Celebrating National Recognition ... Again!

in this issue:

City as Our Campus
History and highlights

Jonathan Mahone ’95
Speaking the truth about diversity

Commencement 2009
Winchester Thurston is one of only four schools nationwide to earn an Edward E. Ford Foundation Leadership Grant in 2009.

This $250,000 grant will support expansion of WT’s dynamic City as Our Campus initiative. We are grateful for E.E. Ford’s extraordinary commitment to enhancing independent school innovation. What’s more, we’re proud to be the only school to have received both the E.E. Ford Leadership Grant in recognition of innovative teaching, and the Malone Family Foundation’s Malone Scholars Grant, which recognized WT in 2007 as one of only three schools nationwide for excellence in gifted and talented education.

Read more about this prestigious Leadership Grant and City as Our Campus in this issue, beginning on page 4.
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I still recall my first visit to the Winchester Thurston City Campus. I travelled up Forbes Avenue through Oakland, admiring the impressive Cathedral of Learning on the Pitt campus, the inspiring bronze statues of Bach, Galileo, Michelangelo, and Shakespeare flanking the majestic entrance to The Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Carnegie Music Hall, the fabulous reflection pool and fountain at the Carnegie Museum of Art, and the dynamic urban oasis that is the campus of Carnegie Mellon University. When I turned onto Morewood Avenue, I was delighted to discover that Winchester Thurston was located in the midst of this collection of world-class institutions. Seven years later I am equally delighted to say that many of the great institutions that surround our beautiful City Campus are linking with WT to deepen and enhance our students’ learning experiences.

WT has always aspired to “actively engage students in a challenging and inspiring learning process,” to quote our Mission. Our official history states that students of the Thurston School, originally located at 250 Shady Avenue, “were introduced to the cultural offerings in Pittsburgh.” Later, Miss Mitchell accepted the offer to lead the Stuart Mitchell School (located on Fifth Avenue), which became the Winchester School, in part because of its proximity to the University of Pittsburgh. We have come to call this distinctive aspiration of our school City as Our Campus, and in recent years, we have worked to move it from aspiration to an intentional and innovative approach to teaching and learning.

City as Our Campus: From aspiration to model program

We know that learning is most meaningful, and makes lasting and deep impressions, when it is experiential—when students apply knowledge to “real world” situations; when they can see, feel, touch, and (in the case of our collaboration with the Pittsburgh Zoo) even smell the lesson; when facts and insights gleaned from textbooks and classroom discussion are confirmed and amplified by experts, researchers, witnesses, and artists in the field. Essentially, City as Our Campus builds upon the school’s interest in engaging the student in critical thinking and discovery. Our faculty-led City as Our Campus committee has identified the following as features of the ideal City as Our Campus program, which:

- provides organic extensions of the learning goals and objectives of a discipline (or set of disciplines)
- incorporates best teaching and learning practices, such as targeting multiple intelligences, individualizing instruction, or involving hands-on learning
- offers innovative and unique learning experiences
- encourages students to understand the broader application by practitioners of a given discipline
- develops relationships between the local resources and the various constituencies of the school community
- models a commitment to ethical, aesthetic, and intellectual excellence.

WT has set out over the last few years to enhance the opportunities of our students. We were delighted in 2004 to enjoy the support of the Edward E. Ford Foundation (E.E. Ford), which enabled us to reward and support faculty who had identified opportunities to enhance their curriculum by utilizing the educational and cultural offerings in the city of Pittsburgh. The development of these opportunities and the manner in which we utilized their funding so impressed E.E. Ford that they identified City as Our Campus as one of their model programs. Subsequently, this led to our becoming a recipient of a prestigious E.E. Ford Leadership Grant, which we celebrate in this issue of Thistletalk.

Besides enhancing the quality of the learning experiences for our students, a new purpose is emerging for City as Our Campus. I am referring to Winchester Thurston’s desire to contribute as a regional asset to our city. Independent schools are interdependent with their communities—each school’s destiny is tied to that of its region. We believe that our plans to expand City as Our Campus through deeper collaborations with the region’s educational and cultural organizations, by challenging students to understand and solve real urban problems, and by exposing students to the tremendous resources of Pittsburgh, we will strengthen our participation in the region, and create within our student body and faculty a corps of engaged contributors and ambassadors.

The E.E. Ford Foundation’s stunning recognition of our school not only enables us to fund our dreams and visions, it also adds tremendous value to what we are doing at our school. We are eternally grateful to them for this support and validation, and we are honored that we now have the opportunity to play a part in meeting their mission of enhancing the quality of education across our nation.
Measures of Success: Parent Satisfaction High at WT

WT was proud and pleased to receive good news about parent satisfaction from two objective measures in 2008-2009.

2008 Parent Satisfaction Survey

Last fall, WT participated in the inaugural National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Parent Satisfaction Survey to gather quantitative data on parents’ perceptions of and experiences with WT. Remarkably 80% of WT households participated in the Parent Satisfaction Survey. The school received an overall satisfaction rating of 89% from parents.

Parents rated their satisfaction with WT as follows:

- 85% indicated they are Very Satisfied or Satisfied with teacher quality
- 84% indicated they are Very Satisfied or Satisfied with challenging core curriculum
- 87% indicated they are Very Satisfied or Satisfied with small class sizes
- 58% indicated they are Very Satisfied or Satisfied with character education

Other important data from the survey includes:

- 89% expressed that they were, overall, Very Satisfied or Satisfied with WT
- 68% heard about WT via word of mouth
- 86% would recommend WT to others
- 95% said WT has a welcoming environment
- 90% said WT was their first choice school

Named 2009 “Parents Choice” Among Pennsylvania Private High Schools

BusinessWeek and GreatSchools, a San-Francisco-based nonprofit organization that rates schools and provides parents an online community for choosing the right school for their children, named WT number one in parent satisfaction among private high schools in Pennsylvania. WT earned the highest average parent rating of all Pennsylvania schools that had at least ten parent reviews in the Parents’ Choice/Private Schools category.

“Being recognized as a GreatSchools winner is a tribute to the high level of engagement of our parents, and reflects the welcoming environment that is a hallmark of our school,” comments Head of School Gary J. Niels.

Bill Jackson, president and founder of GreatSchools, comments, “Our goal is to spur conversation about what makes a great high school in every corner of the country. Our Parents’ Choice winners are the schools that parents recognize as being particularly good at educating the whole young person.”

For more information, please visit www.greatschools.net/top-high-schools/pennsylvania/.
In Recognition of Innovative and Engaging Programs,

Winchester Thurston School is proud and honored to announce that it has been awarded a prestigious Leadership Grant from the Edward E. Ford Foundation (E.E. Ford). WT was one of only 20 schools nationwide invited to apply for this honor, and one of only four to be awarded a $250,000 matching grant.

The Foundation’s selection of WT as a 2009 grant recipient is the culmination of a rigorous and competitive 10-month process, in which faculty, administrators, trustees, and Advisory Board members envisioned, explored, and mapped out ways to build upon the City as Our Campus initiative. The E.E. Ford Leadership Grant will support WT’s expansion of experiential learning in the Upper School, engaging students in the public realm, and providing them with opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways to the future of Pittsburgh. New programming will focus on the arts, research, and technology.

“This grant is an affirmation of our faculty’s innovative teaching,” said Gary Niels, Head of School. “City as Our Campus is emerging from its R&D phase now, and this grant will provide us with resources to expand and institutionalize it and to take our place in the national landscape with a model other schools can use.”

Robert Hallett, Executive Director of E.E. Ford, said, “The Edward E. Ford Leadership Grants initiative is opening a new chapter in how we look at our mission of supporting independent education among member schools of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS). We believe independent schools have the resources and responsibility to contribute to larger conversations about education in America today. As such, this new program continues to mine the best thinking among independent schools. We look for generative ideas that can be transformational for school communities. In practice we are looking for partnerships among independent schools, public schools, colleges and universities and other independent schools. Increasingly we want independent schools to consider the question, Is there a public purpose to private education?”

Hallett continues, “The proposal Winchester Thurston School presented to the foundation met and exceeded the objectives. The curricular opportunities are rich and multifaceted. Furthermore, the architecture for partnership with Pittsburgh’s leading institutions was most impressive.

“The proposal Winchester Thurston School presented to the foundation met and exceeded the objectives. The curricular opportunities are rich and multifaceted. Furthermore, the architecture for partnership with Pittsburgh’s leading institutions was most impressive. In the final analysis, we believe the proposal can be replicated and Winchester Thurston has the leaderships to make that happen.”

Conceived as an initiative to utilize the considerable resources of the city—particularly those in the cultural,
EDWARD E. FORD FOUNDATION AWARDS WINCHESTER THURSTON 2009 LEADERSHIP GRANT

Educational and research centers surrounding Winchester Thurston’s campus in Oakland—City as Our Campus supports entrepreneurial faculty members who collaborate with educational institutions and organizations on new experiential courses, units, or projects. A 2004 $50,000 E.E. Ford grant, which was matched anonymously by a WT alumni, catapulted City as Our Campus from an idea to a reality. The school established a Faculty Grant Program overseen by a committee of teachers who awarded resources to their colleagues for networking, program development, and implementation. By extending the curriculum beyond the classroom, teachers have found transformative ways for students to apply knowledge, deepen understanding, and discover passions (since 2004, the faculty committee has awarded 15 grants—see City as Our Campus highlights on the following pages).

City as Our Campus has emerged as an engine of innovation and imaginative teaching, as well as a differentiator for Winchester Thurston. In 2007, when the Malone Family Foundation awarded the school one of only three $2 million endowment grants nationwide to support financial aid for gifted and talented students, they cited City as Our Campus as an exceptional initiative that demonstrated WT’s commitment to providing a dynamic and challenging learning environment. WT is the only school to have received both the E.E. Ford Leadership grant and the Malone Scholars grant. “I am so proud to have the endorsement of these two important foundations, which have studied, evaluated, and recognized the most highly regarded independent schools in the nation,” says Niels. The Benedict Foundation also awarded the school with a matching grant for City as Our Campus, in 2008.

In 2008, City as Our Campus inspired the creation of a dynamic and diverse Advisory Board comprised of regional and national leaders in the arts, technology, government, medicine, academia, philanthropy, leadership, research, and ethics. The Advisory Board participates in ongoing institutional planning, and their insights have reinforced WT’s commitment to its urban location, to experiential learning, community partnership, and the expansion of City as Our Campus.

“E.E. Ford told us that they were impressed by several aspects of our proposal: the fact that we’d established several comprehensive partnerships, particularly in the arts; the fact that we have assembled an impressive group of leaders through our Advisory Board; and the fact that our proposal represents breaking new ground for WT,” says Niels.

Founded in 1937, the Edward E. Ford Foundation’s mission is to “encourage and improve secondary education as provided by independent schools in the United States.”

E.E. Ford introduced its prestigious Leadership Grants program in 2007, to stimulate and reward educational innovation. To be considered, schools must commit to an intensive process that includes a concept white paper (through which the initial 20 schools were narrowed to six finalists); a site visit; comprehensive proposal; detailed financial analysis; and presentation to the foundation board in New York.

“As we continue to challenge ourselves as a school to engage faculty and students in the landscape of Pittsburgh, we are excited about how E.E. Ford is challenging schools to innovate,” said Niels.

The foundation will match dollar-for-dollar the funds raised by Winchester Thurston for the City as Our Campus initiative, for a total of $500,000. The school has two years in which to raise the matching funds.
At the heart of City as Our Campus’s evolution is the entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and passion of WT faculty who have forged partnerships with neighboring institutions and served on the City as Our Campus committee. Pictured, left to right, are some of WT’s City as Our Campus faculty leaders. Rear: Sharon Goughnour, Barbara Holmes, John Holmes, and Michael Naragon. Front: Monica Graham, John Maione, Mary Martin, and Christopher Fetter.

CITY AS OUR CAMPUS
A CONFLUENCE OF LOCATION AND MISSION

Just as Pittsburgh emerged at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, which form the mighty Ohio, City as Our Campus emerged at the confluence of WT’s dynamic location and mission, forming an inspiring and challenging learning environment. City as Our Campus engages students in meaningful and relevant experiential learning that develops the mind, motivates the passion to achieve, and cultivates the character to serve. As a flagship program with national recognition, and thanks to a generous community of innovative teachers, committed partners, curious students, and inspired donors, City as Our Campus is poised for its next great leap forward.

1996
Winchester Thurston’s strategic plan articulates the aspiration: the City as Our Campus.

2002
Gary J. Niels arrives as Head of School and forms City as Our Campus faculty committee to make urban connections, develop curricula.

2004
Edward E. Ford Foundation makes a grant to fund City as Our Campus, which is matched anonymously by a WT alumna. WT establishes a Faculty Grant Program that funds teacher proposals for networking and curriculum development.

2007
City as Our Campus is a distinctive and defining WT program that leads the Malone Family Foundation to award WT one of three $2 million endowment grants.

2008
Winchester Thurston Advisory Board is formed.
The Benedict Foundation awards WT a grant to fund City as Our Campus expansion.
The Edward E. Ford Foundation invites WT to compete for a 2009 Educational Leadership Grant, sparking a year-long visioning process to build on insights and programs created through the Faculty Grant Program for expansion of City as Our Campus.

2009
The Edward E. Ford Foundation selects WT as one of four schools nationwide to receive a prestigious E.E. Ford Educational Leadership Grant, an affirmation of WT’s commitment to innovative teaching and experiential learning through City as Our Campus.
SCIENCE

Upper School science teacher Sharon Goughnour wanted to integrate her own passion for ecology and biodiversity into her teaching. As she developed a research course to “introduce students to pressures being placed on the natural world and solutions being developed,” she realized that texts, photos, and videos alone wouldn’t lead to deep understanding. So she partnered with the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium to use the zoo as her Animal Behavior Studies’ “living laboratory.” Begun in 2004 as a one-trimester elective, the course will expand to a full year in 2009-2010. Student-designed research has ranged from elephant communication over infrasound, to the swimming and social behavior of the Amur tiger, to the grooming and stalking behavior of the black-footed cat.

“When my students encounter the animals up close, work side by side with scientists, and collect and interpret their own data, they are introduced to the scientific process in action,” says Goughnour. “I’ve seen the experiences change students—it opens their eyes to endangered animals in new ways, and in some cases it opens up whole new education and career options they never knew existed.”

HISTORY

With the inception of City as Our Campus, Upper School history teacher Michael Naragon began to think of Pittsburgh as a lens through which his students could study major American history topics. In 2004, he took his students to the University of Pittsburgh’s Archives of the Industrial Society, where they delved into a store of primary resources surrounding Pittsburgh and the Vietnam conflict. “We stumbled across a treasure trove,” says Naragon.

Naragon’s students “used original primary sources to determine why Pittsburghers either supported or opposed the war. In the process, they broke new intellectual ground.”

Naragon’s students “took the findings and were able to apply them in original ways, all on their own initiative.” Their findings allowed them to challenge their own textbook by Staughton Lynd. “Lynd discovered that during the 1980s working-class Pittsburghers spoke of a community right to industrial property; my students found evidence of this same line of thought among anti-war activists in the 1960s and 1970s.”

“It didn’t undermine Lynd, but it made it more complex,” Naragon says. Now, he is developing a full-year course in which students pose solutions to real urban problems. “I’ve learned that their voices can be compelling and their intellectual contributions can be powerful,” he says.

THE ARTS

Since 2006, music teacher John Maione has worked with Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild MCG-Jazz Executive Producer Marty Ashby to immerse students in jazz in a host of exciting ways, from studio and live recording experiences with MCG-Jazz visiting artists to performances and workshops with such world-class musicians as John Clayton, Earl Klugh, Ellis Marsalis, and Bob Mintzer. Maione said, “The entire Upper School student body has knowledge of jazz now, with students developing appreciation for an art form whose survival depends on cultivating the next generation of listeners.”

This is important for MCG as well. Ashby says, “A key component of [MCG’s] mission is to promote jazz to young audiences in an effort to preserve the tremendous legacy of this uniquely American art form. Our ongoing partnership with Winchester Thurston has given MCG the opportunity to expose hundreds of young people to many of the great jazz masters of our time; in the process, we have created life-long appreciators of jazz.”
ZOO PARTNERSHIP GROWS WITH INTERNSHIPS, FULL-YEAR COURSE

WT’s collaboration with its “wild” neighbor, the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, is growing on two fronts, almost as rapidly as the pair of baby elephants born at the zoo last summer.

This past school year, Hadley Armstrong ’09 and Julianna Schroeger ’09, the zoo’s first high school interns, spent their Saturdays working as KidScience teaching assistants. KidScience students participate in a year-long study of conservation biology, becoming active research team members and conducting real animal behavior research.

The KidScience internship, a one-year trial program, was crafted by WT Internship Coordinator and Upper School physics teacher Sharon Goughnour, who is also a docent and part-time teacher at the zoo.

KidScience Coordinator Mandy Rebak says, “I was impressed with Hadley and Julianna’s dedication,” adding that she'd like to keep the internship program going.

Goughnour hopes to recruit new interns in the future, further enhancing WT’s partnership with the zoo that began six years ago with the development of a City as Our Campus research course on biodiversity and conservation. Animal Behavior Studies, at the zoo. Interest in the course has been so great that it will become a full-year Upper School elective this fall.

“It’s thrilling to see how the zoo internships have inspired both students, with Julianna planning to major in marine biology, and Hadley pursuing education,” says Goughnour. “The animal behavior course has done the same for other students, and now that it’s been added to WT’s full-year science curriculum, the potential is boundless.”

Pictured above: Julianna Schroeger ’09 and Hadley Armstrong ’09.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LAUNCHES FABULOUS FEBRUARY

February has gone from drab to fab for WT Middle Schoolers, thanks to Fabulous February, an innovative new program developed by Director of Middle School Holly Hatcher-Frazier that complements core curricula while stimulating students’ intellects and imagination.

From art and astronomy, to guinea pig rescues and glassmaking—even DNA lab testing—Fabulous February augments classroom experiences with a month-long array of special seminars, guest speakers, and expeditions.

“Many projects exemplify the City as Our Campus initiative by enhancing parts of the existing curriculum with unique hands-on experiences in our region,” says Kira Senedak, Middle School teacher and Fabulous February organizer. “They naturally support what teachers are already doing in their classes.”

“Exploring the Carnegie Science Center’s Planetarium and IMAX Theater expanded the eighth grade’s astronomy studies,” Senedak explains. “Seventh graders toured the Carnegie Museum of Art in preparation for their class research project, investigating ways to use art as a source of historical information. Not only were students exposed to a new type of resource, they began learning about the process of analyzing art, which challenged them to think critically about what defines a source for research.”

Sixth graders’ interest soared as they built their own rockets, most for the first time.

“It was fascinating,” says Emma Kennedy ’15. Alexandra Uribe ’15 adds, “Our work had to be accurate, like tying specific knots and making sure the distance between parts was correct. Imprecise results can result in a broken rocket. It’s rewarding to know we’ll launch these missiles into the sky!”

Concludes Hatcher-Frazier, “I am proud of our Middle School community for being open to a different approach to learning and application of knowledge. We’re already planning an even more fabulous February for next year!”

Pictured above: (left to right) DaVon Saunders ’15, Jonathan Schermer ’15, Laura Searles ’15, and Max Zissu ’15.
WINTERIM WONDERLAND

What do Beowulf, Buddhism, Bollywood, and bonsai have in common? They’re all part of Winterim, a mid-winter program that enables Upper School students to delve into areas outside their daily curriculum and that offers several City as Our Campus immersion experiences.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for students to spend a week exploring subjects we wouldn’t be exposed to otherwise,” says Scarlett Austin ’09.

Winterim features myriad mini-courses ranging from American Sign Language, to Calming the Fearful Mind: A Zen Response to Terrorism, to Technical Theater, to Birdwatching. The concept, usually employed at colleges and universities, allows for independent learning and free choice of study.

“Our regular course offerings include more than 50 electives, but our faculty’s talents reach far beyond that,” says Mick Gee, Director of Upper School, who introduced Winterim eight years ago. “Winterim is a valuable way to tap into their expertise, and to augment with outside experts, too. It’s also an important vehicle for raising engagement between students and teachers who now have the chance to form relationships in different ways.”

“The teachers make each Winterim unique and exciting,” affirms Ryan Kalanish ’09. “They teach courses they’re passionate about.”

As part of City as Our Campus, social studies teachers Maurice Bajcz and Marc Fogel crafted WT’s first extended bike Winterim. “Fourteen students took a 110-mile, four-day journey along the Allegheny bike trail,” says Gee. “They learned about history and the economics of sustainable farming while exploring historical sites and community farms.”

Other expanded City as Our Campus offerings include Hot Glass at the Pittsburgh Glass Center, where students design and create art objects with crushed and molten glass, and even learn to blow glass; and Playwriting, taught by Pittsburgh Public Theater’s Rob Zellers, whose mission is “to show students how to observe the world through a playwright’s eyes.”

Stern Herd ’09 says, “These are spectacular opportunities. The playwriting class was like a college course; Mr. Zellers was amazing. I’m grateful to have the chance to work with a professional playwright.”

“Winterim is consistently cited by our students as a positive experience,” says Gee. “And each year, we raise the bar a little more with unique experiential learning opportunities.”
MAKING HISTORY: WT ON MARS

W

T on Mars achieved lift-off in January 2009, infusing the school with a galaxy of student artwork, and making Winchester Thurston history. "WT on Mars is the first truly all-school art show," says Sally Allan, North Hills Campus visual arts teacher and Department Chair. "It’s a completely different kind of work than we usually display... very conceptual and most extraordinary!"

Inspired by Life on Mars, the 2008 Carnegie International, WT on Mars radiated from the WT Art Gallery and spilled into hallways, classrooms, and stairwells on every floor. Every student from Pre-K through grade 12 at both campuses contributed to the creation of group or individual pieces. After the show ran for about a month at the City Campus, it moved to the North Hills Campus for another three weeks.

CONNECTIONS AND CONCEPTS

"It’s extremely rewarding to see the whole school connect, and to be a part of it," says Coleman Dougherty ’14, whose work, No More Innocence, featuring a guitar-strumming papier-mâché hobo, was constructed inside a second-floor locker. "It’s very compelling and puts a spark in my heart to know that... artwork is where I can connect."

Incorporating everything from mixed media sculptures to mobiles, to photography and textiles—even transforming a darkroom into a cave—WT on Mars artists explored a constellation of concepts through their works, from weighty (alienation, equality, consumerism) to whimsical (George Romero’s zombies and Superman’s city of Kandor).

NEW HEIGHTS FOR CITY AS OUR CAMPUS

WT on Mars was perhaps the most all-encompassing incarnation of great benefit to our students," says Chris Fetter, Upper School visual arts teacher. "It is rare for students anywhere to have access to contemporary artwork as varied and thought-provoking as this, and my feeling is that our students have taken full advantage of the opportunity.”

FROM LAUNCH TO LIFT-OFF

Preparations for WT on Mars began in fall 2008, highlighted by field trips to the International for docent-guided tours of the galleries enthralling students in every grade.

"Much of the show was very accessible to young children," says Tina Plaka, City Campus Lower School visual arts teacher.” Older students were challenged to take the experience even further.

“Our docent patiently led us through our interpretations of the more subtle points of what we were seeing, allowing for us to draw our own conclusions,” says Rogan Grant ’11, co-creator of a psychedelic Möbius strip symbolizing order and chaos within society. “She... did not directly address the messages of the artwork, but rather provided us with thought-provoking questions. The tour stimulated a good bit of healthy argument that would become the inspiration behind our response pieces. It was a first for many of us to put deep meaning behind our artwork.”

North Hills Campus fifth graders Abbie Minard and Caitlyn Amshel declared the entire experience as simply, “Amazing!”
A writer’s world is full of imagination, adventure…and heaps of hard work. As City Campus Lower School students discovered in January when Pittsburgh author Karen Williams shared her secrets of storytelling as part of a City as Our Campus in-school visit. “Her books are amazing!” says Eric Bianco ’16.

“Williams’ books illustrate how all children have much in common, no matter where in the world they live,” says City Campus Lower School Librarian Jennifer Kraar, who facilitated the visit.

Williams, who spent years living in Africa and Haiti with her family, blends her love of children, travel, different cultures, and ecology in her work, which is rooted in a childhood rich with books and reading. “My parents and grandparents were great storytellers,” remembers Williams. “Books were very valued.”

Students eagerly asked questions of the author who began, and ended, her presentations with “Zikomo,” a Malawian word meaning hello, thank you, and goodbye.

“I enjoyed hearing how she got the inspiration for her books, and how and why she wrote them,” says Jake Averch ’16. Fellow fifth grader Karolina Karagyozyova declares, “I really liked learning about her experiences in different cultures.”

The students attentively absorbed Williams’ advice (“You have to write what you’re passionate about”) and listened raptly as she detailed the editing process (“Imagine how I felt when my editors sent all those corrections!” she laughed, displaying a bulging manuscript overflowing with sticky notes. “I wanted to scream and cry, but then I realized, if they think enough of my work to make so many thoughtful comments, I owe it to them to consider their comments, so think about that when you’re working on your own rewriting.”)

“Williams’ presentation fits right into our curriculum with regard to their writing,” says Kraar of the older students. “Being more patient with themselves during the process, and understanding the necessity for rewriting…as well as understanding a writer’s voice and…finding their own voice.”

CITY AS OUR CAMPUS OVER THE YEARS

NOTABLE PROJECTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

University of Pittsburgh Howard Hughes Medical Institute Phage Hunting program involves students in finding and identifying phages (bacteria that infect viruses) for medical research focused on tuberculosis.

In Public Monuments and Memory, an American history unit, Upper School students study public memorials to analyze how society commemorates heroes and events and to elicit societal values.

Carnegie Museum of Art, 2008 International, Life on Mars inspires the art show, WT on Mars. Four WT students interned at the International, and two faculty members served on the Education Advisory Board.

A Pittsburgh Public Theatre partnership exposed students to “behind the scenes” work of professional theater, including costumes, lighting, and set design.

WT faculty and students led the development of a city-wide student and teacher literary magazine, Chazak Ve’Amatz (Have Strength and Courage), based on a 2008 trip to Poland taken with Holocaust survivors, under the auspices of the Agency for Jewish Learning (AJL).

Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, and International Poetry Forum Visiting Writers worked with creative writing students.

Upper School students have held internships at Carnegie Mellon University’s Cyber Security Lab, Robotics Lab, Mars Rover Project, and Children’s School; the Children’s Institute; Hillman Cancer Center; Pittsburgh Cultural Trust; Pittsburgh Tribune-Review; UPMC Emergency Medicine Department; Andy Warhol Museum; Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium; Carnegie Science Center; University of Pittsburgh/Howard Hughes Institute; Pittsburgh Opera; and Carnegie Museum of Art.
I first met Jonathan Mahone, a Winchester Thurston alumnus from the Class of 1995 and part of the first class of male students in the school’s history, when I participated in the Summerbridge Pittsburgh program as a sixth grader. My teachers of this program, which offered Middle School students a rigorous yet enjoyable opportunity for further cultural and academic edification, were a diverse group of high school and college students from around the country and the world, who brought unique perspective, energy, passion, and humor to education. Jon Mahone was one of those teachers, and he was perhaps the funniest, most talented, and admired of them all.

As a student of Summerbridge, I found Jon’s enthusiasm for teaching both enthralling and inspiring. During our morning meetings, he would bounce around on stage, dance, scream, sing, and celebrate, all in an effort to percolate the spirits of his students. Jon brought his wit, humor and sometimes downright silliness to even the most mundane activity. I feel as though I am an educator today because of the passion for knowledge that Jon instilled in me at an early age.

I was thrilled that Jon agreed to play such an integral role in Winchester Thurston Upper School’s inaugural Diversity Day on March 9, 2009. While planning the event, my colleagues and I spent a long time searching for a speaker who could not only relate to the WT community but also galvanize the students and faculty to openly discuss and act upon issues of diversity within our school environment. The search led me to discover that Jon, since leaving both Winchester Thurston and Summerbridge, had continued to pursue his creative passions over the years as an artist, activist, and educator. Following his time at Brown University, where he performed in an improvisational comedy group with Jonathan Krasinski from the hit television series “The Office,” Jon formed two groundbreaking and talented groups: In House Freestyle, which is proudly promoted as “New England’s only all black sketch comedy team,” and Riders Against the Storm, a hip-hop duo that creates music and poetry with the purpose of challenging greed and selfishness within communities, and the dishonesty of the media and other cultural and social institutions.

My colleagues and I welcomed Jon and his wife and collaborator, Ghislaine, to Winchester Thurston to serve as the keynote speakers and performers for our Diversity Day. Following student-led workshops on issues of race, ethnicity, politics, and identity, Jon’s address served to contextualize and expand the group discussions in which the students, faculty, and administration participated. He focused on his experiences as the first African American male graduate of Winchester Thurston, as well as the personal choices that he made in the years following his education.

The highlight of his address was his remarks to the student body about the responsibilities of privilege. He encouraged students to use the resources and knowledge that they obtain from their school and educators to bring about constructive change within the world, a message of great relevance and one that reflects the school’s motto to “think also of the comfort and the rights of others.”

Following his address, Jon and Ghislaine performed poems, skits, and songs that commented on issues of race and identity and encouraged students to view the media and other institutions with a healthy skepticism and a desire to seek out truth. These messages featured prominently in the duo’s concluding number, “Speak the Truth,” which is in contention for a top honor in the 2009 John Lennon Songwriting Contest, a competition that rewards rising talents in the music industry.

Jon’s presence evoked a sense of nostalgia within me as I recalled his influence in my life during my adolescence. I was proud to have the opportunity to see him again and to introduce Jon and his wife to the students of the Upper School, and I was not surprised to discover that there is still much that I can learn from him as I continue to pursue my fervor for education.
Delving Into Diversity

“We wanted to give people a new understanding of each other,” says Ramsey Daniels ’11, co-facilitator of Winchester Thurston’s first ever Diversity Day, “and for people to think about what it’s like to live in someone else’s shoes.”

Developed and carried out completely by student leaders, including past delegates to the Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) and the Diversity Club, Diversity Day on March 9, 2009 engaged the entire Upper School, replacing regular classes with an array of workshops that analyzed topics like peace, language, self-expression, and stereotypes.

“We were looking for another way to implement what we had learned and experienced at SDLC into our own school community,” explains fellow organizer Ashley Jones ’09, a three-time SDLC participant. “We decided that a single class period, which we’ve done in previous years, simply wasn’t enough.”

“We probed a variety of issues,” adds co-facilitator Bionca Gould ’10. “For example, my workshop examined stereotypes in politics. We presented President Obama’s platform using John McCain’s voice, and people who had, during the election, supported McCain, said they now agreed with these statements. They realized they’d been prejudiced, perhaps voting for a certain candidate because of how their parents voted. It helped open their eyes.”

The day’s high points included a comedy performance and poetry readings by keynote speaker WT alumnus, Jon Mahone ’95 and his wife, Ghislaine.

“It encompassed all the workshops,” explains Bionca. “The message was to embrace difference; don’t be ashamed to be who you are and show your true colors!”

Affirms Ashley, “Being a WT alum, Jon was able to connect and relate to us extremely well. He was great!”

“In the end, the work we’re doing leads back to WT’s credo, ‘Think also of the comfort and the rights of others,’” muses Ramsey. “Hopefully, the knowledge people gained on Diversity Day will galvanize them to think more about the comfort and rights of others, in the WT community and beyond.”

Diversity Day gives students an opportunity to dialogue about issues of social justice and equity as they relate to our WT community,” states Muriel Alim, Upper School English teacher and Diversity Club advisor. “Students plan and implement the events; it gives them ownership and demonstrates to them the commitment WT has to diversity.”

STUDENT DIVERSITY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In December 2008, six Upper School student leaders and five WT teachers studied and celebrated diversity with peers from around the country at the Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) in New Orleans, LA. “Diversity is so many things,” says second-year participant Chris Bangs ’10. “It’s not just race. It’s cultural, religious, socio-economic, geographic, and much more.”

The event focuses on self-reflecting, understanding, networking, support, communication and expression, and is held under the auspices of the annual NAIS People of Color Conference attended regularly by several WT teachers.

Through an illuminating range of activities, students gained invaluable knowledge about diversity and the tools necessary to effect change into their own schools. “In one activity, all 1,300 students stood in a big circle and read off different ways to define themselves, such as race, ethnicity, and emotional disorders,” says Ramsey Daniels ’11, who attended SDLC for the first time. “If you identified with something, you’d step into the circle. It was amazing to see people being so open about themselves.”

The program affords students a safe environment in which to express themselves. “The feeling of comfort while dealing with sensitive issues allows students to grow, and being able to be completely honest without being judged is so important,” says Ashley Jones ’09, a third-time attendee.

“Because I now have a broader perspective on diversity, I want to integrate that into my everyday life, and I hope that what I learned will spread through the student community,” concludes Ramsey.
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<th>Annie C. Alexander</th>
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Nine Seniors Inducted into Cum Laude Society

In February 2009 Winchester Thurston School inducted nine members of the Class of 2009 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:

- Scarlett Austin
- Rayna Gross
- Eli Siegel
- Taylor Flynn
- Terrell Jones
- Hannah Strong
- Morgan Gilbreath
- Laura Short
- Katharine Vidt

“Induction is a very selective award limited to the top 20% of a given class, and is a purely academic honor,” notes Dr. David Seward, Director of College Counseling.

Students Honored on Class Day 2009

Louis Caplan
Human Relations Award
Mireille Ngokion
Mimi Burke Book Prize
Helen Bunker
Nathan Ong
Williams College Alumni Book Prize
Hazel Eaton
Award for Independent Thinking
Christopher Schmidt
Zelda Wilmurt
Drama Prize
Stern Herd
Wadniwa Community Service Award
Andres Velez
Skidmore College Art Award
Jonathan Springer

Students Honored with Winchester Thurston Awards 2009

Student Diversity Leadership Recognition
Chris Bangs
Ramsey Daniels
Hayleigh Edmonds
Ashley Jones
Rosaleen Mahorter
Khalipa Misawa

Female Athlete of the Year Award
Jimyse Brown
Male Athlete of the Year Award
David Curtis
Cassie Richards Athlete of the Year Award
DJ Goldblum
Haley Surti Award
Kate Onorato
Morgan Gilbreath

Patricia Schuenger Mathematics Award
Scarlett Austin

American Invitational Mathematics Examination Recognition
Junu Bae
Virginia Ann Sheppard History Prize
Katharine Vidt
The Pursuit of Science Award
Scarlett Austin
Westinghouse Science Honors Institute Recognition
Helen Bunker
Khalipa Misawa
Andres Velez
Drama Award
Barbara Johnson
Technical Theater Award
Hadley Armstrong
Performing Arts Service Award
Taylor Culbertson
Louis Armstrong Jazz Award
Erik Schmidt
Hazel Eaton

Joe Negri Guitar Ensemble Award
Katharine Vidt
National Orchestra Award
Andrew DiPietro
Alaina Ferry
National School Choral Award
Kevin Nguyen
Senior English Award
Terrell Jones

Plaid Recognition
Morgan Gilbreath
Katharine Vidt
Thistledown Recognition
Destiny McKnight
National Spanish Examination Recognition
Aaren Barge
Katrin Bovbjerg
Nathan Siegel
Rosaleen Mahorter
Natalie Yanko
Junu Bae
Alexander Zukoff
Charlie Lehman
Chris Bangs
Kurt Twymon
David Findley
Rina Petek
Helen Bunker
Sarah Weiskopf
Malcom Juring
Elan Rosenfeld
Allyson Bartlett
Kevin Muschar
Peter Stettler
Julie Maloney
Anna Petek
Faye Goldman
Stern Herd National Orchestra Award
Andrew DiPietro
Alaina Ferry

Excellence in Spanish Award
Jimyse Brown
National Latin Examination Recognition
Katharine Vidt
Ashwin Chandra
Ari Schuman
Hazel Eaton
Nia D’Emilio
Destiny McKnight
Alaina Ferry
Aaren Barge
Jack Stein

Excellence in Latin Award
Rachel Dougherty
Grand Concours Recognition
Grace Hamilton-Vargo
Chris Bangs
Levon Tamrazov
Terry Jones
George Price
Rachel Woods
Hallie Goldstein
Camille Petricola
Lauren Nakamura
Adam Burston
Melissa Rostek
Maya Muenzer
David Schreff
Zoe Zissu

Excellence in French Award
Zoe Zissu
Rachel Woods
Genevieve Yagodkin
Foreign Language Award
Chris Bangs

Students Honored at Commencement 2009

Mary A. Campbell Award
Katharine Helen
Victoria Vdit
Mary A. Graham Mitchell Award
Terrell Ewa Jones
Alice M. Thurston Award
Morgan Faith
Schraf Gilbreath
Ruth S. Gamsby Award
Eli Charles Siegel
Nina Wadniwa Student Council Award
Mireille Aimee
Ossil-willey
Ngokion
Emily E. Dorrance Award
Mireille Aimee
Ossil-willey
Ngokion
Joe Negri Guitar Ensemble Award
Katharine Vidt
National Orchestra Award
Andrew DiPietro
Alaina Ferry
National School Choral Award
Kevin Nguyen
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Excellence in French Award
Zoe Zissu
Rachel Woods
Genevieve Yagodkin
Foreign Language Award
Chris Bangs
HOOPLA

For the first time in school history, the Upper School Girls Basketball team made it to the WPIAL playoffs, ending their season with a winning record of 13-8. Coach Williams concludes, “We laid down a solid foundation for a successful program in years to come.”

re:LAX

It was an unprecedented season for both Middle School Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams (both 5-2). Goalie Randon Bopp ’13 broke the school record for most saves in a Middle School game. On May 4, he posted 21 saves against Shady Side Academy, breaking the previous record of 16 saves. Middle School Girls Lacrosse coach Ashley Lemmon says, “I am so proud of how well the girls have come together as a team this season. It’s obvious that it’s had an impact on their successes.”

FLING FUN

A WT tradition for more than 30 years, Spring Fling was a sunny, delightful mixture of fun, friends, and fling favorites. From inflatable attractions and karaoke to midway games and slot car racing and from the flower sale and cake walk to raffle baskets and balloon artists, hundreds turned out on a Friday in early May to celebrate spring and WT.
WT EAST

East met West in the WT Art Gallery on April 13, when Middle School students were immersed in traditional Korean fine arts during an all-day workshop fusing art, history, science, and culture, thanks to a partnership with the Asian Studies Center of the University of Pittsburgh. While the Asian Studies Center of the University of Pittsburgh provided funding, artists from Pittsburgh’s Society for Contemporary Craft supplied the expertise, introducing students to keum-boo, an ancient gilding technique, and pojagi, a textile art dating from the late 1300s. “[As the Middle School’s Asian Studies program grows] I’m seeking creative ways to teach our students about different Asian cultures,” says event organizer Lisa Allswede, Middle School Visual Arts teacher and National Consortium for Teaching about Asia alumna. “Art is a great vehicle to introduce the history, culture, and current events of these countries.”

SHALL WE

WT Upper School Performing Arts Department presented The King and I in April. The cast was led by senior Stern Herd as the proud monarch, The King of Siam; junior Barbara Johnson as Anna; freshman Nia D’Emilio as Tuptim; sophomore Michael Counihan as Lun Tha; and senior Hannah Strong as Lady Thiang, and featured nine children in grades 2 through 6. The exotic and extravagant musical had audiences tapping toes to many well-loved songs like “I Whistle a Happy Tune,” “Getting to Know You,” and “Shall We Dance?”

China, North Korea, India, and Japan unreeled in February as WT hosted Asia Unreeled, a four-part film series featuring thought-provoking and entertaining films spanning the diverse realities, histories, and cultures of Asia. The series is a partnership between WT, University of Pittsburgh’s Asian Studies Center and Silk Screen, a Pittsburgh organization promoting Asian art and culture.
GREEN SAVES GREEN
This winter Upper School students and faculty plugged into the Green Cup Challenge, a national grassroots campaign to raise students’ environmental awareness and reduce energy consumption in schools. By taking proactive measures to save electricity in WT’s school buildings—turning off lights, computers, and other electronics when not in use—the school realized a 14.4% cost savings during the challenge period. “Even simple, everyday actions can have serious consequences for the planet,” concludes Kat Vidt ’09.

EARTHY EFFORTS
From reducing school bus diesel pollution, to planting trees, to building birdhouses and potting seedlings, WT’s Go Green Team, led by WT parent and environmental expert Lisa Nakamura, championed an array of grassroots efforts during Earth Week 2009. WT North’s Earth Day Work Day featured the construction of a new “nature playhouse” made primarily of tree trunks, twigs, and other natural materials. Designed by engineer and WT parent Lee Bares, the gazebo-like playhouse—like the campus’s natural playground—was built by parents, faculty, and students alike.

LIVING SCIENCE
“WT North is a living laboratory,” says Kelly Vignale, City Campus Lower School science and technology teacher. The campus’s spring-fed pond—where wildlife abounds—is the site for Science Days, where first through fifth graders from both campuses plunge joyfully into a world of natural wonder. From investigating principles of flight and bird biology, to examining plankton and conducting water quality testing of pond water, Science Day activities instill in students the important notion that science is not just something we learn, it’s something we do.
IT’S ALL GREEK

From the hand-decorated costumes to Greek songs, dances, and storytelling, this year’s Greek Day was an event of Olympic proportions. A much-loved annual event, Greek Day is the culmination of an intensive, cross-disciplinary unit that takes students through ancient Greece and the art, architecture, history, and culture of the time. The impressive finale included a torch bearer to kick off the Olympic Games and a variety of competitive and cooperative events cheered on by enthusiastic guests.

MAKING A CASE

The verdict is in: WT junior jurists pronounce their premier season in the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Mock Trial Competition a tremendous success. With students enacting the roles of lawyers, litigants, and witnesses, Mock Trial affords high school students the unique opportunity for in-depth exploration of the American judicial system. WT’s team competed against 30 other teams from Allegheny County, winning their preliminary trials and advancing to the playoffs. “It was a great achievement for a first-year team to make it to the regional playoffs,” says advisor Lindsay Phillips, Upper School social studies teacher.

BY THE NUMBERS

It all adds up to success for the new Pittsburgh regional American Regions Mathematics League (ARML) team which placed eleventh in the country in its division at the ARML annual competition in May at Penn State University. Freshman Junu Bae finished fourth in the country in individual competition; additionally, he also qualified for the third consecutive year in the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad. WT is home to the Pittsburgh regional ARML team for high school and middle school students, which is led by Upper School mathematics teacher David Hallas.
2009 Teaching Award Recipients

WT congratulates Middle School mathematics teacher Heather Crowley, recipient of the 2009 Jane L. Scarborough Award, and Lower School teacher Karen Gaul, 2009 Judy Apt Nathenson Memorial Chair for Excellence in Childhood Education.

Crowley’s dedication in the Middle School, not only as a teacher but as the MathCounts team coach and as the eighth-grade dean, inspired this year’s Scarborough committee to select her for this special annual teaching award.

At Commencement on June 7, committee chair Cheryl Gaal said of Crowley, “You are an appreciated, dedicated, and nurturing math teacher. You leave a lasting impression on your students and change the mind-set of how they think about and approach math. Your students are forever grateful to have had you as their teacher. Many have gone on to take AP math in no small part because you made them believe in themselves and their math ability. Our WT community is very fortunate to have you, and we all thank you.”

A third-grade teacher at the City Campus, Gaul is described as an excellent problem solver who continually searches for ways to be a better teacher and to provide a stimulating and productive environment for her students. She has been chosen as one of 18 teachers by the National Consortium of Teaching about Asia to travel to China and Vietnam this summer in order to enhance her ability to integrate the study of East Asia into the curriculum.

Faculty Highlights

Mick Gee graduated from Teachers College, Columbia University in May 2009 with an M. Ed in Education Leadership with a Concentration in Private School Leadership.

Holly Hatcher-Frazier was asked to represent the regional chapter of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) and be part of a delegation of 21 school administrators from around the country to travel to China this summer to foster relationships with Hanban, the Chinese education department.

Mike Naragon, with his colleague and mentor, Peter DiNardo, presented a paper at the National Council for History Education in Boston that summarized the approach to teaching history that Mike has developed at WT over the past decade. They used music, poetry, primary documents, and art to show how WWII intensified debates over the meaning of freedom and citizenship in America, and they demonstrated how this methodology could be used to frame our understanding of post-WWII America.

WT Welcomes....

Jennifer Sconlon, Director of Institutional Advancement, joined WT in January 2009 and brings with her a wealth of experience in development and fundraising. She previously held positions with Magee-Womens Research Institute and Foundation, University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Medical and Health Sciences Foundation, and Carnegie Mellon University. She holds a B.S. from Mount St. Mary’s University and a Master’s from the University of Pittsburgh.

Scott Gutowski, Director of Technology, joined WT in January 2009, having moved from the Bahamas, where he started a technical program at Lyford Cay International School. Originally from Pennsylvania, Gutowski has experience both as an elementary school teacher and as an IT consultant, which led him to other places as varied as Poland, Ireland, Arizona, New York City, and Baltimore. He holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.
Connie Blum Marstine Scholarship Fund

“Connie was remarkable,” says Sheldon Marstine of his wife, Constance (Connie) Blum Marstine ’55, who passed away on June 5, 2008 at the age of 70. “She was extraordinarily funny and bright, an excellent cook and gardener, a wonderful wife and mother. Her education was superior, and she was always loyal to Winchester Thurston.”

The Marstines were married for 49 years. To honor the memory of his beloved wife, who was an active volunteer in the WT community, Marstine established the Connie Blum Marstine Scholarship Fund with a generous gift to Winchester Thurston School’s Endowment Fund. The gift will fund an annual scholarship for a student who demonstrates high academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, a passion for learning, and who would otherwise be able to afford a Winchester Thurston education.

Explains Marstine, “I’ve always believed that Winchester Thurston provides an outstanding education. I wanted to honor my late wife, and I wanted her memory to live on. It’s a great feeling to make WT’s exceptional education possible for a deserving student, and to honor Connie at the same time,” says Marstine.

The fund also celebrates multiple generations of Marstines who have attended WT. It memorializes Connie’s mother, Winchester Thurston Alumna Eleanor Dreyfus Goodman ’29, and honors the Marstines’ daughter, Winchester Thurston Alumna Janet Marstine Polishook ’77, founder of the Institute of Museum Ethics and Assistant Professor at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. “Janet is very prominent in her field,” says Marstine proudly. “She’s carved out a niche for herself in museum ethics, and traces her passion for art directly to WT and to [recently deceased WT art history teacher] Ann Peterson.”

Marstine and Polishook will work with the school to select the first Connie Blum Marstine Scholar, a student who will enroll in the ninth grade this fall and will remain the Marstine Scholar through graduation in 2013.

The Connie Blum Marstine Scholarship Fund is a significant addition to the WT Endowment Fund. It is also a lasting legacy that links the past, present, and future. It speaks to the value of education and the power of love. “I was very fortunate to have Connie,” smiles Marstine, “and I’m fortunate to be able to create this scholarship in her honor. Connie loved WT, and she loved children. I think she would have liked this.”
In Memoriam

Alexander M. Minno

"Winchester Thurston has lost a good friend, supporter, and advocate. I will miss Dr. Minno’s friendly drop-in visits in which he conveyed his warmth, gentleness, and humor.”
—Gary J. Niels, Head of School

Anne “Rooney” Forn crook McCloskey ’45

“Rooney represented the very best of the values of her beloved Winchester Thurston. She was always ready with her wit and wisdom to remind me of what was really important in life. Rooney was an extraordinary person who would have been the last to acknowledge she was in any way special. Those of us whose lives she touched knew ‘the truth.’”
—Jane Scarborough, Former Head of School

MEMBERS OF THE MISS MITCHELL SOCIETY

Marybert Englert Allen ’49*
Ann E. Armstrong T’29*
Loretta Lobes Benec ’88
Barbara Abney Boiger ’52
Arthur E. Braun*
Eleanor Harbison Bream ’31*
Herbert Briggs, Jr.*
Barbara Hunter Burghart ’71*
Marion Weis Cohen ’44
Marion Montgomery Colbourne ’52
Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer ’37
Mary Campbell Eckhardt*
Virginia A. Elliott T’26*
Eleanor Lanz Ericson T’17*
Elizabeth Braun Ernst ’25*
Harriet Adler Feldman ’57
Margaret J. Garner T’18*
Mabel L. Gillespie*
Ethel C. Goodreds ’22*
Edna Rieck Graham T’11*
Mary Houston Griffin W’21*
Jeanne Logan Hardie ’34*
Rosanne Isay Harrison ’56
Lida B. Johnston*
Eugene S. Kerber
James Craighead Kuhn*
Lucille Showalter Leggett ’11*
Louise Baldridge Lytle ’51
Jocelyn Hulme MacConnell ’43
Carole Oswald Markus ’57
Gertrude Dally Massie W’18*
Anne Forn crook McCloskey ’45*
Edith Allerton Miller*
Mrs. Frances P. Minno
Dr. Alexander M. Minno*
Frances Alter Mitchell ’30*
Judy Apt Nathenson ’69*
Jane Bortman Porter ’43*

Jane Dunn Prejean ’36*
Eleanor M. Reilly, Honorary Alumna*
Alan D. Riester*
Susan Criep Santa-Cruz ’60
Dorothy Dodworth Scullin ’47
Dr. Richard E. Sigler
Bonnie Solomon ’48*
Mariana Epstein Specter ’58*
Janet L. Stevenson ’16*
Molly Cannon Stevenson ’72
Allyson Baird Sveda ’84
F. Irene Thomas, Honorary Alumna
Ruth Weimer Tiller ’41
Rosalie Morris Voorhis*
Gaylen Westfall
Carol Spear Williams ’57
Norma Weis Wilner ’40*

*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, at (412) 578-7530 or westfallg@winchesterthurston.org.
WT On the Road
Alums Reconnect in Nation’s Capital and the Big Apple

DC

WT alumna Connie Smith Franklin ’51 and Gary J. Niels were “On the Road” to welcome more than 25 graduates, parents, and friends of WT to the Army and Navy Club in Washington, D.C. at a reception on May 7, 2009. Franklin and her husband, Major General Joseph Franklin, retired Commandant of West Point and author of the book Building Leaders the West Point Way, graciously hosted this reception after a visit to WT in fall 2008. The Franklins wanted to share their joy and pride with the WT community in the greater Washington, D.C. area.

NYC

The whimsical work of sculptor Tim Hawkinson at the PaceWildenstein gallery in New York City was the delightful backdrop for WT’s “On the Road” event on May 14, 2009. Along with Gary J. Niels, WT trustee Rob Glimcher and his wife, Megan—parents of Layne ’17 and Brock ’20—hosted this reception in style and welcomed more than 34 graduates, parents, and friends of WT.
Pittsburgh Celebrities Help Celebrate the City and the School

Winchester Thurston rolled out the red carpet for more than 300 parents, alumnae/i, teachers, administrators, and friends gathered for Pittsburgh People, the school’s annual benefit hosted by its Parents Association, on March 7, 2009 at its Upper School building.

The spotlight shone on familiar Pittsburgh neighborhoods—South Side, North Side, the Strip District, Shadyside, and Oakland—and WT’s City as Our Campus program as guests bid on myriad auction items, feasted on favorite Pittsburgh fare, and danced to the jazz stylings of guitarist and WT performing arts teacher John Maione and friends.

Pittsburgh’s Jim Roddey emceed the live auction and was joined by actor Chuck Aber, author Faith Adiele, Michael Bartley of WQED, artist Peter Calaboyias, filmmaker Chris Ivey, former Pittsburgh mayor Tom Murphy, journalist Tony Norman, entrepreneur Prentiss Orr, City Councilman Bill Peduto, composer and arranger Dr. Bill Purse, producer Rick Sebak, brewmaster Scott Smith, actress Maggie Stewart, and cartoonist Joe Wos.

The star-studded event raised more than $80,000 for the school. Benefit co-chairs Abby Miller, Loretta Stanish, and Susan Sweeney worked with more than 100 dedicated volunteers, including Parents Association president Deesha Philyaw and key volunteers Betsy Thompson, Tracey Reading, Adam Leong, Kathleen Bishop, Jeff Robbins, Kate Stainton, Noreen Tompkins, Laurie Winslow, Rick Rogow, Bea Bradley, Carole King, and many more.
2007  

Kate Bartlett is working toward her dual major: a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and a B.S. in English, with a minor in Engineering Mathematics at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO. She writes and draws for the school newspaper, *The University*, and is involved with the professional aviation fraternity Alpha Eta Rho, and Women in Aviation (WIA), an organization dedicated to promoting women in the fields of aviation, engineering, science, and technology. hotaru@gmail.com

2004  

Michael Larson-Edwards graduated from Pitt and is working for Zell Engineers. He looks forward to a trip to South Africa in 2010 where he will attend the World Cup. Steelmike5@gmail.com

2002  

Matt Benic is employed by UPMC and works at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh as a therapist on the Child/Adolescent Unit. He is also in the process of being published for his co-research study on color preferences between Japanese and American college students with his former psychology professor, Dr. Josephine Wilson, from Wittenberg University. mbenic22@hotmail.com

The band will be touring July 9-26 and again August 12-24 and did a show in Pittsburgh in July. Mike finished his first year of graduate school at Duke’s Nicholas School for the Environment, earning a Master’s degree in environmental management with a focus in energy and the environment. mroth18@gmail.com

1999  

Seth Borrland graduated from the University of Texas School of Architecture in May 2009. He and his wife moved to Chicago, where she’ll be starting her M.B.A. at University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business. sbborland@gmail.com

Anne D’Appolonia Dickson is the Director of Marketing & Development for Propel Schools, a not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to catalyze the transformation of public education in southwestern Pennsylvania so that all children have access to high performing public schools. She lives with her husband and dog in Point Breeze. adappolonia@yahoo.com

1997  

Stacey Stanczak Smith and Justin Smith ’94 welcomed a daughter, Camryn Valerie, to the family on November 19, 2008. Their three other children are great with her and love her very much. They visited with Mark Boleky ’96 and family while they were in Disney World. They have enjoyed reconnecting with old friends from WT through Facebook and love keeping in touch with everyone. stanczak@hotmail.com

2006  

Don Mike Mendoza was cast in a feature film called *Haze*, to be filmed over the summer in the DC area. It is a documentary style film that addresses the topic of fraternity and sorority hazing at colleges and universities in America. He was cast as Sam and the Male Swing in the upcoming fall musical, Andrew Lippa’s *The Wild Party*. Don Mike still works at WAMU with NPR and is still loosely involved with *The Diane Rehm Show* since his internship ended in January. dm7560a@student.american.edu

Mike Roth’s band, Cobalt & the Hired Guns, just finished a tour of North Carolina that concluded with a sold-out show with platinum selling artist Dashboard Confessional in Durham, NC. They also put out two new songs that can be downloaded by the WT community for free at www.cobaltandthehiredguns.com/freedownload.html.

Anjali Sachdeva ’96 taught WT Upper School students for three days in the Creative Writing Class of Muriel Alim.
Cambodia, peninsular Malaysia and Thailand. They plan to visit Jordan, Israel, Turkey, and Europe before visiting the US later this year. As the days and weeks pass, they feel their eyes and hearts opening even wider and look forward to returning to Australia with a better understanding of the world and a greater passion for its people. While traveling, Sarah can be reached at sarahfife@gmail.com and would love to hear from other WT folks, particularly anyone else who is traveling with hopes that their paths might cross. Anyone interested in following Sarah and Tim’s travel adventure can check out www.getjealous.com/loveandhugsfrom or can join the Facebook group “love and hugs from.”

1994
Erin Herward Thurston and Adam welcomed Liam Thomas Thurston on April 20, 2009. He is joined at home in Vienna, VA, by big brother, Patrick (born November, 2006). Erin will return to her job teaching Kindergarten in the Fairfax County Public Schools in September 2009. erinthurston@hotmail.com

1993
Lisa Bennington is pleased to announce she was named partner in the law firm of Pollock Begg Komar Glasser. She continues to focus on all areas of divorce, support, and custody. She would love to hear from fellow WT alums. ebbennington@pbkg.net

1990
Isil Arican was married in May 2008 and moved to California in October. Since her husband works at a software company in San Francisco they settled down in Berkeley. She loves the weather, the food, and the Bay Area. Since her current visa status doesn’t allow Isil to work, she applied to few graduate schools and eagerly awaits their responses while she enjoys the California sun. isil.arican@gmail.com

1989
Emma Raizman is a pediatrician in San Diego but will be moving to Herndon, VA in July 2009 to practice pediatrics and get closer to home and family. While in San Diego she has spent lots of fun times with Laura Bostick Collins and her two adorable kids, Ben and Ada, and husband Boyce. ejraizman@yahoo.com

1988
Elizabeth Bellin (Lisa Iarrapino) is excited to announce that her second daughter, Elizabeth Grace Bellin, was born on December 23, 2008. Her big sister, Christina Lucia, 3, is thrilled! ebellin212@aol.com

Loretta Lobes Benec lives in Point Breeze with her husband, Chris, and their children: Caroline, 10; Ella, 8; and Paul, 2. She is still in-house counsel at H.J. Heinz Company working on corporate and securities matters as well as finance projects. She has spent time recently watching her girls play lacrosse at WT’s field, and it brings back lots of memories of field hockey among the buckeyes and practice in the rain with

Wendy Marks Pine and her husband, Bobby, on January 18, 2009 with their sons, Jake Ryan, 2 months, and Brian Alex, 2; and their dog, Triton. wendymarks@bellsouth.net

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Amy Simons Vanella, Diana Thompson, Bonnie Barrett Wymard, Autumn Jones Katarincic, Lisa Iarrapino, Jessica Berman Bolger and Jennifer Gonzalez McComb ’89. It seems like just yesterday! She’d love to hear from anyone. llobesbenec@gmail.com

Eva Kolodner sadly reports of the passing of her mother, Dorothy Chiavetta Kolodner, on March 10, 2009. Known as “The Mother of WIC in Pennsylvania,” Dorothy was a powerful and loving force of nature, known by many in the WT community as well as Pittsburgh more widely. In February 2009, Eva left the film industry and joined the International Rescue Committee (www.theIRC.org) in their development department. She is incredibly excited to be putting her efforts toward the IRC’s critical humanitarian work around the world. Eva and her partner, Eliza, and their daughter, Klara, 4, are hoping to bring another baby into their family through adoption in the coming year (and would welcome any leads in this endeavor!). eva@saltyfeatures.com

Suzanne Dreux Shapero purchased a family and cosmetic dental practice in Baldwinsville, NY, a suburb of Syracuse. She and Jack Esformes have been married for eight years. Jack is a mechanical and aerospace engineer, originally from Long Island. He has been working for Carrier Corporation for 30 years. sshapero@twcny.rr

Marlee Minno Flaherty’s son, Chris Flaherty, just completed his junior year at WT and is enjoying his mom’s old school. mjkb@verizon.net

Victoria Dym is a Master’s candidate at Carlow University, M.F.A., Creative Writing and Poetry. She will be traveling to

Amy Danovitz Tanen lives in Washington, DC, with her husband Paul and her 3 children: Seth, 13; Ethan, 12; and Abby, 10. She is a part-time spin instructor and a full-time mom. amytanen@comcast.net

Annie Avery ’82 and Margie Kamin Feitler ’82 caught up with each other and WT on a visit in Chicago in February 2009.
Ireland this summer for a residency with poet Mark Roper, and will defend her manuscript in the spring of 2010. Victoria has her B.A. in Philosophy from Pitt and her B.F.A. (Bachelors of Fun Arts, a degree in Humility), from Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Clown College. Her daughter, Sydney Zalewski, studies architecture at Carnegie Mellon University. vicdym@hotmail.com

1972

Hallie Weissman Cohn enjoyed seeing many of her classmates at their 35th reunion. Hallie, an interior designer with offices in Milwaukee, WI, and Delray Beach, FL, has two girls in college. She is currently in the process of moving to Brussels, Belgium with her husband. She would love to see any classmates who will be travelling in Europe.hwcohn@aol.com

Susan Reel-Panish’s father died last October at 89 and her mother in April at 87. Her son, Adam, is 12. Susan is divorced and lives near Philadelphia. Her residential architecture practice is stalled by the economy, so she has detoured into another business. She took over the “Curves” franchise where she exercises and has fun. Susan has good memories of the 35th reunion. sreelpanish@aol.com

Molly Cannon Stevenson is still working in philanthropy and executive management with health care and non-profit organizations in Colorado. She is also getting donations for Chinese orphans. Her daughter, Mamie, is at Reed College in Portland, OR. Her daughter, Sophia, finished Kindergarten and is challenged with childhood apraxia, but is otherwise doing well. Husband Bill was laid off after 25 years as General Counsel with local insurance companies. He has enrolled in the Iliff School of Theology part-time, pursuing a Master’s of Divinity. Will, 23, is the only one who is steadily working right now. Here’s to everyone winning the lottery! MSTevensPIP@aol.com

1970

Cynthia Hodgson Clampitt still teaches English as a Second Language in a K-8 school in New Haven, CT. Her husband, David, at Yale for 11 years, now teaches music theory at OSU, so they have one of those academic commuting marriages for the time being. Daughter Laura will attend Smith College in the fall and will have Cynthia’s girls’ school/ coed college experience in reverse. Last summer Cynthia volunteered as an ESL teacher at a foundation just outside of Sarajevo, Bosnia, a city where she had lived and studied for two years during college and graduate school. She was able to find old friends from those long ago days before the devastating war there, and made new ones too. “We have an unusually extensive and rich network of friendships through our shared experiences at WT and lives beyond. Now with a daughter in college, I hope to actually attend a WT Class of 1970 event or two and reconnect in person. Until then, if any of you are out this way, feel free to contact me.” cynthia.clampitt@sbcglobal.net

1969

Carol Kister Phillips still lives in a new golfing community about 25 miles north of Raleigh. Her commute is longer but she enjoys the weekends of peace and quiet. She and her husband enjoy playing golf whenever they have an opportunity. All of the children are grown with her youngest finishing his senior year at Elon University. Her two daughters are close by, as are her two stepsons. carolkphillips@embarqmail.com

1968

Carolyn Sharp Yates and her husband welcomed their second grandchild in September. Alexander James Yates joins sister, Nala Elizabeth. 2. Carolyn attended her 40th college reunion at Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH.
last October, and Larry and Carolyn enjoyed their annual week at Edisto Island, SC, in March 2009. Love hearing from WT friends! lyates@dejazzd.com

1966

Meg Meltz reports that life is good in Santa Fe, NM even if the economy isn’t. She and Richard spend their days at their scooter/motorcycle shop, Centaur Cycles & Scooters (centaurcyclesandscooters.com). They bought a new house two years ago—they’re in the country where they enjoy watching the birds, bunny rabbits, coyotes, and stars. They just got two new kittens from the Santa Fe Animal Shelter and are getting a huge charge out of their antics. Meg still remembers the 40th reunion with great pleasure and hopes to see everyone again in the not-too-distant future. It was really fun and interesting to connect with people she’d never really known before, as well as the few who had actually been friends way back when. SheSerpent@att.net

1959

Tina Englert writes, “50 years ago! We must celebrate that historic graduation a mere half a century ago. Suzie Barker Philp and I will be driving to Pittsburgh together for the event. If you are no longer local to WT, I suggest you make a hotel reservation soon because the rooms are going fast. I learned that weekend is also Homecoming for Pitt. I hope lots of us can return. It would be great to see everyone again.” jeglert@verizon.net

1958

Linda Lear was so sorry to miss her 50th reunion and thanks everyone for the photos and notes they shared. Her biography of Rachel Carson, Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature, was reprinted on April 22, Earth Day, by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Carson has been the poster child for Women’s History Month with photographs from the Lear/Carson Collection at Connecticut College which now has a new physical home in the Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives there. Dedication was in October 2008, which was very exciting! Linda had her first op-ed letter published in the New York Times on April 8, 2009, on the loss of bird habitat and the problems of habitat loss that Carson warned about, and she had an essay on Carson published in the April issue of VERANDA, a high-end shelter magazine. John and Linda enjoyed five winter months in their pre-Revolutionary home in Charleston, SC, going back to Bethesda for the other seven months. Southern living is very different and very social. Their son, Ian, and his veterinarian wife are moving to Raleigh, NC, where she has a residency at NC State. They will be half-way between Bethesda and Charleston, and Linda is thrilled. ljlear@verizon.net

1957

Judith Rohrer Davis writes that all is well in Raleigh. Her youngest son, Tim, and his wife, Ruth are expecting another baby in October, Judith’s sixth grandchild! (Judy thinks grandchildren are so much more fun than children ever were!) She went to Germany in the spring for the baptism of their second child, Rieka. jrdavis29@gmail.com

1956

Lynne Crookston Stull loves life in sunny and warm Cape Coral, FL. She is very involved with her United Methodist Church, volunteering as the music librarian and going to luncheons and playing cards with many folks. Her son, Brendan, lives in Dallas, TX, is single and now without a job. He had been with his company for 10+ years so they gave him a very nice severance pay. What he’ll do next is anybody’s guess! Don and Lynne will drive north in July and August to see his family and her sister. Carol Crookston Close ’52. Don’s three daughters and families live in and around Warren, OH, which is only about 70 miles from Pittsburgh, so it’s very handy to see Carol and Wade. Best wishes to all classmates of ’56! lyn438@webtv.net

1955

Frances Blasdell Hubbell is learning to sail at this late date in life and is loving it. She had no idea that there were so many different lines to keep straight. Thank goodness for a forgiving captain. Photography continues to be a major interest of hers. One of her images appeared in an ad in a regional issue of People Magazine, and she’s done some work for the local orchestra’s brochures. rbhub@hargray.com

Beverlee Simboli McFadden enjoyed an extended trip in Europe with husband, Daniel. They had a fabulous time in Switzerland where they did a 10 mile snow shoe climb to a glacial cave in the tiny town of Zinal in the Alps. From there
they went to Lausanne, where Dan gave a short course with two economics buddies while Bev visited museums and chocolate shops, and strolled the paths along Lake Geneva. They next went to Harrogate, England to have tea in a shop where the Queen comes when in town. They also enjoyed wonderful, warm Munich, Germany, with great museums, big parks, beer halls, and an outdoor market with endless Easter goodies. Finally, they travelled to Strasbourg, then back home to Berkeley. Bev encourages everyone to go to the Carnegie Museum to see her father, Raymond Simboli’s Pittsburgh paintings and commemorative plaque in gallery 11. titosimboli@yahoo.com

1954

Sally Helsel Price sends greetings from Seneca, SC, where she can’t believe she has lived for 14 years! Her husband is making a good recovery from heart surgery he had at the Cleveland Clinic. She cannot say enough about the wonderful treatment he received there. Sally still enjoys tutoring elementary students, attending for the library, assisting with Elks programs, and keeping up with local politics. sallyprice2@bellsouth.net

Dorin Geise Snyder writes an important message for the Class of 1954: “We will meet at the WT Reunion to celebrate our 55th. Please mark October 16-17 on your calendar now and plan to come to Pittsburgh to join your classmates!” DarSny5633@aol.com

1952

Suzanne LeClere Barley still stays very busy and likes to travel. Last July she took her daughter, Helen, to the Greek Islands on Mrs. M. Post’s sailing ship, Sea Cloud. She left warm Florida to go back to Pittsburgh with her in FL. Lucy, her 17-year old cat, and Sue will spend most of the year back in Pittsburgh. SLBARLEY@webtv.net

Marion Montgomery Colbourne recently celebrated her eldest daughter’s 52nd birthday, making her realize she must be getting older, too! Gaylen Westfall and her husband, Larry, were in Toronto over the Easter weekend and took Marion to lunch. They enjoyed excellent Vietnamese food, conversation, and looking through some of Chinatown’s shops and walking the streets of downtown Toronto. Gaylen also gave Marion her Miss Mitchell Society pin, which she shall be wearing the next time she visits WT. mcolbourne@rogers.com

Jean Macintyre gave a paper, Nature Made Courty, at the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, at the University of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. It discussed the way winter court entertainments under Henry
VIII., James I, and Charles I created a “nature” of trees, fruits, and flowers of silk and gold. In May 2009 Jean gave a paper at the Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society at Montana State University, on scenes depicting physical shops in plays from the 1590s through the 1600s. She is finishing an article contrasting masque appearances by Henry VIII and Charles I, the only English kings to perform in masquerade, and hopes to get it into print. jmacinty@gmail.com

1950

Bonnie Baird Mitchell-Hurwitz was remarried on March 22, 2009 to Joseph Hurwitz in a festive and wonderful occasion under a Chuppah, a canopy traditionally used in Jewish weddings. Most of their seven children and 10 grandchildren including Bonnie’s daughter’s infant twins were in attendance. Bonnie is new to CT, having recently relocated from OK and would love to hear from any alums in the area. bonniebmitchell@gmail.com

Robena “Nena” Moses Spencer lives in Santa Barbara, CA. She still writes and paints and is still an independent Christian Science Practitioner. Nena has two granddaughters living in Pittsburgh. NenaSpencer@aol.com

1946

Ruth Friedman Ornitz writes that she has celebrated 80th birthdays with many friends this year. She has lived in Florida for 30 years and still plays a lot of golf, tennis and bridge. She learned to play bridge in sixth grade at WT and serves as bridge director on ships a few times each year.

1942

Marion Thompson Kerwin hosted Gaylen Westfall in her Alexandria, VA home on May 7, 2009. A WT boarder, Marion has fond memories of WT and stays in touch with Ruth Weimer Tillar ’41.

1941

Ruth Weimer Tillar keeps busy with trips to Williamsburg for William and Mary meetings and events and also to Virginia Tech for more of the same. Volunteer work keeps her busy too. Ruth is traveling to Norway in June with her son, Tom. rtillar@verizon.net

Class Notes

Please send us your news and photos! 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 Thistletalk.

Honorary Alums

Elizabeth Cookson is still active with the Smithsonian and the local library. Trips to FL, London, and Houston, where they have two grandchildren, keep them moving. Rjcookson@aol.com

Save the Date

REUNION

October 16-17, 2009


Ai Kanno, Japanese teaching intern at Canton Country Day School, with Head of School Pam Shaw and husband, Tom Roncevic, at the school auction, Essence of the Orient. The auction raised $90,000 for CCDS programs.
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.

Sharon Morton ‘79, September 3, 2008
Alison Goldman ‘78, January 17, 2009
Wendy Weil Thompson ‘73, August 14, 2008
Kimberly Zillweger Beck ‘70, April 30, 2009
Christine Campbell Matthews ‘57, March 14, 2009
Betsy Gott Byerly ‘54, January 24, 2009
Victoria Crane Williams ‘53, September 21, 2008
Anne “Rooney” Fornicrook McCloskey ‘45, April 2, 2009
Joanne Newssteller Heald ‘43, February 5, 2008
Phyllis Alberta Keister Semple ‘38, January 18, 2009
Alexander M. Minno, former Trustee, January 21, 2009
Ann Condon Peterson, former art teacher, May 9, 2009

Condolences

To Ellen Berkman ‘82 and Martha Berkman Winfield ‘85 on the death of their mother, Debbie Berkman, May 9, 2009
To Louise Gillespie Cannon ‘72 and Carolyn Gillespie Raetzke ‘70 on the death of their father, Thomas James Gillespie III, March 9, 2009
To Jean Davis ‘32 and Nancy Davis ‘32 on the death of their brother, Frank Davis, Jr.
To Mimi McCloskey Dow A’69, Jean Fornicrook Armstrong ‘44, and Melissa Armstrong Fallon ‘70 on the death of their mother, sister, and aunt, Anne “Rooney” Fornicrook McCloskey ‘45, April 2, 2009
To Heidi Kanterman Freedman ‘74 on the death of her father, Cyril B. Kanterman, December 6, 2008
To Marlee Minno Flaherty ‘74, Christopher Flaherty ‘10, and Mrs. Frances Minno on the death of their father, grandfather, and husband, Alexander M. Minno, January 21, 2009
To Bobbie Gott ‘60 on the death of her sister, Betsy Gott Byerly ‘54, January 24, 2009
To Eva Kolodner ‘88 on the death of her mother, Dorothy Kolodner, March 10, 2009
To Ed Lum ‘05 on the death of his father, Laurence Lum, November 8, 2008

Ann Condon Peterson passed away on Sunday, May 10, 2009 at the age of 92. A beloved and revered teacher, Ann is remembered for her expertise as a teacher of art history and studio art at Winchester Thurston. She was featured in the fall 2007 edition of ThistleTalk, in which former students paid tribute to Ann.

When Ann retired in 1985, the Ann Condon Peterson Visiting Artist Endowment Fund was established. Ann helped to establish a visiting artist program in 1981-82 with the year-long residency of Pittsburgh sculptor Mary Ann Gailliot. Other artists she brought to the school include Philadelphia sculptor Joseph Brennan, who was at WT in 1984 for two weeks, and James Nelson, noted Pittsburgh painter, who spent many weeks in residence in the “bomb shelter,” working on a huge canvas while interacting with students.

Winchester Thurston continues to invite professional artists to visit WT to teach classes, conduct workshops, and to show their work in our gallery. To make a gift in memory of Ann and to read alumnae tributes to Ann, please visit the Ann Peterson Web page at www.winchesterthurston.org.

To Mary Navarro ‘70 and Patricia Navarro ‘72 on the death of their mother, Marie Navarro, March 18, 2009
To Josephine Podolsky ‘84 on the death of her father, Samuel Louis Podolsky, November 22, 2008
To Kathy Zillweger Putnam ‘71, Wendy Zillweger McDermott ‘73, and Candace Zillweger ‘76 on the death of their sister, Kim Zillweger Beck ‘70, April 30, 2009
To Ana Guzman Quezada ‘84 on the death of her mother, Ana Guzman, December 1, 2008
To Susan Reel-Panish ‘72 on the death of her father, Charles Milton Reel, October 23, 2008, and the death of her mother, Grace Ann DeSimone Reel, April, 2009
To Phyllis Novick Silverman ‘76 on the death of her father, Ivan Novick, March 14, 2009
To Amy Jones Teele ‘82, Autumn Jones Katarinic ‘88, and Beverly Jones on the death of their aunt and mother, Jean Alter Jones, January 28, 2009
To Anna Bamonte Torrence ‘80 on the death of her mother, Miriam Bamonte, May 25, 2009
To Julie Felman Wagner ‘81 on the death of her husband, Steve Wagner, November 5, 2008
To Mary Anne Rowe Wucher ‘53 on the death of her husband, Frederick P. Wucher, M.D., April 22, 2009
Plaid Recognized…Again

The 2008 edition of WT’s literary magazine, Plaid, has been recognized for its excellence for the second year in a row by two prestigious national organizations.

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association, an international student press association affiliated with Columbia University, awarded Plaid 2008 a Silver Medal overall. 1,795 student publications competed in various categories in this 85th annual contest.

In addition to the overall award, four WT students were recognized for their individual achievements. Hermine Harrison ‘08 received First Place for Best Black and White Cover Design and Second Credible Mention for Photographs: Portfolio of Work. Laura Short ‘09 earned First Credible Mention for Single Illustration Rendering Photographic Material. Finally, Katharine Vidt ‘09 received Third Credible Mention for Page Design.

Plaid also earned WT’s highest ranking to date, Superior, and tied for third place in Pennsylvania, from the National Council of Teachers of English Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines.

English Department Chair and Plaid advisor Jill Kazmierczak says, “It’s wonderful to have our students’ artistic and literary talents published in a great looking magazine of their own making. To have national recognition for the quality of their work confirms what we already know: WT encourages creativity!”
Andy Warhol for Valley Girls

Taylor Flynn

Andy Warhol, you are like, awesome.
I totally love your white wig.
You are cuter than, like, Brad Pitt or Edward Cullen or Matt Damon.
Ever since I met you, I’ve been obsessed with Campbell’s Tomato Soup and Edie Sedgwick.
Andy Warhol, I’m like totally becoming a Byzantine Rite Catholic.
Andy Warhol, I’m like totally subscribing to Interview Magazine.
Andy Warhol, I’m like totally moving to Pittsburgh.
When I heard about your shooting, I was like, “OMG.” Valerie Solonas is such a bitch.
How do you get so much attention? I want to be in the spotlight too, ‘kay?
I am so just as superficial as your silkscreens, Andy.
“Everything’s plastic,” you said, “but I love plastic. I want to be plastic.”
Andy Warhol, I’m awesomely plastic. I’m like Barbie™.
Andy Warhol, you are like, so totally cool.