

Thistle TALK



MOLLOY POSNER HALL:
REMARKABLE
DEDICATION

Winchester Thurston School

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(L-R) Gary J. Niels, teammates Peter 'Matt' Froehlke '08 and Ryan Bopp '08, and former Lacrosse Coach Darrell Schmitt at the memorial lacrosse game honoring Peter Buongiorno '07

Peter Buongiorno '07 Memorial Alum Lacrosse Game

At this year's Alum Lacrosse game, our community came together to remember Peter Buongiorno '07, an exceptional teammate and friend who we lost earlier this year. Peter captained the 2007 Boys Lacrosse Team that was inducted into our Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014, and was an active member of the Young Alum Leadership Circle (YALC) Steering Committee. A third generation alumnus of WT, following his grandmother Jean Curran Donley '46, and mother Pamela Donley Buongiorno '76, Peter inspired everyone around him to laugh and enjoy one another.

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School 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.

Core Values

We activate our Mission by creating a learning environment that promotes and instills appreciation for these five Core Values: Critical Thinking, Integrity, Empathy, Community, and Diversity.

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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Photo from the 1962 issue of *Thistledown*, the school yearbook, showing students anticipating their new school building.

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THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL
Get more news, photos, and fun at
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The impact of philanthropy

Although they took place nearly 16 years ago, I still remember vividly my interviews to be Head of Winchester Thurston School. The role of School Head is multi-faceted: there is academic leadership, oversight of student affairs, human resources, program development, finance and budgeting, physical plant, and community relations, to name just a few. So many different people asked me many questions, but the one question that I was convinced had doomed my candidacy pertained to my experience as a fundraiser, because I didn't have very much experience.

I can only speculate that the search committee saw me as having potential, because they still hired me. And soon I found myself gaining "on the job experience," raising money to support WT.

Looking back, I have to say fundraising became one of the more pleasurable aspects of the job. It has allowed me to have meaningful conversations with prospective contributors to the school, to hear personal stories from parents, trustees, alums, and foundation directors about the difference they want to make for WT and our students.

These conversations have been beautiful opportunities to hear the stories of their lives. I have learned so much about WT—about legendary teachers, about lifelong friendships, and about students who found a true calling, internalized an important ethos, struggled through challenges, or mastered a subject in ways that fundamentally shaped their career. Even better, these early dialogues often evolved into lasting friendships punctuated by ongoing conversations; the most satisfying have been the ones in which I've had the honor of sharing with these friends how their support has impacted our students and the school.

Thursday, April 13, 2017, will remain one of the most memorable moments of my career in philanthropy at WT. On that day, the Main Building on Winchester Thurston's City Campus was named Molloy Posner Hall. This joyful

dedication was an expression of gratitude to Anne Molloy and Henry Posner III for their extraordinary gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

The remarkable progress that WT has experienced in recent years has paralleled Henry and Anne's generosity and leadership. Henry became a member of the Board of Trustees in 1998 and has actively served for 19 years, including four years as Board Chair.

Their support has been extraordinary and transformational, and like that of many others, it is also grounded in their personal stories. When I arrived as Head in 2002, Anne and Henry were WT parents, and had been since 1993, when their daughter Hannah '06 entered kindergarten; Ida '08 entered in 1996, and Gus A'11 in 1998. When Henry was a student in high school he believed that some of the most interesting people he knew in Pittsburgh were Winchester Thurston students, and he wanted his children to attend the school that produced such interesting people. For her part, when Anne saw how adaptable WT is to the varying needs, personalities, and learning styles of each student, she knew it was the right choice for their family.

Anne and Henry serve as examples of the impact that philanthropy can have on a school. Today our students and faculty have better facilities for learning, and many students attend WT who would not have been able to afford to without financial aid support. Moreover, there are others who have stepped forward to give because of the example Henry and Anne have set. Their giving underscores the importance of relationships and community, two hallmarks of WT, and two highlights of my experience as a WT fundraiser.

This support not only sustains WT, it strengthens our community as a place of active engagement, of investment.

Anne and Henry are not alone in their philanthropy. Every year, parents, grandparents, alums, trustees, employees, and friends of WT come forward with gifts to the WT Fund. Many have contributed to important capital campaigns that have allowed us to enhance our facilities and build new facilities, and to grow our endowment so that we have permanent funds for faculty development, financial aid, City as Our CampusSM, and other important programs. This support not only sustains WT, it strengthens our community as a place of active engagement, of investment.

Let me take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to those of you who continue to support the mission of WT. Your relationship to WT is deeply meaningful and without you we would not be experiencing the kinds of unprecedented success that continues to drive us forward.



Head of School Gary J. Niels and Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89

Gary J. Niels to step down at end of 16-year tenure

In May, the Board of Trustees announced that Head of School Gary J. Niels will step down at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Following is an excerpt from the letter Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89 emailed to the community sharing this news. You can find her full letter at www.winchesterthurston.org/headsearch.

"After 15 years of exceptional leadership, Gary Niels informed the Board of Trustees that he will conclude his tenure as Head of Winchester Thurston School at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. While the Board would like nothing more than for Gary to continue to lead Winchester Thurston, we accept his decision with the utmost gratitude and admiration for all that he has done for our school.

"Gary has led WT through the creation of extraordinary opportunities that have resulted in momentous change, including: transforming our campuses; strengthening our financial sustainability; generating innovative programs; achieving record enrollment; establishing a national reputation; and realizing remarkable advances in philanthropy.

"WT has benefitted greatly from Gary's absolute dedication to students and teachers, as well as his foresight, wisdom, and commitment to coalescing teams. He has acted always with the school's Mission and credo at the center of every decision. WT is a stronger and more diverse school community because of Gary's leadership.

"As we move forward, the Board is confident that one of the legacies of Gary's Headship is that WT is in a superb position to attract the best possible candidates for his successor. We all look forward to the future of Winchester Thurston with great optimism."

The Head of School Search Committee selected Wickenden Associates, based in Princeton, New Jersey, to conduct a national search. For updates, visit www.winchesterthurston.org/headsearch. And, watch for a tribute to Gary's impact on the school in the Winter 2017 issue of *ThistleTalk*.

Head of School Search Committee:

Paul Rosenblatt, *Trustee and alumnae/i parent, Search Committee Chair*

Kerry Bron '84, *Trustee*

Kristen A. Burns, *Trustee and WT parent*

Cindy Akers Gerber, *Trustee and alumnae/i parent*

Henry Posner III, *Emeritus Trustee and alumnae/i parent, former Board President*

Martin E. Powell, *Trustee and alumnae/i parent, former Board President*

Kelly Hanna Riley '91, *Trustee and WT parent*

On Thursday, April 13, Winchester Thurston School celebrated the historic renaming of its Main Building as Molloy Posner Hall in honor of Anne Molloy and Henry Posner, whose extraordinary generosity, remarkable service, and genuine friendship place them among the largest donors and most selfless leaders in school history. A jubilant audience of past and present Board Chairs, trustees, faculty, students, and others joined Head of School Gary J. Niels to recognize the couple.

WT DEDICATES

“Trace the upward trajectory of WT, including enrollment, program development, facility enhancement, and endowment growth and you will find a curious chronological parallel to Henry’s role on the Board,” declared Niels in his remarks. “It’s not a coincidence.”



Moments after revealing the plaque that now adorns Molloy Posner Hall

The couple’s generosity has taken many forms, and goes well beyond philanthropy. Molloy was a stalwart parent volunteer while the couple’s three children were enrolled at WT. Posner, now an emeritus trustee, served as a term trustee for 13 years (1998-2011), the last four as

President, and has chaired multiple committees and task forces. Together—from an endowed scholarship fund, to purchasing property that expands the City Campus footprint, to a challenge gift that propelled the Celebrate WT capital campaign to exceed its \$20 million goal—Molloy and Posner have set a rare example for leadership and loyalty that began in 1993 when they enrolled Hannah ‘06, the eldest of their three children, followed by Ida ‘08 and Gus A’11.

“My parents are strong believers in the very core of WT’s culture,” says Gus Posner, who feels WT’s influence to this day. “Think also of the comfort and the rights of others’ has been one of my mottos since hearing it at WT. It is key to having an open mind and having great relationships with different types of people.”

“Two of the reasons that we chose WT for our children were the school’s flexibility and willingness to adapt and the school’s focus on the individual child,” shares Molloy. “Our children received an excellent education, not just in academics but in their total development.”

Like her brother, Ida Posner describes WT’s influence as permanent—and profound. “As I get older, I realize more and more the incredible impact



(L-R) Head of School Gary J. Niels and Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb ‘89, share the stage with honorees Henry Posner III and Anne Molloy.



Current fifth grade teacher Brian Swauger reconnects with his former student, Ida Posner ‘08.



Gus Posner A’11 and family friend Charlotte Broome reminisce over a photo from Gus’s Lower School years.

MOLLOY POSNER HALL



Anne Molloy reflects on the people within the building who made WT such a transformational place for her family.



Henry Posner III calls on students to fully embody the school's credo, "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others."

WT has had on me. It was such a privilege to go to a school where I could choose to study what I was most interested in, and to have the resources available to me to start to understand how what I was learning in the classroom could be applied to the outside world."

Both humbled and honored, Henry Posner is quick to clarify what sets WT apart. "It's not the building; it's the people. Remember, this was not WT's first building; the Pillared Portals still stand on Fifth Avenue and will soon be part of the CMU campus. It is hard to resist the temptation to interpret that as symbolic of WT's serving as a gateway to higher education."

Molloy and Posner's value for education is fundamental to their lives and is exemplified by their exceptional commitment not only to academic institutions, but to the impact on students within.

Their ties with Carnegie Mellon University are testament to this commitment, and their leadership extends beyond WT to include the community at large. "Anne and Henry's impact at CMU extends beyond their philanthropy; it's the subtle ways they work to advance our mission, by taking an active interest in the students who benefit from their support, and by constantly thinking of and facilitating the connections they can make for us," says Dr. Subra Suresh, CMU President. "You know, Anne and Henry are not CMU alumni, but they take enormous pride in our success — because they have played a major role in enabling that success."

It is a role that Molloy and Posner, committed to facilitating growth and progress, are proud to fulfill. "WT has traditionally occupied a unique position in the educational landscape, while at the same time demonstrating an ability to change with the times," says Posner. "If there is one thing that I hope we have influenced, it is a willingness to confront as well as embrace change."



Ida Posner '08 surrounded by the team of eighth grade students who, with Ida, compiled reflections of their experiences in Molloy Posner Hall. (Front Row, L-R): Julia Finke, Ellery Shapiro, Pearl Lee, Maxwell Cundieff; (Back Row, L-R): Sophia Khera, Katherine Recker-Mohn, Isla Abrams, Eddie Monaco, and Riley Harper. Not pictured: Talia Balk and Sofia Shapira.

We asked several members of the WT community to share their impressions of Anne Molloy and Henry Posner III. Following are just a few of the reflections.

“When Henry became a board member, I had even more interactions with him as an administrator having to report to the board. He was tough, and...I felt like he was a mentor, in some ways, for me. I listened to everything Henry said. He was honest, he was direct, and he was always helpful, even if I didn’t agree. But he gave me that permission to spar with him, almost; I always felt like I had that opportunity, and I grew from that.”

—Rebecca King, former teacher and Director of Admission

“There really are no truer friends to WT than Henry and Anne. In addition to their historic generosity as a couple, Henry has been one of the most active trustees throughout his 19-year tenure on the Board.”

—Gary J. Niels, Head of School



Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89 highlights the standard of selflessness and humility that Henry and Anne bring to all of their endeavors.

“You never know what Henry is going to say at any given time in a Board meeting. When his hand goes up and he is called on to speak, I take a deep breath and hold it because I never know where he is going to take our discussion next! He can be funny, controversial, outrageous, grounding, historic...and unpredictable in a predictable way. The underlying notion, though, as I listen to his comments or ponder his questions is that he always has the best interest of Winchester Thurston in his mind.”

—Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89, Parent, Alumna, Board President



Current Trustees pictured with Henry Posner III (Front Row, L-R) Gary J. Niels, Simin Yazdgerdi Curtis, Henry, Manny Cahouet-Rotondi, Carole Oswald Markus '57, Martin Powell, Paul Rosenblatt, and Rosanne Isay Harrison '56; (Back Row, L-R): Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89, Kerry Bron '84, Robert Glimcher, Kelly Hanna Riley '91, MaryJean Rusak, Cindy Akers Gerber, Philip Sweeney, and Sharon Semenza.

“Henry has remained very constant since I’ve known him. He’s thoughtful, he’s smart, he’s loyal, and he has always been interested in the same things. He’s very opinionated, but he is thoughtfully opinionated. Anne has a quiet strength about her. I think Henry usually is the more prominent of the two, but they are very equally matched. I think she just quietly and deliberately does a ton, and doesn’t really ballyhoo her own accomplishments. She is smart as a whip and can hold her own. She could have been a Winchester Thurston graduate. An honorary classmate.”

—Elizabeth 'Betsy' S. Hurtt '74, Alumna, Trustee

THE HEART AND HUB OF WT



1912: The Winchester School remodeled, 4721 Fifth Avenue



1959: Property at the corner of Morewood and Ellsworth Avenues, purchased to accommodate burgeoning enrollment



1962: Main Building under construction; designed by Pratt and Associates and built by Jendoco Construction



1963: Opening day of the Main Building, with an enrollment of 350 students



1984: Renovation of the bomb shelter into a new science wing



2006: Students carry library books from the Main Building to the new Upper School building honoring the tradition set when the school moved from 4721 Fifth Avenue



2013: Outdoor learning and play spaces transformed



2014: Glimcher Athletics Wing redesigned and updated



2015: Falk Auditorium renovated to a true performing arts space



2017: Second grade students process into the dedication ceremony to the Marching Song.

The dedication of Molloy Posner Hall is a joyous chapter in the history of a building that has served as the heart of WT's City Campus since the early 1960s, its very existence a testament to growth and change.

The history of Molloy Posner Hall mirrors the history of Winchester Thurston School: built upon a bedrock of determination and faith, framed by leadership and resilience, and fueled by vision, it continues to advance Miss Mitchell's legacy of providing a superior education to her students, and to honor her wisdom and foresight in promoting the necessary facilities in which to achieve it.



Landin Delaney '15 (L) and Ben Littmann '17 (R) running during their 2014 Cross Country State Championship season.

There's never been a better time to be a Bear.

Fresh from an electrifying year capping the most extraordinary era in Winchester Thurston's athletics history to date, WT's honors now include:

- 2 Boys Cross Country team PIAA State Championships (2014 and 2016)
- 1 PIAA individual State Championship
- 3 WPIAL team Championships including Girls Basketball (2017), Boys Cross Country (2016), and Boys Soccer (2014)
- 4 WPIAL runners-up in Boys Cross Country, Boys Tennis, and Field Hockey
- 8 WPIAL Section Championships
- 3 Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association team Championships
- 1 Western PA Boys Lacrosse Championship (2007)
- 12 individual WPIAL Championships

All since 2007.

Visionary, Vibrant, Victorious

Athletics have always been part of WT, stemming from Miss Thurston's cherished goal to provide outdoor facilities where "competitive spirits and bodies would develop." Her visionary views were shared by Miss Mitchell, whose East End Preparatory School—the precursor to The Winchester School—was the first school in Pittsburgh to have a gymnasium for girls as well as outdoor physical education facilities. When the Winchester and Thurston schools merged in 1935, the focus on physical activity for girls was preserved, growing into a vibrant intramural program, then evolving into a forward-thinking athletics and physical education program. But it wasn't until relatively recently that WT Athletics fully realized the potential nurtured by those early pioneers.

"If you look at the trophy cases filled with State and WPIAL Championship trophies and medals from our Cross Country, Track, Girls Basketball, Soccer, Lacrosse, Crew, and Fencing teams, you will see that all those awards have come in the past ten years. Not many schools can say they filled a whole room full of trophies in such a short amount of time," notes Coach Adam Brownold. His 2014 Soccer team hauled one of those trophies home, and he has witnessed—and worked toward—the transformation.

"In 2003, when I became the Upper School Varsity Soccer Coach, eight players showed up for the first day of pre-season. There was not talk of making WPIAL playoffs. I'm not sure the kids even knew there were playoffs and a State Championship on the line. Now the soccer roster is 30-plus players every year. Players work in the off season to get faster, stronger,

and have a better touch. The mentality every season is to win the section, win the WPIAL, and compete for a State Championship. They play to be champions.”

Brownold attributes the program’s dramatic acceleration to a change in culture. “When Head of School Gary Niels came in 2002, the push to improve athletics was evident. Turfing the back field was a giant step in the right direction. And the recently renovated Glimcher Athletics Wing with a top-notch fitness room (and a fantastic trainer), ensures we have everything we need to keep our

Julie Pett-Ridge ’93, continues to flourish and compete nationally.

But not every sport is a match—and Miller deliberates carefully. “We are not going to just jump into something. We want to know: can we build it, sustain it, and keep it?” To demonstrate their commitment, Horton’s hopefuls had to complete a six-game junior varsity schedule before varsity status and WPIAL eligibility could be considered.

“Most games that year we barely had enough players to field a full team,” Horton recalls. “We were lucky to



Tyler Coleman '16, the WT Boys Basketball all-time leading scorer and a 2016 WPIAL scholar athlete



Seniors from the 2014 WPIAL Championship Boys Soccer Team at their last game on Founders Field



Juniors Yanming Cui and Emily Pollock during a 2015 PIFA playoff match

“I watched a young woman walk into school with her huge book bag, a cello, and a field hockey stick. I thought, that’s Winchester Thurston.”

—Kevin Miller, Director of Athletics



Rower Katie Ashwood '15 signs letter of intent to row for UCLA.

athletes healthy. On top of all that, there is the true value of having an athletic director like Kevin Miller who is so supportive of the coaches and players.”

“A place you can make things happen”

“I frequently tell my students that WT is a place you can make things happen,” shares Lynn Horton, Girls Varsity Soccer Coach. “Evidence of that is that we went from a group of four sophomores and myself to a full, Club level team in six short months.” WT has always been a place where ideas are given a chance to grow, and athletics is no exception. Another example: the Crew team, launched in 1989 by two dedicated students, Emily Dorrance ’93 and

have one or two subs, and the girls played their heart out through the full 80-minute games. We achieved a 4-1-1 record while many players limped through the season.”

That was 2015. In 2016, the team expanded to 17 players, attained varsity status, and qualified for the WPIAL for 2017.

“Our biggest success is in being a team, period,” says Horton. “The fact that the girls stuck with it was amazing. They wanted this team, were willing to sacrifice for it, and the fact that we are now established as a WPIAL team is a testament to their determination. Quite honestly I often feel like my heart is going to burst with pride when I am with the girls.”

If Girls Soccer is WT's newest WPIAL competitor, Cross Country is one of the school's oldest. Coach since 1992, Bruce Frey says the 2014 and 2016 seasons were standouts. "Two State Championships, that's the pinnacle of my career. We've been blessed with a succession of very good runners, and we've had four straight years where we've had WPIAL Individual Champions in either Track or Cross Country."

"Our kids are having a ball"

Such performances have ramped excitement into

and athletics," says Head of School Gary Niels. "In independent school vernacular, this is referred to as a 'triple threat' school!"

Miller's vision of Winchester Thurston is a scene he observed in 2014, right around the time of the Athletics Hall of Fame dedication. "I watched a young woman walk into school with her huge book bag, a cello, and a field hockey stick. I thought, that's Winchester Thurston."

"To produce well-rounded, well-educated students



Juniors Luka van de Venne (L) and Gia Thorpe (R) celebrate with the 2017 Girls Basketball WPIAL Championship trophy.



Trophy Cases in the Bears Hall of Fame Lobby of the Glimcher Athletics Wing



Junior Hannah Kwiecinski (L) and freshman Katie Kunkle (R) celebrate a goal during a 2016 soccer game.

the stratosphere, notes Miller. "We have kids who light everybody up with songs, cheers, and themes for every game. Everyone is having a blast. What better descriptor of an athletics program than 'our kids are having a ball on the field and in the stands'—and they're succeeding?"

WT Girls Basketball Coach Monica Williams knows what it takes to build excitement—and a winning team. Her team first went to WPIALs in 2009; this year, they won the Championship. [See page 18 for the story of this team's "Season of Firsts."]

A triple-threat school

"Once known solely as a strong arts school, WT can now boast of outstanding academics, arts,

for tomorrow, I think being strong and having opportunities in all three is essential," adds Horton. "I want those girls sitting in my Chemistry class; I want them participating in the orchestra and play."

Excellence in athletics is now as fundamental to Winchester Thurston as excellence in academics and excellence in the arts. For those who have helped achieve the balance, the taste of success is sweet indeed.

"The best part is, our teams are only getting stronger," says Brownold. "The athletics program has a swagger now. Kids who go to WT have pride in the school and the athletics. They are proud to wear that WT bear on their chest!"

GARDEN EXPLORATION CULTIVATES COURAGE

In the City Campus Outdoor Classroom, Kimberly Blaney and Randi Coffey's Kindergarten students grow garlic, mint, zucchini ... and courage! It's all part of an emphasis on character education in the Kindergarten curriculum focusing on courage, respect, honesty, hope, loyalty, justice, and love—and cultivating them as carefully as prized heirloom tomatoes.

"We want our children to be caring citizens," asserts Blaney. "It's important to teach foundational skills in math, reading, writing, and other core subject areas, but it's just as important to teach them to be good friends in the community."

The project incorporates the Heartwood Character Education Program, developed in part by WT alum Eleanore Nix Childs '62, and is fortified by a City as Our CampusSM partnership with Kimberly Bracken, an expert in community food and garden programs for young children. Miss Kim,



Lila Burns and Brylie Moraski display the "nesting balls" they made as a gift for birds. This activity reflected what students learned in science class: Birds build nests and eat food with more fat and energy in order to have the courage to endure winter.



Ty Keller-Finucane works with City as Our Campus partner Kimberly Bracken to make a bird's nest, reinforcing the concepts of courage and endurance.

as she is known, connects key values to hands-on experiences in the garden.

"Plants are incredible teachers," she says. "They teach us about ourselves and how to live in a good way." After planting bulbs last fall, students questioned if they would survive the winter. Miss Kim explained the bulbs would hibernate in winter's frozen ground, trusting that spring would come and they would live, grow, and bloom again. Another teacher: the dandelion. "Nutritional, medicinal, it is a pollinator and helps prevent erosion. It grows in harsh conditions, yet shows so much bravery and courage—like people who put themselves in harsh conditions to help others and serve a greater good. We call them heroes."

As they dig, plant, compost, and taste, children observe, count,

sketch, and write. Values are woven throughout the day with stories, discussion, cooperative play, art, music, journals, and literacy and language connections. Blaney says student efforts are taking root—and yielding a bountiful harvest.

"We see connections when the children take risks to try new foods in the cafeteria, when they have courage to raise their hands and participate in class lessons even when they aren't sure of their thoughts, or when they bravely approach a new friend by extending a firm handshake and introducing themselves," observes Blaney. "We are helping to build a foundation for our students to become global citizens who cultivate an active care of the world and others with whom they share it."

"SECRET LEARNING" IN THE NATURAL WORLD

Students in Marie Forst and Katie Pless's North Hills Campus Pre-K class greet every Day Four of WT's six-day cycle with an extra dose of enthusiasm. The reason? Forest Fours, a new Pre-K initiative being piloted this year. This half-day learning adventure inspires the children to examine their campus closely, find things they want to learn about, document discoveries, and deepen their learning with imagination and wonder.

Inspired by Forest Kindergartens in Scandinavia and Europe, in which preschool education occurs almost entirely outdoors, Forest Fours was designed to give students the space and time to acquire a wide range of skills. "Not only are they developing integral social skills as they navigate cooperative play," explains Pless, "they are also practicing skills that will benefit academic pursuits in the classroom."

While North's seven-acre campus—replete with pond, nature trails, butterfly garden, and hoop house—is regularly, robustly woven into the learning of all North students, Pless says Forest Fours is different from everyday Pre-K life. "We spend almost the entire morning outside,

rain or shine, providing students with an unstructured setting so that they can investigate and create at their will."

With each student dressed for the weather and armed with Polaroid cameras and nature journals, the

inquiry-based curriculum in which units of study are based on student interest. Because students are more invested in the content, the material is more meaningful, which helps move knowledge into long-term memory.



Victor Johnson captures a photo for his journal with the guidance of Katie Pless.

class troops into the forest. The children draw pictures of structures they build; games they invent; and ideas, natural objects, or specimens that capture their imaginations. They collect treasures like leaves and moss, and take photographs of larger items, which they carefully tape into their journal pages.

"Through these activities, students practice skills such as fine motor development, self-regulation, working memory, observation, categorization, and identification," says Pless.

Forst, a certified Forest Kindergarten teacher, says Forest Fours increases the scope of Pre-K's

Many topics are inspired by time spent outdoors: "The students studied birds after noticing the geese return to the pond and lay eggs," notes Pless. "We've studied fungus after several days in the woods searching for mushrooms, lichen, and moss. We infuse the topic of study into everything that we do in our classroom so that learning unfolds naturally."

Pless calls this "secret learning"—and says Forest Fours amplifies those opportunities through consistent immersion in the natural world in a way that "... just feels like playtime ... It doesn't get much better than that!"



Marie Forst and Elizabeth Cawley explore the detail of a rock.

INTEGRATING SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC LEARNING SHIFTS CULTURE

When students walk into Kaila Kramer's math class each day—or into any Middle School classroom—they are immediately engaged by a message stating the day's learning target and instructions for getting started. "It helps students understand what the class is going to be about," says Kramer. "It gives them a task and a goal to work towards."

Learning targets are just one component of Origins Developmental Designs, a program that increases academic achievement by integrating social and academic learning. The program transformed WT's Middle School Advisory program three years ago. Now, it is shaping the entire Middle School experience, from algebra to art, PE to the playing fields, even at lunch.

"It's our approach to creating community in the Middle School," states Amanda Greenwald, Director of Middle School. "It's how we relate to the students: the language we use; how we approach providing them autonomy and independence; how we help them to develop a growth mindset."

The same format undergirding Advisory—the Circle of Power and Respect—provides consistent structure for each class. "Middle school students thrive on routine and structure. Providing this common approach to all of our classrooms sets students up for success," adds Greenwald.

"The golden moment is the first 15 minutes of a lesson, when students are most engaged," explains Kramer. "I usually teach new topics and important concepts here. After that, students get 'antsy', so they work on an activity that gets them moving and applying what they just learned. The last 15 minutes is the silver moment—a reflective piece. Fifteen-year veteran social studies teacher Adam Brownold calls it 'Before You Go, Do You Know.' "It helps to close the loop on the class, and allows for me and the students to see if we understood and achieved the learning objectives of the day."

Empowering language—reinforcing, directing, redirecting, reminding, and reflecting—is at the program's core and guides students to take responsibility for their own learning.



Middle School teacher Kaila Kramer addresses the day's learning target with her grade 7 math students.



Middle School teacher Ben Carter (C) engages sixth graders (L-R) Fatimah Bisiriyu, Chloe Pressman, and Remmie Greenwald by incorporating movement and activity into his French class.

"The students are constantly moving and changing partners throughout the 80-minute period. They even take 'brain breaks' along the way, and yet I am covering much more content than I had in the past," shares Brownold.

"It's a shift in culture," acknowledges Greenwald, noting that teachers have undergone extensive training to learn the program. "We're a work in progress, but this is something that fits really well with our faculty and our mindset as a school. It's the foundation of everything we do."

A COMPLEX WEB OF CONNECTIONS

An interactive talking trash can that tells people what—and what not—to recycle; a plan for reducing the impact of industrial farming; partnering with WT's Go Green club to produce an Earth Day program of learning and doing. These student-driven projects focus on developing solutions for environmental degradation issues and empower students to take action and make a difference in diverse ways—all in their study of American history.

Inspired by growing student and faculty interest, the Upper School

Literature option we introduced last year helped more STEM-oriented students see themselves as writers. The addition of the science and history courses enables this same type of interest-driven, relevant work in other disciplines."

In Applied Ecology and Environmental Science, students analyze the interplay between science, people, society, and the environment of the Pittsburgh region. At the heart of the course are student-developed laboratory investigations and fieldwork where advanced methods

students see themselves as scientists more than they did before."

In American Environmental History, taught by Callie Gropp '03, students undertake broad, deep exploration of links between environment and culture, mining historical case studies of human-environment interactions.

"I want students to bear witness to the power, possibility, and hope that comes when our actions align with our values," says Gropp, "to see themselves as capable not only of discussing and writing about ideas, but of translating



Against the backdrop of the Cathedral of Learning in Oakland, American Environmental History student, junior Raemon Prunty, uses his cell phone to capture pictures in nature that reflect the connection between environment, culture, and emotions.

expanded its environmentally-themed, cross-disciplinary curriculum with two new courses this year, Applied Ecology and Environmental Science, and American Environmental History. The project-based courses augment existing offerings in Biology, Chemistry, and Literature.

"Overall, we want to give students several different pathways, based upon their interests, in all disciplines," declares Director of Upper School Kristen Klein. "The Environmental

and technologies are applied in areas like ecology, microbiology, sustainable food production, genetics, and bioengineering. Opportunities to form research partnerships with the local scientific community amplify student work.

"The environmental focus helps make scientific research more approachable for students who may not previously have been so inclined," says teacher Nicole Nesbitt. "Now, those

ideas into action."

"By studying environmental issues and sustainability across disciplines, it becomes easier for students to see the connections in all aspects of their lives," adds Nesbitt.

Klein concurs. "It is the students who are drawing the complex webs of connection among these disciplines, bringing many different skills and approaches to bear on the topic of sustainability."

TOGETHER, BEARS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

From Varsity Girls Basketball's season of firsts [See page 18 to read about their historic season.] and Varsity Boys Basketball's playoff appearance, to success by individual competitors, it was a season to remember at WT. "This season is a testament to the power of WT Athletics in unifying athletes and the greater community as one WT team," declared Director of Athletics Kevin Miller. "The Bears roared to life in games, meets, matches, and championships for dear old WT, and the community's support pushed them to victory."

BOYS BASKETBALL, THE "COMEBACK TEAM"

The Varsity Boys Basketball team recovered from a slow start and persevered for a strong finish to the season, winning eight of their last 11 games to make the fourth straight WPIAL playoff appearance for Boys Basketball. In a must-win game on the road against Propel Andrew Street, the Bears were down 16 points in the third quarter. Making a comeback with the team phrase, "one bucket at a time, one stop at a time," senior Malik Potter put the Bears ahead, with just five seconds left, to win the game.

Featured as an East Feature Athlete and averaging an impressive 30 points per game, Malik saw much success this season. He was selected for the premiere all-star game in Western Pennsylvania, the Roundball Classic, and for the WPIAL All-Section team. Other standout contributions came from senior Dorian Epps who averaged more than 10 rebounds per game, sophomore Danny Sentner who set a career high for points in a game, and sophomore Tyler Perry who reached double-digit rebounds in several games.

Despite a tough 66 - 57 first-round playoff loss, Coach Jordan Marks believes the Bears have much to celebrate. "In my years of coaching, I am proud to say that this group was the best I've ever coached," says Marks. "They often dug down deep and found the determination to never stop playing like they could win. Their unselfishness and willingness to do what was best for the team was motivation for me to never give up on them." Given the growth of younger players, and the lasting impressions left by senior players, the team looks ahead to what's sure to be a promising 2017-2018 season.



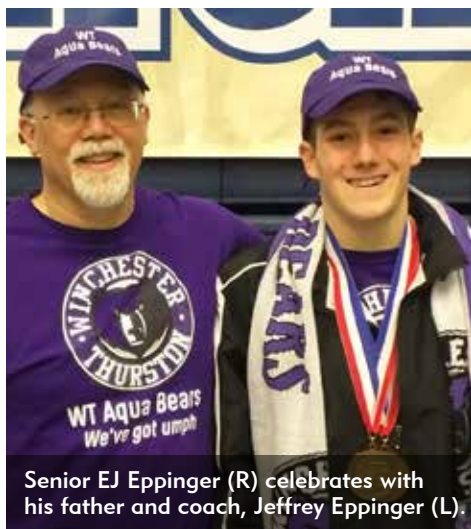
Senior Malik Potter



Junior Tristan Forsythe wins the 1600-meter race at the Track and Field WPIAL Championships.

TRISTAN FORSYTHE: 1600-METER STATE CHAMPION

Fresh off the Varsity Cross Country team's PIAA State Championship win last fall, junior Tristan Forsythe charged ahead to track and field competitions. In February, he competed in the 110th annual NYRR Millrose Games, the world's most prestigious indoor track and field competition, where his time qualified him for a spot at the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association (PTFCA) State Indoor Track Championships. In May, Tristan became a WPIAL Champion with an upset win in the 1600-meter race, giving him the #1 seed in the PIAA State Championship race—which he won with a time of 4:12.36! Just 48 hours prior to the race, Tristan received the school's Cassy Richards '01 Athlete of the Year award which celebrates a student-athlete of strong character who has competed successfully at the highest athletic levels. Cassandra 'Cassy' Richards '01 is the only other individual State Champion in WT history.



Senior EJ Eppinger (R) celebrates with his father and coach, Jeffrey Eppinger (L).

INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: EJ EPPINGER

Senior EJ Eppinger, one of only five Bears to earn a WPIAL Individual Championship and the first-ever WT swimmer to win a WPIAL Championship, saw swimming success at several competitions this season. At the WPIAL Swimming Championship, EJ captured a silver medal in both the Class AA 200 individual medley (IM) and 500 freestyle, swimming lifetime bests in both races and qualifying for the PIAA State Swimming Championship. While there, EJ secured two top-ten finishes in the Class AA 200 individual medley (IM) and 500 freestyle. Again, EJ swam lifetime bests, finishing sixth in the 200 IM and seventh in the 500 freestyle. At the last short course meet of his high school career, the Speedo Eastern Sectional Championship, he once again achieved lifetime bests in all races—the 500, 1000, and 1650 freestyle, and 400 IM.

FENCING TEAMS PERSEVERE THROUGH REBUILDING SEASON

The Fencing teams put their best foot forward for a strong, rebuilding season after many members graduated last year. The boys finished with a record of 5 - 4, coming in fifth place, and narrowly missing a Pittsburgh Interscholastic Fencing Association (PIFA) playoff spot, while the girls finished with a record of 1 - 5. Though it was the first time in several years that the Bears did not make the playoffs, Coach Iana Dakova was impressed by the Bears this season: “I saw incredible team effort and hard work—from the efficient preparation of the Hilda Willis Room for practice to performance at matches, the team truly gave it their all.”

The Bears will miss senior captains Maggie Caballero and Aidan Place, but with a talented group of Middle School fencers already practicing with the Upper School team, the Bears are optimistic about next season.



2017 Fencing Team



Junior Isel Pollock



Senior Julia Hilton

FIELD HOCKEY: POSTSEASON HONORS

Two Field Hockey players were selected for the 2016 All-WPIAL Class A team after the last issue of *ThistleTalk* went to press. Senior Captain Julia Hilton made first team, and junior Isel Pollock received an honorable mention. Stay tuned for an update on the 2017 Field Hockey season in our next issue!



Post-Gazette Class A player of the year,
junior Ayanna Townsend

A SEASON OF FIRSTS

“We’re going to ‘The Pete!’ We’re going to ‘The Pete!’” This chant roared out of the WT Girls Basketball locker room after their victory in the WPIAL Semi-finals, sealing their place in the WPIAL Championship game at the University of Pittsburgh’s Petersen Events Center. This win marked the first time in WT Girls Basketball that the team reached the Championship game.

The road to The Pete started with many other “firsts”: an undefeated record in the section, an ensuing section championship, and something only two other WT teams have accomplished—a number one ranking in the state. With these triumphs, the team earned a bye in the first round of WPIAL playoff action, quickly followed by a 20-point victory over Sewickley Academy (52-32) in the second round of playoffs. Junior forward Ayanna Townsend set the momentum



Head coach Monica Williams (C) with assistant coaches Carlita Evans (L) and Inaya Stephenson '10 (Back) motivate the team during the WPIAL Championship game.



WT student section cheers on the team at the WPIAL Championship game.



Senior Kayla Small



Junior Luka van de Venne



Freshman Emma Small

for the semi-final round by earning her 1,000th point within the first few minutes of the game. The team defeated West Greene in a nail-biter (55-50) and qualified for the WPIAL Championship game.

In a season during which the team was ranked number one in the state for much of the run, these accomplishments were just a glimmer of what was yet to come.

The girls secured the WPIAL Championship title with a defeat over Cornell (52-41) earning another first for the program—and they didn’t stop there. They continued to make school history by earning the school’s first-ever Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) playoff win in girls basketball against Northern Potter (55-24). The storybook season ended in a hard-fought battle against Juniata Valley in the second round of state playoffs.

Head Coach Monica ‘Nika’ Williams and Assistant Coaches Carlita Evans and Inaya Stephenson ‘10 were honored to be a part of this season of firsts and its promise for the future. “This year was a surreal season that went beyond my expectations. It set the tone for years to come and helped to build the reputation of WT’s basketball program,” noted Williams.

WT fans—students, parents, alumnae/i, faculty, and staff alike—also rallied in support of the team. As Kevin Miller, Director of Athletics, acknowledged, “The best part about sports is that they provide the opportunity to bring communities together—and our Girls Basketball team did just that this year. When the girls got their medals in front of a packed, purple house, I was just so happy for the team and grateful to be on the ride.”

WINCHESTER THURSTON UPPER SCHOOL



Commencement 2017

“We are truly excited about how you will contribute to our world.”

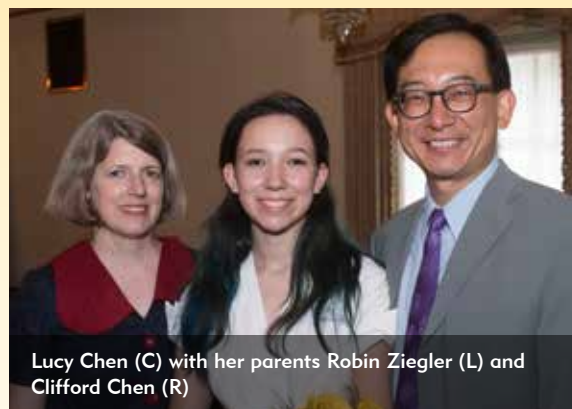
—Gary J. Niels, Head of School

The 56 members of the Class of 2017 were encouraged to strike a balance between looking forward, looking backward, and remaining in the present as the WT community celebrated the school’s 130th Commencement exercises on June 4, 2017.

Student speakers Jacob Dubner, Jack Waters, and Kayla Small were joined by Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89 and Head of School Gary J. Niels in addressing the students and their guests. A recap of the class’s life at WT was provided by Sara Fierstein and Cherisse Tompkins in their Welcome remarks.



(L-R) Director of Upper School Kristen Klein, with commencement speakers Sara Fierstein, Cherisse Tompkins, Kayla Small, Jacob Dubner, Jack Waters, Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89, and Head of School Gary J. Niels



Lucy Chen (C) with her parents Robin Ziegler (L) and Clifford Chen (R)

“Strive to have a real and lasting impact on the world, whether that means discovering a cure that saves millions of lives, or brightening the day of a single person.”

—JACOB DUBNER, PRESIDENT,
STUDENT COUNCIL AND JACK R. WATERS,
SECRETARY/TREASURER, STUDENT COUNCIL



Akshay Sharathchandra (with diploma) with his parents Chitra (L) and Sharath (R) and brother Tejus



Layne Glimcher (C) with her parents Rob (L) and Megan (R)



Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89 (R) congratulates Dorian Epps.

"The WT community looks forward to when you can come back and share all that you have accomplished."

—JENNIFER GONZALEZ MCCOMB '89, BOARD PRESIDENT



Members of the Commencement Orchestra with Director John G. Maione

"I finally understood that you have to find the joy in playing each level of the game and making sure to live in the now."

—KAYLA SMALL



Rosanne Isay Harrison '56 (C) on stage with her grandson Benjamin Harrison (L) as he receives congratulations from Board President Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89 (R) and Head of School Gary J. Niels (rear)



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

Get a full gallery of photos from graduation at winchesterthurston.org/digitalthistle



Ella Rosenblatt

"At WT we were given opportunities that pushed us to see things differently."

—SARA FIERSTEIN AND CHERISSE TOMPKINS



Joshua Brelsford

Winchester Thurston School Class of 2017

H. Haydon Alexander*
Daisy Ella Steagall Allebach
Ciara Grace Bailey
Margaret Jane Caballero
Joshua Henry Brelsford*
Grant Paul Charney
Lucy Jiali Chen*
Jacob Daniel Chreky*
Geoffrey Max Cohen
Paul Domenico Dozzi
Jacob Lee Dubner*
Emmanuel J. Eppinger
Dorian Jon Epps
Sabrina Paige Evoy
Emma Ozra Famili

Sara Rose Fierstein*
Layne Eden Glimcher*
Noah Samuel Goldstein*
Benjamin Myers Harrison*✿
Shaun Aaron Hay
Ua Pilar Hayes
William Alastair Hibbitts
Julia Leigh Hilton
Nathaniel Aidan Hull*
Shannon Harper Kane
Adero Anna Abongo
Kauffmann-Okoko
Nathaniel Michael Kurzawa
Noah M. Lampl
William Chye Lee-Moore

Yin Lin
Benjamin Matthew Littmann*
Nathan Christopher Lovett-
Genovese
Yiwei Lu
Julia Rae Lupariello*
Claire Bettina Mazur
Jake Brian Milligan
Allison Clarke Olander Murray
Roshni Pushpa Nischal
Aidan Jarrell Place
Malik David Potter
Kaitlyn Laura Pressman*
Ella Simone Rosenblatt
Nathan Alexander Schatzman

Akshay Olli Sharathchandra
Taylor Dane Skelly
Isabel Baird Slaymaker
Kayla Jasmine Small
Margaret Eleanor Swartz
Taylor Nicole Thomas*
Cherisse Mei-Yan Chan
Tompkins*
Brooke Alexandra Urbach*
Brent Sagan Vennes
Jack Risien Waters*
Devaughn Thomas Wilkerson
Hannah Jordan Winslow*
Junran Zhang

*WT Lifer ✿ Legacy

Excellence Honored

The Emily E. Dorrance award for a student whose conduct, interaction, and leadership best demonstrates the school credo, Think also of the comfort and the rights of others, given by friends of the Dorrance family

Jacob Lee Dubner

The Mary A. Campbell award for outstanding scholarship, given by Katherine Houston Rush

Sabrina Paige Evoy

The Mary A. Graham Mitchell award for character, personality, loyalty, and scholarship

Jack Risien Waters

The Alice M. Thurston award for integrity, courageous leadership, and service

Roshni Pushpa Nischal

The Ruth S. Gamsby award for citizenship, kindness, and courteous helpfulness, given by the Daniel F. Mullane family

Claire Bettina Mazur

The Nina Wadhwa Student Council award for a student who best exemplifies Gentle in Manner, Strong in Deed, endowed by the Wadhwa family

Jacob Lee Dubner

The Jane L. Scarborough Award for teaching excellence

Heather Capezzuti



Heather Capezzuti at the North Hills Campus pond surrounded by students (L-R), fifth grader Kamal Elsayed, fourth grader Lily-Rose Peterson, third grader Niko Frazzini, and fourth grader Meera Reddy

Heather Capezzuti Named North Hills Campus Director

During her 26 years as an educator at WT, most recently as the science teacher at the North Hills Campus, Heather Capezzuti has infused countless students with enthusiasm for exploration and discovery while encouraging them to push themselves and try new things. This coming school year, students will witness ‘Mrs. Cap’ embody those principles as Director of the North Hills Campus.

Capezzuti is known for developing dynamic, hands-on science programs leveraging the seven-acre campus’s outdoor classrooms, and forging community partnerships that enrich students’ appreciation for science, research, and the natural world. Capezzuti grew the program according to its founding philosophy. “As former WT science teacher Ruth Grant best stated, ‘We insist that students be persistent, and we applaud their pride and delight in discovery. Latching onto that spark of curiosity in every child...requires an openness and patience toward exploration that we believe instills this essential notion: Understanding oneself and the world around us is a lifelong, fascinating pursuit.’ I feel like I have been able to uphold this philosophy and foster a love and appreciation for science and the scientific process in my students.”

“In my opinion, there couldn’t be a better person to lead the North Hills Campus at this time. Few people have as much history and love for Winchester Thurston as Heather.”

Gary J. Niels, Head of School

Capezzuti’s connection to the North Hills Campus runs deep: During her early years at WT, she lived in the farmhouse on campus before growing enrollment necessitated its transformation into a classroom. “In my opinion, there couldn’t be a better person to lead the North Hills Campus at this time,” says Head of School Gary J. Niels. “Few people have as much history and love for Winchester Thurston as Heather. She is one of the most experienced and creative teachers on our staff. She lives the qualities of lifelong learning that we wish to cultivate in our students, and we are confident in her abilities as she takes on this new role.”

“More than being a teacher and more than having a residence here, I am most affected by my experience as a parent,” reflects Capezzuti. “I have witnessed firsthand the impact that an education at the

North Hills Campus has had on my own children, Isaac and Sophie. I will be forever grateful to all the teachers, administrators, and families who helped them to build a solid academic foundation. They have developed into confident, curious, and caring young adults as a result of their interactions and experiences at WT. I am both humbled and honored to be able to give back to our wonderful community in this new capacity.”



You are kind.
You are generous.
You are WT.
And we're thankful.

The WT Fund fuels the teachers, events, and programs that make WT such an extraordinary place.

And you fuel the WT Fund. Thank you for making a difference with your unparalleled support this year.

The Parents Association Benefit, WT's Greatest Hits, provided transformational financial aid to six students.

And, more than 1,000 friends stepped forward to support the WT Fund, our annual fundraising priority.

In all, our donors gave more than \$750,000 – demonstrating their charitable spirit and belief that a strong education is critical to making a positive impact here in Pittsburgh and around the world.

To learn more, visit winchesterthurston.org/wtfund.

THE WT  FUND

Plein Air sketches of Molloy Posner Hall were created by third grade students from the North Hills Campus (Jacob Holzer, Will Nury, Rebecca Schriver, and Thea Siegel) as part of the cross-campus celebration of the building dedication.

“From current parents, parents of alums, grandparents, and faculty, to the wonderful faces of our young alums and the array of connections throughout the WT community, the Benefit was a tribute to the sense of community that we all feel at WT!”

– Gary J. Niels, Head of School

WT's Greatest Hits Benefit was a splendid success with more than 300 event attendees and donors, hundreds of auction donors and bidders, and almost 100 volunteers giving COUNTLESS hours to raise more than \$108,000.

These proceeds will help WT provide transformational financial aid to six students who would otherwise be unable to attend. Our generous community made this possible!

Special thanks to the 2017 Benefit Committee Chairs:

Gretchen Busquets, Event	MaryJean Rusak, Food & Décor	Heather Brooks, Sponsorship
Charlene Leeper, Auction	Yolanda Frank, Host Committee	



Craig and Nancy Rogers with India and Steve Loevner



Mark Giles and Lynda Johnson of Johnson Auction Service



Heather Brooks and John Cawley with Kelly Knickelbein



Lisa Freeman and Wallace Sapp



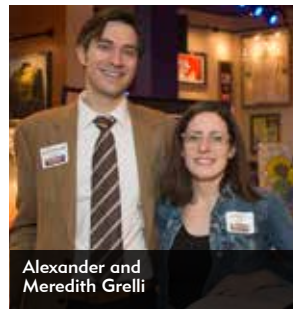
The Hard Rock Café was a perfect setting for WT's Greatest Hits.



Josselyn Shamos Crane A'00 and Joshua Browder



Andy Greiner and Kathy Sacco with The Bowie Bomber



Alexander and Meredith Grelli



Theresa Fox with Diane Nichols and Brianna Nichols



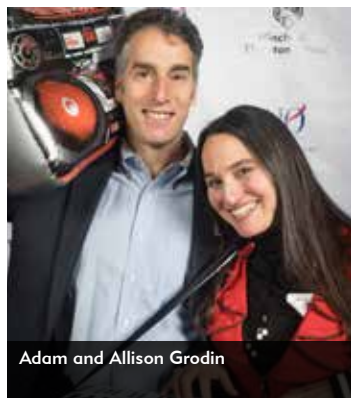
Gretchen and Miguel Busquets



Stacey and Ari Pressman with MaryJean Rusak and Adam Leong



Gary J. Niels and Elizabeth Patterson



Adam and Allison Grodin



Jamie Ivanac and Jonathan Kuhn



Thatcher and Penny Montgomery



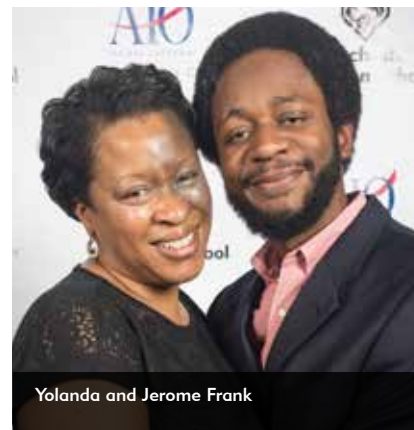
Emmai Alaquiva and Patrice Alexander Alaquiva '06



Michael-Paul Jenkins and Dayna Scott '11



Sam and Charlene Leeper



Yolanda and Jerome Frank



Peter and Desiree Soteres

There are many ways to be involved with WT. Please consider volunteering your time and talents. If you are a WT parent or grandparent, please contact Michelle Wion Chitty, Associate Director of Advancement, at (412) 578-3748 or wionm@winchesterthurston.org. If you are a WT alum or parent of an alum, please contact Ashley Harper, Director of Advancement at (412) 578-3746 or harpera@winchesterthurston.org. Thank you!

Thoughts on Giving

The spirit of generosity is embedded in the ethos of Winchester Thurston School. Our community chooses to give in so many ways and for so many reasons. We asked a few generous alumnae/i and parents to share their perspective on giving to WT.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

“I realized how much I learned at Winchester at different points in my life. This first became apparent after a short time at Bryn Mawr: I knew how to study, write a good composition, and prepare for three-hour exams. My junior year abroad in Spain reinforced the benefits of speaking another language. This ability opened a new world for me, a different culture and way of life. It was there that I became aware of the enormous divide that separates people because of their education.

“As the years have gone by, I have become more aware of how this gap affects people and how few can overcome it. That is why I have chosen to earmark my donations to Winchester Thurston for the benefit of those students who would not be able to afford a WT education. The school’s environment is a welcoming community where students of all backgrounds are integrated seamlessly, both academically and socially, opening a world of opportunity that, as I have experienced, stays with them for a lifetime.”

—Judith Ellenbogen '58, WT Fund Donor
and Miss Mitchell Society Member

THE WT COMMUNITY

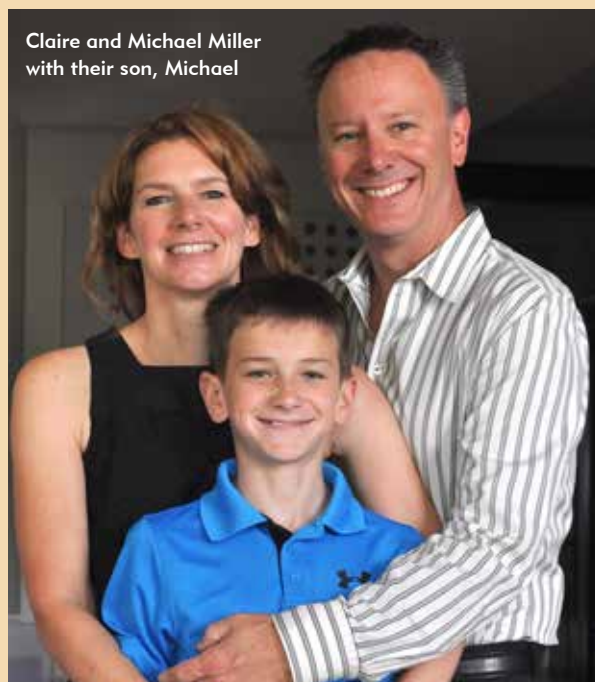
“Our WT experience continues to inspire our giving. We recognize the impact of the Lower School experience for our son and are pleased to support the school. We are further motivated by our appreciation to the faculty for the support, love, and care they provide to our child’s educational and personal development.

“We love that WT provides a diverse and inspiring environment for Michael to gain not only a solid education, but also the more nuanced cultural and societal needs for success in today’s world. We feel it is important to support the type of learning environment offered by WT for our child and our society in general.”

—Claire and Michael Miller,
parents of Michael, Class of 2025



Judith Ellenbogen and her husband, Julio Rodriguez-Luis, with their son and family in their Miami Beach home



Claire and Michael Miller
with their son, Michael



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 Ashley Harper, Director of Advancement, at harpera@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.

Suzanne LeClere Barley '52	Robert I. Glimcher	Patricia L. Maykuth '69	Susan Criepp Santa-Cruz '60
Loretta Lobes Benec '88	Rosanne Isay Harrison '56	Beverlee Simboli McFadden '55	Jennifer M. Scanlon
Barbara Abney Bolger '52	Eugene S. Kerber	J. Sherman McLaughlin, Honorary Alumnus	Sheen Sehgal '89
Kathleen W. Buechel	Elsa Limbach	Kathleen L. Metinko '91	Molly Cannon Stevenson '72
Marion Montgomery Colbourne '52	Louise Baldrige Lytle '51	Frances P. Minno	Allyson Baird Sveda '84
Judith Rohrer Davis '57	Carole Oswald Markus '57	Bee Jee Epstine Morrison '56	Ruth Weimer Tillar '41
Justine Diebold Englert '59	Gretchen Larson Maslanka '83	Henry Posner III	Gaylen Westfall, Honorary Alumna
Anna-Stina Ericson '44	Marga Matheny '64	Kathy Zillweger Putnam '71	Carol Spear Williams '57
Judith Ellenbogen '58			

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

YOUR CITY AS OUR CAMPUS

Alums embrace the idea that even away from the hallowed grounds and hallways of WT's buildings, we are lifelong learners who can make anywhere our campus. Alums got together in big groups and small to exchange appreciations for Winchester Thurston and to share what they continue to do and learn today.

NAPLES, FLORIDA AS OUR CAMPUS

At the Naples home of Kelly Hanna Riley's '91 family, longtime friends enjoyed beautiful views of the Florida sunset and expressed pride in WT's recent successes and its plans on the horizon.



(L-R) Bill and Carole Oswald Markus '57, Donald J. Muenzmay, Catherine and George Kuzmishin, Mary Succop Dickson '57, Honorary Alumnae Gaylen Faller Westfall and Judith Chamberlain, Gary J. Niels, Lori Wiechelt Schwegel '80, Elizabeth B. Patterson, Roberta 'Bobbie' Moritz Friedlander '54, Lester Frank, Roberta 'Bobbie' Blackburn Muenzmay '54, Christopher Wong, Susan 'Susie' Pekruhn Glotfelty '58, Mary Anne Hanna, Earl M. Glotfelty, Joanne Johnston Bowser '58, Dale Schwegel, Ellsworth T. Bowser, Ashley Harper, Maura L. Farrell, Howard W. Hanna III, Larry Feick, and hosts Kelly Hanna Riley '91 and Patrick Riley.



(L-R) Lester Frank, Roberta 'Bobbie' Moritz Friedlander '54, Mary Anne Hanna, Joanne Johnston Bowser '58, and Ellsworth T. Bowser



(L-R) Tom Foley and Suzanne Gurzenda Black '67

YOUR CITY AS OUR CAMPUS Looking to make a WT connection in your city? Meet vibrant members of our alumnae/i community who are active all over the country. Watch your inbox and regional Facebook groups for the next alumnae/i event near you, or email alum@winchesterthurston.org if you have ideas or would like to host a gathering in your area.

WASHINGTON D.C. AS OUR CAMPUS



In the greater Washington D.C. area, graduates of classes from 1944 to 2012 marveled at the surprising ways that Winchester Thurston has evolved throughout the decades.

(L-R) Marla McDaniel '90, Sherry Weissman Schweitzer '69, Darcy Katzin '90, Joanna Zawadzki '71, Erin Herward Thurston '94, Martha 'Mattie' McLaughlin Schloetzer '95, Linsey McDaniel A'96, Joy Titus Young '92, Cindy B. Freeman, Lauren Ober '96, Zakia Redd '93, Lise Charlier, Maura L. Farrell, Lisa Fierstein '12, Ashley Harper, and Adam Nye; (Not pictured: Sharon Lampl Webster '68, Juli Tomaino '96, Anna-Stina Ericson '44, Margaret Keck '66, Pamela Levy Cohn '80, Lori Feinman '84)



(L-R) Juli Tomaino '96, Linsey McDaniel A'96, Pamela Levy Cohn '80, Anna-Stina Ericson '44, Marla McDaniel '90, Darcy Katzin '90, and Margaret 'Mimi' Keck '66

SAN FRANCISCO AS OUR CAMPUS



(L-R) Honorary Alumna Helen Scully, Mr. Robert Scully, Pamela Scully '81, Lara Miller '04, Michael Curry '12, Seth Chabay '99, Linsey McDaniel A'96, Terrell Orr '09, and Ashley Harper



Ida Posner '08

Alums and friends savored brilliantly prepared ecological fare, swapped stories about WT, and encouraged each other's pursuits in education, public health, philanthropy, business, design, and the arts.

HOME FROM COLLEGE LUNCH

Recent grads home for winter break enjoyed lunch with friends and teachers back at dear old WT. The Classes of 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 talked with seniors, who were getting ready for college themselves, and shared laughs with faculty and staff.



Rosalie Daniels '13 (C) and Langston MacDiarmid '13 (R) catch up with computer science and math teacher David Nassar (L).



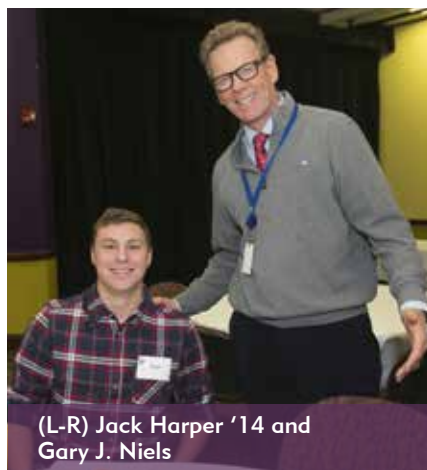
(L-R) Olivia Belitsky '13 and history teacher Michael Naragon



(L-R) Wanyan Ma '16, Joshua Siktart '15, Sophie Burkholder '16, Tyler Coleman '16, Senior Jack Waters, and Tamir Frank '16



(L-R) English teacher Sharon McDermott, Sophie Burkholder '16, Wanyan Ma '16, and Andrew Mullins '16



(L-R) Jack Harper '14 and Gary J. Niels



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

ThistleTalk goes digital: Get a full gallery of photos from the Home from College Lunch at winchesterthurston.org/digitalthistle



(L-R) Seniors Claire Mazur and Noah Goldstein happy to see Joan Mukogosi '16 back on campus

1941

Britta Ericson Chambers went on a lovely 10-day cruise from Rome to Venice last summer with family and a friend. They visited Sicily, Malta, western Greek islands, and the beautiful Dalmatian coast. Britta particularly liked Kotor in Montenegro.

1947

70th Reunion Year

Retirement expert and best-selling author **Nancy Kamin Schlossberg's** newest book, *Too Young to Be Old: Love, Learn, Work and Play as You Age*, was published by the American Psychological Association in April.



Author **Nancy Kamin Schlossberg** '47

Gerda Rice Whitman shared stories with Director of Alumnae/i Relations **Linsey McDaniel A'96** about growing up in Pittsburgh and attending Winchester Thurston when Head of School Miss Mitchell was alive.



Gerda Rice Whitman '47 near her home in Annandale, Virginia

1952

65th Reunion Year

Barbara Abney Bolger was honored in November at the Junior League of Bergen County's 30th annual Festival of Trees at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, an evening filled with entertainment, auctions, open bar, and a sit down dinner.



The Abney and Bolger family

1953

Elisabeth 'Betsy' Riddle Ruderfer moved back to Pittsburgh from Washington D.C. after 50 years away. She hopes to re-connect with old friends and is happy to be back in her beloved home town. Betsy writes, "Pittsburgh is such a beautiful city! Contact me at (412) 687-2392 or br.ruderfer@gmail.com."

Mary Ann Rowe Wucher is living in an apartment at Providence Point and loving it. Mary writes, "Never eat dinner alone! I've buried two husbands. Fred was my spouse for 51 years and then I married my brother-in-law Lou Scheimer from California. I never lived there permanently but went back and forth. We were together four years and married 17 months. Two of my three children live nearby so I keep in touch with three out of the five grandchildren. With all of the soccer games, baseball games, and ice hockey games it's fun!"

1954

Mary Christner Mullins writes, "you're never too old!" She and her husband Greg both celebrated their 80th birthdays and he decided to celebrate by doing a sky dive. Mary, on the other hand, chose to get together with friends this winter and she, **Roberta 'Bobbie' Moritz Friedlander**,



(L-R) **Carole Oswald Markus** '57 and **Mary Succop Dickson** '57

Carol Spear Williams is back from Turkey now and living permanently in Pittsburgh at the Essex House. Carol writes, "I would love to hear from anybody (by email at carol.usa008@yahoo.com or at 412-965-7788)! I'm now feeling so, so, sorry that I missed the last reunion, especially since several of us have passed away since. I hope to see everyone soon and shall definitely be at our next one in October! I've been busy emailing and sending what little money I can to fight for my beliefs and to help contribute to America like my grandmother did. I'm proud that, consequent to going on an African safari with Margaret Sanger, she was instrumental in bringing Planned Parenthood to Pittsburgh in the 1940s. She also helped to found WQED in 1955!"

1959



(L-R) **'Lyn' Clark Pegg** '59, **Rachel Gay Haines** '59, and **Polly Brandt Lechner** '59

Rachel 'Gay' Knake Haines, **Polly Brandt Lechner** and **Carolyn 'Lyn' Clark Pegg**, got together for a Class of 1959 mini-reunion in Venice, Florida in February where they enjoyed

Janet Rothman Markel, and **Anne 'Kiki' Bahr McConnel** were able to visit together in Naples and had a nice time.

1956

Lynne Crookston Stull is still doing well in her "just-like-new" home in Horizon Village in North Fort Myers, Florida, playing bells in church and going to many activities in the large community clubhouse. Lynne writes, "We have a guest room and bath available, so come on down!"

1957

60th Reunion Year

Carole Oswald Markus and **Mary Succop Dickson** caught up at the WT reception hosted by Kelly Hanna Riley '91 in Naples, Florida. They can't wait to see classmates in Pittsburgh for a 60th Reunion October 13 and 14!

hours of lively conversation, reviewing the current political challenges, and appreciating the skills that WT gave them to be active participants in this ever-changing world.

1962

55th Reunion Year

Mary Alice Henninger Price is interested in being in touch with classmates as their 55th Reunion approaches this year!

1964

After several trips to visit family in Utah, Texas, and Florida last year, **Jennifer Davies** stayed put, looking out over Long Island Sound and working in her garden. She also worked on large-scale papermaking in the yard, creating pieces for her solo show this past February at City Gallery in New Haven. The exhibit includes sewn collage of Japanese papers that Jennifer describes as, “printed from those loopy black tar lines that repair cracks in parking lots. Believe me, you have to abandon all pride to sit out there and print the asphalt—one of the good things about being 70! I made all the paper in the show from mulberry stalks, taking over the whole back yard.”



From the “Bound Books” series
by Jennifer Davies ‘64

1965

Susan ‘Susie’ MacMichael Zuntini finally hiked to Machu Picchu in September, a lifetime dream. She also crossed a canyon on a zip line—a scary first! Her son Alex with wife Kara and dog Beast completed a southbound hike through the Appalachian Trail amid snow and fire this year. Susie and her husband joined them in the tame Shenandoah National Park for five days. Susie reunited with **Ellen Halteman** and **Lucy Miller Stevens** in Vancouver. “Life is good!,” writes Susie. “Except for politics.”

1966

Kristin Langley writes, “I have retired and started to volunteer. My first activity is with the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, home of Winter, the dolphin. Check out www.seewinter.com to see all of the work they do with stranded and injured marine mammals. I love preparing fish dinners for otters, dolphins, turtles, and sharks.”

1967

50th Reunion Year

Heather Wishik and her spouse have moved to Boca Raton, Florida where Heather works from a home office as the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for The Nature Conservancy globally.

1968

Margie Balter had a marvelous time at this year’s Grammy Awards. Margie is celebrating ten years of being a voting member of NARAS (National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences) which puts on the Grammys, and loves it all the more every year. Her debut Grammy award winning solo piano CD, *Music from My Heart*, is still getting loads of play on radio and in film and TV.



Margie Balter ‘68 at the 2017
Grammy Awards

Nancy ‘Wendy’ Crawford

Galleher retired two years ago and her husband George finally retired in December. With their daughters Elizabeth and Lauren in Oregon and Connecticut respectively, it’s wonderful to have the flexibility to travel frequently to both places to visit their four grandsons. Nancy writes, “One of our goals now, is to travel to all of our National Parks,” and she calls on classmates to attend Reunion next year. “I can’t believe our 50th is just around the corner!”

Lucy McDowell Karrys writes from her mountain home in Arizona, “Hello, WT alumnae/i and students. Our news is that our dear 30-year-old son-in-law Jesus Barron who was brought here as a five-year-old is imprisoned and to be deported. My daughter and only grandchildren who have always lived nearby and count on us as part of the village-it-takes-to-raise-a-child will be moving 1,200 miles away to one of the only really semi-safe places to live in Mexico, San Miguel Allende. My son-in-law’s long and complicated story, though heart breaking, is not unusual and will be told as a cautionary tale in the near future and in further installments by international investigative reporter Valeria Fernandez on CNNespanol. We hope it will be picked up by many networks. For all of us insulated from the harsh realities of immigrant issues and those concerned about human rights, it is important to contact our legislators and ask for humane immigration laws to be put in

place immediately.”

“Long may we remember, looking backward to thee. Inspiration you’ve brought us. Courage, loyalty,” writes **Kathryn ‘Katy’ Rich Sherman**. “It has been a long time. In fact, our 50th reunion approaches. Let’s rise and shine and raise a glass for dear old WT! The date is likely to be the weekend of October 12, 2018. Add that to your calendars and plan on coming. Email me at katyrich2@me.com. Looking forward to hearing from you.”

1969

Christine McGowan Hess

writes, “My quadruplet daughters are over 35 now, and I have three grandsons and three granddaughters between the ages of two and seven. I’m still working: 16 years with the County Office of Education as a payroll specialist, and 24 years with H&R Block as an enrolled agent and master tax advisor during tax season.”

1970

Jane Nash Holland, Sally Weigler Golden, and Jane Cauley

spent a lovely reunion weekend in New York. Jane writes, “We went to a Golden Girls puppet show and all want to be Blanche when we “grow up”. We are trying to make this an annual event. Even though we do not see each other frequently through the year, we do not lose any time catching up! It’s so special to have friends for over 50 years; we met in the 9th grade!”



(Front row, L-R) Jane Holland ‘70, Sally Weigler Golden ‘70, and Jane Cauley ‘70 with the cast of *That Golden Girls Show* in New York

1972

45th Reunion Year

Carolyn Cramer Sanford saw **Hallie Weissman Cohn** while visiting her sister **Cynthia Cramer Lackey '75** in Hong Kong where Cynthia and Hallie are neighbors!



(L-R) Carolyn Cramer Sanford A'72 and Hallie Weissman Cohn '72 in Hong Kong

1974

Heidi Kanterman Freedman has been very busy since retirement from teaching. Her daughter Hillary, who lives in Connecticut, had a second child, a boy named Carter, last July. He joined sister Madelyn, who is three. Heidi's son Andrew was married to Krystie Bellandi in September at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Schenectady, New York. Heidi and her husband Glenn have been cruising now and then, to Alaska and Nova Scotia, and are looking forward to a Bermuda cruise this September.

1975

Carol Levy, also known as "The Billion Dollar Broker", welcomed two extraordinary identical baby twins to her family!



Twins Cassidy and Carly

1976

Madeleine Morgan Fackler visited Entebbe, Uganda where she was working with finance and supply chain leaders from nine different Internatioal Rescue Committee program offices in Africa and the Middle East. She's helping to design the needed systems to support the IRC's work in the refugee camps. Madeleine writes, "It feels good to be able to use my skill set to help some of the world's most vulnerable!"

1977

40th Reunion Year

Marsia Gibel Seydoux and **Arlene Allridge Seydoux** are traveling from Philadelphia and Switzerland to be at the 40th Reunion this year and they encourage classmates to join them!

1978

Caprice Pierucci has been in over ninety exhibitions and won numerous awards for her artwork. Her signature wood sculptures use linear shapes and progressive rhythm to create movement and shadow. The pieces reflect her background in fibers. Caprice earned her Bachelor in Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon University and her Master of Fine Arts degree from the School of Visual Arts in New York City.



Caprice Pierucci '78 in her Austin studio

1981

Last year was a big travel year for **Stephanie Wishnev**. She and her partner Lynn travelled to Romblon and Anilao in the Philippines, and rafted the Firth River in the Yukon all the way to the Arctic Ocean. They also spent a week at Amelia Island for Stephanie's mother-in-law's 80th birthday. Lastly, they completed an epic six-day hike in the High Sierras in Yosemite.

1982

35th Reunion Year

Mrs. Annie D. Guentner, former French teacher, recognized a photo from the alum archives. Madam Guentner writes, "I believe this is the tennis team that I coached. The team brought in a big trophy in the 1980s as the Berkman sisters, **Ellen Berkman** and **Martha Berkman Winfield '85**, and **Erika Rapport Kolod** won all their matches. They were great players. Good memories!"



WT Tennis Team with Coach Annie Guentner (fourth from the right)

Jennifer Solow writes, "After a couple decades as a creative director in advertising, another as a fiction author, and a few years as a food blogger and an obsessive-compulsive vegetable gardener, I have finally decided to embrace the career that Gloria Acklin had in mind for me way

back in eighth grade. With both Tallulah and Griffin out of the nest, I'm moving back to my farmhouse in New York full-time and took on the role of publisher and editor in chief of *Edible Hudson Valley*. Many thanks to **Lynn Friedman**, **Sharon Reidbord**, **Gina Pampena**, Honorary Alumna **Jane Scarborough**, and all of my WT friends who keep in touch. My first issue hit the stands this spring. I can't absolutely guarantee it, but I think this might finally be what I want to be when I grow up."



Jennifer Solow '82

1987

30th Reunion Year

Members of the Class of 1987 marching to celebrate Winchester Thurston's centennial in 1987 hold signs proclaiming WT as "the choice of a new generation." Recognize this photo? Contact us at alum@winchesterthurston.org with the classmates and story captured here.



1989

After many years away in Oswego, New York, **Melissa Hellman** discovered the piano that her family donated to the school during a visit to WT to tour the building and to say hello to beloved teacher Barbara Whitney Holmes.



Melissa Hellman '89
visiting WT

1992

25th Reunion Year

Rebecca 'Becca' Smith was a member of the six-person "CodeBusters" team that took the grand prize at the second PNC APIFest where 275 participants from 12 states brainstormed to develop or expand the bank's services. Team CodeBusters came up with HealthWallet, a one-stop shop for medical consumers.

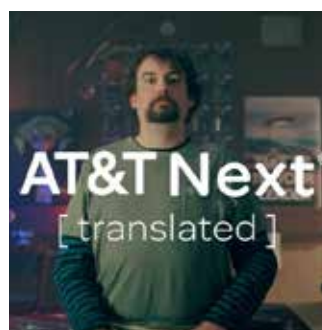


Rebecca Smith '92 (R)
takes the top prize with
CodeBusters teammates

1994

Ian Gould continues his professional life with Shakespeare, traveling across the country teaching master classes

at universities and appearing off-Broadway with New York Classical Theatre, where he was named an Associate Artist. He played Gratiano in *The Merchant of Venice* with the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. You may also see Ian as the "sci-fi aficionado" in a commercial advertising campaign for AT&T.



Ian Gould '94 as the
AT&T "sci-fi aficionado"

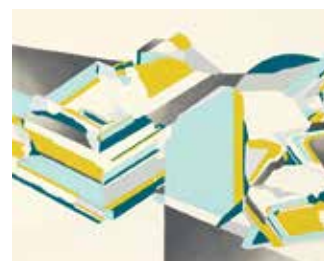
Benjamin 'Ben' Brody and his wife Lauren live in New York City with their two sons, Will, age eight, and Teddy, age five. Ben is a psychiatrist at Weill Cornell New York Presbyterian Hospital, and writes, "I am excited to report that Lauren's

first book *The Fifth Trimester: The Working Mom's Guide to Style, Sanity and Big Success After Baby* was published in April by the Doubleday imprint of Random House. Every new working mom needs a copy! Much love to the WT community from New York."



New book by Ben Brody's '95 wife, Lauren Smith Brody, is one of Working Mother Magazine's "10 Reads to Make 2017 Your Most Productive and Peaceful Year Yet"

Artist and elementary school arts educator **Rebecca Rothfus Harrell** is living in Austin with her husband, Clayton, where she enjoys the warm weather. Rebecca recently discovered that fellow Austin artist **Caprice Pierucci '78** is also a WT alumna at a WT dinner this winter. Rebecca sees classmate **Jonathan 'Chaka Dada' Mahone**, founder of hip hop band Riders of the Storm, at his local dance parties and performances from time to time. You can find Rebecca's paintings and collages at rebeccarothfus.com



Shift, by Rebecca Rothfus
Harrell '95

1996

Sean 'Rory' Hughes created and produced a dance piece in Dublin, Ireland called "Holding On" which explores grief in two parts. Part one is based on the sculpture "Dark Elegy" which was created by a mother who lost her son in the 1988 terrorist attack on Pan Am Flight 103. Her son went to Syracuse University, where Rory attended college. The dance piece had been in Rory's head for nearly fifteen years when attacks in Paris sparked his passion and desire again to explore and portray this topic. During a trip to New York, Rory visited the sculpture in person. He and his partner were overwhelmed with emotion seeing it and found that they could feel the grief of the other people walking around as well.

Anjali Sachdeva and Martin Kessler '97 are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Athena Razia Kessler, on January 14.

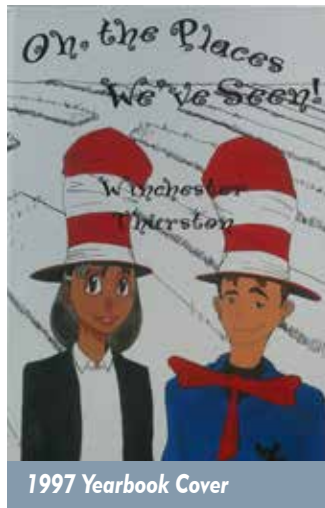


Athena Razia Kessler with her big sister Runa Sachdeva Kessler

1997

20th Reunion Year

Visit the "WT Class of '97 20th Reunion" page on Facebook to reflect back and be reminded of your senior survival tips, check out old photos, and see updates and video for Reunion. Contact **Megan Kime McCarthy, Meridith Deluzio Pettigrew, Stacey Stanczak Smith** or **Sarah Zeitler** about plans for the 20th!



1999

Kathryn 'Kathy' White Hawkins and her husband Jeff live in Scarborough, Maine, and are the founders of Eucalypt, www.eucalyptmedia.com, a content marketing agency that works with global brands including LinkedIn. Kathryn is also a columnist for Inc.com and several other publications. She and Jeff also have two amazing children, Leah, age seven, and Sean, age three. Kathryn regrets being so shy in high school, and invites any former classmates to join her for a lobster roll if they ever make it up to Maine.

2000

Alex Bickel was the colorist for the Best Picture of the Year, *Moonlight*! *Moonlight* received a range of accolades and wins including nominations for Best Cinematography and Best Film Editing. Alex is Founder of the Color Collective, www.colorcollective.com, an award-winning media production company specializing in color grading services for commercials, feature films, and music videos.



Tara McGovern graduated in December from George Mason University, Schar School of Policy and Government with a Ph.D. in Public Policy.



Tara McGovern '00 near her office in Alexandria, Virginia, outside of Washington D.C.

Andrew Santelli toured Director of Advancement Ashley Harper and Director of Alumnae/i Relations **Linsey McDaniel A'96** around the Disney Offices where Andrew manages the Digital Business and is Chief of Staff for Disney Parks and Resorts Digital.



(L-R) Andrew Santelli '00, Mr. Incredible, Ashley Harper and Linsey McDaniel A'96

2001

William Banks made his conducting debut leading performances for Propel High School's production of *The Wiz*. William writes, "A fantastic band and hard-working students helped to make this production a success. I hope the future brings many more opportunities to conduct this beautiful work."

Barry Rabkin celebrated his second anniversary at Identified Technologies, the leading fully-managed commercial drone solution for tracking and optimizing industrial job sites. This past fall, Barry earned his

Krav Maga Orange Belt and joined the Pittsburgh Jewish Family and Children's Service Board of Directors. Barry and his wife **Sarah Paret Rabkin A'03** moved next to Blue Slide Park in Squirrel Hill this spring to give their growing family more room to play. If you're in the neighborhood they've got bottles ready for you (and babies) and would love to catch up!



Barry Rabkin '01 and Sarah Paret Rabkin A'03 getting ready to welcome a new challenger to the family!

2002

15th Reunion Year

Matthew Benic is working as a College Mental Health Counselor at East Carolina University and is living in Greenville, North Carolina. He is pursuing full LPC licensure there and is the social media chair for the department on top of co-leading groups and counseling students.

2004

Keely Borland was a featured vocalist in the Baltimore Musicales spring inspired program, performing songs by Schumann, Schubert, Strauss, and the French composer Cécile Chaminade. A dynamic coloratura soprano, Keely made her company debut as Bella Giretti in Franz Lehar's Paganini with Philadelphia Concert Operetta Theater and returned to Fargo-Moorhead Opera as First Lady in *The Magic Flute*. Keely's other roles include Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* (Opera

Louisiane), Celia in *Iolanthe* (Young Victorian Theatre Company), and Flora in *The Turn of the Screw* (Hub Opera Ensemble).



Vocalist Keely Borland '04

2006

On March 9, 2017, **Patrice Alexander Alaquiva** and her husband, Emmai, hosted a fundraiser celebration for their favorite charities and to celebrate the recognition of being one of *Whirl Magazine's* 2017 "Couples Who Make a Difference." Along with generous donations from guests, they raised over \$5,000 for Baptist Temple Church and East End Cooperative Ministry.



(Back row L-R) Nikhil Singh '06, Na-Tasha McClain Hubbard '05, Patrice Alexander Alaquiva '06, Alyse Alexander '07, (front row L-R) Jimyse Brown '10, Ashleigh Parker '06, and Mike Gao '06

For more than four years **Emily Hoffman** has been working on a tall ship based out of Erie, the *Niagara*, which is a historically accurate replica of the ship that Oliver Hazard Perry used to win the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. The *Niagara* operates as a Sailing School Vessel running two to four-week

long sail training programs and educational day sails out of the Erie Maritime Museum, including school sails for grades eight and up. Emily is happy to be contacted for information about the programs or to make a presentation.



U.S. Brig Niagara under sail on Lake Erie

2007

10th Reunion Year

Catherine 'Katie' Conway, D.O. graduated from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine with a degree of Doctor of Osteopath last year. Katie was the first recipient of the LECOM-Highmark "Student-to-Practice" Academic Scholarship which was based on "academic performance, a commitment to practicing in primary care and prior experience working with underserved populations." At graduation, Katie was awarded the "Orville and Arlene Kelley Award for Family Medicine" given to the member of the graduating class who has upheld the ideals of the osteopathic profession and demonstrated clinical expertise in the field of Family Medicine. Dr. Conway is living in Beaver, Pennsylvania while completing her residency in Family Medicine with the Heritage Valley Health System.



Catherine 'Katie' Conway '07, D.O.

2008



Friends and family gathered in Miami in February for the wedding of Taylor Croft '08 to her Husband Tucker Donahue.

2009

Kevin Nguyen has been teaching English in Nagoya, Japan since August, and it's been a great experience so far. Kevin thanks all of his teachers for being great role models and for continuing to support him as he continues to learn and grow.



Kevin teaching an English camp course to children age four to six.

2010

Khalipha Misawa finished his Masters of Science in Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania last year and is currently attending Law School.

2011

Rogan Grant will be attending Northwestern University next year, to pursue a Ph.D. in neurobiology. Rogan writes, "This has been a quiet goal of mine since high school, and I can't easily put into words how excited I am to have made it this far. After nearly six years of active preparation, wrought with some notable difficulties

along the way, I can finally say that I am exactly where I want to be. Next step: understanding and curing neurodegenerative disease. Thank you to all of you who helped me along the way! I fully appreciate that I would not be here without you. Even just the occasional word of encouragement has made all the difference."

2012

5th Reunion Year

Lisa Fierstein's documentary, *The Presence Project*, was accepted into Thirteen WNET New York's short film contest! The documentary follows the partnership between Meghan Murray, a studio art major at Skidmore College and Beacon Pointe Memory Care, a senior living community for people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Through the power of images, Meghan captures the residents' personality in a fleeting moment in time, and honors them for who they were and who they are now. *The Presence Project* hopes to bring awareness about the fragility of memory, and to close the gap between the older and younger generations because no matter how old you are or how sharp your memory is, everyone has a story to tell.

Elizabeth Friedman graduated from Kenyon College last year and started the Teacher Education Program at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. During the program, she student taught in two classrooms in West Philadelphia, first in kindergarten and then in second grade. In May, she graduated with a Master's degree in Elementary Education. She looks forward to soon teaching in a classroom of her own!

2013

The music video that **Randon Bopp** directed made it to Australia TV, it screened at the Daytona 500 race last year, and has made it on many websites including MTV, VH1, CMT, Country Music News, Fanpop and many more! He also directed Season 1 of America Talks TV, which aired on Verizon Fios cable television. Randon's documentary *The Unforgotten Hero* aired twice on Verizon Fios as well. Following his third tour with the band The Stickers, Randon is excited to be moving to Nashville to pursue his filmmaking career there and get a foot in the music video and social marketing industry.

Samuel 'Sam' Schreiber, a recent graduate in Engineering Physics at Stanford University, was honored in April as a recipient of the university's Frederick Emmons Terman Award for Scholastic Achievement in Engineering. The award is presented to the top 5% of graduating seniors from the School of Engineering, a school which has been at the forefront of innovation for nearly a century. While pursuing his undergraduate degree, Sam has participated in international earthquake engineering competitions and worked for two firms in the Chinese solar

industry. He credits his passion and success to encouragement that he received while a student at WT. "I was afraid that I couldn't do it [succeed at physics], but Mr. Gee told me I could. That decision really was a formative moment in my academic career. My success was a validation for the confidence he helped me build."

2014

Kyle Salmon Droppa presented a research poster at the University of Pittsburgh's Annual Research Day on grey matter structural changes associated with cognition and late life depression. Kyle hopes to also author an article for publication before he graduates from New York University.

2015

Alexandra Uribe has been enjoying her sophomore year at Duke. This semester she is happy to announce her major in International Studies with a minor in Visual Media Studies. In addition, she is thankful to be able to continue working as an academic coordinator for Mi Gente (Duke's Latin American Student Organization). In her free time, she enjoys fundraising for Chi Omega, practicing taekwondo, and learning Latin dances. This summer, Alexandra

will be a volunteer in the Duke in Guatemala Program before embarking on her junior year.



Alexandra fundraising with Chi Omega.

Honorary Alumnae/i

Susan 'Sue' Clement Scarborough has been the Head of Powhatan School in Northern Virginia for six years after working at Buckingham Browne and Nichols School in Boston, Massachusetts for nine years. Sue and her husband Cary live on a twenty-two-acre horse farm and enjoy being in the country yet close enough to the Washington D.C. area for day trips. Powhatan School is near Winchester, Virginia and is only three and a half hours from Pittsburgh so visits to see family and friends are easy and frequent!

Former WT employees Linda Swarlis, Pat Leddy, and **Gaylen Faller Westfall** took a road trip through Southern France and enjoyed sightseeing in Monaco.



(L-R) Linda Swarlis, Pat Leddy, and Honorary Alumna Gaylen Westfall, traveling together in Europe

ALUMNAE/I CONNECTIONS



Follow all of the latest updates on WT's Facebook page. Be a WT ambassador: "like" us and tag Winchester Thurston Alums when you remember dear old WT.



Make the most of your LinkedIn profile—include your WT education and look under My Network to see who else in your profession or town is connected to WT.

Visit www.winchesterthurston.org/alum to find friends and



contacts through the Alumnae/i Directory, update your alum profile, submit a Class Note, and learn about upcoming events.



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.

Helen McNair Sinnott '36
Jane Brooke Farnsworth '37
Eleanor Jackson Migdal '42
Letitia Rieck '43
Lois Hertz Lesser '45
Margery Hamilton '46
Cynthia Scott '46
Virginia Jack Claxon '48

Mary Louise Rodewald Forni '49
Eleanor Decker McNaugher '49
Carol Straub Guilbert '50
Phyllis Shoemaker Beardsley '52
Jennie Lou Blackmore '53
Susan Barker Philp '59
Lesla Morrison '80



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REUNION

All class years are invited to join us for an alumnae/i weekend at Reunion. Class years ending in '2 and '7 have their own special class celebrations too.

Volunteer to get plans underway for your class: contact Ashley Harper at harpera@winchesterthurston.org, post a message in your class Facebook Group, or call 412-578-3746.

It's not a reunion without you!
Be here for Reunion 2017
(white dress and shoes optional).

Save the Date
October 13-14,
2017

