



# Yellow Jacket

## Inside This Issue:

Commencement 2005	2-3
Alumni Focus	4-5
Alumni Events	6-7
Updated Directory	7
School Happenings	8-9
Sports News	10
Items of Note	11
Upcoming Reunions	11
Retirement	12-13
Alumni News	14-15

## THE GILBERT SCHOOL COMMUNITY WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

**A**fter having spent a few days here in June becoming acclimated and meeting students and staff, Daniel R. Hatch was officially welcomed to The Gilbert School as our new principal in July.

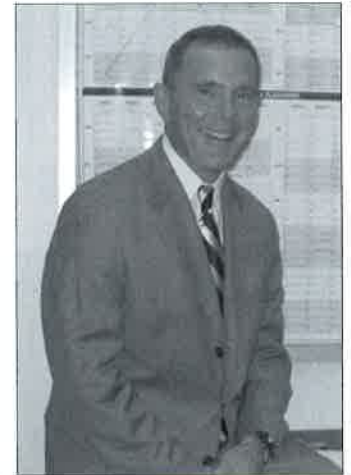
Mr. Hatch comes to us from Stratford, CT, where he had been principal of Stratford High School since 2001. He has 33 years of experience as an educator, having served the communities of Meriden, Woodbridge, and Stratford. For the past 23 years he has been an administrator. "I'm really looking forward to being at The Gilbert School and I'm hoping to bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the position. I think it's a great

opportunity for me to be part of a school that is really committed to education," he says.

Mr. Hatch looks forward to working with our faculty, staff and administration and to becoming fully immersed in bringing The Gilbert School to a new level of standards and accomplishments beginning with the 2005 - 2006 school year. School opened for Freshmen Orientation on Monday, August 29, and the new Ninth Grade Learning Community was set into motion. The learning community is a concept that has been used throughout the country to create a successful transition to high school for incoming freshmen students. (See

photos on page 9.)

Faculty and staff welcome Mr. Hatch as we begin a new year and a new chapter in our history. ❖



*Dr. David A. Cressy, Superintendent of The Gilbert School, at graduation exercises. See inside for more photos.*

Announcing the  
2006 Gilbert School  
Alumni Directory!

See Page 7  
for Details!

Don't Be Left Out!

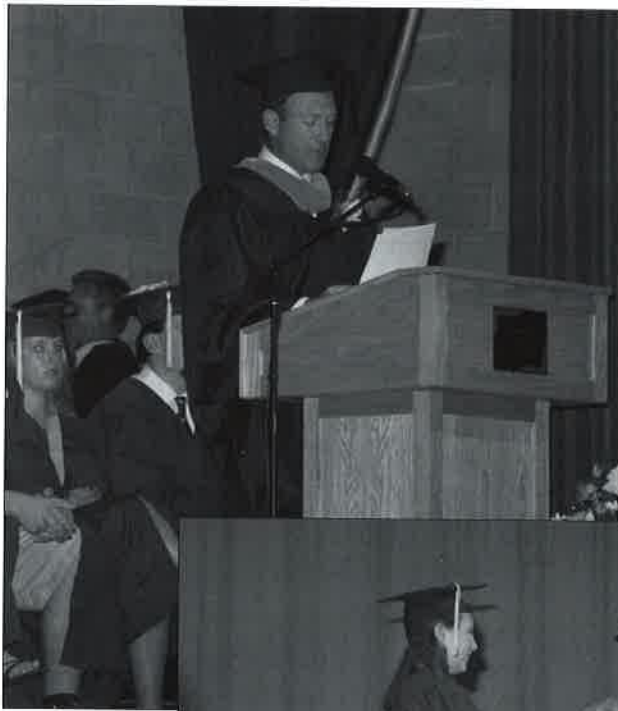
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
CLASS OF 2005!



The Gilbert School was pleased and honored to award 110 diplomas to graduating seniors at Commencement exercises held on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Alumnus and Interim Principal Joseph W. Dombrowski '75 opened the program; graduates and guests welcomed alumnus Gerri Griswold Greb-Lasky '75, who gave the Commencement Address; the Class was officially presented as having successfully completed their studies by Gilbert School Superintendent David Cressy, and diplomas and congratulations were delivered by alumnus and Gilbert School Board Chairman Steven A. Sedlack '60. ❖



# 2005



*Dongnhu Truong, Valedictorian  
Class of 2005*

*"We must take a risk, take a chance, and make our own original path through life as pioneers traveling into the unmarked territory of our futures, for in the end, only we can make a difference in our own lives. Congratulations to the Class of 2005. This is where two roads diverge. Until our untrodden paths meet again."*

*-Dongnhu Truong*



*Commencement Photos  
Courtesy of Dawn Anstett*

## Choosing the road less traveled...

*"What makes me successful is that I am a very happy individual who has meandered the secondary roadways through life and explored others less traveled to reach the ultimate destination for any human being. Destination: Peace of Mind."*

—Gerri Griswold Greb-Lasky '75



Gerri Griswold Greb-Lasky '75  
2005 Commencement Speaker

Poetry of Robert Frost seemed to be the theme for Commencement 2005. In bidding her classmates adieu, Class Valedictorian Dongnhu Truong challenged them to "...create history and shape our own world. Now is our time to stand and seize the opportunity to make our own unique mark." She spoke of chasing opportunities rather than waiting for them and of the importance of taking risks—much like the risk taken by the traveler in Frost's *The Road Not Taken*. Ms. Truong begins her journey in September as she commences her studies in molecular and cell biology at the University of Connecticut.

Achieving personal success—reaching what she describes as the "ultimate destination for any human being: peace of mind"—meant taking risks for our Commencement Speaker, Gerri Griswold Greb-Lasky, graduate of The Gilbert School Class of 1975. Before her current broadcasting career, Ms. Greb-Lasky traveled many different roads including that of a professional chef, whipping up culinary delights for such familiar names as Bishop Desmond Tutu and classical musicians Yo-Yo Ma and Isaac Stern. Through the years, though her career gears have changed many times, she says that the most important thing has never changed—Gerri the person. Her message for the graduates "...take what you've been given with all the scratches, dents, and imperfections, and learn to work with it. You need to get to know yourself inside and out. You need to like yourself. You need to be honest with yourself and you need to forget about yourself...become more of a selfless person... become more of a giver, not a taker." Ms. Greb-Lasky recalled the words of Robert Frost in her closing remarks and then she encouraged the

Class of 2005 to "...see, touch, taste, smell, listen...LIVE...and laugh...LAUGH A LOT down your road to success. Avoid the roadblocks set before you by taking the road less traveled. Collect and covet the small things."

Ms. Greb-Lasky was joined at the podium by her traveling companion of some twelve years—a brown bat named Poppy, snuggled comfortably underneath her collar and revealed to guests a minute or so into her address. Poppy represents a great mission in her life. She travels to schools like Gilbert with Poppy and other bats to talk about their special place and function in our environment. In fact, this spring she and her entourage visited Mrs. Cloud's physical science class at Gilbert to talk about these tiny creatures and their method of communication. (See additional photos on page 7.) ❖



Gerri Griswold Greb-Lasky '75 is currently the director of operations for Metro Networks in Hartford, one of the nation's largest providers of traffic information to radio and television. She coordinates the news and traffic needs of radio and television affiliates across Connecticut and western Massachusetts and is the voice of morning traffic for WTIC and WZBD FM. She is a graduate of New York University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Greek Art History and Archaeology. In addition, she is licensed by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Department of Agriculture as a wildlife rehabilitator and educator specializing in bats. Radio listeners on their way to work have heard her speak of bats, Gilbert—and of the many roads she has traveled since her own graduation. We wish her well and we look forward to her return someday to talk more of her experiences.



Graduates celebrate at the conclusion of ceremonies.



## ALUMNI FOCUS—TIFFANY GOULET '93



*"...moving to Bangladesh has been one of the best decisions we have ever made."*

*Tiffany and Steve in Nepal.*

### THE REWARDS OF VENTURING BEYOND ONE'S COMFORT ZONE

It has been over a year since my boyfriend Steve and I decided to move overseas. Actually we had been pursuing teaching abroad opportunities since January of 2004 but finding two history positions was nearly impossible (most overseas schools are rather small). My parents (Dennis and Barbara Goulet '75) were supportive but relieved that the search was so hard—not-so-secretly hoping we would move back to Connecticut and get jobs closer to home.

Steve and I had pretty much resigned ourselves to one more year of teaching in Arlington, Virginia, when we were offered jobs at the American International School of Dhaka (AISD) in Bangladesh. My ideas about Bangladesh were pretty limited: Muslim, flooding, poverty, overcrowded—and it could not get much further from our dream posting in Italy. Fortunately we had both had enough of our current positions so we decided to give it a chance. We resigned from our jobs in Virginia on Father's Day 2004 and began making the necessary arrangements. We broke our

lease—and the news to our parents—sold the car, packed up the apartment, got our visas, and updated the required shots for ourselves and our two cats. All of this was done before August 1<sup>st</sup>, despite a two-week tour of Great Britain and Ireland with my middle school students!

As many of you probably remember, the fall of 2004 was a devastating one for Bangladesh due to major flooding, which coincided with our arrival. As we flew in, all we could see was water everywhere. After boarding the school bus that would take us to our new home, we were surrounded by skeletal beggars and blue tarp villages, both of which had increased in numbers due to the masses that had fled the flooded areas to the capital for support. I finally started asking myself what we had done—our tiny basement apartment in northeast DC was looking better and better. I feared we had made a huge mistake.

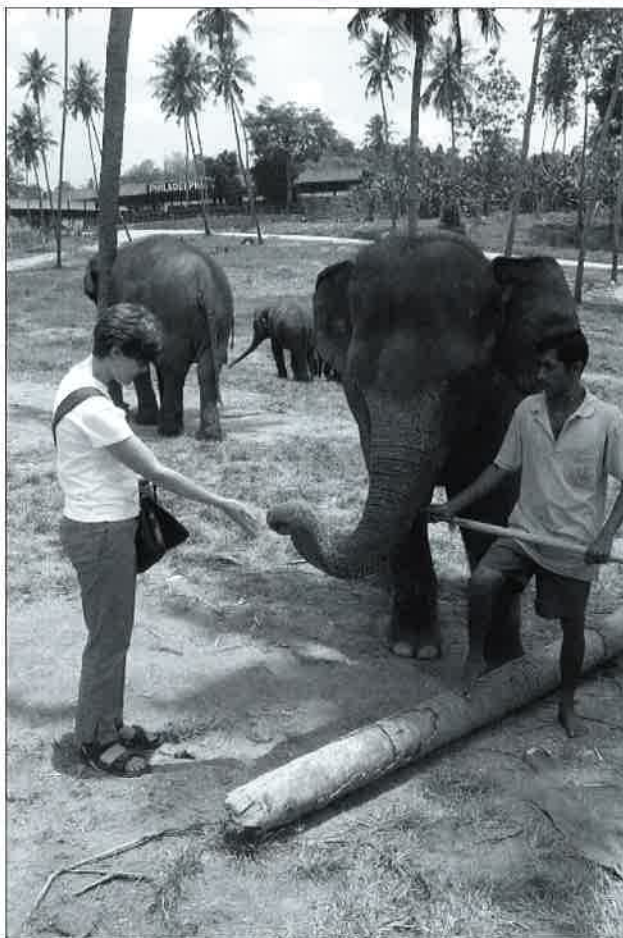
It turns out that moving to Bangladesh has been one of the best decisions we have ever made. First of all, I had underestimated my new employer. AISD set us up

with an amazing apartment and a support system that made the transition seamless. The school itself is inspiring—the student population is about as diverse as it can be, made up of equal numbers of North Americans, Europeans, Far Asians and Southeast Asians. The faculty is accomplished and capable; many teachers have lived overseas for years and have a plethora of experiences to draw upon. The parents are supportive and grateful. And the travel opportunities have been limitless.

Throughout the year we have relaxed on Malaysia's beaches, we dived the Philippines and the Maldives, trekked Nepal, visited orphaned elephants in Sri Lanka, shopped in Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore, surfed the dunes of Oman and learned some history in Vietnam. I have learned more about cultivating rice than I ever thought possible! We have enjoyed learning about the new cultures, seeing the amazing sights and meeting new people. While here we have become PADI certified (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) and have

been amazed by the underwater sights as well. Being in southeast Asia during the tsunami was heartbreaking—Bangladesh was not affected and luckily no one from our school was hurt, although three families were vacationing in affected areas and lost all their belongings. Our visit to Nepal was two weeks after the king's takeover—fascinating for two history teachers!

The most important things I've learned have been about people. I continue to be amazed by the power, determination and perseverance of the human spirit. I now truly understand the meaning of western materialism and how someone here can smile despite their hunger, poverty and homelessness simply because objects don't matter. Many times I have witnessed a naked child enjoying a toy made from nothing more than string and styrofoam. With that said, I am proud of the amazing work Americans do here with medical assistance for cholera victims and lepers as well as other forms of aid. Very few Bangladeshis do not have at least one relative who was saved by



*"I continue to be amazed by the power, determination and perseverance of the human spirit."*



*Left: Tiffany visits an elephant orphanage in Sri Lanka. Above: Tiffany and Steve at the National Mosque in Malaysia. Below: New Year's Eve in Hong Kong.*

*"Although I have traveled all over the world, I continue to appreciate the ties I have to Winsted and the friends I met while a student there."*



these programs and they are grateful to share those stories with anyone who will listen.

This past year I organized three road races and raised over US\$1,000 for local charities. One charity I enjoy working with is called the Asha School, a neighborhood program that reimburses parents who send their daughters to get an education instead of begging on the street. While at Asha, the girls learn to read and write and are also taught tailoring skills. Visiting that school and meeting

the young girls you have helped is priceless. And experiencing a Muslim country firsthand has helped me combat all the negative media attention the Middle East has brought upon such a rich religion.

This coming year will be our second here. We are planning to spend our extended winter break in Tanzania, participating in a photo safari of the Serengeti, trekking up Mount Kilimanjaro and diving off the coast of Zanzibar. We will have three additional vacations to explore

this amazing region that have yet to be determined.

The coming school year ends June 8<sup>th</sup> (2006) and we will return immediately for our June 16<sup>th</sup> wedding in Connecticut (Did I mention that we got engaged this summer?). Many of the people who will attend the wedding will not have seen us for a full year, so I look forward to sharing our celebration with them. Interesting enough, the first four names added to my invitation list are my friends from The Gilbert School! Although I

have traveled all over the world, I continue to appreciate the ties I have to Winsted and the friends I met while a student there. I wish the same connection to home for my current students in Bangladesh. ❖

*—Tiffany Goulet '93*

*Tiffany would enjoy hearing from her Gilbert friends and may be contacted at [tgoulet@ais-dhaka.net](mailto:tgoulet@ais-dhaka.net).*

# SPRING EVENTS

Each year, prior to the Annual Spring Concert performed by choir and symphonic band, we invite our donors to a special reception in their honor. Goodies are prepared by Mrs. Wells and her staff and then guests are invited to the Auditorium to enjoy our talented vocalists and musicians. ❖



Spring "Thank You" Reception



## Blue & Gold Reunion Celebrates the Class of 1955



Twelve members of the Class of 1955 joined this year's Blue & Gold Reunion Celebration, which is a special gathering for alumni of 50 years or more. Each of the twelve 1955 attendees received a personalized memento commemorating the occasion. It was a spectacular spring day and we were honored to host more than 100 alumni for a light supper and socializing. School Corporation Chair and graduate Steven Sedlack '60 addressed the group, thanking them for being a part of our one hundred and ten year history. ❖

## Alumni Gather at The Warner Theatre for Singin' in the Rain

Guests enjoyed light refreshments in the beautiful Atrium at the Warner Theatre as a prelude to a grand performance of Singin' in the Rain. And what better door-prize than a Gilbert School umbrella! The lucky winner was Lorraine Patton Davis '36—pictured at right with husband Ted '35. ❖



## CALLING ALL ALUMNI: NEW DIRECTORY TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2006

**H**arris Connect has once again been contracted to produce the 2006 Gilbert School Alumni Directory. After the first of the year Harris will begin researching and compiling information to be printed in the directory by mailing a questionnaire to each alumnus.

If you would like to update your alumni profile so that we have your most current contact information, visit [www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org) and go to the Online Community on the Alumni page. If you have not yet registered there, you'll need your ID number, which is located above your name on the mailing label of this newsletter. You may also contact the Alumni Office by mail, phone (860-738-9439) or email ([gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org)).

The new directory, scheduled for release at the end of 2006, will be an up-to-date and complete reference of Gilbert School alumni, including graduating name, class year, current address, spouse and children's names, and business contact information.

If you prefer that no information other than your name and class year be printed in the directory, please contact us at your earliest convenience so that we may remove your record from the Harris list.

We are very excited about this project and look forward to working with you to make it as comprehensive and accurate as possible. If you would like to help us locate lost members of your class, please contact Cindy Gould in the Alumni Office. ❖

## ALUMNI VISIT THE CLASSROOM



◀ Diana Britton, Class of 1998, Visits Art Classes

Students in Mrs. Sacks' art portfolio class got a chance to see different works put together by Diana, who spent a day at Gilbert in May. Diana was accepted to the Hartford Art School and hopes to go on to become an art teacher. ❖

▶ Gerri Griswold Greb-Lasky '75 and Companion "Poppy"

Poppy has become a familiar visitor to The Gilbert School! This past spring, students in a physical sciences class got to see the brown bat up close (inset) and to learn about this special little creature and its importance to our environment from wildlife rehabilitator and educator Gerri Greb-Lasky. Poppy later joined Ms. Greb-Lasky at the podium at Commencement ceremonies in June to address guests and members of the graduating class—the bat was perched quietly under her lapel during the entire evening! ❖

*Alumni are always welcome at The Gilbert School—and current students can benefit greatly from the advice and experience of those in college or the workforce. If you would like to share your thoughts about college, choosing a career, etc., please call us! We would enjoy the chance to say hello!*



## SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



### American Studies Students Visit Gettysburg...

The American Studies program at The Gilbert School has offered students many academic and cultural opportunities including trips to Salem, Massachusetts; Ellis Island; the Franklin D. Roosevelt House, and, most recently, a trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Prior to that trip, the class had studied the Civil War and read *The Diary of Tillie Pierce*. Once in Gettysburg they enjoyed a meal at the historic Dobbin House and took a guided Lantern Walk around the streets. Not only did they learn of the Battle of Gettysburg, but they heard of the after-effects that still haunt the town, as, later in the evening, ghost stories were told in the cellar of the Farnsworth House. The next morning the group traveled the town, heard a Confederate Soldier's story and made a three-hour tour of the battlegrounds. Their excursion also included a trip to the Schriver House, Cyclorama, Wax Museum, two meals at Pickett's Charge, and the Visitor Center Museum. The American Studies class ended their trip with an eerie visit to Sachs Bridge which is supposedly haunted by the hangings of Confederate soldiers. ❖



### ...and Bring the Beatles to Gilbert!

—Gettysburg notes contributed by Leigh Harding,  
Journalism Class



Kudos to American Studies students for bringing the 1960s to life for faculty, staff and students. For a few hours at the end of the school year, the gym was transformed into a showcase of memorabilia and displays of everything from moon rocks to Beatles' 45s! Students played Twister, danced the Limbo and listened as the "Fab Four" played their hits "live" from the "Ed Sullivan Theatre!" Even "John and Jackie Kennedy" paid a visit and addressed the crowd...thanks for the trip down Memory Lane...and the history lesson! ❖



Connecticut State Latin Day  
Holiday Hill, Cheshire

### Carpe Diem! Gilbert Students Seize the Day!

Connecticut State Latin Day has become one of the largest high school activities in Connecticut, with over 2,500 participants from all around the state. Held this year in May, the day provided an opportunity for Latin students to participate in many activities relating to their school work, and to meet other students from around the state. There were both academic and athletic contests,

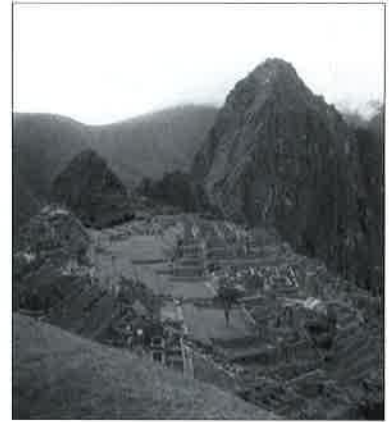


display of projects that students have done on Greek and Roman themes; costume contests; computer displays; Latin declamation; workshops on Roman cooking, music, archaeology and various crafts; and other academic activities. Athletic contests included track and field events, volleyball, and tug of war. The day's activities culminated with a chariot race, when students raced their own school's home-made chariots. Pictured are Gilbert students. It should be noted that all participants, students and chaperones, are required to wear authentic Roman dress. ❖



*Students, Parents and Teachers Travel To Peru During Spring Break*

During spring recess of April, 2005, 16 students from The Gilbert School, along with several parents and three of their teachers, traveled to Peru for eight days. They spent time in Lima, the capital, and in Cuzco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. The highlight of the trip was a tour of the fabled ruins of Machu Picchu, (pictured) high in the Andes Mountains. ❖



*The Gilbert School Band in Winsted's Memorial Day Parade*



*Ninth Grade Learning Community—Incoming freshmen were addressed by Principal Dan Hatch on Orientation Day (right) and faculty members Kathy Cloud and Warren Campbell engaged students in the classroom.*



## SPORTS NEWS

### THE GILBERT SCHOOL PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM AMONG THOSE COMMENDED BY GOVERNOR JODI RELL



*Pictured with a plaque received from Governor Rell (l to r): Faculty members Mary Ellen Vaccari, Gene Michaud and Cindy Fixer; Superintendent David Cressy and Gilbert student Dan Hicks '07.*

**T**he Gilbert School was recognized by Governor Jodi Rell at the State Capitol in June for its outstanding scores on the mandated Connecticut State Fitness Test. The test measures aerobic endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength and flexibility of each student. Testing takes place in Wellness Class at the school.

Governor Rell commended Gilbert for supporting and promoting physical activity and exercise, leading to a physically fit and healthy adult population. Dan Hicks, now a junior, who excelled on all four components of the test, along with Mary Ellen Vaccari, Health & Physical Education Coordinator, represented Gilbert at the Capitol. Members of the Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness were also in attendance at the ceremony. ❖

#### Highlights of the Winter 2005 Sports Season

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Boys Basketball  | 17 wins, reached quarter-finals.<br><b>Tom DiLeo</b> - 1 <sup>st</sup> Team All Berkshire; 11 <sup>th</sup> 1,000 point scorer in Boys Basketball history; selected to Coaches All Star game.<br><b>Corey Becker</b> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Team All Berkshire. |
| Girls Basketball | Winner of League Sportsmanship Award for the third time in the last four years.<br><b>Stephanie Jones</b> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Team All League.   |
| Cheerleading     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place in Berkshire League competition;<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Place in States, with 18 schools competing.<br>All State Selections: <b>Shannon Bailey, Ashley Hoxie, Brittany Paige, Kim Welcome.</b>   |
| Swimming         | All Berkshire League - <b>Alex Snyder, Anna Henrickson.</b><br>All State - <b>Alex Snyder</b> (Diving).<br>Splash Classic (Girls Tourney) - 5 <sup>th</sup> Place.   |
| Wrestling        | All Berkshire League - <b>Ben Kendrick</b> - 215 lbs;<br><b>John Groth</b> - 160 lbs.  |

### 2005 BASEBALL TEAM RECEIVES THE TED ALEX SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

**C**ongratulations to Coach Patrick Cooke '89 and The Gilbert School Baseball team for having been named recipient of the Ted Alex Sportsmanship Award for the 2005 season. This award is presented yearly based on sportsmanship displayed by players, coaches and fans of a team throughout the season. It is recognition that Gilbert baseball players and comrades always carry themselves in a first class manner—before, during, and after the games. Their efforts have been repeatedly acknowledged by the umpires, coaches and fans from other schools during the season and we tip our hats to them! Receiving this award is reinforcement that attitude IS important in how you carry yourself through life because people are indeed watching and paying attention. Great job! ❖

Coming home for Thanksgiving?

Join us for the

ANNUAL ALUMNI VOLLEYBALL MATCH  
NOVEMBER 23, 2005

Don't miss the fun—come to play or come to watch!

Contact Mrs. Vaccari at

[vaccarim@gilbertschool.org](mailto:vaccarim@gilbertschool.org) for details!



# ITEMS OF NOTE



*Thanks to members of The Gilbert School Baseball Team, the area along Winsted's Main Street river walk got a sprucing up this past spring. The group, under the leadership of Coach Patrick Cooke '89, donated a Saturday morning to do some clean-up along the area.*

Honored for Service to The Gilbert School  
and Recognized at  
Academic Award Night on June 5, 2005:

### 25 Year Faculty Awards

Frances M. Barber \* John M. Higgins \* Gregg W. Hunt  
Susan G. Keane \* Judith A. Lang

### The 2005 William L. Gilbert Outstanding Service Award

Joseph W. Dombrowski '75

### In Search of Authors

The Gilbert School Library would like to expand its collection of books written by alumni. If you have authored works that have been published, please contact Mrs. Pillar, Librarian, at [pillarj@gilbertschool.org](mailto:pillarj@gilbertschool.org) to let us know how we can obtain or purchase copies for our collection.



## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

10 <sup>th</sup>	Class of 1995	October 21, 2005
15 <sup>th</sup>	Class of 1990	Tentative; Date TBA
20 <sup>th</sup>	Classes of 1985 & 1988	November 26, 2005
25 <sup>th</sup>	Classes of 1980 & 1981	November 25, 2005
35 <sup>th</sup>	Class of 1970	November 26, 2005
50 <sup>th</sup>	Class of 1955	October 8, 2005
60 <sup>th</sup>	Class of 1945	October 15, 2005

*For additional information on reunions listed, visit our website or contact the Alumni Office for details.*

## PLANNING A REUNION? WE CAN HELP!

Call the Alumni Office

at

860-738-9439

or Email

[gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org)

## RETIREMENT

*Teacher and Athletic Director Michael Gamari and The Gilbert School Have Been on a Win-Win Course Since 1968*

**T**hirty-seven years ago, fresh out of school, History Teacher and Athletic Director Michael Gamari was planning to work his way toward a college-level coaching position. Little did he know that he would land in Winsted, marry, raise a family and spend the bulk of his working years at The Gilbert School. And he has absolutely no regrets.

Mr. Gamari received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Education from Springfield College and has earned thirty hours towards a Sixth Year certificate from UCONN. Like so many other members of the Gilbert community, he arrived in Winsted shortly after his college graduation and, because of the special family of teachers, students and administrators, has never wanted to leave. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, he has served as basketball coach, golf coach, senior class advisor, and international club advisor (organizing and accompanying student trips to Russia in 1976 and Germany in 1982). He has served as Gilbert's athletic director for the past twenty years and is proud of the growth of student participation in the athletic program.

As athletic director, he has seen the *Yellow Jackets* through approximately 35 league championships, 7 state championships and 16 team sportsmanship awards. Many of his students make *all-state* and *all-league* status and go on to coach or play sports in college. He has especially enjoyed running golf tournaments like the *Terry Tirrell Open* (formerly called the *Gilbert Open*, established in 1973) and the *Blue & Gold Golf Tournament*, 13 years old, which is a fundraiser for the athletic department.

*(Continued on page 13)*

*Mr. Gamari retires from teaching but will continue to lead the Yellow Jackets as athletic director.*



*Michael Gamari takes the microphone at a dinner in his honor at Crystal Peak.*



*Family, friends and colleagues joined Mike for this special event. Pictured left is Jim Fortuna; right is daughter Amanda '97 and below are wife Sandy (standing to Mike's right), son Eric '96 (to his left), future son-in-law Aaron with Amanda and seated to her left are Sandy's parents.*





*Veteran faculty member Craig Schroeder, emcee for the evening's festivities, had lots of good things in store for Mr. Gamari as he took everyone for a walk down Memory Lane and captured priceless tidbits from their years as colleagues and friends.*



*(Continued from page 12)*

Mr. Gamari has been honored through the years for his many professional accomplishments and for the rapport he is always able to generate and maintain with his students. He was presented with The William L. Gilbert Outstanding Service Award in 1998; was named State Athletic Director of the Year in 2002, received the Northeast Regional Athletic Director Award in 2003 and has been recognized twice by senior classes as the subject of yearbook dedications in 1985 and 2004. Coach Gamari has always made a lasting impression on his students—many of them returning to Gilbert as coaches themselves

years after graduation (such as Cindy Fixer '78, Patrick Cooke '89, Mary Ellen Staszowski Vaccari '72, Joe Dombrowski '75, Patsy DiMauro '77, and Eric Gamari '96). Many more have gone on to other institutions ably prepared with the skills learned under his tutelage.

Thirty-four is the magic number for Mike and his wife Sandra—their marriage coming three years after Mike's arrival at The Gilbert School. They have two grown children (both Gilbert alumni), Eric '96, a History teacher at The Torrington High School, and Amanda '97, who works in lighting and design off Broadway in New York City.

Now that his teaching schedule has wound down, Mr. Gamari plans to fine tune his golf game, enjoy lots of walks—and, of course, remain a visible and moving force within Gilbert's athletic programs. It has indeed been a full and satisfying plate. While he is retiring from his teaching position, we are grateful that he will be staying on with us as athletic director and we look forward to many more years of his warm smile, special sense of humor, and winning talent as coach. Has it been a win-win course for Gilbert and Mr. Gamari? You betcha. ❖

## ALUMNI NEWS



## 1932

*Florence Vining Thomen* writes, "At 92, I am still writing for weeklies, and crocheting toward the assembly of blankets for the Sioux Indians at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Hi, 1932ers!"

## 1938

*Walter E. Cole, Jr.* died on May 5, 2004 at 83 years of age. He had been married to Mildred (Hazard) Cole '45 for 55 years. Mildred and Walter's three sons are all Gilbert School graduates—John '68, Brian '69, and Wade '71.

## 1945

*60<sup>th</sup> Reunion—October 15*

## 1955

*50<sup>th</sup> Reunion—October 8*

## 1960

*Jean (Dudley) Hoagland* writes, "...happily retired after teaching in Winchester school system for 32 years. My husband Ken and I continue to enjoy traveling, boating and the eight grandchildren our daughters *Kim '82* and *Heather '86* have blessed us with."

*Jonathan Ryan* writes, "...since leaving Gilbert, I attended Boston University and then graduated from the University of Hartford in 1963. I was then commissioned in the U.S. Navy and went to the west coast in 1965. After serving on two aircraft carriers in the Tonkin Gulf and completing my tour, I joined XEROX Corporation and served thirty-plus years in various positions. I am now a planning commissioner for our city and also a real estate broker enjoying a second career. Cathy and I have three children—Shannon, 33 (making wine in the Napa Valley), Joseph, 26 (computer

research at IBM), and Matt, 23 (fourth year at Cal Poly)."

## 1963

*Gail Webb Allard* writes that she moved to South Carolina ten years ago and was sorry to have missed last year's 40<sup>th</sup> reunion.

## 1965

Congratulations to *William Gagner and wife Marilyn (MacGregor '78)*, who celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 1970

*35<sup>th</sup> Reunion—November 26*

## 1975

Congratulations to *Joseph W. Dombrowski, Jr.*, who was recently named Associate Principal for Gilbert. Joe also received the 2005 William L. Gilbert Outstanding Service Award in June.

The Gilbert School Class of 2005 was honored to have *Gerri Griswold Greb-Lasky* as its speaker at graduation. Ms. Greb-Lasky's remarks were heartfelt, her reminiscences of her years at Gilbert were hilarious and her message was most definitely enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Earlier in the year, Gerri visited a physical science class at Gilbert to talk about bats and their communication. Students in Mrs. Cloud's class were amazed to be able to see different species of live bats and to hear, through a special device, their unique sounds. See photos on page 7.

## 1976

*Dr. Michael Kelley* writes that he has been selected to join the U.S.

expedition to search for meteorites in Antarctica in 2005 - 2006. Good luck, Michael!

## 1978

Congratulations to *Marilyn (MacGregor) Gagner and husband William '65*, who celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

## 1979

*Robbin Schnier Beauchamp* writes, "Greetings from Massachusetts! I'd love to hear from my friends via email at robbinleisa@hotmail.com!"

## 1980 &amp; 1981

*25<sup>th</sup> Reunion—November 25*

## 1985

*20<sup>th</sup> Reunion—November 26*

## 1988

*The Class of 1988 will celebrate a reunion on November 26 with the Class of 1985*

*Jenni Bourque* writes, "Have recently become director of corporate and foundation relations at Columbia University Business School—responsible for the school's corporate outreach, development and strategy. Am also captain of a women's USTA tennis team in Manhattan!"

## 1989

From *Jennifer Gouthier*—"I am the Torrington representative on the Catchment Area Council #22 (CAC #22) and I serve on the Northwest Regional Mental Health Board. This is my third year on the CAC #22 and second on the NWRMHB. As a member of the council and board, I help improve the quality of life for individuals in recovery from mental illness and addictions. I also advocate for and monitor services through review, planning, recommendation and education."

## 1993

*Tiffany Goulet* writes, "In August 2004, my boyfriend, our two cats and I moved from Washington, DC, to Dhaka, Bangladesh, to teach high school social studies at the American International School there." See related story on pages 4 and 5.

## 1995

*10th Reunion—October 21*

## 1999

Best wishes to *Megan Lovetere* and *Darek Schibi* who were married last summer. Megan works for an insurance company in Simsbury and recently finished her sixth year as varsity cheer coach at Gilbert. Darek works for Big Y and is the varsity wrestling coach at Northwest Regional High School. He was recently named as Class S Coach of the Year.

*Jennifer Traun-Baker* writes that she "...married another service member (Richard M. Baker) on February 7, 2001 and got out of the military on August 6, 2001. We have two children, David Matthew who was born on December 9, 2000, and Elizabeth Lynn, who was born on November 14, 2002. I am currently attending school at High Tech Institute for Massage Therapy in Fort Campbell, Kentucky."

## 2000

Kudos to *Christina Brown*, who received her master's in education from Harvard University in June. Christina plans to spend the upcoming year in Tokyo and then will continue her graduate studies in clinical psychology.

Congratulations to *Matthew Flaherty*, who graduated with High Honors and a major in History from UConn in January.

## 2001

From *Michael McNulty*—"I graduated from the Hallmark

Institute of Photography on June 24<sup>th</sup>. I am pursuing web design at Boston University and am also beginning to establish a part-time photography business in the Boston area and on Cape Cod. I still have my red Neon!"

### 2003

Hello to *Peter Hutchison* who is a crew member aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Vigorous*, which patrols the Windward Passage off the coast of Florida. Peter recently corresponded with Gilbert faculty member Wendy Sultaire about his experiences on the Cutter, which have included the rescue and repatriation of more than 200 Haitian migrants from an overcrowded sailing vessel and the Christmas Eve rescue of a disabled yacht helplessly adrift due to mechanical failure.

*Marie Barberet* writes, "I am currently a junior at Bryant University in Rhode Island, majoring in accounting. I participated in the study abroad program and spent the spring semester of 2005 in London while attending Westminster University. While on semester break I had the opportunity to travel to Ireland, Rome, Venice, Vienna, Prague and Mallorca."

### 2005

*Congratulations to members of the Class of 2005 and best wishes as you go on to pursue higher education and the world of work!*

Kudos to *John Mochak* who was recently named the grand prize winner of the Chamber of Commerce Northwest Connecticut Essay Contest, which included entries from schools all over the northwest corner of the state. John's essay on what's good about Northwest Connecticut was chosen as Gilbert's winning entry and was also the winner of the state prize—a laptop computer and a monetary reward. John was recognized, along with other winners, at a reception held at the Torrington Country Club.

## BIRTHS

Bryan and Heather (Ervin) Boyajian '93  
Son, David Alexander, born June 4, 2005

David and Michelle (Bartholomew) Kehaya '91  
Daughter, Elise Michelle, born October 25, 2004

Michelle (Berger) Lefebvre '96 and Eric Lefebvre '95  
Daughter, Hailey Renee, born April 3, 2005

Shaliene and Steven Roy '89  
Son, Owen Steven, born September 28, 2004

Michelle (Berger) Lefebvre '96 and Eric Lefebvre '95  
Daughter, Hailey Renee, born April 3, 2005

## MARRIAGES

Megan Lovetere '99 and Darek Schibi '99  
Summer 2004

Adam and Tammy Gouthier Moss '89  
July 2004

Tonia Trieschmann '95 and Keith Munroe '98  
June 19, 2004



## IN MEMORIAM

Marguerite Smith Barrett '33  
April 10, 2005

Ann Boulet Besette '52  
April 13, 2005

Joanne Hoxie Blanchard '87  
June 2005

Grace Gurtowski Bosworth '40  
April 12, 2005

Stephen A. Bowles '53  
June 16, 2005

Anne Pisarcik Burns '34  
July 28, 2005

Sheila Ryan Campbell '74  
February 2005

James Cappabianca '58  
January 16, 2005

Elizabeth Smith Chamberlin '35  
July 16, 2005

Hazel J. Cleveland '25  
July 12, 2005

Walter E. Cole, Jr. '38  
May 5, 2004

Peter Colt '67  
February 15, 2005

Judith Chipman Crossman '65  
April 13, 2005

Priscilla Bond Currier '44  
February 7, 2005

Angelo A. DiMauro, Jr. '50  
June 26, 2005

Terri M. Dings '83  
July 25, 2005

Eleanor Atkins Fancher '52  
January 22, 2005

Bernice Adams Huse '40  
May 22, 2005

Francis W. Jackman '37  
June 11, 2005

John F. Kolasinski  
March 29, 2005

Christina Swanson Lokker '75  
August 9, 2005

Robert P. Lyman '33  
May 18, 2005

William H. Mallon '47  
April 25, 2005

Loretta Silvester Moringo '53  
April 8, 2005

Edward J. Morton '42  
July 3, 2005

Col. Paul S. Morton,  
USAF (Ret.) '34  
February 10, 2005

Helen Mulville '26  
February 9, 2005

Elizabeth Jespersen Ostrander '53  
January 29, 2005

Brian K. Parent '86  
April 17, 2005

Mary Tucker Russell '33  
June 10, 2004

Paul A. Shapiro '48  
April 6, 2005

George H. Simons '63  
April 2, 2005

Richard A. Spear '01  
April 22, 2005

John W. Stavnitzky, Jr. '45  
June 10, 2005

Mildred Tinker Sterpka '43  
June 4, 2005

Doris Burgess Treadway '45  
March 4, 2005

Alice V. Waldecker '29  
April 15, 2005

Alice Hall Woodworth '36  
September 14, 2004

### Concerning items in Alumni News

Items included in the *Alumni News* section of the *Yellow Jacket* 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 wishes, thoughts and news of your classmates and to recognize accomplishments. If you prefer that we do not include you by name in future issues, please notify the Office of Development & Alumni Relations in writing

**Let us hear from you!**

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—or just want to send greetings to your classmates—let us know!

Fill out this form and mail it to the Alumni Office, submit online at [www.gilbertschool.org](http://www.gilbertschool.org) or send us an email! We—and your classmates—would enjoy hearing from you!

Photos for publication in the Yellow Jacket are always welcome!

*A* Calling all alumni! Send us your news for the next issue of the Yellow Jacket!

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



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Register for The Gilbert School Online Alumni Community Today!

More than 7,000 alumni receive news from The Gilbert School and are listed within the Alumni Community on our new web site. Post your email address there and send messages to your classmates, post and read class notes, find out what's happening at your alma mater. Use your alumni ID number located above your name on the mailing label of this newsletter and register today!

## Reunion Information: See Page 11

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Email: [gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org](mailto:gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org)

The Gilbert School Yellow Jacket is produced twice per year for the benefit of alumni and friends of The Gilbert School. Correspondence and changes of address should be directed to Cindy Gould, Editor, in the Alumni Office. Special thanks to Dawn Anstett and her photography students for allowing us the use of pictures taken at Commencement and other events.

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