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SELF PORTRAIT

Students in Mary Martin's sixth grade visual arts course explored their unique identities while studying the work of Romare Bearden and other contemporary collage and photomontage artists. Through a self portrait project, each student interpreted his or her personality, values, and aspirations. In this piece, Erin Frohlich '16 expresses herself as a passionate learner through her use of various school references, while also emphasizing her love for the outdoors by incorporating images and colors that relate to her environment.

Thistle TALK

$$y = 0.5x^2 + 1$$

(x,y)

Exponential Equation

Taking Math Students to New Heights

MATHCOUNTS® Team Wins State Championship, p. 4

in **this** issue:

Commencement 2010

Shakespeare Takes Center Stage

Women's History Month





contents

Rigor, Authenticity, Immersion: The New Meaning of Academic Excellence

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL | Gary J. Niels

2

Head's Year in Review

3

COVER STORY:

Exponential Equation:

Problem-Centered Math Curriculum Takes
WT Math Students to New Heights

4



15



State Champs 4

FEATURES:

WT Celebrates Women's History Month

8

Commencement 2010

9

WT TODAY:

SCHOOL NEWS WT Orchestra In Full Swing...
Shakespeare Students Take Center Stage...
North Newshounds...Winter/Spring Highlights...
Sports Roundup...Parents Association...
Faculty Highlights

12

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNAE/I NEWS:

Young Alum Scholarship Fund

21



21

Reunion All Year Long

22

Beverlee Simboli McFadden '55 and the Miss Mitchell Society

24

Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer '37 In Memoriam

25

Class Notes

26



Gary J. Niels

Rigor, Authenticity, Immersion: The New Meaning of Academic Excellence

inventively, communicate globally with confidence and ease, and work in teams collaboratively. Consequently, the meaning of “academic excellence” is changing. Today schools must ensure that they are preparing students for a world that demands imaginative, innovative, and entrepreneurial minds. Young people need the tools of research and analysis; they must know what it means to think

in the world: the Galapagos Islands. One-third of the sixth grade and one-third of the seventh grade classes will be enrolled in Mandarin next year—they are preparing themselves to lead and thrive in a global society by embracing this completely different language and culture. Finally, WT’s commitment to innovation and a dynamic and rigorous learning environment can be seen in the

There is a Rabbinical saying, “Don’t limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time.”

When we first assembled WT’s Advisory Board, a group of Pittsburgh luminaries, we were interested in learning from their futurist thinking. Yet, few of these bright, insightful, and informed leaders could be certain about what the world or the region might look like in 2020. They were, however, certain about one thing: At the end of their schooling, the students at Winchester Thurston will be entering a world that is complex and changing rapidly. “We are preparing students for an unscripted world,” was the simple wisdom of our Advisory Board.

Our nation’s K-12 school system is a highly scripted and “factory-like” institution with a prototype curriculum that arranges knowledge into neat disciplinary packages, and orders information for broad dissemination and efficient digestion. The culmination of this system is the standardized state test, which forms the ultimate measure of educational success or failure. Today the quality of a public school system is measured largely by the performance of its students on these state tests.

As we look to the future, experts say, today’s students will need to be able to solve complex problems

“The meaning of ‘academic excellence’ is changing. Today schools must ensure that they are preparing students for a world that demands imaginative, innovative, and entrepreneurial minds....”

critically, find creative solutions, and apply knowledge. They need classrooms that open their imaginations, and to explore their own intellectual interests in depth and with discipline.

With its mission “to actively engage students in a learning process that is challenging and inspiring,” Winchester Thurston is graduating the kind of innovative thinkers who embody the qualities that will enable them to be the entrepreneurs we so desperately need for our future.

This year at WT one of our students did a senior project entitled “Placing a Spotlight on Our Grid: The Importance of a Smart Grid in the 21st Century.” His research culminated a multi-year intellectual journey that emerged from his personal interest in environmental issues. His passion led to in-depth pursuit of a topic that few have studied, and he is now engaged in sharing his research and learning with others outside of our community. This summer 10 Middle School students are doing scientific research in one of the richest ecosystems

nearly 100 City as Our Campus programs and initiatives under way or taking shape in the Upper School; approximately 40 in the Middle School; and nearly 100 in the two Lower Schools combined.

By marrying our mission of active engagement with the context of our unique locations, WT creates a learning environment that is not only rigorous, but authentic, immersing students in the world around them, helping them to create knowledge as well as absorb it.

Over the last couple of years, WT has emerged as a leader in the national independent school landscape—as a school that embraces the concept of preparing its students for an unscripted future and for leading the way in redefining academic excellence. In doing so we are not limiting our students’ learning to the world that we adults understand and encounter, but expanding their potential to learn and contribute to a world of the future time.

Head's Year in Review 2009-2010

Gary Niels's eighth year as Winchester Thurston's Head of School was marked by celebration of national recognition, reaching out to alums and parents, and continuing to pursue innovation and excellence. A few highlights...

July 2009....Installed as President of Pittsburgh Consortium of Independent Schools (PCIS), works to develop closer collaboration between PCIS and Pittsburgh Area Independent School Teachers Association (PAISTA) as well as PCIS and Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS); convenes discussions on PCIS's potential leadership in promoting diversity awareness in Pittsburgh; and facilitates strategic leadership discussions among PCIS school Heads.



August 2009....Welcomes back faculty, students, and parents and shares the news of WT's national recognition as one of only four recipients of a 2009 E.E. Ford Educational Leadership Grant. Enthusiastically shares WT's distinguished history with new faculty.

September 2009....With Parents Association President Deesha Philyaw and Director of Annual Giving Dionne Brelsford, forms Parents Advisory Council, parent leaders who meet with Niels several times a year as a representative sounding board providing insight on school matters.

October 2009....Travels to Boston for an alum gathering at the home of Kathy Zilweger Putnam '71 and her husband, George... Participates in Young Alumnae/i Leadership Council meeting, gathering input on ways to communicate the good news about WT in the broader community of Pittsburgh's young professionals...Mingles with parents, faculty, and students at Applefest at North... At Reunion, celebrates the Class of 1959 as they observe their 50th reunion, welcomes all at the annual cocktail party and student/alum field hockey game...Cheers on the Varsity Field Hockey team as they enter the WPIAL playoffs for the first time since 2006.

November 2009....Joins proud parents and faculty members for the captivating Middle School production of *HONK: The Musical*.

December 2009....Enthusiastically accepts one of the most coveted invitations at WT: to read to the Pre-K class!...Convenes the WT Advisory Board in an intensive session about City as Our Campus opportunities.

January 2010....Along with faculty and students, participates in production of a video on City as Our Campus for the Edward E. Ford Foundation website...Working with Board President Henry Posner III, convenes the annual Board of Trustees Retreat.

February 2010.... Presents a workshop for other independent school leaders at the National Association of Independent Schools conference in San Francisco, joined by heads of three other 2009 E.E. Ford Leadership Grant schools: William Clarkson of The Westminster Schools, James Kapae'alii Scott of Punahou School, and Tom Gilder

of Windward School. Visits with alums at a reception in San Francisco...Cheers on the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams as both enter league playoffs.

March 2010....Congratulates newly accepted families at an accepted students reception, and shares the latest good news at WT.

April 2010....Joins in a pep rally to congratulate the Middle School MATHCOUNTS® team on their state championship...Visits with alums at a *Grease* "reunion" before this year's Upper School Musical...Tours the faculty art show, *By Example*.

May 2010....Cheers on the Varsity Boys Lacrosse team in the league playoffs, and attends many Varsity Girls Lacrosse games to cheer on his wife, Elizabeth, the team coach. Celebrates the many accomplishments of students and faculty at Upper School Class Day, Middle School Awards Ceremony, Lower School Evenings of the Arts, Middle and Upper School Dance Show.

June 2010....Welcomes another class of WT students into the alumnae/i community at the 123rd Commencement exercises.

Winchester Thurston School

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STATE CHAMPS! (L to R) Daniel Balter '14, Cameron Barge '14, Tristan Hull '14, and Sonu Bae '14, 2009-2010 MATHCOUNTS® Team

Exponential Equation

Problem-Centered Curriculum Takes WT Math Students to New Heights

Winning the Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS® state championship has long been a goal of the Middle School MATHCOUNTS® team, and this year they prevailed! In March, eighth graders Sonu Bae, Daniel Balter, Cameron Barge, and Tristan Hull won out over 72 Pennsylvania teams, returning home from Harrisburg with the championship trophy. In true WT spirit of respect for and celebration of achievement, the team was congratulated with vigor by Head of School Gary J. Niels and the entire Middle School community at a festive pep rally in Falk Auditorium just after spring break.

In addition to the team's overall win, Daniel medaled as a top 10 contender in Pennsylvania, and Middle School teacher Heather Crowley was named to coach the Pennsylvania team at the national MATHCOUNTS® championship in Orlando, Florida, in May. There, her team came in 10th out of 52 teams, and Crowley was recognized as one of the outstanding coaches at the event.

"We're very proud of this team. Not only do they compete at the highest level and consistently lead the way regionally and nationally, but they demonstrate WT's focus on embracing challenge with determination."

— Gary J. Niels

Behind the MATHCOUNTS® achievements lie years of commitment to continuously strengthen a curricular and extracurricular mathematics program that inspires and challenges all math students. Collective success not only led to a state championship, it has also drawn a cohort of some of the brightest math students in the area, and fostered a learning environment in which more students than ever are embracing the challenges of higher level math:

- Enrollment in AP calculus at WT has increased from 19 students in 2002-2003 to more than 50 projected in 2010-2011.
- Since the 2002-2003 school year, 76% of WT students taking AP Calculus AB and 100% taking AP Calculus BC have scored a 3 or higher on the AP exam, qualifying them to receive college credit. Nationally, in 2008-2009, 59% of students who took AP Calculus AB scored a 3 or higher, and 80% who took AP Calculus BC scored a 3 or higher.
- Last fall, WT became one of two Pennsylvania schools named to the Distinguished Schools Honor Roll for performance in the American Mathematics Competition, level 8 (AMC8), a national test that covers geometry, algebra, probability, logical reasoning, arithmetic, and more. This is the highest level of recognition that a school can achieve. 2,372 schools participated in the AMC8 in the fall of 2009, 80 in Pennsylvania.

The mathematics department boasts a faculty whose knowledge and dedication are inspiring. Department Chair Stephen Miller, a statistician, has worked in the private sector and taught at the university level in addition to 14 years teaching in independent schools; since his arrival at WT two years ago, he has broadened the Upper School math curriculum to challenge students at all levels. Miller has edited several widely used statistics texts and serves as an editorial reviewer for *Mathematics Teacher*, a professional journal published by the National Council on Teaching Mathematics (NCTM). This year, he presented a paper at the NCTM conference in San Francisco, entitled



might use a motion sensor to collect the speed and distance of a classmate as she walks across the room. The sensor feeds the data to a graphing calculator, which generates a graph and projects it on a white board. The students analyze the data and, as their subject changes the speed and distance of her movements, they see the graph change instantly and can more quickly understand the data's impact on a slope.

As students' understanding grows, they can use the technology to capture and analyze more complex data; for example, they might use the sensor to measure height and acceleration as a pillow falls to the floor, which results in a curve being plotted on the graph.

Davidson's students also use computer aided drawing tools like Geometer's Sketchpad to experiment with interactive shapes and graphs, allowing them to tap into the visual nature of mathematics. "This type of experiential learning helps

"Pure mathematics is beautiful and elegant, and WT has gifted math students who immerse themselves in it."

— Stephen Miller

"Shape Changing Transformations: Hands-on Activities that Demonstrate Linearization in Regression Modeling," and he was recently appointed to the American Statistics Association's Committee on Outreach Education.

Miller notes: "Pure mathematics is beautiful and elegant, and we have gifted math students at WT who immerse themselves in it." In Lower School, the Academic Enrichment and Challenge (AEC) program provides instruction in mathematics for students in grades 2 through 5 who have mastered grade level curricula and are ready for acceleration. Instruction is tailored to each student's needs, and some have moved into algebra and geometry in Lower School and precalculus and calculus in Middle School; new students with high math ability have been drawn to WT because of this thoughtful, comprehensive approach.

As a result, more students are completing the standard college preparatory math sequence of Algebra, Geometry, Precalculus, Calculus AB, and Calculus BC before they finish Upper School. The department offers a robust array of electives, including AP Statistics and Mathematical Models for Decision

Making, and is exploring development of a course in multivariable calculus and linear algebra for students who complete both calculus courses before their senior year.

Aligned with the mission to engage every student, WT provides opportunities for all students to advance their studies. Miller comments, "In the past, advancement depended upon an extraordinary level of ability and a passion for pure mathematics. Today, because of advances in technology, more students can go much farther."

A few years ago, in a typical Algebra 2 class on linear models you would have seen students seated at desks, absorbed in solitude, plotting numbers from columns in their textbooks on two-dimensional graphs, and comparing slopes. Today, Michael Davidson teaches his students the same lessons through live action and intriguing uses of technology that bring the two-dimensional data to life. Rather than transferring numbers from table to graph, students



students discover and remember the mathematical relationships around them," says Davidson, who is known as the department's technology guru. "Technology tools bring math out of the abstract. Students can see what they are doing and better articulate and evaluate it."



The Power of “Why?”

Articulating the abstract requires understanding, which requires thinking and problem solving. From Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12, “we strike a balance between skills development and problem-based learning,” says Miller. “The Lower School curriculum is more traditional, so when the students enter sixth grade,

“I feel especially proud of the success of girls in math at WT.” — David Hallas

they have a strong skills base. They’ve also had some exposure to problem-based learning, as we supplement our traditional curriculum with other materials.”

The Middle School uses Michigan State University’s Connected Mathematics, widely respected as a “problem-centered” curriculum in which students engage in “thinking, planning, reasoning, computing, and evaluating,” rather than memorizing definitions and practicing computations. Megan Presnar, who teaches math in both Middle and Upper Schools says,

“Connected Math is wonderful because it allows students to see the math concepts they are learning applied in many different subjects and situations. This shows students that math is present in many aspects of our lives.”

In the Upper School, according to math teacher David Hallas, coursework “is rich in applications and problem solving.” He sums it up: “Kids who come through WT expect to have to think in math class.”

On the WT faculty for 11 years, Hallas has taught math for nearly four decades. He was part of a committee that evaluated Connected Math for Michigan State when the curriculum was in development, and served as a test question editor for the ACT standardized college entrance exam. In 2003, Hallas won the prestigious Edith Mae Sliffe Award from the Mathematical Association of America for “distinguished junior high school mathematics teaching.”

With a passion for fostering within students the confidence to be problem solvers and critical thinkers, he has spearheaded numerous curricular initiatives and enrichment opportunities. His convictions are echoed in the NCTM Guiding Principles, which state: “Students should have frequent opportunities to formulate, grapple with, and solve complex problems that require a significant amount

of effort.” Hallas calls this approach “getting stuck,” then applying knowledge and skill to “get unstuck.”

Heather Crowley, who has taught math in the Middle School for 14 years, is known for her high standards and unswerving dedication to her students; she was the recipient of the 2009 Jane Scarborough Award for Excellence in Teaching, WT’s highest faculty accolade. She says, “Our approach is to base our instruction in the question, ‘Why?’ Why does something work? The students must always have a proof behind their answers, must be able to articulate and evaluate their processes in solving a problem.”

This approach builds knowledge, confidence, and tenacity. “By and large, our students won’t give up on a problem,” says Miller. “They work really hard, and they understand that math is not about being given a rule so they can apply it, but being given a problem so they can figure things out. These are the kinds of thinkers we are developing at WT.”

“Experience and hard work lead to success,” Crowley adds. “That’s a life lesson embedded in our teaching practice and in our math curriculum. Our students absorb that lesson over the years. It’s something they take with them when they graduate and it will be critically important to them no matter where they go or what they do in their lives.”

A problem-based approach can be challenging for some students, because, according to Davidson, “Applied problems have greater dimension, and are a lot more complex.” Colleague Denise Pollack, who teaches in the Middle School, adds, “We have to teach our students a problem solving mindset, especially if they come here from other schools where they may be used to a more formulaic approach.”

A problem-based approach can also guide students to higher levels of mastery. “In the past, many students would get lost in the detail of lower level mathematical



“The mathematician Ian Stewart writes that the hidden tendrils of mathematics pervade every aspect of modern life. I would like to use applications of mathematics to make our modern life better.” — Helen Bunker '10

operations. There wasn't time to move beyond this minutia to more complex math, and in some cases, you lost students who had the potential to go far because they simply did not get excited about rote learning,” Hallas adds. “Now, because they've learned the basics and developed a problem solving mindset, and because we help them move more quickly to the conceptual, more of our students are able to learn more advanced math.”

He continues, “Our brightest math students are doubling up in geometry and algebra, or statistics and precalculus, and interest in calculus is growing year by year. AP calculus has grown to a projected 55 students next year, many of whom would not have made it this far 10 years ago. I feel especially proud of the success of girls in math at WT. Some of our best students are young women.”

One of these young women, Helen Bunker '10, heads off to study chemical engineering at Carnegie Mellon in the fall. She expresses unlimited enthusiasm for math: “Math is the ultimate universal language. People all over the world can derive the same formulas using similar logical steps. There is something incredible about the fact that mathematical truths have not really been invented by different mathematicians, but have been discovered by seeing patterns in a jumble of numbers. It makes me wonder what else is out there, just waiting to be brought to light.”

Reflecting on her experience at WT, she says, “Many of the courses at WT are based on problem-solving labs rather than the more common ‘chalk and talk’ method of teaching mathematics. Our teachers’ focus on exploration rather than memorization makes WT’s math classes engaging and informative.”

Why It Matters

NCTM advocates: “A solid mathematics education is essential for an informed public, our national security, a strong economy, and national well-being.” Helen Bunker’s education and career aspirations, which bring together a multitude of disciplines, are reflected in this statement. She says, “The mathematician Ian Stewart writes that the hidden tendrils of mathematics pervade every aspect of modern life. I would like to use applications of mathematics to make our modern life better.... Our future lies in research and development and my lab work in chemistry and physics laid the ground work for my interest. Delving into international and public policy issues in my history classes also contributed to my understanding of the global impact of our energy decisions and my desire to make the next bold step.”

Math Enrichment: Expanding Horizons

Recognizing WT’s commitment to mathematics, an anonymous donor came forward in 2007 and again in 2008, with major gifts to infuse energy into math enrichment programs at WT. Crowley and Hallas responded by expanding MATHCOUNTS® in the Middle School, offering a twice weekly elective open to all Middle School students. The course provides year-long math enrichment and problem solving experience, beginning with intensive focus on skill development and progressing into practice for competition.

Students wishing to compete commit to rigorous MATHCOUNTS® practice after school, where they are further challenged by math problems with a high degree of difficulty. Approximately 20 students participate in the MATHCOUNTS® elective; visibility and enthusiasm have been heightened with sweatshirts, banners, and a “Problem of the Week” contest for all students throughout the year.

As the home of Western Pennsylvania’s chapter of American Regions Mathematics League (ARML), WT is known as the place to be for students interested in achieving and competing in math. Most weekends, dedicated Middle and Upper School students from WT and other private and public schools gather with coach Hallas and WT parent Mor Balter to prepare for ARML regional and state competitions. All WT Upper School students may also participate in a mathematics team advised by teacher Michael Davidson, which is designed to offer more experience solving problems and competing at local competitions.



Cynthia Pearson Turich '65 and Jessie Block '12,
In Sisterhood panelists

WT CELEBRATES Women's History Month

"Pittsburgh has a long history of producing influential leaders," says Patricia Ulbrich, PhD., a sociologist and visiting scholar in women's studies at the University of Pittsburgh. "What people don't know is that Pittsburgh was also home to influential leaders of the women's movement and to pioneering feminist organizations in the latter part of the 1900s." Through *In Sisterhood*, an oral history multimedia project, Ulbrich set out "to write these activists into regional history, and...do it in their voices."

In March, to mark and celebrate Women's History Month, English teacher Muriel Alim brought this mesmerizing series of photographs, video, posters and other memorabilia to the Upper School. *In Sisterhood* brought to life the accomplishments and interlocking histories of "this extraordinary array of leaders"

with awe-inspiring immediacy. Profiles included Pittsburghers Eleanor Smeal, Wilma Scott Heide, and Molly Yard, past NOW presidents; Plowshares Eight member Molly Rush, whose nonviolent protest of nuclear weapons made headlines and history; and former Pennsylvania state treasurer and auditor general Barbara Hafer, once dismissed as "a little nurse from Elizabeth." Also highlighted were Alma Speed Fox and Brenda Frazier, each of whom has strong ties to WT. Fox is Alim's mother, as well as the aunt of first grade teacher Theresa Fox. Frazier is a WT grandmother and mother-in-law of Middle School Director Holly Hatcher-Frazier.

Women's Views, Voices and WT

Dialogue was an important aspect of the celebration; to that end, an intergenerational panel discussion, "The Evolution of Feminism and the Women's Movement," presented a range of experiences and perspectives from Ulbrich along with Jessie Block '12, Cynthia Pearson '65, La'Tasha Mayes of New Voices Pittsburgh, Cynthia Vanda, *In Sisterhood* subject, and moderator, WT Parent Deesha Philyaw.

"These strong women made me feel such a connection to... who I am, and the spread of information leads to open minds, which is what I love to see at WT. In all, by embracing the diversity in others, it makes it easier to be you and understand people better," says Jessie. "I hope I can contribute a younger, more modern perspective of what feminism/equalism is today, and the experiences I've had growing up around...the strong women in my life."

"There was not yet a modern women's movement when I was at WT," recounts Pearson, who entered WT in 1957 and graduated in 1965. "By the time Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* came out in 1963, my mother had already started grad school, a radical thing for a 53-year-old suburban mother of five to do, so I guess you could say that for me the women's movement started at home. And at WT I enjoyed an environment in which all roles—officer, poet, scholar, jock, journalist, performer, yearbook editor, event planner, you name it—were filled by females...So in a lot of ways, by the time Friedan helped start the National Organization for Women in 1966, I was thinking, 'What took them so long?'"

Pearson adds, "It's my hope that those who are growing up free of the constraints of the past will look back at the progress that's been made, and look ahead to what more can be done to protect and ensure women's rights to security and freedom."

"It's important for young people to understand the barriers that women faced...and the actions that were taken to remove those barriers, to understand that the opportunities they have today are the result of concerted actions and determination," declares Ulbrich. "They need to understand the roots of those advantages and not take them for granted. I want them to know the history, and to know that while changes have been made, some of those changes have already been reversed! Change isn't permanent—it's a process."



Top: The Class of 2010 at WT's 123rd Commencement on June 6.

Above, top left: (clockwise, from left) Speaker Aradhna Dhanda, President and CEO of Leadership Pittsburgh; Kurt Twyman '10; WT Board President Henry Posner III; Head of School Gary J. Niels; and Ambika Ramesh '10

Above, top right: (left to right) Nathan Ong '10 and Helen Bunker '10 are congratulated by Ari Schuman '11

Bottom right: (left to right) Isabel Zehner, Ambika Ramesh, Kathryn Varnay, Alaina Ferry, and Rosaleen Mahorter





Challenge. Possibility. Leadership. Community.

These themes resonated through the Twentieth Century Club on June 6 as the WT community celebrated the Class of 2010 at the school's 123rd Commencement exercises. Joining the student speakers at the podium was this year's Commencement speaker, Aradhna Dhanda, President and CEO of Leadership Pittsburgh Inc., and a member of WT's Advisory Board. Excerpts from Dhanda's address, as well as the students' speeches, follow.

ON CHALLENGE

In the age just passed, we could believe that problems existed in isolation...We could pretend that the economy and the environment were separate, that our economy was insulated from what happened in other countries, that saddling future generations with the financial and ecological costs of our actions could go on forever, that failing to educate millions of our own children was someone else's problem...Increasingly, our task is to appreciate how connected we all are—to each other, and to the planet—and to devise solutions that embrace the complexity of the world in which we now live. It is because this so obviously requires us to work together that some in our society see it as a diminishment of our power. I see it as the maturation of our power.

— Aradhna Dhanda

... When you step...into the bigger spectrum of college life, most likely you will meet people who do not value your individuality... But if I have truly learned any life lessons from my experiences at WT, it would be that courage is best shown through staying true to one's beliefs and ideas about the world...When we leave the comforting environment of WT and cross into the unknown, mysterious abyss of college, our courage will be put to the test... The best answer is to stay true to yourself. It was through WT that I was able to find the courage to be myself.

— Khalipha Misawa '10

ON POSSIBILITY

Many people in our society believe that an era of endless possibilities and opportunity is giving way to an age of constraints and limits. An America raised on the promise of boundlessness suddenly finds itself confronting a world of boundaries...and what looms ahead is an era of diminished expectations. To which I can only say, nonsense. There have always been limits and boundaries in this world... [We] are not powerless. Rather, in this new period in our history, we are simply being asked to set aside some old beliefs that no longer serve us.

— Aradhna Dhanda

...We have our Macs, iPods, Facebook, and Skype; but we also have a determination, will, and hope that we can do anything...Yes we were labeled as the technology generation but remember we are also the generation of "YES WE CAN." For we can and will accomplish whatever it is we choose to do, because for us the sky is the limit.

— Jimyse Brown '10

Being in this class has challenged me. Their success has forced me to push myself more and want more for myself. This has only made my educational experience better...Our class leaders have done everything in their power to change what they don't like about the school...now we know first-hand what can be accomplished with a little determination.

— Brea Allen '10

ON LEADERSHIP

[Two] qualities set the very best leaders apart: First, they take personal responsibility...They take charge, they act, they move. They know that leadership is not about titles or status; it is about how you think, how you behave, what you contribute.

— Aradhna Dhanda

For the past years we have continually heard "think also of the comfort and the rights of others." With this motto and the life skills that our educators and peers have taught us here at WT, we will make a difference in this world. No matter what we do, WT has prepared all of us to become leaders...We are the people who will find the next reliable energy source, depreciating our reliance on oil; we are the people who will work to fight disease, conducting research that will make an impact; and we are the people who will study the works of the cosmos, expanding the horizons of scientific curiosity.

— Rachel Dougherty '10

ON COMMUNITY

[The very best leaders]...see themselves as part of something larger. They reach out to others, seek guidance and input, establish networks, share learning, and build coalitions. By viewing the world through the prism of community, they ask better questions and devise better solutions.

— Aradhna Dhanda

WT has shaped who we are today...[No] matter where we end up, the skills that WT has given us will stay with us, strengthening and supporting each of us. Even though we're leaving, this school has left its mark on us and will shape us for the rest of our lives.

— Rachel Dougherty '10

Students Honored at Commencement 2010

Emily E. Dorrance Award

Andrés Rafael Vélez

Mary A. Campbell Award

Nathan Rico Ong

Mary A. Graham Mitchell Award

Hazel Thérèse Eaton

Alice M. Thurston Award

Rachel Vittoria Dougherty

Ruth S. Gamsby Award

Christopher M. Schmidt

Nina Wadhwa Student Council Award

Christopher M. Schmidt



2010 Cum Laude inductees celebrate with Science Department Chair Brenda Abbey (seated in center row, middle), who was selected by the students to give the Cum Laude ceremony address, and Director of College Counseling David Seward.

Nine Seniors Inducted into Cum Laude Society

In January Winchester Thurston School inducted nine members of the Class of 2010 into the Cum Laude Society, an organization dedicated to recognizing academic achievement in secondary schools. Founded in 1906, Cum Laude was modeled after Phi Beta Kappa, and has grown to 350 chapters, most of which are located in independent schools.

The nine outstanding members of the class of 2009 selected for induction were:

Helen Bunker	Morgan Re
Rachel Dougherty	Matthew Rosenberg
Hazel Eaton	Miranda Santucci
Barbara Johnson	Rachel Woods
Nathan Ong	

College Choices for the Class of 2010

Brea N. Allen	Georgia State University
Alexandra N. Ashley	University of Pittsburgh
Christopher T. Bangs	McGill University
Peter S. Berexa	Lafayette College
Jimyse L. Brown	Shepherd University
Helen S. Bunker	Carnegie Mellon University
Rachel V. Dougherty	Fordham University
Emily C. Dressen	Miami University, Oxford
Hazel T. Eaton	Westminster Choir College of Rider University
Hayleigh M. Edmonds	Duquesne University
Alaina P. Ferry	The College of Wooster
Christopher F. Flaherty	West Virginia University
Alema R. Heywood	Bowling Green State University
Meta B. Hord	Youngstown State University
Barbara C. Johnson	New York University
Angel P. Karagyzov	Northeastern University
Geoffrey T. Keller	University of Pittsburgh
Graham S. Keller	Guilford College
Brian T. Krell	University of Pittsburgh
Spencer B. Lieber	Dickinson College
Rosaleen F. Mahorter	Tulane University
Khalipha A. Misawa	The George Washington University
Nathan R. Ong	University of Pittsburgh, University Honors College
Ambika M. Ramesh	University of Pittsburgh
Morgan A. Re	University of San Diego
Blake G. Reading	Syracuse University
Matthew M. Rosenberg	University of Pittsburgh, University Honors College
Miranda N. Santucci	Allegheny College
Christopher M. Schmidt	American University
Sarah D. Shepherd	Otterbein College
Andrew E. Snyderman	Xavier University
Jonathan H. Springer	Rochester Institute of Technology
Inaya M. Stephenson	University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
James Dalton Towers	University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Danielle M. Trauth-Jurman	Bowling Green State University, Honors College
Kurt I. Twyman	University of Pittsburgh
Kathryn M. Varnay	Lehigh University
Andrés R. Vélez	Carnegie Mellon University
Molly M. Weiner	University of Pittsburgh
Rachel L. Woods	Emerson College
Dì Xie	New York University
Isabel M. Zehner	Boston University



(clockwise) Nathan Ong '10, Hazel Eaton '10, Alaina Ferry '10, and John Maione

Upper School Orchestra IN FULL SWING

“We have something special going on here, and the vision is just to keep getting better.”

— John Maione

When Upper School orchestra conductor John Maione waved his baton for the first time 10 years ago, he looked out over a very small sea of faces. “There were about four kids,” recalls Maione. “In those early years, we were doing simple music, things in two and three part harmony, and we were playing (arrangements) that the Middle School orchestra is now doing. We couldn’t really do an orchestral piece...We only had one or two strings. I didn’t have a cello until five years ago!”

Today, the Upper School orchestra has 19 members, boasts an admirable lineage of accomplished—some extraordinary—musicians, and, this spring, crowned the 2009-2010 season with its most remarkable performance to date. “This is the fourth full-length orchestra concert we’ve done,” Maione declares. “It’s the most balanced program of music ever: four separate suites. I put them together so they play like a mini-symphony: one from the Classical period, one from the Romantic period, one from the Baroque period, and a 20th century suite.”

Senior Alaina Ferry, WT’s Violino Principato, was joined by WT’s 2010 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) representatives, violinists Nathan Ong ’10 and Langston MacDiarmid ’13, along with senior pianist Hazel Eaton, to

lead a performance that mesmerized the orchestra's audience with compositions by Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Rimsky-Korsakov, Copland, Mussorgsky, Bernstein, and Vivaldi.

Prelude

Even in its infancy, the orchestra had impact and made Maione proud. "We took our little orchestra to do community service performances at a retirement village, and we actually played in the hallway of the cancer floor at Shadyside Hospital." Gradually, Maione attracted a following of committed musicians who in turn attracted others to join.

2004-2005 was a pivotal year: "I found my two superstars—

Michael McCarthy on violin, and pianist Yin Yin Ou," Maione says. "Yin Yin was a concerto soloist with the McKeesport Symphony, and was

The orchestra mesmerized their audience with compositions by Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Rimsky-Korsakov, Copland, Mussorgsky, Bernstein, and Vivaldi.

winning competitions at Duquesne University and many other places. Michael played with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra. By the end of their tenure here, we had done five pieces of music where we were not doing arrangements for high school. We were doing what the symphony players would order from Kalmus, the music publisher. We did three of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, we did Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* and Correlli's *Christmas Concerto*, and it was the real thing."

"I think the most rewarding and challenging part of being in the orchestra was learning Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*," reflects McCarthy '08, currently studying violin performance with a minor in physics at Cleveland Institute of Music/Case Western Reserve University. "We played *Autumn*, *Spring*, and *Winter*, all three of which have very challenging and demanding solo violin parts."

"The orchestra provided a supportive and safe environment for artistic exploration and growth," adds Ou '08, who studies piano at Stanford University while majoring in international relations. "It was a place where we could challenge ourselves without the fear of being judged or criticized."

Turning Point

2006-2007, McCarthy's and Ou's junior year, saw an influx of students from the Middle School orchestra, including violinist Nathan Ong '10 and pianist Hazel Eaton '10, coinciding with the arrival of a new freshman, violinist Alaina Ferry '10.

"Alaina and Nathan were able to create a violin section for us to do the concertos so that Michael could be principal violinist," recalls Maione. "And then Hazel walked in and eventually took over Yin Yin's role. Hazel is an incredible pianist, Chair One of my guitar ensemble, maybe the finest musician overall who's walked through these doors in my tenure."

Ferry, who is a Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra violinist, also plays clarinet, and plans to minor in music at the College of Wooster, helped bring the orchestra full circle with this year's performance of Vivaldi's Summer Concerto, thus completing the *Four Seasons* cycle begun in 2008 with McCarthy. She says: "The orchestra has evolved so much since I have become a member. Every rehearsal it seems that we sound more incredible. As we individually grow as musicians, we also grow together to become a more cohesive and beautiful-sounding group."

Forward Movement

One of the ensemble's most prestigious appearances took place in January at the Carnegie Music Hall—a 37-minute concert prior to the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society's presentation of the world renowned Emerson String Quartet.

"It's a beautiful space with amazing acoustics, and I thought it was one of the best performances we ever did. People who were there to see the Emerson String Quartet seemed to really enjoy us, and I felt like we were a professional group, and not just 'high schoolers,'" says Eaton, who will pursue a degree in organ performance at Westminster Choir College, and plans a master's degree in sacred music.

The performance sparked a new City as Our Campus partnership for 2010-2011.

"We are starting a partnership with the Pittsburgh Chamber Music Society next year," announces Maione. "It's a program patterned very much after our Manchester Craftsmen's Guild partnership. We'll be working with professionals who are well known the world over."

The orchestra still has its challenges: each year, seasoned members graduate, and new musicians step in. The ensemble is still small by anyone's standards, and doesn't always have full instrumentation. "For four years I only had one viola – then there was the year without one! – so I transposed the viola part for B-flat clarinet and for flutes to balance things out a little bit so we could do full arrangements."

There's even been a learning curve for Maione, an accomplished musician with expertise in jazz and rock, among other genres—but for whom classical conducting has been "a journey." He credits Ou with teaching him a thing or two in that regard. Observes Ong: "With a background in jazz, he has a different style in conducting, allowing a bit of freedom and comfort with students. He continually pushes students to play more distinctly, rather than hide 'behind the music.' In addition, he does something most classical conductors don't: he smiles while conducting."

"What's starting to happen here is really amazing," concludes Maione. "We're building a program and an ensemble that is growing better every year. We have something special going on here, and the vision is just to keep getting better."

SHAKESPEARE STUDENTS TAKE CENTER STAGE

Forsooth! Middle School students have been delving deeply into William Shakespeare's works, thanks to teacher Cindy Green's efforts to bring the Bard vividly and vibrantly to life. Although works by Shakespeare were already an established part of the Middle School Language Arts curriculum, Green's project, fueled by a City as Our Campus grant, engages students in dramatic new ways by putting them at center stage—literally.

"The goal is to allow students to get to know Shakespeare's plays in the way they were intended to be known, by acting them out," says Green. "Acting out the plays allows students to investigate the subtleties of language, plot, and character in a way that is not possible by only reading the text."

Plan...Prepare... Perform

The project calls for students to prepare and perform scenes from Shakespeare's plays, and links the activities to two significant local resources throughout the school year: Pittsburgh Public Theater (PPT) and visiting artist Tori Rhoades, whose specialty is Shakespeare performance and teaching Shakespeare's plays to adolescents.

The project took shape in two of Green's classes—seventh grade Language Arts, and a new Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest elective open to all Middle School students, which Green devised to prepare students to compete in PPT's Shakespeare Monologue and Scene contest, an annual competition for area students at all grade levels, held in February.

Collaborating and Coaching

Green launched the project with a trip to PPT's O'Reilly Theater for a behind-the-scenes look at preparations for its production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, followed by an actual performance.

"Students (saw) professionals performing the play and bringing it to life. Now, when they are acting out (their scenes), they will have real-world experience to support their preparation," explains Green. "Many students did not know what to expect and were surprised it was so funny and the actors were so good."

With the performance fresh in their minds, students in the elective moved to the next phase: expert coaching by Rhoades and PPT actors Ken Bolden and Kathryn Spitz Cohan on monologues and scenes from plays such as *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It*. "Bringing in acting coaches helps students with the great challenge of creating vivid and realistic scenes," states Green, adding that the coaches also "enhance (students') knowledge of Shakespeare and specific acting techniques as well as Elizabethan Theater."

Walking the students through their chosen works line by line, the coaches gave pointers on everything from diction and delivery ("Think about reaching to the back of the theater," Rhoades counseled students on WT's Falk Auditorium stage. "It's very different from a classroom. You need to be able to reach with your voice!") to character analysis and motivation ("Who are you?" Cohan prodded sixth grader Amanda Siegel as she

practiced her portrayal of Viola/Cesario from *Twelfth Night*. "What are you doing? You're not just a messenger." With dawning realization Amanda replied, "I'm a girl who is pretending to be a eunuch to survive!") to even analyzing the significance of gestures and movement ("This," gestures Bolden, "disperses your energy. Movement is language, so choose carefully when you move.")

The Bard and Beyond

"Shakespeare is universal," declares Rhoades. "Shakespeare's language, his stories, his characters and their struggles provide a framework and structure in which young people can begin to explore and express their deeply felt emotions, questions about the world, about relationships, and about themselves. Through the act of embodying Shakespeare's language, and awakening the imagination to the world of the play, the student allows all parts of him- or herself to engage in learning—mind, body and soul."

Green concludes, "I'd like to begin a tradition of Middle School students participating in the Shakespeare Monologue and Scene contest. (I'd like) the community at large to get a better appreciation for the rigor of our program and the abilities of our students."





NORTH NEWSHOUNDS

WT North fifth graders gained real-world experience this year as they chronicled campus life for *North News*, a special section of the *Pine Creek Journal* community newspaper. From teacher interviews, favorite field trips, and annual events such as the Medieval Festival and Applefest, to a report on the natural beauty and benefits of the North Hills Campus and related environmental issues, the students wrote about and photographed anything that piqued their interest—and what they predicted would interest readers as well.

“It has given them a chance to apply the writing and editing skills they have been learning to a real purpose and for a larger audience,” notes fifth grade teacher Brock Perkins.

Perkins’s students honed critical literacy skills through Newspapers in Education (NIE), a program that links schools with *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Washington Post*, and other papers. WT’s junior journalists partnered with the *Pine Creek Journal* and its parent company, Trib Total Media. Dona Dreeland, assistant director of community relations, collaborated with Perkins and his students, who published six issues of *North News*.

“It is especially gratifying to be involved in this program because it encourages learning, thinking, and writing—three qualities of any good journalist, and valuable skills for students, no matter their grade level,” emphasizes Dreeland.

“This project has allowed students to tell North’s story from their perspective,” explains Perkins. “They brainstorm the ideas for the articles, choose which articles to write, and plan, edit, and rewrite their items for the newspaper. They have also worked

with a terrific parent editor, Jen Alexander, and have come to realize that their articles may be changed to fit the newspaper’s space and needs. They see what it really takes—what editors do and look for, and that it’s not just the teacher who takes the red pen and says, ‘this doesn’t work.’”

“Lower School students need to see how what they learn in school is applied in the real world.”
— Brock Perkins

“I have learned that when you write an article, your rough draft is very different from your final draft,” attests Kelsey Bares. Classmate Julia Lupariello advises patience through the process. “It takes a lot of effort and hard work to write a story. It takes a long time to finish your article, and there is always more editing to be done.”

“I like reporting for the newspaper because we get to learn lots of new things that we didn’t know,” says Ben Harrison. “When you are telling a story, you have to add lots of details to make it interesting.” Most gratifying for Caldwell Holden was “seeing what it looks like at the end, and being proud of my work.”

Perkins declares the project an unqualified success, and is already planning on more editions of *North News* for next year.

“Lower School students need to see how what they learn in school is applied in the real world,” states Perkins. “Fifth graders, in particular, really need to see the real-world value of the concepts and skills they are learning.”

Winter/Spring HIGHLIGHTS



High Tech Citizenship

Students from WT's AP computer science class earned first place in the League of Women Voters Mock Election Design Challenge. The contest required students to design and test a prototype of an electronic voting machine. The WT team presented their final system at the summer teachers professional development workshop held at Carnegie Mellon University. Next fall, WT's system will be incorporated into the first Allegheny County Mock Elections to be conducted in area high schools.



Young Ambassadors

Twelve Middle School students explored their avid interest in world cultures at the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh's Student Ambassador Conference at the University of Pittsburgh on May 6. The conference was designed to familiarize middle school students with global issues and cultures through interaction with foreign nationals and regional experts, including European and international representatives. Students were selected to attend based on their dedicated interest in world affairs and all around classroom performance.

Language Leaders

116 Middle School and Upper School students have distinguished themselves among hundreds of thousands of students nationally through their performance in the 2010 National Spanish Examination, *Le Grand Concours* - The National French Contest, and the National Latin Examination. Alicia Sewald, Chair of the World Languages and Cultures Department, says, "These national language examinations are a well respected means of assessment of students' proficiency in second language acquisition at the Middle and Upper School levels."



B.E.A.R.

Dozens of children and their parents descended upon the North Hills Campus in May to celebrate the joy and fun of reading. Organized by WT teacher Kylie Malack, the B.E.A.R. (Be Excited about Reading) Literacy Night featured fun reading activities for children and parents and a visit from none other than the WT Bear.

GREASE is the Word



Winchester Thurston's rollicking rendition of *Grease: The Musical* rocked the house this year, having also been staged at WT in 1988 and 2000. Director Barbara Holmes says, "One of the things that was really exciting about this production was the overall execution of the dancing. The entire cast worked tirelessly to deliver exciting, accurate, and high energy-level production numbers."



Pledging Allegiance

City Campus third graders visited Pittsburgh City Council in January to lead the Pledge of Allegiance before Council's regular meeting. The students had a tour of Council Chambers and met many of the members, including newly elected City Council president Darlene Harris and WT Advisory Board member Patrick Dowd.



Inspired by MLK

Four Upper School students wrote award winning essays for the city-wide Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Awards sponsored by Carnegie Mellon University. Since its inception in 1999, the competition calls for poems or personal narratives that reflect the legacy of Dr. King. Winchester Thurston students have participated in the contest since 2004, winning awards every year since.



Visiting Author

Winchester Thurston hosted Kimberly Willis Holt—winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature for *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*—as a visiting author. Holt spent a day with students in grades PK–6. Through the use of personal photos and stories she explained to students where her ideas for her books come from—often personal experiences. She talked about her writing and seemingly endless revising process, and the importance of working hard and following your dreams.



EXPOSÉ This year's Eighth Grade Research Expo covered a wide range of topics, including the My Lai Massacre, U.S. healthcare, identity theft, global warming, photography techniques, and addiction to fast food. Students chose their own topics, which they presented in March. The presentations incorporated the use of homemade videos, YouTube clips, and sophisticated PowerPoint slides.

Wild, Wild West!

WT North students and faculty donned their bandanas and cowboy hats, and saddled up for fabulous field day fun. A highlight of the day: a relay race on "horseback!"



Filipino-American Student of the Year

Senior Nathan Ong has been named the 2010 Outstanding Filipino-American Student of the Year by the Asian American Heritage Committee of the Federal Executive Board of Pittsburgh. According to the Committee,

"These dedicated students are setting the pace for our high schools in academics, extracurricular activities, and community service. It is fitting that we honor these future leaders and call public attention to their success, which stems from dedication, strong family ties and support, which are part of the Asian Culture."



Winter/Spring SPORTS ROUNDUP

Girls Take It to the Hoop

Girls Varsity Basketball had a monumental season! The Bears made it to the second round of the WPIAL playoffs, a first in WT history, losing in a close battle to North Catholic High School. Seniors Jimyse Brown and Inaya Stephenson both reached 1,000 points for their careers, again a first for WT. The team finished with a record of 15-8. This marked Coach Monica Williams' fourth and most successful season, along with Assistant Coach Brandi Harris.



Boys Hoop It Up

The Boys Varsity Basketball team had a winning 11-7 season, advancing to the final round of the Greater Pittsburgh Independent Basketball League playoffs. After a hard fought game the boys took second place. The team looks forward to another season under Coach Bryan Brennaman, assisted by Kevin Miller.

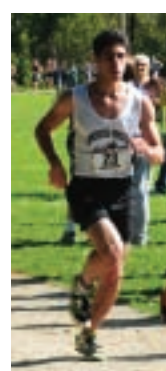
Bear Cubs B-Ball

Middle School Girls Basketball had a great season, beating out rivals Ellis, Sewickley, Community Day School, and Falk. Coached by David Piemme and Lisa Allswede, the young team is excited for next season. Beating out Community Day School and Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, Middle School Boys Basketball had a hard-fought season led by coaches Chris Sledge and Bill Fitch.



ON GUARD

Congrats to the Upper School Varsity Fencing team, which became the PA Interscholastic Fencing Association Men's Team Foil Champions. Junior Max Findley placed eighth out of 198 fencers at the Junior Olympics. The team is coached by Iana Dakova.



Well Run

In their first year as a track team, the former track club proved to be a strong force. With 14 students on the team, they competed against WPIAL schools in the shot put and track events. Junior Adam Eller qualified for the WPIAL Championships and earned a sixth place finish in the 800m race. The team was led by coach Bruce Frey, assisted by Travis Bui.

LAX Time

Boys Varsity Lacrosse advanced to the first round of WPIAL Playoffs this spring, boasting a regular season record of 8-5. Junior David Curtis made the WPIAL all-section first team, while freshman Micah Monah and sophomore Devin Kalanish made all-section second team. The team was led by new head coach Chris Ortmann and assistants Brian Kuhn and Adam Brownold.



Girls Varsity Lacrosse had a strong season under the new leadership of Head Coach Elizabeth Patterson and assistant Olivia Gilmore. The girls finished 6-8 for the season, beating out Vincentian Academy, Greensburg Salem, and Taylor Allderdice.

Bear Cubs LAX

Middle School Boys Lacrosse competed under the leadership of Head Coach Jeff Cronauer, assisted by Ryan Bopp '08. The Middle School Girls team, after years of trying, finally defeated Ellis in a close match. The Bears were coached by Ashley Lemmon '01 and Courtney Rovnan.

Row Show

Competing across the east coast, the 27 crew team members had a busy and successful year. WT boats placed in the Head of the Ohio race, and Dave Nicholson, Jacob Rayzberg, and Shlomo Bear took the highest winnings for WT, a bronze medal finish for a quad. The girls took home seventh and 18th place wins in the sprints and doubles respectively. Congrats to junior Penny Smith who qualified as part of a quad to go to Youth Nationals. The team is coached by Dori Tompa, Laci Tompa, and Lucy Tuttle-Smith.



Parents Association:

Another Great Season of Community, Camaraderie, and Commitment



In response to a generous donor's challenge, a corps of committed parent volunteers rolled up their sleeves for the WT Fund this year, serving as WT Fund Class Agents and reaching out to fellow parents to garner support for the school's annual fund. Their work resulted in unprecedented support: WT Fund gifts from 348 families, and an all-time record participation level of 74%! Seven classes reached 100% participation. This is the highest parent participation on record at WT!



Auction Action

Parents, faculty, grandparents, and alums united this spring in one of the most profitable WT Online Auctions to date, helping to raise more than \$40,000 to support WT's scholarship and financial aid program. Veteran auction volunteer and parent leader Tracey Reading devoted countless hours in creating the catalog of experiences. New parent Nat Cohen provided the leadership and enthusiasm that was directly responsible for the success of this year's 50/50 raffle. 518 tickets were sold resulting in \$5,387.

SPRING FLING

Under the leadership of Parent Chair Adam Leong, the 32nd Spring Fling Carnival was a great success! Volunteers created a fun afternoon of bouncing, gaming, singing, and celebrating for our children and families. Parent Volunteer Allison Thompson led the tenth-grade class in an amazing Flower Sale to support the Class of 2013 prom. Joanne Averch, Kate Stainton, Laurie Winslow, Noreen Tompkins, and Terri McDonnell provided the organization and brainpower behind the class booths, café, raffle baskets, and tickets sales. Kudos to the entire committee for a super job!



Breakfast with the Birds

Alisa Blatter, Parent Volunteer Leader for the Gardens Committee, and Kelly Vignale, Lower School City science teacher, hosted the second annual "Breakfast with the Birds" at the City Campus Lower School Learning Garden on Saturday, May 15. Students enjoyed an interactive session on backyard birds, a puppet show, and a scavenger hunt in the garden before painting miniature birdhouses and planting flowers. The event helped to raise funds for a picnic bench.

GoGreen!

On Saturday, May 8, faculty and parents joined to build, dig, plant, tie-dye, spud, and create at WT's North Hills Campus. Special thanks to Lee and John Bares who designed and created wood storage chests to add to the Natural Playground, Sabrina Wojnaroski for her leadership related

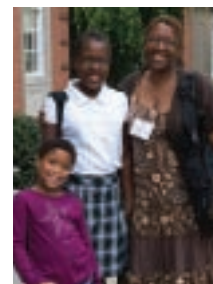


to all things "green," Cindy Frohlich for her hard work in the gardens, and to Brock Perkins and Lynne Raphael for their vision related to GoGreen initiatives.



Thank You, Deesha!

After two years as President of the Parents Association, Deesha Philyaw handed the baton to Noreen Tompkins on June 30. Philyaw reflects, "My deepest appreciation goes out to the WT community...I count it a privilege to have worked in this capacity with such a thoughtful, creative, and committed group of parents, educators, administrators, and students."



faculty highlights



Katheleen Russell, Music Teacher, Retires

Katheleen Russell retired after 21 years as a full-time faculty member. "I have made many lifetime friendships over the years. I will really miss the students, too; all the different age groups and seeing them grow each year is so wonderful," reflects Russell.

Russell taught Lower School Music and Chorus, Middle School Music and Orchestra, oversaw the Middle School musical for 11 years and the Upper School musical for 14 years. "In her two decades of service to Winchester Thurston, Kathy has had impact on all of our students, Pre-K through 12," says Performing Arts Department Chair Daniel Sadowski. "She's also been a participant in the wider community, serving on committees, including a stint as chair of the Professional Development committee. She'll really be missed."

In retirement Russell and her husband plan to travel and spend time with their grandchildren.



Pat Leddy, Business Office Operations Coordinator, Retires

After 31 years as Business Office Operations Coordinator, Pat Leddy retired last winter. Leddy coordinated benefits, transportation, and accounts payable. Gaylen Westfall, Director of Development and Alumnae/i Relations, who has been at WT for 35 years, describes Leddy as "efficient, effective, and usually not overly expressive, except when

she was shrugging off someone's compliments of herself or her work."

Westfall recently spoke with Leddy and says, "Pat is enjoying her retirement and when recently called was breathless when she answered the phone. Asked if she was out exercising she replied, 'Good heavens no; I was gardening!'"



Mary Martin '88 Named 2010 Jane L. Scarborough Award Winner

WT congratulates Middle School visual arts teacher Mary Martin '88, recipient of the 2010 Jane L. Scarborough Award, Winchester Thurston's highest accolade for excellence in teaching. Martin, a WT alumna and parent, humbly reflects, "It is a wonderful feeling to know that your work is valued and appreciated. I feel that the award is a

reflection on all those that have impacted my work and I truly feel that the WT community motivates me to challenge myself and my students. I strive to continue to serve the community by giving back and by striving to impact youth in a positive and constructive way."



Kylie Malack Receives Judy Apt Nathenson Memorial Award

North Hills Campus transitional classroom teacher Kylie Malack received the 2010 Judy Apt Nathenson Memorial Chair for Excellence in Childhood Education. Malack, who has been at WT for four years, appreciatively says, "Knowing the legacy of Mrs. Nathenson and the incredible teacher

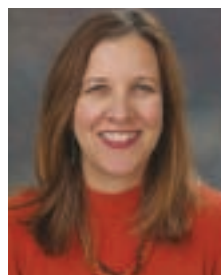
she was, I feel extremely honored to receive this award. Working at WT is an award in itself. Not only do I get to work with amazing kids, but I am surrounded by excellent colleagues who are dedicated, talented, hard-working, and in my opinion the best in the field."



New Director of Lower School City Campus Announced

Jill Fetzner has been appointed Director of Lower School at the City Campus. Fetzner came to WT last fall as an Academic Enrichment and Challenge teacher; she brought to this position considerable experience in gifted education, as well as more than 20 years in many areas of elementary education. Her career includes

a wide range of teaching and administrative experience in grades 1-5, including coordinating gifted and talented services, building and implementing instructional strategies, evaluating school improvement objectives, supervising instructional programs, and initiating, designing and developing curriculum. Fetzner has been recognized for her excellence as an educator, having been a 2004 finalist for District Teacher of the Year in the McKinney Independent School District, McKinney, Texas, and a 1998 Disney Teacher of the Year Candidate. She holds a M.Ed. and a B.S. from California University of Pennsylvania and Administration certification from Texas Woman's University.



Bridging the Gap Between Research and Education

City Campus third grade teacher Karen Gaul will attend a week-long session at Harvard's Graduate School of Education titled, "Connecting the Mind, Brain and Education" this summer. The goal of the session is to bridge the gap between research and practice in education.



Japan Bound

Lisa Allswede, Upper and Middle School visual arts teacher, embarks on a three week journey to Japan this summer. Allswede was one of 15 teachers chosen to attend the National Consortium of Teaching About Asia's (NCTA) program, "The Making of Modern Japan; Ideas, Innovations, Technologies." The goal is to enrich teachers' experience by immersing them in the culture. The group will be based in Kobe, Japan, visiting and observing local schools, points of interest, temples, and even a baseball game. The group will also take day and overnight excursions to other cities and villages.



Presenting at the Annual AP Conference

This summer Jill Kazmierczak, English Department Chair, will present at the AP Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Her presentation, "A Toolbox for Synthesis," will provide teachers with practical strategies and tools for teaching synthesis to high school students.

YOUNG ALUMNAE/I LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CREATES SCHOLARSHIP FUND



“Winchester Thurston has shaped me in many ways beyond what I expected it to. It took so much work to bring myself to the WT level of excellence...Thank goodness the teachers were so patient and concerned with my progress, because they helped me grow tremendously! From freshman year to senior year, my capabilities were vastly improved! I’ve been told by my professors that I’m a profoundly mature writer of philosophy, that I’m an inquisitive science student, and an overall well prepared scholar.” — Tianda King ’09

Thanks to the commitment of the Young Alumnae/i Leadership Council and to the generosity of nearly 60 young alums, \$10,000 was added to Winchester Thurston’s 2010-2011 financial aid resources, specifically to fund one Upper School student’s tuition.

This was just one of a number of initiatives undertaken by the Council, a group of WT alums spanning the classes of 1989-2009. Last year, the Council considered how they could give back to the Winchester Thurston community while increasing interest and participation from the WT alumnae/i network. They formed four committees to work on marketing and admissions, communications, philanthropy, and networking. Each committee set goals and developed action plans.

The philanthropy committee was aware that giving from young alums was in need of substantial improvement. It was decided that the creation of a specific scholarship fund would increase young alum participation and would connect their contributions to a more tangible cause. The Council’s first philanthropy goal was to raise \$10,000 from WT young alums to support tuition assistance for an Upper School student. “The words of young alum Tianda King, who wrote to us to express her gratitude for the financial support she received as a student, bring to life the importance of financial aid and the generosity of our young alums. They came forward with this initiative because they wanted to help others have the same excellent Upper School education and college preparatory experience they did,” says Jennifer Scanlon, Director of Institutional Advancement.

In addition to leading the effort to raise this gift, over the past 12 months the Council has held several social events, worked to help establish “mywt,” the Alumnae/i Portal of the WT web site, and worked to increase networking opportunities for students and other young alums.

Donors to the 2009 - 2010 Young Alum Scholarship

Dina Kaplan A ’89	Nathaniel Doyno ’01
Jennifer Gonzalez McComb ’89	Gautam Ganguli ’01
Lissa Guttman ’90	Ashley Lemmon ’01
Alunda Grzybek Edmonds ’91	Kristen Maser Michaels ’01
April Lee ’91	Byron Raco ’01
Dorothy McLaughlin ’91	Kerry Soso ’01
Kathleen Metinko ’91	Laura Stack ’01
Kelly Hanna Riley ’91	David Farkas ’02
Jennifer Staley ’91	Rachel Gross ’02
Ann Stanton Adams ’93	Danielle Chalfant ’03
Jennifer Deklewa Gabler ’94	Callie Gropp ’03
Kate Masley ’94	Katlyn McGraw ’03
Erin Herward Thurston ’94	John Prendergast ’03
Lauren Ames ’95	Abigail Robinson ’03
Katie Brennan ’95	Nickia Booker ’04
Cathryn Hunt Graybill ’95	James Eversmeyer ’04
Christie Schroth ’95	Lara Miller ’04
Sarah Gross Fife ’96	Ian Sullivan ’04
Anjali Sachdeva ’96	Steven Tracy ’05
Laurel Shaw ’96	Sunil Narla ’06
Daniel Micheltmore ’97	Jessica Schwartz ’06
Lisa Davis ’97	Andrew Wickerham ’06
Satvik Rangaraj ’97	Michael D’Emilio ’07
Adam Witt ’97	Lindsay Machen ’07
Azadeh Masalehdan Block ’98	Sonya Narla ’07
Laura Cantor ’98	Logan Uretsky ’07
Sarah Farkas ’98	Elspeth Powell ’08
Sara Ginsburg ’98	Mireille Ngokion ’09
Sara Ruth Kerr ’98	Katharine Vidt ’09
Lee Erica Moses A ’98	Class of 2010
Antoinette Oliver ’98	
Brandilyn Dumas ’99	
Christopher Potter ’99	

** List is current as of
June 18, 2010.*

ReUNION all year long

WT was thrilled to connect and reconnect with alums at these winter and spring events. More fun photos can be found on the WT website in the "mywt" Alumnae/i portal. Log on today!



Margaret Kross '07, Olivia Carb '07, Director of Admission Karyn Vella, Lindsay Machen '07, and Moira Egler '07

Home from College Lunch

WT's annual Home from College Lunch attracted more than 40 alums home for their winter break in January 2010.



Bennett Washburn '08, Elspeth Powell '08, and Eliza Hens-Greco '08

WT On the Road in San Francisco

Aclaimed South of Market restaurant, Orson, was the setting for a WT gathering of 20 in San Francisco in February. Alums from the Classes of 1946 through 2000 were there with spouses and friends to hear Head of School Gary J. Niels give an update on WT. Niels was in town for a National Association of Independent Schools conference, where he spoke to faculty, trustees, and administrators from other schools around the country on the E. E. Ford Leadership Grant program and the growth of WT's signature program, City as Our Campus.



Helen Scully, Honorary Alumna, and Jean Ayars Pohli '46



Scott Morehouse, Elizabeth Champagne '71, Christina Campobasso '89, and Barbara Kraemer-Cook '81



Christopher Andrews and Erinn Evans Andrews A'00, Brynn Evans '98 and Chris Messina



Erinn Evans Andrews A'00 and Latika Ravi Signorelli '97



Judy Chamberlain, Honorary Alumna and Former Head of School, and Isil Arican '90

Young Alums Get Happy!

In January, more than 30 young alumnae/i gathered for happy hour at 2Red Lounge in Pittsburgh's trendy East Side neighborhood.



Lisa Przyborski '01, David Farkas '02, Kerry Soso '01, Kristen Maser '01, and Director of Upper School Mick Gee

Winchester Thurston Upper School was the site in April of a second happy hour for alumnae/i, sponsored by the Young Alum Leadership Council. From there, many visited the faculty art show, *By Example*, in the WT Art Gallery before taking in the lively production of *Grease*, this year's Upper School Musical.

Becky Barnett '03 and Head of School Gary J. Niels



Brea Heidelberg '02 and her friend Alex (l) with Jason Shavers '00

Donor Appreciation Luncheon

Student scholars expressed their appreciation to donors who support financial aid at the second annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon in April. Head of School Gary J. Niels led a discussion with the donors and students, who spoke of the academic rigor of the program, their college aspirations, research projects, and full participation in the life of WT.



Jean Forncrook Armstrong '44 (l) and Meg Henne-Gibson '91



Sheldon Marstine (l) and Ian James



Richard Nathenson and Gaylen Westfall

Miss Mitchell Society Member Beverlee Simboli McFadden '55



"I thought WT was the best education I had! I believe that anyone that has been blessed with a good life should give back."

"I attended WT for four years, where expectations were clear: We would be proper ladies, be interested in our studies, seek higher education, and improve ourselves." McFadden enjoyed all aspects of WT—art history with Mrs. Washburn; sports; senior follies, which she directed; and French with Mme. Yagodkin, which she mastered so well that she communicates fluently in Paris today.

As a child McFadden was a gifted dancer. "I trained from the time I was two with Gene Kelly's dance teacher, performed at the Syria Mosque, and became a very good dancer," recalls McFadden. She could have pursued dance in New York City but instead stayed in Pittsburgh. "I decided that it was time to work on my mind, so chose to attend WT."

After WT, McFadden moved to California with her husband, Daniel, where she earned a B.F.A. at Mills College. She continued the family tradition of art (her father Raymond Simboli was an accomplished painter and teacher), studying painting and photography. McFadden

was exposed to an incomparable array of artists and photographers in San Francisco, and eventually became a photographer herself, reaching back to her Pittsburgh roots and focusing on sculptural industrial photography. She has worked extensively in Boston and San Francisco and was invited by Polaroid to use one of their large-format cameras to photograph paper collages.

Daniel McFadden won the 2000 Nobel Prize in economics, and his numerous honors have afforded the McFaddens opportunities to travel the world and create interesting and lasting friendships. She treasures her experiences and is still extraordinarily active in the Berkeley area. The McFaddens own a vineyard, farm, and winery on 30 acres in Napa Valley with a view of the bay. In addition to growing grapes and making cabernet, they grow pomegranates, quinces, and figs for local gourmet restaurants.

McFadden credits WT for preparing her for a life of international travel, creative work, and full engagement in all aspects of her life. She decided to leave a legacy to WT because, "I thought it was the best education I had. I believe that anyone that has been blessed with a good life should give back." She has indicated that she would like her legacy to be directed to science and art—her passions in life.

Members of the Miss Mitchell Society

Marybert Englert Allen '40*	Mary Houston Griffin W'21*	Henry Posner III
Ann E. Armstrong T'29*	Jeanne Logan Hardie '34*	Jane Dunn Prejean '36 *
Loretta Lobes Benec '88	Rosanne Isay Harrison '56	Eleanor M. Reilly,
Barbara Abney Bolger '52	Jean Murray Johnson '27*	Honorary Alumna*
Arthur E. Braun*	Lida B. Johnston*	Alan D. Riester*
Eleanor Harbison Bream '31*	Eugene S. Kerber	Susan Crip Santa-Cruz '60
Herbert Briggs, Jr.*	James Craighead Kuhn*	Jennifer M. Scanlon
Barbara Hunter Burghart '71 *	Lucille Showalter Leggett '11*	Dorothy Dodworth Scullin '47
Marion Weis Cohen '44	Louise Baldrige Lytle '51	Dr. Richard E. Sigler
Marion Montgomery Colbourne '52	Jocelyn Hulme MacConnell '43	Bonnie Solomon '48*
Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer '37*	Carole Oswald Markus '57	Marianna Epstine Specter '58*
Mary Campbell Eckhardt*	Gertrude Dally Massie W'18*	Janet L. Stevenson '16*
Virginia A. Elliott T'26*	Marga Matheny '64	Molly Cannon Stevenson '72
Eleanor Lanz Ericson T'17*	Anne Forncrook McCloskey '45*	Allyson Baird Sveda '84
Elizabeth Braun Ernst '25*	Beverlee Simboli McFadden '55	F. Irene Thomas, Honorary Alumna
Harriet Adler Feldman '57	Edith Allerton Miller*	Ruth Weimer Tillar '41
Margaret J. Garner T'18*	Mrs. Frances P. Minno	Rosalie Morris Voorhis *
Mabel L. Gillespie*	Dr. Alexander M. Minno *	Gaylen Westfall
Robert I. Glimcher	Frances Alter Mitchell '30 *	Carol Spear Williams '57
Ethel C. Goodreds '22*	Judy Apt Nathenson '69*	Norma Weis Wilner '40 *
Edna Rieck Graham T'11*	Jane Bortman Porter '43*	

*Deceased



If you have included WT in your plans, please let us know so that you can be properly thanked and welcomed into the Miss Mitchell Society. For more information, contact Gaylen Westfall, Director of Development and Alumnae/i Relations, at (412) 578-7530 or westfallg@winchesterturston.org.

In Memoriam

Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer '37, 1919-2009

In December 2009 Winchester Thurston lost one of the most important leaders in its recent history. Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer '37, a delightful, energetic, and provocative woman, had a lifelong relationship with the school.

She began her studies at Winchester School in third grade and graduated in 1937. She was very close to Winchester School founder Mary A. Graham Mitchell, and served as President of the Alumnae Association the year Miss Mitchell died, 1947. Dwyer cochaired the campaign to raise funds to purchase the school from Miss Mitchell's estate; she was instrumental in establishing the first Board of Trustees. Her son, Court, attended WT in 1953 when boys could enroll in Kindergarten. Dwyer was named Alumna of the Year in 1987 and became a member of the Miss Mitchell Society in 2005.

Dwyer wrote extensively about her experiences at WT. We felt that sharing some excerpts of her recollections and reflections would be a fitting tribute to a woman who embodied the spirit, values, and excellence of WT.



Impressions of Miss Mary A. Graham Mitchell...

Gaining the top step, I bravely reached out my hand to Miss Mary A. Graham Mitchell herself, and curtsied. Looking up at her I had the impression of a slightly overstuffed, comfortable sofa pillow...She wore a white shirt with a high collar that presented an ornamental pin covering the top button. Her hair was...piled high on the top of her head and coiled into a flat plate. I'd never seen anything like it before, nor have I since.

She had a wonderful face; strong straight eyebrows above the china blue eyes...They were kind eyes that made you know she brooked no nonsense but made you know she heard you...She extended a hand, palm down, but when I slipped my hand into hers, she gave me a gentle squeeze.

Reflections on the credo, "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others"...

Miss Mitchell told me that, "You must always read the saying on the landing," and read it to me in her beautiful soft voice, "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others." As we climbed the stairs, it

never entered my mind those letters would be burned into my memory during the next nine years, or that 75 years later I would still strive to honor them.

On learning to read...

Miss Philput said, "Nancy, don't read one word at a time. String them together like beads and take the meaning out of the sentence. You have a quick mind; make the words talk to you." To this day, Shakespeare really does talk to me. The key that unlocked the puzzle was Mary Philput.

On Miss Ruth Gamsby...

Miss Gamsby was the female twin of the Man of La Mancha: very tall, hair escaping its pins, and limbs going in all directions at once. I shall never forget the day the Duke of Windsor, the as yet uncrowned King,

announced his abdication from the throne of England. Miss Gamsby, English to the core—born and bred—brought a radio to class so we could hear "Dear David" announce. We cried with her.

On Study Hall...

Another innovation I experienced as I left the Lower School...for the Upper School, was study hall. No more cozy little school nooks; this was big knowledge. Books, maps, dictionary, graph paper, triangles, pencils, notebooks, time sheets, desks...This was a milestone, and did I ever love that desk! With the lid up I could hide behind it, and the study hall monitor had no idea what I was into. I mimed all sorts of merriment...until the monitor would...send me to the library and yet another session with Miss Mitchell. Miss Mitchell and I got to be frequent greeters.

The gift of a WT education...

Although I was not the greatest scholar, I made up for it by using the tools from that toolbox with the initials "WT" on it that have allowed me to live my life with a richness that could never be bought by tuition alone, only through the miracle called a gift of knowledge.

class notes

2007

Michael D'Emilio was accepted into the Oberlin in Italy program, where he will play Leporello in their production of *Don Giovanni*. "It's a big role and really one I've dreamed of playing, so I'm very happy," says Michael.

2006

Jessica Schwartz writes, "The summer following my freshman year in 2007, my sister, mom, and I volunteered in Tanzania for a month. The experience compelled us to start a non-profit. *Bricks + Books= Foundation for Learning in Tanzania* supports rural government schools by investing in infrastructure projects in villages that have demonstrated interest and capability to work collaboratively with us.



We have successfully built one school, created sustainable partnerships with three rural schools, and have improved the quality of education for over 2,500 students." For more information: www.bricksandbooks.org

Andrew Wickerham graduated from Colgate University, where he was a candidate for honors in history

and distinction in the liberal arts. In August, Andrew will begin a year-long Master of Public Health program at The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice. He is currently in the process of applying to medical schools and hopes to matriculate in the summer of 2011. Andrew has been active in creating the class of 2006 page on mywt and welcomes his classmates' input.

2004

Ian Sullivan was accepted into a master's program at Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, where he intends to study industrial engineering. He is still enjoying working at Westinghouse and spends quite a bit of time on the road. For fun, he is looking forward to taking his first trip to New Orleans in early June.

2001

Angela Ambroz writes, "I've been working in Hyderabad, India, since June 2009 with MIT's Poverty Action Lab. I'm currently managing a household survey for a report on the impact of microfinance on the urban poor. I sold my fourth science fiction short story, which appeared in *Expanded Horizons* magazine in May 2010."

Emily Flechtner and Artur Wachelka were engaged on July 31, while camping on a lake south of Munich, Germany. They reside in Munich, where Emily is studying for a Masters in Intercultural Communication and Cooperation and working



at an International Patent Law Firm as an English and Italian Assistant, and Artur is working as a web designer and programmer. The wedding is planned for July 2010 in Buchenberg, with a small reception to follow in the US the following summer.

Ryan Schulz resides in Pittsburgh and is excited to be following her passion for art through photography as she develops her custom children's photography business. You can check out her work online at www.rwschulz.com.



Tara McGovern '00 and Claire Blaustein '00 in Washington, DC at WT Happy Hour in May

1999

Becky Utech Gaugler and her husband, Jonathan, recently moved back to Pittsburgh after living in Brooklyn for almost four years. In January, Becky

began working as the Assistant Curator of Education at Carnegie Museum of Art, managing school and teacher programs. She enjoyed acting as guest educator for many students during WT's Teenie Harris exhibition.



Sally Allan, WT art teacher, and Becky Utech Gaugler '99



Jonah Block, son of Azi Masalehdan Block '98, born November 29, 2009

1997

Meridith Deluzio Pettigrew writes, "We are expecting a new addition to our family! Kayla will have a new baby brother or sister in August. We are so excited to meet our new little one!"

1995

Kristin Trabucco writes, "I'm still in LA doing the film thing, so if anyone's out this way, look me up!"



Rupali Kotwal Doshi '96 and her husband, Saumil Shailesh Doshi, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Arjun Kotwal Doshi, on April 29, 2010 in Atlanta, GA.

1994

Erin Herward Thurston writes, "I am still living in Northern VA with my husband, Adam, and our two wonderful sons. Patrick is three, and Liam is one. The three of them are the joy of my life. But I am also blessed to have 44 curious and enthusiastic Kindergarteners with whom I share my days at Churchill Road Elementary School, part of the Fairfax County Public Schools. It is great to be back teaching Kindergarten again after my time in Pre-K and Kindergarten at WT early in



Pam Scully '81 and Erin Herward Thurston '94 in Washington, DC at WT Happy Hour in May

my teaching career. It's been great to reconnect with many WT friends on Facebook. All the best to everyone!"

1992

Andria Barnes writes, "I am currently living in the historic city of Nuremberg and working as a Business and Technical English trainer for Siemens. I received my Masters in International Business and Management from the University of Applied Sciences Osnabrueck in 2007 and have been living and teaching in Germany for five years now. I am still single and have one son, Saif, 11 years old, who is attending the Bertold Brecht Gymnasium (public college prep school) and playing soccer for the local team here in Nuremberg. I have happily reconnected with some of my old classmates recently and still have many fond memories of my years at WT, where I was very much supported in my first exchange abroad to Germany."



Jan Kniffen and Kathleen Metinko '91 with their new daughter, Alexandra Rose Kniffen

1991

April Lee and Ralph Mazzola are proud to announce the birth of their third child, Paola Lee Mazzola, on December 17, 2009.



Brennan James Gabler, son of Jennifer Deklewa Gabler '94, born May 1, 2010

1984

Bari Weinberg Philips has been living in Columbus, OH, for the past 20 years with her husband, David, and three children—Noah, 18, Cody, 15, and Zoe, 12. Her eldest child graduated from high school in June and starts college in the fall. "A big hello to all of my former WT classmates!"

Allyson Baird Sveda is living in Pittsburgh with her husband and two sons. Both boys, Drew and Robby, are students at WT!

1982

Sharon Reidbord writes, "I moved to Lexington, MA, and am launching an online



Josie Poldosky '84 and Lori Fineman '84 in Washington DC, at a May WT Happy Hour



Tara Furigay Keppler '87 and Nina Coslov A'89 co-authored the book *Food for Thoughtful Parenting—12 Must-Have Lists for New Parents and Young Families*, in 2009. They met in Boston where each lives with her husband and children.

business. If you have thank you notes to send, check out **TrueThanks.com**, and we'll send your thank you notes electronically with 24% of the low payment going to a charity you choose."

1981

Beth Morrow Katz had lunch with **Edie Hommel Cowan '60** and Gaylen Westfall in Marin, CA, in February. Beth is taking a break from law, serving as an active volunteer in her twins' Kindergarten class. She said that WT, grades 3-12, was very instrumental in her life, and remembers Jane Scarborough fondly.



class notes

1979

Peggy Jo Vanderbeck

Thomas writes, "Early this year, my husband Dan and I celebrated our 22nd wedding anniversary. Our 13-year-old daughter, Shellby has been enjoying her third year as a homeschooler. This fall, we both look forward to her freshman year in high school, as I steel myself for teaching Algebra (not one of my fine points)! I continue to teach piano, care for my father and family, and study and share God's revealed Word. WT visitors are welcome here!" The Thomases live in northwest CT with Peggy Jo's 91-year-old father.



1977

Adrienne Statti writes, "My mother, Anna Mae Statti, passed away in January. I am currently working as a laboratory technician with Parexel, Inc. in Glendale, CA while working on my Medical Technology degree at California State University Northridge."

1976

Leonie Thompson Sinclair writes, "I have spent my time since WT graduating with a law degree, then working as a solicitor in my hometown of Nowra in Australia, a two-

and-a-half hour drive south of Sydney. My practice is mostly family law, and I am a partner in a three-partner firm. I have three daughters who all live in Sydney. The eldest, Emily, has finished her marketing degree and works for the Intercontinental Hotel Group. Rebecca, the middle daughter, is studying town planning and finishes this year, and the youngest, Claire, is studying marketing and PR. I remarried in 2008; hence the 'Sinclair' family name. Doug is a helicopter pilot in the Navy where he teaches new pilots how to fly helicopters. We live on the beach front on the coast out of Nowra in a little village of 3,000 people. I have been learning to fly and have passed my flying test. Doug and I have built a small aircraft from a kit, and we plan to travel around Australia."

1974

Heidi Kanterman Freedman

writes, "I am still teaching Pre-K in upstate New York, and my husband, Glenn, is a mechanical



Class of 1976 in April at Cape May (seated): JoAnn Goble Schaub, Stacy Jannis Tamerlani, and Kathleen Scott Gallagher; (standing): Heather MacIsaac, Claire Blume Thomas, Lisa Sorce Aiba, Louise Ketchum, Mary Odom, and Karen Hughes

engineer working in the nuclear navy program with Bechtel. My son, Andrew, is majoring in criminal justice, and daughter, Hillary, is currently at New York-Presbyterian Hospital interning in the dietetic program. She recently became engaged to be married to a wonderful guy, and the wedding plans are in full swing!"

1971

Christine Larson writes, "Being here in Pittsburgh in February (to endlessly shovel) has resolved us to move to the beach in southwest Florida! **Mindy Ryan A'71** was here for Christmas with her brother, Tyce, and they both look terrific. Mindy is also working on a move to southwest Florida. Would love to hear from (can't say 'old') classmates. Life is pretty good in our patch of ground. How about yours?"

1970

Sally Weigler Golden writes, "I have moved to Charlotte, NC, because of my husband's job transfer. I welcome anyone to contact me when visiting or passing through Charlotte. I hope to attend our 40th reunion this fall!"



Class of 1976 in April at Cape May (top): Kathleen Scott Gallagher, Mary Odom, and Lisa Sorce Aiba; (middle): JoAnn Goble Schaub, Stacy Jannis Tamerlani, and Heather MacIsaac (bottom): Louise Ketchum, Claire Blume Thomas, Susan Dunmire, and Julia Marous Straut



Jere Wyre Lamp '72, Barbara Fink '72, and Barbara's mother, Bebe Brookes Fink '38

1968

Margie Balter appeared at the University of Pittsburgh on April 23 for a special talk about her career and her award-winning CD, *Musica From My Heart: Solo Piano Pieces* by Margie Balter. Margie discussed her recent credits for *Last Song*, starring Greg Kinnear and Miley Cyrus; and "Why Me?" for the movie *Date Night*, starring Tina Fey and Steve Carrell.

Jan Coco Groft has published a new book, *As We Grieve: Discoveries of Grace in Sorrow*. Based on the profound experiences of everyday people who, in the process of grieving, found hope, *As We Grieve* unveils nine healing gifts. Jan invites friends and former classmates to visit her website at www.jangroft.com or www.aswegrieve.com. "Jan Groft has written a winner," wrote Barbara Cloud, retired *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* columnist and author. "These are true stories of heavy hearts, which somehow, through faith, find a way to keep beating with joy."

1967

Congratulations to **Audrey Geer Masalehdan** on the birth of her grandson, Jonah Block, on November 29, 2009. The proud parents are Audrey's daughter, **Azi Masalehdan Block '98**, and her husband, Ethan Block.

1966

Anne Parkin Pierpont writes, "I had a great conversation with **Chris Crawford** recently. She is still in Charlotte, NC. We started talking about our next reunion in 2011 and decided that the 'Pittsburgh girls' should not do all of the work—and cooking! My husband, Jack, and I are going to Bloomington, IN, for our daughter's graduation from IU. I still work at Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Princeton as Director of Financial Aid and Summer Programs. I also teach French in grade 3 and in the preschool. *Merci* to Madame Yagodkin for teaching us to speak French in Kindergarten! You never know what life holds for you. Flexibility is the key! I still love music and sing in a choir—which my husband directs. I had a reunion dinner with **Anne Eaton Woolley** and **Martha Berg** a few months ago. Nobody changes—we all look beautiful. See you in the 'Burg in October, 2011! Love—Anne."

1965

Carolyn Slease Frahm writes, "My husband and I moved to the Charlottesville, VA, area near Wintergreen Resort last year. After living near Richmond the last 30 years, we decided to move to the mountains. We

have had three weddings in the last several years and now have five grandchildren. I lead book discussions at the University of Virginia through their OLLI program. Love the new WT website with blogs. Is anyone going to the 45th reunion in October? I will make the effort if others do. Let me know. Hope everyone is well."

Eleanor Levinson Peris

writes, "I retired as Director of Special Services for an urban district in NJ in 2008 and am now spending time with my six grandchildren, traveling, and serving on the boards for non-profit organizations. Life is good!"

Cynthia Pearson Turich

writes, "**Peggy Stubbs '65** and I often joke that we are joined at the hip, or maybe the frontal lobe. After writing a book together about care giving (*Parting Company*, 1999), we helped to start a nonprofit organization devoted to "helping all people with end-of-life issues." This year we will introduce a series of 12 one-minute videos created with assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Aging—watch for these at takechargeofyourlife.org. Also, I finally finished my mystery, *Dreaming the Dead*, and I encourage everyone who likes it to say so on the book's page on Amazon! I'm enjoying an active grandmother-hood because my son, actor/director/playwright Sam Turich, now lives in Pittsburgh with his wife and daughter. A comedy that he and his wife, Gab Cody, wrote and star in will be produced at CLO Cabaret in January 2011.

I also have two delightful step-grandchildren thanks to our daughter, Courtney, a geologist in Houston. We will all be together with my sister, **Linn '69**, and our whole family when we celebrate our mother's 100th birthday this June."

1964

Jennifer Davies was in Pittsburgh to exhibit at Fiberart International 2010. Jennifer was one of 81 artists chosen from more than 700 artists living in 30 countries to exhibit her work. Classmate **Anne Witting Kuhn '64** joined Jennifer at the opening reception and show at the Society for Contemporary Craft.

1963

Karen Wolk Feinstein writes, "I am currently President and CEO of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and its two supporting organizations, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative and Health Careers Futures. I've spent the past 11 years working on quality and safety in health care and am overjoyed at the passage of the health reform legislation this year. Our organization is unique as a think, teach, and grant-making and grant-receiving organization. We run programs, do research, train and educate health professionals, and recruit young people to health professions. I live in Pittsburgh with my husband of 43 years, Steve Feinstein (brother of **Ellen Feinstein, '62**), two children, their spouses and three (perfect and red headed) grandchildren. My other daughter lives in Alaska with her husband where they work for the Indian Health Service."

class notes

1960

Beverly Diebold Green writes, "I had lost touch with WT since 1965, but planning the reunion has been a treat. Everyone has been delightful and I hope to see everyone in October. I have two sons from my first marriage, a minister and a lawyer, and was remarried to a wonderful man in 1981 who had four children. I worked as a software engineer for 21 years and retired in 1998. I received another B.S., this one in nursing, but after working as a nurse decided I didn't like it. My husband died two years ago and I'm just starting to feel like myself again. Not working now, but biking and training my new Australian Shepherd."

1958

Judith Ellenbogen writes, "Perhaps our 50th reunion sparked nostalgia for Pittsburgh! My husband and I decided to spend the months of July, August, and September in Pittsburgh this year. It would be nice to connect with any of you who are going to be in town this summer. I can be reached on my cell phone: (847) 977-8607 so feel free to give me a call."

Linda Lear writes, "I want to write about my rediscovered alumna friend **Jean Clark Yount '45** (and Smith College '49). Jean is the mother of the Rev. Amy Yount who with her husband, Nathan Price, belongs to our parish church in Bethesda, MD. Jean, known as "Gigi," is the fabulous grandmother of



Pam Shaw, Honorary Alumna and her mother, Anne Shaw, on her 100th birthday.

Wesley and Cara Price. Her nurturing of them is a vital foundation of their lives. Jean lives in Chevy Chase, MD, near Amy and Nathan. He teaches environmental science at Georgetown Visitation School in Washington, DC. Rev. Amy Yount is the Head of the Middle School at St. Patrick's School in Washington. I first met Amy when she was a newly minted priest at the National Cathedral School, where she served as a chaplain to the Lower School, and I, long ago, a history teacher. It has been wonderful to rediscover **Jean Clark Yount** as a WT sister. She laid out a lot of the creative paths the rest of us have had the privilege of following."

1955

Elizabeth Forstall Keen writes, "Don and I are well, keep busy, and continue to enjoy this good Florida life. Our latest adventure took us to Egypt and Jordan—beautiful and so full of history. We have now visited 26 countries and look forward to visiting many more."

1954

Brenda Wise Moffitt writes, "I'm still going to Jacksonville, FL, every six to eight weeks to see my four grandsons—ages 16, 14, 11, and 8. I went to Hawaii for my nephew's wedding. His father was my brother, Peter, who was killed

in a plane crash in 1984. I still play tennis and paddle tennis, but had to give up golf. I've been living in the same house in Pittsburgh for 43 years and have decided to stay after looking at condos. I'm in touch with **Kiki McConnel, Janet Rothman Markel, Polly Templeton, Diane Willey Green, Bobbie Moritz, Jeanne Arthur**, and **Darin Geise Snyder**. Our 50th reunion was wonderful, and I still think of it often."

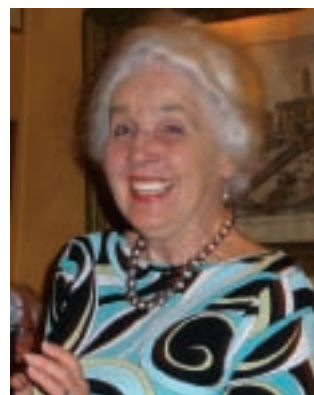
1953

Betsy Riddle Ruderfer writes, "I am working hard on plans for the Biennial Conference of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA) to be held in October of this year. In addition, I am continuing with my quest to keep the music of "The American Songbook" alive. I appear at the Trattoria da Franco Italian Restaurant in Alexandria, VA, with wonderful pianist Herb Greenlee. I also sing with the Not So Modern Jazz Quartet,

a local traditional and Dixie jazz group. Emil and I visited New Orleans recently and hit some of the jazz venues. I will be back in Pittsburgh in July to help celebrate the 100th year of the little elementary school I attended, Rosslyn Farms School. It is no longer a school, but those of us who matriculated there are coming back. I look forward to visiting the dear old house where I was born and raised before moving to Chatham Village and entering Winchester Thurston. All the best, and greetings to those who might remember me!"

1952

Marion Montgomery Colbourne writes, "I continue to be involved in many church activities including pastoral care, bible study, and assistant for communion at Grace Hospital. My daughter, Jacquie, who lives in Indiana, was here for a visit over Easter—great fun. My eldest, Trish, now lives in my building, and Sandy is only a 30 minute drive away. All five grandchildren seem to excel in whatever they undertake—study, sports, music, and work. The youngest two turned 16 in June. Keeps me young!"



Cynthia Hill Smith writes, "The past year has been difficult. My husband, Rod, was ill for several years and passed away in November. I've had lots of support from my son, Marc, and his family who live a few minutes away in our mountain village in NM. My days are full: spending time with grandchildren, working with the Head Start program on the Mescalero Apache Reservation, and having a role in the production of *The Vagina Monologues*. I remember being told so often at WT to think of the comfort and the rights of others. I try to, and find it's the best way to put one's own problems into proper perspective."



Gerda Rice Whitman '47 and Marion Thompson Kerwin '42 had lunch with Gaylen Westfall in Alexandria, VA, in May

1946

Thelma Levin Levine lives in Boca Raton, FL, with her husband. All is well!

Jean Ayars Pohli writes, "Many memories of our delightful San Francisco reunion in February. I recently went back east to a wedding in New Jersey and to see Zoe, my great-



Three Winchester Thurston graduates, Lois Hertz Lesser '45, Nancy Kamin Schlossberg '47, and Ruth Friedman Ornitz '46, reunited in Sarasota, FL, this past November

granddaughter. After spending four days with my favorite cousin, I came home to discover that Jenny also had a baby girl, Suzie! So, I am blessed with two great-granddaughters.

1943

Joyce Runk Wenston and her husband, Bob, are living at Schenley Gardens after moving from Shadyside Manor. Gaylen Westfall visited recently and Joyce reminisced about playing field hockey at WT and a trip that she and **Winnie Schultz Carr '43** made to visit **Marguerite Taber Yates '43** in New York City.



Gaylen Westfall and Winnie Schultz Carr '43 enjoyed lunch together in April



Anna-Stina Ericson '44 and Valerie Roemer Lynn '44 had lunch with Gaylen Westfall in Washington, DC, in May

1941

Ruth Weimer Tillar writes, "Spring has been busy with DAR and Hospital Auxiliary trips to several VA cities. I also continue traveling frequently to William and Mary for meetings, as well as to VA Tech. My son, Tom, and I visited Tuscany in June. I enjoy very special telephone visits often with **Marion Thompson Kerwin '42**, my WT roommate for three years."

1939

Lois Kaplan Finkel '39 and **Jane Blattner Kreimer '40** enjoyed lunch together in Aspinwall on March 12, 2010. Jane recently moved back to Pittsburgh from Ft. Lauderdale and is now living in Oakmont. Lois and Jane have fond memories of Miss Mitchell.



Class Notes

The Pillared Portal is now online!

Login to mywt, the Alumnae/i Portal at www.winchesterthurston.org/mywt to post a Class Note, or send information to Gaylen Westfall, Winchester Thurston School, 555 Morewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or westfallg@winchesterthurston.org.

Class notes do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Winchester Thurston School or the editors of *Thisletalk*.

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.

Susanna (Coco) Corbett Santiago '66, Summer 2009

Sue Hill Morton '45, October 23, 2009

Mary Louise Armstrong Hamilton '37, December 9, 2009

Jane Soffel Connell '51, December 16, 2009

Bertha (Betty) Cohen Sikov '35, December 17, 2009

Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer '37, December 24, 2009

Barbara Pierce Walker '47, January 5, 2010

Enoch Sisselsky, January 31, 2010 (math teacher 1981-1986)

Mary Chambers Burdett '43, February 3, 2010

Sally Duff Kennedy '50, March 6, 2010

Gertrude Kneil '42, March 17, 2010

Susan Stickel Navarro '63, March 19, 2010

Condolences

To **Gloria Acklin Kreps '77** and **Deborah Acklin '80**, and to Mrs. Gloria Acklin, retired WT English teacher, on the death of their father and her husband, James F. Acklin, November 19, 2009

To **Cynthia Hill Smith '52** on the death of her husband, E. Rodney Smith, November 17, 2009

To **Allison Levy '75** on the death of her father, Dr. Reinhardt Levy, November 26, 2009

To **Alexander Karakatsanis '01** on the death of his grandmother, **Bertha (Betty) Cohen Sikov '35**, December 16, 2009

To **Court Dwyer**, former WT Kindergarten student, on the death of his mother, **Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer '37**, December 24, 2009

To **Joan Soffel Carson '51** on the death of her sister, **Jane Soffel Connell '51**, December 16, 2009

To **Adrienne Statti '77** on the death of her mother Anna Mae Statti, January 18, 2010

To **Danielle Chalfant '03** and **Devon Chalfant A'09** on the death of their father, Dana Chalfant, October 4, 2009

To **Barbara Kraemer-Cook '81** on the death of her brother Peter Kraemer, April 7, 2010

To **Mary Hamilton Burroughs '65** on the death of her mother **Mary Louise Armstrong Hamilton '37**, December 9, 2009

To **Margaret (Meg) McKean Taylor '74**, **Lindsay McKean Scott '77**, and **Mason McKean Hoeller '79** on the death of their mother, Suzanne (Sussie) McKean, February 1, 2010

To **Elizabeth (Betsy) Hurtt '74** and **Andrea Hurtt '70** on the death of their mother, Eleanor St. Clair Hurtt, February 9, 2010

To **Phyllis Monheim Pollock '84** on the death of her father, James Glick, March 20, 2010

To **Elinor Cowdrey Rust '33** on the death of her husband, and **Margot Hill Ball '64** on the death of her stepfather, S. Murray Rust, Jr., April 6, 2010

To **Elizabeth Booth Ezerman '60** on the death of her mother Elizabeth C. "Lib" Shepherd, April 6, 2010

To **Caprice Pierucci Taniguchi '78** and **Rana Pierucci A '83** on the death of their father, Donald Pierucci, April 9, 2010

Margery Pearlman Davis '51 on the death of her husband David H. Davis, May 18, 2010

To **Victoria Brittain Seckel '57** on the death of her husband, Jerry Earl Seckel, August 4, 2009

Save the Date!

REUNION
Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16

Especially for the Classes of
1940 1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980
1985 1990 1995 2000 2005

All alumnae/i are invited to attend!

Visit classes, attend the festive annual **cocktail party** on Friday night, and join a rousing game of field hockey or basketball at Saturday's **family barbeque**. All Reunion events are complimentary and take place at the City Campus in Shadyside.

We can't wait to see you!

City as Our Campus



Teresa DeFlitch Appointed as City as Our Campus Director

Winchester Thurston welcomes Teresa DeFlitch as Director of City as Our Campus. In this new position, DeFlitch will lead WT's efforts to expand and enhance its unique City as Our Campus initiative and help other schools replicate it.

DeFlitch says, "I am excited to build on the excellent work that WT has done to establish City as Our Campus. Anchored in the rigorous curriculum of Winchester Thurston School, City as Our Campus benefits WT students and Pittsburgh by providing hands-on experiences that empower students to grow into engaged citizens and

lifelong learners. The program exemplifies the best in education practice, encouraging students to become young entrepreneurs, ready to solve problems locally and globally."

DeFlitch distinguished herself from nearly 100 candidates by demonstrating her understanding of participatory pedagogy and civic engagement, as well as her innovative ideas on ways to showcase City as Our Campus regionally and nationally. "Teresa convinced all of us that she has the energy, intelligence, creativity, and knowledge to lead our school in this exciting educational venture," says Gary Niels, Head of School.

DeFlitch comes to WT after serving as Project Manager at the National History Education Clearinghouse of George Mason University's Center for History and New Media in Fairfax, Virginia, where she managed a major national history project funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

She has held several fellowships, including a Public Humanities Fellowship at the John Nicholas Brown Center for the Study of American Civilization, Brown University. She has presented at national and regional conferences and seminars on history and social studies education, museum program design, and the incorporation of digital media into teaching and learning practices, among others. A native of Western PA, DeFlitch holds a Master of Arts in American History from Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts in History from St. Vincent College.

Winchester Thurston School ADVISORY BOARD 2010-2011

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Janera Solomon, Executive Director, Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

Jane Werner, Executive Director, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh

ThistleTALK MAGAZINE

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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.

Thistletalk content represents opinions, ideas, and perspectives of the authors that are not necessarily those of the Trustees or Administration of Winchester Thurston School. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or edit any content submitted for publication in *Thistletalk*.

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The Pillared Portal is now online!

Join the WT alumnae/i community online and catch up with friends old and new. Stay in touch. Share some news. Remember dear old WT together. It's a whole new way to re-connect.

Login to mywt:

www.winchesterthurston.org/mywt

- Update your profile
- Visit your class page
- Post a Class Note

Questions? Contact Gaylen Westfall at 412-578-7530 or westfallg@winchesterthurston.org



I used the alumnae/i directory to find classmates and old friends by searching by their maiden names.



Gerda Rice Whitman '47



Michael Larson-Edwards '04

It is really easy to log on, and mywt is a great way to stay up to date with all of my old WT classmates.

Claire Blaustein '00 logged in during the "virtual reunion" launch of mywt on April 9 and won the drawing for the WT Hoodie!

Stay tuned for the next virtual reunion and more chances to win!

Look Who's Here

These WT Alums have already logged in and used the portal to reconnect with classmates. Now it's your turn. Log in today!

Scarlett Austin '09
Ashwin Chandra '09
Richard Markel '07
Alisa Beverley '06
Caryn Burgh '06
Nicholas Leo '06
Don Mike Mendoza '06
Mark Frechione '04
Michael Larson-Edwards '04
Katlyn McGraw '03
Malcolm Smith '03
Emily Flechtner '01
Carlos Macasaet '01
Estrella Pena '01
Byron Raco '01

Abby Ross '01
Ryan Schulz '01
Peter Scott '01
Kerry Soso '01
Emily Abbinanti '00
Erinn Andrews '00
Claire Blaustein '00
Nadia Labeikovskiy '00
Andrew Santelli '00
Seth Borland '99
Teresina Cardamone-Rayner '99
Alex Eversmeyer '99
Kathryn Hawkins '99
Amy Hirschman '99
Sarah Arnold '98

Alexandra Binsse '98
Lisa Kay Davis '97
Daniel Micheltmore '97
Sarah Fife '96
Christopher Stigler '95
Kristin Trabucco '95
Ian Gould '94
Erin Thurston '94
Mara Falk '92
Anastasia Leonard '92
Dorothy McLaughlin '91
Julie Urbano '89
Constance Wong '89
Jessica Bolger '88
Holly Shea '88

Gretchen Biesecker '86
Tracy Hawkins '86
Julie Dever '85
Allyson Sveda '84
Michelle Washington '84
Melissa Rizer '83
Jennifer Sheehan '83
Louise Schuster '82
Marcie Katzen '81
Cassandra Eccles '80
Susan Vosburgh '80
Laura Dinkin '79
Cynthia Bulik '78
Janice French '78
Lindsay Scott '77

Pamela Buongiorno '76
Lizabeth Miller '76
Holly Berkley '74
Eleanor Giriappa '74
Wendy Hoechstetter '74
Hallie Cohn '72
Sally Golden '70
Betsy Brandt '68
Susan Harris '67
Anne Pierpont '66
Julia Shumway '66
Robyn Alspach '65
Caol Heape '65
Helen Mar Parkin '65
Katherine Paterson '65
Joyce Butler '64

Diana Tomb '64
Linda MacMichael '62
Barbara McKelvey '61
Sara Ciborski '60
Beverly Green '60
Cynthia Field '59
Katherine Anderson '58
Kathryn Kruse '58
Nancy Herpin '56
Frances Hubbell '56
Barbara Rogal '55
Dana McCown '54
Darin Snyder '54
Marion Colbourne '52
Ruth Collura '51
Gerda Whitman '47