



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS...



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

As we set the scene for our 130th year, The Gilbert School celebrates the achievements of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. The enduring legacy of William L. Gilbert thrives on our campus, upheld by the remarkable accomplishments of the graduating class of 2024. Our founder's vision to create an institution of learning for the improvement of mankind continues to be a cornerstone of a Gilbert education.

This past year, we witnessed the impressive athletic accomplishments of our students across many disciplines, notably on the wrestling mat, on the soccer field, and even on the water, where one of our own is a professional wake surfer.

Our students have demonstrated equally extraordinary achievements in the arts. We have award winning students who perform in our marching band, symphonic band, chorus, rock and pop ensemble, drama club, and art shows. We have a huge amount of impressive talent in our small but mighty school.

The academic creativity of our faculty brought out the best in our students and has made it possible for our newly minted graduates to continue their journeys at competitive colleges, in the military, and in the workforce. The recognition of Stephanie Daige as Teacher of the Year culminated a year of Gilbert success.

We continue to have a strong alumni community who make a point to come back to their Gilbert roots. Classes continue to celebrate their reunions each year and in April an informal alumni gathering of many different classes fostered connections among our graduates.

As we enter our 130th year of providing a quality education in the spirit of our founder, W.L. Gilbert, we embark on this new chapter with confidence and enthusiasm, knowing that our legacy of excellence will continue to flourish.

Please consider contributing to the Gilbert 2024-2025 Annual Fund. 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.

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

Greetings! The Gilbert School stands out due to its unique size, which allows our teachers and administrators to form meaningful connections with each student. We are proud of our rich tradition and the tremendously dedicated staff who are committed to providing a comprehensive and memorable experience for every student, preparing them for life's challenges upon graduation.

At The Gilbert School, we focus on helping students discover themselves both academically and personally. Our mission is to always put students first, supporting all their needs every step of the way. As educators, we strive to understand each child's learning style, support diverse learning needs, and maximize their potential in all areas. We aim to create a safe, caring, positive, and fun learning environment where students in grades 7-12 can thrive and grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

I believe that educating the students of The Gilbert School is a collaborative process between the school and the family. My goal is to foster this collaboration for the benefit of the students. This partnership also includes you, our valued alumni. As we strive for excellence, we hope to chart our path forward purposefully and collaboratively, sharing the mutual goal of providing an academically rigorous experience that challenges each student at their level. We want our students to leave The Gilbert School with fond memories and the skills and tools for success in their next journey.

To overcome the challenges in educating today's children, we must come together as a learning community, driven by the understanding that our efforts are centered not just on what we teach, but on what our students learn. I am proud of the work our dedicated teachers are doing and the experiences we provide our students. We hope to count on you as a collaborative partner in support of all that we do.







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

The W. L. Gilbert Trust has seen some exiting changes during the 2023-2024 school year. We have welcomed many new employees who continue to help the Trust thrive and grow.

Jennifer Reynolds has joined as the new bookkeeper and comes to us with an abundance of financial knowledge. Lauren Hunter who is a Residential Coordinator at the dorm and ELL teacher at The Gilbert School is stepping into our Dean of Student Affairs role. Lauren has lived abroad and brings a wealth of international education to the

position. She will be responsible for the day to day running of the dorm as well as continuing her teaching position at Gilbert.

Darlene Webb has moved into our nursing role at the dorm and continues to be the school nurse for Gilbert. Maryanne Schaffer has taken over for the incomparable Sandy O'Connor as the Trust Administrative Assistant. We have also welcomed back Leyla and Emory Pittman as our Residential Coordinators and the students couldn't be happier to have them back. And last but certainly not least, Sandi Lynn Scherer continues to shine as our Alumni Director.

There are many exciting changes coming in the next few months as well as many new students joining our Gilbert School family. New and returning students will arrive at JFK on August 22nd to participate in a 3-day orientation before beginning classes. These new students are eager to join many of the great clubs and activities at Gilbert. We welcome all of our new employees, our employees in new roles, and our new students. We know they will all be great additions to our school community.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE GILBERT SCHOOL! THANK YOU!





Middle and high school students from The Gilbert School stand with Principal Debra Lewis after receiving the Litchfield County Superintendent's Award. Madison Arthur and Zack Richardson are members of the class of 2024 while Robert and Nelly are middle schoolers, preparing for high school at Gilbert. Congratulations to these four Yellowjackets!



Gilbert students visited the Colosseum in Rome, Italy this past April.

Taking these students to another country gave them the opportunity to immerse themselves in Latin culture and history, especially while seeing ancient architecture.



Gilbert students explore La Piazza di Spagna, which is replete with cultural, literary, and religious history. Gilbert students walked the same streets as poets John Keats and Percy Shelley while learning about the urbanized religious sites in the square.

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Gilbert students and staff enjoy the sun while at the Amphitheater in Pompeii. Having the students visit such a culturally significant site gave them first-hand experience to see the marvel that is Latin historical architecture.





The Gilbert School fosters an environment not just for academic success but for athletics as well. Evan Schibi, a member of the Class of 2026, is ranked in the top 5 wrestlers in New England and is nationally ranked number 14 in his weight class. With support from his coaches, classmates, and community, Evan represents The Gilbert School fiercely on and off the wrestling mat.



The Dominican Republic celebrated 180 years of independence and Somos Familia Tilin along with Mrs. Claudia De La Cruz honored it the best way they know how to... HAVING FUN!!



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Senior class member Madison Arthur continues her academic and athletic career at Dean College. Madison signed with Dean to play soccer in the fall. While at Gilbert, Madison played soccer and became the first female Berkshire League Wrestling champion. The Gilbert School community is excited to see Madison succeed both on and off the soccer field.

Sam Goncalves is a multifaceted athlete who represents Gilbert both on the wrestling mat (undefeated this year with a 35-0 record) and also as a professional wake surfer. He currently holds the title of 2023 World Series Wake Surfing World Tour Champion.



ASBDA

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Karaoke songs rang through the halls of Gilbert's student dormitory during a fun night of bonding and activities. Students and staff alike expressed themselves by performing songs, mingling, and sharing each other's company.



Natalia Rodriguez '25, Victoria Parent '25, and Ethan Cavajani '26 went to the Northern Regional Music Festival to display their singing talents. Under the direction of chorus teacher Adam Atkins '90 his students beautifully represented The Gilbert School.

Scott Minnerly and eight Gilbert students attended the CT American School Band Directors Association for their Honor Band Festival. Scott, long time Director of Bands at Gilbert and a handful of his students showed their hard work and talent at Maloney High School while playing instruments such as flute, French horn, trumpet, and tuba.



Latin teacher, Sarah Frechette enjoys Latin Day with her students.



Senior Class
Officers Zachary
Richardson and
Danica Poirier
lay a wreath
on the grave of
William L. Gilbert,
Founder of The
Gilbert School.



Athletic Director and Physical Education teacher, Josh Penn, was chosen by the Class of 2024 as their Yearbook Dedication Recipient. Mr. Penn has encouraged and supported the senior class throughout their high school career.



Students from the International Program and English Language Learners joined the Grade 8 field trip to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. There the 64 students explored one of Connecticut's long standing indigenous cultures that they learned about in history class.



In front of and behind the stage, so many of our students took part in the 10th Anniversary Gilbert School Production of the WIZARD OF OZ! The MGM Classic movie celebrated its 85th Anniversary as we celebrated our 10th, and our students had the BRAINS, HEART, and COURAGE to amaze audiences with their talent!



Students from the Rock/Pop Ensemble rocked the house at the annual TGS Fest Concert! The Gilbert School staff band, **Partial Kredit**, opened the show for performances by three student bands, **Get a Clue, Backroads,** and **Utopia.**

School News

A Transformation: From Guidance Office to Comprehensive Counseling Department

As you walk through the hallowed halls of The Gilbert School, you'll notice a significant evolution in how students are supported and cared for. What was once the bustling Guidance Office, staffed by beloved faculty members including Peter DiMartino and William "Doc" Perlotto, has been transformed into a dynamic Counseling

Department under the visionary leadership of our Principal, Debra Lewis, and the newly appointed Director of Counseling, Patrick Brintle. Deb brings nearly three decades of experience in both the classroom and in various administrative roles, her most recent as Principal. She values the importance of student support and hired Brintle in 2022 who brings extensive experience in secondary education

to his new role at Gilbert. From the top down, Gilbert has made it its mission to cultivate a robust "college-going culture" among the YellowJackets and to continue a long history of student success.

With Lewis' fervent support and under Brintle's expert guidance, the Counseling Department has broadened its scope beyond mere college placement and test readiness. A tangible representation of this shift is the department's initiative, spearheaded by administration, to invite seniors to proudly display the pennants of their future colleges or universities in the school's main hallway—a visible celebration of their academic dreams and aspirations. Kim Fiducia, Guidance Counselor and a long-standing member of the Gilbert faculty, shares the department's unwavering commitment to recognizing and supporting various pathways to success. "Whether it's pursuing higher education, serving in the military, or entering the workforce," she says, "our goal is to provide steadfast

support to every student, meeting them where they are in their journey."

At the heart of the revitalized Counseling Department lies a heightened emphasis on mental health support—a recognition of the profound interplay between emotional well-being and academic success. In response to this

pressing need, Gilbert has expanded its resources, with three dedicated social workers serving the student body. These skilled clinicians offer students a confidential space to navigate the challenges of adolescence, providing both guidance and support. Brintle underscores the importance of equipping students with the requisite tools to navigate an ever-evolving world. Through a blend

of counseling sessions

and traditional academic preparation, the Counseling Department aims to foster resilience and self-awareness among its students, preparing them for the complexities of life beyond the classroom.

This transformative shift underscores Gilbert's unwavering commitment to holistic education, where mental health is prioritized alongside academic achievement. A new chapter is unfolding on the Hill—a chapter characterized by compassion, empowerment, and an unyielding dedication to student well-being. With exemplary leaders like Lewis, Brintle and Fiducia at the helm, alongside a dedicated team of counselors and social workers, Gilbert isn't just preparing students for the future—it's preparing them to thrive in a world where resilience, empathy, and well-being come first. Surely, our founder, W. L. Gilbert, would be proud of the legacy being forged.



A STRONG AND CLEAR MESSAGE: "GO TO GILBERT!"

By Patricia Martin

Eighth grade is a pivotal time for students, when they move on from middle school to high school. This rite of passage is even more momentous for Gilbert students as they must decide whether to continue their studies at The Gilbert School.

To help the eighth grade students feel confident in their decision to stay on at Gilbert, Principal Deb Lewis and middle school guidance counselor Marijo Thompson planned the first-ever "Go to Gilbert Awareness Week" event. Held November 13th - 17th, 2023 this special initiative sent a strong, clear message to the students: "Go to Gilbert!"

Last year, Deb and Marijo planned a two-day event late in the fall season. Unfortunately, one of the days was snowed out. This year's program was extended and expanded to incorporate more events and opportunities that promoted school spirit, spotlighted local businesses, shared stories of successful alumni, facilitated career and post-

secondary exploration activities, and demonstrated the many supports and experiences TGS high school has to offer. The program culminated with the main event: The Alumni Panel.

"Similar to last year, our goals were to demonstrate and





show our students that they have the ability to be successful after graduating from Gilbert and also to expose them to the many career possibilities they can look forward to," explained Marijo. "This year we took another approach by broadening our message to the entire school by introducing the first-ever 'Go to Gilbert Awareness week.' It was a huge success. The students were enthusiastic and the alumni enjoyed the opportunity to return to Gilbert and 'pay it forward!""

There was an array of activities every day, Monday through Friday. Mornings started with announcements that included mentions of famous alumni, fun facts about TGS, spotlights on local businesses owned and operated by alumni, and encouragement to students to sign up for the alumni sessions.

The announcements were followed by "Bell Ringers," whereby every day different departments offered a unique starting activity that provoked thought and reflection on careers related to their coursework.

One of the new "Go to Gilbert" initiatives featured high school students selected by the various departments who discussed high school opportunities, offerings, and events, and shared these TGS experiences with the 8th grade

students. These sessions were also interactive, allowing for dialogue between the 8th graders and upper classmen. During these advisories the high school representatives shared their favorite events and undertakings, talked about the clubs, sports, and other activities they participate in, and revealed how TGS has given them many opportunities to be successful and prepared for the future.

The week's "grand finale" highlight was the Alumni Line Up on Friday, when several career paths were represented in two 30-minute panel discussion with young Gilbert grads from 2007 to 2019. Prior to attending the alumni sessions, the eighth graders received a "Career Key" exploration and were assigned to attend two alumni session based on the results. They also had the opportunity to submit questions in advance of meeting with the alumni. High schoolers could also elect to sign up for alumni sessions to learn more about careers they were interested in.

"Go to Gilbert" career categories offered something for everyone, and participating alumni included:

• Public Safety/Service

Jamie Barber ('12): Navy; member of the Navy Band; assistant painter, Hoffman Auto Group Mike Huber ('13): State Police officer Kyle McCarthy ('14): Retired Marine; Eversource, lineman apprentice

Trades

Brendon Kolek ('07): R&M Insulation, Winsted; insulation appraiser and manager for installation Jeff Thompson ('07): Formally, Electrician; Eversource, Lineman Apprentice Dan LaChance ('14): Formally, Electrician; Eversource, Lineman David Castillo ('19): Owner, Well Done Detailing; mobile automotive detailing business

• Music/Theater/Arts

MOLLY WILSON ('10): Actress; Education Manager, The Warner Theatre DANIELE HALL ('12): Non-Profit Foundation Manager, D'Addario & Co.; private flute and piano instructor

• Government/Law/Sciences

ALISON SHEA ('07): Lawyer, current law professor – New England Law; Pharmaceuticals – Avidity Biosciences (gene therapy)

Anna King ('19): Biologist; Lab Assistant

• Sports & Media

GREG HICKS ('11): Associate Marketing Manager, LEGO

• Insurance/Corporate Relations/Business

John Palmer ('07): Agent, Palmer & Associates
Jake Marchand ('19): Human Resources Leadership
Development Program (HRLDP), Travelers
Insurance; working on MBA, Business Analytics,
University of Hartford

• Local Business Owners

SHANNON (BAILEY) CENTRELLA ('06):
Rooted Market, Winsted
VICTORIA RICHARDS ('16):
Hairdresser; salon owner, Wild One, Winsted
TIM SMITH ('16): Co-owner, The Den, Winsted

What an innovative, informative, and inspiring opportunity to learn about life after high school! "All of the sessions were very well attended and we got positive feedback from the kids," said Marijo. "It was great for older peers to tell younger students about their Gilbert experiences, and wonderful to have successful alumni return to share their post-high school journeys and career paths. We definitely will do this again next year!"





Dan LaChance

Mike Huber



Shannon (Bailey) Centrella

New Faces and New Roles at Gilbert

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!



STEPHEN BARONE – HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER, CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY DEPARTMENT Returning to Gilbert in 2023 after previously teaching here from 2001 to 2007, Steve Barone brings with him over 25 years of cherished teaching experience. Known for his engaging style and, by some graduates, for his "American Studies" course, he's been a favorite among students throughout his tenure. Currently serving as the Chair of the Social Studies/History Department, Steve continues to inspire and educate the YellowJackets community.



MICHAELA CUTARELLI – SOCIAL WORKER A proud graduate of Northwestern Regional 7, Michaela Cutarelli's journey to Gilbert was always destined. After earning her BA in Social Work from Eastern University in Pennsylvania and her MA in counseling from St. Joseph University, she found her professional home at Gilbert. Enamored by the school's emphasis on community and family, Michaela's dedication to her students is evident in her unwavering commitment to their well-being.



MICHELLE FARRAR – HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER With two decades of educational experience, Michelle Farrar brings a unique blend of passion and expertise to Gilbert. From coaching rowing to guiding blind triathletes, her adventurous spirit is matched only by her academic prowess—holding master's degrees in both geology and administration. Drawn to Gilbert's unparalleled school spirit, Michelle embraces the opportunity to foster a thriving community here on the Hill.



BRIDGET GRADY – ART TEACHER We're excited to introduce Bridget Eileen Grady, a passionate artist whose work is deeply inspired by the landscapes of New England, the rich tapestry of natural history, literature, and her upbringing on a nearby farm. While Bridget brings a wealth of experience from her years as an adjunct at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, we're thrilled to welcome her to our art classrooms here at The Gilbert School, where her positive energy and enthusiasm are sure to inspire our students.



CRAIG LEVESQUE – EIGHTH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER, SCIENCE DEPARTMENT LIAISONReturning to Gilbert after a brief hiatus, Craig Levesque finds solace in the small community feel that sets TGS apart. Teaching 8th-grade middle school science, Craig revels in the enthusiasm of his students, fostering a love for learning that transcends the classroom. With a deep-rooted commitment to the YellowJackets, Craig's presence at Gilbert is a testament to his enduring dedication.



SHANNON McGrane – Social Worker A proud 2011 graduate of The Gilbert School, Shannon McGrane's journey has come full circle as she returns to her alma mater. Having earned a bachelor's degree from Western New England University and a master's degree from the University of St. Joseph, Shannon brings a wealth of social work experience to her role. She is passionate about nurturing student well-being and is excited to bring her experience to the Gilbert community.

Senior Spotlight Emily Lapointe, 2024

by Patricia Martin

As a new 7th grader in the bustling halls of The Gilbert School, Emily Lapointe's journey began, marking the start of an adventure filled with academic triumphs, dance

recitals, and the unique challenges posed by a global pandemic. Now, as she prepares to bid farewell to her alma mater, Emily reflects on her remarkable tenure at Gilbert and eagerly anticipates the next chapter of her academic and artistic pursuits.

This fall, Emily will embark on a new academic venture at The University of Hartford, where she will immerse herself in the study of psychology, complemented by a minor in dance. It's a path she's eagerly chosen, guided by her passion for understanding the human mind and her enduring love for dance—an art form that has been an integral part of her life since her early years.

Navigating the tumultuous waters of the COVID-19 pandemic, Emily found

solace and strength in the solidarity of her peers. Despite the challenges, she notes how "the shared experience brought my class closer together, forging bonds that will endure beyond graduation." As she prepares to part ways with friends and mentors, Emily acknowledges the bittersweet nature of graduation tempered by the excitement of new beginnings.

Emily's journey at The Gilbert School is marked, from



beginning to end, by distinction. As the only graduating senior in the last fourteen years to have participated at such a high level of competitive dance, she leaves behind a legacy of excellence and dedication. Her commitment both to academics and to dance is truly commendable, balancing rigorous study sessions with intensive dance rehearsals, often spanning five to six days a week and many hours per day. On the dance stage, Emily's talent shines brightly. Her accolades include being selected as an assistant judge and instructor for aspiring dancers, a testament to her skill, leadership, and dedication to her craft. Most recently, she was honored with the prestigious Icon of Dance Award, a fitting tribute to her outstanding

contributions to the world of dance.

Reflecting on her time at Gilbert, Emily is filled with gratitude for the educators who have inspired and empowered her along the way. She fondly recalls the unwavering support of Ms. Webb, our school nurse,

whose encouragement and guidance were a constant source of strength. Emily's passion for psychology finds roots in the mentorship of Steve Barone, whose influence played a pivotal role in shaping her academic pursuits.

Central to Emily's journey at Gilbert is the invaluable lesson of finding her voice. Empowered by her teachers, she learned to embrace her unique perspective and advocate for herself—a skill she believes is essential for success in any endeavor. As she prepares to spread her wings, Emily is eager to make her mark on the world and offers sage advice to the rising seniors following in her footsteps: "embrace diversity in interests and pursuits, and learn the art of time management early on. Build a supportive network of mentors, family, and friends, as they will play an invaluable role in your journey to success."

And so, as Emily prepares for this next phase of her life, she leaves behind a legacy of resilience, excellence, and unwavering dedication—a true testament to the spirit of Gilbert's alumni community, which welcomes her with open arms.









Exploring the Digital Arena: Gilbert's E-Sports Phenomenon

In a world dominated by virtual reality, E-Sports has become a standout activity in the Gilbert community. Karen Pfeffer, Library Media Specialist and E-Sports faculty advisor, has played a pivotal role in elevating what started as a simple video game club into a dynamic platform for learning and collaboration.

According to Pfeffer, E-Sports offers more than just gaming: "it is a space where students sharpen their coding skills, enhance strategic thinking, and build camaraderie as they would on a traditional sports team." This holistic approach has thrust the E-Sports team into

the limelight with their appearance at the school's fall pep rally, where they proudly showcased their team uniforms for the first time. It is an exciting era in the growth of this new team.

If you are unfamiliar with E-Sports, you may be interested to know that the foundation of this sport can be found in its inclusivity and accessibility. While traditional sports often require specific physical attributes or extensive training, E-Sports welcomes players of all backgrounds and abilities. This inclusivity has helped transcend geographical and cultural boundaries, fostering a diverse and vibrant community of players and fans around the globe, as is the case with this Gilbert team.

According to Pfeffer, "players must master the mechanics of their chosen game, develop intricate strategies, and collaborate effectively with their teammates to achieve victory." In many ways, E-Sports mirrors traditional sports, with players honing their reflexes,



decision-making abilities, and communication skills through rigorous practice and competition.

Leading the charge for Gilbert is Senior Shane Weiler, captain of the YellowJacket E-Sports team. For Weiler, leadership isn't just about winning in the virtual arena; it's about fostering a positive and inclusive culture. "I want to empower my teammates to embrace their strengths and ideas," he says. Weiler's leadership style is that of encouragement and mentoring; he has been a strong leader for this group in these early seasons.

As Gilbert's team competes against rivals

statewide, they not only demonstrate their gaming skills but also excel as scholar-athletes. This spring, 12 outstanding individuals will be honored for their dedication to and excellence in this dynamic sport while maintaining an impressive level of academic performance in the classroom. Among these scholars is Weiler, whose journey with E-Sports has been marked by both growth and ambition. With the unwavering support of his teammates and mentor Karen Pfeffer, Weiler hopes to pursue E-Sports beyond his time on the Hill, envisioning a future of continued competition and success at the collegiate level. Shane will attend Quinnipiac University in the fall.

In a time of ever-evolving technology, Gilbert's E-Sports team stands as a shining example of the endless opportunities at the intersection of technology, academic excellence, and sportsmanship.

Stephanie Daige *Named* TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Stephanie Daige may only be three years into her tenure at The Gilbert School, but her recognition as Teacher of the Year was a true testament to her dedication and impact in such a short span of time. The ceremony, filled with excited students and faculty, highlighted the overwhelming response to her well-deserved honor. Adding to the celebratory atmosphere was a surprise visit by NBC Connecticut's very own Bob Maxon, one of Stephanie's favorite on-air celebrities.

"This recognition means the world to me," she shared with a big smile on her face. "I would do anything and everything for my students to help them be successful. They are the reason I look forward to walking into the building each day." This optimism seems to underscore her vision as a teacher, which she describes in the following way: "every year I feel the shift from being students and teachers to feeling like

the classroom is a home with a family. As a family, we learn together, make mistakes together, celebrate victories together, and encourage one another. It means so much to be a part of The Gilbert School family. While I've been an educator for 12 years now, my best and most memorable years have been the last 3 (when I joined The Gilbert School). The students here give me life, rejuvenate my passion for the profession, and put a smile on my face day after day. I hope they leave me feeling the same."

It's clear that Stephanie's connection with her students goes beyond the classroom, creating a sense of belonging and inspiration for all. Her dedication to their success and her joy in being part of this school community are truly commendable, reflecting the best qualities of an educator. *Congratulations, Stephanie!*



THE W.L. GILBERT TRUST INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM:

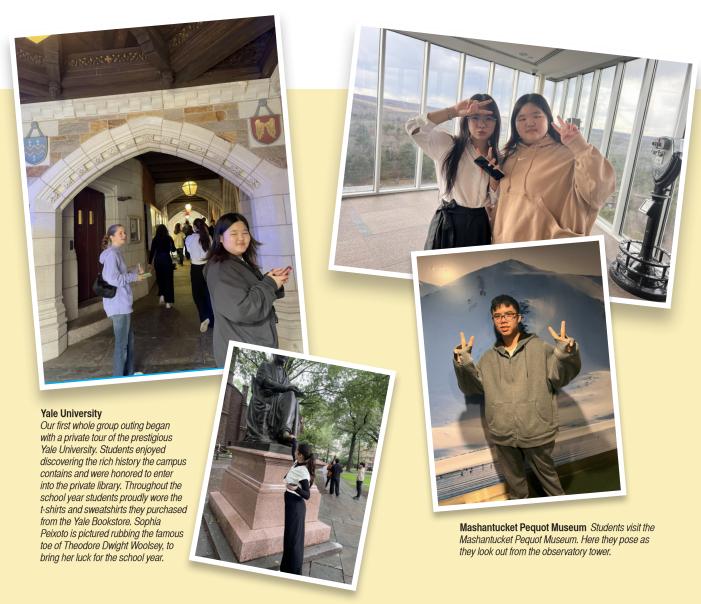
A Year in Review

By Magdalena Kruk and Lauren Hunter

This 2023-2024 school year was filled with change and opportunity. The Gilbert School's International Program received a delightful group of active students. Eager to participate in team sports, the school orchestra, and other extracurricular activities made for a fun filled year.

Our international students also celebrated many special cultural evenings with our Student Ambassadors.

Here are some highlights from this year...





THE W.L. GILBERT TRUST INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM: A Year in Review



Fall Highlights

Friendsgiving:

Gilbert Student Ambassadors and international students enjoy a U.S. tradition.





During the winter holiday season students personally enjoyed the spirit of cheer and giving that could be felt throughout the dorm, Winsted, and beyond. Visiting New York City to view the iconic Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree, and enjoying the holidays at the various shops contained in the bustling Whiting Mills provided added joy during this time.

Cookie Decorating: This holiday season Student Ambassadors and international students gathered together to celebrate the tradition of baking and decorating cookies. This event offered a chance to share their cultures in a colorful and delicious way. The shapes, styles, and flavors came together to create something as unique as their creators themselves. The event was accompanied by sharing stories in the ambiance of seasonal songs from around the world. Singing and dancing to holiday music was a wonderful way to partake in the excitement and magic of the season.



Daredevils is the best description of this year's dorm students. It was evident that nothing would stop this adventurous group of international students, including freezing temperatures. Seven students courageously braved the cold to enjoy the festivities at Ski Butternut on one of the coldest days of the year during the mountain's 60th Anniversary.





THE W.L. GILBERT TRUST INTERNATIONAL

PROGRAM: A Year in

Winter Highlights, continued...

International Karaoke Night At the end of January, the Student Ambassadors organized yet another event to promote cultural enrichment for the school community - an International Karaoke Night. During the evening event, our students sang along to songs by popular artists from around the world: American performers Carrie Underwood, Ruth B, and Bruno Mars; Spanish

musicians Don Omar and Shakira; Brazilian singers Gusttavo Lima and Michel Telo; Chinese artist Lian Ming Dai Xing; and Korean groups BTS and BlackPink, among others. As the evening evolved, the excitement and energy of the group filled the dorm with laughter and sounds of diverse musical genres performed in various languages. The evening was an exciting social experience for our students and a wonderful testimony to the universal resonance of music - regardless of language, songs evoke strong emotions and foster a sense of global unity.



As mature and distinguished students, a fabulous group of six attended the ballet production of Cinderella held at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. They were privileged to meet Principal Ballerina Misty Copeland as she gave an interview describing the work she is currently involved in to bring more opportunities like this, exposing youth to the world of dance.





Students enjoy a Hibachi dinner during the Winter Break in February.





Displaying a great balance between study and play, this year's dorm contained a thriving group of young people who encouraged and supported each other. Students could be seen tutoring their peers, working on school projects, enjoying time to cook traditional cultural meals and playing games with each other.



Students enjoying a mild hike to the Soldiers' Monument.





THE W.L. GILBERT TRUST INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM: A Year in Review





Springtime Artistic Endeavors On another occasion, the Student Ambassadors organized a Sneaker Painting Night, where students had the opportunity to unleash their imagination and artistic abilities and express themselves by custom painting a pair of sneakers. Although their personalized creations displayed a variety of motifs, they all had one characteristic in common: representing the individual interests and styles of each designer.

Sports Scrapbook

















SPORTS Scrapbook







Sports Scrapbook









ATHLETICS Year in Review

FALL SPORTS

FOOTBALL GNH football may have started the season 2-4, but went on to win their next four games including a massive upset over Holy Cross to make them the number five seed in class SS. GNH had a huge upset in the first round of States with a 22-16 win over #4 Tolland during a game that was capped off by a 76-yard touchdown in the 4th quarter by Gilbert Sophomore, Evan Schibi. The team ended up losing a

battle in the semi-finals to #8 Watertown, but fought to the end. Another great season by Coach Salius and the GNH football team.

BOYS SOCCER Boys

Soccer finished their season with two straight wins against the Thomaston Boys. Freshman James Slauta and Junior Bernardo Aguiar scored 3 goals a piece in the final game! The boys showed great commitment to their team and will be back playing varsity next year.

GIRLS SOCCER Girl's

Soccer was led by Seniors Ivy Davis and Madison Arthur. They have a great core of returning players and are

looking to make a run at the State Tournament next year. The team split the season series with Shepaug and Wamogo but next year are primed and ready to sweep both teams. Junior Emily Arel was named 2nd Team All-BL and senior Madison Arthur will be continuing her soccer career at Dean College in the fall.

VOLLEYBALL The Volleyball team competed with grit and determination in every match. The girls look to compete for the State Tournament next year behind Mackenzie Steeves, Emily Fedorowicz, and Gabby Sosa. Mackenzie Steeves was named 2nd Team All-Berkshire League.

CROSS COUNTRY The Cross Country students who participated in the State Tournament were able to finish the race faster than they did the previous year. Sophomore Kate Hudak finished 11th overall at the Berkshire League Tournament.

GOLF Golf featured a leaner team this year but were nevertheless able to bring a full squad to compete in every match. Senior Aiden Blanchette qualified for the Berkshire League Golf Tournament for the 4th year in a row. This is an impressive accomplishment as only the top 24 golfers in the league qualify. In his junior year, Aiden came in 3rd overall in the tournament and was named a Berkshire League All-Star.



Douglass, the boys' basketball team persevered through a tough season. They found themselves in competitive games throughout the season including a game against Terryville (finished 9-11) that came down to the wire. The boys never gave up and worked

hard until the very end. Next season, they look to build on the progress they made this season.

GIRLS BASKETBALL Girl's basketball had one of their best seasons in recent school history. The team finished 5th in the Class S regular season rankings and made their way to the Final Four. The eventual State Champions, Somers, defeated them in a back-

and-forth game that could have gone either way. The team was led by junior Emily Arel who was named as First-Team All Berkshire League and First-Team All-State. With all of the starters returning for next season, the girls look to make another run in the State tournament next season.

WRESTLING The wrestling team formed a co-op with Torrington High School this year to boost the team's participation. This move, however, bumped our team up to Class L from Class S in the state tournament - a challenge that Coach Schibi was prepared to take on. The team ended up finishing second in the Berkshire League for the season and impressively, they were able to pull off a big upset in the BL tournament over Nonnewaug to finish first. Seniors Sam Goncalves, Madison Arthur, and Andy Rodriguez won their respective weight classes in the tournament. Sophomore, Evan Schibi, won the 150 pound weight class at the Class L State

24 Continued...

Tournament, becoming the first athlete in TGS history

to win in Class L.

ATHLETICS Year in Review

CHEERLEADING After 11 seniors graduated following the 2022-2023 season, the Cheer team had to start from scratch this year. For 2023-2024, the team was led by senior Danica Poirier along with juniors Mackenzie Steeves, Natalia Rodriguez, and Ella Szewczak. GNH cheer attended every single game (home and away) this season and Coach Schibi did a great job of recruiting new students to come out and join the team. They even braved the elements for the football States game at Tolland, cheering in sub-freezing temperatures. That's the Gilbert spirit!

INDOOR TRACK After featuring a team of mostly upperclassmen, this season was injected with freshmen and sophomores, ready to take the team to new heights. This year we were able to take our team to the big stage with the return of the 39th Annual Yale Classic. The Yale Classic allowed our athletes to compete against the best talent in New England. We held our own with everyone coming away with personal records. We also had the opportunity to continue a new tradition with the 2nd Berkshire League Showcase. Our athletes did well with Alec Marvin and Kate Hudak coming in 7th and 6th place, respectively, in the 1600 meter run. From beginning to end, this season was a fun one with lots of growth for the future.

SPRING SPORTS

BASEBALL Under the leadership of Coach Jorge Pimentel '08, the baseball team featured five seniors, two sophomores, and six freshmen to fill out the roster. The highlight of their season was their trip to Cooperstown with Wamogo. The students got to play an exhibition game on historic DoubleDay Field. Senior Nick Closson was named 2nd Team All Berkshire League for his versatility and consistency at the plate boasting an average above .300!

SOFTBALL Softball had a great bounce-back season for 2024 improving their wins by fifty percent. The team was led by Seniors Madison Arthur and Ivy Davis. Junior Andrea Buncalan was named 1st Team All Berkshire League and Junior Naomi King was named 2nd Team All Berkshire League. The team looks to improve even more next year and hopes to qualify for the state tournament.

TRACK The 2024 outdoor season started out wet and cold as is the tradition in a New England spring! The small but mighty team was ready to start the season despite a late start and with most of the team taking the opportunity of a lifetime to travel to Italy on a school trip. The season could be summed up by the words "personal record." At every opportunity, our athletes were having the best runs, jumps, and throws of their season and careers. We had the opportunity to compete against Connecticut's best in 3 invites and were able to hold our own in league meets. The team had 90% participation at the Berkshire League Championships, with the highest medal winner being Deanna Juliano, coming in 4th in the discus. Overall, our season was a success in terms of building for the future.

TENNIS The girls competed in every match and improved throughout the season. Their hard work and dedication to constant improvement paid off while they competed in the Berkshire League Tournament at Nonnewaug High School. They were able to win several games during the tournament and are hopeful to improve for the 2025 season.



Honoring Our Distinguished Alumni

A GILBERT SCHOOL TRADITION

By Patricia Martin

Homecoming weekend has a long tradition and is a special time at The Gilbert School. The annual Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony has always been a highlight, when administration, teachers, alumni, and students gather together to honor TGS award recipients. Unfortunately, it was one of the many school activities impacted by the pandemic.

The disruptions experienced over the past four years made Homecoming 2023 extra festive as it was the first time since 2019 that Gilbert was finally able to once again present the Distinguished Alumni Awards. The deserving recipients were:

STEVEN SEDLACK CLASS OF 1960 The W. L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service

> KAREN FLAHERTY OXLER, CLASS OF 1970 The Gilbert Heritage Award

> > Bob Sparks, Class of 1983 Outstanding Athlete Award

SCOTT CROSSFIELD, CLASS OF 1991 Distinguished Professional Achievement Award

> EMILY GRISWOLD, CLASS OF 2008 Young Alumni Achievement Award

At the beginning of the ceremony, Craig Schroeder announced, "It is my pleasure to begin my 55th year of service to The Gilbert School by being the MC for our return celebration of our Alumni. As an educator it is occasions like this that are most rewarding. You teach 100's or 1000's of students, depending on the length of one's teaching career, hoping to inspire them to do their best, reach for their dreams and live happy and successful lives. It will be obvious that these five award winners have met these goals."

Congratulations to all the Distinguished Alumni! We are so pleased to celebrate them in this issue of the YellowJacket!

STEVEN SEDLACK, 1960 The W. L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service, 2023

A Rich Life Filled with Dedicated Service

by Patricia Martin

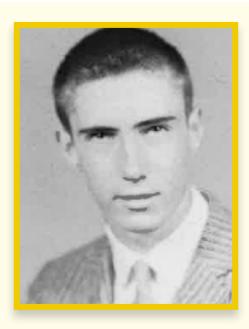
Steven Sedlack was surprised when he learned that he was the recipient of The W. L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service. "I thought, 'why me?" he says. Upon further reflection, he realized "Sometimes you do things you didn't appreciate at the time, then years later you look back and can see the value of what you've done."

Born in Torrington, Steve's family moved to Winsted when he was four years old. His early education took place at Saint Anthony School, where he was one of 38 students in his eighthgrade class. "I benefitted from the discipline offered by the nuns," he recalls.

Steve went on to attend The Gilbert School and graduated with 110 fellow classmates. As a TGS student, he particularly enjoyed playing sports. "I learned the value of teamwork and appreciated the camaraderie of my teammates," he says. "I also learned about leadership from many legendary Gilbert coaches including football coach James Fortuna, basketball coach Bill Flaherty, and baseball coach Charles 'Spud' Fecto."

Steve's first job experience was as a lifeguard for Winsted's Recreation

Department. He spent six summers on Resha Beach, Holland Beach, and Woodland Park, working with kids from the surrounding neighborhoods. "It was my first time working with children and inspired me to pursue a teaching career," Steve explains. He enrolled in the teacher education program at Central Connecticut State College, where he graduated in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science degree in





Elementary Education. Following graduation, Steve was hired to teach 6th Grade at Simsbury's Beldon School. The following year Steve married Sheila Dings ('63), and along with teaching he began volunteering in the community. Steve led Cub Scout Pack 27 as the Assistant Cub Master for several years, which was sponsored by the Church of Christ. Steve also found time to teach students in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) program at St. Joseph Church in Winsted.

Additionally, Steve pursued summer and evening classes at CCSC, receiving a Master's Degree in Reading in 1977. This inspired him to move into administration, and he obtained his Sixth Year Certificate in Administration from the University of Hartford. After 15 years in the classroom, he became a Coordinator and then Vice Principal at the Squadron Line School in Simsbury. In 1984 Steve was appointment the school's principal and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2000.

Meanwhile, along with raising his family and growing his career, Steve continued his volunteer work, serving on the Charter Revision Commission in 1980. In 1981, he ran as a candidate

for the Winchester Board of Education, was elected for a four-year term, and then re-elected for a second term, serving a total of six years as the board's chairman. During the 1990's, Steve also served a six-year term on Winsted's Planning and Zoning Commission.

Steve remained active after retirement, working parttime at both St. Joseph College and the University of

(b) Honoring Our Distinguished Alumni

Harford, supervising student teachers in training. In a span of over 20 years, he worked with more than 150 students and their cooperating teachers in 40 different school districts. In 2014 it was a time of contentious politics, and Steve volunteered to run for selectman during a special election. He won the seat and has subsequently been re-elected for four terms, with many crediting him for changing the tone of politics and contributing to a period of stable bipartisanship.

Thomas Botticelli, then President of The W. L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, was well aware of Steve's retirement in 2000 as the two became close friends when they worked together on the Winchester Board of Education. Tom made the nomination and Steve accepted membership in the Trust in October of 2000. Steve was appointed by the Trust to membership on The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation and in 2003 was appointed as the Board's chairman. He held this position until his retirement in 2021. "I am pleased to have worked with five different superintendents at The Gilbert School during this time," says Steve, citing Robert Gazda, David Cressy, Dan Hatch, Anthony Serio, and Greg Shugrue. "Being on The W. L. Gilbert Trust I learned how the school

operates and it's dedication to its mission for more than 125 years," says Steve. "It's quite an impressive legacy."

Thinking about his many long years of service in the community, Steve explains, "I was inspired by President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address when he urged Americans to 'ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country..."

Steve has led a rich life filled with a rewarding career path, dedicated volunteerism, and a wonderfully loving family life. Recently celebrating their 58th wedding anniversary, Steve and Sheila raised two children, daughter Shari Sedlack Maltby ('89), born in 1971, and son Allen Sedlack ('91), born in 1972, and the family has grown to welcome six grandchildren.

It meant the world to Steve to be surrounded by his family when he received his W. L. Gilbert Award for Outstanding Community Service. "I have been a volunteer for most of my adult life," says Steve. "I believe we have a civic duty and have tried to inspire the same impulse by passing it along to my children and grandchildren."



KAREN FLAHERTY OXLER, 1970 THE GILBERT HERITAGE AWARD, 2023

Rear Admiral Karen A. Flaherty Oxler: A Life of Distinguished Service to the U.S.A.

by Patricia Martin

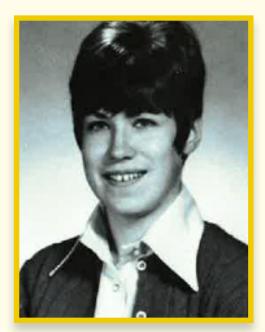
It is no wonder that Karen Flaherty Oxler was presented with The Gilbert Heritage Award. She has had a long and distinguished career serving our country in leadership roles in the academic, community, federal, and military healthcare sectors...And to this day she continues to give selflessly.

Raised in Winsted, Karen says, "At Gilbert I learned how to be a team member and support programs and projects that impacted others.

I was active in student government and eagerly observed and learned from leaders in many of the school's organizations."

Karen joined the United States Navy as a Nurse Corps candidate in July 1973, and continued her leadership roles while attending Skidmore College. After graduation from Skidmore with a BSN, she attended Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, Rhode Island. Karen also holds a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania.

Karen's first assignment was at Quantico Naval Hospital where she served as a staff nurse and charge nurse on the surgical ward, orthopedic ward, and the maximum care unit. In 1977 she was transferred to the Philadelphia Naval Medical Center, where she assumed duties as charge nurse for the general surgery





unit and the obstetrics and gynecology clinic.

In 1979, Karen reported for duty as the Officer Programs officer for Naval Recruiting Command, Navy Recruiting District New Jersey, and in 1982 she transitioned to the Naval Reserve. Her subsequent Reserve tours included assignments to numerous naval hospitals and fleet hospital commands. During her illustrious career, Karen has served as commanding officer Fleet Hospital Fort Dix executive officer, director of Nursing Services, officer in charge, and training officer.

In February 1991, Karen was called to serve with Fleet Hospital 15, Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. She served as commanding officer with the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations 093 prior to assuming Flag duties as the Deputy Commander Force Integration National Capital Area and the Deputy Chief, Wounded, Ill and Injured at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Karen was once again recalled to Active Duty for this assignment. "I served with superb teammates who worked tirelessly to create programs of support for our Wounded Warriors with physical and invisible wounds, and those who suffered with Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post-Traumatic Stress," she says. "This work changed the landscape of prevention, treatment,

(b) Honoring Our Distinguished Alumni

recovery, and resiliency, creating hallmark programs impacting warrior and family well-being."

Karen retired from the Navy in 2012 after 38 years of service, culminating in her role as the Deputy Surgeon General of Navy Medicine at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. As a result of her dedication and selfless work, she is authorized to wear the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation (two awards), National Defense Service Medal (three awards), Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon, and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Liberation Medals.

In addition to her years of service in the U.S. Navy, Karen has held civilian leadership positions at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, and the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia. She also served as the Senior Vice President of Hospital Operations/ Chief Nursing Executive, President of Lancaster General Hospital and the Chief Nursing Officer of Lancaster General Health in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Karen continues to work tirelessly, and currently serves in the Veteran Health Administration as the Executive Director of the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, providing care and support for 68,000 veterans in the Philadelphia and tri-state region.

Karen was married for 41 years to retired Naval Captain Steven Oxler, who passed away in January 2024. The couple met at Philadelphia Naval Hospital, and lived in Morrestown, New Jersey. Their daughter, Elizabeth, carries on her parents' tradition of service and is a teacher and coach at the Westtown Friends School in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Thank you for your years of distinguished service to our country, Rear Admiral Flaherty Oxler, and congratulations on your well-deserved honor of being the recipient of The Gilbert Heritage Award. We salute you!



BOB SPARKS, 1983 Outstanding Athlete Award, 2023

Demonstrating his "Personal Best" in Sports and in Life

by Patricia Martin

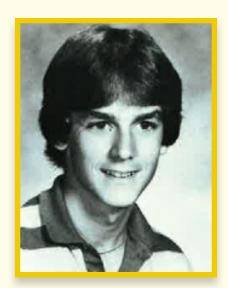
A t Gilbert, Bob Sparks was known for his sportsmanship and positive attitude. Although he participated in competitive sports, he focused on taking a team approach, contributing to the overall success of his fellow players. He was recognized for his positive attitude and always doing his personal best in sports and in the classroom. These admirable traits have remained steadfast in his life.

Bob's athletic career at The Gilbert School included playing baseball, basketball, and soccer. "Baseball was my first love and I really enjoyed playing for Coach Morhardt," he says. "I felt very fortunate to have learned from him as he had played in the Major Leagues. And soccer under the lights and baseball games at Walker field were some of the greatest times. I made friends playing sports at Gilbert who I still keep in touch with to this day."

Revisiting Gilbert as a Distinguished Alumni, Bob was honored to receive the Outstanding Athlete Award. Walking the halls and sitting in the auditorium, he observed, "It was nice to return and see that only a few things have changed. The charm of a small school still seems to exist."

Upon graduation, Bob worked at various jobs before deciding to go back to school. He earned an Associate Degree at Winsted's Northwestern Connecticut Community College, then went on to attend the Golf Academy of the South in Orlando, Florida. He graduated third in his class, earning an Associate Degree in Golf Business Management, and in 1998 was elected as a Class A PGA Member. "I started playing golf a bit later in life and was hooked, which led to my career in golf," he explains.

Bob has been a PGA member for 25 years now, served on the Connecticut PGA Board of Directors for the past seven years, and is currently the Connecticut PGA Section





President. In 2013, he was honored with the Connecticut PGA Junior Golf Leader Award and is now serving his second term on the National PGA Committee for Junior Golf Player Development.

Bob has a passion for teaching and has developed numerous junior programs serving all ages as well as after-school programs for local middle school and high school students. He has coached PGA Junior League teams since 2014, leading them to four National Championships. He also served as coach of The Gilbert School Golf Team.

Under his leadership, the team won two Berkshire League Championships. Dedicated to championing young athletes, Bob began operating the U.S. Kids Golf Hartford Local Tour since 2013. Since he's been running it, the Hartford Tour has grown tremendously and currently operates 12 annual local events with more than 100 kids participating. The Hartford Tour also includes a parent/child event, which enables families to enjoy a fun day out together playing golf as well as a two-day state tournament. In addition, Bob has been a Tournament Director at several

regional championships and nine U.S. Kids Golf World Championships.

Bob holds the descriptive certification of being a "Golf Genius." "It's a tournament management program and I received the certification they offer," he says.

Bob resides in Torrington with his wife of 33 years, Tammy (Giannattasio) Sparks ('86). They were high school sweethearts at Gilbert, and have two sons, Nicholas and Carson.

Returning to Gilbert to receive his Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Athlete, Bob says "My time at Gilbert was great and I am thankful to be recognized. Time sure does fly by!"

SCOTT CROSSFIELD, 1991 DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, 2023

A Distinguished Career, Fueled by Passion

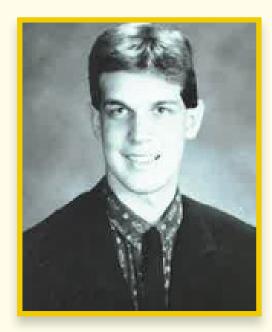
by Patricia Martin

There's a famous quote attributed to both Confucius and Mark
Twain that says "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life." In all likelihood, this adage applies to Scott Crossfield, recipient of Gilbert's Distinguished Professional Achievement Award.

Now recognized as one of America's leading theatre designers, Scott followed a passion for theater he discovered early on, in elementary school. When he was 10 years old, he tagged along with one of his friends who had a buddy rehearsing in a community theater production of Peter Pan at The Warner Theatre. "When I got there, they handed me a drill and put me in charge of screwing branches onto a tree," he says. "I thought, 'power tools and girls?!? This is great!' The experience totally changed my life."

These days The Gilbert School has a robust and renowned theatre arts program. But this was not the case during the time Scott was a student. "I worked on one show during my four years there, doing lighting," he says. "Every chance I got I went to the art room. I especially loved pencil drawing, which is a skill that became vital to my career."

During high school, Scott spent all his free time volunteering at The Warner Theatre. "I must have worked on 300 different productions, from concerts to plays," he recalls. "I got involved in everything they had going on, and was happy to do so." Scott also worked on numerous productions for The Nutmeg Ballet as well as some at the





Thomaston Opera House, MOMIX and Pilobolus. His extensive experience in all facets of design and production led him to decide that he wanted to become a theatre designer as a career.

Following his graduation from Gilbert, Scott attended Carnegie Mellon University, which is the first degree-granting drama institution in the United States. He studied with some of the top educators in the field and earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama with an emphasis on Theatrical Design.

Post-graduation Scott worked at Boyce Nemec Designs, one of America's leading audio-visual design firms, located in Norfolk, Connecticut. He then went on to work in New York City alongside famed theatre consultant Robert Davis. Within four years he became a partner at Davis Crossfield Associates, during which time he assisted clients and organizations across the nation, helping to create hundreds of world-class theatres and performing arts centers. Scott also became the youngest person to be accepted as a Full Member of The American Society of Theatre Consultants.

After his 10-year career in Manhattan, Scott accepted a partnership opportunity to join Theatre Projects and relocated to Connecticut to work in their office in South Norwalk. The world leader in theatre design, the organization also has offices in New York, Denver, London, Paris, and Shanghai. "I was glad to move back to

(b) Honoring Our Distinguished Alumni

my childhood state while working at the career I love," says Scott. "I had two young children in tow, and it was great being closer to family and friends."

In four years, Scott became the Chairman of the Board of Theatre. Projects, which is a position he still holds. He is also their Director of Design, working with national and international performing arts centers, opera companies, symphonies, regional theatres, schools and universities. Scott's company works with a wide range of clients, from small studios to the \$2 billion TSX Project in Manhattan, which included the renovation, restoration, and lifting of the historic Palace Theatre on Broadway, raising it up three stories.

"My career is fun, with a healthy mix of stress," explains Scott, who currently has a couple of dozen projects going. "There are tight deadlines and high









stakes, and it's important to stay on schedule and on budget."

Scott now lives in Fairfield County with his wife Dr. Jennifer Tauber, DPM, and has two children: Aiden, who is attending Rensselaer Polytech Institute and Sophie, a senior at New Milford High School. He enjoyed growing up in Winsted—which he sees as a quintessential American town—and is happy to be living close to his family and friends, including his sister Carrie Crossfield Stetson ('89), owner of the Railway Café on Main Street in Winsted.

Scott truly has a most distinguished career, fueled by passion. "I had an exceptional education at Gilbert and feel lucky to be able to pursue my dreams," he says. "It was a thrill of a lifetime to have the school reach out to me, saying my career path is amazing and they wanted to honor me!"

EMILY GRISWOLD, 2008 YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, 2023

Helping Everyone "Get a Fair Shot to Thrive"

by Patricia Martin

Success coach, CEO of 11:11

Wellness, and founder of Left of
Center Coaching, Emily Griswold
is a firm believer that we are much
more than our achievements and is
forever grateful for the small-town
upbringing that taught her the
importance of true community care.
An empath who is passionate about
authenticity and helping others,
she says, "My work is my offering
to create a more just and equitable
world where everyone gets a fair shot
to thrive!"

After her days at Gilbert, Emily graduated from Salve Regina University with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary and Special Education. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in Special Education at George Washington University, with a concentration on working with students with emotional and behavioral disorders.

Emily served as a special education teacher for 10 years. "Teachers are some of the most creative people on the planet," she says. "Most of them go into the profession because they care about humanity and the next version of the world. But they can become

overwhelmed and burned out by policies, procedures, and, of course, stress. I became curious about how to create systemic change and wanted to find a way to bolster and lift up my colleagues. The 'trickle-down effect' is real, so I wanted to help them tap back into their spark and share their love of teaching with kids."

In response, Emily began running a pilot program





supporting teachers' well-being, thereby creating positive, supportive classrooms. This step led her to leave teaching in 2019 and open her first business, 11:11 Wellness, in Washington, D.C. "I strive to create a space for joy and sustainability in the lives of school staff and help bring the care model and genuine connection back into focus," Emily explains. "I share my own experiences as a teacher, and how I've been there, felt burnt out. I let them know that no one is doing this alone, and that I'm here to support them on their journey."

Last year Emily returned to Winsted to present a wellness and self-care retreat to the staff of TGS. "Wellness and self-care are especially important for teachers, who are at the frontlines," she says. "I was thrilled to return to Gilbert, share my program, and give back to the school!"

In the summer of 2023, Emily launched the second arm of her business, entitled Left of Center Coaching, which enabled her to return to her love of working with youngsters, mainly students in 6th to 10th grade. "This is the time when kids are figuring out their identity," she says. "I give them a boost to handle middle school and

the beginning of high school with more self-awareness and confidence."

When asked what "Left of Center" means, Emily explains, "It's those kids who are a little outside the box, kids into things not mainstream or typical of what their peers are into. They are a unique population, the quirky students, who may also be dealing with autism, anxiety, or depression.

(b) Honoring Our Distinguished Alumni

I am passionate about serving these kids and their families, who may not have been dealt a fair deck. I want to help them navigate tough situations."

Because of her experience teaching students with emotional disorders, Emily was able to take a deeper dive into society's tendency to 'other' those in most need. Her approach to working with these youngsters is based on self-compassion and self-expression. She draws them out, talks with them about their values, about what they are good at, and what they want to do. "I assist them with goal setting so they can move closer to who they want to be and not yield to outside pressure," she explains. "If they want something and it's important to them, I motivate them to move closer to what they care about."

Emily lets her students know that she was in the same position as they are when she was growing up. She shares her experiences, telling kids her story about how she was a shy child and a people pleaser. "I was unique and sensitive, and my teachers at Gilbert were instrumental in helping me

come into my own," she says. "I know how important it is to feel the power of your own voice and want kids to experience how using your voice to do something different can affect change. I want them to learn that by living authentically we can be 'loved on' and have the momentum to create versions of the world we want."

It's a perfect combination that Emily champions teachers as well as students. "I offer holistic services that benefit them all," she says. "My approach creates an equitable space where everyone gets support and has a shot to thrive." Emily still lives in Washington, D.C., with her life partner, Sage. She was delighted to return to Gilbert twice during the last couple of years for two very different reasons. "The first time was for my 11:11 Wellness business services and also a reclamation as I got to share my story with the teachers and staff," she says. "And I'm very surprised and grateful to have returned again to be honored with the Young Alumni Achievement Award. It was great to come back for myself, which was very powerful."







THE GILBERT SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

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

❖ THE GILBERT HERITAGE AWARD

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

Young Alumni Achievement Award

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

❖ DISTINGUISHED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

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

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

OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AWARD

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

Nomination form and supporting documents must be submitted to The Gilbert School Alumni Office on or before June 1, 2025.

The nominee must be a graduate of The Gilbert School unless otherwise stated in the award's description. Members of The W.L. Gilbert School Corporation and The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation are not eligible while currently serving.





THE GILBERT SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

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

Please mail this form and any supporting documents by June 1, 2025 to:

The Gilbert School Alumni Office The W. L. Gilbert Trust 140 Willow Street, Suite 6 Winsted, CT 06098

Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented during Homecoming Weekend.

For additional forms or questions, email gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org or call 860-379-1245.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALISON SHEA, CLASS OF 2007

The Gilbert School has always prided itself on nurturing individuals who go on to make a significant impact in their chosen fields. Alison Shea, a distinguished member of the Class of 2007, epitomizes this tradition of excellence and service and 'lives the mission' of Gilbert each and every day.

As a student, Ali was deeply involved not only in her own academic pursuits but in the betterment of others. She was the President and Salutatorian of the Class of 2007, as well as a member the National Honor Society, Peer Mentors, and many other clubs and organizations. It was in this capacity that Ali served as a mentor to so many.

After her time at Gilbert, Ali continued her academic journey at Salve Regina University, where she thrived in an environment that fostered mentorship and personal growth. This included four years of direct mentorship while working in a biomolecular pharmacology and toxicology lab funded by the National Institutes of Health. This experience resonated deeply with her, echoing the supportive community she found at Gilbert. Despite earning a dual bachelor's degree in Biology and Neuroscience, it was during these formative Salve years that Ali began to cultivate her passion for law and advocacy.

This dedication led her to pursue a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from New England Law in Boston, specializing in intellectual property law. While a law student, Ali was the Editor-in-Chief of the New England Law Review, the student director for the Women's and Children's Advocacy Project, as well as the Judicial Language Project. In this capacity, Ali supported probono advocacy for women and children victims of crimes,





including impact litigation in several judicial forums, including the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Through her dedication to these projects, Alison was named on the Supreme Judicial Court Pro Bono Honor Roll for all four years of her legal education. Upon graduation, Ali was awarded the 2018 Trustee Bradbury Gilbert Award for Excellence in Achievement. She noted that receiving an award including Gilbert's namesake made the experience extra special. Following law school, Ali returned to her molecular biology roots, in part to help fund her pro bono advocacy. This led her to resuming a career in the biopharmaceutical sphere by managing a manufacturing and process development program which produces stem cell therapies for Type 1 Diabetes. She has since merged her passion for law with her love for science by moving into regulatory affairs. She currently works for a biopharmaceutical company embarked on a mission to combat the devastating effects of rare forms of muscular dystrophy, collaborating with global agencies to bring about positive change.

Ali's commitment to education and service has come full circle as she is also an adjunct professor of law at

New England Law, imparting her knowledge and wisdom to the next generation of legal minds. At New England Law, Ali now serves as the Co-Director of the Women's and Children's Advocacy Program and the Judicial Language Project. She describes teaching as "especially rewarding," and, notably, has proudly adopted some of the teaching techniques used by her most beloved and motivating

Alumni News

Gilbert School teacher, Debra Lewis. Alison attributes much of her legal writing skills to the educational foundation she received at The Gilbert School – some of her best Gilbert memories include wordsmithing with her teacher during a beloved freshman year English class. "To this day, I am amazed and grateful that a teacher took the time and extra effort to encourage and fuel my love of language. I try my best to provide the same for my students – the Gilbert Legacy runs strong."

Her deep-rooted connection to her alma mater is evident through her involvement in various capacities, from serving on The W. L. Gilbert Trust during her time back in Winsted in 2020 to her concurrent



tenure on The W. L. Gilbert School Corporation. Ali's unwavering dedication to the Blue and Gold community is a testament to her enduring spirit and loyalty and we, at Gilbert, have been and continue to be grateful for the work she has done on behalf of our community.

Ali embodies the very essence of what it means to be a Gilbert graduate—driven, compassionate, and deeply committed to making a difference in the world. Her journey serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us of the transformative power of education and the enduring legacy of The Gilbert School. We are proud to call her one of our own and eagerly anticipate the continued impact she will undoubtedly make in the years to come.





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 1958 - 65TH CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1958 celebrated their 65th Class Reunion on September 29, 2023 at Green Woods Country Club. They let us know that they are a very active class who started with their 10th Anniversary and have continued to celebrate their reunions every 5 years since then. We hope to see them on their 70th Reunion!



CLASS OF 1963 - 60TH CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1963 celebrated their 60th Class Reunion with a weekend of fun! They were so happy to gather that they planned three events. On Friday, September 8, 2023, they met at Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted for pizza and visiting. On Saturday, September 9th they enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and a buffet dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall, and they finished up their weekend with a goodbye breakfast on Sunday, September 10th at Good Friends Restaurant in New Hartford.

They let us know that their conversations were legendary and in many ways it felt like time had never passed. They searched out long-lost friends and rekindled their long-time relationships. They look forward to getting together again and hope that even more classmates will join the fun.



Row 1: John Carl, Vickie Thiery Atkins, Clifford Williams, Carol Hamilton Miles, Elaine Woodworth Cavagnaro, Beverly Simons Fratini, Diane Rochleau Werner, Sheila Olszanki Jackson, Barbara Jones Adams, Robert Clark. Row 2: Matt Connole, Frank Carfiro, Sue Ann Donahue Marolda, Sheila Dings Sedlack, Mary Lou Chamberlin Keefe, Diane Guglielmino Grazia, Nancy Hewitt Silverster, Amber Curtis Roy, Judy Dudley O'Meara. Row 3: Karen McCornick Onion, Lynn Beach-Schrock, Clare Jamieson Workman, John Iacino, Linda Vogellus Turgeon, Sally Passini Wabrek, Ted Marolda

CLASS OF 1973 - 50TH CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1973 became our newest Golden Graduates as they celebrated their 50th Class Reunion at Green Woods Country Club on October 21, 2023. They held a social hour with appetizers followed by a buffet dinner and more laughs than could possibly fit into the room! They had an icebreaker at Little Red Barn in Winsted on the Friday evening before the reunion and they were "partied out" after their fun and friend-filled weekend! They were a close class 50 years ago and that never changed. They raised a class gift of donations to honor their lost classmate Terry Tirrell, and sent their gift to The Terrence Hastings Tirrell 1973 Memorial Scholarship Fund. We hope they have as much fun at their 55th reunion!



CLASS OF 1978 – 45TH CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1978 celebrated their 45th Class Reunion on August 12, 2023 at Maasser Park in Colebrook. "The Class with Class" had an all-day picnic with lunch, dinner, and entertainment. They have an excellent record of gathering for each reunion in order to keep in touch with very special friends from high school. They had a bonus this year with MANY teachers and staff members attending the reunion. We hope they continue the tradition!

40



CLASS OF 1980 - 43RD CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1980 celebrated their 43rd Class Reunion on July 8, 2023. They had an amazing time, including very special guest, Mr. Craig Schroeder who educated the class on all of the current Gilbert happenings. Classmates shared snacks, drinks, games, photos, laughter, and memories



CLASS OF 1983 - 40TH CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1983 celebrated their 40th Class Reunion on September 30, 2023 at Norbrook Farm Brewery in Colebrook. There were good times and laughter and a hope that they can get together again soon!



THE GILBERT SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1993 - 30TH CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1993 celebrated their 30th Class Reunion on August 5, 2023. The reunion was held at Norbrook Farm Brewery in Colebrook. Mr. Schroeder was there to visit and talk about the changes at Gilbert and a great time was had by all!



UPCOMING REUNIONS – Save the Date!

CLASS OF 1974

Celebrating our 50th Class Reunion!

Friday, October 11, 2024 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Norbrook Farm Brewery 204 Stillman Hill Road, Colebrook Saturday, October 12, 2024 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Green Woods Country Club 300 Torringford Street, Winsted Buffet Dinner, Casual Attire

Didn't we just graduate? Where has the time gone? We hope to see you there!

For questions, please contact Sandy (Soucy) Griswold grizsouc@sbcglobal.net





CLASS OF 1979

Celebrating our 45th Class Reunion!

Saturday, September 14, 2024 Time To Be Determined Norbrook Farm Brewery 204 Stillman Hill Road, Colebrook

We look forward to seeing you in September!

For questions, please contact Shari Lynn (LaForge) Cormier randscorm@charter.net







CLASSES OF 1980-1990

Celebrating a Very Special Decades Class Reunion!

Saturday, August 31, 2024 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Little Red Barn Brewers 32 Lake Street, Winsted

Come Catch Up! Celebrate With Us! Keep in Touch! We Can't Wait to See Everyone!

For questions, please contact Alyson Gunzinger <u>alyworld22@gmail.com</u> For questions, please visit <u>Gilbert School 1980 – 1990 Decade + Reunion</u>











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!



1954
Henrietta
(Yahne)
Schofield writes:
After living in several states, I have settled in

Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. My home now is an apartment in a church-owned facility of approximately 300 apartments. A bus owned by the facility takes us shopping and on many other adventures! We also have a small vehicle to take us to our doctor's appointments and our other needs. I am very happy here and have many friends! *That is great news, Henrietta!*



1957
Alan C. Lawson,
Sr. Writes:
I can't believe it
has been over
30 years since
I retired from

the Winsted Police Department as a Detective/Sergeant and moved to North Carolina. All five of my children eventually followed me here to Lawson Lane in Wilmington, North Carolina. Ruthanne is now a doctor, René is a school nurse, Richard is a police officer, Rebecca is a psychiatrist, and Alan Jr., Class of 1980, is a truck driver. *Congratulations, Alan!*



1962
Gail M. Hoxie
writes:
The Gilbert School,
My Alma Mater,
my Nourishing
Mother – I learned

so much and cherish my 4 years at Gilbert. My freshman year was at the old Gilbert School (now Northwestern Connecticut Community College). Such an exciting way to begin my high school experience. I fell in love with all of the seniors just walking down the hallway!

Then in my sophomore year, a brand new school. Trampoline, new gym

equipment, pizza on Fridays – we all felt so lucky! Nourishing Mother gave us proms and field trips and football



games and basketball games in our beautiful new gymnasium.

I graduated in 1962. In the 62 years since my graduation, I have seen my offspring up through and including great grandchildren perform in band and drama and art exhibits at Gilbert. My heart expands in joy as children come and go from our Alma Mater – our Nourishing Mother.

I am forever grateful for The Gilbert School.



1965 Barbara A. Hawley SKCS Barbara A. Hawley, United States Navy, Feb 1966 – Dec 1968, Unites States

Naval Reserves, May 1983 – Dec 2004, was named Veteran of the Month at The Riverton Grange #169 during a ceremony in October of 2023. *Thank you for your service, Barb!*



1968
Carol De-Lutrie-Heuschkel writes:
I am a member of the Connecticut
Farm Bureau
and the County

Membership Chairperson for Litchfield County, a member of the Winsted Lion's Club District 23B, a member of UCONN Extension, Litchfield County, A member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and a member of AARP. I work with the Northwest Conservation District, the United States Department of Agriculture Forestry Management and the State of Connecticut DEEP. Carol, thank you for all you do!

6 Alumni*News - Class Notes*



1971 Lee Atwood writes: I am now retired from Texas Instruments. Congratulations, Lee!



1981 William R. **Kelsey writes:** My path has included 11 years as the Vice President

of Operations at Porter and Chester Institute, 8 years as Regional Education Director of Marinello School of Beauty, and 8 years as Campus Director at New England Tractor Trailer Training School. I am also a US Army Veteran. Congratulations on your success and thank you for your service!



A. J. Cappabianca writes: My son, Andrew

Cappabianca is a sophomore at Providence

College majoring in Accounting. He made the Dean's list and loves PC! Congratulations, Andrew!



1985 Terri Lee (Whitney) **Scruggs writes:** I went to CCSU from 1985-1989. After

graduation I worked for the Auditors of Public Accountants for sixteen years. I moved to Virginia in 2005 and married my true love last year. I have two wonderful children, a son here in Virginia and a daughter in Arkansas. I am enjoying time with my husband and serving my church. Thanks for catching up, Terri Lee!



1993 **Richard Sherman** writes: I am now the AVP of Policy and **Industry Affairs** at the American

Short Line and Regional Railroad Association. Congratulations, Richard!



1995 **Scott Winn** Scott Winn, owner of SI Winn Construction runs a project to provide free home

repairs for military veterans in need. Scott was inspired by his uncle, Jerry Winn, (Class of 1968) an Army veteran. Scott and his crew replaced the roof of Winsted resident, Pastor David McGee, a former Marine, Vietnam veteran, and two-time Purple Heart recipient, and his wife Lin, free of charge. The McGees, both members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 296 in Winsted, were in danger of losing their home due to the costly needed repairs that they could not afford. Thank you, Scott, for your generosity and service!



Donald Crossman **'99** and fellow staff members helped to provide 49 families with meals for Thanksgiving. This partnership between Big Y and The Gilbert School shows that educators can make a difference both in and out of the

classroom.

In January,

2002

Associate Principal





Kris Kelsey '02 hosted an alumni basketball game in the gym. Current and former students of all skill levels and graduating years came out to have a fun and friendly game while connecting with people from the Gilbert community.







CALLING ALL ALUMNI! SEND US YOUR NEWS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!

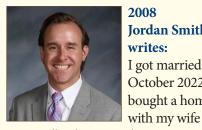
Whether you've recently married, celebrated an anniversary or an addition to your family, received a promotion, changed occupations, started a business, written a book, won an award, went on an adventure, or just want to send greetings to your classmates, – we want to know! Photos for publication are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

Alumni*News - Class Notes*



2006 **Shannon Bailey** Centrella Shannon Bailey Centrella and her husband. Shane, welcomed

a daughter, Solana, on January 2, 2024, making Solana The New Year's Baby -Charlotte Hungerford Hospital's first baby of 2024! Shannon, Shane, and their daughter, Summer, welcomed Solana with open arms and enjoyed a gift basket from the hospital and area businesses. The Centrella family are owners of 2 Winsted businesses, Rooted Market, a health food store, and Be Under Par, a virtual golf training center. Welcome, Solana, and Congratulations!



Jordan Smith writes: I got married in October 2022 and bought a home

in Woodbridge, CT. That same year I started a new position as Assistant Director of Mission and Ministry at Fairfield College Preparatory School in Fairfield, CT. Congratulations, Jordie!



Abby Corso, Alesia (Colavecchio) Warner '86, Abby's mother writes

I can't believe it has been 5 years since Abby was the Locascio Scholarship recipient. We will never forget the shock, excitement and thrill when she received the award. I wanted to update the board and faculty on Abby's adventures and also to ensure you that your award has been put to amazing use.

Abby attended The University of Tampa. The university accepted her AP courses from Gilbert along with her credits from NCCC. She was eligible to graduate in 3 years with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice. She decided to stay for an additional year and she graduated last May with the BS in Criminal Justice along with a Bachelor of Arts in History.

Abby is currently attending the University of York in York, England. She is in a 1 year Master's program in Contemporary History and International Politics. Abby is working with a church in York conducting archival research of World War I soldiers from the area while preparing her Master's dissertation. She has had the privilege to research in The Imperial War Museum and National Archives in London.

Abby will be returning to the US in the fall and will be looking for PHD programs beginning Fall 2025.

Thank you again for your support financially and giving her the academic foundation to be able to accomplish all that she has and will in the future.

Fondly, Alesia Warner

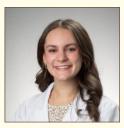


2019 Alumni Gathering at Little Red Barn Brewers In April, alumni Jake Marchand

'19 and Conor Bailey '19 talked to fellow graduate and long-time teacher Don Goetz '70. These Alumni gatherings allow past graduates to come together and build a community that goes beyond the four years spent at The Gilbert School.



Members of the class of 2019 reunite at our April alumni gathering at Little Red Barn Brewers in Winsted! Tyler Tucker, Justin Bourgoin, Dylan Amery, Jake Marchand, Joe Brugmann, Anna King



2020 **Sydney Kolosky** Sydney graduated with her Bachelor's of Science in **Pharmacy Studies** with a minor

in Biological Sciences from UConn this spring. She will now continue her current program where she will graduate in 2026 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Sydney was an integral part of UConn's Children's Dance Marathon called HuskyTHON, a year-long philanthropic fundraising effort where over 4,000 college students come together to raise money for patients and their families at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Sydney writes, "The Gilbert School always taught me to help others and to never give up on the things you are passionate about. Whether it was pushing through a tough game or rallying a team to get them excited for a tournament, I have never stopped fighting to bring joy and positivity to others. I believe that with the help of our community, we can go above and beyond to build future moments for kids to just be kids. The Gilbert School prepared me immensely for my time at UConn as it sparked a passion for both academics and being a leader within student organizations. It not only taught me the importance of succeeding within my studies, but also the importance of being an involved member of your community to give back to those who need it most." Well done Sydney, and thank you for all you do!

SAVE THE DATE

Alumni Weekend/ **Homecoming 2024** October 25th & 26th

Distinguished Alumni Awards • Honoring the Class of 1974 • Celebrating all of our Golden Graduates • Alumni Volleyball • Alumni Cheerleading • Alumni Cross Country

COME BACK TO GILBERT! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

(5) AlumniNews - Class Notes



Quantum System One

Elizabeth (Cormier) Nardi, '83, Ellen (Cormier) Marino, '83, CJ Marino, '23, and Maryellen Marino, '20 stand in front of the IBM Quantum System One on the campus of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. RPI is the first and so far only university in the world to own a quantum computer. The IBM Quantum System One is housed in a specially designed room inside RPI's historic Voorhees Computing Center Chapel. Maryellen is a 2024 graduate of RPI and her brother CJ will be entering his sophomore year at RPI in the fall.



Alumni Cheerleader Squad

Homecoming 2023 was extra special with the addition of a squad of alumni cheerleaders. Led by coach Megan Lovetere Schibi, '99, they helped support our football team with fun, grace, and enthusiasm. We hope to see you all for Homecoming 2024 – Go Jackets!



Alumni Volleyball Game

The Gilbert gym was full of some amazing women who came out to play in the Annual Homecoming Alumni Volleyball Game. We hope to see more of you in 2024! A huge thanks to Mary Ellen Staszowski Vaccari, '72 for her help in organizing this fun and special event!

Front: L to R - Former coach Marci Moore Fritch '98, Amanda Jassen '01, Lori Hague Beecher '82, Abbey Beecher '21, Karley Padin '19, Penelope Rein '19, Mara White '19, Liz Wexler '18, Player and former coach Cindy Fixer '78, Adreona Mrowka '20. Back: Lisa Mangione Brochu '84, Marie Prelli Keefe '92, Becky Arquett '92, Yvonne Thompson Wutka, Deanna DelaCruz '17, Sydney Marshall '17, Former coach Mary Ellen Staszowski Vaccari '72.



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 gilbertschool.org. Let us hear from you!



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT:

Ellen Cormier Marino's Dedication to The Gilbert School

In the rich tapestry of The Gilbert School's history, certain individuals stand out not only for their achievements but for the depth of their commitment to our school. Ellen Marino, a distinguished member of the Class of 1983, exemplifies this ethos of unwavering dedication. From her humble beginnings as one of nine children born to Robert Cormier and Mary Ellen Murphy Cormier, both long-time teachers at Gilbert, to her current role as Vice President of The W. L. Gilbert Trust, Ellen's journey is a testament to the enduring bond between alumni and alma mater.

Ellen's connection to Gilbert runs deep, rooted in the very foundation of her family. Her parents met while both were young teachers at the original Gilbert School. Her father began teaching in 1948 and her mother in 1952. They retired together in 1985. Raised in an environment where education and community were valued above all, she found herself drawn to the same halls that had shaped her parents' lives. "Gilbert has always been more than just a school to me," Ellen reflects. "It's a part of who I am, ingrained in my family's history."

Her Gilbert journey continued when she married Concetto Marino, himself a proud graduate of the Class of 1982. Together, they embarked on a new chapter, raising three children, Maryellen, Salutatorian of the Class of 2020 and a Magna Cum Laude graduate of RPI Class of 2024. Maryellen graduated with a dual major of Computer Science and Mathematics and a minor in Cognitive Science





of Artificial Intelligence. Concetto (CJ), a 2023 Gilbert graduate is now a freshman at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (dual major of Computer Science and Information Technology and Web Science), and Catherine (Katie), is a sophomore at Gilbert. All three children carry on the family legacy within Gilbert's walls.

For the past 29 years, Ellen has served as a trustee, offering her time, expertise, and unwavering support to The Gilbert School in any way she can. Her tenure began in 1995, a pivotal period in Gilbert's history that saw the commencement of a major renovation project and the addition of the school's first Director of Development. "Being a trustee has been and continues to be an incredible privilege," Ellen shares. "To witness firsthand the growth and evolution of Gilbert has been inspiring, yet there is so much more work to be done to prepare our students for success in this complicated world."

Ellen's contributions to the Trust extend far beyond her role as a trustee. With her extensive experience as an attorney specializing in probate, real estate, and estate planning, she brings a

wealth of knowledge and insight to the table. She is an avid student of the law and has helped Gilbert through many times of transition; the depth of her experience and her understanding of the legal landscape is truly remarkable.

But Ellen's journey didn't begin and end at Gilbert's gates. Following her graduation, she pursued a degree in political science at Western New England University, earning her



TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT: ELLEN CORMIER MARINO

degree in 1987 before going on to Pace University, where she obtained her J.D. in 1990. Her passion for law took her far and wide, from internships in British Parliament to working in the Washington, D.C. office of former Connecticut Governor, Lowell Weicker. "I always had a dream of working in the baseball commissioner's office," Ellen recalls. "But ultimately, my path led me back to Connecticut, where I had the chance to learn from mentors like Attorney Alan Barber, also a Gilbert Alum (Class of 1970) and former Probate Judge." Ellen's connection to area attorneys such as Barber helped shape her ultimate desire to open up her own practice here in the very place that has long been her home.

As Gilbert continues to evolve and thrive, Ellen remains a steadfast champion for its mission and values. "I'm excited to see what the future holds for Gilbert," she says with a smile. "And I'm committed to ensuring that future generations have the same opportunities that shaped my life."

In honoring Ellen Marino, The Gilbert School celebrates not only her remarkable achievements but also the enduring spirit of service and dedication that defines its alumni community. As Ellen's legacy continues to inspire, her impact on Gilbert will be felt for generations to come.



DONATIONS

Thank You Alumni and Friends for Your Generosity!

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 15, 2024.

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 gilbertschool.org

ENRICHMENT DONATIONS

Gilbert Circle (\$1000 +)

Dr. Joan Centrella, 1971 & Dwight Allen JoAnn T. Briggs Robert, 1990 & Liza (Vaccari)DiMartino, 1993 Joseph Fabry, Jr. (1000) John P. Fracasso, Jr., 1975 JoAnn (Young) Leifert, 1980 Attorney Ellen Cormier Marino, 1983 Charles & Ellen (Vaccari) Seaback, 1972 Mark Vaccari, 1977

Blue & Gold Club (\$500 - \$999)

Joseph Fortuna, 1982 Paul B. Manchester, 1960 Karen Flaherty Oxler, 1970 David Poucher, 1968 Alicia Salzer

Patrons (\$200 - \$499)

Lee Atwood, 1971 Patricia & Jack Bourque Holly (Marchand) Cassaday, 1990 Beverly (Petersen) Davis, 1957 Philip J. DiCara, 1943 Peter & Deborah DiMartino Karen (Horn) Dooks, 1960 Heather (Case) Dzielak, 1986 Jonathan B. Eddy, 1974 Michael Fixer, 1979 Tara (Finn) Forschino, 1982 Elaine A. Fortuna Lisa (Lamoreaux) Garrahan, 1981 Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972 Kathleen (Brady) Jones, 1972 Victoria (Bordonaro) Larson, 1973 S. Peter Manchester, 1958 Noreen (Brown) Marchand, 1965 Concetto, 1982 & Ellen (Cormier) Marino, 1983 Salvatore Marino, 1961 Shirley (Kolega) Moore, 1943 Jean (Woodward) Partridge, 1950 Robert Provan, 1956 Dorothy (Wetmore) Robbins, 1954 Dori & Steven Smith Paul Svetz, 1960 Amanda (Hills) Weddle, 1989 Linda Youmatz, 1974

Yellow Jackets (\$100 - \$199)

David Balderston, 1956 Richard J. Beebe, 1972 Susan (Moore) Belle-Isle, 1970 Joseph Carrozzo, 1954 Alan & Pamela (Flaherty) Colavecchio, 1969 L. Hunter Davis, 1957 James DiMartino, 1964 Richard J. Gayer, 1953 Mary (Avery) Gessner, 1954 Kris Griffin Brian, 1970 & Sandra (Soucy) Griswold, 1974 Emily Griswold, 2008 Eric Jones, 1982 Deborah Kane Michael Kelley, 1976 Ashli (Hoxie) Langill, 2006 Alan, 1957 & Denise (Shopey) Lawson, 1955 Robert E. Lee. 1958 J. Thomas Light, 1958 Steven Mangione, 1982 Peter, 1988 & Jennifer (Hanson) Marchand, Jr., 1993 Albert H. Marshall, Jr., 1954 Gerald Morton, 1965 Jeannette (Turgeon) Neary, 1957 Josephine (Staszowski) Ochotnicky, 1943 Raymond & Astrid (Haskins) Robitaille, 1989 Megan (Lovetere) Schibi, 1999 Henrietta (Yahne) Schofield, 1954 Dr. Edward Sembor Rowland Seymour, 1963 Jordan A. Smith, 2008 Nadene Stein, 1980 Mary Ellen (Staszowski) Vaccari, 1972 Paul, 1966 & Linda Vaccari Matthew Watson, 1977 Martin J. & Gloria

Boosters (\$50 - \$99)

(Bazzano) White, 1967

Michael Zonghetti, 1976

Elizabeth Allen, 1982 Joseph C. Barber, 1989 Rebecca Lynn Beach-Schrock, 1963 Thomas Bordonaro, 1967 Barbara (Miner) Bremer, 1978 Carol Sue Chapman, 1959 Joan (Youmatz) DiAgostino, 1960 Eugene Diulio, 1954 John Eggering, 2010 Cynthia A. Fixer, 1978 Kirk M. Frazee. 1970 James Heller, 1957 Janice (Mazzochi) Howells, 1966 Gail Hoxie, 1962 Gregory J. Hughes, 1968 Herbert G. Isaacson, 1954 William R. Kelsey, 1981 Wendy (Vaill) Lewis, 1964 Carol (Hamilton) Miles, 1963 Jeffry Morton, 1987 Todd, 1979 & Elizabeth (Pinter) Parsons, 1982 Josephine Radocchio, 1955 Susan (Ellingwood) Regner, 1973 Craig Schroeder, Jr., 2001 Richard Sherman, 1993 David Sizemore Jake Smith, 2008 D. John Vaccari, 1942 Paul, 1966 & Linda Vaccari Sally (Passini) Wabrek, 1963 Gloria (Groppo) Williams, 1976

Laurel Court (\$1 - \$49)

Linda (Speziale) Barberet, 1974 Joseph, 1960 & Cynthia Bazzano David Beauregard, 1978 AJ Cappabianca, 1982 Joanne (Finn) Casey, 1958 Alexandra Cassaday, 2022 Barbara (Lynch) Collins, 1947 Ralph Cote, 1971 Deirdre (Houlihan) DiCara, 1973 Joseph Fasciano, 1952 Jean (Dudley) Hoagland, 1960 Jebediah Leach, 2023 Steven P. Pettit, 1975 Larry Phair, 1976 Teddy Smith, 2012 Tim Smith, 2016 Michele (Garbus) Sultaire, 1970 David V. Torson, 1968 Alanne (Kennedy) Turina, 1968 Louise Van Alstyne

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Lauren Bardino Memorial Scholarship

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



Jason T. Boutin Memorial Scholarship Fund

Thomas & Arlene (Brady) Boutin, 1971 Andrew Brady, 1973 Michele (Boutin) Cousins, 1999 UBS Matching Gift Program



Timothy M. Casey Scholarship Fund Mary Anne Casey, 1974

The Gilbert Faculty Scholarship Fund Peter & Deborah DiMartino

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

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

Jody M. Mochak Memorial Scholarship Robert, 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 Honor and Memory of
Terrence Hastings Tirrell, Class of 1973
50th Class Reunion Gifts – Class of 1973

Class of 1973 – In Memory of Terrence Tirrell Chris Atwood, 1973 Deborah (Moore) Bombard, 1973 Roland Boutin, 1973 Andrew Brady, 1973 Art Brochu, 1973 Tim Brown, 1973 Heather (Smyth) Cappabianca, 1973 Glenn Daniels, 1973 Art Dewey, 1973 Deirdre (Houlihan) DiCara, 1973 Bob Fancher, 1973 Rich Gabelmann, 1973 Karen (Bement) Gartin, 1973 Aldo Godenzi, 1973 Bruno Gubetta, 1973 Susan Jones, 1973 Patrick King, 1973 Fred Kraiza, 1973 Victoria (Bordonaro) Larson, 1973 David Lutz, 1973 Carol (Keeley) Maas, 1973 Al Murelli, 1973 Joe O'Brien, 1973 Sylvia (Franconi) Orcutt, 1973 Gayle (Martinez) Parks, 1973 Colleen (Townsend) Pilat, 1973 Cynthia (Laffin) Quinn, 1973 Robert Radocchio, 1973 Dan Smyth, 1973 Tim Suydam, 1973 Sandra Youmatz, 1973 Marion (Hawley) Zirolli, 1973

The Irving J. and Pauline N. Woodward Scholarship Fund

Jean (Woodward) Partridge, 1950

FUND DONORS

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

The James & Shirley Draper Foundation Fund, 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 Memorial Endowment Fund Lida Gifford, 1987

Donations to the Edward Keeley Memorial Fund David Dombrowski, 1977 & Family Donations to The Student Emergency Fund Jean (Smith) Gauthier, 1973

Donations to The W. L. Gilbert Endowment Fund

Robert 1990 & Liza (Vaccari)

Robert, 1990 & Liza (Vaccari) DiMartino, 1993

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Lawrence Henrickson, 1956 In Memory of Anthony A. Angarano, Jr. 1956 Sally (Crossman) Mangione, 1956 In Memory of Anthony A. Angarano, Jr. 1956 Thomas & Arlene (Brady) Boutin, 1971 In Memory of Michael David Brady, 2000 Andrea (Darcey) Ellinger, 1982 In Memory of Dominic Colavecchio, 1947 Virginia Daniels In Memory of Coach Ronald Daniels on the 10th Anniversary of His Passing Linda M. Groppo, 1965 In Memory of Gerald Durant, 1964 Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972 In Memory of Gerald Durant, 1964 Susan (Moore) Belle-Isle, 1970 In Memory of Margaret (O'Brien) Riiska, 1943 Claire M. Ferrarotti

In Memory of Margaret (O'Brien) Riiska, 1943 Linda M. Groppo, 1965 In Memory of Margaret (O'Brien) Riiska, 1943 Philip & Nancy (Groppo) Groth, 1972 In Memory of Margaret (O'Brien) Riiska, 1943 Shirley (Kolega) Moore, 1943

In Memory of Margaret (O'Brien) Riiska, 1943

DONATIONS

The Gilbert School Alumni Department Andrea (Darcey) Ellinger, 1982

Arts at The Gilbert School JoAnn T. Briggs Gail Hoxie, 1962

The Gilbert School Athletic Department JoAnn T. Briggs

The Gilbert School Music Department
John, 1961 & Beverly (Simons) Fratini, 1963
Brian, 1970 & Sandra (Soucy) Griswold, 1974
Devon J. Scherer, 2019
lan L. Scherer, 2019
Michael C. Scherer, 1986
Sandi Lynn (Fratini) Scherer, 1985

SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS:

THE W. L. GILBERT TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS

The W. L. Gilbert Trust awarded over \$122,000.00 in scholarships to alumni and graduating Gilbert seniors in a special ceremony in May. A huge thank you to our generous donors who make this possible and most importantly, to those who continue the rich tradition of civic service and generosity for which our founder was known.



THE PHYLLIS C. LOCASCIO SCHOLARSHIP



The Class of 2021 Locascio Scholarship Recipient is Evan Blass. Evan is attending the University of Hartford and majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology. Evan has recently won the Junior Regents Honor Award, which is given to the highest ranked student in the college of Arts and Sciences.



The Class of 2022 Locascio Scholarship Recipient is Liana Masangkay. Liana is attending Southern Connecticut State University where she is majoring in Nursing with a minor in Wellness.



The Class of 2023 Locascio Scholarship Recipient is Kaitlyn Crowley. Kaitlyn is attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she is studying Public Health on a Pre-Physician Assistant track.



Timothy Cronin, CEO of The W. L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, presents The Phyllis C. Locascio Scholarship to 2024 recipient, Zackary Richardson. This generous scholarship was established in 2009 by the late Phyllis Locascio (Class of 1932), in memory of her parents, Salvatore and Maria (Gurnia) Locascio. The Locascio Scholarship is granted at an amount of \$10,000 per year, renewable for up to four years of undergraduate education, for a total award of \$40,000. This year's recipient, Zackary Richardson, will be attending Western New England University in the fall and majoring in Civil Engineering.



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In Memoriam,

1931 Mildred "Milly" (Sanford) Johnson February 10, 2024

Leona (Lachat) Mangione July 10, 2023

D. John Vaccari May 19, 2024

1943

Philip J. DiCara January 7, 2024

1943

Concetta (Giansiracusa) Post January 5, 2024

1943 Margaret (O'Brien) Riiska March 14, 2024

1944

John F. Dyer, Jr. August 13, 2023

Leo Vaccari June 11, 2024

1946

Phyllis "Jill" (Cleaveland) Beeman February 12, 2024

1946 Rae Cornelia (Holcomb) Strattman September 26, 2023

James "Colie" Barrett June 25, 2010

1947 Douglas Inches Griswold May 2, 2024

Gloria (McKinnon) Perret May 19, 2023

1947

Lena "Lee" (Cornelio) Resha July 23, 2023

1948 Mabel (Cadrain) Boutin December 20, 2023

1948

Sr. Mary Angela DiCara, OSF March 2, 2024

Mary (Amenta) Gillette January 20, 2024

1948 Barbara (Collar) Kittredge April 30, 2024

1948

Joseph Roland Marquis September 24, 2023

Ann (DiVita) Russo December 20, 2023

Norma (Burke) Thomsen August 23, 2023

Yolanda (DiNatale) Barrett May 31, 2020

Madeline G. Ganem February 8, 2014

1949

David V. Vaccari, Sr. February 22, 2204

1950

Margaret (Lachat) Angino July 12, 2023

Donald Robert Bleuher August 6, 2023

1950

Carmela (Aquilino) Cappello January 15, 2024

Grace (Andrew) Testa December 19, 2023

Dorothy "Dottie" (Thompson) Centrella February 18, 2024

1951

Alice (Ferris) Fixer November 28, 2023

52

1951

Helen (Mellas) Fulop November 30, 2023

1951 Robert "Bob" Sultaire July 23, 2023

1951 Lorraine (Williams) Yadach December 6, 2023

1952

May "Midge" (Reinders) Saunders November 19, 2023

1952

Jane (Thompson) Vondell May 14, 2024

Jean (Merrill) Balderston September 19, 2023

Marjorie (Hoffman) Ferrari August 11, 2022

Frances (Waters) Yeske February 28, 2024

Robert J. Belladella April 30, 2024

1954

George A. English March 13, 2024

Anita (Caine) Rocheleau September 23, 2023

1955 William H. Connole, Jr. February 12, 2024

Helene (Hamilton) Anthony May 17, 2024

1956

Anthony "Tony" Angarano, Jr. October 14, 2023

1956

Lois Ann (Carlson) DiMartino January 30, 2024



In Memoriam.

1956 William "Billy" Timothy Driscoll December 30, 2023

1956

Richard W. Kelsey October 5, 2023

Robert Seth Seymour February 27, 2024

Cornelia (Van Altena) Lentz September 10, 2023

Lois (Ives) Weir November 9, 2023

1958

Raymond Francis DeSanti, Sr. August 27, 2023

Stacey R. Hatfield September 12, 2023

1958

Andrea (DeMars) Walsh November 1, 2023

Jeannette M. Asselin May 20, 2024

1959

Herbert Thomas Crunden March 21, 2024

1959

Paul L. Richards, Jr. April 15, 2024

Thomas Francis McDermott, Jr. June 16, 2023

1962

Russell Coe Manchester, II June 13, 2023

Janice (Gabelmann) Southworth May 19, 2024

1962

Harold R. Stannard, Jr. May 9, 2024

1963

Linda (Dutcher) Britton November 3, 2023

1963

Douglas N. Merbaum January 24, 2024

1964

Gerald D. Durant March 26, 2024

Karen (Goodenough) Papp April 20, 2024

1965

Floyd Rogers Church, Jr. November 30, 2023

1965

Allen Edward Dorn June 30, 2023

1965

William P. Gagner August 28, 2023

1965

John P. Sayles April 28, 2023

1965

Theresa (Stanizzi) Sterpka September 26, 2023

1965

Cynthia (Johnson) St. John February 26, 2024

1967

Dale (Benedict) Salmonsen December 16, 2023

Diane (Villa) Cole October 20, 2023

1969

Rev. Collin A. Hughes May 21, 2024

1969

Mark Leonard Prelli November 21, 2023

1969

Stephen Michael Vinisko March 3, 2024

1973

Natalie (Nalette) Attianese May 26, 2024

Ronald Robert Hiller December 18, 2023

1978

Joseph R. Santoro, Jr. April 21, 2024

Michael E. Teddick January 27, 2024

Ronald J. Roberge November 13, 2023

1980

Kenneth Rafoss August 29, 2023

Lee Ann (Dwyer) Karg May 20, 2024

1986

Kyle Carriere October 15, 2023

Yvette-Jeannine "Evie" Boucher August 16, 2023

Carrie Lynn (Hodgkin) Dusi May 19, 2024

2000

Michael David Brady January 21, 2024

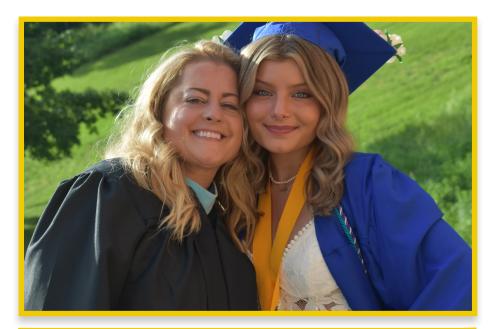
Randall John Henry Holcomb November 18, 2023

2005

Nicholas Onion July 6, 2023







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

Editor:

Sandi Lynn (Fratini) Scherer, 1985

Design Editing: Eduardo Barrios Barrioscre8tive.com

Writer:

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Additional Photo Credits:

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