

THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY



NEXT UP

Meet four Centaurs who are following in the footsteps of our distinguished alumni

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GLEANER

2024



Historic clock mechanism on display in the Academy Building

Photo by Collin Hamilton '23

OUR MISSION

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

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ON THE COVER

Front to back:
Summer Espeseth '24
Tuyet (Evelyn) Ho '24
Hunter Haynes '24
Eric Mathewson '24

Photo by Madison Millar



The Woodstock Academy



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The Woodstock Academy

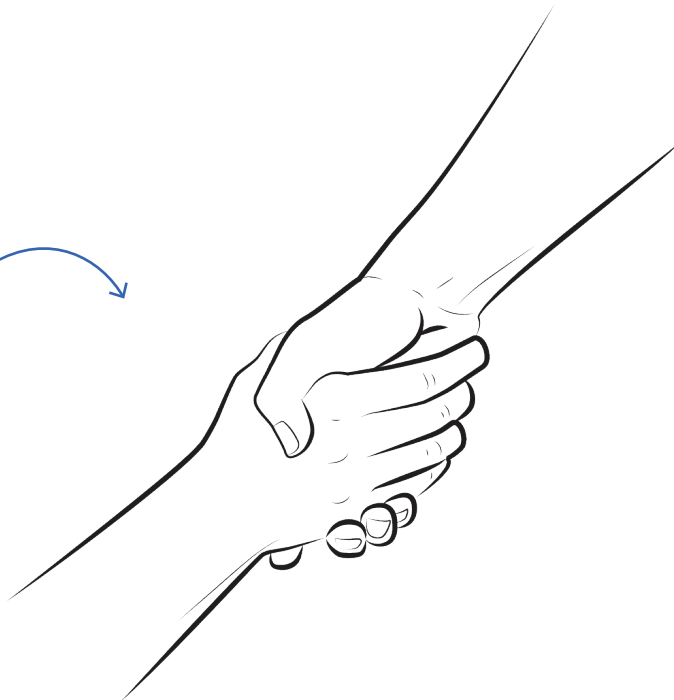


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Meet four established
WA alumni partnered
with current students
with interest in the same
career field.



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2024

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL'S DESK

Each year I have the pleasure of writing a letter to The Woodstock Academy community in *The Gleaner*. As I write today, students are moving between classes or campuses in the spring sunshine. In addition to the regular humming of a school day, I see and hear the final preparations being completed for the opening of the remodeled Academy Building. This updated space strengthens the symbol of our beloved institution.

The Academy was founded in 1801, making it one of the country's oldest continuously run secondary schools. To put this into perspective, The Academy was founded only 25 years after our country declared its independence or 14 years after our Constitution was ratified. By any historical marker, students walking on our campuses are surrounded by a rich and deep history. While we are not a perfect institution, our students are part of a strong, vibrant, and historic learning community.

If you get a chance to see it, you will notice that the exterior of the Academy Building looks the same as it looked when it opened on August 21, 1873. Yet, the interior is a modern educational environment. With its flexible learning spaces, classroom technology, accessibility improvements, and workable climate control, The Academy rivals any newly built learning space. Additionally, because of the exterior restoration and the first-floor museum housing the original clockworks and bell, students will be walking past an important local and national historic artifact every day.

This issue of *The Gleaner* features both today's students and students of the past. You will also see a story about the newly completed Academy Building and some other milestones and highlights from the past year. We are constantly focused on what the next generation of students will need as we plan future programming, but while we have this conversation, it is always framed within The Academy's traditions and history.

Serving as head of school for The Woodstock Academy is the honor of my lifetime. Not only do I appreciate our institution's rich history, but being a part of this community brings me immense pride. The staff, students, families, and alumni continually work to support the mission of this institution, and our teachers are some of the most creative and dedicated educators I have ever worked with.

The Academy is in a very strong position as we move forward in this ever-changing world. The historic nature of this institution is not an impediment, but a source of strength. The Academy continues to grow, improve, and provide more and more opportunities for students to achieve and become the people they are meant to be.

We have become a greater institution because of the people in our community. Your ongoing support is deeply appreciated.

In Partnership,



Chris Sandford
Head of School

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Head of School

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Associate Head of School

Mr. Jonathan D. Sturdevant
Associate Head of School for Advancement

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NEWSFEED



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NEXT UP

Meet four Centaurs that are following in the footsteps of WA Alumni to become the NextGen of leaders in the film, military, business, and finance fields.

By Samantha Romero, Co-editor

EVELYN HO '24

When Evelyn Ho '24 left her home in Vietnam to attend high school in the U.S., she knew it would open up a world of opportunities for her, but she hadn't yet developed a plan for her future. At The Woodstock Academy, she enrolled in Mr. Collelo's Digital Media Production class because it fit nicely in her daily schedule, but she had no idea that this happy accident would turn a beloved hobby of hers into a full-fledged career pursuit.

For years, Evelyn had already been capturing photographs and film of her travels and quality time with friends and family to preserve precious memories. "Those videos are beyond money," she said. With Mr. Collelo's guidance, she quickly learned that the personal value she found in film could extend to an artform and skillset valued in the job market as well.

She dove right into the course material, learning all about WA's extensive collection of camera equipment, jumping at opportunities to connect with alumni in the field, and asking

lots of film-related questions. "Mr. Collelo was so patient with me, and he did a great job of pushing me forward and giving me advice," said Evelyn.

Before that initial semester came to a close, Evelyn had joined the Media Production Club and enrolled in Exploring Multimedia and 3D Animation the following school year. She even volunteered to film and photograph school events and produce promotional videos, working collaboratively with WA's Communications & Marketing team to gain valuable professional experience.

In the fall, she'll be headed to Northwest Vista College in Texas, where she'll major in digital video and cinema production. "With confidence, I can say that I would not be standing where I am now without WA," said Evelyn. "I discovered my dream career here and have been able to prepare for college by taking coursework that provides me with real-world experience in the field."



Q&A

Evelyn

What would you say are the 3 greatest factors that have contributed to your success today?

Evelyn

How have you approached networking in Hollywood? How do you get your foot in the door and get the chance to work with other professionals you admire?

Evelyn

What advice do you have for the next generation of students pursuing careers in film?

FILM

Bridget

1. The support I've had from family and friends.
2. Getting back in the game as quickly as possible after failing. Someone (I wish I could remember who) said that you get one 'Yes' for every 100 'No's' and that was helpful for me to hear, because it sort of started me collecting rejections, so I could get to a 'Yes.'
3. Taking my ego out of the equation. Film is a collaborative art that requires the creativity of hundreds of people, so ego just kills a lot of good ideas.

Bridget

Once I realized that I could approach networking the same way I approach making friends, I unlocked a lot of joy. I actually love meeting people and hearing about their life and interests, so that's all I'm doing when I "network" and then I invest in relationships with people who I enjoy and admire. All the opportunities I've had come from genuine relationships.

Bridget

Follow your joy, be curious and kind. Honor your commitments and pursue your projects with passion. Be true to your unique voice.

BRIDGET STOKES '00

Bridget Stokes '00 always knew she wanted to be an artist, though she wasn't always certain of what kind. In her formative years at The Woodstock Academy, she studied photography and played the saxophone. Choir and drawing courses rounded out her schedule, and she even dabbled in learning to play the bass guitar. "All that exploring and chasing my curiosity set a tone for my life that holds to this day," said Stokes. "My voracious appetite for stories and life experience solidified in my high school years."

At Brown University, her true calling began to take shape. Studying classic and international film in her Intro to Modern Culture and Media course helped her to realize she could combine her passions for art and storytelling as a film director. "From that first semester, I worked relentlessly on pursuing that as a career," said Stokes.

The path to success in the film industry is notoriously fraught with obstacles; handling rejection is essential to a director's survival. "Work doesn't come at regular intervals,"

said Stokes. But if the unpredictability of the industry presents challenges, they are outweighed by the passion and excitement it inspires in Stokes. "The chaos forces you to find a way to be present in your life, to be resilient, to learn from failure."

From Woodstock to Providence, to NYC, and eventually L.A., Stokes's resilience won the day. In 2022, she was awarded the Emmy for Outstanding Directing in a Variety Series for her work on *A Black Lady Sketch Show*. She has directed the Apple TV+ series *Hello, Jack! The Kindness Show*, Disney Channel's *Gabby Duran & The Unsittables*, and the 2019 feature film *Boy Genius*. Stokes has also served as producer on a number of feature films, including Netflix's *The Rachel Divide*, which earned a nomination for Best Documentary Feature at the Tribeca Film Festival. Her accolades are well-deserved, but Stokes feels most fulfilled by the opportunity to pour herself passionately into filmmaking. "The discipline of directing and storytelling really feeds my curiosity and creativity."



HUNTER HAYNES '24

Hunter Haynes '24 is ready to serve. Earlier this year, the Eastford resident and Woodstock Academy senior enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where he'll specialize in security. It's a goal he first realized in his junior year of high school, and with just a few short months left before graduation it's becoming a reality.

Hunter has enjoyed his time at WA, especially Mr. Sumner's Architectural Design class and his time on the Boys Soccer Team. In fact, he won the 2023 Eastern Connecticut Conference Sportsmanship Award, a testament to his character both on and off the field, and Coach Paul Rearden praised the defender for a "phenomenal job" in his final soccer season at WA.

Now both his physical and mental toughness will be put to the test as Haynes undergoes intense military training with the United States Marine

Corps. Undoubtedly, his track record as a selfless teammate will continue as he forms a newfound camaraderie with his fellow Marines. Haynes is ready for the challenge and proud to be able to play a role in defending his country.

Looking back on the last four years of high school, Haynes is grateful for the experience. "WA has helped me explore my opportunities," said Haynes. "I've been able to figure out what I really wanted to do after high school." After serving in the Marine Corps, Haynes hopes to transfer that relevant knowledge and skillset to a career as a Connecticut State Police Officer, continuing a life centered on serving his community.



Q&A

Hunter

What made you want to be a SEAL?

Hunter

How difficult was BUD/S training for you?

Hunter

Would you ever do it again if you could?

Hunter

I'm finishing up at WA and enlisting in the Marines—any advice?

MILITARY

Casey

Growing up I recall eagerly consuming every SEAL movie and book available. I'd often immerse myself in Navy SEAL training evolutions, braving cold plunges in Quaddick Lake, driven by a determination to defy skepticism and accomplish the unthinkable.

Casey

BUD/S can certainly be challenging and test you to the core. I had moments in training where the possibility of failure seemed imminent, yet the fear of giving up was even more daunting. I knew ringing that bell wasn't an option.

Casey

Certainly! There's a common saying that "misery loves company," and nowhere is this more evident than in SEAL training. Amidst the challenges, you glance to your left and right, recognizing that you don't want to let them down and they share the same sentiment.

Casey

Stay committed and dedicated every single day. Take on every opportunity to volunteer and maintain a positive attitude regardless of the challenges presented. Though it might seem daunting to volunteer for a task, doing so will earn you praise from your instructors and earn the respect of your fellow Marines. Prepare yourself physically with rigorous training, such as CrossFit, to cultivate mental resilience. You're about to embark on an extraordinary journey that few have the privilege to undertake. Wishing you the utmost success!

CASEY CARPENTER '05

Casey Carpenter '05, from Woodstock, is the son of two Navy veterans following in a long line of family members who've served in the U.S. military going back to the American Revolutionary War. He knew from a young age that he would follow in their footsteps and dreamed of testing his limits as a Navy SEAL. Then, on a sunny Tuesday morning in September during his freshman year at The Woodstock Academy, news of the 9/11 attacks spread across campus, and Casey realized that the call to defend the country would eventually become his reality.

In the four years that followed, Carpenter took advantage of his time at WA. He enjoyed how Mr. Cunningham brought history to life in social studies and how Ms. Swift (who also happened to be his stepmother) made literature fun in English. As captain of the golf team, Carpenter thrived under the mentorship of Coach Willis and Coach Garceau, making memories and forming lifelong bonds with teammates in the process. While at WA, Carpenter learned important lessons about leadership and integrity and "felt teachers as well as administrators were invested in [his] success personally and academically." It helped him build the confidence he would need as he enlisted in the military.

After graduating from The Academy, Carpenter attended Nichols College before enlisting to pursue his ultimate dream of becoming a Navy SEAL and

enrolling in the notoriously strenuous Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training class.

He graduated a year and a half later and was assigned orders to SEAL Team Four in Virginia Beach, VA. He held several roles during his time with the Teams, including Primary Comms, Joint Terminal Attack Controller (coordinating air asset support), and even leading SEALs into target areas as a Point Man.

Today, Carpenter has returned to settle in Virginia Beach, where he and his wife, Emily (Weaver) Carpenter '08, spend their spare time leading their two children on fun family adventures of boating, skiing, and golfing. After six years in the Navy, Carpenter transitioned to a career in finance before taking on his new role as Technical Account Manager supporting Salesforce's largest Comms media and Technology customers (Nvidia, Dell, AWS).

He credits much of his success to his military experience, which ignited a spark inside him and helped establish the mentality that failure is not an option. "Joining the military was the best decision I ever made," notes Carpenter.

When considering the next generation of WA graduates and their future opportunities, he professes

"An accomplished military career has the ability to accelerate your career and put you on a strong trajectory to success."



SUMMER ESPESETH '24

“WA has prepared me for my next steps by offering a unique learning experience. I have taken a variety of classes that have helped me narrow down my interests and have encouraged me to face challenges head on.”

For Summer Espeseth '24 of Woodstock, those next steps lead to Johnson & Wales University, where she'll major in entrepreneurship this fall. Her passion for culinary arts, which grew from her family's love to travel and explore food truck festivals, was further encouraged by the courses she's taken at WA.

In fact, her favorite class was Foods & Nutrition, where each day's lesson meant experimenting with new ingredients and recipes. “I realized how creative you can be in the culinary industry,” said Summer. It got her thinking about her own dietary restrictions, and how to offer solutions for those with allergies and sensitivities without compromising on taste.

“As someone who is constantly missing out because of my dietary restrictions, I see opportunities everywhere to expand markets and open new doors to others with different dietary needs.”

The creative mind that has served her well in Foods classes, also extends beyond the kitchen. Summer has excelled in languages and arts during her time at The Woodstock Academy. She's a member of the National English Honors Society, Arts Honors Society, and National Spanish Honors Society and she was the 2023 winner of WA's annual 20 x 30 school-wide art competition.

Now, she'll use her creativity to craft a vision for her future. Over the next decade, Summer hopes to build a self-sustaining business in the food industry, serving those with dietary restrictions. With the groundwork laid during her time at WA, and the path at Johnson & Wales before her, she plans to dominate this niche industry and have fun doing what she loves.



Q&A —

Summer

What has been your biggest obstacle in owning your own business?

Summer

Are there any classes or steps you wish you took that would have better prepared you for your future?

Summer

What advice do you have for someone in their last semester of high school, headed to college to pursue a career in business?

BUSINESS

SUZANNE (WALKER) SZYMANSKI '77

Suzanne

Having the courage to start was my biggest obstacle. Being financially stable, so that we did not need the income, should have made that hurdle small but it was a psychological barrier as to whether I could reconfigure what I learned by working in a Fortune 50 corporation into a process that a small company could benefit from. My husband, Ron, was the one who convinced me we would figure it out. The second obstacle was finding clients. Fortunately, they came through referrals from people I had worked with in the past.

Suzanne

First, more business elective courses in undergraduate studies. Although I took 2 economics classes, finance is the language of business. Learning it earlier would have helped. Second, as much leadership training as possible. There is so much to learn about interpersonal skills and personal development. The hardest part of leadership training is self-awareness, specifically, knowing how your behaviors and actions imprint on those you interact with—how they perceive you by your actions. Finally, to that end, surprisingly, I think a drama class could have helped me.

Suzanne

Believe in yourself and never stop learning. Nurture mentors who can give advice and support you along the way and keep your mind open to new opportunities as they present to you. You never know what great things will come your way.

“Companies don’t ‘do’ anything—the humans do—and getting humans to align and move in the same direction is an art.”

This is how Woodstock's Suzanne (Walker) Szymanski '77 has approached her career in business management, and she's been making this art for over 40 years.

After earning her degree in Biology and becoming a research product development scientist fresh out of college, Szymanski quickly learned that the businesspeople made all the decisions about what products should be developed.

“It didn’t take long for me to decide I wanted to be making those decisions,” she said. She pivoted to a customer-facing role early in her career and never looked back, spending years in Marketing and Mergers and Acquisitions roles at Johnson & Johnson.

“The rigor of scientific thinking helped propel my entire career,” said Szymanski, and it all began at The Woodstock Academy, where she had a closer view than most of the school’s inner workings. Her father, Allan

Walker, was the school’s Headmaster while she attended, and her family lived in the headmaster’s house at the edge of campus.

“My four siblings and I had an amazing childhood. The security our family and the community provided created a springboard for launching into the world.” In fact, Suzanne attributes much of her college success to the preparation she received in high school—both in content and skills. “Most of all, [at WA] I learned how to learn and how to build good relationships.”

Those relationships no doubt helped give her the confidence to start her own business after retiring from the corporate world. She and her husband, Ron, cofounded the management consultancy Szywalk LLC in 2017, which the snowbirds manage while splitting their time between a Gulf-view home in Naples, FL and New Jersey. Suzanne also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at her alma mater, Wheaton College in Norton, MA and pays it forward by mentoring the next generation of women entrepreneurs as a Life Sciences and Digital Health Advisor for a non-profit.



ERIC MATHEWSON '24

During his time at The Woodstock Academy, Eastford's Eric Mathewson '24 has kept busy. He's a three-season athlete (you can find him on the gridiron, basketball court, or diamond depending on the time of year), and member of our B Club, which supports children in the community struggling with medical hardships. Most impressive of all, he's managed to remain so active while simultaneously holding his place on the academic honor roll. But his favorite WA experiences by far have fallen into two categories: finance and baseball.

These two interests occupy his time and energy in the classroom, where Mr. Bourgeois' personal finance course is a favorite, and after school, when he serves as pitcher, second baseman and shortstop for the WA Baseball team. Last year, Mathewson secured the team's top batting average and a place on the all-ECC first time after leading the WA baseball team to an ECC Division I championship. When his senior season wraps, Mathewson won't

be ready to hang up the glove just yet. He's set to join the next generation of Eastern Connecticut State University Warriors next year, where he'll major in (you guessed it) finance.

"I was drawn to finance after discussing the profession with some friends' dads who work in the field," said Mathewson. It inspired him to take advantage of WA's finance course, where Mr. Bourgeois shed more light on the subject and solidified Mathewson's desire to pursue it after graduation. He feels ready to make that transition now, having had the experience of a sprawling, college-like campus, and rigorous academic opportunities at The Woodstock Academy.

"WA has prepared me for college by giving me a huge selection of classes to choose from so that I could find out what I'm interested in," Mathewson said. "In 10 years, I hope to be working as a financial advisor or even owning my own business."



Q&A

Eric

What inspired you to pursue a career in finance?

Eric

What drew you to BNY Mellon?

Eric

Do you have any advice for students entering college and starting to work toward a finance career?

FINANCE

Robert

I fell into finance. My first job out of college was working for a lobbying organization. I didn't like the work and started to look. I took a job at Goldman as a computer programmer and writer working for their nascent commodity strategy group. Working at an investment bank was not a plan but just an opportunity. In fact, I thought I would work there for 2 years and do something else, but I stayed at Goldman for 23 years.

Robert

My work at BNY Mellon is a great match to my skill set; I get to apply years of experience in trading macro markets and have access to a tremendous data set allowing me to use quantitative and qualitative analysis. The mix of art and science is what makes my current position great.

Robert

If you are meant to be in finance, it will happen. Don't go searching it out, as those who just want to "make money" generally are missing the bigger picture of why there are opportunities in markets and how finance is just a tool for making the world a better place.

ROBERT SAVAGE '80

Some 44 years ago, another young man from Eastford was preparing to cross The Woodstock Academy commencement stage. Robert Savage '80 grew up on his family's dairy farm on Sumner Hill Road and thrived at WA, where great teachers made subjects from world history to geometry exciting for the eager pupil. He made the most of his WA experience, working on the school play, competing with the math and chess clubs, and lending his talents to the basketball, track, and cross-country teams. In fact, Savage credits WA with broadening his experience through Model UN club's visits to NYC and exposure to cutting-edge technology.

"The IBM 370 computer at the school was critical in allowing me to learn how to program at an early age," said Savage. "That has served me well from college onwards."

After graduating from The Woodstock Academy, Robert earned his degree in Political Philosophy at Yale University and worked for a lobbying organization for a time before pivoting to a computer program position at

Goldman, Sachs. What initially seemed like a pitstop on his career path became a 23-year stretch at Goldman, where he eventually became a Managing Director.

Today, Savage serves as Global Head of Markets Strategy and Insight for the Bank of New York Mellon, the oldest bank in the U.S. and largest custodial bank in the world, with \$47 trillion in assets under its custody.

To say he's come a long way from the small Eastford dairy farm would be an understatement, but the lessons he learned while in the Quiet Corner have stayed with him. He embodies WA's mission to create "lifelong learners," and insists "the best jobs are always the ones that keep me learning. If you aren't growing, you are in the wrong job."

Even in his free-time, Savage is hungry for knowledge, finding relaxation in reading all types of books and magazines. For his next big project, Savage will pick up the pen and tackle writing a book about his finance experience and growing up on a dairy farm.



HISTORIC ACADEMY BUILDING

GRAND OPENING AND REDEDICATION CEREMONY

On Friday, May 17, The Woodstock Academy community gathered to celebrate the hard work and contributions that have transformed the iconic Academy Building into a modern learning environment. The renovations revitalized the building's historical charm while equipping it for the next generation of Woodstock Academy students.

"This is one of the most important gatherings we have ever had here at The Academy," said Associate Head of School for Advancement Jon Sturdevant. "Not only because of this amazing landmark we are celebrating, but because of the collection of people who joined us in the room."

At the event, a compilation of current students, alumni, trustees, staff, and community members, including State Representative Pat Boyd and Reverend Kevin Downer of First Congregational Church of Woodstock, all took to the stage to share their respective words of sentiment about the building's rich history and timeless charm. Each of their speeches highlighted the 150 years of impact and embodiment of The Academy's legacy that lives within the beloved structure and beyond.

Among the speakers was faculty member Rich Telford, who has served WA for 27 years and taught in every single classroom in the Academy Building throughout his tenure. "So many students who have passed through the halls and classrooms of this building have gone on to live meaningful, impactful lives. They have changed and continue to change the world for the better, and they have laid and continue to lay the foundation for good that still others will build upon."

The Academy's campus has been comprised of several buildings since its founding in 1801, but the Academy Building has endured the longest, since 1873. In 2020, The Woodstock Academy launched InSpire 150: the Campaign for Academy Building as a formal announcement of the renovation and to raise funds for the project. Along with the generosity of many donors, The Academy received a Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit from the State Historic Preservation Office for \$1.58 million. Phase 1 of the renovation began with the clocktower restoration in 2021, followed by the remaining restoration and refinishing of the building in 2022.

Class of 1964 alumna Jennifer Randall Male and her husband Bob are ongoing supporters of The Academy and have generously contributed to this project. In recognition and appreciation of their efforts, the clocktower has been named in honor of Jennifer's parents, Robert and Natalie Randall.

By integrating state-of-the-art technology and contemporary learning spaces, history and modernity coexist in harmony between the Academy Building walls. WA Students will benefit from a unique learning experience enriched by the echoes of the past, yet fully equipped to meet the challenges and opportunities that speak to the essence of education in the 21st century and beyond.

"This rededication is not just about honoring a building, but about reaffirming our commitment to excellence in education. It is a celebration of our vision to foster an environment where creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration thrive. We hopefully have created a space where our students can dream big, think boldly, and achieve greatness," said Head of School Chris Sandford.

In his speech, Sandford also honored Bob Derrico, Gary Giambattista, and Aaron Hogarty '05 for their dedication to the restoration of the clock mechanism and the historic legacy of The Woodstock Academy. The mechanism is beautifully displayed in a glass case on the first floor of the Academy Building in The Woodstock Academy's History Exhibit, made possible by the generosity of SPIROL in honor of Hans H. Koehl '52. The mechanism has operated the four clock faces of the tower and struck the bell every hour from 1873 to 2021.

The Woodstock Academy would like to thank all donors and contributors who made these significant updates possible. **W**



The newly renovated Academy Building



HOS Chris Sandford with former Heads of School Kent Weaver, William Troy & Richard Foye



Updated classroom space and new technology



Associate Head of School for Advancement Jon Sturdevant speaking at the Grand Opening and Rededication ceremony



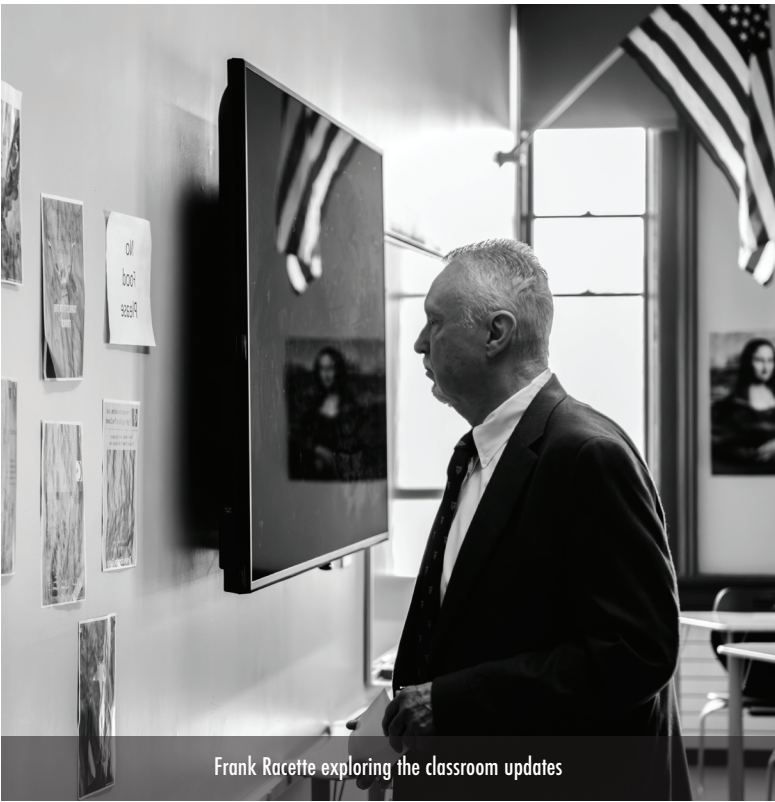
Aaron Hogarty '05, Bob Derrico & Gary Giambattista receiving a plaque in honor of their hard work



The Academy Building



The clocktower mechanism displayed in The Woodstock Academy's History Exhibit on the first floor



Frank Racette exploring the classroom updates



The attendees of the evening enjoying the program



HOS Chris Sanford speaking at the ceremony



CT State Representative Pat Boyd speaking at the ceremony



- 1 1963 alumni Jeri Musumeci, Lauren Anderson, Kerstin Forrester
- 2 (Top to Bottom, Left to Right) David, Heather, Tom, Adam, Ian, Glenn, Addison, Susan, Jillian, Patsy, Diane, Lynn, Alyse, Kaylyn, Tommy, and Scott Converse receiving Athletic Hall of Fame award in honor of Franklin Converse '50
- 3 Alumni Shindig at Taylor Brooke Brewery
- 4 Kinson Perry '70 at the Alumni Shindig
- 5 2013 Boys Basketball Team receiving Athletic Hall of Fame award
- 6 Susie Racine greeting attendees at the Alumni Shindig
- 7 Jason Wiggin '89 & Chandler Creedon '20 playing live music

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2024

ALUMNI WEEKEND

The Woodstock Academy hosted its annual Alumni Weekend on October 13 and 14, 2023. Alumni from near and far came together to celebrate their shared Woodstock Academy experiences and reconnect with classmates. Highlights of the weekend included:

Awards Ceremonies: The Athletic Hall of Fame, Hall of Excellence, and Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Alma Mater awards were the focal points of the weekend.

"To be able to share those moments with our alumni and their families and honor them with awards was amazing," said Brad Favreau, Director of Alumni Relations at The Woodstock Academy. "Each of these people have made outstanding contributions to The Academy in their own way and are deserving of this recognition."

The Athletic Hall of Fame inducted Shaila (Segal) Chandler '13 for gymnastics (presented by Brad Favreau '88), Franklin Converse '50 (posthumously, presented by Brad Favreau '88, accepted by grandson Tom Converse '01), Baseball Coach David Greer (presented by Marc Allard), and the 2013 Boys Basketball State Championship Team (presented by Holly Singleton '86), which included players Ian Converse '13, Tristan Welch '13, Sullivan Gardner '13, Jake Almquist '13, Cameron Henry '13, Chris Lowry '14, Trent Peters '14, John McGinn '14, Will Bourgeois '14, Zach Loughead '14, Kyle Duethorne '14, Adam Converse '15, Oliver Simon '15, and coaches Greg Smith, Mike Bourgeois, Dave Magee, and Earnest Graham.

Presented by Dr. Michael Harten, Dean of Academics at The Academy, Dr. Jerry Kuper '72 was the recipient of the inaugural **Hall of Excellence** Award, which is given to an alumna/us that embodies the mission of The Academy and inspires the next generation of global citizens, thinkers, and innovators. Throughout his esteemed career as an optical scientist, Kuper coined 17 U.S. patents on lasers, fiber optics, and illumination systems. His career also afforded him the opportunity to work with world renowned scientists, including Nobel Prize winner Dr. Richard Smalley, and he has helped explore and expand the frontiers of various aspects of scientific knowledge.

"During my time at The Woodstock Academy, I was inspired by my interactions with many of my teachers. Their encouragement and guidance put me on the path of my future endeavors," said Kuper.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is given to an alum that has shown an exceptional measure of service to The Woodstock Academy or to society. Awardees have made significant contributions benefiting their community, state, nation, world, or The Academy. Presented by John Rauh, Jeri (Carpenter) Musumeci '63, and Martha (Arvidson) Beckwith '80, it was with great honor that we presented the **Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Alma Mater** to Paul Kelly '69, highlighting his outstanding contributions to The Woodstock Academy community during his remarkable 40-year tenure serving as a Trustee and Foundation Director. Much of that time he led the Board's Finance and Nominating Committees. He helped develop and create The Woodstock Academy Foundation and served as a founding Director of that board and as a Treasurer for 13 years. In addition to this award, the South Campus turf field and track was officially dedicated as Kelly Field in his honor.

Alumni Art Show: Alumni had the chance to both submit work and explore the Then & Now alumni art show in the Gallery at Loos Center for the Arts, which features submissions of alumni work from when they were Academy students, and a recent piece of work to accompany it.

Alumni Dinner & Portrait Reveal: The weekend concluded with a dinner at Loos Center for the Arts, where attendees enjoyed a meal and witnessed portrait reveals for Lauren Anderson '63 and Paul Kelly '69. The portraits were photographed by Guy Grube '61 and will be displayed in the Grube Galerie on North Campus among other works of notable WA alumni and community members. "We had a successful alumni weekend on so many levels. Over the course of the two days, more than 150 alumni were able to reconnect with WA and their classmates," said Favreau. "We have already begun planning for next year," he added. **W**

REGISTER NOW

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Alumni Art Show | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Loos Center for the Arts

Registration & Contact
Registration and additional information are available at woodstockacademy.org/alumni, the QR code, or by contacting alumni@woodstockacademy.org.



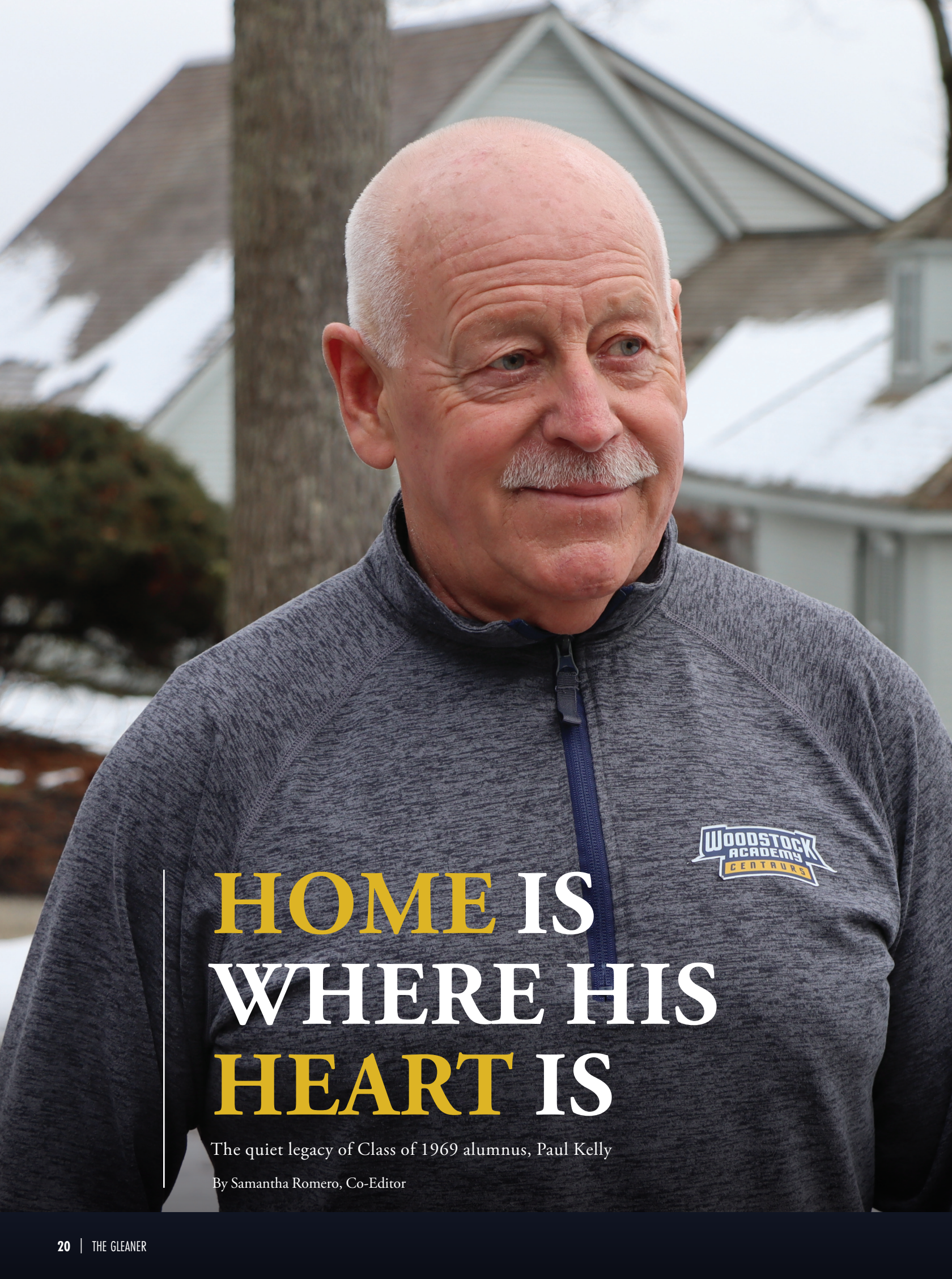
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Campus Tours & Luncheon | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Start on North Campus

All Alumni Luncheon | 12:00 p.m.
Student Center on South Campus

Hill Singers Performances | 3:00 p.m.
Loos Center for the Arts

Alumni & Friends Shindig | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Taylor Brooke Brewery



HOME IS WHERE HIS HEART IS

The quiet legacy of Class of 1969 alumnus, Paul Kelly

By Samantha Romero, Co-Editor



Nothing beats Connecticut's Quiet Corner for lifelong Woodstock resident and WA Class of 1969 alumnus Paul Kelly. Whether it's listening to WINY radio on his drive to work, taking in a rock concert from the front row at Loos Center for the Arts, enjoying his daily swim at Hale YMCA, or joining friends for their weekly dinner at The Mansion at Bald Hill, Kelly is happiest when he can end an evening with a short drive back to the comforts of his hilltop home. It's no wonder—it sits on several acres surrounded by tranquil forest, where the only sound is the intentional engine rev of one of his many classic cars, lovingly restored in his custom garage. On a clear day, he can see Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire from atop the fire tower in his yard.

"I love to travel," admits Kelly, who's been all over the country and beyond to Africa, Ireland, Mexico and Spain, "but I always want to get back to my routine and back to my home." It only makes sense that someone with such close ties to their hometown would dedicate so much of their time and resources to maintaining and improving it. "I like to support local businesses and organizations and keep my money where I live."

His track record certainly reflects that inclination. In 1981 he purchased the family business, Putnam's Kelly's Tire, from his father, and while running the business he also managed to serve on the board of Putnam Bank for 30 years and as Vice Chair for the capital campaign committee to build the Hale YMCA. These days, he's also serving as part of the Roseland Park capital campaign to make substantial improvements to the beloved local gem. But perhaps his greatest local influence has been the significant contributions he's made to his alma mater—The Woodstock Academy.

"My friend, Chuck Bentley, was the president of The Academy's Board of Trustees and he asked me multiple times to be on the board," said Kelly. "I eventually gave in, and as it turns out, it was the best 'yes' I ever gave."

Kelly served on WA's Board of Trustees for 40 years and was a founding member and treasurer of the school's Foundation for 13 years. "Running WA as a unique independent school is a lot like running a business. You constantly need to keep changing and adapting to what's going on. So far, The Academy's done a great job of it," said Kelly.

Armed with a shrewd mind for business, he was instrumental in many of WA's most important financial moves. "The value of finance was instilled in me at a very young age," explains Kelly. His mother was a piano teacher who, to motivate her three children to learn to play the instrument, created a system where Paul and his siblings could earn money if they were well behaved in lessons and learned new songs. Extra practice meant mastering extra music and pocketing extra money. By the time he was 10 years old, Kelly had three bank accounts. "I learned quickly that there were incentives and in order to get them, you had to play the game." It's a game he's clearly playing well, whether for his business or the institutions he loves.

During his time on WA's Board of Trustees, Kelly served on the finance committee and helped close several real estate deals, including the land deal for WA's Bentley Athletic Complex and the purchase of Hyde School for WA's South Campus. "My proudest moments were always going through the peaks and valleys of a project. I like getting the win."

As Kelly reflects on several decades of overcoming incredible obstacles as an institution, he believes WA's success is a testament to the Board of Trustees' dedication. "A lot of people have time to volunteer, but the special sauce is commitment. You have to be committed to what you do, otherwise all the time you throw at something isn't going to be productive."

A lot of people have time to volunteer, but the special sauce is commitment. You have to be committed to what you do.

For his dedication to WA, Kelly was honored at the 2023 Alumni Weekend with the Distinguished Alumni Award for service to his alma mater. His portrait will hang in the Grube Galerie on North Campus and the turf field on South Campus has officially been named "Kelly Field" in his honor.

When asked what his hopes are for the future of the school he's devoted so much of his life to, Kelly simply states, "I hope The Academy makes it another 200 years." With the hard work and support of community members like Kelly, it just might. **W**



Prep Soccer Coaches Todd D'Alessandro, Owen Finberg & Richard Glemawu



PREP SOCCER TRIUMPHS ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

The Woodstock Academy Prep Soccer Team ended its 2023 season with an exhilarating victory in the Prep Premier League Playoffs. Following the championship match at Capelli Sports Complex in Tinton Falls, NJ, the team was named Prep School Soccer National Champions by prepsoccer.com. The team's hard-earned 15-0-1 record can be attributed to the superbly talented student athletes that fill its roster and new leadership in the form of Coach Owen Finberg.

A former National Coach of the Year, Finberg joined The Woodstock Academy in the spring of 2023, bringing on an experienced coaching staff that includes Todd D'Alessandro, and Richard Glemawu. Together, they've completely revamped the program, transforming The Woodstock Academy Prep Soccer Team into national champs.

Coach Finberg credits the team's sudden success to its strong core team values and high expectations for athletes and staff. "We have a dedicated, motivated, and talented group of players that have been working very hard on and off the field to improve themselves daily."

Senior Captain and Back Defender Ahir Dixon echoed his coach's sentiment, saying, "The trust and chemistry of this team developed so quickly, mostly because of what we did off the field rather than on the field."

"We train six days a week," said Finberg, "with regularly scheduled strength and conditioning, film analysis, mindset training, and social and emotional learning opportunities. We provide an exceptional amount of development within our program while still prioritizing quality, college preparatory education and learning to live as part of community."

When they're not shutting out opponents on the field, these Centaurs work on their challenging academic coursework, volunteer in the community, and have fun with their fellow residential life students on South Campus. Members of the team hail from 16 different countries and 7 different states, but all have found a second home at The Woodstock Academy.

"I'm thrilled to see this hardworking team and coaching staff experience this rapid success. It's a testament to their level of talent and dedication to the game. More than that, I'm proud to cheer on a group of well-rounded humans who have such a positive impact on our school community," said Head of School Chris Sandford.

The team's remarkable success will undoubtedly inspire future generations of Centaurs and serve as a source of pride for the entire Woodstock Academy community. **W**

PREP SOCCER



USA



ADDISON BERGIN

★★★★★

GRAD YEAR

2024

POSITION

B

23

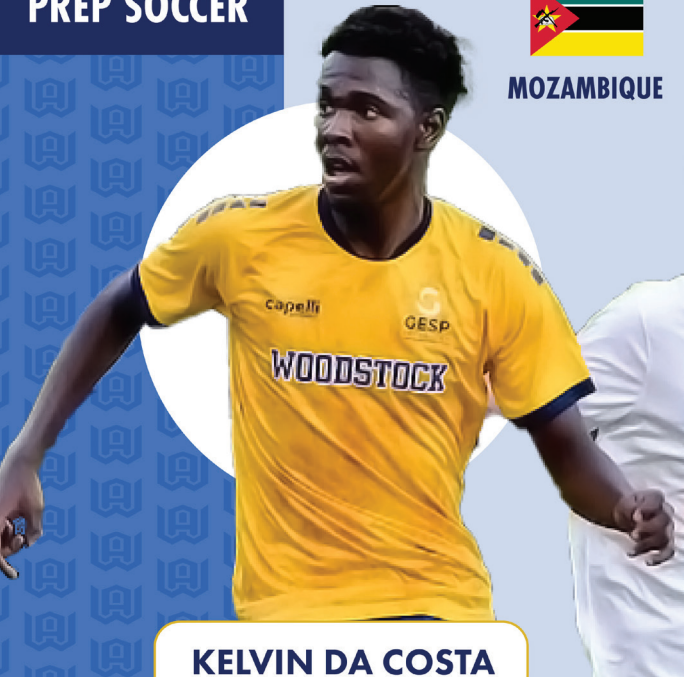
COMMITTED

Tufts University

PREP SOCCER



MOZAMBIQUE



KELVIN DA COSTA

★★★★★

GRAD YEAR

2024

ALL-AMERICAN

2023 PREP PLAYER OF THE YEAR

33

COMMITTED

Syracuse University

POSITION

MF

PREP SOCCER



GUATEMALA



ALVARO MEDRANO LOPEZ

★★★★★

GRAD YEAR

2025

POSITION

GK

1

AWARDS

2023 Golden Glove Abel Mickey Watson MVP

PREP SOCCER



GHANA



RICHARD SARPONG

★★★★★

GRAD YEAR

2027

POSITION

W

31

AWARDS

Prep 1 Golden Boot

Transforming Campus Safety:

An 11-Year Journey at The Woodstock Academy

WA's Former Campus Safety Director Craig Rich '85 reflects on the remarkable transformation of the department during his tenure.

By Madison Millar, Co-Editor

A SHIFT FROM "STUDENT MANAGEMENT"

When Craig first joined The Woodstock Academy community, there was no dedicated security presence. Instead, the school relied on a campus supervisor without relevant credentials or a security background to manage student movement. Craig's appointment marked a turning point, especially in the six months leading up to the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School, which prompted a significant shift in focus toward security and student safety.

SHAPING CAMPUS SAFETY: FROM UCONN TO WA

Having previously overseen the State Police at the University of Connecticut, Craig brought a wealth of law enforcement experience to WA. While the roles differed, he emphasized the commonality of purpose – ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. Unlike UConn, where he served as sworn law enforcement, at WA, the emphasis pivoted toward a more personalized approach, focusing on individual students' needs.

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES

Craig had overseen numerous safety and security upgrades during his tenure, transforming the department significantly. Key initiatives included hiring employees with law enforcement backgrounds, installing over 150 cameras across campuses, implementing access control through a fob system, enhancing visitor tracking, and providing comprehensive event coverage. Policies and procedures have been updated to address modern threats and emergency situations, which have unfortunately become a reality for schools across America.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

An aspect of Craig's role that often went unnoticed was his influence in communities outside of The Academy. While his main priority was to develop relationships with WA students and the campus safety staff, actively maintaining community partnerships was also a significant part of his role. Under Craig's leadership, WA developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Woodstock Board of Education, which allows WA's Campus Safety team to be armed on Woodstock Elementary and Middle School's campuses and assist them with any security issues that arise. Craig also collaborated with the Woodstock Fire Marshal regularly to ensure campus policies and procedures remained up-to-date with code.

PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO WA

Craig's connection to The Woodstock Academy exceeds far beyond his professional role and extends deeper through his family roots, with older brother Frederick, Jr. '82, and his children, Allison '13, and Matthew '15 (currently serving on the Board of Trustees), all graduating as Centaurs.

REFLECTING ON ACHIEVEMENTS

As Craig reflected on his 11 years at The Woodstock Academy, he expressed pride in elevating the security level across North and South Campus. With the assistance and support of colleagues like Head of School Chris Sandford, he secured state grants to upgrade technology and physical security, further increasing protection of WA's community. Thanks to Craig's influence in the hiring process, the campus safety department now boasts a team of strong backgrounds in law enforcement, military, and security.

PASSING THE TORCH

Offering advice to his successor, former Detective Lieutenant Anthony Gomes of the Norwich Police Department, and the rest of the campus safety team, Craig emphasized the importance of interaction with students, believing it to be the key to enriching and individualizing safety experiences for both employees and students.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Craig plans to embark on a new chapter by starting his own business, specializing in safety consulting for schools and training for teachers and school staff. Additionally, he enjoys being able to spend more time traveling with his wife, Brenda.

Craig's 11-year journey serves as a testament to the positive impact he has had on the WA community and highlights the exceptional work he accomplished during his time. His legacy of transforming campus safety will undoubtedly carry on and leave a lasting impression on the WA community for years to come. **W**



Craig Rich '85



Macy Rawson '25 &
Sam Clark '25

ESPN Helps Take WA's TV Studio to the Next Level

The new equipment allows students to explore hands-on, real-world opportunities in the sports communications and journalism field.

By Samantha Romero, Co-Editor

The Woodstock Academy's professional industry-standard TV studio continues to expand, thanks to ESPN's recent donation of an LED video wall that allows students to apply photos, graphics, and video to the background of their news broadcast set.

In 2022, NBC Connecticut donated a professional industry-standard TV studio, including a news anchor desk, to get this classroom started. The addition of the video wall further elevates the degree of professionalism in the space.

"This video wall is exactly like you'd see in a professional news production, and in fact, this one was in-use at ESPN's SportsCenter studio up until about a year ago," said Director of Sports Information Marc Allard, who teaches Sports Communication in the TV studio classroom on WA's South Campus. "Purchasing a video wall like this would cost several hundred thousand dollars, so we are very fortunate to have it."

With help from Bradley O'Connor '04 and Don Brooks from ESPN, The Academy was able to procure the equipment last summer. A series of substantial grants from the State of Connecticut's Public, Educational and Governmental Programming and Educational Technology Investment

Account (PEGPETIA) Grant Program then allowed The Academy to complete the studio set over the last few years. These grants have also supported other projects and broadcast opportunities on campus.

"It's been up and running for a few weeks now," said Macy Rawson '25, a student in Allard's class. "We used it for a winter sports preview project we just completed."

"It's pretty cool," added classmate Sam Clark '25. "We filmed interviews with coaches and athletes and had it up on the wall while doing our news broadcasts."

The recent upgrades amplify this classroom's unique academic offerings, with potential projects including announcements, sports recaps, live broadcasts, and video magazines. WA students have the opportunity to get hands-on technical experience here that prepares them for future careers in broadcast journalism on both sides of the camera.

"We're incredibly grateful to ESPN for this generous donation," said Head of School Chris Sandford. "It's helping to set our students up for success as they seek out higher education, internships, and careers in communications." **W**

A Timeless Encounter

LILAH JAFAR-DECESARE '26

Out on the misty docks of early morn,
There sits an ancient, weathered lamp post clock.
Throughout the pier, it cruelly laughs and scorns—
Forever now, its face will smile and mock.

But I know not the evils of the time,
Until the zephyrs blow out to the sea.

So I just listen to the steady chime—
Now never could you find a heart in me.
But could we find this city's endless ghosts?
For time could stop in skyscrapers and dust—
No more piers and indifferent clock's boasts.

But I fall in the water with a gust,
Reach out to get one desperate last view,
Of what could be, in some other world, you.

MEET THE ACADEMY'S 2023-2024 POET LAUREATE

Hometown

Woodstock, CT

Favorite Class

Photography

Favorite Poets

Robert Frost, Sylvia Plath,
Richard Siken, Maya Angelou

Source of Inspiration

I often take inspiration from my dreams—that is, whatever I can remember once I wake up. I am also inspired by the people in my life and events occurring in my life.

Career Aspirations

Though I am not sure yet, I am particularly interested in English, film, and photography.



HOME AWAY FROM HOME:

Community & Camaraderie in WA's ResLife Program

The ResLife House Program at The Woodstock Academy is rooted in the tradition of English boarding schools. House Programs, smaller subunits of communities within residential programs, are now common throughout the United States and in many international boarding programs. Initially launched in 2019, WA's House Program came to a halt due to the pandemic, but was brought back to life this academic year and is now thriving with friendly competition, pride, and camaraderie.

The Academy's House Program was created to provide residential students and staff with smaller, family-sized social groups, allowing community members from different dorms and grades to connect. The program also celebrates and honors the school's history of leaders and learners who have influenced The Woodstock Academy as an institution.



BOWEN

House Bowen commemorates a family legacy of leadership, generosity, and investment. Henry C. Bowen is known as one of the most devoted and influential alumni in the history of The Woodstock Academy. Through Bowen's progressive vision of an independent school in Woodstock, the Academy Building was built, a significant endowment was established, and an updated governing structure was established.

Motto: *Make haste, slowly*

Family Crest: Stag



HYDE

House Hyde honors Elizabeth Sanford "Betty" Hyde, the first woman in Academy history to hold the title of president of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Hyde saw the potential for The Woodstock Academy to serve communities beyond Woodstock and Eastford. Thus, she led the charge in working with Connecticut legislators and Department of Education officials to ensure that The Academy would be eligible for state grants to expand its facilities. It is because of Mrs. Hyde's foresight and diligence that students in the Quiet Corner, across the country, and around the world are able to enjoy The Academy's expansive educational experience.

Motto: *Onward*

Family Crest: Mechanisms of engineers



DOHAN

House Dohan honors Edith Hall Dohan, WA Class of 1895, a leader in the field of archaeology, and the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College. She had a professional reputation as an "explorer," as she conducted archeological excavations in Greece and Crete. An expert in Roman and Etruscan Art, Ms. Dohan was a Professor of Classical Archaeology and Greek at Mount Holyoke College for Women, a Curator of Classical Collections at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, author of books and articles, and editor of the Journal of American Archaeology. She had an international impact in her field and was a forerunner of the paths accessed by women in the 20th century.

Motto: *Ever to Excel*

Family Crest: Archeological tools

MCLELLAN

McClellan House honors the McClellan brothers, John and James, who bore The Academy's inception. Their father, Samuel McClellan, was a General in the Revolutionary War, and together, the three McClellan men helped gain support to establish The Woodstock Academy. In 1802, Samuel, John, and James all served as Proprietors and Trustees of The Woodstock Academy. Together as administrators, they sought to constantly better The Academy by securing brilliant educators and making improvements, like the bell atop the Academy Building.

Motto: *Think On*

Family Crest: McClellan bell



Assistant Head of School for South Campus John Rigney has been integral in the growth and development of the residential program during his seven year tenure at The Woodstock Academy. John has lived on South Campus (formerly Hyde School) for over 25 years, in the same house with his wife Kirsten and their four children. He and his family are moving to Senegal to embark on a new journey this summer, making the 2023-24 school year his final one at WA. He will be sorely missed by The Woodstock Academy community, who wish him the very best in his future endeavors.



Hello WA Friends & Family,

I'm writing this right after the Grand Opening and Rededication of the Academy Building, and I have to say it was the most significant event for WA during my nine years here. The building renovation is incredible, and there were almost 200 members of The Academy family with us to celebrate the completion of the project. Among the crowd were alumni, donors, students, board members, former Heads of School, local elected officials, faculty, staff, administration and more.

The project obviously represents a bright future for the thousands of students who will take classes there in the years to come, but it also is a big part of the realization of a goal that several members of The Academy's Board of Trustees had when they formed The Woodstock Academy Foundation in 2010. This is one of the types of projects they envisioned The Foundation being able to support, and its successful completion also helps pave the path for the future. Alumni of all generations were engaged in this project as almost everyone has memories specific to this historic landmark.

Two of those trustees were particularly instrumental in helping us build The Foundation and our advancement efforts. One is Paul Kelly '69 who you can read about on page 20 of this magazine, and the other is Martha Beckwith '80. Paul has been active behind the scenes for years, supporting our every endeavor with his influence, intellect, and finances. He just stepped down from the Foundation Board of Directors where he served as Treasurer last year, and his impact in getting us where we are is immense. Martha has been the President of the Foundation since it was founded and has been a champion for its growth and trajectory throughout her tenure. She has a keen and thoughtful approach to each challenge, an ever-positive attitude, and "let's get it done" mindset for moving us forward. The Academy is in a much better place today because of her leadership in this area. She will finish her service on The Woodstock Academy Foundation Board of Directors this year.

As a school community we owe both Paul and Martha a debt of gratitude for what they have helped us grow, and the trajectory we have moving forward. I want to thank them both for the direction and support they have provided to not only The Academy, but to me personally as we have worked to build our programs over the years.

We will be in several areas of the country and the world this coming year and hope to see many members of our WA family. As always, if you find yourself in the Quiet Corner, please let us know. We would love to show you the renovated Academy Building and so much more that we have to offer here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jonathan Sturdevant".

Jonathan Sturdevant
Associate Head of School for Advancement



Peter Sumner Named Connecticut Technology & Engineering Teacher of the Year

By Madison Millar, Co-Editor

Peter Sumner, a dedicated and innovative Career and Technology teacher at The Woodstock Academy, has been recognized as the 2023-24 Connecticut Technology and Engineering Education High School Teacher of the Year by the Connecticut Technology and Engineering Education Association (CTEEA). This award acknowledges Sumner's outstanding contributions to the field of engineering education and his commitment to fostering a passion for engineering within the classroom. In May 2023, Sumner was also named CTEEA Teacher of the Month for Technology and Engineering High School Education, which qualified him for consideration of CTEEA Teacher of the Year.

Sumner has been instrumental in creating and implementing innovative and engaging curriculum, providing his students with real-world, hands-on experiences to deepen their understanding of engineering. His ability to make complex concepts accessible and enjoyable has earned him the admiration and respect of both students and colleagues.

"Mr. Sumner brings the perfect mix of professional expertise and fun and enjoyment to his classes. While taking the engineering CAD course, you are always engaged with an interesting project that connects to an aspect of the engineering process," said Evan Rhault '24, one of Sumner's current students.

"Mr. Sumner led me to a greater understanding of engineering through his superb teaching skills and his great depth of knowledge in the subject matter," said another student, Joel Koleszar '24.

Recent accomplishments of Sumner's teaching career at WA include starting a competitive robotics team, becoming members of the Technology Student Association and Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative, starting a chapter of the National Technical Honor Society, and with the help of generous donors and grants, introducing his students to 3D printing, robotics, lasers, simulators, CNC machining, state of the art computers, drones, and latest design software, all of which are continuing to evolve.

"The greatest thing about technology and engineering is that tools are always evolving, nothing stays the same; there is never a dull moment. Every day there is something new for students to learn," said Sumner. "I am not big on awards but this one is a testament to the people who have guided me along the way, including mentors, colleagues, and WA's administration."

"Peter's state-wide recognition is not a surprise. His classroom instruction is superior, creative, and cultivates strong student agency. Over the years, he continues to lead robotics teams to regional, state, and national success," said Associate Head of School Holly Singleton. "And he has guided the engineering program at The Academy to align with industry standards and innovative thinking."

Along with being recognized at the CTEEA State Conference in November of 2023, Sumner was also honored by the International Technology and Engineering Education Association (ITEEA) at their annual convention in Memphis, TN in March of 2024.

"As Teacher of the Year, Peter joins a long line of distinguished educators who have received this honor over the years. His leadership and desire to continuously improve the program at The Woodstock Academy is paramount to our profession," said Dan Grenier, CTEEA State Champion and presenter of Sumner's award. **W**



I am not big on awards but this one is a testament to the people who have guided me along the way, including mentors, colleagues, and WA's administration.



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**SCHOLASTIC
ART WINNER**
2023-2024

Chandler Folkerts '25
Digital Art

1

"Anxiety"

2

"Elementary
Emotions"

3

"Imitation"

4

"Dobermann &
Dobergirl"



1



2



3



4