A CENTAUR

Meet six students making the most of their WA experiences.



ADDY SMITH '22
Massachusetts

AP biology and honors pre-calculus are two of Addy's favorite classes and with Math Team, EarthSave, and Medical Club among her after-school activities, it is apparent that she's a big fan of all things math and science, but she wasn't always interested. Before high school, Addy thought there was a stigma around math but shared that, "through my incredible experience with the math classes and material at WA, I have discovered a newfound skill and enjoyment in math."

Addy shared that when she started at WA, "I was a shy, reserved, new kid who only knew one person, it is amazingly easy to see how I have changed." Now school is a place where she thrives. Not only has she made friends through varsity tennis and soccer, but she has taken an active role in student leadership as a member of the Student Life Committee, a subcommittee of the Academy's Board of Trustees.

"To be part of the WA community is to have people that you can count on."



CONOR STEWART '22
Connecticut

Conor's time at The Woodstock Academy has been about saying "yes!" Running for class president his freshman year felt like a risk but resulted in an invaluable leadership opportunity early in his high school experience. "Not being concerned with whether I'll look goofy reading a speech in front of all those people or how I sound speaking up on a zoom call served to take so much pressure and stress off."

Now as a junior, Conor continues to lead as a member of the student council and is frequently chosen as a student representative for The Academy. "The Woodstock Academy has been the perfect place to experiment with these ideas as the number of opportunities are next to endless with all the clubs, sports, classes, and activities."

Conor has also chosen to say yes to academic challenges by taking multiple AP classes and earning the honor of AP Scholar. He has pursued Spanish as a world language and earned membership into the Spanish National Honor Society.

"I can choose to not give that speech, submit that application, or ask for extra help because of negative emotions or remember I have the power to decide that I want to reframe these events and instead see each one as an opportunity to achieve my potential."

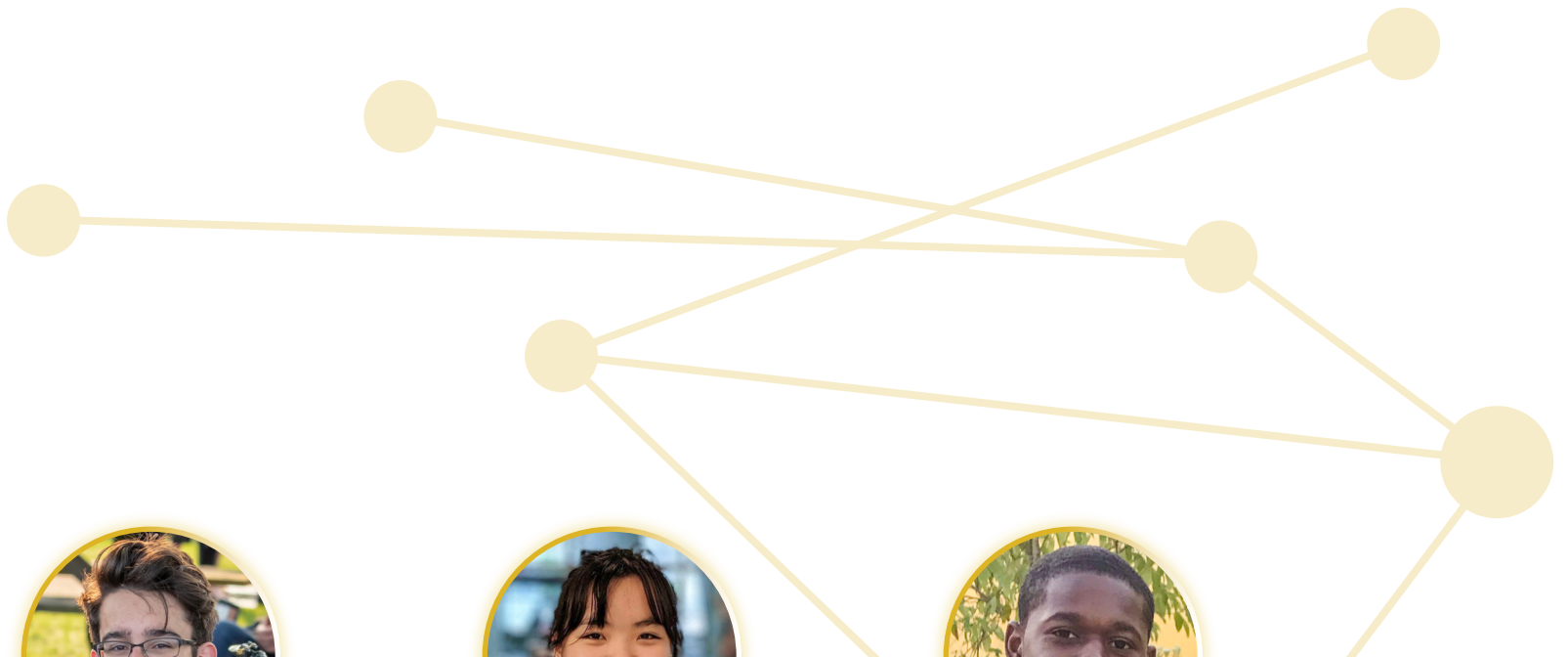


MEGHAN SLATE '21
Connecticut

Even though she didn't play an instrument, as a freshman Meghan really wanted to join the Jazz Band. "The ensembles' ability to captivate the audience with music was admirable and absolutely beautiful," said Meghan. Before picking up an instrument, she first decided to join mixed chorus, even though she had never been a part of a choir before. Then, emboldened by peers who were not afraid to challenge themselves, she decided to give the trombone a try too. "Mrs. Churchill put her faith in me and I couldn't believe anyone would believe in me enough to invest their time and efforts on me," she shared. Meghan has now achieved her goal of being in the Jazz Band as well as the Pep Band and Hill Singers. She has also been a part of several plays and musicals and is a member of the TriM Honor Society. "The music department became a family to me," said Meghan.

When her sophomore English class was given an assignment to write a paper on almost any topic, "that's when I realized that I care about music the most and would love to have a career having to do with the industry." In addition to participating in ensembles at The Academy, Meghan has explored other areas of music through courses in Music Fundamentals, The History of Rock and Roll, and Music Technology & Production.

"I arrived at high school with almost no musical background, but the music department still gave me a chance and I am forever grateful to them."



ROCKWELL VALENTINE '21

Connecticut

If something at WA involves jazz or an opportunity to play the trumpet, chances are you can find Rockwell there. In the summer of 2020, he was one of five students across the country accepted into the National Association for Music Education's All National Honor Jazz Ensemble, a huge honor for any student-musician. Rockwell also helped start a jazz club for students wanting to learn the art of musical improvisation.

During his junior year, Rockwell was a part of The Academy's production of *Our Town*. "It taught me a completely different art form and helped me discover another form of expression," he shared.

In terms of classes at WA, Rockwell shared that "AP Biology basically taught me how to learn and it played an important role in my success in every other class. AP English 3 helped me discover the inner workings of everyday speech and gave me such a better grasp on everything regarding our language."

"I feel like I have really grown into myself over these past years and become aware enough to sculpt what that growth looks like."



THAO TO '22

Vietnam

Junior Thao To has been a student at WA for two years. The day Thao arrived in the U.S. for the first time, she panicked when she saw the WA shuttle bus in the airport parking lot. She was nervous about her English skills, but as she got to know dorm parents Mrs. Bottone and Mrs. Ostaszewski on the drive to campus, things started to change. "There was a shift in my thought, a dark future to a bright new life." Now, a year and a half later, Thao said, "Being a part of WA has been one of the best moments of my life." Today, Thao is known around campus for her outgoing and friendly personality.

Thao has made the most of her time at WA by trying out several clubs like Production Club, EarthSave, and Evironthon. The new Medical Club has been beneficial as she considers a medical career. "Members of the club have opportunities to talk and listen to people who have a lot of experience in the medical field," she shared. She's inspired by biology and chemistry and loves the challenge.

Living in the dorms on South Campus has given Thao extra opportunities to build friendships and practice her English. "I have a lot of memorable moments with the WA family."

"I've become much more confident and positive than I was before."



ETHAN EDWARDS PG '21

New York

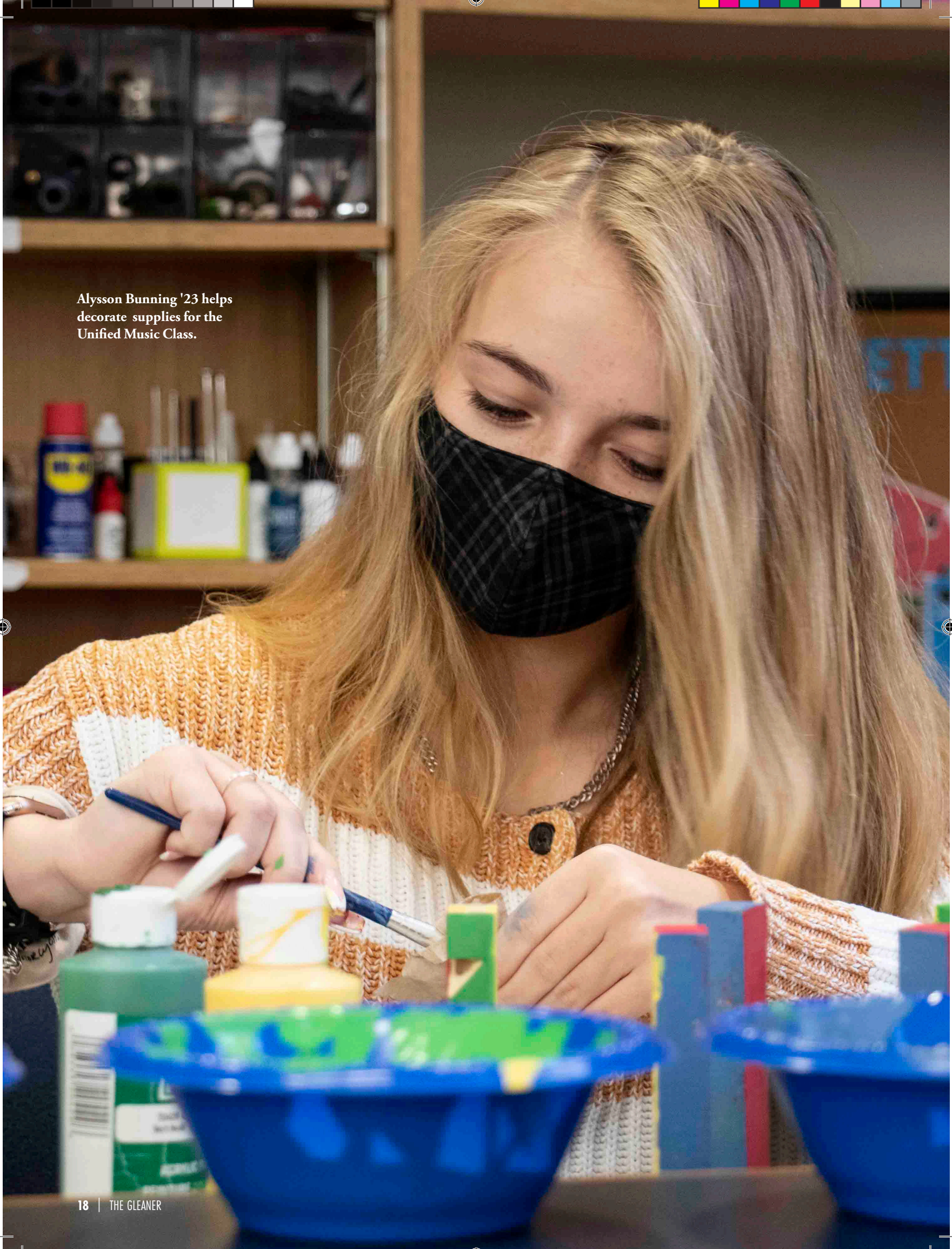
Ethan came to WA for a postgraduate year with a particular focus — to play basketball and prepare for college. "After a few months, my whole perspective changed," said Ethan. "WA has allowed me to grow tremendously as an athlete, but more importantly as a person." He says his coaches and dorm parents on South Campus have had a significant influence on him and have "shown me what it truly means to be a kind and successful individual."

Ethan's Type 1 diabetes could be seen as an obstacle, but he has learned to turn it into an advantage. "It gets annoying and stressful at times of course, but it has caused me to pay more attention to my health and make sure I am doing the right things to ensure, I live a long and healthy life," said Ethan. He has also been able to use his experience to connect with younger athletes facing similar struggles.

Apart from basketball, Ethan has developed a love for graphic design and animation. After taking a 3D animation class he said he now has a "significant desire to learn more about the technology and how I can use animation to have a lasting influence on others and the world."

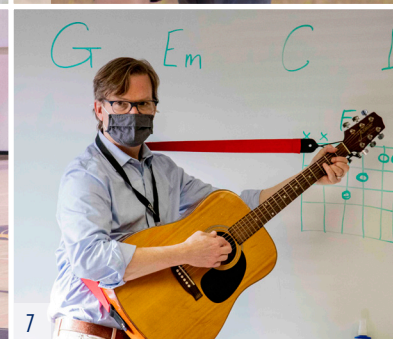
"I've have been fortunate enough to play basketball and unite with amazing athletes from all over the country and world."

Alysson Bunning '23 helps decorate supplies for the Unified Music Class.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it was special on-campus activities during eLearning or classes during a hybrid mode schedule, students and teachers find ways to stay active and incorporate hands-on learning.



1 Robotics project in the SPIROL STEAM Center 2 A mock murder-mystery is under investigation by the forensics class 3 Ultimate frisbee on the Woodstock town common 4 Homework help in chemistry class 5 Creating decorations for Halloween 6 Rehearsing choreographed movements at marching band practice 7 Mr. Wiggin's guitar class 8 Kickball on the Woodstock town common with Dr. Harten and students

ADVANCING OUR WA FAMILY

I have tried to spend some time during this last year focused on silver linings. In a period where many of our favorite activities have been halted, and many areas of our lives are changing or uncertain, celebrating the everyday and the occasional “win” seems even more important. Whether at home, at work, at school, or any other arena, I hope you have found some silver linings throughout this strange year.

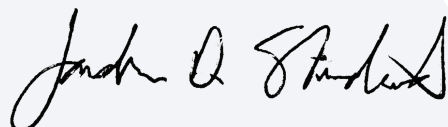
Here at The Academy, like most other schools, we have temporarily stepped away from any resemblance of normal, and at the same time have been highly encouraged by the strength and support of our community. Through a combination of virtual and hybrid learning models, we have been able to continue educating our students in the best ways possible given the pandemic. And even though much of what we’re doing outside the classroom looks different too, there are still excellent opportunities available.

Our Model United Nations program continues to perform at the highest level through its virtual competitions; student-athletes competed with extra heart in an abbreviated fall sports season. Our new Medical Club has met with experts in the field from around the country and raised money to support local children in need. These are just a few examples. During our first days back to campus with our hybrid model, we handed out t-shirts to all students that say “resilient” because that is exactly what our students have been demonstrating.

Like us, you can be proud of our students for the resilience they have shown this year. And while we’re still hesitant to announce exact dates at this point, we cannot wait to have you back on campus during the upcoming school year for Alumni Weekend, fine arts performances, athletic events, and more.

Many of our alumni and friends have provided silver linings for us throughout this year, and we are grateful. Thank you for your consistent and generous support.

With Gratitude,

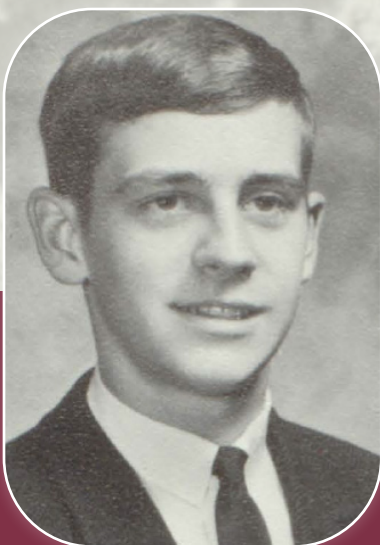


Jonathan D. Sturdevant
Associate Head of School for Advancement



I ESTABLISHED A CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST TO BENEFIT THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY. NOT ONLY WAS I ABLE TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL GIFT TO BENEFIT STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE, BUT I RECEIVED A LARGE TAX DEDUCTION ON APPRECIATED ASSETS, AND I WILL RECEIVE A STEADY INCOME STREAM EACH YEAR FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE AS A RESULT.

THIS IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY.



Paul Kelly's senior yearbook portrait, 1969

PAUL KELLY '69

Paul made a very generous gift, and also ensured additional income for his future. There are many ways you can remember The Academy in your will or estate planning. Many also allow the opportunity to remember family and/or other charitable organizations as well.

To learn more about trusts, annuities, or bequests, please contact Jonathan Sturdevant, associate head of school for advancement, at 860.928.6575 x1211 or giving@woodstockacademy.org.



50 YEARS

OF PERSPECTIVE

During her five decades as a trustee, Barbara Hawkins Child '61 has seen The Woodstock Academy expand opportunities for all students and keep its focus on providing excellent education.

By Julia Budd '11, *Editor*

As a new elementary school teacher in 1971, Barbara Child '61 was asked by an Academy trustee, Connie Peshmalyan, to consider becoming a member of The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees. "I thought it was an honor," said Child, reflecting on her initial invitation to the board.

Now, in 2021, Child is approaching her fiftieth year of service as a Woodstock Academy trustee.

JOINING THE BOARD

As a dedicated WA alumna, in the 1960s Child had already been serving as a member of an alumni committee, and her fresh perspective as a young educator was a welcome addition to the school's governing body.

Her second grade class at Pomfret Community School was her first priority for the 35 years she taught there, but she always considered her role as an Academy trustee a worthwhile investment of her time and energy, especially after she retired from the classroom. "I felt that by being on the board, even though I wasn't teaching, I was still involved somehow in education."

During her tenure, Child has served as secretary, assistant secretary, and on a number of committees including the academic committee and head of school search committees.

She was also able to be a member of the bicentennial committee in 2001 as The Academy celebrated 200 years. Over the years, she saw the school grow and evolve.

"She brings that perspective of 'this is where we started and this is where we are,'" said Christine Swenson, president of The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees, "and she does it with insightful questions." Swenson added, "Not to mention she's just a tremendously wonderful person."



Barbara Hawkins Child '61



Barbara Hawkins Child on the 1960 cheerleading squad



Barbara Child '61 at The Gallery in the Loos Center for the Arts.

EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

“When I was [a student] at Woodstock Academy they had very few choices. It was not like it is now,” said Child. She was not interested in playing on the soccer, basketball, or softball teams—three of the options available to female students at the time. And even though she wasn’t particularly interested in cheerleading, she found herself a WA cheerleader when her good friend became the captain of the team. “They put up with me,” she joked. She was also a member of the chapel choir and the newspaper staff, but she found herself wishing there were more opportunities in music and theater.

She has been like a cheerleader - for the school and for the success of Woodstock Academy students.

So when Child was asked to serve as a trustee, she thought, “I’d like to be on here long enough to see if we can get some more choices.” At the time, Child thought, “If I had any say, it would be nice if the school offered more choices,” including athletic opportunities for girls, student activities, and courses for all students.

As a trustee, Child has helped do just that in her own steady and quiet way. Trustees provide the school with strategic direction to safeguard its viability for generations to come, which includes guiding decisions on program offerings. Today, a wide variety of opportunities is a trademark of The Woodstock Academy experience. “It has gone way over and above anything I imagined,” reflected Child.

CONSTANT SUPPORT

Paul Kelly '69, Woodstock Academy trustee and assistant treasurer, summed up Barbara’s time with the simple statement, “She shows up.” Not only in the literal sense of meeting attendance, but by bringing her constant, genuine support for five decades. Kelly said that having Child on the board means “We don’t have to reinvent the wheel as a board because Barbara has been through so much with the school.”

Child’s fiftieth year has been nontraditional given the global pandemic and she noted the peculiarity of board meetings over Zoom. Yet she has continued to provide her insightful, guiding perspective even if virtually.

Head of School Chris Sandford reflected that, “Barbara has seen The Academy weather through challenges, celebrate milestones, and expand our offerings which gives her a unique perspective as a trustee and brings consistency to our board. Her dedication and commitment is certainly inspirational.” Sandford added that Child radiates a warm kindness and supportive enthusiasm and has helped the board embrace new opportunities for the school. “She has been like a cheerleader—for the school and for the success of Woodstock Academy students.”

To honor Barbara Child’s fifty years of dedication to The Woodstock Academy, a conference room on South Campus, previously known as the fireside room, has been refurbished as the Barbara Child Board Room. **W**



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CENTAUR CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

For sponsorship information contact Brad Favreau at
bfavreau@woodstockacademy.org or (860) 928-6575 x1213

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, August 11, 2021
Registration opens spring 2021

Quinnatisset Country Club
Thompson, CT





THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY
LEADERSHIP
ONLINE CONFERENCE



In 2020, Woodstock Academy students adapted the second annual leadership conference to an online format for students around the world.

By Madison Millar, *Assistant Editor*

OCTOBER 29, 2020

THE GLEANER | 25



TO BE A GREAT LEADER YOU HAVE TO ASSESS YOUR STRENGTHS

- Clayton Singleton '21



Hannah Darigan '21 & Clayton Singleton '21, student hosts of the virtual leadership conference



Romeo Blackmar

Program Director for Substance Abuse Prevention
at Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center



Katie Burns '03

English Teacher and Dorm Parent
at The Woodstock Academy



Sean Saucier

Director of Athletics at The Woodstock Academy



Amy Favreau '93

Assistant Head of School for Enrollment
at The Woodstock Academy



Holly Singleton '86

Associate Head of School
at The Woodstock Academy



Joe Higgins '99

Engineer & Former Town Administrator



Susan Lovegreen

Science Teacher at The Woodstock Academy



Johannah Gorgone

Human Resources Business Partner for the Division
of Public Safety at University of Connecticut



Barry Jessurun '80

Green Valley Hospitality
Restaurateur & Entrepreneur



Annmarie Thibodeau '95

Spanish Teacher at The Woodstock Academy



Jacque Rivera

Head Prep Boys Basketball Coach
at The Woodstock Academy



EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

On October 29, The Woodstock Academy hosted a free virtual leadership conference for classes of 8th grade and high school students from all over the world. The conference had over 300 participants from across New England and as far away as Jordan.

The first leadership conference hosted at The Woodstock Academy campus took place in fall of 2019. The conference then shifted from on-campus to online in 2020, organized by students in Sara Dziedzic's International Relations class, Assistant Head of School John Rigney, and Dziedzic herself.

Topics discussed throughout the conference included authentic self, being a mentor, civil discourse, community service, digital literacy, goal setting, leading as an introvert, leading peers, being a lifelong learner, personal connections and leadership, public speaking, risk taking, self-evaluation, time management, transitional leadership, the value of first impressions, and women's leadership. The overall theme of the conference topics focused on developing tomorrow's leaders. "Our hope in developing the conference series is that students gain real-life experience of how to schedule, meet deadlines, work with peers and adults, and present," emphasized Assistant Head of School John Rigney.

Participation included students from Griswold High School, King's Academy (Jordan), Pomfret School,

Providence Country Day School, St. James Parochial School, Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Warren Harding High School, Cardigan Mountain School, Notre Dame Academy, Woodstock Middle School, Putnam Science Academy, Cheshire Academy, Union School, and of course, The Woodstock Academy.

The conference would not have been possible without a variety of guest speakers from The Woodstock Academy and the greater community. Teachers, entrepreneurs, athletic coaches, politicians, first responders, and marketers partnered with students to share their unique leadership stories and empowering them into action, further education, and change. Each of three workshops directed participants to a different situational story that was followed up with an engaging lesson and structure. The workshop format is designed to create an interactive experience between students, speakers, and student-presenters.

"The best part of this conference is the sense of accomplishment that it gives the students," Dziedzic said. "This is something extra, outside of the classroom norm, and something they complete from start to finish on their own, with only a little guidance from me or John Rigney and the student directors. Adding extraordinary circumstances to the event, like a pandemic, did not slow down their determination to be successful. I think, if anything, it inspired them to do more." **W**



Melany Gronski
Science Teacher at The Woodstock Academy



Pat Boyd
Connecticut House of Representatives



Philippa Paquette
Clinical Psychologist & WA Trustee



Karen Osbrey
Co-Owner of Osbrey Broadcasting Company & President of Interfaith Human Services of Putnam



Greg Smith
Social Studies Teacher at The Woodstock Academy



Dick Loomis
Real Estate Broker at RE/MAX Bell Park



Joan Trivella
Market Manager at Staffmark & WA Trustee



Hans Rhyhart
Associate Vice President & Chief of Police at UConn & WA Trustee



ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



1 Lynn (Tedeschi) Converse '82 and 1982 Athletic Council 2 Karen (Garabrant) Musumeci '92 and 1992 Student Council 3 Julia Low '13 and seniors on the 2012-2013 ECC Championship Volleyball Team 4 Patrick O'Brien '97 and the 1997 Golf Team 5 Jonathan Wakely '01 6 Kinson Perry '70 7 Kristen (Baum) Xeller '01 (left) and Courtney Lamothe '01

ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

This year we developed The Woodstock Academy Alumni Advisory Council, a group made up of alumni who are driven to give back to The Woodstock Academy by using their time and expertise to advise, support, and engage with WA advancement staff and other alumni. These alumni are committed to serve, whether it be in their community, workplace, or within The Woodstock Academy.

The mission of the Woodstock Academy Advisory Council is to build and maintain a strong and robust alumni engagement program that aids The Woodstock Academy's development efforts in the areas of annual giving, Giving Day, planned giving, alumni events both locally and regionally, and more. The council meets regularly throughout the year.

Council Members

Lynn (Tedeschi) Converse '82
Doreen (Harding) Holt '75
Julia Low '13
Marc Mainville '98
Karen (Garabrant) Musumeci '92

Patrick O'Brien '97
Kinson Perry '70
Cory Smith '05
Jonathan Wakely '01
Kristen (Baum) Xeller '01

ALUMNI AGENTS

This year we have worked to establish Class Agents for each graduating class from The Woodstock Academy. We've made great progress, but we still have a number of classes without a designated agent.

The Woodstock Academy's Class Agent program offers alumni the opportunity to reconnect with former classmates while encouraging reengagement with the school in regards to reunions, events, annual giving, and more.

Class Agents are key volunteers and work together with the Advancement Office as liaisons between their classmates and The Woodstock Academy.

The Advancement Office supports Class Agents by providing updates regarding what's happening at The Academy, outreach efforts, regional events, reunions, and giving priorities.

1950—Jeann (Stringfield)
Burlingham

1951—Dexter Eddy

1952—

1953—

1954—Kenneth Sherman

1955—Deborah (Child) Sherman

1956—

1957—

1958—

1959—Gale (Eisenhauer) Garceau

1960—Pauline (Salvas) White

1961—

1962—Beverly (Child) Arnett

1963—Jeri (Carpenter) Musumeci

1964—

1965—Jane (Wetherall) St. Onge

1966—

1967—

1968—Bev (Desualinier) Spink

1969—Cheryl (Anderson) Linberg

1970—Suzanne (Staveski)

Rosendahl

1971—Eileen (Phillips) Morris

1972—Maggee (Bates) Harrison

1973—

1974—Durrin (Eddy) Motley

1975—Dawn Sherman

1976—Kristen (Croteau) Willis

1977—

1978—

1979—Diane Emerso & Karen

Dziadula

1980—Barry Jessurun

1981—

1982—Lynn (Tedeschi) Converse &
Terri (Anderson) Warren

1983—

1984—

1985—Michael St. Jean

1986—Holly (Grube) Singleton

1987—Ann (Child) Tymioik

1988—Brad Favreau & Jessica

(Weaver) Boose

1989—Sharon (Kozey) Greene

1990—

1991—Josh Bottone

1992—Robyn (Defonseca) Eaton

1993—Melissa (Goodwin) Richards

1994—Stacy (Neely) Vogt

1995—Justine (Surrette) Hill

1996—Erin (Hibbard) Decarli

1997—Arienne Corrente & Pat
O'Brien

1998—Vanessa Boland & John
Ywarsky

1999—Adam Bonneville

2000—Erin (Grant) Tremor

2001—Stacey Grab

2002—Jennifer Armstrong

2003—Eileen Grant

2004—Catherine Hibbard

2005—

2006—

2007—

2008— **We really
need your
help finding
class agents
for our recent
graduating
classes!**

2009—

2010—

2011—

2012—

2013—

2014—

2015—

2016—

2017—

2018—

2019—

2020—

Are you interested in serving as a class agent? Or would you like to recommend someone else? Send an email to Brad Favreau '88, director of alumni and annual giving, at bfavreau@woodstockacademy.org.



Digital artwork by
Talia Jessurun '23



OUT-DOORS

By Nellie Towne Burleson, *Class of 1905*

This poem was originally published in the 1918 edition of *The Gleaner* and it is now reprinted in this edition of *The Gleaner* with the original spelling and punctuation.

Later in the 1918 edition of *The Gleaner* was this update on the author of the poem. "Nellie T. Burleson has lived in Union in the past year. She has devoted her energies to the cultivation of a thriving 'war garden,' which she says 'has succeeded beyond her wildest expectations.'"

Have you listened to the outdoors in the early days of springtime?
Have you watched the meadow slowly don its robe of living green?
Has the south wind whispered in your ear the message of the ocean?
Have you seen the rosy glow enfold the boughs so bare and lean?
Do the songsters home returning chant you to their hymns of gladness?
Does the river thrill your spirit as you gaze upon its blue?
If you read and hear these messages, your heart is true to nature,
And the great outdoors is calling, calling you.

Have you gazed upon the outdoors in the sultry noon of summer,
When all the land lies scorching in the silent, glaring rays?
Do you watch the insects skimming on the surface of the river,
And the goldenrod make glorious the winding, dusty ways?
From the time of blossom to the days of ripened, sun-kissed fruitage
And when grainfields bow their heads before your view,
If your spirit feels the miracle that silent lies before you,
Then the great outdoors is calling, calling you.

Have your eyes beheld the outdoors in the glory of the Autumn
When the woods are decked in orange, scarlet, gold?
When the apples burn like living coals among the withering foliage
And the quail is piping in the forest old?
When the frost each morning decks the fields with robes of silvery whiteness
And November sums through branches bare to browning earth peep through,
If the drowsy hush falls softly on your mind in reverence watching,
Then the great outdoors is calling, calling you.

Have you stood up on the threshold of the outdoors in the winter,
When the fields and hills are wrapped in shrouds of snow?
Does the azure arch of Heaven fill your soul with awe and wonder
As you gaze upon the blue above and white expanse below?
When the laurel and the fir trees boldly stand on the horizon
And the glistening plains on every hand are spread before your view,
If you see and recognize the mighty nature panorama,
Then the great outdoors is calling, calling you.

Oh, every day and every hour in the never-ending cycle
Some mystery too deep for words is spread before your sight,
Be it springtime's green, or summer's heat, or autumn's gorgeous splendor,
Or the silence and the whiteness of the bitter winter night.
And if your mind and heart and soul are tuned to catch the whispers,
And your eyes behold the scenes that pass, unchanged yet ever new,
Then from sorrow, toil, and weariness to you relief is granted,
And the great outdoors is calling, calling you.



ALPINE SKIING COMES TO THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

By Julia Budd '11, *Editor*
with contributions from Marc Allard, *Sports Information Director*

Skiing has been a part of The Woodstock Academy for decades through various clubs and trips, but 2020 was the beginning of an official school alpine ski team.

An informational meeting for a handful of students and parents in the fall of 2019 resulted in a team of eight skiers going into the winter season. The Academy is now one of over 30 schools in the Connecticut Interscholastic Ski League which competes at Mount Southington in Plantsville, Connecticut. Teams include schools from Danbury, Glastonbury, Guilford, New Canaan, and around the state.

Skiers must be, at least, an intermediate level to be able to ski the course but during both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons at least half of the team was new to competitive alpine skiing. After the first race in January 2020, coach Kevin Brody said, “Some of our racers have never even been on a course until this past Monday. Everyone finished, had a blast, and met new friends from other schools! I am very proud of these kids and our team.”

During the first season, the team had 12 dry-land training days in The Academy weight room with WA strength and conditioning coach, Brendan Ostaszewski. They put their hard work and training into practice with seven races at Mount Southington.

Brody shared, “Overall last season was pretty awesome. This is about offering and introducing to the students a lifelong activity and having fun outside during the winter.”

“All of our athletes showed improvement

in their rankings each week,” added Brody. Two student-athletes, Eliza Simpson '22 and Zach Brody '21 consistently finished in the top 10 of their races. By the end of the season, Simpson earned a spot on Team Connecticut and Zach Brody was selected as an alternate. Team Connecticut competes against teams from Michigan, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Wisconsin, Vermont, Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Maryland/Virginia.

Simpson has competed in races around New England but she wasn't sure what to expect within the Connecticut Interscholastic Ski League. “I thought it would be a little less competitive, but I didn't know I would be doing this well. It's been amazing. Everyone is super nice. We're all just learning from one another and everyone is improving,” Simpson said.

While the 2020-2021 season has been different than what Coach Brody had expected for the program's second season, the team's eight student-athletes have been focusing on strength and conditioning in the weight room and at home, and were able to get out on the slopes in January. **W**

This is about offering and introducing to the students a lifelong activity and having fun outside during the winter.



First race at Mt. Southington



Zach Brody '21



Dry-land Training



Eliza Simpson '22

FACULTY & STAFF MEMBERS

OF THE YEAR



Thank you to the faculty and staff of The Woodstock Academy for being
**resilient, pioneering, humanitarian,
devoted, & student-centered**
during such a unique year!

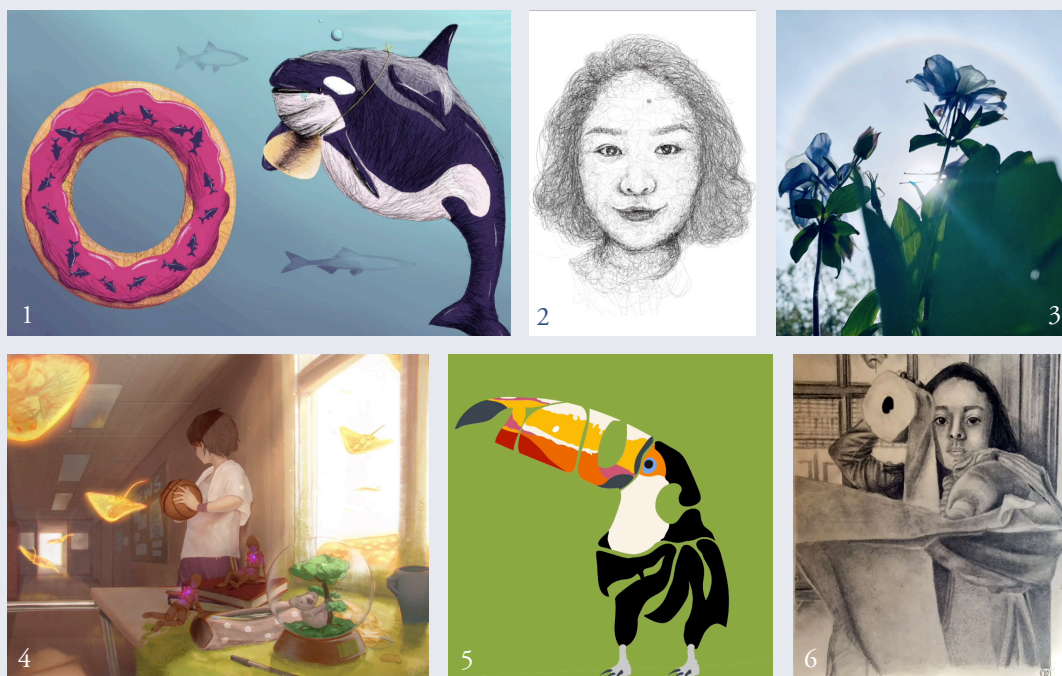
Each issue of *The Gleaner* features both the staff member and teacher of the year. However, in a year so dramatically different than any previous year, it was impossible to select just two individuals for the 2020-2021 awards. Instead, this year we are choosing to celebrate the collective WA community that has allowed us to continue our mission of giving students the tools they need to be lifelong learners and global citizens.



57 Academy Road
Woodstock CT, 06281
woodstockacademy.org

OUTSTANDING ART BY OUTSTANDING STUDENT-ARTISTS

Each year we recognize over 100 amazing student-artists at the annual art awards. Even during eLearning from home, students showed creativity and innovation in a variety of media. Here are just a few artists and their awards!



1 Alexa Schimmelpfennig '21
Outstanding Artist in Digital Drawing

2 Vy Lam '20
Outstanding Achievement in Digital Drawing and Art 1

3 Ivy Dowdle '23
Outstanding Achievement in Art 1

4 Han Zheng '22
Outstanding Sophomore Artist (2019-2020)

5 Nicola Bastien '21
Outstanding Artist in Electronic Design

6 Annika LeBoeuf '23
Outstanding Freshman Artist (2019-2020)