



Yellow Jacket

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THE SEARCH FOR OLIVE RELISH!

Recently a member of the Class of 1942 contacted the Alumni Office hoping to find a recipe for that scrumptious olive relish she remembers from her days as a student at Gilbert's original location, now NCCC. If you remember it, too, and know of a way to get the recipe, please contact the Alumni Office.



FOUNDER'S DAY 2003

COMMENCEMENT 2003



Charity Garlasco, Valedictorian, addresses the Class.

Members of the Class of 2003 and guests were treated to a glimpse into life at The Gilbert School during the 1950s at graduation ceremonies on June 17th. Gilbert School alumna and recently-retired staff member Dorothy Wetmore Robbins '54, who received her own Gilbert diploma exactly 49 years earlier to the day, gave the Commencement Address. She transported us back to a very different time indeed. Our newest graduates listened attentively as Mrs. Robbins described the "good old days." Jeans and shorts were not allowed; there were no lockers for books and belongings—simply rows of hooks in the hallways; typewriters were manual—with unmarked keys; there was no cafeteria—if you wanted lunch, you brown-bagged it; and no stretch limousines for Prom! As you might imagine, some of these remembrances drew widened eyes and a few giggles from our newest alumni!

After reminiscing, Mrs. Robbins offered some advice for this year's graduates as they prepare to face new and difficult challenges. Speaking from the heart and with a wealth of personal and professional experience behind her, she encouraged everyone to be lifelong learners; to share talents with others through volunteerism; to develop a positive attitude and work ethic and to be thoughtful and respectful of others and of themselves. Mrs. Robbins is proud of her Gilbert School education and is certain that her years as a student prepared her well for future endeavors. You can be sure she knows what she's talking about when she says, "What you do with the knowledge and skills you have gained is up to you."

Best wishes and congratulations to the graduates of The Gilbert School Class of 2003. ❖



"Continuous hard work, dedication and perseverance will lead each of you to ultimately attain any goal..."

—Johanna Silverio, Salutatorian



Dorothy Wetmore Robbins '54, third generation Gilbert alumna, presents the Commencement Address.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Gilbert School community began its day on Friday, May 16th, with a special breakfast to honor and recognize student volunteers. These students, named by their teachers, gave of their time and talent during the year by inspiring good citizenship and a commitment to helping mankind, in the spirit of William L. Gilbert. Special thanks were offered by the president of The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation, Mr. Thomas Botticelli, and by the school's Superintendent/Principal, Dr. Robert F. Gazda. Members of the Trust were on hand to help serve breakfast to the students in a show of their own volunteerism. They are pictured below, along with Dotty Robbins '54. Left to right: Mrs. Robbins, JoAnn Briggs, Steve Sedlack '60, Tom Botticelli, and Pat Bourque.



Immediately following the breakfast, all students, faculty and staff gathered at the flagpole circle for short remarks, for the *Pledge of Allegiance* and for the placement of a memorial wreath by students. The band played the *Star Spangled Banner* and a solo trumpet added *Taps*. Long a tradition for Gilbert students, the Founder's Day ceremony acknowledges their respect for the school's first benefactor and honors his memory as a true visionary of the 19th century. At the end of the day, the wreath was brought to William L. Gilbert's gravesite in Center Cemetery and placed there in remembrance of his contribution to this school and our community.





Afternoon festivities included a gathering of alumni and friends for the unveiling of two recently restored portraits—Mr. Gilbert (left) and the school’s first principal, Dr. John E. Clarke (right). Dr. Clarke’s portrait was a gift to the school by the Alumni Association in the early 1920s. The portrait of Mr. Gilbert was a gift from the Winchester Historical Society. Also acknowledged were portraits of each of the succeeding principals. The entire grouping is now displayed in the foyer of the newly-renovated Library/Media Center.



At left, Gilbert Trust President Tom Botticelli chats with an alumnus after the unveiling; pictured below are Victor Ross with Helen Linkovich Ross '42 and Anna O'Brien Harding '28.



The afternoon continued as we welcomed more than 100 alumni and friends to celebrate the Second Annual *Blue & Gold Reunion* with a light buffet supper in the school’s cafeteria. Alumni of classes from 50 years ago and earlier were invited to this special occasion and everyone enjoyed reminiscing about their years as students and hearing about what’s new at their alma mater.



At left, Alice Ferris Fixer '51 and Mary Belladella Holmes '51; above are Dorothy Chicos Zecchin '52, Sally Crossman Mangione '56 and Joseph Mangione '50.

FROM THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

THE GILBERT ANNUAL FUND

Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of alumni and friends, the Gilbert Annual Fund surpassed its goal and closed the year with a total of \$34,340.00 raised. We are so pleased to see more and more alumni contributing—even in these difficult economic times. It is a testament to your loyalty and enthusiasm for your alma mater—and to your foresight in helping to enhance the teaching and learning environment for our students. Watch your mail this fall for information on the 2003 - 2004 Gilbert Annual Fund. Your chance to make a difference for future Gilbert alumni is right around the corner!

THE W.L. GILBERT TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS

This year, The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation awarded scholarships to over 80 deserving students and alumni. Since the first scholarship was established in the early 1920s, the number of named funds for this purpose has grown to more than eighty, with a value of more than one million dollars. Last year alone saw the creation of five new funds. Many of our scholarship funds contain stated criteria that restrict their awarding to applicants that fall within specific guidelines—such as those planning to pursue careers in teaching, music or nursing—or those who plan to attend certain institutions of

higher education. Other scholarship funds are less restrictive, allowing for a broader distribution of awards by our scholarship committee. We are pleased to recognize the donors of these funds and the award recipients each year at Senior Class Night. It is an exciting and rewarding evening. If you are interested in adding to an existing fund or establishing a new one please call the Office of Development and Alumni Relations for more information. ❖



ALUMNI CONTACT

Occasionally the Office of Development and Alumni Relations receives requests for information on a particular classmate's whereabouts. If you are looking for a friend's address and cannot locate in the current Alumni Directory, we would be happy to forward your contact information—or a letter—to that classmate for you. We hope you understand our caution in protecting the privacy of our alumni.

WE WISH YOU WELL...



Sylvia Cederholm, School Nurse



Charles Trout, English Department



Mrs. JoAnn Briggs, The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation

The Gilbert School wishes the very best to faculty, staff and Trust members who served our students and our community for many years. At a special luncheon in June, we said goodbye to retiring faculty member *Charles Trout* and school nurse *Sylvia Cederholm*. Collectively, they served 57 years at The Gilbert School. Additionally, we will miss *Marilyn Lent*, Guidance Counselor, and *Roberta Scaia*, Chair of the Business Department. Good luck and think sunny skies!

Retiring from The W.L. Gilbert Trust Corporation this year was *JoAnn Briggs*, an active member for over 25 years, serving three as president, and was the first female elected to serve. She was presented with a Hitchcock chair and a framed print of The Gilbert School. Harry and JoAnn's eight children are alumni of Gilbert and we look forward to JoAnn's continued involvement as a Trustee Emeritus!

Leaving the Trust this year to move out west was *Par Rasmusson*. Par was a member of the Trust for seven years and was most recently chair of the Historical Preservation Committee, instrumental in bringing the restored portraits of Mr. Gilbert, Dr. Clarke and all of our headmasters to be hung in the Library/Media Center foyer. Par and Jenny's children are also alumni of The Gilbert School. ❖

ALUMNI FOCUS—CHRISTOPHER LAROSA '99

TRAVELING TO AFRICA AND BEYOND THANKS TO WATSON FELLOWSHIP

Christopher LaRosa has turned his interest and expertise in communications technology and computer science into a fabulous opportunity—he'll be spending the next year traveling in Africa, Mexico and the Netherlands as a recipient of the prestigious Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. After graduating from The Gilbert School, Chris went on to Hamilton College, Clinton NY, where in May he received a BA in Computer Science, Cum Laude. His experiences while a student at Gilbert were definitely the catalyst for his choice of studies at Hamilton—and an inspiration for submitting a proposal for the Watson Fellowship.

The Watson Fellowship Program was created in 1968 by the children of the founder of IBM. It identifies prospective leaders and allows them to develop their independence and to become world citizens. Chris was one of 60 chosen out of a field of 1,000. He must travel and study outside the United States for one year and receives \$22,000 toward his costs. Chris's project is titled "Shaping Media: Evolution Through Communication Technology: Tanzania, Uganda, Mexico, Slovenia and Finland." He will depart in late summer for his first destination, Uganda, where he'll spend about six weeks.

Chris has already made contact with Uganda's largest independent newspaper, *The Monitor*. He'll spend his time observing their practices and helping out where he can. Then it's on to Tanzania, Mexico, Slovenia and Finland, respectively. Chris says, "The availability of communication technology has the potential to shape the way we live, create educational opportunities and improve our quality of life. From the mechanics of reporting to the means of delivery, the computers, Internet and software are changing the way we consume and define

our media. I will examine the ways that technology is making what once constituted traditional print journalism more dynamic and accessible."

"Visiting countries that have set themselves apart from their peers by rapidly adopting new communication technologies, I will focus my observation on how new media and connectivity are shaping the distribution and production of media and the nature of communication in society. Visiting Internet service providers, newsrooms, online magazines, digital media labs and wired com-

along with foreign aid workers he meets along the way. He'll stay in youth hostels, short-term rentals, or with families. When asked if he has any reservations about traveling to the more remote areas, he offered a confident but anxious "not really." His greatest fear is of becoming ill while in a foreign country—though he's all up to date with numerous shots and a supply of malaria pills! Naturally, there are safety concerns and a language barrier to think about, however Chris has done his homework and is well-prepared for the challenges he may face. The prospects of a

home! In his junior year he was recognized with the award for Outstanding Contribution to Technology Education. He fondly remembers the days when only one or two computers in the whole school had Internet access!

As part of his proposal for the Watson Fellowship, Chris wrote three pages alone on his experiences and education while at The Gilbert School! He is clearly grateful for the core of knowledge that he received as a high school student—and it has guided his choices and decisions for the future. He feels that years of foreign language and Latin pushed him in the direction of a non-technical liberal arts school, fulfilling a need to add a humanistic touch to his studies. In 2002, he ventured to Spain and earned a Certificate of Study from the University of Barcelona. To round out his years at Hamilton he joined the crew team, took a course in jazz history that led to 3 1/2 years of playing the saxophone with the jazz ensemble and worked as a Publications Intern at the school.

Chris plans to go to graduate school after he returns from his odyssey in 2004—perhaps Emory University or Georgia Tech—to pursue a Master's Degree. Meanwhile, he has been spending the summer preparing for his trip, working as a correspondent for the Waterbury Republican-American and as a Macintosh Systems Administrator for the Botelle Elementary School in Norfolk, CT. We wish Chris a safe and rewarding trip and look forward to hearing about his continued successes. ❖



Chris LaRosa '99 enjoying a side trip to Finland and Sweden while a student at the University of Barcelona.

munities will allow me to draw a clearer picture of the changes and potential for communication technology and new media."

Chris is also hoping to include travel to some refugee camps located on the borders of Uganda and Tanzania. These camps are currently using satellites to train their population in the use of computers. To stay in touch, he'll bring his laptop computer and connect through Internet cafes located in the major cities. You'll be able to read a log of his travels and view photos of his adventure at <http://watson.chrislarosa.net>.

Chris will use public transportation to travel within each country or may be able to tag

potential rendezvous with his sister while in Mexico and his mother while in Finland will give him a family connection to look forward to during his downtime.

THE GILBERT CONNECTION

An interest in computers, technology and communications were sparked while Chris was a student at Gilbert. During his freshman year he worked for the student newspaper, the Gilbert Buzz, and developed its first-ever website. He was editor for about 2 1/2 years, worked with the TSA on web design and spent many a snowy afternoon in the computer lab after everyone else had gone



ALUMNI NEWS



1926

According to *Lewella Hart Francis*, "Christine Weyell and I were the first girls to take chemistry at Gilbert. We had to argue with Mr. Hood for permission!"

1933

Francis J. Brennan writes, "I still remember Mr. Hood—a great principal. He gave me permission to establish a football team in 1934 and Gilbert began to schedule its first seasonal games."

1937

Evelyn Moore Hawley says that she has enjoyed the alumni events planned for older graduates—especially for those who cannot attend a reunion for a particular year. "It is a special treat." Thanks, Evelyn! We hope to see more alumni at these events!

1941

Greetings from *Ruth Allen Rogers*. Ruth writes, "By June 1st Bill and I will be settled in Saratoga Springs, New York—home of *Funny Cide*."

1943

60th Reunion
October 11, 2003

1948

55th Reunion
September 27, 2003

1950

Jean Woodward Partridge writes that she is "enjoying retirement from teaching and social work. Enjoy get-togethers with friends and relatives; also enjoy volunteer work and travel."

1953

50th Reunion
October 11, 2003

1954

From *Effie Francis Oellers*, "Greetings to my fellow classmates of 1954. I am still working for the

U.S. Government (CIA). I was fortunate to have spent three years in London and two years in Athens. I do volunteer work at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and other local theaters."

1956

Congratulations to *Joseph Vincent*, who recently received an award from the Northeast-Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Red Cross for "Extraordinary Service to Armed Forces and Families and Armed Forces Emergency Services Activities for 2003."

1958

45th Reunion
September 13, 2003

1962

Kudos to *Dr. Robert S. McKie* who in August begins his twelfth year as Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

1965

Greetings from Missouri! *Harold "Mac" MacFarland* of the MacFarland Financial Group and

his wife Cheryl are enjoying their life in Missouri where they have lived for the past 17 years!

Jerry E. Morton sends best wishes from the state of Washington to all his classmates.

1968

35th Reunion
Date TBA

1971

Michael Flaherty writes that his son *Mike, Jr. '96* graduated from Westfield State and Springfield College and is now teaching P. Ed. for the West Hartford, Connecticut, school system; son *Matthew '00* is a junior at UConn with a 3.7 GPA majoring in history.

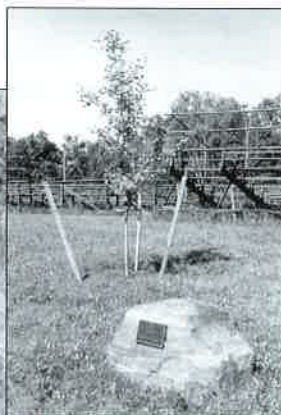
1973

30th Reunion
October 18, 2003

1975

Congratulations to *Ellie Cook-Venezia* on her recent nomination and acceptance into the

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



On June 12th, faculty, staff and students gathered near the football field to honor and remember their teacher and friend Terry Tirrell '73. Mr. Tirrell, a long-time member of the faculty, died suddenly in February. In his memory, a ginkgo tree was planted well within view of the classroom that he enjoyed. The rock, bearing the Pi sign that he was known for using as his initials, was brought to Gilbert from his hometown of Norfolk.

The leaves of the ginkgo tree all fall on the same day—it is hoped that a tradition to catch one of the leaves will begin this fall in Terry's memory.

After short remarks from faculty members, the Gilbert School Concert Choir performed an inspirational selection titled *MLK*, arranged by Bob Chilcott.

2003 edition of *National Register's WHO'S WHO in Executives and Professionals*. The 2003 edition is dedicated to the Heroes and Victims of the September 11 tragedy. Ms. Cook-Venezia was selected based upon the merit of her professional background and in recognition of her community service. She is an administrator at NuVue Technologies in Keene, New Hampshire, and is Chair of the Trustees of Keene Emblem Club No. 24.

1977

From *Louis Torche*—"It was fantastic seeing everyone that attended our 25th Class Reunion. Let's not make it so long before we all get together again!" Louis sends this thanks to the Committee for putting the reunion together.

1978

25th Reunion
Date TBA

1979

25th Reunion
October 2004

gilbertclassof1979@hotmail.com

Members of the Class of 1979 are asked to send an email to the reunion committee with your current name (maiden, too), address, phone and email so that you can receive details of the reunion.

1983

20th Reunion
Date TBA

1988

15th Reunion
Date TBA

Congratulations to *Jenni Bourque* who ran the New York City Mara-

thon last November (her first marathon every!) in just over four hours.

Michelle Lestinsky Lawton and her husband David proudly announce the newest addition to the family, Abigail Sarah. She joins four-year-old twins Alyssa and Ashley. Abbey was born on January 13th. Best wishes to the Lawtons!

1993

10th Reunion
August 22-24, 2003

1994

Congratulations and best wishes to *William "Chip" Ervin* and his bride Elizabeth. Chip and Elizabeth were married in South Carolina in April.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Donald M. Daly '41
March 17, 2003

Alice Cook DiMartino '39
June 23, 2003

Edmund S. Ganem '51
April 2003

Adele Ball Hardenbergh '31
April 7, 2003

N. Watson Hardenbergh, Jr. '35
March 18, 2003

Francis W. Julian '37
July 6, 2003

Theodore K. LeGeyst '44
April 4, 2003

Fred E. Rebillard '48
December 23, 2002

Dorothy Jamieson Sultaire '28
March 6, 2003

William Wilson '53
March 24, 2003

Myron Zaccara '42
May 20, 2003

Memorials are included up until press time and reflect information received since publication of the prior issue of the Yellow Jacket. Information to be included here may be forwarded to the Alumni Office.

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.



Fred Silverio '51 and daughter Johanna '03 with mom Dianne at Student Volunteer Breakfast.

GILBERT ALUMNI SPAN THE GENERATIONS...



Ashley Jones '03 with grandfather James Glynn '26 and mom Deborah Glynn Jones '70 joined the festivities.



Dominic Colavecchio '47 and son Alan Colavecchio '69 at Blue & Gold Reunion Celebration.

Multiple generations of Gilbert graduates attended the May Founder's Day celebrations.

We'd like to expand the Alumni News section of the Yellow Jacket. Whether you've recently married, celebrated a landmark 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!

Simply fill out this form and mail it to the Alumni Office or send us an email! We'd enjoy hearing from you!



Calling all alumni! Send us your news for the next issue of The Gilbert School *Yellow Jacket*! Keep in touch with classmates and let them know what you've been up to!

Your name: _____ Class Year: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Send to: Office of Development and Alumni Relations, The Gilbert School, 200 Williams Avenue, Winsted, CT 06098

UPCOMING REUNIONS

15 th	Class of 1988	Date TBA
20 th	Class of 1983	Date TBA
25 th	Class of 1978	Date TBA
30 th	Class of 1973	October 18, 2003
35 th	Class of 1968	Date TBA
45 th	Class of 1958	September 13, 2003
50 th	Class of 1953	October 11, 2003
55 th	Class of 1948	September 27, 2003
60 th	Class of 1943	October 11, 2003

For more information or for help

in planning your reunion, email

gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

or call 860-738-9439



**LEAVE A LEGACY®
CONNECTICUT**

This organization is a participant in
LEAVE A LEGACY® CONNECTICUT, a statewide
public awareness effort to promote
charitable giving through wills and estates.

CONTACT THE ALUMNI
OFFICE FOR MORE
INFORMATION ON
MAKING A PLANNED
GIFT TO BENEFIT
THE GILBERT SCHOOL

HOME COMING 2003: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th!

The Gilbert School
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(860) 379-8521 (Main Office)
(860) 738-9439 (Alumni Office)

Email: gilbertalumni@gilbertschool.org

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