



# Thistle

## TALK

## Celebrating National Recognition ... Again!

in **this** issue:

***City as Our Campus***  
History and highlights

**Jonathan Mahone '95**  
Speaking the truth about diversity

**Commencement 2009**





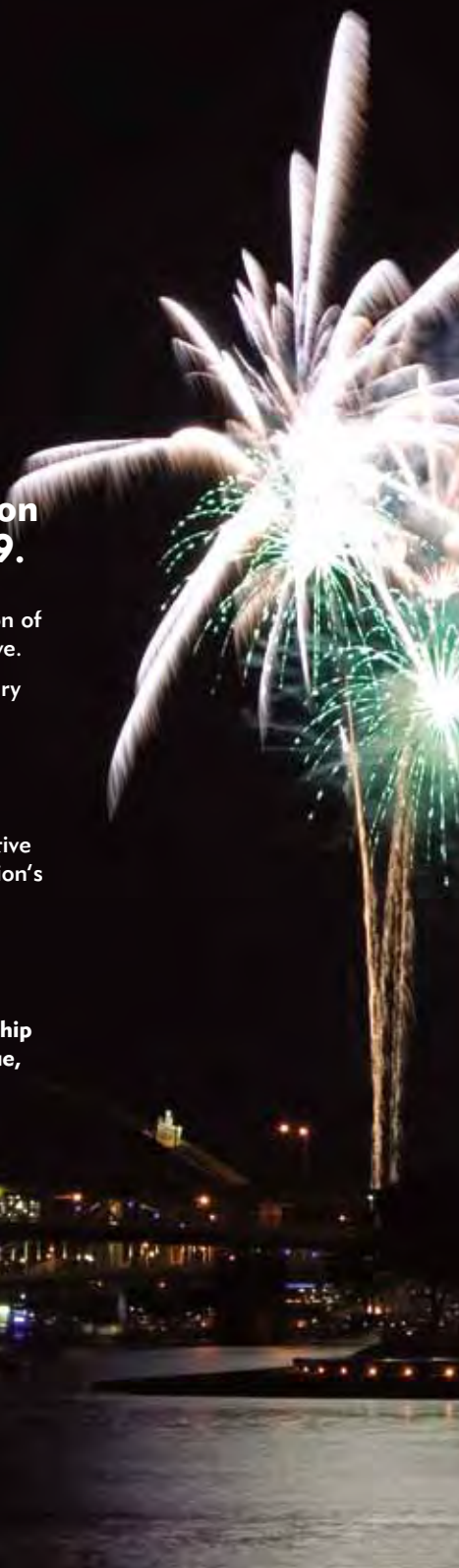
## Winchester Thurston is one of only four schools nationwide to earn an Edward E. Ford Foundation Leadership Grant in 2009.

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.



## Thistle TALK 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.

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## ThistleTalk Takes Bronze

Winchester Thurston School has been recognized in the 2009 Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District II Accolades Awards with a Bronze award in the "Magazines, Independent Schools" category for *ThistleTalk*.

CASE judges remarked that the publication is a "standout in creativity and innovation" and gave superior ratings in communications effectiveness, organizational clarity, promotional quality, and overall excellence.



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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*

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**“We know that learning is most meaningful, and makes lasting and deep impressions, when it is experiential”**

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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.



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## 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/](http://www.greatschools.net/top-high-schools/pennsylvania/).

# IN RECOGNITION OF INNOVATIVE AND ENGAGING PROGRAMS,

**W**inchester 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 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.**

— Robert Hallett, Executive Director of E.E. Ford

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 alumna, 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.

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to challenge ourselves  
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— Gary J. Niels

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 1957, 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.

# as Our Campus

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 Plaks, 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!”



Rogan Grant '11 poses with the metal Möbius strip he, Adam Eller '11, and Chris Schmidt '10 created.

*City as Our Campus*. In addition to the groundbreaking art exhibit, the partnership between WT and the International engages both students and faculty through initiatives like the *Zero Gravity* student internship program; collaborations between WT faculty and other area educators to develop multidisciplinary lesson plans; and a new Middle School elective, *Inspired by the Carnegie International*, created by visual arts faculty members Mary Martin and Lisa Allswede. The impact? Nothing short of astronomical.

“There is no question that our ability to walk down the street and take in an exhibit like the International is of



# A STORYTELLER'S SECRETS

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 these 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 Securities 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.**



# SPEAKING THE TRUTH WITH JONATHAN MAHONE '95

By Matt Bachner, Upper School English Teacher

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 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.

**"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."**



# Delving Into Diversity

**“W**e 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.”

“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.”



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.”



## 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.





## College Choices for the Class of 2009

Annie C. Alexander *Juniata College*  
 Hadley A. Armstrong *Sewanee: The University of the South*  
 Scarlett E. Austin *Haverford College*  
 Aswin G. Chandra *Boston College*  
 Taylor C. Culbertson *Northwestern University*  
 Destiny A. Dawson *Lehigh University*  
 Gabrielle V. DeMarchi *Springfield College*  
 Lilian B. Edelsack *Pennsylvania State University, University Park*  
 Taylor Ayn Flynn *Boston College*  
 Noah J. Gale *University of Chicago*  
 Morgan F. Gilbreath *Temple University, Tyler School of Art*  
 Andrew I. Glick *University of Southern California*  
 Rayna S. Gross *University of Pittsburgh*  
 Stern E. A. Herd *Point Park University*  
 Sarah M. Hillman *College of Charleston*  
 Eileen C. Holzer *The University of Arizona*  
 Ashley M. Jones *St. John's University-Queens Campus*  
 Terrell E. Jones *Carnegie Mellon University*  
 Ryan C. Kalanish *Lehigh University*  
 Tianda L. King *Eckerd College*

Zachary Miller  
 Heather L. Murton  
 Mireille Ngokion  
 Kevin T. Nguyen  
 Kate E. Onorato  
 Terrell W. Orr  
 Andrew M. Persky  
 Jessica E. Pindzola  
 Phillip M. Pindzola  
 Jesse Barrett Samakow  
 Erik N. Schmidt  
 Julianna Schroeger  
 Laura B. Short  
 Eli C. Siegel  
 Carlo J. Spagnolo  
 Hannah L. M. Strong  
 Levon Tamrazov  
 Katharine H.V. Vidt  
 Sarah A. Weiskopf

*Muhlenberg College*  
*Chatham University*  
*Lewis & Clark College*  
*University of Pittsburgh*  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
*Bennington College*  
*University of Michigan*  
*Allegheny College*  
*Case Western Reserve University*  
*Miami University, Oxford*  
*University of Pittsburgh*  
*University of North Carolina at Wilmington*  
*The George Washington University*  
*Swarthmore College*  
*University of Dayton*  
*Westminster Choir College*  
*at Rider University*  
*University of Toronto*  
*Harvard University*  
*Skidmore College*



# 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

*Wadhwa 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

Khalipha 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 Schuerger*

*Mathematics Award*

Scarlett Austin

*American Invitational*

*Mathematics*

*Examination Recognition*

Junu Bae

*Virginia Ann Sheppard*

*History Prize*

Katharine Vidt

*The Pursuit of Science*

Scarlett Austin

*Westinghouse Science*

*Honors Institute*

*Recognition*

Helen Bunker

Khalipha 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 Twyman

David Findley

Rina Petek

Helen Bunker

Sarah Weiskopf

Malcom Juring

Elan Rosenfeld

Allyson Bartlett

Kevin Muschar

Rogan Grant

Andy Pearlman

David Nicholson

Juhye Kim

Anna Petek

Bernardo Ochoa

Brea Allen

Barbara Johnson

Isabel Zehner

Hadley Armstrong

Morgan Gilbreath

Hannah Strong

Andres Velez

*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 Schiff

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 Vidt

*Mary A. Graham Mitchell*

*Award*

Terrell Ewa Jones

*Alice M. Thurston Award*

Morgan Faith

Schraf Gilbreath

*Ruth S. Gamsby Award*

Eli Charles Siegel

*Nina Wadhwa Student*

*Council Award*

Mireille Aimee

Ossil-willey

Ngokion

*Emily E. Dorrance*

*Award*

Mireille Aimee

Ossil-willey

Ngokion



## 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.







## 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?"

## 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."



China, North Korea, India, and Japan unreel'd in February as WT hosted *Asia Unreel'd*, 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 Scanlon**, 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

“**C**onnie 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 not 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" Forncrook 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 Bolger '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 Baldrige Lytle '51

Jocelyn Hulme MacConnell '43

Carole Oswald Markus '57

Gertrude Dally Massie W'18\*

Anne Forncrook  
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 Criepp Santa-Cruz '60

Dorothy Dodworth Scullin '47

Dr. Richard E. Sigler

Bonnie Solomon '48\*

Marianna Epstine Specter '58\*

Janet L. Stevenson '16\*

Molly Cannon Stevenson '72

Allyson Baird Sveda '84

F. Irene Thomas,  
Honorary Alumna

Ruth Weimer Tillar '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](mailto:westfallg@winchesterthurston.org).





Mary Houston Griffin Scholar Scarlett Austin '09, EITC donor Maris Bondi, and Malone Scholar Hannah Strong '09 joined a group of honored scholars expressing their appreciation to donors on April 14, 2009 at a special Scholarship Donor Appreciation Luncheon.

## 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.



Megan Glimcher, Elizabeth Patterson, and Rob Glimcher



Sara Droz '00, Gary J. Niels, Brandilyn Dumas '99, and Zach Hefferen '98



Rich Homann '01, Meg Campbell '03, and Eric Miller '02



Moir Regan '92, Gary J. Niels, and Joy Titus Young '92



Per Lofberg, Margaret McDowell Lofberg '67, and Nancy Herron '65



WT Trustee Barbara Abney Bolger '52, Don Barley, and Lara Miller '04



Jennifer Kaplan '86, Emil Ruderfer, and Elisabeth Riddle Ruderfer '53



Sarah Farkas '98 and Connie Smith Franklin '51

**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.

For the full story, visit [winchesterthurston.org](http://winchesterthurston.org)

# Pittsburgh Celebrities Help Celebrate the City and the School



Co-chairs Susan Sweeney, Loretta Stanish, and Abby Miller



Molly Dorrance '01



Don and Helane Linzer

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.



Rick Sebak



Carole King and Chip Burke



Betsy and Michael Thompson, Jane Arensberg Thompson '57, and Diana Thompson '88

## Pittsburgh People



Jules and Jason Matthews, and Evan Frazier and Holly Hatcher-Frazier



Michael Bartley and Kathy Buechel



Leon and Hela Edelsack

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.



Steve and India Loevner



Tom Murphy, Jennifer Scanlon, Shannon Murphy '91, and Barb Holmes



The WT Bear and Jim Roddey

for the full story, visit [winchesterthurston.org](http://winchesterthurston.org)



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



**Anjali Sachdeva '96** taught WT Upper School students for three days in the Creative Writing Class of Muriel Alim.

to promoting women in the fields of aviation, engineering, science, and technology.  
[hotaru@gmail.com](mailto:hotaru@gmail.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](mailto:dm7560a@student.american.edu)

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](mailto: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](mailto:mbenic22@hotmail.com)

**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](http://www.cobaltandthehiredguns.com/freedownload.html).

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](mailto:mroth18@gmail.com)

1999

**Seth Borland** 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](mailto: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](mailto:adappolonia@yahoo.com)



**Judith Goldstein Marks '58, Cynthia Bulik '78, and Hannah Grannemann '96** met for lunch in Chapel Hill, where they all reside, and swapped stories of WT and their lives beyond.

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](mailto:stanczak@hotmail.com)

1996

**Sarah Gross Fife '96** and her husband, Tim, are in the midst of a year-long travel adventure. Having started in mid-December, they have made their way through parts of Australia, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Laos, Vietnam,

## class notes

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](mailto: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](http://www.getjealous.com/loveandhugsfrom) or can join the Facebook group "love and hugs from."

### 1995

**Mattie McLaughlin Schloetzer** enjoyed living in Pittsburgh and working at the Carnegie Museum of Art from 2004 to 2008. In August 2008, she and Jason relocated to Washington, DC. She currently works in the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art. [mcmattie@hotmail.com](mailto:mcmattie@hotmail.com)

### 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](mailto: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. [ebennington@pbkg.net](mailto:ebennington@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 a few graduate schools and eagerly awaits their responses while she enjoys the California sun. [isil.arican@gmail.com](mailto:isil.arican@gmail.com)

**Lynn Bechtold**, violinist, has been living in NYC for 13 years. In the past year, she has performed in Canada, Mexico, Peru, and all over the US with the East Village Opera Company, a 9-piece rock/opera band, and performs annually in Japan with the New York Symphonic Ensemble. Most recently, she played in Belgrade, Serbia with the Vision into Art Ensemble, a contemporary music ensemble that mixes art, music, electronics, and dance. Upcoming NYC performances include chamber music concerts at the newly refurbished Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center and at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall. In the past few years, she's performed with Donna Summer and Roberta Flack, among others. [violynn@yahoo.com](mailto:violynn@yahoo.com)



**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](mailto:wendymarks@bellsouth.net)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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





Lauren Raphael '87 hosted Gary J. Niels and Chicago alums in her beautiful home in February 2009. Pictured: Suzie Desai '91, Miesha Harris '87, Lauren Raphael '87, Tina Desai '84, and Gary J. Niels.

**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. [lobesbenec@gmail.com](mailto:lobesbenec@gmail.com)



**Jacqueline Marks Ledo and her husband, George, with their children: Justin Neil, 4 1/2 months; Julia Brooke, 3 1/2; and Jenna Rose, 2 1/2.** If anyone happens to visit south FL, Jackie would love to see you! [jacki6@aol.com](mailto:jacki6@aol.com)

1986

**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](http://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](mailto:eva@saltyfeatures.com)

**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](mailto:amytanen@comcast.net)

1977

**Suzanne Dreux Shapero** purchased a family and cosmetic dental practice in April 2004 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@twcnynyrr](mailto:sshapero@twcnynyrr)

1974

**Marlee Minno Flaherty's** son, Chris Flaherty, just completed his junior year at WT and is enjoying his mom's old school. [mjkbc@verizon.net](mailto:mjkbc@verizon.net)

1973

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



**Annie Avery '82 and Margie Kamin Feitler '82** caught up with each other and WT on a visit in Chicago in February 2009.



**Pam Scully '81 and Joy Scully '84, with Joy's sons, Nathan and Trevor, enjoyed a lively dinner at the home of Gaylen and Larry Westfall.**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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,



**Members of the class of '58, Susan Pekruhn Glotfelty, Judith Goldstein Marks, Linda Isaly Coughlin, Joanne Johnston Bowser, and Alex Navarro Alexander enjoyed a post-reunion reunion in Naples, FL.**



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](mailto: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](http://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 kitties 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](mailto: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." [j.glerty@verizon.net](mailto:j.glerty@verizon.net)



**Janet Rothman Markel Lhormer '54, Joan Lichtenstul Rich '51, Mary Christner Mullins '54, Bobbie Moritz Friedlander '54, and Kiki Bahr McConnel '54 enjoyed a mini-reunion in Bonita Springs-Naples, FL.**

**Lyn Clark Pegg** writes, "Please come to our 50th reunion! Hopefully everyone can set aside a couple of days and make the trek from wherever you are. The ones farthest away (Jennifer? Mary? Rachel?) get extra credit!" [carolynpegg@yahoo.com](mailto:carolynpegg@yahoo.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lyn438@webtv.net)

## 1955

**Frances Blasdel 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. [rhub@hargray.com](mailto:rhub@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

## class notes

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](mailto: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, advocating for the library, assisting with Elks programs, and keeping up with local politics. [sallyprice2@bellsouth.net](mailto:sallyprice2@bellsouth.net)

**Darin 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](mailto:DarSny5633@aol.com)



**Sally Smith Williams '44 and Michelle Kane O'Donnell '75 enjoyed meeting each other and Gaylen Westfall over lunch at the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond on May 6, 2009. Although they had never met, they have many mutual acquaintances and friends.**

### Barbara Messer

**Steinfirst** and Richard moved from Cleveland, OH (their home for 40+ years) to Bradenton, FL, six years ago and are loving every sun filled day! They are three minutes from the Gulf of Mexico and go "beaching" as often as possible. Richard works part-time as a lifeguard and swimming instructor. Barbara volunteers in Sarasota two days a week taking care of newborn infants at an alcohol/drug residential rehab center for women while the moms are in their therapy sessions or napping. It is so very rewarding to watch the girls progress in their recovery! Barbara and Richard have five grandsons, three of whom are triplets! [Bsteinfirst@aol.com](mailto:Bsteinfirst@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](mailto: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](mailto:mcolbourne@rogers.com)

**Jean Macintyre** gave a paper, *Nature Made Courtyr*, 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



**Ann Franklin Hazlett '47, Louise Baldridge Lytle '51, Jean Connor, and Ruth Succop '37 joined with Gaylen Westfall and Alison Wolfson for lunch at Longwood at Oakmont.**





**Ruth Friedman Ornitz '46, Amy Comins Lowenstein '46, and Lois Hertz Lesser '45 in FL.**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rtillar@verizon.net)

## 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](mailto:Rjcookson@aol.com)

## Save the Date REUNION October 16-17, 2009

Especially for the Classes of  
**1934 1939 1944**  
**1949 1954 1959**  
**1964 1969 1974**  
**1979 1984 1989**  
**1994 1999**



**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.**

## 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](mailto:westfallg@winchesterthurston.org).

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

## 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" Forncrook McCloskey '45**, April 2, 2009

**Joanne Newstetter Heald '43**, February 5, 2008

**Phyllis Alberta Keister Semple '38**, January 18, 2009

**Alexander M. Minno**, former Trustee, January 21, 2009

**Ann Condron 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 death of their brother, Frank Davis, Jr.

To **Mimi McCloskey Dow A'69**, **Jean Forncrook Armstrong '44**, and **Melissa Armstrong Fallon '70** on the death of their mother, sister, and aunt, **Anne "Rooney" Forncrook McCloskey '45**, April 2, 2009

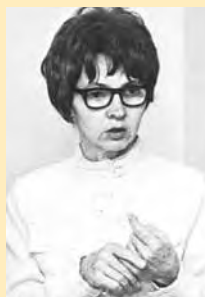
To **Heidi Kanterman Freedman '74** on the death of her father, Cyril B. Kanterman, December 6, 2008

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 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 Condron 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 Brenman, 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](http://www.winchesterthurston.org).*

for the full story, visit  
[winchesterthurston.org](http://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

**Phyllis Novick Silverman '76** on the death of her father, Ivan Novick, March 14, 2009

To **Amy Jones Teele '82**, **Autumn Jones Katarincic '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 Ann Rowe Wucher '53** on the death of her husband, Frederick P. Wucher, M.D., April 22, 2009





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Morgan Gilbreath



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## 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!"



This issue of *ThistleTalk* is printed on Reincarnation Matte from New Leaf Paper, 105# text (cover) which is made in North America using 100% recycled fiber and bleached without the use of chlorine compounds, and 70# text (text) which is 50% recycled, 50% post-consumer waste, and 50% processed chlorine free.

In using this recycled paper versus using virgin fiber paper, Winchester Thurston saved 9 fully grown trees, 1,791 gallons of water, 4 million Btu energy, 446 pounds of solid waste, and 685 pounds of greenhouse gases.

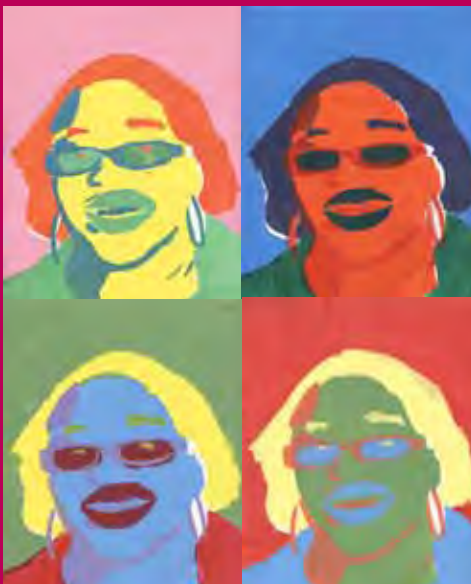


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## Andy Warhol for



Jimyse Brown

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## 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.

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