

Thistle TALK

LOOKING FORWARD:
STRATEGIC
PRIORITIES

Winchester Thurston School

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Dr. David Seward

Latin Students Help in Development of Duolingo Latin Course

WT's Upper School Latin students and teacher Dr. David Seward contributed more than 3,000 sentences to Duolingo's newly launched Latin course.

The August 28, 2019 edition of *TribLive* reported the following:



Latin may be a dead language, but it is very much alive on Duolingo.

The Pittsburgh-based language learning company recently debuted its first Latin course for English speakers. Nearly 24,000 people had signed up for notifications about the course before it even launched, according to Duolingo.

"The idea now is to get as many people to take the course to find ways to improve it," Seward said. "They're going to be able to improve the course by offering alternative translations. My students are aces at finding ways to translate in ways I wouldn't have thought of. The course just gets better and better."

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ThistleTalk is published by Winchester Thurston School for alumnae/i, parents, students, and friends of the school. Letters and suggestions are welcome.

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Mission

Winchester Thurston School actively engages each student in a challenging and inspiring learning process that develops the mind, motivates the passion to achieve, and cultivates the character to serve.

Equity and Inclusion Statement

As a means to fulfill our credo, "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others," Winchester Thurston will be an inclusive community and will pursue the social and pedagogical benefits that diversity brings. We will place the highest value on enabling students to understand their own cultural identity and those of others. It is our moral imperative to be courageous and intentional in promoting understanding, addressing bias, identifying and honoring qualities of justice, respecting multiple perspectives and contributions, and valuing the dignity of all.

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Kindergarten students discover the essential elements of music and dance by exploring self-space, basic beats, and locomotor and non-locomotor movements.

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL | *Scott D. Fech, Ph.D.* 2

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Get more news, photos, and fun at
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Scott D. Fech

Setting our Strategic Priorities

Last January, we began the process of envisioning a bold future for our Dear Old WT. We wanted a direction that would allow us to build even further on our tradition of excellence and success and one that would continue to support our Mission to engage each student in a challenging and inspiring learning process that develops the mind, motivates the passion to achieve, and cultivates the character to serve. No small task in our changing world!

At the outset, I recognized that while we have many different basic tenets that guide our daily work, including our Mission, Credo, and Equity and Inclusion Statement, we had not formally defined a Philosophy of Teaching and Learning. Without this in place, our strategic priorities would be unmoored. Working together with faculty, staff, and administration, we agreed that we would be guided by our commitments to: Learn Passionately, Foster Community, Embrace Diversity, Break Boundaries, and Create Change. This philosophy is our Mission in practice and guides the learning experience at WT.

Simultaneously, we gathered and analyzed input from literally hundreds of people—from alumnae/i, to trustees, to current parents, to students, to faculty, staff, and administrators—and a clear picture emerged for our path forward. We are pleased to present WT's strategic vision for the future which establishes our priorities to:

"The bottom line is that we are committed to developing individuals of strong character and preparing them for the demands of a changing world."

Reimagine Learning, Rethink Time and Space, Strengthen Community, and Support Employees. I hope you will spend some time reading more about WT's future on page 4.

Why has WT chosen this direction for our work? The answer lies all around us. Many of the traditional school and career pathways that have existed for so long are becoming extinct. Even areas we once thought were "technology proof" are incorporating technology in ways one would never have thought possible. Robotic surgery, driverless vehicles, financial analysis and reporting, and so much more continue to evolve in ways that we could not have imagined 10 years ago. And how do we better understand the impact of these changes? One way is by speaking with our alumnae/i who have shared the qualities needed to be successful in work today. [See page 10.]

The bottom line is that we are committed to developing individuals of strong character and preparing them for the demands of a changing world.

This fall, at Reunion 2019, I had yet another opportunity to listen and learn about WT's storied history. It is always wonderful

to hear the memories, and see the smiles, as relationships between lifelong friends are rekindled and strengthened. The women from the Class of 1969, celebrating their 50th reunion, answered questions from our fifth graders about their time as WT students, and for the first time, we gathered alums of color for a brunch and conversation led by WT's Director of Equity and Inclusion, Diane Nichols. If

you were not able to join us at Reunion this year, we share some of the special moments of the weekend with you beginning on page 20.

We are so grateful for all of your support. So many of you continue to give back, year after year, and to partner with us as we transform the lives of our students through the WT experience. We know that we will not be able to accomplish our vision without your help. We are proud to recognize so many of you in the annual giving report on page 24 and at winchesterthurston.org/thankyou.

On behalf of all of us at Winchester Thurston School, I wish you all good things in 2020. I look forward to our paths crossing at a Your City as Our Campus event or back home in Pittsburgh.

Purpose-driven Designer, Architect, Artist Named President of Board



Paul Rosenblatt was elected President of WT's Board of Trustees in June. Rosenblatt, founder of Springboard Design, is an award-winning architect whose firm is nationally recognized for their architecture and planning work with museums and other public-facing organizations. Rosenblatt was a member of Theaster Gates' Place Lab Ethical Redevelopment Salon, a social learning network focused on arts-driven city building and neighborhood transformation. In addition, he is founding director of Creator Square Johnstown, host of the Museum Expansion Workshop, and an artist whose work has been exhibited nationally.

Rosenblatt and his wife, Petra Fallaux, are parents to Lucas Rosenblatt '15, a Brown graduate who is working on artificial intelligence development, and Ella Rosenblatt '17, a member of the Brown University Class of 2021.

Welcome to our New Board Members



Deborah L. Acklin '80 is President and Chief Executive Officer of WQED, the nation's first community-owned public media company. In 2018, she oversaw WQED's production of *Tree of Life: A Concert for Peace and Unity*, which aired on PBS stations nationwide. Acklin is active on a variety of boards and advisory boards, both locally and nationally.



Susan Hunter '72 has a 35+ year career in financial management, including the role of Senior Vice President, Head of Public Relations and Communications for Allianz Global Investors Capital. She is Chair of independent wealth management

firm Hunter Associates Inc., President of the Clark Hunter Foundation, a trustee for the Leigh Tison Charitable Trust, and serves on the Board of Trustees for the Frick Art and Historical Museum.



Brandon Nicholson is a founding principal of Nicholson Kovalchick (NK) Architects. He is passionate about reducing the impact of buildings on global climate change, utilizing his research and development projects to establish a cost-effective method to

deliver net-zero energy buildings now. Nicholson and his wife, Shanna Kovalchick, have two sons at WT: Benjamin (Class of 2026) and Joshua (Class of 2030).



Edward Perrin is President and Group CEO of Karndean Designflooring, a global supplier of commercial and residential luxury vinyl tile flooring. A UK native, Perrin is a member and has served on the Board of the Pittsburgh Young

Presidents Organization and is a member of the Children's Hospital Trust. Perrin and his wife, Katy, have two children: Xander (Class of 2026) and Lucia.



Keith Recker, an author, color forecaster, and editor, was recently appointed as Editor-in-Chief of TABLE Magazine. He also is the Founder and Editor of HAND/EYE Magazine, an online publication that profiles forward-looking creators, faraway

cultures, ancient craft traditions, and cutting-edge design. Recker and his husband, James Mohn, are the parents of daughter Katherine Recker-Mohn (Class of 2024).



Andrew N. Stewart has been involved with the development and management of real estate projects for more than 30 years. He is a principal at Silk and Stewart Development Group, which leases and manages commercial properties. Stewart has three children

attending WT: Dania (Class of 2023) and twins Emma and Zachary (Class of 2021).

Every single skill that students need in order to be successful adults is practiced, developed, and supported through play—on the playground, in the garden, and in the block and dress-up corners. Here, Pre-K students (L-R) Parker Lutchansky, Elena Kyriacopoulos, and Ruby Dunn are getting a great start on mastering imagination, assertion, creativity, cooperation, autonomy, and gross and fine motor skills.





A Mindset for the Future: Strategic Priorities

In September, after months of development, WT unveiled its strategic vision. This clearly articulated set of priorities—Reimagine Learning, Rethink Time and Space, Strengthen Community, and Support Employees—is designed to position WT to develop individuals of strong character and prepare them for the demands of a changing world.

“This vision is about a mindset for the future,” declares Head of School Dr. Scott D. Fech. “It’s a new approach to say that we embrace the fact that there’s a lot of uncertainty about what the future will hold, and that we can prepare our students to be able to adapt to whatever that looks like.”

And, it is a remarkable evolution from plans guiding WT in the past.

Part of the Everyday Work

“This is not a big binder of dozens and dozens of tasks assigned to an individual,” Fech explains. “This is far more about us selecting the big ideas that we are going to pursue, and understanding that we want to be nimble in that pursuit. We used to believe we could plan and predict for five, ten years from now, but that no longer works because the world is changing so rapidly.”

“There are priorities that speak to the long-term vision of the school and other priorities that are smaller and actionable in each individual’s practice,”

adds Assistant Head for Educational Strategy Adam Nye, who led the development process. “We wanted a strategic process that is continuous, that is part of our everyday work, that is dynamic and always evolving.”

And, the priorities are purposely intertwined with the intention to instill a sense of innovation and curiosity into the community while creating the structures and processes that empower people to always be improving.

“It’s self-evident that if the world is changing, we need to reimagine learning to account for that. And, in order for that to happen, we have to look differently at classroom space—and the definition of a school day and a school year,” Fech notes. “Likewise, if we don’t have a strong community, and we’re not supporting a highly talented, highly committed group of people, then we can’t possibly reimagine learning. Now that we’ve identified these priorities, there’s no way for me to separate one from the other.”

Philosophy of Teaching and Learning

Undergirding the strategic design's four priorities is WT's Philosophy of Teaching and Learning—Learn Passionately, Foster Community, Embrace Diversity, Break Boundaries, and Create Change—a set of guiding principles that is, at its core, the school's Mission in practice.

"I see our Philosophy of Teaching and Learning as a way to hold ourselves accountable to what we say we're going to do. So when we think about Reimagine Learning, for example, the Philosophy of Teaching and Learning gives us license to be bold around that and say, let's look at this differently than what other schools are doing. Let's really embrace City as Our Campus and progressive education and place-based learning, so that when people take a peek inside WT, they say, 'Wow, there really is something different and unique about what they are doing,'" observes Fech.

The WT Difference

The difference exemplified by WT's strategic priorities is due in large part to the novel, inclusive, and deeply comprehensive process by which the plan

was developed. Input was sought from every WT constituency in the form of focus groups, listening sessions, surveys, and individual conversations. One vision emerged, derived and distilled from those many voices.

"We wanted a process that empowered and motivated people to be a part of the school's evolution so that they could not only see themselves in the future direction of the school, but also have ownership and responsibility for pursuing that vision within their own work and sphere of influence," affirms Nye.

WT faculty are gratified—and galvanized—by the opportunity to contribute their voices, experiences, and expertise to the shaping of that evolution.

"We are reconsidering how we learn and teach. This means we have to step into new experiences in order to figure out how we can help one another be better," enthuses Middle School Math teacher Charis Walker. "I am excited to engage in work that is new and exploratory as we redesign our learning environment."

"I see my input most reflected in the Reimagine Learning section of the strategic design," adds North



One aspect of the Middle School advisory program is to challenge students to learn to collaborate in diverse ways to accomplish learning targets. Here, sixth grader James Harrison (R) interacts with his advisor, Middle School Math teacher Charis Walker (L), to determine each other's birthdates without using their voices.



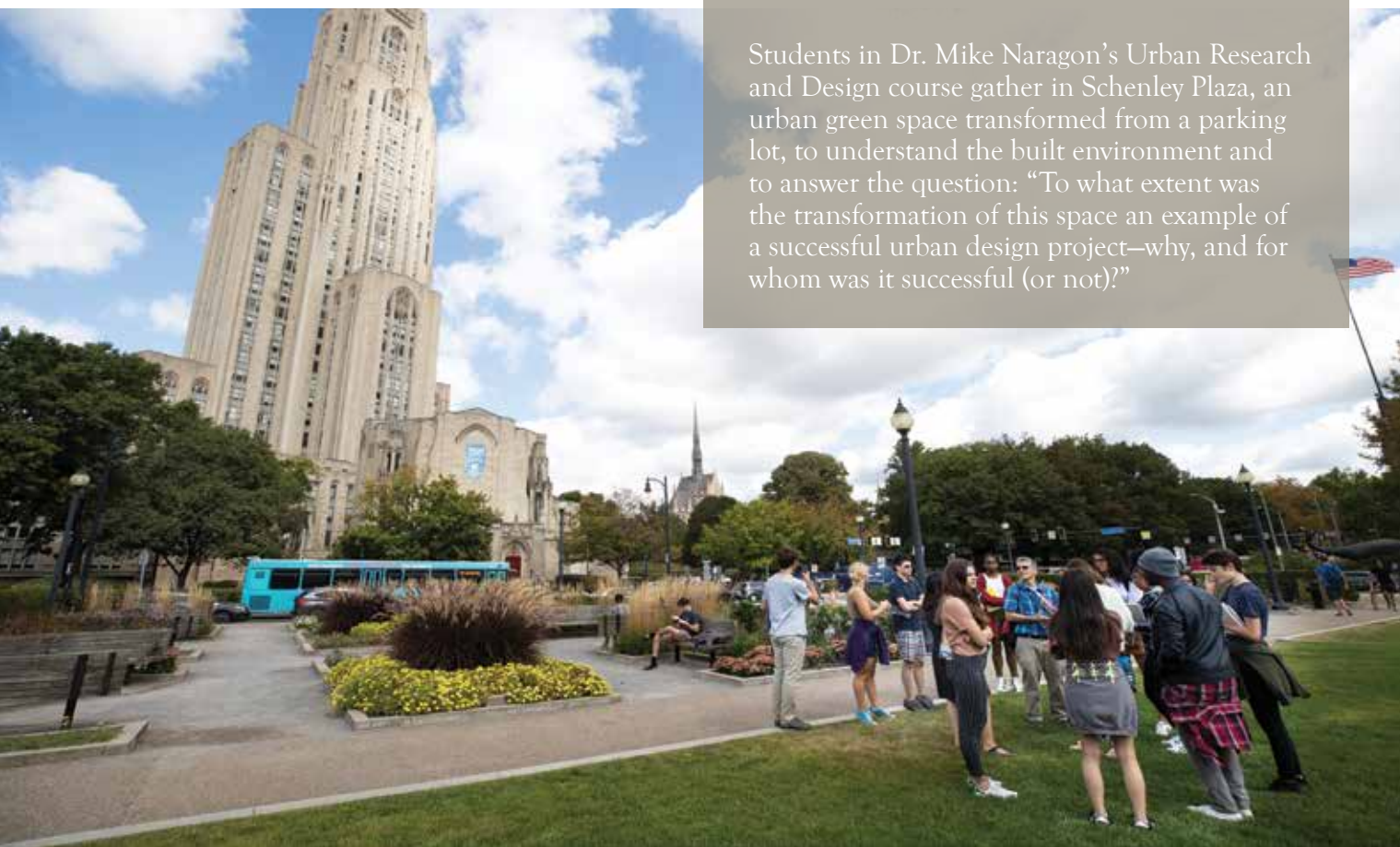
The North Campus provides a unique setting for learning. During a letter hunt in the woods, children select two letters that they are in charge of finding or making out of natural materials. Here, Kindergarten students Genevieve Knickelbein (L) and Rory Zbanic (R) collaborate to determine the materials they will need (sticks, rocks, and leaves), and to establish a plan for making their letters.



Middle School French students play “rock, paper, scissors” for brain breaks after periods of French conversation. This fun activity gives students’ minds a rest from intensive listening, so they can be fully present when they dive back into conversation. (L-R) Seventh graders Rosie Staresinic and Mikayla Nowlin



Graffiti artist Max Gonzales visited Urban Art, taught by Visual Arts teacher Mary Martin '88, to explore graffiti writing as an art form. In addition to learning about contemporary graffiti techniques, students also made connections with traditional calligraphy lettering, fundamental design principles, color theory, and physics. Here, senior Max Lasky puts the finishing touches on his piece.



Students in Dr. Mike Naragon's Urban Research and Design course gather in Schenley Plaza, an urban green space transformed from a parking lot, to understand the built environment and to answer the question: "To what extent was the transformation of this space an example of a successful urban design project—why, and for whom was it successful (or not)?"

Campus Science teacher Brock Perkins. "During a conversation with Adam [Nye], I suggested that we carefully consider the research about learning and the brain, and use it to inform teaching and learning at WT. I am thrilled that the intention to 'deepen and expand our commitment to innovative student-centered pedagogy, curricula, and practice anchored in real-world connections' is woven into the fabric of this design."

Through the Lens of Equity and Inclusion

Also woven into the fabric of the design—intentionally, inextricably, incontrovertibly—is WT's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Instead of assigning DEI a specific priority, the strategic priorities in their entirety are designed to be viewed through the lens of Equity and Inclusion.

"When we put equity and inclusion in its own silo, it makes it harder for it to impact the other pieces—like instruction, like our outreach with our alums, like our engagement with our parents—because different people need different

things, and so just like we differentiate instruction for all students, we need to differentiate our approach in everything that we're doing," declares Fech.

"Our youngest generations have more diversity of identity and perspective than any other generation in our country's history," Nye points out. "Their expectations for us, and the incredibly difficult issues they will have to address in the future, give us a mandate to evolve as a school so that they can properly tackle those issues."

"What I like about this is...."

The egalitarian, inclusive approach to developing WT's new strategic priorities is one that Fech intends will continue to define his work at WT. "This is my 17th year as an administrator, 27th year or so as an educator," he notes. "Never have I witnessed in the presentation of strategic priorities that the first words out of people's mouths in reaction to it are, 'What I like about this is...' That's so exciting. That tells me we're on to something."

To learn more about WT's strategic vision, visit winchesterthurston.org/strategicvision.

The Untold Stories Around Identity: DEI Work Launches New Academic Year



Brea Heidelberg '02

During the opening meetings for the 2019-2020 school year, the building blocks of WT's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) practices shaped an extraordinary in-service workshop inspired in part by Brea Heidelberg '02. Heidelberg had contacted Head of School Dr. Scott D. Fech to ask if he was ready to put action behind his promise to make DEI a key component of WT's strategic vision. The answer—an unequivocal yes—led to the groundbreaking session for faculty and staff that opened with a frank conversation between Heidelberg and Fech, and culminated in a discussion among students of diverse identities.

"The decision to have Brea speak to the community was a direct result of her honest and candid reflection of how race defined her WT experience in ways the community was unaware," explains Director of Equity and Inclusion Diane Nichols.

Among the issues addressed was the critical distinction between genuine allies or advocates versus well-meaning people being nice. "Brea talked about people—both inside and outside the school—who supported her in ways that allowed her to navigate the space successfully, who taught her lessons about how to remain engaged, despite discomfort, and who created spaces and engaged in dialogue that demonstrated awareness and authentic curiosity about Heidelberg's struggles," notes Nichols.

"That whole day helped all of us to think about the layers of stories that are not told, the untold stories around identity and their impact on a student's ability to learn."

Current students then took center stage, participating in a "fishbowl exercise" to share how identity impacts their learning experience at WT. In this exercise, the students engaged in discussion with each other while faculty and staff listened intently as stories flowed: about learning differences, mental health and wellness, having an international background, being a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and more.

"Students spoke about ways in which the school supports and affirms their identities, and ways in which they feel they're not reflected in the curriculum, activities, or programming that exists in the school," says Nichols. "That whole day helped all of us to think about the layers of stories that are not told, the untold stories around identity and their impact on a student's ability to learn."

In the end, says Nichols, "We have to think about how people experience life based on their identity. At WT, we are developing an infrastructure and opportunities to ensure that equitable and inclusive practices become second nature. We have to remain vigilant and aware because we are all more than what others assume we are."



A View into Today's Workplace

In today's quickly changing world, where many of tomorrow's jobs have not yet been conceived, we asked several alums what qualities they need to be successful in today's workplace. Across a wide spectrum of industries, WT alums are finding their path and making a difference by practicing empathy and idealism, by leading the charge with solidarity, by embracing adaptability, and even by recognizing others' super powers.

Sierra Laventure-Volz '05
Infrastructure Consultant
WSP USA

I work with public transit agencies and cities to develop, fund, and implement infrastructure projects that move people through neighborhoods, cities, and regions faster and easier.

While a student at WT, I was taught to think critically, idealistically, and creatively. As the workplace changes, it's important not to let those teachings fall away. Don't want to be in an office from 9-to-5 every day? Great! Forward-thinking companies are continuing to engage a younger workforce in defining work environments. Want to work somewhere that allows you to work from the beach? Those exist! Want to work a job that maintains a work-life balance that allows you



Sierra hard at work!

time to start your own company? We can do it! However, I always remember the enormous privilege of having attended WT. My choice to create my dream work life is a privilege that the majority don't have. To "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others" might just be the best skill with which WT has prepared us.

Linsey McDaniel A'96
Consultant
Self-employed

I support nonprofits and community organizations with program development, project management, and strategic planning.

Noticing and encouraging everyone's strengths has served me well in the workplace. It takes a team to be successful and successful teams feel valued. Any time people are underutilized, undervalued, or ignored, the

organization will stagnate. Being attuned to the best role people can play requires a mindset that assumes that everyone has a voice and something unique to contribute—not that they are just good or bad at a particular job. A little willingness to get to know people, and curiosity about their secret super power goes a long way. It's amazing how people flourish and thrive when they can apply their own personalities, work style, skills, and interests towards accomplishing a goal.

Don Michael Mendoza '06
Executive Artistic Director
LA TI DO Productions

I seek out new performers, collaborators, and content for our cabarets, concerts, full-length theatre, and events.

I believe that empathy and honest listening skills are very important to today's work force because in a society that is highly divided in almost all aspects, that is what will get goals accomplished and milestones reached. In my line of work, I collaborate with all different kinds of people from all walks of life that differ from me whether it be gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or any combination of the above. As the leader, and in most cases the face,



Don Michael Mendoza '06

of my organization, I can only be successful if I am truly sensitive to the needs of each individual and am listening fully to the messaging they want to deliver. This in turn allows for empathy to find a safe and inclusive middle ground to build connection.



(L-R) Linsey McDaniel A'96, Susanne 'Sue' Monteith '64, and Becky Sweet O'Connor '64 at Reunion 2019



Brandilyn Dumas '99 (L) and Joy Titus-Young '92 (R) at Reunion 2019

Joy Titus-Young '92
US Pharmacopeia
Deputy Director, Global Stakeholder Engagement

I develop, maintain, and enhance relationships with external stakeholders for science and healthcare practitioners.

One of the critical qualities that has allowed me to be successful is my ability to recognize organizational needs and offer solutions. I am also a connector with a broad knowledge of my organization and can identify opportunities that are mutually beneficial to those with whom I maintain relationships. Throughout my career, I have been open to pursuing roles that align with my

strengths and identifying when I need additional training or education. I have been able to build trust by allowing people to be their authentic selves. In turn, I have established long lasting relationships that have spanned my career.

Christopher Bangs '10
Associate Attorney
O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue

I help represent my law firm's clients, primarily labor unions, and their affiliated pension funds.

Today's workplace is defined by highly unequal bargaining power between workers and management. Wages for college graduates are often far lower than expected, and positions are often far more precarious than we expect. And the picture is bleaker for people who do not go to college, unless going into a skilled trade. The cause of this anguish and precarity: the erosion of good, middle-class jobs. In my experience, joining together in a union with coworkers to demand better wages and working conditions is the only way to get broad-based gains and means we can sit across from our bosses as equals. Against extreme power disparities, the only solution is solidarity.



(L-R) Brandon Palladino, Helen Bunker '10, Alaina Ferry '10, Isabel 'Izzy' Zehner '10, Christopher Bangs '10, and Conor Arpey at Fallingwater

Max Zissu '15
Area Manager
Amazon

I plan, organize, and manage the shift operations within my area of the fulfillment center. Additionally, I lead and develop a team of associates to ensure quality and productivity standards are met.

About five months into this position, I have found that the most crucial skills needed to be successful are problem-solving and the ability to adapt in different situations. Every shift is different and can bring about unfamiliar circumstances, and the success of the shift is dependent on how we, as a team of managers, can adjust to ensure that shift plan goals are met. Additionally, with the continued growth of Amazon, there are new programs, pieces of technology, and initiatives that are implemented on a rolling basis. Because of that, the ability to stay updated on what is changing in the building and analyze how it affects my area or could affect my associates is a key skill to possess, as it is important to be able to properly communicate these changes and help explain the different processes to all of the associates. Ultimately, in this type of work setting, there are constant changes as we try to search for the most efficient ways of performing each process, and it is my job as an Area Manager to be able to adapt plans and strategies, while providing the best information for all of my associates.



Critical Qualities for Success in Today's Workplace: Q&A with Dr. Sarah Goldin

Just as WT alums are navigating seismic shifts in the workplace, current students will also confront unforeseen career changes. To steer through those challenges, research scientist Dr. Sarah Goldin of Greenwich Leadership Partners—WT's strategic design consultants—says certain qualities and a particular mindset are essential.

Q: How is the changing landscape of the workplace impacting the qualities that are necessary for students to succeed in the job market?

A: First, it's important to understand what's driving the changes. Advances in the technology field, mobile internet, and cloud technology, plus advances in computer power and big data change the way information moves. At the same time, global migration has increased, so people are moving differently, and more people are moving. And, the freelance economy has dramatically increased, leading to more flexible work environments.

Q: So what skill sets are needed to navigate this change?

A: Both cognitive and interpersonal skill sets are required. Rather than hiring for a specific technical skill, companies are saying, 'We'll teach people what they need to know in terms of hard technical skills,' because by the time someone is hired, the technical skill will likely be irrelevant. Instead, what employers will hire for is cognitive flexibility and a stance toward learning.

Q: Can you share more specifically what this might look like?

A: Employers are looking for the ability to communicate clearly, to collaborate, and a well-developed sense of how to respond to setbacks and ambiguity. We often talk about critical problem-solving, but it's more than that—it's 'problem-framing,' or 'perspective-taking.' It is the ability to articulate a needed outcome, to immerse yourself in the situation from multiple perspectives, and then to synthesize what you learn from each perspective.

Q: How can our students apply their current skills in a way that best prepares them for the future?

A: The reality is that what you're doing now is probably going to require a different skill set by the time you're 25. So use it now, contribute to the world now, and have it mean something in the present. If we focus more on living, learning, and doing in an impactful way in the present, we are actually preparing students better for their future, because they become more nimble, adaptable, cognitively flexible, empathetic, solutions-oriented people who understand the intersection between different disciplines in a way that's usable instead of purely theoretical.



Dr. Sarah Goldin, Greenwich Leadership Partners

ICYMI*

Experience a taste of some of the great things happening at WT! Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and visit winchesterthurston.org to keep up-to-date.



Environmental Scientists on the Three Rivers

As part of City as Our Campus, fifth grade students morphed into scientists while traveling Pittsburgh's famous three rivers, analyzing living and nonliving indicators of water quality to determine if the rivers are healthy aquatic habitats.



Lower School and Middle School Cross Country Soars

With the highest participation in the history of the program, Lower School and Middle School Cross Country teams earned multiple trophies and medals throughout the season.



Students Stand for Climate Action

Middle and Upper School students participated in a global, youth-led Climate Strike on September 20, and brought the message to WT by encouraging faculty across all disciplines to add an environmental twist to their curriculum on that day.

**In Case You Missed It*



Street Art to Self-Portraits

After studying various types of street art, seventh grade Visual Arts students created mixed-media backgrounds for their self-portrait stencils.

Building Community on the

NORTH CAMPUS

Lower School students enjoyed a night of games, storytelling, mazes, and fall fun at the second annual Friday Night Live Camp-Out sleepover at the North Campus. Students reminisced about their favorite summer camp memories and enjoyed the trails and outdoor beauty.



Student-designed CUSTOM SWIM FINS Aid WT Alumna

A request from alumna Amy Jones Teele '82 (a double below-the-knee amputee) inspired Rachel Sadeh '19, Hannah Woo '19, and senior Aria Eppinger to devote their 2019 STEM Symposium project to the development of custom, affordable swimming prostheses. More on this story and other STEM Symposium projects can be found at winchesterthurston.org/stem.



Understanding Identity through Windows, Doors, and Mirrors

Using their summer reading as a lens for equity and inclusion work, sixth grade English students explored how books can be “windows” (an exploration into someone else’s identity or experience), “mirrors” (a way to see themselves or their identities reflected), or “sliding doors” (an opening to walk through and become part of someone else’s full experience).



Examining Social Justice in Art

Students in Lit City—an Upper School English elective that explores how Pittsburgh inspires and marks its writers and artists—visited St. Nicholas Croatian Catholic Church to study Croatian artist Maxo Vanka’s murals. These 25 murals, created between 1937 and 1941, showcase the immigrant experience in America while expressing Vanka’s passionate beliefs about social justice, injustice, and the horrors of war.

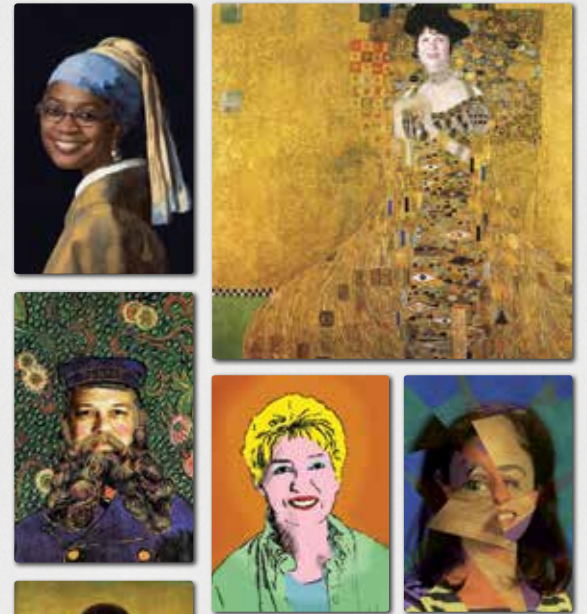
MASTERS AT WORK

This fall, the WT community enjoyed a gallery show featuring 2D- and 3D-showpieces by WT’s talented Visual Arts faculty—Sally Allan, Michele Farrell, Stephanie Flati, Kate Gugliotta, Carl Jones, and Mary Martin ’88.



Cultural Exchange Builds Global Citizens

In September, WT fourth and fifth grade students at both campuses welcomed students from our sister school, Peking University Elementary School. This annual, two-week immersion and cultural exchange enhances each student’s understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.



Masters at Work

Showpieces from WT Visual Arts Faculty

SHOW DATES:

August 29 - October 16, 2019

ARTIST RECEPTION:

Thursday, October 3, 2019

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Winchester Thurston School



Fall Athletics: **State, WPIAL, and Section Champs**

The Bears were at it again! Highlights include: the Boys Cross Country team won the PIAA Class A State Championship, and for the fourth consecutive year, was the WPIAL Class A Champion; the Boys Soccer team competed in the PIAA Class A State Championship game and was the WPIAL Class A Section 2 Co-Champion; and the Girls Tennis team earned spots in the Singles, Doubles, and Team WPIAL Championships.



Stronger than Hate

and ways to combat it in conjunction with a "Stronger than Hate" day, which they organized.

In remembrance of the victims of the massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue, the Middle School Diversity Club gave a presentation about antisemitism



Fulfilling Pre-K "Hopes and Dreams"

Pre-K students drive their learning by setting "hopes and dreams" to achieve throughout the school year. They can now check off their list "learning about fire safety and exploring a firetruck," thanks to a visit from local firefighters!

REUNION 2019

Reunion brought alums from across the country together from October 4–6 to reconnect with friends and faculty, and to witness WT in action today. Friday began with a tea with fifth grade students, followed by opportunities to sit in on classes. Classmates Sarah Rackoff '99 and Brandilyn 'Brandi' Dumas '99 met with members of the Feminist Student Union and Black Student Union. The Reunion Luncheon provided the opportunity to right a wrong when Suzanne Motheral '69 was presented with her diploma which had been withheld at the time of

her graduation. The Welcome Back Reception saw an intermingling of alumnae/i from across the generations.

On Saturday, alums played field hockey and soccer, enjoyed a BBQ lunch, and explored, with Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, the sites of some of the original buildings that housed Winchester Thurston's predecessor schools.

On Sunday Alums of Color had an inaugural gathering to share their stories, learn about Equity and Inclusion at WT, and brainstorm ways of supporting the student experience.



The Class of 1969 celebrates their 50th Reunion. (Back Row, L-R): Sheila Rollit Tetler, Lisa Carlson, Joan Musgrave Wickham, Sherry Weissman Schweitzer, Rita Pyzdrowski Meouchy, Alice May Succop Burger, Kathleen 'Kathy' King Casey, Elsie Heard McAdoo, Wendy Beale Needham; (Front Row, L-R): Deborah 'Debbie' Ford Rathnam, Peggy Thomas McKnight, Juliet Landon Lescynski, Christine McGowan Hess, Jean 'Mimi' McCloskey Dow, Linnea 'Linnie' Pearson McQuiston, Suzanne Motheral, Patricia 'Pat' Maykuth, Annette Santella McNeil.



Alumnae observe a Russian History class taught by Dr. Joshua Andy.



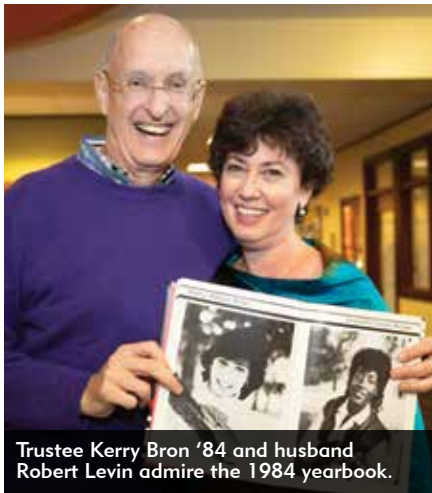
Class of 1969 classmates Sherry Weissman Schweitzer (L) and Mimi McCloskey Dow (R) hug in the Alumnae/i Lounge.



Suzanne Motheral embraces Head of School Dr. Scott D. Fech after receiving her diploma from President of the Board of Trustees Paul Rosenblatt.



(Back Row, L-R): Spanish Teacher Carlos Canuelas-Pereira, Natalie Heywood '15, Joy Titus-Young '92, Brandilyn Dumas '99, Jimyse Brown '10, Interim Director of Athletics Bill Fitch; (Front Row, L-R): Director of Equity and Inclusion Diane Nichols, Visual Arts Teacher Mary Martin '88, Special Events Coordinator Dana Jackson, and Lisa Baldwin-Youngblood '84.



Trustee Kerry Bron '84 and husband Robert Levin admire the 1984 yearbook.



Fifth graders interview Linnie Pearson McQuiston (L) and Elsie Heard McAdoo (R) and classmates about school and life in the late 1960s.



Micah Monah '13 (L) reignites his soccer skills on the field on Saturday.



(L-R) Becky Sweet O'Connor '64, Susanne 'Sue' Monteith '64, and Joan Clark Davis '65 delight over yearbooks before heading on the tour of former Winchester Thurston buildings.



Pamela Shugerman '80 (L) and daughter Stephanie Shugerman '19 (R) display their field hockey skills.



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

Get more news, photos, and fun at winchesterthurston.org/digitalthistle

We look forward to seeing you at Reunion 2020: October 16 and 17.

Help make Reunion 2020 a success! Volunteer ideas for how to mark the occasion, get involved with the plans, or track down classmates. Email Amiena Mahsoob at mahsooba@winchesterthurston.org or call 412-578-7511.



Miss Mitchell Society

In 2002, Winchester Thurston created the Miss Mitchell Society to thank and recognize the many generous donors whose bequests and planned gifts continue to expand the vision of founder Dr. Mary A. Graham Mitchell.

Including Winchester Thurston in your will or trust, or adding WT as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, IRA, or 401(k), is a smart way to provide future tax savings while making a sizable impact. And, every planned giving donor becomes a member of the Miss Mitchell Society—membership requires no particular gift or bequest amount.

If you have made a provision for WT in your estate plans, we would love to welcome you as a member of the Miss Mitchell Society. For more information, or to let us know of your intentions, please contact Monica Manes Gay, Director of Advancement, at gaym@winchesterthurston.org or 412-578-3746.



Miss Mitchell Society Members

WT salutes the generosity and support of this very special group of alumnae/i and friends. Following are the current living members of our community who have remembered WT in their estate planning.

Betsy Aiken '72	Anna-Stina Ericson '44	Gretchen Larson	Henry Posner III
Suzanne LeClere	Robert I. Glimcher	Maslanka '83	Kathy Zillweger
Barley '52	Barbara Graves-	Marga Matheny '64	Putnam '71
Loretta Lobes	Poller '93	Patricia L. Maykuth '69	Susan Crip
Benec '88	Rosanne Isay	Beverlee Simboli	Santa-Cruz '60
Barbara Abney	Harrison '56	McFadden '55	Jennifer M. Scanlon
Bolger '52	Kathryn W. Kruse '58	Kathleen L. Metinko '91	Sheen Sehgal '89
Kathleen W. Buechel	Elsa Limbach	Frances P. Minno	Virginia A. Sheppard '41
Joan Clark Davis '65	Louise Baldridge	Bee Jee Epstine	Allyson Baird Sveda '84
Judith Rohrer Davis '57	Lytle '51	Morrison '56	Gaylen Westfall,
Judith Ellenbogen '58	Carole Oswald	Eileen Mauclair	Honorary Alumna
Justine Diebold	Markus '57	Muse '61	Carol Spear Williams '57
Englert '59			

Please visit www.winchesterthurston.org/missmitchell for the complete list.



Learning has real allure here at WT.

It's a fun, creative, immersive experience.
It's tapping into imagination, learning new ways to communicate, taking risks, and
working with teachers who care for the well-being of each student.

Cultivate a love of learning with a WT Fund gift; large or small, every gift counts.

Visit winchesterthurston.org/gift, or contact Michelle Wion Chitty
at 412-578-3748 or wionm@winchesterthurston.org.

THE WT  FUND



Winchester Thurston School's 2018-2019 Annual Giving Report

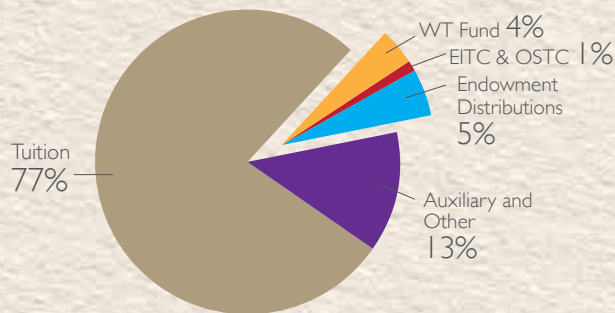
There's a reason WT is the place where smart meets heart.
It takes the hearts and hands of many. We couldn't do it without you!

Each year, philanthropic support makes up 10% of our operating budget.

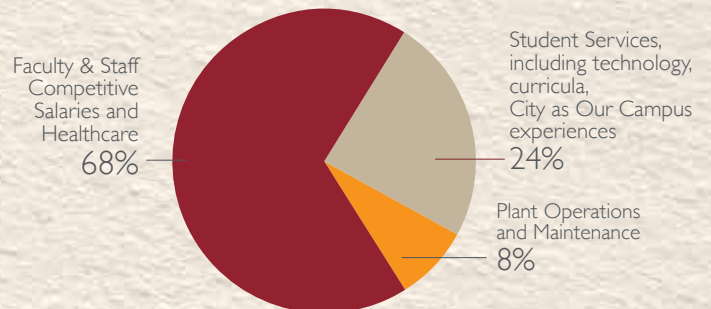
That support (including the WT Fund, endowment, and the Earned Income/Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit programs) is critical to our everyday Mission and magnifies each experience. In every building and outdoor classroom, and on every stage and athletic field, you have helped to create an environment where learning is effective and equitable, and where our students and teachers are valued.

WT's 2018-2019 Annual Budget by the Numbers

WT'S ANNUAL REVENUE



WT'S ANNUAL EXPENSES



Here is just a small sample of what your WT Fund gift made possible in the 2018-2019 school year:

- City as Our Campus partnerships and experiences
- Financial Aid to support more than one-third of our students
- New playground equipment at the North Campus
- Equity and Inclusion opportunities for faculty, students, and families
- Professional development opportunities for faculty
- WTeachers Inspire Fund, providing support for the creation of a Machine Learning class







Philanthropy takes many forms.

In addition to the WT Fund, endowment and capital gifts help support WT's vision and development for the future.

Endowment: Long-term Planning

The Endowment represents a longer-term facet of our budget. It comprises charitable gifts given to create an investment principal that grows over time, and that remains a permanent piece of WT's future. A portion of the fund, 5%, is paid out on an annual basis and provides scholarships and programmatic enhancements.

Transformation: Gary Niels' Legacy and City as Our Campus

In 2018, then WT Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89 presented The Gary J. Niels Chair for City as Our Campus at a Leadership Dinner honoring Niels for his 16 years of service as Head of School. The first endowed chair at Winchester Thurston, it was established with nearly \$1.3 million in contributions.

Capital Gifts: Capital Improvements

Capital gifts make possible facility renovations and expansions, such as the recent renovation of the North Campus playground, the Upper School Dorrance Library, and the resurfacing of Garland Field at the City Campus.

Thanks for Giving.

We are grateful for the gifts given within the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Annual Giving
(WT Fund):
\$960,360

Capital
Commitments:
\$738,270

Endowment
Commitments:
\$ 412,455

Total Support: \$2,111,085

Our most precious asset: Volunteers



Installation Week

During Installation Week in October 2018, Winchester Thurston School formally welcomed Dr. Scott D. Fech as its 19th Head of School. We are grateful for the many members of our community who gave their valuable time to serve on the Head of School Search, Transition, and Installation Committees.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Paul Rosenblatt, Search Committee Chair
Kerry Bron '84, Transition Committee Chair
Kate Underwood-Herron, Installation Committee Co-Chair
Mary Lee Stenson, Installation Committee Co-Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sally Allan
Matt Bachner
Henry S. Beukema
Kristen A. Burns
Theresa Fox
Monica Manes Gay
Cindy Akers Gerber
Kenneth M. Lehn
Amiena Mahsoob
Connie Martin
Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89
Nancy-Rose Netchi
Diane Nichols
Adam Nye
Nadine Oury '19
Henry Posner III
Martin E. Powell
Rick Soria
Kelly Hanna Riley '91
Nancy Rogers
Dan Sadowski
Amanda Welsh
Michelle Wion Chitty
David Wollam



Benefit: Under the Big Top

An Evening Under the Big Top was a spectacular success with more than 360 event attendees; 81 silent auction items and experiences; five live auction items; juggling and dancing; and an amazing core of parent volunteers giving countless hours to raise \$90,000. Proceeds from the Benefit help WT provide financial aid to students who would otherwise be unable to attend.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

MaryJean Rusak, Benefit Chair
 Heather Brooks, Auction Sub-Committee Chair
 Yolanda Frank, Host Sub-Committee Chair
 Kate Underwood Herron, Volunteer Sub-Committee Chair
 Penny Montgomery and Mary Lee Stenson, Food, Entertainment, and Decorations Sub-Committee Co-Chairs

EVENT COMMITTEE:

Susan Allison
 Terri Bell
 Teresa Beshai
 Lise-Ann Brownold
 Mary Crossley
 Kim Daboo
 Melissa Fann
 Monica Manes Gay
 Allison Grodin
 April Hayes
 Shelby Holloway
 Kristen Keller
 Jennifer Kilgore
 Kimberly Moses
 Sara Papachristou
 Sarah Rizk
 Jane Schilling
 Tracey Schwartz
 Rick Soria
 Desiree Soteris
 Emily Spanovich
 Liz Stephan
 Katie Whitlatch
 Michelle Zaffary

HOST COMMITTEE:

Kristen & Brent Burns
 Heather Brooks & John Cawley
 Randi Coffey '78
 Scott Fech & Rick Soria
 Alaina Ferry '10
 Abby Robinson Foster '03 & Mike Foster
 Monica & Bruce Gay
 Allison & Adam Grodin
 Kate & Matt Herron
 Janet Harrison-Kuzmishin '87 & John Kuzmishin
 Shelby & Duane Holloway
 Linda King & Jeffrey Salipante
 Eleanor Schatz Magyar '67* & David Magyar
 Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89 & Paul McComb
 Kimberly & Darnell Moses
 Patty Constantin Orringer '68 & Bob Orringer
 Sara Papachristou
 Ida Posner '08
 Kelly Hanna Riley '91 & Patrick Riley
 Sarah & Robert Rizk
 MaryJean Rusak & Chuck Lupariello
 Anne Scheuermann '75
 Tracey Schwartz
 Sharon Semenza & Bill Robinson
 Desiree & Peter Soteris
 Mary Lee & John Stenson
 Maureen Sullivan '73
 Annie Alexander Tritsch '09 & Ben Tritsch
 Katie Whitlatch

SPONSORS:

UPMC Health Plan
 Howard Hanna Real Estate Services
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 Marcus & Shapira
 Central Maintenance
 Brandywine Agency, Inc.
 Metz Culinary Management
 SLAM
 Growing Seasons Landscapes



*Deceased

Lasting impact: Thistle Honor Roll

Much can change in 10 years. However, for nearly 215 devoted WT supporters, their belief in “Think also of the comfort and the rights of others” has held firm. Through life’s twists and turns, these treasured friends have made an ongoing commitment to the WT community.

Our Thistle Honor Roll recognizes those who have made WT a philanthropic priority for 10 or more continuous years. This diverse array of friends includes members of virtually every segment of the WT community, with nearly half consisting of alumnae/i spanning the classes of 1937 to 2007.

Composition of Thistle Honor Roll Donors:



We are particularly grateful to the following luminaries who have given for more than 30 consecutive years.

Anonymous (1)
Barbara Berkman Ackerman '58
Judy Ruben Alpert '64
Katherine Horner Anderson '58
Joan Frank Apt '44
Jean Forncrook Armstrong '44
Joanne Thomas Asbill '70
Patricia McClay Boggs '51
Barbara Abney Bolger '52
Lois Bron
Joan Clark Davis '65
Cynthia Costa Davis '68
Judith Rohrer Davis '57
Caroline Abraham Delavan '46
Susan Sharp Dorrance A'63 &
Roy Dorrance
Lois Kaplan Finkel '39

Mary George Gast '37
Jean Ballard George '44 & John George
Jane Gault Greer '56 & George Greer
Helen Berkman Habbert '70
Caryl Amshel Halpern '50 & Irving
Halpern
Rosanne Isay Harrison '56
Nancy Hetzel
Murray Armstrong James '44
Marion Thompson Kerwin '42
Sallie Gottlieb Korman '51
Jane Marshall Lohman '56
Louise Baldridge Lytle '51
Sally Colbaugh Marks '61
Carole Oswald Markus '57 &
Bill Markus
Judi Mosenson McCord '60

Linnea Pearson McQuiston '69 &
C. Wesley McQuiston
Brenda Wise Moffitt '54
Amy B. Nixon '73
E. Patricia Constantin Orringer '68
Lyn Clark Pegg '59
Melissa Reynolds Rizer '83
Janice Greenberg Rosenberg '53
Betsy Riddle Ruderfer '53
Jean Silvestri '72
Joanne Ross Simon '73 & Ben Simon
Donna Gow Taylor '59
Jane Arensberg Thompson '57 &
Harry A. Thompson II
Lois Graham Tingle '51
Gaylen Faller Westfall,
Honorary Alumna

In 2018–2019, we welcomed the following new members to the Thistle Honor Roll. Thank you for your continued support.

Anonymous (2)
Lynn & Steve Berman
Diane & Nat Cohen

Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Daboo
Marina & Ken Lehn
Callie Gropp '03

David A. Nassar
Gina Ruiz
Kathryn Stadler

For the full list of Thistle Honor Roll donors, visit www.winchesterthurston.org/thankyou.



Gentle in manner, strong in deed. 2018–2019 WT Fund Leadership Giving Clubs

The following individuals stepped forward as leaders and investors in the WT educational experience.

Leadership Society

Gifts of \$25,000+

Sheldon Marstine
Anne M. Molloy &
Henry Posner III
Kathy Zillweger Putnam '71
& George Putnam
The Sigal Family

Thistle Club

Gifts of \$15,000+

Carole Oswald Markus '57
& Bill Markus
Nancy & Woody Ostrow
Jane Arensberg Thompson '57
& Harry A. Thompson II

Founder's Club

Gifts of \$10,000+

Anonymous (1)
Cindy Akers Gerber
Dan & Leah Broudy
Elizabeth S. Hurtt '74
Jonathan Kuhn
Marina & Ken Lehn
Elsa Limbach
Adam & Lauren Sufrin

2nd Century Club

Gifts of \$5,000+

Anonymous (3)
Ms. Elaine Bellin &
Dr. Phyllis Coontz

Dr. Kerry Bron '84 &
Mr. Robert Levin
Bernita Buncher
Shelley & Doug Campbell
Lisa Whitcomb Capra '76
Simin & Gregory Curtis
Mr. & Mrs. Cyrus Daboo
Susan Sharp Dorrance A'63
& Roy Dorrance
The Eppinger Family
Margery Kamin Feitler '82
Susanna & Michael Finke
Linda J. Lear '58
Paula & Paul Lee
Dr. Helane & Mr. Don
Linzer

Kathleen L. Metinko '91
& Jan Rogers Kniffen
The Molder Family
Kelly Hanna Riley '91 &
Patrick Riley
Sara Viviano Rolley '68
Marcia & Victor Roque
Armando Rotondi &
Manny Cahouet-
Rotondi
Patricia & Norman
Sadeh
Mary Lee & John
Stenson



Making WT Possible for Others

Kathryn Kruse '58 talks of two adages that made a lasting impact on her during her time at WT. The first was written on a poster in her French class, and although the French vocabulary hasn't remained in her memory, its English translation has been a constant refrain in her life: "Failure is never defeat as long as you keep on trying." The second adage is the WT Credo: "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others." Each of these have made an impression on her life and have shaped her philanthropic efforts.

When she became a WT student in the tenth grade, she was thrilled that right away she had the camaraderie of her classmates—together they worked through the challenging and stimulating learning environment where she discovered that failure was never defeat. "I loved Winchester Thurston so much. My teachers and fellow students taught me that learning could be fun. They ignited my intellectual curiosity and instilled in me a lifelong love of learning," notes Kruse.

This singularly positive experience, tied to the echo of "Think Also" led Kruse to loyally support WT. "I want to play a small part in making it possible for someone else to have the same wonderful experiences I had at WT," she adds.

Most recently, Kruse included WT in her estate, endowing a fund that will provide support to the school's libraries. Books and libraries have always been important to her—her mother was a children's librarian and Kruse grew up surrounded by books and by people who loved reading. After receiving her undergraduate degree in zoology, and taking additional post-graduate classes in anatomy, Kruse decided to pursue a Master's degree in Library Sciences, leading her to a long career as a medical librarian. She has worked at the medical libraries of Johns Hopkins University, Duke University, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Because of alums like Kruse, and parents, faculty, and friends who are guided to "Think Also," WT is much more than an excellent independent school. It is a place where individuals of strong character are prepared for a changing world. For this, we are deeply grateful.

1887 Club

Gifts of \$2,500+

Jessica Bemer
Henry Beukema
Barbara Abney Bolger '52
Justine Diebold
Englert '59
Jane Gault Greer '56 &
George Greer
Dr. Janet Harrison
Kuzmishin '87 &
Mr. John Kuzmishin
Rosanne Isay Harrison '56
David Kamin
Jennifer B. Kaplan '86
MaryJean Rusak &
Chuck Lupariello
Gretchen Larson
Maslanka '83
Penelope & Thatcher
Montgomery
Frances Hoffman
Puntereri '68
Sharon Semenza &
William Robinson
Tracey Schwartz
Vanessa & Alexander
Spiro
Carole Bailey &
Andrew N. Stewart
Melissa & Ryan Vecchi
Toni & Howard Windows

Portal Club

Gifts of \$1,500+

Anonymous (1)
Renee & Ron Bartlett
Caryn Rubinoff &
Craig Dunham
Kathleen W. Buechel &
Frederick N. Egler
Scott Fech & Rick Soria
Abigail Robinson
Foster '03 &
Michael Foster
Eugenia & Robert
Friedlander
Giselle Hamad
Susan E. Hunter '72
Diane & John Katz
Jung Ho Lee and Jooyoung
Park

Bee Jee Epstine
Morrison '56
Maureen May &
Raj Narendran
Janice & Richard Pagliari
Sally Helsel Price '54
Keith Recker &
James Mohn
Sarah Irvin Riling '67
The Stephan Family
Suzanna & Antony Woo
Mousumi Moulik-Yechoor
& Vijay Yechoor

Fifth Avenue Club

Gifts of \$1,000+

Anonymous (5)
Kirsten & Shawn Albert
Su Min Cho &
Ali Al-Khafaji
Ann Cahouet
Helen Dorra &
Greg Casher
Holly Christman '73
Joan Clark Davis '65

Julie Tarasevich Dever '85
& Michael Dever
Jenifer Lee &
Howard Dubner
The Edwards Family
Constance Smith
Franklin '51
Mr. & Mrs. Robert I.
Glimcher
Catherine Grainger
Brian Hansberry
Catherine & John Harper
Adriana Jacoud &
Dirk Van Der Windt
Ivan Juzang
Carole King &
Chip Burke
Emsie Parker Kozloff '80
Diane Krause '78
Dr. & Mrs. George
Kuzmishin
Alison & Gregory
Langmead
Sharon & Benjamin
Liptzin
Louise Baldridge Lytle '51

Alice McKnight
Mackroth W'34
Kelly Maddox
Janet Rothman Markel '54
Dr. & Mrs. Stanley Marks
Jennifer Gonzalez
McComb '89 &
Paul McComb
Linnea Pearson
McQuiston '69 &
C. Wesley McQuiston
Mary Kay & Sudhir Narla
Shanna Kovalchick &
Brandon Nicholson
Katy & Edward Perrin
Deborah & Martin Powell
Nancy & Bill Rackoff
Melissa Reynolds Rizer '83
Mr. Stephen G. Robinson
Judith Sailer Rocker '58
Kris Rockwell
Lori Cardille Rogal &
James C. Rogal
Kathryn Rich Sherman '68
& Frederick Sherman
Angela & Kurt Small

Yoshimi & Hiroshi Sogawa
Heather & Paniti Sukumvanich
Maureen L. Sullivan '73
Geraldine & John Warner
Marcie & Matthew Weinstein
Gaylen Faller Westfall,
Honorary Alumna
Katie Whitlatch
Laurie & William Winslow
Ally Chen & Jimmy Zhu
Sanja Dacic & Sasa Zivkovic

"A" indicates an Associate Alumna/us
of Winchester Thurston School
"W" indicates an alumna of
Winchester School

For the full list of 2018-2019
donors, visit www.winchesterthurston.org/thankyou

We have made every attempt to ensure
the accuracy of this list; if you are not
listed here or online and believe that
you should be, please contact Michelle
Wion Chitty at (412) 578-3748.



1954 65th Reunion Year



Rachel 'Gay' Knake Haines '59 (L) and Brenda Wise Moffitt '54 (R) reconnect at Reunion 2019.



Roberta 'Bobbie' Moritz Friedlander (L) and Alice Gault Fuchs (R) at Reunion 2019

1956



Jean 'Mimi' McCloskey Dow A'69 (L) and Rosanne Isay Harrison '56 (R) at Reunion 2019

1959 60th Reunion Year



Members of the Class of 1959 reconnect at the Reunion Luncheon. (L-R) Polly Brandt Lechner, Justine 'Tina' Diebold Englert, Rachel 'Gay' Knake Haines, and Katherine Staley Clarkson

Rachel 'Gay' Knake Haines writes, "I'm still vertical and above the dirt. I keep busy traveling everywhere—including trips to the 'Burgh. When in Florida, I do Pet Therapy work with my splendid Australian Labradoodle, bringing smiles and support to elderly people and to children in learn-to-read programs in schools. I also serve as a victims advocate for children suffering from sexual abuse and other traumas within the tri-county court system."

1961



Dorothy Hart Murray (L) and Cathleen McSorley Stanton (R) met at a cross country meet in Schenley Park while cheering on their grandsons.

1964



Becky Sweet O'Connor, Susanne 'Sue' Monteith with (seated) Wendy Hoechstetter '74 at Reunion.

1968

Joy Marks Gray writes, "I had a busy and most wonderful summer. First Jack, my grandson, was born in July and big sister Hattie adores 'her' baby. Then two weeks later their father, my son Daniel, and daughter-in-law Sarah moved to Cleveland, so I get many more frequent opportunities to babysit and cuddle. Finally as July was ending, my son Matthew, daughter-in-law Rachel, and 5 ½ -year-old Lottie visited from Bristol, England for 2 ½ weeks. Having all three grandchildren together was my best birthday present."

1969 50th Reunion Year

Reunion reminiscing by
Alice May Succop Burger

50 years, a half century, five decades, a moment in time.
Reunited to spend minutes into hours into days with profound women who endeared themselves to me a long time ago and have gathered to support, share, and enjoy. Years were peeled off as Emotions were exposed "Blue Moon" echoed as New friendships emerged 18 to 68 years—1969 to 2019 times: A new era from when we first met, but the same ideas and feelings emerge from all our years and all the stories, experiences and heartfelt friendships that were developed long ago. We are WT women who endured, accomplished, but most of all, kept steady In our own way. We are reeling... from what we rediscovered and read in memories. Giving thanks and appreciation to so many Who will continue to gather in whatever way they can to continue what was started many years ago. Gentle and Kind; enduring comfort and rights as we persist to keep us and all that is worthy intact.

1974 45th Reunion Year



Wendy Hoechstetter (L) and Leisel Locke Lengyel '74 (R)

1979

40th Reunion Year



(L-R) Helene Stone Prince, Wendy Hoechstetter '74, Ellen Silverman Garvin, Head of School Dr. Scott Fech, and Deborah Ziskind gather at Reunion 2019 for smiles and memories.

1983

Edith Raphael Brotman

writes, "I wanted to share the news that I just had my second book published. This one is called *The Art of Being Present: Mindfulness Meditation for Work and Life* (Red Lizard Press 2018). It follows my first book *Mussar Yoga* (Jewish Lights, 2014)."

1984

35th Reunion Year



Reunited and it feels so good! (Back Row, L-R) Margaret 'Margo' Hiller, Kerry Bron, Jill Rubinstein, Ana 'Cecilia' Guzman Quezada, Michelle Washington, Susan Morrow, Jill Medina, and Belinda Krifcher Lehman; (Front Row, L-R) Marsha Fink Turner '83 and Lori Feinman Coscia



Susan Morrow '84 (L) and Pamela 'Pam' Shugerman '80 (R) share some laughs and smiles at Reunion 2019.

1989

30th Reunion Year



(L-R) Sheen Sehgal, Elizabeth 'Liz' Miller Buchanan, and Jennifer Gonzalez McComb reminiscing through old yearbooks at Reunion 2019.

1996

Tiffany Baxendell Bridge

writes, "After a couple of years of freelancing, I accepted a job on the Special Projects team at Automatic, managing client relationships and website development projects. Now I help influential people and organizations do interesting things with WordPress."



Keshira haLev Fife is the founder and leader of Keshet Pittsburgh. Keshet Pittsburgh is a "Priestess-led space which is a non-institutional, post-denominational spirit community that is multi-generational, everyone-friendly, and joyfully Jewish." For more information and to sign up, visit www.keshirahalev.com/keshetpittsburgh.

The People Are the Light, is a project by interdisciplinary artist and cultural producer **Alisha Wormsley**, which includes public art installations and workshops in Homewood.

It is a month-long series of events that Wormsley curated as part of the Hillman Photography Initiative. Wormsley partnered with 12 artists and collaborators to launch two site-specific installations and ten workshops in the community on subjects such as restorative writing, yoga and meditation, hair art, and the Black Maker Movement. Wormsley will document the event by creating a series of photos and an artist film premiering at the Carnegie Museum of Art in December. More information is available at alishawormsley.com/the-people-are-the-light.

1999

20th Reunion Year



Members from the Classes of 1999 and 2000 reconnect at Reunion. (L-R) Emily Gropp Carlson, Lauren Usher, Brandilyn 'Brandi' Dumas, Kathryn 'Katie' Maser Belviso with Elia Belviso, Sarah Rackoff, and Jason Shavers '00.



Sarah Rackoff (L) and Brandilyn 'Brandi' Dumas (R) shared their personal and professional knowledge with the Feminist Student Union and Black Student Union this fall at WT.

2001

Alexander 'Alec' Karakatsanis wrote *Usual Cruelty: The Complicity of Lawyers in the Criminal Injustice System*, which was listed as a *New York Times* New and Notable Book. Through the organization that he founded, Civil Rights Corps, he fights for defendants whose rights are routinely violated.

Lauren Morelli brings her own vision to the reboot of *Tales of the City*. Morelli is one of the creators of this new series, and its showrunner. She also was a co-producer and writer on *Orange Is the New Black*. In an interview, she says it was a priority for the new show to be even more diverse, and more inclusive of LGBTQ experiences.

2005



Sierra Laventure-Volz spoke with students at Ada Lovelace Day and reconnected with Middle School Social Studies teacher and Soccer Coach Adam Brownold.

2009 10th Reunion Year



Members of the Class of 2009 at Reunion 2019 (L-R) Anne 'Annie' Alexander Tritsch, Zachary 'Zach' Miller, Jessica Pindzola, Gabrielle 'Gabby' DeMarchi, and Rayna Gross

2010



Chris Schmidt dominating the field during the Reunion 2019 field hockey game.



Special Events Coordinator Dana Jackson, Anna Ferry '15, Advancement Services Coordinator Michelle Zaffary, and Marketing and Communications Associate Alaina Ferry '10 sharing some smiles at Reunion.

2013

Rosalie Daniels has received a Fulbright grant to pursue a Master's degree in Security and Diplomacy Studies at Tel Aviv University in Tel Aviv, Israel starting in Fall 2019. She hopes to focus her studies on refugee policy.

2014



Charlie Orr (R) represents the Class of 2014 during the Reunion 2019 soccer game.

2015



Natalie Heywood (L) and Anna Ferry (R) at Reunion 2019



Interim Director of Athletics Bill Fitch (L) with Mathieu 'Sticky' Lebiere (R), holding the MVP ball from the Reunion 2019 soccer game.

2017

Grant Charney performs Looking at Buildings to a crowd of enthusiastic fourth graders at the City Campus. Grant is a musician, visual, and performance artist.



Grant Charney performs Looking at Buildings.

IN MEMORIAM

The following members of the WT community will be missed by their classmates, friends, students, and colleagues. We offer sincere condolences to their families.

Virginia Wicks Douglas '44
Thelma Levin Levine '46
Linda Crow '56
Elizabeth 'Betty Lou' Douglas
Gilliland '56

Anne Witting Kuhn '64
Eleanor Schatz Magyar '67
Joanne George Convard '69
Jane Conrad A'06



“Is your neighbor worth loving?”



Lynn Johnson by Annie O'Neill

This fall, the WT Art Gallery exhibited 20 photographs that Lynn Johnson '71 took for National Geographic magazine in the aftermath of the massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue.

Johnson is known for finding beauty and meaning in difficult subjects—threatened languages, zoonotic disease, rape in the military ranks, the brain, the centrality of water in village life. Her master's thesis probed the impact of hate crimes.

The photographs from the exhibition are available for loan to schools, religious institutions, and other organizations to further the conversation about the importance of community, and to explore this question that Fred Rogers asked when Johnson interviewed him for her thesis on hate crimes: “Is your neighbor worth loving?”

For information about borrowing the photographs, please contact WT's Visual Arts Department Chair, Sally Allan, at allans@winchesterthurston.org.



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YOUR CITY AS OUR CAMPUS

WT is coming to you in 2020. If you'll be in one of these cities, please join us. We look forward to seeing you!

Atlanta, Georgia

January 13, 2020

New York, New York

April 16, 2020

Boston, Massachusetts

April 21, 2020