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*"What a valuable link to the past and bridge to the future...We truly feel we were—and continue to be—part of a special community of Gilbert alumni..."*

*—Astrid & Raymond Robitaille '89—*



## CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATIONS CONTINUE

—JOANN BRIGGS, TRUSTEE—

As you read in the first issue of the *Yellow Jacket*, we are in the midst of a \$10.5 million expansion and renovation project at Gilbert that was begun in June of 1999. I am pleased to report that we are on target for completion by the end of October 2000! Many thanks to faculty, staff and students who have patiently endured a difficult year with construction in every area of the school—right down to no ceilings and bare concrete floors!

The expansion adds nearly a third more new space to the school, including six classrooms, a library/media center, administrative offices, and a permanent fitness room to which all students will have access through PE classes and special athletic programs. The required expansion of the parking areas necessitated the reorientation of our athletic fields, placing them in a more favorable alignment for play. The fields and their landscape will



*New Library/Media Center.*

*Directly under the library/media center will be the new location for administrative offices (left) and a ramp on the right will make the auditorium completely handicapped accessible. The center area will serve as the main entrance to the school and will be an open walk-through to faculty and staff parking and the athletic fields.*

complement the rest of the campus nicely.

We are very excited about the expansion of the library/media center. The façade of the center will be the focal point when you arrive at the main entrance—a warm welcome to the learning and nurturing environment that defines The Gilbert School.

When completed, this will be a state-of-the-art facility that will serve the needs of our students for many years to come. Of course, as was the intent of the school's founding father and most generous benefactor, the center will continue to be accessible to the entire Gilbert community, including the public.

We hope you'll stop by and see these exciting changes for yourself! ❖

## MEET YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

### The W.L. Gilbert Trust and The Gilbert School Establish the Office of Development and Alumni Relations

In January, The Gilbert School marked the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the creation of the *Office of Development and Alumni Relations*. Cindy Gould was hired as the director of this new program and her responsibilities include this newsletter, alumni communications and events, the building of an annual appeal program,

and overall management and planning of the development and alumni relations office.

Cindy will also be the "keeper" of alumni information such as name, address, etc., and the accuracy of these files will be of primary concern to her.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Congratulations Class of 2000!

*The Gilbert School Class of 2000 will soon depart on a new journey. We are proud of our graduates and wish them all the very best of luck. As of newsletter press time, here's where they are headed:*

Alfred University  
 Albertus Magnus College  
 Beaver College  
 Boston College  
 Boston University  
 Bryant College  
 Cazenovia College  
 Cedar Crest College  
 Centenary College  
 Central Conn. State U.  
 Clark University  
 Connecticut College  
 Dickinson College  
 Eastern Conn. State U.  
 Emerson College  
 Fordham University  
 Franklin Pierce College  
 Hartwick College  
 Johnson & Wales University  
 Johnson State College  
 Keene State College  
 Maine College of Art  
 Marist College  
 Mount Holyoke College  
 Mount Ida College  
 Mount Saint Mary College  
 New England College  
 New Hampshire College  
 New York University  
 Northeastern University  
 Norwich University  
 Pace University  
 Plymouth State College  
 Quinnipiac College  
 Roger Williams College  
 St. John's University  
 Saint Joseph College  
 Saint Michael's College  
 Savannah College of Art and Design  
 Siena College  
 Skidmore College  
 Smith College  
 Southern Conn. State U.  
 Springfield College  
 SUNY Albany  
 Susquehanna University  
 Teikyo Post College  
 Towson State University  
 Union College  
 Unity College  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Hartford  
 University of Maine  
 University of Rhode Island  
 Utica College  
 Wellesley College  
 Wentworth Institute of Technology  
 Wesleyan University  
 Western New England College  
 Wheaton College  
 Wheelock College  
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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Please understand that we are undergoing a major overhaul of our database of information and your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you notice that your mail is not addressed properly, or if you are aware of other changes that need to be made, please contact Cindy directly. She will be glad to hear from you. Maintenance of these types of files is an ongoing process that is never 100% complete, however we're striving for perfection!

In addition to what has already been mentioned, Cindy is responsible for receiving and acknowledging all charitable contributions and can answer any questions you may have about making a gift to the Wil-

liam L. Gilbert Trust for the benefit of The Gilbert School.

We look forward to building a first-class development and alumni relations program—and we need your help to make it successful. This is a work-in-progress and we sincerely appreciate any feedback that you are willing to share. ❖

### Contact the Alumni Office

The Gilbert School  
 200 Williams Avenue  
 Winsted, CT 06098  
 (860) 738-9439  
 gilbertalumni@snet.net

### *The Gilbert School Inaugural Annual Fund Heads for Success!*

We wish to extend grateful thanks to the many donors who have already given more than \$15,000 to the Inaugural Annual Fund. Special thanks to Dorothy Wetmore Robbins '54, who ably served as Honorary Chair for this first-time ever effort.

This year's Fund closes on June 30th, so there's still time for you to send a contribution! Make your checks payable to The W.L. Gilbert Trust and send to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at the School.



## GRATEFUL ALUMNI ESTABLISH NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Gilbert School is pleased to announce the creation of *The Philip J. Greene Scholarship Fund*. This scholarship, established with a generous gift from two Gilbert alumni, will be awarded each year to an outstanding Gilbert student who plans to pursue a four-year degree relating to the study of nature and the environment, preferably with an interest in forestry, or to a student planning to study music. Hazel Stetson Simons '35, retired executive secretary to the Winsted town manager, and Donald R. Simons '40, retired from the United States Postal Service, are

the donors. The Fund is named in memory of Mrs. Simons' late husband.

Hazel and Donald Simons met with Gilbert's new development director in March to learn about setting up a scholarship fund for the benefit of students of The Gilbert School. Their interest and enthusiasm for all things related to music and nature, along with their gratitude for the fine education they themselves received while at Gilbert, prompted them to think of the School. Mrs. Simons is especially grateful for her Gilbert education and credits the School's rigor-

ous academic program with being the key that opened many doors for her and provided her with above average skills and knowledge to excel in a world that was very different from today's. Mrs. Simons also recognizes that those same opportunities might not be attainable tomorrow without a college education.

Mr. and Mrs. Simons are both intensely supportive of higher education and recognize its necessity in our ever-changing world. They are thrilled to be able to help put a college education within reach for future Gilbert alumni. ❖

*The generosity and thoughtfulness of such fine people as Mr. and Mrs. Simons and the many benefactors before them, coupled with the vision of William L. Gilbert, are what makes the Gilbert School experience a memorable and rewarding one. If you are interested in establishing a named fund for the benefit of Gilbert School students, or if you would like to make a gift to an existing fund, please contact Cindy Gould, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, 860-738-9439.*

## GILBERT AT A GLANCE



*"Up the Down Staircase"*  
Drama Production on the Gilbert Stage  
Paul Doniger, Director

May 19 & 20



*Senior Class Night*  
Kudos to Award Recipients!

June 13



*Graduation*  
Congratulations to the Class of 2000!

June 22



*Go Yellow Jackets!* Gaining Michael's Cup recognition for overall athletic excellence among 30 or more schools, Gilbert placed in the top three in the "SS" division for the ninth time in eleven years!

## PROJECT ADVENTURE

—MARYELLEN VACCARI, PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHAIR—

The physical education department is constantly updating its offerings to keep our students active and exposed to current fitness opportunities as well as sport skills. Rollerblading, snowshoeing, golf, ultimate Frisbee, racket sports, aerobic kickboxing, self-defense, and personal fitness are just some of our units.

We are very excited about

our new *Adventure Education* course. The Adventure Education Curriculum promotes a sense of fun and play while fostering an environment of mutual respect and encouragement. The program builds goal-oriented achievement through multifaceted activities. Challenging interactions with each other will increase confidence, leadership, teamwork,

trust, tolerance, perseverance, and risk-taking. An integral part of the program is the creation of a safe environment while responding to challenges involving problem solving and critical thinking. We are excited about this experiential education unit and our new low element ropes course on school grounds to accommodate the program. ❖

## SCHOOL-TO-CAREER PROGRAM

—JOHN ORIS, PROGRAM COORDINATOR—

Gilbert's *School-To-Career* program, in existence for four years, has introduced two new and exciting programs for students. The *Freshman Success* class was begun this year, with an enrollment of 50% of the freshman class. The class combines Freshman Success topics with Keyboarding/Word Processing and focuses on the essential knowledge that students need to know to make good personal, social, educational and career decisions in their lives. Some of the topics

covered include social skills, communication skills, team building, career clusters, goal setting, study skills and research skills. These are areas that are critical for success in high school and beyond.

Two *Career Academies*—*Business & Finance* and *Communications & Media*—will begin in September. The Academies are planned to introduce students to a wide variety of experiences in a chosen career area in addition to the courses taken over their last three years of high

school. These experiences include job shadowing, team building, field trips, internships and senior projects.

A special component of the Academies is a business mentor, who will provide continuous contact with each student, advise them and provide direction regarding the business world. All classes are designed to provide real world applications to the learning process. ❖

## First-Ever Gilbert School Cookbook

How many of you who went to the "new" Gilbert School remember school rolls, cinnamon buns, homemade pizza, and many other things that are not usually sold in a school cafeteria? Well, even if you didn't have the opportunity to experience the "good eats" from the ladies in the Gilbert kitchen, you must have been to a Senior Smorgasbord and at least had the rolls!

Now that the kitchen is in the midst of renovations after having closed in April, the idea of a school cookbook to raise money to help with the loss of revenue from lunches sounded appealing. Phyllis Wells, Food Service Director, is compiling a cookbook which will contain not only Gilbert School Kitchen recipes, but recipes from present and previous staff, board and trust members.

Watch your mailboxes—and the next issue of the *Yellow Jacket*—for information on the release time of this "first-ever." We hope you'll support the cafeteria by buying one for yourself and some for all of your friends and relatives!



## Gilbert School Needs You—

Are you interested in participating as a mentor or can you offer job shadowing, field trips, part-time employment, etc., for Gilbert students? Does your business have a suitable problem for which Gilbert students may be able to find a solution? For more information, contact:

John Oris  
(860-379-8521)  
orisj@gilbertschool.org

The Gilbert School  
200 Williams Avenue  
Winsted, CT 06098

(860) 379-8521 (Main Office)  
(860) 738-9439 (Alumni Office)

Email: gilbertalumni@snet.net

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**Address Corrections/Updates:**

*If you are receiving this publication in error, or need to make a correction to your address, please contact The Gilbert School Alumni Office.*

**Planning a Class Reunion and looking for your classmates?**

*Call The Gilbert School Alumni Office to see how we can help each other—from finding lost classmates to finding volunteers to help plan a reunion—teamwork makes the difference!*

*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.*

*Photograph on page 1 courtesy of JoAnn Briggs*

## THOUGHTS FROM GILBERT ALUMNI

*The following are some of the comments received in response to the first issue of the Yellow Jacket. We appreciate your suggestions and feedback and we look forward to bringing you more news, especially from classmates, as our program grows.*

**Class of 1945 Stanley A. Ransom Jr. '45** "I have been proud to be a Gilbert School graduate. It was fine preparation for the world outside the School." Stan keeps busy with volunteer work in a lovely Adirondack Mountains community, where he lives with his wife Chris. They have four grown children and one granddaughter. Stan is also a folk musician known as The Connecticut Peddler, performing old time music, folklore and regional music of New York State. He plays hammered dulcimer, guitar, Autoharp, mandolin, and a few other instruments. Stan invites you to visit his website at [www.stanransom.com](http://www.stanransom.com).

**Class of 1960 Jane (Hoxie) Quinn '60** "I was thrilled to receive a newsletter from The Gilbert School. I believe most graduates are interested to some degree in the happenings at their alma mater. To this end, the newsletter is a means. I do hope it will continue...thanks for the memories."

**Class of 1989 Astrid (Haskins) Robitaille '89 and Raymond Robitaille '89** "Wow! A literary magazine! And what strides in technology! You are to be commended for meeting the 21<sup>st</sup> century head-on! What a valuable link to the past and bridge to the future—and long past due. We enjoyed reading about the many changes and impressive accomplishments Gilbert has witnessed, as well as catching up on the lives of other graduates. We truly feel we were and continue to be part of a special community of Gilbert alumni. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call—we'd love to be able to give back a little of what we were given. Best wishes and here's to a successful newsletter!"



**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**