

Thistle TALK

REIMAGINING PLAY



wt proud: RECORD ENROLLMENT 6 YEARS IN A ROW

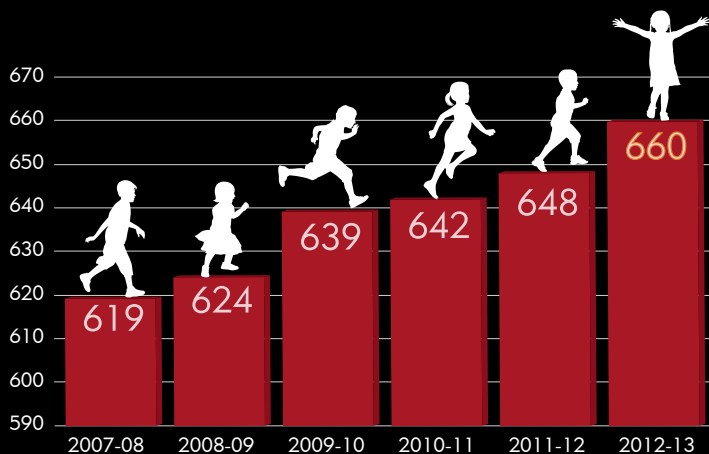
In a time when many independent schools struggle to meet enrollment goals, Winchester Thurston has celebrated record enrollment each year



for the past six years, exceeding conservative projections, improving student retention, and maintaining strong diversity numbers.

"Our enrollment underscores the importance that families continue to place on quality Pre-K-Grade 12 education," says Head of School Gary Niels. "Even in the midst of trying

economic times, they know it's a critical investment in their children's future. We're elated that they are choosing WT in greater and greater numbers each year. It's a testament to our talented and dedicated faculty, our mission of active engagement in a rigorous and relevant learning process, our 'think also of the comfort and the rights of others' credo—and to our students and alums, who make us so proud."



ThistleTalk goes digital

Turns out, there's more to *ThistleTalk* than fits into these pages. Which is why we've taken everything you love about your beloved magazine — exciting news about wt's future, stories of classmates and alums, happenings at wt today, and updates on faculty and friends — and encapsulated it here. And then, we've added more content — videos, slide shows, in-depth stories, extra features — and put it all in one handy digital format, perfect for your tablet, phone, or laptop. Look for the "Digital Thistle" icon (at left) throughout these pages.

Check out the full digital *ThistleTalk* today at www.winchesterthurston.org/digitalthistle. Sign up today to receive future issues online and you could win a great prize. Just email us at ThistleTalk@winchesterthurston.org.

ThistleTalk MAGAZINE

Volume 40 • Number 1 Spring 2013

ThistleTalk is published two times per year by Winchester Thurston School for alumnae/i, parents, students, and friends of the school. Letters and suggestions are welcome. Please contact the Director of Communications, Winchester Thurston School, 555 Morewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

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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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Teaching excellence: Reimagining professional development

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL | *Gary J. Niels*

WT's Northbound Trail:

Where imaginative literature, pioneer endeavors,
and leadership training converge

The New Normal

Alums Forge Post-WT Paths

The Workshop

Brings problem solving to life

App Jam

Provides coding experience to local students

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from the head of school

■ Gary J. Niels



Teaching excellence: Reimagining professional development

Despite the dramatic changes schools have experienced through time, the most exciting opportunity continues to be engaging students and fostering a love of learning and an optimal learning experience for each child. Educational news over the last decade has consistently reported underachievement, and even loss of interest in learning as well as waning creativity. Even in the best schools, it is easy to find outdated curricula, ineffective pedagogical practice, and assessments that perpetuate regurgitation rather than intellectual inquiry.

Teaching excellence has long been Winchester Thurston's highest priority and its most distinctive quality. And through our mission to "*actively engage each student in a challenging and inspiring learning process*," we have aspired to universal teaching excellence: every teacher, every class, and every lesson!

In 2008, we launched a three-year study to pursue this aspiration more systematically; this study resulted in the extension of our mission of "active engagement" to our teachers. The methods we adopted have since been identified as a model by the National Association of Independent Schools.

At the heart of this model has been creating a culture of pedagogical inquiry, which includes:

A full-time Dean of Faculty focused solely on faculty development. The Dean serves as colleague and mentor, not evaluator. In fact, our belief is that summative evaluation yields limited pedagogical improvement. Instead, we embrace the belief that teachers intrinsically aspire to improve and that they can

provide the best feedback to foster improvement among one another.

Open dialogue about teaching practice. In his article, “The Instructional Core,” Harvard’s Richard Elmore promotes “the necessity of teachers [engaging] in a sustained description and analysis of instructional practice.” We’ve used this concept to reimagine professional development. Conferences, workshops, and reading all have their place in any teacher’s professional growth plan. But collaborative work groups are the true catalysts for self-improvement, particularly when the teachers have engaged in autonomous goal-setting, and when they share their professional goals with colleagues, who help them confront obstacles and brainstorm solutions.

“collaborative work groups are the true catalysts for self-improvement”

Time. To make room for engagement and inquiry, we replaced meetings devoted to operational issues with curricular work groups, in which faculty choose colleagues with whom they collaborate to improve their teaching and curriculum.

The pursuit of universal teaching excellence has also strengthened our already collegial faculty culture, which in turn strengthens student learning. This year, teachers have worked side by side to develop and prepare for an entirely new academic schedule that will enable them to more readily activate Winchester Thurston’s award winning City as Our Campus program. By utilizing educational and cultural resources around Pittsburgh through this program, they enhance the active engagement of students, and quality of learning.

It is through these methods that WT continues to achieve its goal of fostering an optimal learning environment for students.



Featured in *Pittsburgh Quarterly*, Spring 2013.

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SUMMER 2013: CITY CAMPUS PLAYGROUNDS TRANSFORMED



In addition to the important features for young children—sandbox, climbing structure, and a new “trike track”—the Bayard Street playground and outdoor classroom space features a host of learning gardens and a Green Roof Playhouse that children can maintain on their own, cultivating an understanding of the impact of green space on the environment.

Well-designed outdoor spaces bring learning to life, fostering healthy physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development.

WT has teamed up with landscape architects, early childhood and elementary educators, and our own students to design new spaces that extend our classrooms to the

outdoors and offer more opportunities for actively engaging students in a challenging and inspiring learning process.

These transformed spaces will engage our youngest learners in a myriad of activities and projects, from playing soccer on the action court to measuring and testing rainwater runoff from the green roof playhouse ... from studying the effect

of insects on soil and plants to writing and reading poetry in the green reading alcove ... from racing on the trike track to sampling school-grown herbs and vegetables in the tasting circle ... from creating original symphonies in the music garden to producing impromptu plays and elaborate stories inspired by a dynamic and compelling environment.



The Ellsworth Avenue playground and outdoor classroom space features new play equipment and an action court that fosters cooperation in team-based, pick-up ball games. More trees, inviting gardens, and flexible outdoor classroom spaces will extend WT's active learning opportunities.



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

See the architectural drawings, hear WT educators on the benefits of outdoor learning, and join us in bringing the plans to life.

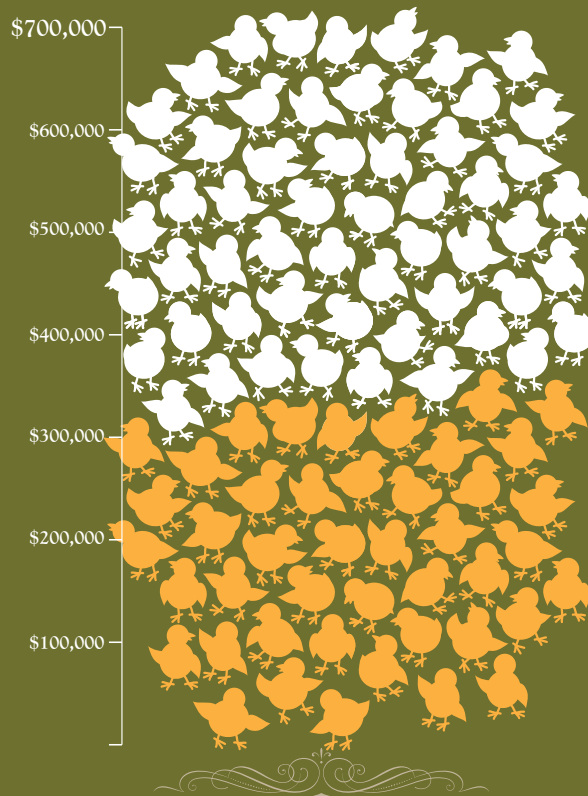


“Spending a significant amount of time outdoors provides children with time and space to observe and wonder, authentic opportunities to collaborate with their peers, much needed exercise, an ability to focus, and an increase in overall well-being. All of this can lead to healthier children, an increase in academic achievement, and caring, knowledgeable, and responsible future stewards of our earth, which are my ultimate goals as a teacher.”

—Caitlin Evans, WT Kindergarten Teacher



JOIN US AND HELP THE PLAYGROUNDS TAKE FLIGHT.



Fund Raising Goal: \$700,000 by August 1, 2013

YOUR GIFT CAN GO FURTHER

We are grateful to a group of WT parents and grandparents who have come forward with support for this exciting project. These donors would like to ensure their gifts help WT secure more funds for the outdoor learning and play space. So they have issued a challenge to others in the WT community.

For every \$2.00 donated or pledged by August 1, 2013, these donors will designate an additional \$1.00 toward the project, up to \$250,000.

WAYS TO GIVE

For pledges at certain levels, donors may pay in installments over five years. In addition, donors may honor a loved one or receive recognition by naming a space or amenity within the playgrounds.

If you are interested in supporting the playground project, would like to learn more or would like to see a list of naming opportunities, please call the WT Advancement Office at 412-578-7523.

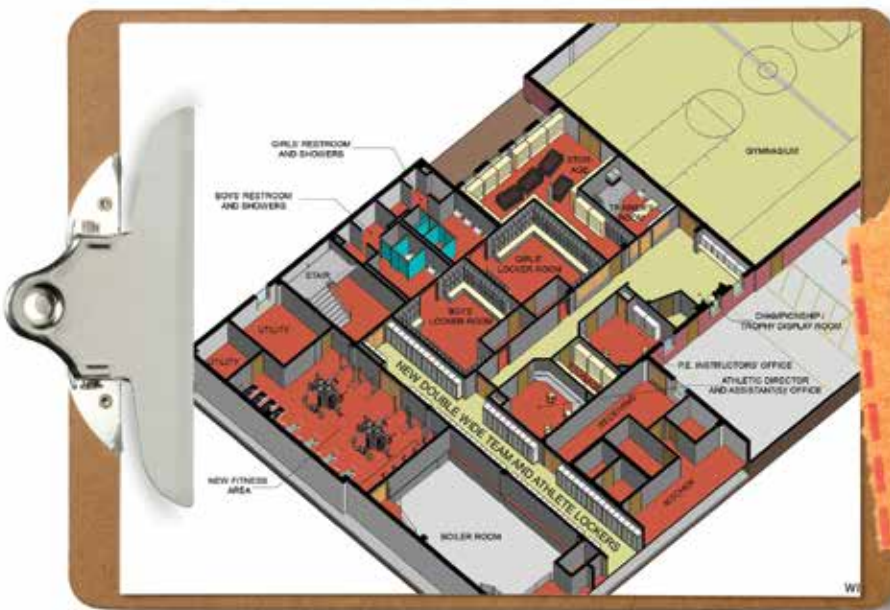


PERFORMING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL: A PLAN FOR EVOLVING THEATRE AND ATHLETICS FACILITIES

Every day, more than 500 boys and girls stream through the City Campus Main Building, which was designed for 350 girls more than 50 years ago. In conjunction with a Master Site Plan, a commitment to meeting the demands of a growing student population, and sustainability goals, WT is renovating its most-used spaces on campus. In addition to reimagining the playgrounds, the athletics facilities and Falk Auditorium will receive well-earned upgrades.

Expanding Athletics Facilities will allow the school to better facilitate and celebrate its athletics program, which now boasts 75% participation among all Middle and Upper School students.

Upgrading Falk Auditorium gives the WT community a true performing arts space. WT's award-winning performing arts program has risen above the technical challenges of the current antiquated facility through ingenuity, but students' hands-on learning has been limited by space, equipment, and safety concerns.



- Enlarged fitness center
- Upgraded and secure locker rooms
- New entrance foyer with trophy cases
- Equipped athletic trainer's space
- Increased, efficient storage space
- Energy-efficiency measures

- A permanent, elevated technical booth and elevated platforms for lighting and staging
- Upgraded acoustics, including sound equipment and sound-absorbing curtains and carpet
- Permanent theatrical lighting, accessible to students
- New seats to replace the originals
- Energy-efficiency measures

INVESTMENT-GRADE ENERGY AUDIT INFORMS SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

With a commitment to bringing its campuses to a 21st century level of sustainability, WT is embarking on plans to reduce its carbon footprint, realize cost-saving efficiencies, and ultimately secure green building certification.

One of the first critical steps was an Investment Grade Energy Audit undertaken this year, thanks to funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation. The audit involved thorough inspection of all buildings' energy and water usage, along with an analysis for areas for cost savings.

Energy efficiency measures that emerged from the audit have been incorporated into the plans for renovating the Falk Auditorium and Athletics Complex at the City Campus.

A key adviser for WT's steps toward sustainability is Nathaniel Doyno '01, who serves on WT's Buildings & Grounds committee. Doyno brought his expertise in

energy efficiency, green building, and clean tech to the committee and advocated strongly for the audit as a first step.

In addition, a committed group of parents, students, and faculty have worked as "WT Green" to generate sustainability projects for the school; their greatest effort to date is a garden-to-table project at the City Campus. WT Green established a salsa garden last summer; the tomatoes, peppers, and onions they grew were used by the catering staff for summer camp and school lunches. WT Green is working with Chef Andrew Shaner to expand the produce grown and harvested this coming summer.

Working with green schools experts and consultants Building Performance Architects and evolveEA, the WT team is evaluating opportunities and ideas based on the audit and recommendations for creating a more sustainable environment and culture.



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

Join the WT Green team, get the whole sustainability picture, and learn more about Doyno's adventures.



WT'S NORTHBOUND TRAIL:

WHERE IMAGINATIVE LITERATURE,
PIONEER ENDEAVORS, AND
LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONVERGE

Some third graders at WT's North Hills Campus found they had an affinity for "notching," making notches in logs so they fit firmly together; others preferred clearing and leveling the building site; and a for a few, pounding the ground into a firm dirt floor was their strong suit.

The fruits of their labors and talents—an authentic log cabin built from the ground up—became the first component of the Pioneer Village which when complete will feature a working blacksmith forge, a wood workers shed, a chopping block sawbuck, a Conestoga wagon, a wigwam, a campfire ring, and trading tables.

As the students built the cabin during their Physical Education class, they were simultaneously reading *Little House on the Prairie* in Language Arts, and learning about the history of the pioneers in Social Studies.

Pioneer Village is just one small part of WT's new Northbound Trail, an interactive trail system that consists of two components, an interpretive trail that features educational "waypoints" or learning stations, and an off-trail challenge course.

It is this type of cross-curricular learning that Steven Cooper, Physical Education teacher, envisioned when he first conceived an interactive trail that would utilize the nearly eight acres of outdoor space surrounding the school.

Construction began in the fall of 2011; so far about one-third of the planned 3/4-mile trail is complete. Students have been involved in every step of the creation of the trail, from planning and mapping to trailblazing and construction.

"The amount of trail that gets done is all based on student interest and the time they want to commit to it. The students have been so passionate about this project that we always end up doing more than planned," said Cooper.



First graders Kamal Elsayed and Owen Meyer lead the way along the Northbound Trail.



Kindergarteners Ava Jankowski and Meera Reddy travel the Fairy Tale Trail -- a short trail for WT's youngest learners, off of the new Northbound Trail.



Fourth graders Henry Silverman, Hugh Cochran, and Nick Zana level the base of the log cabin that the students constructed along the trail.



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

Check out coverage of this trailblazing topic from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*.

THE NEW NORMAL: ALUMS FORGE POST-WT PATHS

"If you had asked me where I would be after graduating from college, there is no way I could have predicted I would be in Kenya," marvels Ida Posner '08, who boarded a plane for Africa just two weeks after graduating Princeton University last June. "In a lot of ways, my life here is similar to that of my friends back in the U.S. I have a nine to five job, go out with my friends at night and on the weekends, and live with two roommates who are my age...(but) there are always the moments when we're driving through town and have to stop to let a herd of cattle cross the road, or when I'm squeezed onto a matatu (minibus taxi) with 22 other people when it's supposed to seat 14 that I'm suddenly jolted back into realizing that, yes, I live in Kenya!"

As a Princeton in Africa Fellow—a prestigious and highly competitive fellowship program placing recent college graduates

energy company in Kisumu, Kenya, gaining priceless real-world work and life experience.

"access:energy builds wind turbines from recycled materials—think scrap metal and used car parts," explains Posner, pointing out that her placement dovetails perfectly with her B.S.E. in Civil and Environmental Engineering and certificates in African Studies and Sustainable Energy. "We also install solar systems and water



pumps. Right now we're working on a number of micro-grid installations in the Lake Victoria region. We get to directly see the impact of our work when we finish an installation and there are lights in a school, or refrigerators running at a health clinic where there previously had been no power. The small things we take for granted in the U.S., like electricity, make such a monumental difference to life in Kenya and it's amazing to have the opportunity to help people in such a big way."

Welcome to the New Normal, where it's not unusual for the pursuit of a career—or careers—to be defined by detours, adventures, and even barriers.

For Posner and others of the Millennial Generation—according to the Pew Research Center, those born between 1981 and 2000 and the first generation to come of age during the new millennium—perhaps the most normal thing about forging one's way into professional life nowadays is the array of available avenues.

"I really think it's remarkable that...you can completely change your career path every couple of years. There are a ton of new opportunities and career paths popping up these days. Startups, social media, and technology offer recent grads a much wider selection of careers to choose from. I see myself trying out a few different career paths before I settle on what I want to be doing for a long time," mulls Posner.



with partner organizations throughout Africa to work for one year in fields from public health to conservation to conflict resolution—Posner is midway through her assignment with a startup alternative

**"I really think it's remarkable that...
you can completely change your
career path every couple of years."**

“There is no ‘normal’ anymore,” concurs James Allan ’04. “What worked a generation ago doesn’t really apply today. The world is much smaller and much more competitive than it was in the past. You don’t need to necessarily go abroad to be successful, but at least think beyond your local city and community.”

Allan has done exactly that—and then some. Today, he lives in Singapore, the CEO and co-founder of Archipelago Marketing and Communications, a boutique communications firm specializing in communications, public relations, investor relations, and digital marketing for clients worldwide. But in 2008, the newly minted graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder had just embarked on his career, armed with a B.S. in Journalism, some internship and work experience ... and an open mind.

“I moved to New York after college as do most people who want to work in media,” Allan recalls. “I was there during the financial crisis of 2008 and watched the city implode. After realizing that there were not many great opportunities in the U.S., I decided to look abroad for a job. I had always been interested in Asian culture, but hadn’t really considered it as a place to live. Coincidentally, a friend from home was teaching English abroad in South Korea, and recommended that I give it a shot. I sent in an application and was on a flight to Seoul before I knew what happened.”

While working in Seoul, he received an offer from Edelman, the world’s largest independent public relations firm, with one condition: “I had to move to their Indonesia office. I knew nothing about the country and wasn’t really sure what I was in for, but I took the risk and ended up loving the experience.”

For the next year and a half, Allan worked as Managing Editor in the agency’s Seoul and Jakarta offices, managing several multinational teams responsible for client servicing, and collaborating with top executives on business development initiatives. A move to Ramba Energy Limited in Singapore, working for the next 17 months as Corporate Communications Manager of the publicly traded energy company, honed his knowledge of the energy sector and

Singapore and Indonesia financial markets. And now, at Archipelago, Allan’s responsibilities require commuting between both countries and maintaining a global vision.

“Since this region is still overlooked by many for doing business, we offer insights and access that many (other firms) cannot. The main service that we provide is to help local companies position themselves to foreign audiences.”

The contrasts between Posner and Allan’s lives are as vast as the 4500-plus miles between them. She lives in Africa. He lives in Asia. She works in a developing country. He

works in one of the world’s top financial centers. Her office has no running water, and she often works at a tarp-sheltered table, enveloped in warm breezes and sunshine. His office is nestled in the glittering garden of sleek skyscrapers at the nexus of Singapore’s central business district. And although their eyes—hers blue-green, his brown—look out upon different corners of the world and ways of life every day, their vision is a shared one, embraced by many of their generation: be open to change ... be open to chance ... be prepared to chart one’s course with the courage, imagination, and vision so essential to the New Normal.

“Any real-life experience is helpful,” muses Allan. “From studying abroad, to internships, to simply throwing on a backpack and exploring. Anything that immerses you in something new is always helpful.”

“Getting this broad range of experience, in work and non-work situations, is a vital part of growing up in our world today. We are constantly confronted with people of different nationalities, races, religions, and cultures. I really liked the City as Our Campus program because I think it’s important to realize that just as much learning happens outside the classroom as inside of it,” Posner agrees, citing a pivotal WT experience—and, apparently, a family philosophy. “My dad’s advice to me when I was deciding whether to take the post with access:energy was, ‘when in doubt, choose adventure!’

“At the end of my senior year, my friends who were moving to NYC to pursue a job in finance or consulting used to joke that I was avoiding having a ‘real’ job for a year by going to Kenya, and at first I began to agree with them,” Posner continues. But now, she says, “I can confidently say that there is nothing more ‘real’ than my life in Kenya. I feel like I have grown five years in the seven months I have been here.”

“From studying abroad, to internships, to simply throwing on a backpack and exploring. Anything that immerses you in something new is always helpful.”



THE WORKSHOP BRINGS PROBLEM SOLVING TO LIFE

A marble glides down an inverted piece of wooden molding, picks up speed on the homestretch, crashes into a block, and careens around a corner. Three enthralled students first gasp and then beam at every step. Until ultimately, they break out into full excitement at this, their fifth try, a successful journey for that tiny piece of glass through their own invented ramp.

It was like any other day at a college preparatory school, where you hear discussions about physics concepts like force, slope, and inertia in the classroom. What's remarkable about WT, though, is that those discussions are happening in Kindergarten.

It's all part of an exciting new space at WT's City Campus called The Workshop. Located in the Early Childhood wing, it's stocked with building materials and tools that help young learners explore, discover, master, and reflect on scientific concepts.

"We are very focused on student-led inquiry," explained

Ashley Harper, Lower School Director. "So we introduce the ideas of physics and Kindergartners are taking it from there."

A team of faculty members began

In the first unit, called "Push, Pull, Go," students explored concepts by fashioning ramps from a hodgepodge of materials. In these complicated systems, they



Kindergarteners Chance Handel, Anouk Ritivoi, and Michael Miller explore force and motion, and document their results with video on iPods.



Amina Josephs builds a ramp to experiment with slope and gravity.

creating The Workshop last year, with the thought of transforming an underutilized space. By expanding the team to include the Pittsburgh Children's Museum—courtesy of WT's City as our Campus program—the idea really blossomed, and was ready for the students last fall.

experimented with inclines to power their marble through intricate paths. It was a hands-on lesson on how gravity, force, and slope interact.

"As the children built ramps and tried them out," explained Kindergarten teacher Kimberly Blaney, "they'd see what worked and what didn't and then tweak the problems to come up with solutions to make their project work, all while building knowledge and vocabulary about the physics ideas embedded in the lessons."



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

Want to experience "The Workshop" yourself? Learn more and check out a few Kindergarteners' digital stories here.



WT'S APP JAM PROVIDES CODING EXPERIENCE TO LOCAL STUDENTS

If you've ever been to the Carnegie Science Center, you've likely spent some time marveling at the Miniature Railroad & Village, a diminutive railroad system that takes up an entire room and depicts hundreds of scenes of life in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region in the early 1900's. Many include replicas of real landmarks including Fallingwater, Forbes Field, and Punxsutawney Phil at Gobbler's Knob. While many of the replicas are instantly recognizable, some are less iconic and may leave some visitors wondering what they're looking at. Pretty soon, there may be an app for that.

Developing an app that would allow visitors to identify these landmarks and learn their history was just one concept that came out of the first-ever App Jam, where 25 students in grades 9-12 from WT, Mars Area, South Fayette, and Quaker Valley developed app concepts that would enhance the visitor experience to Carnegie Science Center exhibits.

WT created App Jam to provide students from WT and other schools that participate in the Mobile App Lab, a program of WT's City as Our Campus, with the opportunity to expand their app development skills and apply them in a real-world setting.

"Overall the first-ever App Jam was a great success," said David Nassar, WT Computer Science teacher and App Jam

co-coordinator. "The students learned how to collaborate with each other to work as a cohesive design team, and they were able to get experience designing an app concept in a real world setting. They provided the Carnegie Science Center with real, valuable ideas that could come to fruition and be developed in the future."

Doug DeHaven, Lead Robotics Technician and A/V specialist at Carnegie Science Center and App Jam judge, said that the Science Center has been looking into app development for a number of years, and deemed App Jam a definite success, both for the students and for the Science Center staff.

App Jam 2013 was the first of its kind and a culmination of the skill building efforts of the Mobile App Lab. Developed by WT in 2010, Mobile App Lab is a 7-week long afterschool program that teaches students to program an Android-

based mobile application using the processing language. Since its inception Mobile App Lab has expanded to involve 78 students and 18 facilitators from five schools across the Greater Pittsburgh Region.



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

For more photos of the App Jam, join us online.

20% OF SENIOR CLASS RANKS AMONG TOP 3% IN NATION

WT congratulates four seniors, Avery Feingold, Lucy Gabriel, Andrew Linzer, and Samuel Schreiber, for being named National Merit Semifinalists. Senior Erika Drain was also recognized for her outstanding PSAT performance, by the National Achievement Scholarship Program. The following senior students were commended by the National Merit Program: Robert Blackwood, Rosalie Daniels, Kathryn Hendrickson, Max Herz, Jesse Lieberfeld, Matthew Mays, and Olivia Price.

WRITING AND SKYPING: WT'S FIRST GRADERS DISCOVER LIFE IN ECUADOR

When asked what her students most enjoyed about the experience so far, Mimi Cooper didn't hesitate. "The overall understanding now is that 'they're kids just like us,'" she said. "This is making the world smaller. And it's helping to develop globally minded citizens."



MIDDLE SCHOOL MARINE BIOLOGISTS: TRACKING GHOSTBUSTER

Ghostbuster's path led him to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, where he joined their Second Chance Sea Turtle rescue program and met enthusiastic students in WT's Middle School

Marine Biology elective. This month, students celebrated Ghostbuster's successful two-year-long rehabilitation by joining with enthusiasts around the world as he was released back to the sea in his native North Carolina.



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

There's more 'smart news' than can fit on one page.



PUCK RETURNS

Ian Gould '94 returned to WT, birthplace of his love of theatre, as Artist-in-Residence, working with students performing the winter play, "Much Ado About Nothing." He dishes on Shakespeare, struggling, and what it's like to come back to a school that has more than one men's room.



HOMETOWN HIGH Q TEAM POISED FOR THREE-YEAR SWEEP

Nathaniel Brodsky '14, Avery Feingold '13, and Andrew Linzer '13, WT's Hometown High Q team, are poised to win KDKA's Hometown High Q title for the third year in a row. The trio defeated their opponents in preliminary rounds of the 2012-2013 season, setting the record for the highest score ever recorded along the way. They will compete in the semi-finals against Upper St. Clair and Peters Township on April 20, which will air in June, and move on to the final rounds of competition if they win. The smart set took home the Hometown High Q title in 2011 and 2012. They are undefeated in competition, winning 10 straight since 2010. The team's combined knowledge, along with their familiarity with one another (they also compete in another academic competition called Quizbowl alongside Lucy Gabriel '13), has given them what they believe is a distinct advantage over other teams.

2012 TEACHING AWARDS

**Tina Plaks, Lower School art teacher,
2012 Jane L. Scarborough Award**

**Susan Ferguson, fourth grade teacher,
Judy Apt Nathenson Memorial Chair
for Excellence in Childhood Education.**



From one of Plaks' students, "I've always liked art and wanted to be an artist, but being an art teacher only became an option to me when I came to this school. I love art class. Mrs. Plaks has made every second of art class fun."



A parent reflects on Ferguson, "She has made a fantastic contribution to our son's education. She enthusiastically models excellence and continues to inspire him on a daily basis. We especially value her team approach to teaching and independent thinking."

CHINA SUMMER

Jennifer Kraar spent two weeks in Hangzhou, China as a participant in the NCTA residential summer program, a *Window on Economic Development in Hangzhou China*; and a third week traveling to Shanghai, Xian, and Beijing, learning firsthand that educational methods varied from traditional to more interactive and modern methods. Her reflective photo essay will be displayed in the Lower School Library.



MEDIA LITERACY MOTIVATES STUDENTS



**Middle School teachers
Kathryn Gaertner and
David Piemme receive
the 2012-2013 Mary
Houston Griffin Award
for Excellence in
Teaching**

"Gone are the days when students' consumption of media was limited to the textbook for a course," declare Gaertner and Piemme, Language Arts and Computer teachers, respectively. "Students must learn to analyze, interpret, and produce many forms of media in a 21st Century classroom."



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

WT's engaging faculty keeps amassing accolades and experiences.

FASTEST FRESHMAN: WILL LOEVNER BEATS STATE CROSS COUNTRY RECORD

At the Youngstown State Track and Field Meet, freshman Will Loevner ran the one mile race in 4:47:28, setting a record for the fastest AA freshman mile in the state. Junior Bobby Lincoln ran the mile in 4:52:18, and sophomore Landin Delaney ran the mile in 4:59:74. Will, Bobby, and Landin are the only students to run the mile in less than five minutes in the school's history. Congrats, and Go Bears!

SOCCER MAKES HISTORY, AGAIN

In an impressive overtime win, the Varsity Soccer team beat two-time defending champion Seton LaSalle 1-0 in the first round of the WPIAL Class A playoffs!



PARUS NISCHAL '13 MAKES ALL-WPIAL SOCCER TEAM

Coach Adam Brownold says, "Parus is an amazing player and is well deserving of these honors. It makes me feel good that coaches all around western PA recognize his skill and ability."



HIGHEST PLACE FOR A FEMALE RUNNER

Finishing with the best record ever at 6-1 in the section, the Varsity Cross Country team competed in the WPIAL Class A Finals at Coppers Lake. Madeline Schmiedeknecht '14 took third place in the race, the highest place for a female runner, qualifying for the State Championships.



GOLF TEAM MAKES FIRST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE

In only their third year, this is the first time in the school's history that the team has made the playoffs.



MARCH MADNESS: GIRLS HOOPS TO STATES

With a regular season record of 12-8, the girls basketball team advanced to the WPIAL finals against first seed Vincentian. The Bears playoff loss left the team in fifth place but earned them a spot in the PIAA state tournament, competing against Clarion High School.

Brytney Humphries '13 was selected by opposing section coaches to the WPIAL Class A Section 4 All-Section Team and she was invited to play in the all-star game in April.

Sophomore Lexi Lonero was the team's leading scorer, passing the 600-point mark.

ROWERS MEDAL

Steel City Rowing Club, including WT Crew team members Laing Wise, Hunter Wise, William Fox, Katie Ashwood, Wes Fox, and Christian Mazur earned entries in The Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School teams saw record participation with two Soccer teams, a new fifth and sixth grade Cross Country team, a seventh and eighth grade Cross Country team, and a Field Hockey team.



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

Can't get enough of the WT Bears? Join us for more.



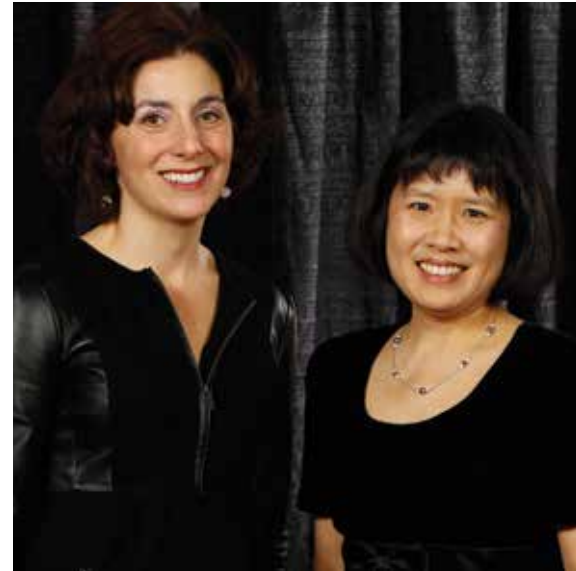
Cindy Akers Gerber
and Murry Gerber



MaryJean Rusak
and Chuck Lupariello



Gretchen and Miguel Busquets



Benefit Co-Chairs, Nicole Ansani-Jankowski and Noreen Tompkins



Sam Leeper and Charlene Coyne



Jim Roddey, emceed the live auction featuring fabulous items such as the "Warhol's View" Mosaic by Steve-O Designs

WT BENEFIT 2013: **REVELRY ON THE RED CARPET**

MORE THAN **320 ATTENDEES**

MORE THAN
3,000 COOKIES MADE BY
PARENT VOLUNTEERS

347 AUCTION ITEMS

RECORD BREAKING
\$161,000 RAISED

1 GREAT CAUSE: WT



Carole Stewart James and Ian
James



Callie Gropp '03, Sierra Laventure-Volz '05, Mark Frechione '04,
Susan Roth '04, and Nick Lewandowski



Emmai Alaquiza
and Patrice Alexander '06



Shelley and Doug Campbell



Rob and Megan Glimcher with Elizabeth Patterson and Gary Niels



Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89
and Janet Harrison-Kuzmishin '87



India and Steve Loevner



Laura Scott, Mollie Hanna Lang, Kelly Hanna Riley '91

alums return to WT REUNION2012

Charged with the challenge of “igniting” Friday morning with stimulating accounts of their STEM related careers, presenters Yumi Ijiri '87, Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89, Rebecca Smith '92, and Marjorie Tenenouser Thibodaux '87 shared their career path challenges, successes, and words of wisdom with the Upper School students and visiting alums. Presenters spoke in the “ignite” style which included a strictly timed five minute presentation with rapidly advancing slides stretching their abilities as presenters to be concise and engaging. One presenter commented: “Leave it to WT to keep challenging us even after we’ve graduated.” The varied presentations and careers produced thought-provoking questions from the students as well as a few laughs.



STEM Panelist: Yumi Ijiri '87, Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89, Rebecca Smith '92, and Marjorie Tenenouser Thibodaux '87



Susan Roth '04, Sierra Laventure-Volz '05, Anna Albrecht '08, Eliza Hens-Greco '08, and Kaitlin Hens-Greco '05 catch up at the Reunion Cocktail Party



Class of 1952: (bottom row) Jodi Kesel Shallenberger, Jacquie Wilson Hill, Barbara Abney Bolger, Jean MacIntyre, (middle row) Suzanne LeClerc Barley, Cynthia Hill Smith, Phyllis Shoemaker Beardsley (top row) Barbara Givan Missimer, Marion Montgomery Colbourne



Class of 1962 pauses for a photo outside of WT's Main Building following the all alum luncheon: (right) Francie Johnston Brentzel, Carol Maloney Coulson, Harriet Rosenberg Greenfield, Mary Alice Henninger Price; (left) Linda MacMichael, Eleanore Nix Childs, Susie Kunz Heritage



Class of 1987: Jean Torlidas Willow, Janet Harrison Kuzmishin, Robyn Chotiner, Kim Farinet Sailer, Yumi Ijiri, Marjorie Tenenouser Thibodaux



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL

Missed reunion? Get more of the fun, friendships, and photos.

REUNiON

Save the Date
October 11-12,
2013

Especially for classes of
2003, 1998, 1993, 1988,
1983, 1978, 1973, 1968,
1963, 1958, 1953, and
1948.



We hope to see you back on campus for the Young Alum Lacrosse Game on May 11, 2013.



Class of 1962: (front row) Mary Alice Henninger Price, Carol Maloney Coulson, Harriet Rosenberg Greenfield; (back row) Susie Kunz Heritage, Linda MacMichael



Eleanor Meredith '77 digs deep in the alum vs. student field hockey game.



Young alums were pumped for the soccer game, playing with and competing against their former coaches and classmates. Nikhil Singh '06 takes on two students during the game.



Head of School, Gary Niels, with Gabe Isaacson '12 and Sammy Pollack '12



Zoe Silberblatt '11 and Ramsey Daniels '11 catch up with Matt Bachner, Dean of Students



Art Teacher, Michele Farrell, and Elizabeth Friedman '12

At our annual Home from College Lunch, WT welcomed back our young alums, offering an opportunity to reconnect with Upper School faculty, WT juniors and seniors, and fellow young alums. Thank you to all who attended.

HOME FROM COLLEGE LUNCH

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

KELLY HANNA RILEY '91 AND PATRICK RILEY

Kelly Hanna Riley '91 and Patrick Riley know about community building. Together, the parents of Connor A'15, Hanna '18 and Liam '23, have decades of experience creating communities throughout the tri-state region: Patrick, founder of Riley Homes, builds custom homes from the ground up; Kelly is a top real estate agent for Howard Hanna Realty, one of the largest real estate companies in the country. Now, as the Chairs of the WT Fund, the couple is nurturing a community close to their hearts.

"I make no secret about the fact that I love this school," declares Kelly, who is an alum and taught at WT's North Hills Campus before turning to real estate. "I am an alum and WT gave me more than I could ever convey. I became so much more of who I am through this wonderful place, and...I'm thrilled to see our children getting that same experience."

"Our hope is that through leading this WT Fund, we introduce more parents to the importance of volunteering their time and energy."

"From the time I met Kelly, I've known about WT," affirms Patrick, whose relationship with WT was born when their children enrolled. "I had a good high school experience; she had an outstanding one. Now our children come home happy and can't wait to go back the next day!"

The Rileys view WT through a prism of different and shared experiences—alum and former faculty member,



non-alum, and parents—giving them a panoramic perspective on the value of a WT education. So it's no surprise that when asked by Head of School Gary Niels to lead the current WT Fund campaign, they were SOLD.

"It is really important to come together as the parent community, roll up our sleeves and be one team to continue to grow our school," says Patrick, "to give to this fund that supports so many of the reasons that we all appreciate WT. Any gift is an appreciated gift, and one that will directly benefit all of our children."

The WT Fund is essential to the special events, resources, programs, and facilities that keep WT on the educational vanguard; it also supports need-based financial aid that opens the door to a WT education for one-third of the school's student body. Last year, 68% of WT families supported the fund; the Rileys

hope to cement 100% participation this year by applying enthusiasm and education, key tools for creating homes—and communities.

"As builders and realtors, we take people from the beginning of a process and educate them about it, whether that be a house or a community. In the case of the WT Fund, we're educating people about the Fund, what it does, and how it benefits," explains Kelly.

"Our hope is that through leading this WT Fund, we introduce more parents to the importance of volunteering their time and energy," she continues. "I know WT so well. It's part of my fiber. For Patrick, at first, it was a place where he sent his kids to school, but through the years and our involvement, I've watched him become part of the community, too. When you have that, you feel like it's a part of you. I want to bring everyone into it. I want everyone to have the feeling that I have about this great place!"



1942

Marion Thompson Kerwin writes, "Other than an earthquake, hurricane, and floods, it's been an uneventful year here. The kids are all ok. Granddaughter Lauren, having received her Ph.D., is now teaching at Bucknell University, but it is close enough for her to see her second year resident doctor husband in New York frequently."

1944

Jean Ballard George and classmate **Sally Smith Williams** enjoyed an architectural and historic tour of Richmond, VA, together to reconnect and reminisce about WT.

Nancy Succop Schroeder reports, "the usual aches and pains, but otherwise doing very well. Enjoying my condo on Lake Wylie, SC, where I have lived the past 27 years. Great Grandchild #2 and #3 on the way—feel very blessed!"

1946

Jane Callomon Arkus completed the editing and publication of her husband's memoirs. The book, *An Accidental Life: The Memoirs of Leon A. Arkus (1915-1999)*, Director, Carnegie Museum of Art (1969-1980), highlights Leon's intriguing career path from theater to manager, roles in military service, and eventually his exciting path intertwined with public figures and artists.



1948

Betty Jean Rayburn Ogren and husband Bill are happy to share that they are still healthy and enjoying winters in Bonita Springs, FL, playing golf. The rest of the year is spent at Shannondell Retirement Community where they've lived for almost seven years. "It's keeping us young!"

1954

Brenda Wise Moffitt recently moved to Atlantic Beach, FL, after 53 years in Mt. Lebanon. She is enjoying life at the beach, and living only blocks away from her four grandsons.

1955

Mary Minor Evans is the president of both the Duluth Woman's Club and the University of Minnesota Duluth University for Seniors.

1957

Nann Hegmann Cooke writes, "I am still loving my work with special education



Rachel Alexander '03, Jennie Berg '68, Vicky Berg '65, and Martha (Marsie) Berg '66, in Turkey for the wedding of Martha's son Ted Alexander.

high school students, as fencing coach and as volunteer with Madison a Better Chance program." Nan is currently living in Westbrook, CT.

1958

Mary Alexandra Navarro Alexander recently moved from Florida to Cheswick, PA.

1959

Lyn Clark Pegg writes, "As a self-identified social justice activist, I've had lots of opportunities for advocacy and community organizing. Now I can shift my attention back to Latin America and Witness for Peace delegations.

1960

Elisa Lynch Simmons and her husband celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary with her four children and eight grandchildren. "Life is good and husband Tom is the best!"

Alison Pedicord Schleifer continues to enjoy retirement and visiting her children in

Monterey, CA, and Pittsburgh. Daughter Kate, is the Head of the Senior School at Shady Side Academy and has two sons currently attending there. Schleifer adds, "It is wonderful to re-explore all my old haunts in the city when we visit them."

1961

Nan Sachs Solow writes, "Well, I finally did it. After 35 years at Fox Chapel Country Day School, the last two as Head of School, I decided to retire. I will miss being part of a school I love so much, but I am ready to discover the joys of an unplanned day. I absolutely loved being with so many of my classmates at our 50th reunion last year. Thanks to so many out-of-towners who made the trip and reconnected with Pittsburgh and old friends. It was a happy time."

Francoise Sapede Jacqmin writes, "I was a French AFS student at WT in 1960-61 and I loved it! I had never studied History of Art; I did at WT and learned much."

Francoise added that she later became a writer incorporating art history knowledge from WT. She credits her WT education for giving her an edge over other French students and providing her the opportunity to attend business school in Paris; she remains very interested in American politics.

1964

Jennifer Davies has been busy in her field of fiber art and papermaking. Her work was displayed at the 12th annual Architectural Digest Home Design Show in New York City.

1966

Kristin Langley retired from IBM and now works part time for an insurance agency.

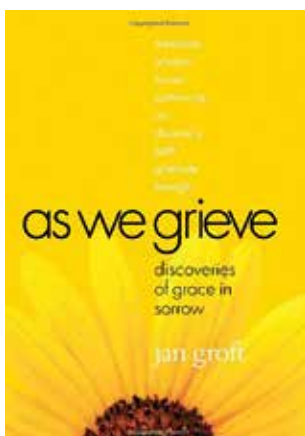
1968

Melissa Crump Cook writes, "**Sally Viviano Rolley** and I had a wonderful reunion dinner in New York City. We met as roommates in ninth grade when WT still had boarding. Sally says that ours is her longest standing relationship.



Sally Viviano Rolley '68 and Melissa Crump Cook '68

We're both doing well. Sally is a yoga teacher with two children and I am a feng shui consultant. I published a book last year, *Feng Shui Fabulous: Transformational Tips for Everyday Living*. I recently chaired Southampton Hospital's Memorial Day benefit, "Havana Nights."



Jan Coco Groff's second book won a 2010 ForeWord Review Book of the Year award in the Body, Mind, & Spirit category. *As We Grieve*, explores nine healing gifts of grace for the grieving; it was also named a 2010 Living Now Book Award winner. For more information, please visit www.aswegrieve.com.



Lynn Johnson '71 with WT students

1971

Lynn Johnson received the Shutter Bug Award from CMU honoring her more than 30 years of work in photojournalism. Students from WT Rhetoric class, select faculty (including **Patrice Alexander '06**), and fellow alums **Gwenn Swaney '47** and daughter Chris attended a lecture and presentation of the award.

Lynn was also recently awarded the third Annual *National Geographic* Photographer's Photographer Award. The award was given out by George Steinmetz at the conclusion of *Geographic's* annual photography seminar.

1972

Molly Cannon Stevenson is continuing as a fundraising consultant and in interim management for nonprofits. She is also pursuing her Master's in Health Administration. She has an "eye on returning to a health care system and work in areas of interest—leadership development, succession planning, and, always, philanthropy" when her degree is completed.

1973

Wendy Zillweger McDermott published her first book, *Flying*, available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Exlibris. *Flying* is a work of fiction, but it is largely autobiographical. Wendy is now working on a second novel, the sequel to *Flying*.



1974

Carolyn "Carey" Rundle Field writes, "We just sent our daughter off for her freshman year at Middlebury College in Vermont, so I'm adjusting to having one child at home. In three years, he'll be in college and we'll be empty nesters! Hard to believe! I've been the editor of *Wilton Magazine* for three years and continue to do a lot of freelance writing, as well as volunteering."

1976

Susan M. Dunmire, Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine and a member of the UPMC Presbyterian Emergency Department staff, delivered the Lantern Night Address at the annual Lantern Night Ceremony. The ceremony is one of the oldest traditions at the University of Pittsburgh. During the service, Pitt alumni light the lanterns of more than 400 freshman and first-year transfer women, "bestowing the light of learning." Students carry the lanterns in a procession back to the Cathedral of Learning.

Susan is course coordinator for three medical schools and has received numerous teaching awards in the past including the Golden Apple Award in 2001 and 2008, the Faculty Recognition Award from 2004 to 2011, and The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award in 2007. She also received the Charles G. Watson Award for excellence in teaching and the Pitt Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award. Dunmire serves as executive director of Pitt's Medical Alumni Association and is a member of Pitt School of Medicine's Admissions Committee.

1976

Leonie Thompson Sinclair writes, "Following high school I came home to Australia and started university, studying law, in February 1977. I married in February 1979 and have three daughters, Emily, Rebecca, and Claire. In 2009, I married a helicopter instructor in the Australian Navy, adding his three daughters and his two grandsons to our family. I am now a partner at a law firm doing mostly family law (divorce/separation) and

deceased estate work which keeps me busy. I keep in touch with my Pittsburgh sisters, Beth, Randi, and Amy Evans."

1978

Cindy Bulik writes, "I was competing in the United States Adult Figure Skating Competition in April in Chicago and met some folks from the Pittsburgh team. We started talking Pittsburgh talk and dove right into 'What school did you go to?' I did my usual, 'Well I grew up in



Cindy Bulik '78 and Kimberly Farinet Sailer '87

the North Hills, but I didn't go to school there...I went to Winchester.' (Of course there was no WT North back in the day.) One of the Pittsburgh team members, **Kim Sailer** basically screeched and said, 'You went to W-T...so did I!!' We had a little mini-reunion right on the spot. Attached is a photo of both of us with our medals. We both took bronze in our events—I am an ice dancer and she is a pairs skater. It was such a remarkable coincidence to have that amazing and immediate 'W-T Family' effect in the middle of Adult Nationals."

1980

Susan Baumann Wittrock and her husband celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. Susan is working at a residential treatment center for teens dealing with trauma and Reactive Attachment Disorder, managing a team of Life Coaches. Son Jacob is now in college and Susan continues to home school son Jonah.

1981

Amy Tenenouser has exhibited her paintings on the walls at WT as well as galleries in Pittsburgh and Maryland. Her work has been published in the Arts and Literary Magazine *Apochrypha* in Los Angeles and Madrid. Amy also produces animations and short films. She has participated in film festivals in Spain and France. To see her incredible work, visit AmyTenenouser.com.

1985

Laura Kruper is now serving as the Director of the Cooper Finkel Women's Health Center and Chief of the Breast Surgery Service at the City of Hope National Cancer Center.

1986

Elizabeth Samet is now the Creative Director at *W Magazine*. *W* is the only pure luxury and fashion lifestyle magazine and operates in 24 countries around the globe.



Leonine Thompson Sinclair '76 and Bob Sinclair

1988

Rachel A. Egler, MD '88 was honored by Oakland Catholic last fall for her work as a Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist. As part of her award, Rachel wrote this statement on education: "My education at the (then) all-girl's high school Winchester Thurston made a big difference in the way I view women as potential leaders. When every academic award is won by a woman, every club is run by a woman, and every sports banquet is honoring women, an individual comes to learn that there is no end to what women can accomplish. This gave me the confidence I needed to make my way through the competitive training required to become the physician I am today." Of her career, **Egler** wrote, "While no fewer than six of my siblings gravitated toward the law, I followed in my mother's footsteps and developed an interest in science. (My mom, **Ruth Egler**, received a BS in chemistry from Rosemont College). After college, I spent a year in the Jesuit Volunteer



Corps, working at an Indian Health Services Center in Oakland, CA. That was where I found my passion for medicine. My training led me to become a pediatric hematologist-oncologist. I am an academic clinician at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland. I primarily take care of children with cancer, with a special interest in solid tumors. I have an MS in clinical research and I Chair the Cancer Institutional Review Board for University Hospitals. On the national level, I am a member of the Children's Oncology Group, where I am involved in writing clinical trials with the rare tumors committee." rachelegler@gmail.com



Emily Wood Heffelfinger '89 works as a Child Life Specialist at Kaiser Permanente in Santa Clara, CA.



Chris, Erinn, and Isabelle Lynnae Andrews born on November 3, 2011.

1995

Katie Brennan completed her Ph.D. at the University of Victoria and is now serving as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Ocean and Climate Research at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

1998

Thomas "Toby" McChesney is now an adjunct faculty member teaching undergraduate Business Communications at Georgia State University where he also serves as Assistant Dean.

Azadeh Masalehdan Block and her husband welcomed a new baby, Samuel Lionel Block on July 22, 2012. Proud older brother Jonah is now 3. Azadeh also began a new position as an Assistant Professor at Youngstown State University in the Social Work Department. Azadeh and her family continue to reside in Squirrel Hill.

1999

Anne D'Appolonia Dickson and husband Andrew Dickson are excited to announce the birth of George David Dickson. Congratulations to WT grandmothers **Eileen Maclair D'Appolonia '61** and **Mary Succop Dickson '57**.

2000

Erinn Evans Andrews writes, "*Elite Admissions: Uncovered* is an e-book that I'm selling online based on my experiences in Stanford's admission office." Her e-book includes case studies and best practices. She also does private consulting for families who want a "more hands-on approach to preparing to apply to top US colleges." Erinn and husband Chris reside in California with their daughter Isabelle Lynnae Andrews who just turned 1 year old.

2004

James Allan is co-founder and CEO of Archipelago Marketing & Communications, a boutique public relations firm in Singapore. The firm specializes in public and investor relations with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. Headquartered in Singapore with a worldwide network of affiliate offices, Archipelago provides clients with global coverage while offering unique insights into the Singapore and Indonesia markets.

2006

Hannah Posner writes, "I just finished an exciting year working as the Director of Out-of-State Volunteers for the Obama campaign in the

MEMBERS OF THE MISS MITCHELL SOCIETY

Marybert Murbach Allen '40*
 Ann E. Armstrong T '29*
 Suzanne LeClere Barley '52
 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
 Anne Rush Cook W '34 *
 Judith Rohrer Davis '57
 Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer '37*
 Mary Campbell Eckhardt '38*
 Virginia A. Elliott T '26*
 Eleanor Lanz Ericson T '17*
 Elizabeth Braun Ernst '23*
 Harriet Adler Feldman '57
 Margaret J. Garner T '18*
 Mabel L. Gillespie T '04*
 Robert I. Glimcher
 Ethel C. Goodreds '22*
 Edna Rieck Graham T '11*
 Mary Houston Griffin '21*
 Jeanne Logan Hardie '34*
 Rosanne Isay Harrison '56
 Nancy Robb Hendel '51*



Jean Murray Johnson '27*
 Lida B. Johnston*
 Eugene S. Kerber
 James Craighead Kuhn, Jr.*
 Lucille Showalter Leggett '11*
 Louise Baldridge Lytle '51
 Jocelyn Hulme MacConnell '43
 Carole Oswald Markus '57
 Gertrude Dally Massie '18*
 Marga Matheny '64
 Patricia L. Maykuth '69
 Anne (Rooney) Forncrook
 McCloskey '45*
 Beverlee Simboli McFadden '55

J. Sherman McLaughlin,
 Honorary Alumnus '93
 Kathleen L. Metinko '91
 Edith Allerton Miller*
 Alexander M. Minno*
 Frances P. Minno
 Frances Alter Mitchell '30*
 Judy Apt Nathenson '69*
 Jane Bortman Porter '42*
 Henry Posner III
 Jane Dunn Prejean '36*
 Eleanor M. Reilly, Honorary Alumna*
 Alan D. Riester*
 Susan Crip Santa-Cruz '60
 Jennifer M. Scanlon
 Dorothy Dodworth Scullin '47
 Sheen Sehgal '89
 Richard E. Sigler
 Bonnie Solomon '48*
 Marianna Epstine Specter '58*
 Janet L. Stevenson '16*
 Molly Cannon Stevenson '72
 Allyson Baird Sveda '84
 Ruth Weimer Tillar '41
 Rosalie Morris Voorhis '16*
 Gaylen Westfall
 Carol Spear Williams '57
 Norma Weis Wilner '40*

If you have included Winchester Thurston in your estate plans through a charitable bequest in your will, trust, or some other planned giving arrangement, but have not yet informed us of your intention, we encourage you to share the good news with us.



Why? Because we would like to thank you and welcome you as a member of a very special group of Winchester Thurston leaders—the Miss Mitchell Society. Like you, each member of the Miss Mitchell Society believes deeply in WT's mission to actively engage students in a challenging learning environment that develops scholars with the confidence, skills, discipline, and integrity to succeed and achieve. Each one of these long-term commitments is important to our future.

So, please let us know. Your plans will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.

For more information, contact Gaylen Westfall, Director of Planned Giving and Stewardship, at 412-578-7530 or westfallg@winchesterthurston.org.

battleground state of Ohio. My team (including **Bennett Washburn '08**) worked to recruit 2,850 volunteers for the final weekend of the campaign, coming from as far away as Germany to help us out. After taking some time to rest and relax after the campaign, I'm excited to be back to Pittsburgh to pursue a new career, TBD, in the private sector."

Don Michael Mendoza is currently the Membership Director in charge of Sales and Marketing for VIDA Fitness, a part of the Urban Adventures company, in downtown Washington, DC. He is also still pursuing a double career in musical theatre and has become the co-founder and co-executive director of the city's premier weekly musical and spoken word cabaret series called 'La-Ti-Do,' which pulls performers locally as well as from New York City, Los Angeles and even the UK. He also hopes to secure a full-time job in arts communication and marketing in the future.

Christopher DeVita writes, "after spending two years as a trainee at Alonzo King LINES Ballet in San Francisco, I was recruited by Gregory Dawson (LINES company member 1987-2005) to dance in his new company in Denver called Dawson Wallace Dance Project. In the past year I have also danced with LINES Ballet (Triangle of the Squinches) and in both the West Wave Dance Festival (SF) and APAP/Reverb Dance Festival (NYC) for Maurya Kerr/tinypistol."

Lee Orr recently started working for the Global Vaccines Campaign at the United Nations Foundation in Washington, DC. She loves working in global health and

plans to pursue her MPH in the near future.

Molly Carter is in her second year in a five year doctoral program in clinical psychology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH. She will be receiving her Psy.D. degree in 2016 and hopes to assess, diagnose, and treat children with autism. Although



Richard Jesse Markel '07 with Senator Rand Paul (R-KY) in the Russell Senate Office Building.

enjoying Cincinnati, she would love to move back to Pittsburgh after completing her degree. She adds, "I hope everyone in the class of 2010 is doing well!"

Noah Levin completed his undergrad and masters at Carnegie Mellon. After working for NASA designing a cuff-mounted tablet for astronauts, he has moved to San Francisco to take his dream job as an Interaction Designer at Google. "I've been here for two years now, designing user interfaces across devices on the search team to help people quickly find the information they need. I'm looking forward to my first half-marathon in April across the Golden Gate Bridge."

Jessica Schwartz moved to New York after graduating college and has worked for three international organizations including Pratham USA, Echoing Green, and VisionSpring. She is currently working at a boutique non-profit event planning firm on the Upper East Side. Jessica is in her second year of a Masters in Fundraising

class features guest artists to supplement their readings on the four elements of hip-hop: DJing, emceeing, b-boying (breakdancing), and graffiti. Their final project includes a hip-hop album created and produced by them." Please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tsa9GWYMc7Q> to get more information on the class.

"Please stop by to visit WT sometime! Outside of WT, I am a private piano instructor, chair of the alumni volunteer committee in Pennsylvania for University of Chicago, and I am currently working with local artists to produce my first demo."

Andrew Wickerham is enjoying school in New Orleans, save for the hurricanes and lack of snow. He says visitors from the Union are always welcome.

Alisa Beverley graduated from Goucher College with a BA in theatre. She is currently working in Baltimore at the Maryland SPCA as a vet tech in their exam room. She is also working at the Ft. McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as a living history interpreter talking about what life was like at the fort during the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

Clare Cene-Kush graduated from Emory University last May with an MPH in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education. While at Emory, she was involved in a research project investigating the acceptability of an HIV vaccine among African American women and had the exciting opportunity to work in the CDC's Division of Violence Prevention (and Zombie Outbreak Preparedness). She adds, "I wasn't ready to say goodbye to the Peach State (or school) so

Management program at Columbia University and co-runs a non-profit she founded in Tanzania named "Bricks + Books." In addition, Jessica is busy planning her upcoming summer wedding.

Patrice Alexander is in her third year of teaching Upper School English at WT and also serves as the Associate Director of College Counseling. She writes, "One of the things I am most proud of is creating an English elective titled *Memes, Music, and Language*. This class teaches literary elements mostly associated with poetry through hip-hop and rap. Through WT's City as Our Campus Program and a partnership with Hip Hop on L.O.C.K. in East Liberty, my students explore English through a different lens. The

I'm currently taking biomedical science classes and getting ready to apply to medical school this summer."

Eliza Kuhn is working at Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank helping neighbors in need (throughout eleven counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania!) connect to the basic resources they need to help their families thrive. She is also in her second semester of the Masters in Social Work degree program at the University of Pittsburgh and will be starting her field placement, at an organization yet to be determined, in May.

Sarah Wood moved from Portland, ME, to Brooklyn, NY, last fall after spending six weeks traveling cross country and through Asia. She is writing and performing at Mount Sharp, pursuing other music side projects, and working for Brooklyn Brine, a small pickle company.

2007



Michael Barnett graduated Summa Cum Laude from The George Washington University in May 2011 with membership in Beta Gamma Sigma honors society and Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity. Currently a Wall Street Banking Analyst at Citigroup in New York City, he constructs and runs financial models to measure the profitability of services for institutional and retail asset managers. In addition to his day job, Michael continues to manage and operate

his own bobble-head and statue distribution company, supplying merchandise to stores in the United States and to retail customers worldwide. In late 2010, he designed his own variety of bobble-head dolls. You can find Michael's merchandise for sale at the Winchester Thurston Spring Fling in May, or online at www.MyHeadBobbles.com



Kate Bartlett graduated from Saint Louis University with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and a second major in English. She is a Quality Engineer at

Boeing, and hopes to pursue a career in the space industry. She has experience working on CubeSat projects (ArgusGTO and COPPER at SLU SSRL) and has logged 40+ hours in a Cessna 172 Skyhawk and Simulator. She writes that she also has "a budding interest in forensic sciences and I took a Medicolegal Death Investigation Training Class during summer 2010 at Saint Louis University, which prepares students to be Death Investigators with a Medical Examiner's office. I have an interest in aircraft accident investigation." She lives in St. Louis, where she recently purchased a home.

Richard Jesse Markel spent his 2011 summer interning on Capitol Hill with the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee (Senate Majority Side) researching corporate tax legislation and US trade agreements. He graduated from the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis with majors in accounting and economics. In spring Richard worked on the Hill in the office of Congressman Jason Altmire (D-PA-4).

2009

Morgan Gibreath studied art history abroad at the University of Edinburgh for the 2011-2012 school year. She was awarded a scholarship through the St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia (Scotland Heritage Society).

2011

Nate Hubel received an award from the Biology Department at the University of Pittsburgh for submitting the best mock grant, beating out about 700 fellow freshmen.



On August 18, 2012, 11 alumnae/i and students took part in an Alum Cross Country Run!

1st row (kneeling) Eli Dumaine Schutz '14, Will Loevner '16, Coach Frey.

2nd row (standing) Josh Loevner '12, Sally Loevner '11, Earl Hord '11, Jeff Burroughs '11, Adam Eller '11, Rogan Grant '11, Julia Holland '03, Gil Kross '05, Landin Delaney '15



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.

Betty Thompson Reif '31

Jean Davis '32

Nancy Davis '32

Elizabeth Bradley '33

Anne Rush Cook '34

Patricia Maloney Fischer-Schmidt '34

Betty Brooke Raber '34

Judith Reed Emmons A'36

Mary Jo Walton Schweizer '37

Nancy Crook Tishler '39

Virginia Lyne Sloan '39

Jean Phipps Bray '39

Joan Price Tanzer '43

Mary Lane Lissfelt Salisbury '43

Ellen Card Donnell '43

Mary Cunningham Bailey '44

Suzanne Robbins Barnes '45

Claire Bloom Hahn '45

Marilee Ellis Richter '46

Jeanne Plowman Deschner '46

Nell Lile Glaws '47

Barbara Bennett Blum '47

Jane Dressler Page '48

Elizabeth Parrish Keddle '48

Ann Autenreith Saxton '48

Sherrill Joyce Shiras '48

Mary Jane Langham Walling '50

Margaret Grace MacVean Finn '50

Nancy Crandall Schmidt '51

Joan Soffel Carson '51

Lucinda "Cindy" McClellan Pitcairn '51

Gretchen Mehl Deans '52

Helen Clark Walker '52

Nancy Cohill Rogers '52

Margaret Jackman Metzger '53

Linda Isaly Coughlin '58

Judith Walton Harrison '59

Carol Pollock Johnson '59

Janet Benke '62

Myrna Klee Robinson '65

Joyce Kloss Teese '65

R. Burt Gookin, *Former Trustee*

Beatrice Gratton, *Honorary Alumna*

Caroline Fisher, *Retired Employee*

It's time to celebrate.

Congratulations to WT's Class of 2013 as acceptances to some of the nation's finest colleges and universities continue to arrive.

Allegheny College

American University

Babson College

Baldwin Wallace University

Boston University

Bowdoin College

Brandeis University

Bryn Mawr College

Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University

College of William and Mary

Cornell University

Dartmouth College

Denison University

Dickinson College

Duke University

Duquesne University

East Stroudsburg University

of Pennsylvania

Elon University

Emmanuel College, Boston

Fordham University

Franklin & Marshall College

Georgetown University

Grinnell College

Hamilton College

Indiana University Bloomington

Ithaca College

Johns Hopkins University

Kalamazoo College

Kent State University

Kenyon College

Lehigh University

Massachusetts Institute

of Technology

Macalester College

New York University

Northeastern University

Oberlin College

Pennsylvania State University

Point Park University

Pomona College

Purdue University

Reed College

Roger Williams University

School of Visual Arts

Skidmore College

Stanford University

Syracuse University

Tufts University

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Santa Cruz

University of Cincinnati College-

Conservatory of Music

University of Cincinnati

University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign

University of Michigan

University of Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh

University of Pittsburgh

Honors College

University of Rochester

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Vanderbilt University

Vassar College

Washington & Jefferson College

Washington University in St. Louis

Wellesley College

Wesleyan University

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Yale University



KATHRYN HENDRICKSON '13 MARSTINE SCHOLAR OFF TO MIT

Whether she is designing, building, and programming ball-shooting, Frisbee-throwing robots on the award-winning Girls of Steel robotics team, or creating a homemade rotary food evaporator—an instrument that extracts and distills the flavors of food—for her Research Science class, Kathryn Hendrickson '13 is happiest when indulging her appetite for learning. She anticipates her future with gusto—early acceptance admission to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) assures an abundance of the rigorous challenges she thrives upon—while simultaneously savoring every last minute at WT.

"AP Bio is my favorite class right now," enthuses the veteran of AP Calculus, Chemistry, History, Literature, and Statistics. "(I'm learning a lot) about natural phenomena ... why (things) happen and how they work. I just love learning!"

"When I visited WT (as a prospective freshman), I knew I wanted to come here ... the classes were so interesting to me. I couldn't wait to take them!" she remembers, adding, "I wasn't sure I could attend because of (tuition). When we learned I was awarded this scholarship, I was overjoyed."

As the Winchester Thurston Connie Blum Marstine Scholar, Kathryn is the recipient of a scholarship established by Sheldon Marstine to

honor the memory of his wife, Constance Blum Marstine '55. The scholarship provides an Upper School education for the student who "demonstrates high academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, (and) a passion for learning." In other words, someone like Kathryn.

"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, like Kathryn, and to honor Connie at the same time," says Marstine.

Kathryn also performs in Dance Ensemble, competes in recreational gymnastics, serves as a youth leader in her church community—and relishes the idea of blending her passion for science with her zest for culinary arts. "I always thought it would be cool if I could do robotics and cooking, because I've always loved cooking," smiles the avid scholar, who plans to study computer science at MIT.

"I am constantly thankful that I was able to attend WT," Kathryn recently wrote to Mr. Marstine. "When I review the colleges I applied to, I know I would not have had them in my reach if not for the education here at WT."



Winchester Thurston School
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www.winchesterthurston.org



Members of the Class of 1983 will be among the many alumnae/i making their way back to the Pillared Portals.
WT Reunion 2013. Save the date: October 11-12, 2013.



THISTLETALK GOES DIGITAL
Learn more at winchesterthurston.org/reunion