



# Thistle<sup>®</sup> TALK

## R&D

### Supporting a Culture of Innovation

in **this** issue:

STEM Curriculum Development

Alumna Profile: Deborah Acklin '80

*Plaid: A Retrospective*



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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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Gary J. Niels

## Cultivating Young Innovators through Educational Innovation

Last spring I was honored when Bill Christ, Head of Hathaway Brown School in Cleveland, Ohio, contacted me and asked Winchester Thurston School to present at their national Innovation Summit (part of their 2008 Edward E. Ford Foundation Leadership Grant), to be held in the fall of 2010. The Summit's purpose was to provide a forum and a source of inspiration and knowledge to

It was exciting and fun to have a room full of educators responding to the work WT has done, asking questions, and engaging with us.

Of course, Winchester Thurston has always been and will continue to be a college preparatory school. This means that our curriculum is based in the liberal arts. We desire our students to be schooled in the fundamental

**T**here has been a recent explosion of interest in educational innovation. It is reflective of our world: the nanosecond pace of technological change and the mind boggling vistas of opportunity that emerge before our eyes. Schools all over the nation are seeking to understand how they can best prepare students for a world of innovation, and how they themselves can be innovative. Winchester Thurston has been an enthusiastic participant in this quest—and indeed, we seek to be a leader in cultivating young innovators with the skills and dispositions to thrive and lead in an unscripted world.

The process of stirring innovation within our school by thinking futuristically has been one of the goals of our Advisory Board. One of the most profound contributions of the Advisory Board has been its assistance in imagining how we could expand and enhance City as Our Campus. Their ideas became part of our proposal to the Edward E. Ford Foundation, which resulted in our being one of only four schools selected for a 2009 Leadership Grant. In addition to the programming the grant has enabled us to institute, it has connected us with premier independent schools in the nation and world, which have also been named recipients of the Edward E. Ford Foundation Leadership Grant.

**“Schools...are seeking to understand how they can best prepare students for a world of innovation...Winchester Thurston has been an enthusiastic participant in this quest — and indeed, we seek to be a leader in cultivating young innovators with the skills and dispositions to thrive and lead in an unscripted world.”**

independent school teachers and leaders, to increase the innovation taking place in our schools. I attended the Summit with Mick Gee, our Upper School Director, and Teresa DeFlicht, our City As Our Campus Director. It was an impressive event with many important thinkers and leaders. Keynote addresses were given by bestselling author Daniel Pink, who spoke on the findings recorded in his latest book *Drive: the Surprising Truth of What Motivates Us*, and Liz Coleman, President of Bennington College, who spoke about a new kind of 21st century education. Moreover, the workshops included everything from “the origins of transformative ideas” to “the neuroscience of talent” to “the secret sauce of innovative schools” to “liberating the innovator within.”

In WT's workshop, we discussed the origin and evolution of City as Our Campus, its relationship to our mission and location, emerging curricular initiatives, as well as the systemic and philosophical obstacles to fully embracing innovation as our core educational value.

disciplines, and believe that colleges do, too. Our Upper School curriculum requires a minimum of four years of English, four years of social studies, three years of mathematics, three years of the same foreign language, and three years of laboratory science. Moreover, we require visual and performing arts. These are minimum expectations and nearly all of our students exceed these requirements. It is important to note that WT's innovation operates within this context of academic rigor.

The theme of this issue of *ThistleTalk* is innovation. It illustrates how our teachers are being innovative and how we seek to cultivate innovation as a quality that our graduates possess. The blend of a rigorous liberal arts curriculum infused with innovation is one of the special qualities that contributes to the excellence of Winchester Thurston.

# New Faces on the Board

## Simin Yazdgerdi Curtis

WT parent Simin Curtis returns for a second term on the Board. She is President and founder of the Pittsburgh Middle East



Institute (PMEI), a non-profit consortium promoting business, educational, and cultural ties between Pittsburgh and Middle Eastern countries. PMEI has hosted three annual conferences, bringing to Pittsburgh Thomas Friedman (2008), Fareed Zakaria

(2009), and Madeleine Albright (2010). Last spring, Curtis led a delegation of Pittsburgh companies and universities to Oman as special guests of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has been invited to serve as Honorary Consul of the Sultanate of Oman in Pittsburgh and is on the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh Board. Prior to starting PMEI, Curtis served as Vice President of Marketing for the investment advisory firm Greycourt & Co., Inc. A graduate of Harvard, Curtis is past director of the Harvard Alumni Association, past President of the Harvard Club of Western Pennsylvania and the Harvard-Yale-Princeton Club, and co-founder of Ellsworth Avenue Business Association.

## Ilana Diamond

WT parent Ilana Diamond is President and CEO of Sima Products Corporation, which has earned more than 20 industry awards for innovative engineering and product design,



and received a "Blue Chip Enterprise" award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Prior to joining Sima in 1993, Diamond spent seven years as Senior Manager of Middle Market Business Advisory Services in Price Waterhouse's management

consulting division, and held sales and marketing positions with AT&T and Motorola. Diamond earned her Master of Management degree from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management and holds a B.A. in Economics from Northwestern University. Diamond serves as Vice Chair of the Pittsburgh Jewish Community Center Board of Directors, is a charter member of TIE Pittsburgh, and a Partner Emeritus of Pittsburgh Social Venture Partners. Nationally, Diamond serves on the Consumer Electronics Association Division Executive Board, Board of Industry Leaders, and as Accessories Board Vice Chair.

## Kathleen Metinko '91

WT alumna Kathleen L. Metinko is a principal in the Special Acquisition Services group of Deloitte Tax LLP, where she specializes in mergers and acquisitions for private equity clients.

She was admitted to partnership in 2007. After graduating from WT, Metinko received her B.S. in finance, *summa cum laude*, from Duquesne University; J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and LL.M. in taxation from the New York University School of Law. Metinko is a member of the Pennsylvania State Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association's Tax Section. She is also a Certified Public Accountant. She is an active member of the Youth, I.N.C. Consulting Advisory Board, and served as a Trustee of the Brooklyn Music School (2003-2007). Prior to relocating to New York in 2000, she was a member of the Board of Directors of Pittsburgh Young Professionals and chair of its Esprit De Corps event.



## Deesha Philyaw

WT parent Deesha Philyaw joins the WT Board after two years as Parents Association president. A freelance writer whose work has appeared in *Essence*, *The Washington Post*, and numerous anthologies, Philyaw is an adjunct professor at Chatham University and an instructor at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. She cofounded (with her ex-husband) CoParenting101.org, a resource for those who are parenting together after

divorce or separation. She co-hosts online talk show "Co-Parenting Matters" on BlogTalk Radio; serves as co-parenting columnist for the new-media journal *The Faster Times*, and is a columnist at the online parenting resource LoveIsntEnough.com.

Philyaw holds a Master's degree in teaching from Manhattanville University, and a B.A. in Economics from Yale.



Winchester Thurston School

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## R&D at WT

# Supporting a Culture of Innovation

**F**aculty innovation is the heart of City as Our Campus, and ideas are its lifeblood. Like corporations, universities, and think tanks, through R&D WT has created intentional and deliberate ways to keep ideas pulsing through the pipeline.

Imagine a world without wrinkle-free cotton, the remote control, smartphones, ear thermometers, MRI, water filters, smoke detectors, or global positioning systems. These and innumerable other aspects of modern life, which many of us take for granted, exist because of research and development, or R&D—processes initiated by companies to deliberately and intentionally innovate.

Now, Winchester Thurston is applying the principles and practices of R&D to its City as Our Campus initiative, actively soliciting—and supporting—innovation in all divisions via a new R&D faculty grant.

“Companies that encourage employees to be creative, whether through formal R&D programs or exploratory design teams, often make the most innovative discoveries,” states City as Our Campus Director Teresa DeFlitch. “For example, IDEO, an award-winning design firm, has developed numerous innovations—such as the computer mouse and the portable defibrillator—through its program of employee discovery. We want to foster the same type of idea generation and implementation for both our faculty and our students.”

*Photo, above: As part of the new Urban Research and Design course, seniors explore the real world challenges of urban poverty, hunger, and food security. In the fall, they constructed a hoop house measuring 20 feet wide by 36 feet long feet, and standing 12 feet tall, to grow produce that will be donated to local food banks.*

## R&D Grants Support Faculty Innovation

The R&D grant is a new feature of City as Our Campus, funded in part by the Edward E. Ford Foundation. Its purpose is to support faculty who want to explore and develop ideas to build City as Our Campus experiences and programs into their curriculum to enhance learning for students.

“R&D grants stimulate an exciting influx of new ideas for learning at WT,” says DeFlitch. “Faculty who have the seed of an idea can apply for a grant to receive support for investigating that project. [Grant recipients] have a year to explore the idea, work with me and develop partnerships, and see if the idea is a feasible one. It’s unique for a school to have this R&D function.”

## Innovation & Ideas

The purpose of City as Our Campus is to engage students in learning that makes their academic studies both more rigorous and more relevant. Students are active participants in the community and with partner organizations—not passive observers. This engagement guides them to cultivate awareness of their own civic abilities, achieve content mastery, develop high-level 21st century skills, and

**“‘We’re taking what they’re already doing in the classroom and asking ourselves, ‘How can we make this better...by incorporating City as Our Campus? How can we make this more relevant to our students, more relevant to what the future is going to look like in these professions?’”**

— Teresa DeFlitch

participate in the cultural, political, and economic life of the city.

The R&D program provides teachers with nourishment to take the next step from idea to execution.

“Many teachers attend professional development workshops that explore important teaching and learning strategies, but they are not given support to pursue the ideas beyond initial exposure. This is why the R&D program is so important,” stresses DeFlitch. “It provides teachers with a framework to learn more about City as Our Campus within the context of their own curriculum and with the help of a dedicated Director. It is a time for discovery that ultimately affects the overall learning environment by creating a culture of idea generation that keeps our teaching strategies and curriculum relevant and dynamic, modeling the kind of thinking we want our students to exhibit.

“We’re taking what they’re already doing in the classroom and asking ourselves, ‘How can we make this better for students by incorporating City as Our Campus? How can we make this more relevant to our students, more relevant to what the future is going to look like in these professions?’ We’re not expecting that by



## Graig Marx: Transforming Science Students Into Scientists

Upper School chemistry teacher Graig Marx received an R&D grant to explore and develop a new course that plunges students into scientifically-themed local issues of their choosing, such as abandoned mine drainage or traffic congestion, for independent study that he anticipates will transform “science students into scientists.”

“It is not my goal to train lab technicians,” he continues, adding that the best way for students to learn science is to be scientists, forging research trails that might lead to dead ends, double-backs, or the discovery of unexpected new terrain.

Over a full school year, students will conduct detailed research studies—designing and performing experiments, collecting and analyzing data, connecting with relevant local organizations, and

the end of a month, or a year, they’ll come away with a large project. But as a school, we will help bring it to life, and see if it will work, and in what fashion it will work. It may look completely different from the original idea as we work through it. That exploratory element is unique.

“Many schools execute real-world learning that utilizes the community, but WT’s school-wide commitment and depth of program implementation is rare,” reflects DeFlitch. “The result is the development of a cohesive Pre-K-12 learning program that places innovation and community at the center, both from the faculty and student perspective. From R&D to new courses that feature community-based learning, WT is creating an educational framework that actually lives up to call to break down the walls of the traditional classroom.”



## cover story

working with mentors from Pittsburgh's prominent science community—to become experts on their chosen problem. They will test and analyze solutions, then report their findings to the public using multiple media sources.

"From beginning to end, the project will be original and designed to contribute to the scientific community," says Marx. "Outcomes of the project will not be measured in success or failure. The goal of any research is to communicate findings in hopes that these findings will be beneficial to someone or some other project in the future."

Marx unequivocally states this course will be student-driven: "Teachers can come up with amazing projects based on 'best practices' or that touch on 'multiple intelligences.' But without intrinsically motivated students, these projects have no relevance. On the other hand, when a student is responsible and shows a positive attitude toward his or her education, when he or she takes a rigorous course in order to learn and grow intellectually, the things that can happen are limitless."

### Amanda Greenwald: Bringing African American History to Life

**A**manda Greenwald's seventh graders will draw upon an array of Pittsburgh resources to research a chapter of American history not emphasized in their textbook: the lives of African Americans in the north in the 18th and 19th centuries.

"We had always studied the role of African Americans in the south, but I wanted the students to learn about their experiences in the north. I felt that this was a piece of my curriculum that could be enhanced by local resources."

Greenwald wanted her students to learn in ways that would build and reinforce research skills and bring the stories of individual people to life. Throughout their study, Greenwald says, "Students will use historical inquiry and practice authentic research by visiting sites, conducting



interviews, interpreting documents, and reading primary and secondary sources. They will learn more about Pittsburgh and begin to understand the stories of individuals and their roles in history."

Greenwald used her R&D grant last summer to explore and identify resources that could help her enhance the curriculum. The project will begin in the spring with a presentation by Sam Black, curator of African American collections at the Heinz History Center, and continue with a trips to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall exhibit on African Americans in the Civil War and LeMoyné House in Washington, PA, the only existing Underground Railroad stop in Pennsylvania.

Finally, the students will interview seniors at Vintage Senior Community Center in East Liberty to learn and record their family histories. Then, guided by local playwright Chrystal Nelson, students will craft their research and these family histories into a play, which they'll perform for the Middle School.

"My goal is to have the students put to use many of the skills we focus on in seventh grade...and I hope the culminating project allows them to be creative while applying these skills," says Greenwald.

### Cheri Hanczar: Engaging Students in Architecture, Movement, and Music

**M**usic teacher Cheri Hanczar's R&D grant will fund the development of her new program, Orff the Wright Way; this unit will engage North Hills Campus students in interdisciplinary explorations of the philosophies of architect Frank Lloyd Wright and composer and educator Carl Orff. Study of Wright's masterpiece, Fallingwater, will extend through the first grade architecture unit,

**"I realized architecture, art, music, and dance share many of the same elements. It is wonderful to implement the creative process in our music and dance classrooms to gain knowledge in other disciplines."**

— Cheri Hanczar



second grade haiku studies, and third grade history studies. Wright's use of geometry and the math of Euclid in architecture may enhance the fourth grade Greek studies unit, while fifth graders will probe connections between math and science in balance and cantilevers, and geometric shapes used in the building of Fallingwater.

Such analyses will enable students to develop critical thinking about space, form, and emotion; express architecture through movement and music; and learn that creativity is a skill for problem-solving in many aspects of their lives. The project will culminate in a performance using the Orff-Schulwerk music method—in which students demonstrate the creative processes of designing a building and creating movement and musical art forms.



Hanczar formulated the concept after achieving Orff certification and attending a teacher residency at Fallingwater. "I realized architecture, art, music, and dance share many of the same elements" she explains. "It is wonderful to implement the creative process in our music and dance classrooms to gain knowledge in other disciplines."

**Read about other R&D grants supporting innovation in statistics research, green architecture, outdoor survival skills, immigration history, and more: [www.winchesterthurston.org/cityasourcampus](http://www.winchesterthurston.org/cityasourcampus)**

## Teresa's Blog

**The buzz at WT these days is all about a new online resource created by City as Our Campus Director Teresa DeFlicht: <http://cityasourcampus.wordpress.com/>**

DeFlicht showcases projects currently underway at WT, and has also assembled an impressive compendium of initiatives at other schools. Conceived as a tool to inspire and educate teachers, the blog also provides a one-stop resource for anyone interested in educational innovation. Some recent entries in the blog:

### Future Artists and Filmmakers

Upper School students took a break from their routine to immerse themselves in multimedia arts experiences at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Pittsburgh Filmmakers. Digital animation and photography, sound engineering, videography and green screen demonstrations, mosaics, jewelry design, book arts, and print making were some of the highlights. The immersion day was part of the Urban Arts Revealed, a City as Our Campus program that was introduced last year and funded by the Edward E. Ford Foundation.

### "Destruction Breeds Creation"

Senior Sally Loevner turned this claim into action as part of her senior project. Inspired by the work of Braddock Mayor John Fetterman, Sally planned a day trip to Braddock for her classmates to learn about this former steel town that is working on many levels to survive. Sally led her classmates in a day of service, which included working with children at the 4 Kids Learning Center. Profits from her "Destruction Breeds Creation" t-shirts benefit the Heritage Community Initiatives, an organization that helps local citizens overcome obstacles and become more self-reliant.



### Students as Historic Restorationists

Upper School students in Carl Jones's decorative arts class are restoring 100-year-old stained glass windows for Union Project, a community center housed in the former East End Baptist Church. WT students visited Union Project and learned about the center's role in the East Liberty community and surrounding areas and the ongoing restoration of the building, which has been a true community effort. Students recently completed the first set of windows and returned them to the Union Project fully restored.



### Urban Research and Design Hoop House

A group of seniors spent several blustery and damp days at WT's North Hills Campus constructing a hoop house. Similar to a greenhouse, a hoop house provides shelter for crops to grow year-round. The project is part of the new City as Our Campus Urban Research and Design course taught by Dr. Michael Naragon, in which seniors learn about a number of urban issues and systems through field visits, service projects, and original research. Seniors will soon begin cultivating crops that will be donated to local food banks.

# What should a dynamic Pre-K through Grade 12 STEM program look like?

**At its fall meeting, WT's dynamic Advisory Board was joined by approximately 30 distinguished professionals and educators, to offer ideas for an interdisciplinary, experiential curriculum in areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).**



Advisory Board member Alan Russell,  
Director, McGowan Center for  
Regenerative Medicine



Amy Burkert, Vice Provost for Education,  
Carnegie Mellon University

The discussion was launched with the insight and thoughts of Gerald Holder, Dean of the University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering, Alan Russell, Director of the McGowan Center for Regenerative Medicine, and Audrey Russo, President and CEO of Pittsburgh Technology Council, who touched on a number of key issues, including the importance of entrepreneurship and keeping talent in the region; the critical need for students not only to learn science, but to be able to communicate well; and the incredible opportunity WT has to use the considerable STEM resources that surround it.

In a fast-paced idea generating format, the group developed a set of programs, courses, initiatives, and approaches. Ideas included problem based courses and units, such as a course on the relationship of water resources to health, political problems, and international conflict; programs linking science and technology with other disciplines; a video game production studio; and the use of STEM disciplines and tools to analyze issues and frame public policy choices through long-term, inquiry based projects.

"It's extraordinary for a school to have such a talent base from which to draw, and with our City as Our Campus philosophy, it made perfect sense for us to tap into the amazing STEM community that surrounds us in research, academics, and business," says Gary Niels. "The ideas they proposed ranged from things we can act on immediately, to longer term, visionary ways to think about and offer this important aspect of education. We've already incorporated some of the ideas from the meeting into this year's coursework, and a strategic planning committee of faculty continues to explore, refine, and develop the ideas."

The group generated its ideas based on a set of guiding principles that challenged them to envision programs that would differentiate the school's academic program, utilize the resources of the city in experiential, interdisciplinary learning; that would link STEM disciplines to world and societal problems and issues; that would ensure students not only learn to use technology, but develop the skills that prepare them to advance and transform knowledge; and that would build competency in analysis, synthesis, risk-taking, and creative discovery.





Above: Jeanne van Briesen (l), Professor and Director, Center for Water Quality in Urban Environmental Systems, Carnegie Mellon University; and Advisory Board member Audrey Russo



Below: Advisory Board member Heather Arnet and Dan Volz, Director, Center for Healthy Environments & Communities, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh



Above, top: John Pollock (l), Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, Duquesne University, and Jennifer Stancil, Executive Director, Educational Programs, WQED

Above, center: Advisory Board member Janera Solomon (l) and WT Trustee Kathleen Buechel

Above, bottom: Gerald Holder, Dean, Swanson School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh

Above (l to r): Nikki Navta, Partner and Chief Technology Officer, Zulama; Advisory Board member Ronald Cole-Turner; Greg Lowry, Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University; Steven Sokol, President and Chief Executive Officer, World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh; and Rocky Tuan, Director, Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering, University of Pittsburgh Medical School

Above, top: Advisory Board member Ronald Cole-Turner and Dr. Rocky Tuan, Director, Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering, University of Pittsburgh Medical School

Above, center: Eric Beckman (l), Co-Director, Science and Technology, Mascaro Center for Sustainability, Swanson School of Engineering, University of Pittsburgh, and Head of School Gary Niels

Above, bottom: Robin Shoop (l), Director, Robotics Academy, National Robotics Engineering Center, and Advisory Board member James Roddey



# Fall HIGHLIGHTS



## APPLEFEST

A gorgeous day provided the perfect backdrop to WT's annual Applefest celebration. A long-standing tradition of the Parents Association, Applefest opens WT North to the entire community for a fall festival featuring apples, pumpkins, crafts, food, and fun! This year more than 600 people from the WT community and beyond attended. Highlights included a local metalsmith and potter, a spelling bee challenge, and of course hayrides. A big thank you to WT parent MaryJean Rusak for her leadership and dedication to Applefest!



## ...and...ACTION!

This fall the Middle School musical, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, based on characters created by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz in his comic strip *Peanuts* was a huge hit! The annual Upper School One Act plays featured fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm in a fast-paced, rollicking ride. Several narrators



and actors attempted to combine all 209 stories ranging from classics *Snow White*, *Cinderella*, and *Hansel and Gretel*, to the more bizarre and obscure *The Devil's Grandmother* and *The Girl without Hands*.



## Power Up WT

Fueled by the incredible increase in parent participation in the WT Fund last year, an anonymous donor has issued a new challenge for 2010-2011. For every class that reaches 100% parent participation, the donor will give an additional \$500. Last year's participation jumped to 81%, nearly doubling from the previous year. WT's goal is 100% participation this year. Find out more at: [www.winchesterthurston.org/powerup](http://www.winchesterthurston.org/powerup).



## A Hometown High Q Win

Upper School students Andrew Linzer, Nathaniel Brodsky, and Avery Feingold, WT's Hometown High Q team, defeated Butler and Fox Chapel high schools in its first round last fall, with an outstanding 635 points. Coached by Upper School math teacher David Hallas, the team goes to the semifinal round this spring. Hometown High Q airs Saturday mornings on KDKA.



## Innovation Summit

Head of School Gary Niels, City as Our Campus Director Teresa DeFlicht, and Upper School Director Mick Gee presented at the Hathaway Brown Education Innovation Summit in Cleveland, attended by more than 500 faculty and administrators from schools across the U.S.



## Technology & Civics

After placing first in the League of Women Voters Mock Election Design Challenge, WT's AP computer science students spent last summer working at the Gates-Hillman center at Carnegie Mellon University. Alongside CMU

and Pitt professors, students refined their software program; it was subsequently used in high schools around the region, including WT's Upper School, for a mock election. AP Computer Science teacher David Nassar oversaw the project.

and Canada. The presentation focused on the history and evolution of the City as Our Campus initiative, current projects designed to enhance and expand it, and specific best practices for nurturing faculty innovation, developing educational partnerships, and enhancing curricula through experiential, place-based, and participatory learning.

## PA Speaker Series

Dionne Brelsford, Director of Programs and WT parent, comments, "The WT Parents Association Speaker Series offers



**Community...Camaraderie...Commitment!**

parents a chance to come together to learn about and discuss timely topics and tips related to parenting." The annual series was open to all WT parents and the local community, and topics included "Easeful and Joyful Parenting and Partnering," "Doing Your Best...Under Stress," and "Preparing your Teen for the Start of a New School Year."



## Calcu-Solve Bears Victorious

WT took first place out of nearly 200 teams, and sixth grader Nathaniel Hull won first place individually at the recent Calcu-Solve competition, a regional math tournament for fourth through sixth graders. Calcu-Solve is a rigorous contest featuring complex mathematical word problems. Students from both the City and North Hills Campuses participated, coached by teachers Rachel Cunningham and Kathy Dunlop.



## WT Alumna and Trustee Deborah Acklin: CEO, Community Leader, and “Winchester Girl”

“At my very first board meeting,” recounts WT trustee Deb Acklin ’80, “I raised my hand and said, ‘Because I’m a Winchester girl, I feel comfortable in speaking my mind today.’” Acklin, recently appointed the first female President and Chief Executive Officer of WQED Multimedia, recalls of her WT education: “There was not a question about whether you could be a woman or girl and be a leader. You just were. Everywhere you looked were female role models for leadership.”

While at Duquesne University, Acklin interned at KDKA-TV News. She was poised to become Assistant News Director when she left to join WQED, where she rose steadily through the ranks from Executive Producer to Executive Vice President and General Manager to her current post as President and CEO. Acklin posits that the seeds of her career were planted at WT—when she was in first grade.

“Miss Zeigler (then Lower School Director Betty Zeigler)...said, ‘Today there has been a presidential election, and the school voted and we would like for you to announce the results.’ My sister Gloria still remembers hearing the crackling of the PA system as I said, ‘Good morning! This is Debbie Acklin from first grade, announcing the results of the election.’ That was probably my career start in media.

“I don’t know why they chose me,” she reflects. “But that’s what Winchester did—it presented opportunities. I was a good student, not necessarily at the top of the class, and I wasn’t someone who naturally wanted to be president of the class. But Winchester drew a lot out of me organically.”

As Acklin entered ninth grade, more leadership opportunities emerged. “I was asked to be the assistant editor of the school newspaper, *Voices*, and then the editor, and the same thing happened with *Plaid*, the literary magazine.”

Former Head of School Jane Scarborough recalls the fledgling journalist.

“My first encounter with Deb was when—as editor of *Voices*—she interviewed me in my new role as Head of School. I opined that I hoped under her leadership, *Voices* would become a platform to challenge the administration’s policies and decisions when she disagreed with them. What a mistake! Deb took that advice completely to heart—immediately taking me on over my failed attempt to change the uniform policy.”

Then, as now, educators were the backbone of WT.

“There were some really phenomenal teachers,” Acklin declares. “Janet Bebb, my fourth grade teacher, was a standout. The science teachers really got to me...Ann Hoon and Letticia Taucher. Mary Ann Yost, our Latin teacher, was wonderful. And I absolutely adored Betty Zeigler. You walked through the pillared portals every day and through the lobby to greet Miss Zeigler. You looked in her eye, shook her hand, said, ‘Good morning, Miss Zeigler,’ and dropped a little curtsy. She knew every student’s name, and she found a personal way to greet you every morning.”

Another standout: Gloria Acklin (“If I’m known for anything in this town, it’s for being Mrs. Acklin’s daughter!” she smiles). “Reading, writing, and communicating are fundamental skills I emphasize to young people looking for media career advice. Mrs. Acklin had some fundamentals. She made us diagram sentences; she was all about grammar and punctuation.”

Acklin recalls other hallmarks of a WT education: “Getting up in front of the class to talk...was a daily occurrence. Mrs. Brownlee had us do oral term papers our senior year. She forced the discipline of being able to stand up, think on your feet, and present. Talk about the qualities leaders need!”

Acklin’s insight, intelligence, and creativity were quickly tapped when she joined the Board of Trustees last year. She sits on several committees, participates in oversight of the school’s Advisory Board process, and recently stepped into a brand new role as Chair of the 125th anniversary celebration to take place next year. Preserving the culture that so challenged and stimulated her as a student is one of her priorities as trustee.

“Deb has been a wonderful addition to our board,” says Head of School Gary Niels. “She brings a warm personality, significant leadership experience in the non-profit arena, and great connection to the Pittsburgh community. Perhaps most important is her passion for her alma mater.

“I was delighted when Deb agreed to chair our 125th Anniversary Celebration. She will not only bring us leadership, but also her creative and thoughtful flair, which has served her so well in her impressive filmmaking background.”

“When you think about what the school was founded to do 125 years ago, it was radical!” Acklin exclaims. “Winchester girls were not just studying the social graces. They were studying chemistry and mathematics. Winchester has always been ahead of its time, and I want to keep it ahead of its time.”



# GEOCACHING

## A High-Tech Treasure Hunt in Colonial Williamsburg

**S**turdy shoes, notebooks, and pencils weren't the only things seventh graders took to Colonial Williamsburg in October. They also packed a healthy dose of high technology in the form of handheld Global Positioning System, or GPS, devices. The purpose? Geocaching—an engaging, collaborative, problem solving learning activity that merges technology with other disciplines, extends students' ability to use technology as a learning strategy, and develops mapping skills, higher order thinking skills, team skills, geographical knowledge, and more.

"It was like walking through a social studies textbook with a scientific guide," said one student of the experience.

GPS is the newest addition to Educational Technology Coordinator Dave Piemme's technology toolbox. He explains that, increasingly, WT's approach to educational technology is integration of technology tools into academic disciplines, such as math, science, and social studies.

### Waymarking in Williamsburg

Geocaching is a sort of high-tech treasure hunt. Seekers utilize hand-held GPS devices with coordinates programmed into them to locate caches—items tucked into waterproof containers, then hidden. Currently, there are caches hidden on all seven continents and in more than 100 countries. Participants leave notes for fellow geocachers on websites, or in notebooks stashed with the cache. They may remove cache items, replacing them with others. Sometimes, discovering the location is the treasure—and then it's called waymarking, which is how the Class of 2016 toured Jamestown and Colonial Williamsburg.

Piemme and Middle School Science teacher Peter Frischmann, who led the expedition, pre-programmed the units with longitudes and latitudes of historic sites. In Jamestown, students navigated from their starting point, a church, to the statue of explorer John Smith, and finally to a monument for Jamestown's 300th anniversary. In Williamsburg, students navigated several sites including the Capitol, the Governor's Palace, the Wythe



House, and Bruton Parish Church while gleaning information for multiple projects along the way.

"In the future," says Frischmann, "I can see giving students GPS units with questions posed about the locations they will visit, and setting them out on a GPS scavenger hunt. I can also see integrating GPS into the science curriculum, possibly with some water quality measurement devices."

### Geocaching on Campus and Off

Piemme wants students in every division to geocache, and is currently developing another expedition for Lower School students at North. "We'll get a box, put in toys, a log book, and a trackable 'travel bug.' I'll hide the geocache, and students can log on to the geocaching site and follow the bug's progress on a map, calculating distance and learning geography."

Recently, Middle School students geocached in North Park. "There are dozens of caches there," says Piemme. "We found some, and hid one of our own. We're looking forward to tracking it through the winter."

Last summer, Piemme introduced geocaching to teachers, who discovered nearby caches and located a little-known historic street near WT. "You're not just searching for a treasure," notes Piemme. "You might be solving a puzzle, or learning about historic sites." Best of all, he says, is when technology blends seamlessly with curriculum.

"During one of my classes at WT North, we went outside to geocache. One of the second graders asked, 'Are we going to use computers today?'" Piemme smiles. "It was the perfect opportunity for me to tell him, 'We just did.'"







## A RETROSPECTIVE

# *Plaid*

## THE FIRST 55 YEARS

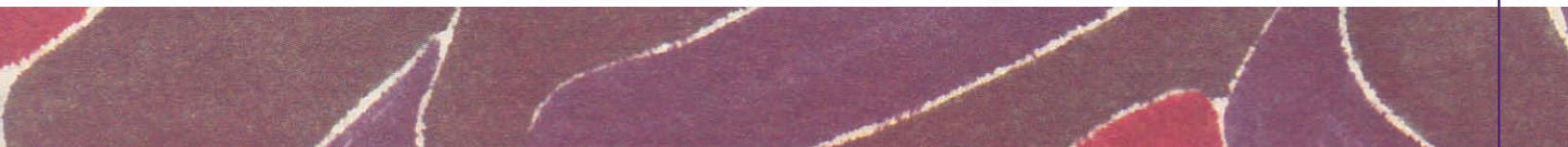
While *Plaid* has evolved over the past 55 years, the core remains: dedicated, passionate teachers who encourage students to pursue their creativity, and student leaders who work tirelessly to transform a disparate collection of individual contributions into a cohesive work of art.

The first issue of WT's literary magazine, *The Plaid* (so named in deference to the school's Scottish founders), appeared during the 1954-1955 school year. A modest publication featuring student poems, short stories, and essays,

compiled on a typewriter and stapled into a booklet, *The Plaid* was the result of countless hours of student labor guided and inspired by faculty member Hazel Shupp, who taught Upper School English. Then student-editor Fran Hubel '55 fondly remembers Mrs. Shupp: "She had a true passion for writing and pushed all of us to be our best. She was a wonderful teacher who I've never forgotten."







Since its inception, *The Plaid*—or *Plaid*, as it is now known—has been a student-driven project that follows a traditional literary magazine format, showcasing works of art, poetry, and prose. Student editors are in charge of all the editorial and graphics decision-making. All WT students are encouraged to submit their works of writing and art, and the editorial staff selects works for publication.

As computer technology has advanced, *Plaid* has not only withstood the test of time, but also expanded the boundaries of what a student-run publication could be. Today's *Plaid* not only features student writing, but also artwork and photography, and students have learned more about page layout and graphic design as they build each issue using powerful software tools.

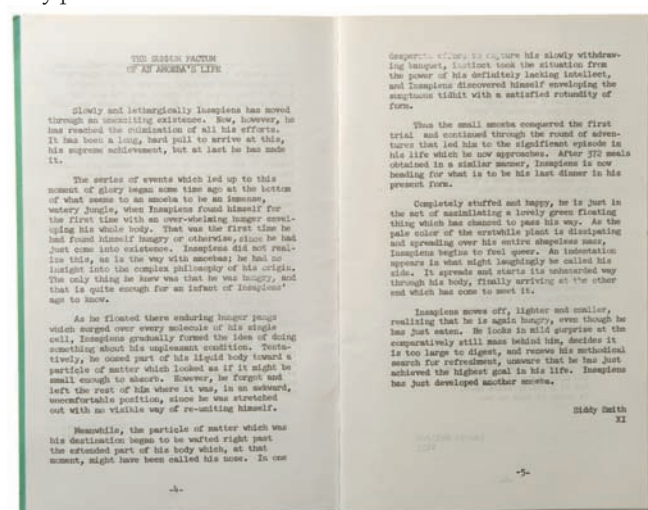
*Plaid's* current faculty advisor and English Department Chair Jill Kazmierczak comments, "From the start, the writing and art have been edgy and innovative and thoughtful. It's a wonderful tradition for WT to have captured this school's rich and enduring creative bent in this publication." Last year's *Plaid*, Phi/Fie 2010, marked the publication's 53rd issue, and it earned first place nationally from American Scholastic Press Association, and three national awards from Columbia Scholastic Press Association: second place for cover design, credible mention honor for page design, and second place for essay writing, to senior Themba Searles for "Breaking the Color Barrier," *Plaid's* first writing award at the national level.

The publication has also received awards and recognition from Columbia Scholastic Press Association, American Scholastic Press Association, and the National Council of Teachers of English in past years.

In addition to top notch writing and art pieces, students have contributed a computer program, an interview with a professional poet, and a musical score. Kazmierczak says, "We have a range of talents and interests here at WT; we want *Plaid* to reflect that variety."

After a year of work, *Plaid* is finally unveiled and distributed to the WT community every spring. On *Plaid's* distribution day, students, faculty, and administrators can be found in all corners of the Upper School, poring over the work.

The inaugural issue was dedicated as a "means of stimulating enthusiasm in writing." One could confidently say that *Plaid* has energized hundreds of students over the years to pursue their passions. As Hubel reflects, "I've done a lot of things in my life but nothing has sustained as long as *Plaid*, and I am very proud of that."





wt today

# Lower School Science Days: A Living Laboratory



It's a sure-fire formula for scientific stimulation: take WT's idyllic North Hills Campus with its spring-fed pond, wildlife, woodlands, and nature trails. Add inquisitive students; mix in passionate educators. The result? Lower School Science Days, a living laboratory inspiring students to observe, explore, investigate, probe, question, and marvel.

"The primary goals of Science Days are to support and enhance the curriculum, including science, art, and social studies; to immerse the children in North's seven-acre nature classroom; and to foster a sense of community between both campuses," says Heather Capezzuti, North Hills Campus science teacher.

Science Days revolve through the seasons, enthraling students with the delights of scientific discovery and experiential learning, from digging for earthworms to mapping the solar system.

## A Second Grade First

New this year: the "Un-nature Walk," developed by world renowned environmentalist, educator, and author Joseph Cornell during his 2009 visit to WT North.

"Second graders explored a nature trail in a wooded section beside the pond," says Capezzuti. "They looked for pre-planted unnatural objects of various sizes, colors, and shapes...a button, a mirror, an artificial snake. Some were camouflaged, and all were positioned differently: high, low, on the path, and off. At first, not many items were discovered, but as we retraced our steps, students sharpened their observation skills and, having honed those skills, found more objects."

"Students learned that different people make different observations," adds Brittainy Hambelton, City Campus Lower School science teacher, "and that the way we approach—our angle—can affect our observations."

## Cultivating Collaboration

Opportunities for cross-curricular teaching and interdisciplinary learning abound. "Fourth graders create a map of North's Pond to strengthen their mapping skills in social studies," notes Capezzuti. "Third graders study artist and environmentalist Andy Goldsworthy, and build natural sculptures inspired by his work."

The pond offers countless themes for investigation, including pond life, pond seasons, pond food chains, food webs, and evaluating pond health.

"Fifth graders study watersheds and assess water quality, both biological and chemical," explains Kristen Hannan, City Campus Lower and Middle School Science teacher. "Students examine plankton, identify organisms, and conduct water quality testing including analyses of dissolved oxygen, nitrates, phosphates, pH, and turbidity."

Research continues at Hartwood Acres with a macro invertebrate stream study, and extends well past Science Days with a May trip to the Mountain Institute in Spruce Knob, West Virginia. There, students conduct the same tests, enabling them to compare water quality at the Mountain Institute with that of WT North.

"I cherish the 'ooohs and aaaahs' I hear when discoveries are made," smiles Capezzuti. "I also feel a great deal of satisfaction seeing children enjoy and appreciate nature."



# Fall SPORTS ROUNDUP

## Soccer Makes History

For the first time in WT history, Upper School Boys Varsity Soccer made the WPIAL Playoffs. The team secured their position with a 2-0 win over Trinity, finishing with a regular season record of 9-6-1. The



team battled against Springdale High School in the first round of playoffs and fell to a 3-1 loss. Senior David Curtis made the All-WPIAL team and, along with senior Ben Steiner, the WPIAL all section team. The team is coached by Adam Brownold, David Piemme, and Nikhil Singh '06.

## Girls Tennis Threepeats WPIAL Finals Berth

With a regular season record of 7-5, the Girls Varsity Tennis team qualified for the WPIAL Playoffs for their third consecutive year. Having defeated Keystone Oaks in the first round, they faced off against Sewickley Academy and after a hard fought battle fell to Sewickley. The team was led by returning coach Leslie Leopold.



## Middle School Bears Roar

With record numbers for participation, Middle School Soccer was split into three teams, divided by grade. They defeated Sewickley Academy, Shadyside Academy, Falk, Community Day School, and St. Edmund's Academy. The squads were coached by Jeff Cronauer, Courtney Rovnan, Sammy Heckerman, and Brad Davidson. Field Hockey posted a record of 6-2-3, defeating North Allegheny, Sewickley Academy, St. Edmund's Academy, and the Greensburg YWCA under returning coaches Ashley Lemmon '01 and Brenda Carnahan. With a strong turnout, Boys Cross Country placed first at the Falk Invitational, led by coaches Bruce Frey and Travis Bui.

## Field Hockey Building Team

The Girls Varsity Field Hockey team had a rebuilding year, with a strong group of freshmen stepping up to the plate this season. Junior Emily Onorato was nominated to the WPIAL All-Star team. The team is led by returning coaches Sarah Faulx, Megan Longacre, and Bill Fitch.



## WPIAL Coach of the Year

Head Soccer Coach Adam Brownold was named WPIAL Coach of the Year. Coach of the Year is determined by a nomination process, whereby all

coaches in the section nominate a coach. This season marked Brownold's eighth year coaching the team, and by far the best year yet. According to senior starter Reed Frischman, "Brownold is the type of coach who is determined to take his team beyond all expectations and continue on as far as possible. As a senior, it is an indescribable feeling being a part of the first team in school history to make WPIAL playoffs." Brownold is also a WT Middle School Social Studies teacher and assistant coach for the Boys Varsity Lacrosse team.

## Cross Country Strong

WT's Boys Varsity Cross Country team finished with a strong record of 4-1-1, while the girls team posted a record of 2-5. Both teams had school record setting seasons in the WPIAL rankings with the boys placing ninth out of 40 and the girls earning the 28th spot out of 40. The team was coached by veteran coach Bruce Frey and assistant coach Travis Bui.

## Rowers Medal

Congratulations to WT Rowers who participated in the 24th annual Head of the Ohio race on October 9. One of the largest fall regattas in the country, it features more than 2,000 participants. WT boats took home one silver and three bronze metals. WT Crew is coached by Dori Tompa and Lucy Tuttle-Smith of Steel City Rowing Club in Verona.



# Faculty NEWS



*Left to right, Middle School teachers Amanda Greenwald, Lisa Allswede, Kathryn Gaertner, and Mary Martin '88*

## **Making History: Middle School Faculty Present at National Conference**

In November, Middle School teachers Amanda Greenwald, Mary Martin '88, Kathryn Gaertner, and Lisa Allswede presented at the National Council for Social Studies in Colorado. Their presentation, titled "1+1+1+1: Listening to Multiple Voices through a Genocide Museum," was an overview of their cross-curricular project about the Holocaust, which the eighth grade students brainstorm, develop, and share with WT and outside community.

Greenwald commented, "It was a great experience to share what we do at WT with a national audience. Our audience was extremely receptive and had many questions on how they could implement a project like this in their schools. The four of us learned very quickly how lucky we are to have the time, flexibility, availability of space, and cooperative spirit among faculty members to conduct such a truly interdisciplinary project."

Director of Middle School Holly Hatcher-Frazier notes, "Having the opportunity to present at a national conference speaks volumes about the quality of instruction as well as the rigorous curriculum found within a school. This leadership experience reflects the vision and strength of this incredible eighth grade team of faculty who exemplify creativity, wisdom, and pedagogical best practices. I am thrilled that others in the country had a chance to see what our students experience every day in the WT Middle School. I am very proud of them."





## Alumna Returns as New Director of Annual Giving

**J**ennifer Deklewa Gabler '94 recently rejoined the WT community as the Director of Annual Giving. Gabler is a government affairs and fundraising professional with experience in both the corporate and not-for-profit sectors. Most recently, she was the Director of Government Affairs and Annual Giving Coordinator at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Prior to that, she was a Vice President of Corporate Affairs at BNY Mellon where she focused on government relations and political fundraising.

"Returning to WT as the Director of Annual Giving provides me the opportunity to give back to a very special school that challenged my mind and allowed me to question and appreciate the world around me," says Gabler. "Students at WT are held to a very high standard by faculty and classmates. This drive for excellence in the classroom, coupled with an impressively rigorous curriculum, prepared me to succeed in college, law school, and my career. The school's credo, 'Think also of the comfort and the rights of others,' has guided me in all areas of my life and work. I am proud to call WT my alma mater and look forward to working with the entire WT community to ensure the continued financial health of the school through a strong WT Fund."

Gabler studied comparative religion and archaeology at Smith College. She later received her J.D. from the Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law. She lives in Shadyside with her husband, son, and black lab.



## Alumna and Teacher Curates August Wilson Center Installation

**M**iddle School Visual Arts teacher Mary Martin '88 was one of the curators for *In My Father's House*, a mixed-media exhibition at the August Wilson Center, Downtown. Years in the making, this moving installation is designed as five rooms in a house and tells the story of a fictional African American Pittsburgh family, each room highlighting a

distinct approach to preserving and displaying the art and material culture of people of African descent. The exhibit runs through July 2011.

Martin also attended two book-making courses last summer at the Society for Contemporary Craft in Pittsburgh's Strip District. Classes were taught by renowned artists such as Pam Sussman from Chicago. Martin says, "I learned about 10 new book-making techniques that I can now teach to my students. In addition to book techniques, we learned to make several interesting objects using paper, found objects, and wood." Martin incorporated her newly learned techniques into the eighth grade's Holocaust project in which students create their own journals that pay tribute to someone who experienced the Holocaust.



## A Novel Approach: Mary Houston Griffin Award

**C**onnie Martin, North Hills Campus third grade teacher, is the recipient of the 2010-2011 Mary Houston Griffin Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award, provided through the generosity of Mary Houston Griffin W'21, an alumna and one time faculty member, is presented each year to a teacher who actively seeks educational opportunities that will enhance his or her work and sustain the mission of the school. Martin received the award to fund the expansion of her children's novel about Pittsburgh, *A Fork, a Pot, and a Plate of Pierogies*, which she and other third grade faculty have used to teach the history of the region.



## Building Pride, Building Character

**L**ower School teachers Rachel Cunningham, Courtney Rovnan, Amy Skelly, and Lori Swensson took part in Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation's, "Building Pride, Building Character" program.

The program is a tour of Pittsburgh which examines events and places from the 1700s to the present. Third grade teacher Skelly commented, "It directly ties into the third grade unit of study on Pittsburgh. I plan on developing a separate unit on the bridges and how we are known to be the 'city of bridges.' I hope to incorporate the knowledge I gained from this program to make our study of Pittsburgh more unique and authentic. This is truly City as Our Campus."

## An Interdisciplinary AP Workshop

**M**athematics Department Chair and faculty member Stephen Miller attended an interdisciplinary workshop at the TCU AP Summer Institute, "Statistics, Environmental Science, Human Geography," in Taos, New Mexico. It provided a forum for experienced AP Environmental Science, AP Human Geography, and AP Statistics instructors to investigate the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of these courses while pursuing a variety of field opportunities in Taos. Miller was able to develop ideas for activities to incorporate into his AP Statistics course and, he adds, "I've gained a much greater appreciation of environmental science and human geography."



## Harvard Educational Experiences

**C**ity Campus third grade teacher Karen Gaul attended "Connecting the Mind, Brain and Education" at Harvard's School of Education last summer. The program provided attendees with a firm understanding of the links between cognitive science, neuroscience, and educational practice. Middle School teachers Denise Pollack and Kira Senedak participated in a conference, "Educating for Today and Tomorrow," as part of Harvard University's Project Zero classroom. The conference, in Washington, D.C., focused on ways to help develop students' thinking skills, habits of the mind, and global understanding. Presenters included Project Zero researchers as well as staff from the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution.



## Play Academy Is Her Work

**N**orth Hills Campus Pre-Kindergarten teacher Marie Forst is one of a dozen early childhood professionals in the Pittsburgh area who have formed the Play Academy. They are studying the importance of play in the development of children's social, emotional, and academic growth. The Academy consists of more than 42 hours of professional development over seven months. The group is looking at ways to educate the community about the importance of play. The Play Academy offers professional development seminars on play within the themes of creativity, leadership, advocacy, facilitation, mentoring, and technology.



## WT on the Road in Chicago

**O**n October 24, 2010, alumnae/i and friends visited with Gary Niels and Gaylen Westfall at a lively Sunday evening reception at The Gage in downtown Chicago. Attending were Tina Desai '84 and her sister Suzie Desai A'91; Susan Morrow '84 and her friend Jeff; Katie Maser '99; Noah Gale '09; Mike Roth '02; Linda White Alschuler, mother of Kathryn White Hawkins '99 and Ryan White A'07; and Steven Tracy '05 and his father J Tracy.



*L to r, Susan Morrow '84, Jeff Strauss, Katie Maser '99, and Tina Desai '84*



*Steven Tracy '05 (l) and Mike Roth '02*



*Suzie Desai A '91 (l), Gary Niels, and Linda White Alschuler*

## SmartGifts 2010

Led by Meg Henne '91 and her family's business, Henne Jewelers, 22 retail merchants in the heart of Shadyside banded together to support financial aid at Winchester Thurston School with SmartGifts 2010, a special promotion to the WT community providing discounts and donations during the week before Thanksgiving.

Winchester Thurston extends a warm thank you to each of the participating companies (listed at right) for their generosity.



 **Winchester Thurston School**  
**smartgifts2010**  
Your holiday shopping in Shadyside supports financial aid for WT scholars

Henne Jewelers  
The Picket Fence  
Cheeks  
Glassworks  
Penhollows  
THE tiny DOT  
Hip'tique  
Caesar's Designs  
Roberta Weissburg Leathers  
Maser Galleries  
Eureka! Chocolate & Gifts  
e.b. Pepper  
dina ellen  
Prantl's  
Tennis Village  
Girasole  
Footloose  
Tournesol  
La Niche Jewelers  
Glam Salon  
Four Winds Gallery  
Pizzutti Restaurant

# ReUNION 2010

**More than 150 alumnae/i, guests, and family members attended two days of activities. Spanning more than 65 years, alums representing classes from 1939 through 2005 visited classrooms, attended a luncheon honoring the Class of 1960, reminisced at the festive annual cocktail party, and competed in lively field hockey and basketball matches with current students.**

Special thanks go out to class leaders who helped tremendously in organizing their respective classes:

Jane Blattner Kreimer '40  
Elizabeth Hackett Huffine '60  
(chaired the 50th year  
reunion committee)  
Carolyn Slease Frahm '65  
Sharon Simon Dunlap '70  
Michelle Lally '75  
Deborah Acklin '80  
Anna Bamonte Torrance '80  
Jodi Greenwald Golomb '85  
Lissa Guttman '90  
Christie Schroth '95



*Suzanne Dressler Kellar '55, Lois Kaplan Finkel '39, June Hahn Whitehill-Dukehart '40, Marjie Baer Allon '40, and Jane Blattner Kreimer '40*



*Kathleen Metinko '91, Alexandra Rose Kniffen, and Jan Kniffen*



*Class of 1960: Alison Pedicord Schleifer, Betsy Hackett Huffine, Bebe Dorrance Marchal, Donne Erving Holden, Sue Hopkins Martin, Beverly Diebold Green, Nancy Beyerl Miller, Bobbie Gott Smith, and Chris Hoffman Hirshberg*



*Elizabeth Leggett Black '45 and Douglas Black*





*Class of 1965: Louise Geer Herman, Claudine Cmarada Schneider, Mary Sturm Albright, Marsha Powell Cable, and Carolyn Slease Frahm*



*Class of 1970: Patti Pyle Rees, Sharon Simon Dunlap, Jane Appleyard Roel, Susan Crump Hammond, Leslie Gross Huff, Linda Thiessen Bankson, Mary Navarro, Sally Weigler Golden, Meg Hall Dooley, Suzy Reed Gilbert, and Missy Armstrong Fallon*



*Class of 1980: Anna Bamonte Torrance, Pam Shugerman, Deb Acklin, Diane Blumstein, Kim Rau, Pam Levy Cohn, and Susan Evashavik*



*Pam Shugerman '80*



*Game for basketball: (front row) Mary Torrance, Alan Torrance, James Counihan '15, Gali Isaacson '16; (back row) Elizabeth Baker Keffer '80, Anna Bamonte Torrance '80, Andrew Santelli '00, Kevin Miller, and Gabe Isaacson '12*



*Class of 1985: Julie Tarasevich Dever, Jodi Greenwald Golomb, Amy Goldstein Jaffe, Alison Guy Persichetti, Mara Rizzo McClain, Toni Brock, and Gabrielle Geier*



*Field hockey enthusiasts, past and present*



*Allison Engelhart Spielman '95 and Angela Ross '95*



*Class of 1990: Lynn Bechtold, Amy Katz Leaman, Marcy Medina, Jessica McMichael Ortiz, Marla McDaniel, Sabrina Moscatiello, Lissa Guttman, Rachel Graves, Jocelyn Shoup, Mandy Marcu, Amy Matlack Hamarman, Darcy Katzin, and Teresa O'Reilly Anthonen*



*Teresa O'Reilly Anthonen '90, Mme. Guentner, and Sabrina Moscatiello '90*



*Class of 1995: Allison Engelhart Spielman, Angela Ross, Christie Schroth, and Lauren Ames*

## Lida B. Johnston Excellence in Latin Award

### Established by Winchester Thurston Alumna



Gerda Rice Whitman '47

Through the generosity of Gerda Rice Whitman '47, a fund will be created within Winchester Thurston's endowment to award an annual prize to a student who demonstrates excellence in Latin. The prize is named for Winchester Thurston faculty member Lida Brown Johnston, who taught Latin and history at Winchester Thurston in the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's. Johnston was a 1909 graduate of Vassar College.

Johnston influenced her students to study, appreciate, and develop a passion for Latin. Whitman, a student of Johnston, was so inspired by her Latin courses and teacher that she chose to major in Latin at Vassar College. On a recent tour of the Upper School, Whitman said, "I enjoyed my academic work at Winchester Thurston and believe that it is wonderful that today's high school students can study Latin, which provides a solid foundation for other languages, science, literature, and education in general."

The prize will be known as the Lida B. Johnston Excellence in Latin Award and will be awarded annually to an outstanding Latin student who demonstrates a high level of achievement in Latin, and a passion for the study of Latin. The recipient will be selected by members of the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

## Support quality education. Join the Miss Mitchell Society today.

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.

## Members of the Miss Mitchell Society

Marybert Englert Allen '40\*  
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\*  
Robert I. Glimcher  
Ethel C. Goodreds '22\*  
Edna Rieck Graham T'11\*

Mary Houston Griffin W'21\*  
Jeanne Logan Hardie '34\*  
Rosanne Isay Harrison '56  
Jean Murray Johnson '27\*  
Lida B. Johnston\*  
Eugene S. Kerber, Jr.  
James Craighead Kuhn\*  
Lucille Showalter Leggett '11\*  
Louise Baldrige Lytle '51  
Jocelyn Hulme MacConnell '43  
Carole Oswald Markus '57  
Gertrude Dally Massie W'18\*  
Marga Matheny '64  
Patricia Maykuth '69  
Anne Forncrook McCloskey '45\*  
Beverlee Simboli McFadden '55  
Edith Allerton Miller\*  
Mrs. Frances P. Minno  
Dr. Alexander M. Minno\*  
Frances Alter Mitchell '30\*  
Judy Apt Nathenson '69\*

Jane Bortman Porter '43\*  
Henry Posner III  
Jane Dunn Prejean '36\*  
Eleanor M. Reilly,  
Honorary Alumna\*  
Alan D. Riester\*  
Susan Crippe Santa-Cruz '60  
Jennifer M. Scanlon  
Dorothy Dodworth Scullin '47  
Dr. Richard E. Sigler  
Bonnie Solomon '48\*  
Marianna Epstein 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 '16\*  
Gaylen Westfall  
Carol Spear Williams '57  
Norma Weis Wilner '40\*

\*Deceased



For more information, contact Gaylen Westfall, Director of Development and Alumnae/i Relations,  
at (412) 578-7530 or [westfallg@winchesterthurston.org](mailto:westfallg@winchesterthurston.org).



# Reaching across Borders, Reaching back to WT



Tanzanian students hold up photos of their WT sixth grade buddies.

**"Our generation holds the power to create a future where people across the globe share equal access to opportunities. Will you take the initiative and be an active member of this generation?" Bricks + Books Foundation, cofounded by WT alumna Jessica Schwartz '06, poses this compelling question.**

In 2007, Schwartz, then a student at The George Washington University, took a service trip to Tanzania. She was surprised and motivated by the conditions. Tanzania's unique combination of a peaceful culture and belief in education made it a perfect place to invest in helping to better the lives of children, she thought. Primary schooling is mandatory in Tanzania; however, the conditions are sub-par. On average, seven to 10 children share one textbook and desk, and the school buildings are in poor condition with leaky roofs, dirt floors, no bathrooms, no electricity, and few supplies. Yet the students' thirst for knowledge is great. Schwartz says, "The children never complain because they know that school is their only way out of a life of poverty."

Inspired by her trip, Schwartz formed Bricks + Books Foundation along with family and friends. The non-profit organization works to support basic infrastructure improvements and to create better learning environments in schools. Since its inception Bricks + Books has been responsible for the construction of one school and is working in collaboration with three other public schools.

Schwartz's networking to build the foundation brought her back to WT, where she hoped to inspire students to become involved. She found a receptive audience in the Middle School, whose Leadership Academy meshes perfectly with Schwartz's passion for service.

"While at WT, I was given the opportunity to learn and experience service projects hands on," she recalls. "This ability helped bolster my interest in giving back, and once I entered college, it took off from

there. I believe a quality education is a universal right and I am determined to help those living in developing countries gain that right."

The Leadership Academy challenges Middle School students to work with a vision of shared leadership and the belief that each student contributes an element of leadership in his or her own way. Each grade chooses an organization or cause about which they are passionate, and the students develop a year-long project, which they create, organize, develop, and execute. Bricks + Books has become the sixth grade leadership project for this school year.

Schwartz visited the sixth grade at the beginning of the year. She spoke to them about life in Tanzania, and shared photos of the villages, schools, and the students. She made an immediate impression on the students, who began to envision how they could help.

One WT student commented, "Ms. Schwartz told us that even though the schools in Tanzania are very crowded and the students have to share everything, the children never complain. I hope that we can make their schools better for them with more books, notebooks, and better buildings so that they can learn more. I know that we are going to learn a lot from them, too."

Schwartz says, "By opening a dialogue between WT students and Tanzanian students, I hope to inspire all those involved, and to give the WT sixth graders the tools to change the world through writing and exchanging ideas." The first step was for each WT sixth grader to be assigned a Tanzanian buddy, complete with a photo and letter from their pen pal. In addition to the pen pal relationships, students brainstormed on what they could do to make an impact in Tanzania. They reached the conclusion that the areas of greatest need are supplies—books, pencils, backpacks, and notebooks—and funds to help support the building and renovation initiatives spearheaded by Bricks + Books Foundation.

Students have found creative ways to collect donations, reaching out to local businesses such as Radio Shack and Best Buy, as well as WT families, for donations of cameras, video cameras, and portable CD players.

Sixth grade advisor David Piemme comments, "The students want to hear the voices of their Tanzanian buddies and want to share cultural pieces like music and audio books with them. They are not only finding unique ways to provide the technology necessary to make these things happen, but are also really thinking outside the box in regards to how they communicate our culture to the Tanzanian students and vice versa."

The sixth graders have learned some valuable lessons along the way. Due to the remote location of the school in Tanzania, students have written letters to the U.S. Government, shipping companies, and Ambassadors to Tanzania in an effort to guarantee that their donations will in fact reach the school. Piemme adds, "It has been amazing to watch the students take ownership of this relationship to guarantee that it's a successful one."

Thus far the greatest impact may have been in the act that required the least amount of effort, "It's hard to express in words what the letters mean to the students" says Schwartz. "Many of these students live under the poverty line. While some of their parents have good jobs, the children could only dream small. These letters have changed that for them. Now they have real dreams, dreams to be teachers and doctors. To them anything is possible if they have true American friends who write them letters and care about them. I also think these letters are making the Tanzanians realize they are a world closer and are more similar than they could have imagined to their American pen pals."

# class notes

## 2008

**Matthew Arffa** writes, "I am a junior at Oberlin majoring in neuroscience and pre-med, and am preparing to take the MCATs in the spring. I am a member of the only short-form improv troupe on campus, which is called Obehave. We are working on plans to get advice from the professional Chicago-based improv group, Octavarius. Also, I am a member of the cycling club and recently rode a metric century (100 K)."

## 2006

**Don Michael Mendoza** writes, "Since graduating with my B.A. in Musical Theatre and Broadcast Journalism from American University in May, I



vacationed in the Philippines for a month to relax and became a freelance contributor to my family's

news outlet, *Kritiko News*. I have worked on three professional shows: 'The Farnsworth Invention' with Alchemy Theater, 'War&Therapy' in the Capital Fringe Festival, and 'Boxes' at the Source Theatre. I serve as the theatre coordinator for BloomBars, a center for visual and performing arts. I am pioneering this program and getting the chance to connect with administrators from theatres around DC, MD, and VA. I work at American University in the Communications Department. Next fall, I will pursue my M.A. in Political Communication at American University."

## 2003

**Malcolm Smith** moved to upstate New York and is working with the Elmira Jackals of the East Coast Hockey League. He is the Director of Community Relations/Administrative Assistant for the team.

## 2002

**David Whitney** married Courtney Lee in September 2010. The mother of the groom is WT performing arts teacher Barbara Holmes.



**Grant Berry, David Whitney '02, Courtney Lee, Brandon Kyles '03, Mike Roth '02, Lauren Whitney '99, and Barbara Holmes**

## 2001

**Gautam Ganguli** writes, "In May I resigned a job that I loved in order to pursue a different kind of work in a very different kind of place. I work for a 'non-bank financial institution' called the Liberian Enterprise Development Finance Company. This is a great opportunity for me to put to the test my theories about the usefulness of traditional business experience and management expertise for somewhat less traditional purposes."



**Barry Rabkin** married Sarah Paret A'03 on July 25, 2009. They just finished

renovating their house in Edgewood and are still enjoying close friendships with many of their old classmates.

### **Nathaniel Doyno**

returned to Pittsburgh from Philadelphia

to join Thar Energy as Manager of Business Development. Nathaniel is responsible for Thar's biofuels, geothermal, and utility cooling divisions.

**Angela Ambroz** writes, "After five years abroad, the prodigal Angela Ambroz has returned! After completing my work in Hyderabad, India, I joined the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab's Global offices at MIT as Research Manager this September. I am very happy to be back."

**Cassandra Richards** and **Emily Flechtner Wachelka** ran into each other on a train in Munich! Cassandra is in Germany to continue her doctoral study at the University of North Carolina, and Emily has been living in Munich with her husband since 2005.



## 1998

**Toby McChesney** was recently promoted to Assistant Dean of the MBA program at Georgia State University. He is the youngest dean in the history of the university.

## 1997

**Margot Smith** writes, "I am currently in my fourth year as an evening student at Temple Law School. In addition, I am working full time as a Court Crier in a civil courtroom of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, which is both educational and a lot of fun!"

### **Meridith Deluzio Pettigrew**

writes, "We welcomed another addition to our family, Bennett Henry Pettigrew, born July 27. Big sister Kayla is so excited! He is a super happy baby with great big dimples!"







**Anne Caliguiri Savoie** married New Orleans native Michael Savoie, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Georgetown in Washington, DC, on December 5, 2009, during the first snowfall of the year. **Stacey Stanczak Smith '97** participated in the wedding ceremony as a reader. After a fabulous honeymoon in St. Lucia, they packed their belongings and moved from Washington to Baton Rouge, LA, with their two boxers, Ripley and Baxter. Anne is learning how to be a Southern lady, and Michael is thrilled to be raising his family amongst LSU games. They are expecting their first child (a boy!), around their first wedding anniversary.

**Stacey Stanczak Smith** writes, "We are still in Pittsburgh and enjoying our children who are now 8, 6, 4, and 2. In October 2009 we mourned the sudden death

of my dad, Don Stanczak. We all miss him dearly but are holding on to our memories. We are glad our kids got to know him and love him. I am looking forward to seeing some dear friends from WT over the holidays and have enjoyed reconnecting with many from Facebook."

1995

**Mattie McLaughlin Schloetzer** and her husband Jason announced the birth of their son, Luke, on May 31, 2010, in Washington, DC. Proud grandparents are Sue and **Sherm McLaughlin** (honorary alumnus).

**Jodie Vanderman** writes from China, "In March 2010 I relocated to Shanghai to continue my work with DuPont. I am launching a new initiative across the Asia Pacific region designed to build marketing capability among our professionals and leaders in order to drive growth using marketing excellence. I am truly enjoying working in Asia and am traveling and exploring in my free time!"

1993

**Lisa Bennington** and her husband, Brad Korinski, Esq., are pleased to announce the birth of their "laughing-non-stop" baby, Emma Bennington Korinski, January 12, 2010. In addition, Lisa writes that she is pleased to announce the formation of her new law firm: Lieber Hammer Huber & Bennington, P.C. located on Walnut Street in Shadyside. She continues to focus her

practice on all aspects of divorce, custody, and support law. She would love to hear from other classmates!

1991

**Esther Long Ratajeski** and her husband, Kent, joyfully announce the birth of Margaret Ruth on August 4, 2010. "We all live in Lexington, KY," writes Esther.



1988

**Mary Martin** recently co-curated the first exhibition commissioned by Pittsburgh's August Wilson Center for African American Culture. The exhibit, *In My Father's House*, is comprised of a series of room-sized installations. Each room tells the story of a fictional Pittsburgh family through the objects they've collected and live with, reflecting their hopes, struggles, and triumphs.

Mary also serves as vice president of Women of Vision, Inc., a Pittsburgh-based organization that promotes the art of African American women both within and outside of Pittsburgh, and is on the Programming Advisory Board of the August Wilson Center of African American Culture.

**Annette Caplan Ruzicka**

and her husband, Matt, and five children welcomed their newest family member, Nola Grace, on June 14, 2010. Nola was 8 lbs 6 oz and just like her siblings (Liza, Emilia, Zane, Anya, and Talia) measured in at 22 inches. Annette and Matt have been traveling the country as Matt is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army and receives new orders every two years. They are awaiting their next orders and will move again in 2011.

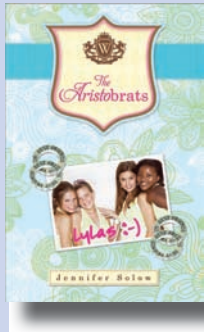
1986

**Amy Danovitz Tanen** writes, "I am still living in Washington, D.C. with my husband, Paul, and our three children: Seth, 15; Ethan, 13; and Abby, 12. I reconnected with **Megan McNeish** during my visit to Pittsburgh this summer. It was great to see her; she has not changed a bit!"

1985

**Julie Tarasevich Dever** writes, "WT is very much a part of our lives now. Our oldest daughter is a student in Ms. Evans's kindergarten class. I have volunteered to be a homeroom parent! Imagine that! It's great to be back in the WT 'fold.'"

# class notes



**Jennifer Solow '82** has launched the first of her Winchester Thurston inspired young adult novels, *The Aristobrats*. The book, loosely based on Jennifer's experience at WT, is a story about young girls and how they navigate friendship and social challenges, realizing in the end that true friendship means more than status. Well reviewed by the School Library Journal, Solow is recognized for rais-

ing questions about beauty and the under-representation of children of color without being heavy-handed. She writes in the book's acknowledgments, "To Winchester Thurston where this story was born, to Mill Valley Middle School where the blanks were filled in, and to Shady Side Academy that provided the boys when there were none."

## 1980

**Susan Vosburgh** writes, "I recently upgraded to Husband 2.0 on 10-10-10 (which as everyone knows is a perfect score on 'Dancing With The Stars'). Raul Davalos and I live in the oldest Victorian attic on the hill in Atlantic Highlands, NJ, which equals 'on the Jersey Shore' (though you can't say 'Jersey Shore' anymore because of that horrible TV show)! Now I say I live just south of Staten Island. My wedding gives me an excuse to be back in touch with **Lisa Singerman** and **Christie Scott**, my best friends at WT!"

## 1977

**Janet Marstine Polishook** has joined the School of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester in England this fall as Lecturer and Programme Director of Art Museum and Gallery Studies. Janet now lives in England with her husband and two children.

## 1974

**Holly MacIsaac Berkley** loves her private practice helping high-achieving women clear the emotional barriers to living a fulfilled personal and professional life. Clients worldwide are thrilled with the profound shifts and long-lasting results. Check her out at [www.FindYrWay.com](http://www.FindYrWay.com). Recently, she completed a 13-week pilot on VoiceAmerica.com, interviewing such luminaries as Julia Cameron (*The Artist's Way*) and Dr. Marilyn Schlitz (President/



CEO of the Institute of Noetic Science), and reaching 88,000 listeners in five countries. She welcomes contact with WT alums and can be reached through her website or Facebook.

### Annekathryn Goodman

writes, "I just spent a fascinating week in Shanghai. This is a picture of me joining Dr. Jiang in a hysterectomy at the Red House Hospital for women in Shanghai."



**Meg McKean Taylor** writes, "Still in Albany, NY, as Head of a small, Pre K- 8, independent school. My kids have all flown the coop: Hildy is in Barcelona

for the spring of her junior year at Colorado College; Greer is working for Big Sky Resort in MT doing PR and marketing; Alex is in Jackson Hole, WY, also in the marketing field. My stepchildren both live in Boston. I saw **Josie Patterson-Lynch** and **Leslie Brown** this summer in Maine!"

## 1971

### Elizabeth Champagne

writes, "I have been living in Novato, CA, for the last 16 years and have been working in the commercial real estate valuation business for over 30! My last baby, Jesse (18), just flew the nest and is attending University of California Berkeley. My older son, Justin, (22) attends Southern Oregon University.

"Does anyone remember me? My fondest memories of WT revolved around the play 'Death Takes a Holiday,' which was the 1970 senior class play. Although I was a junior at the time, I



**Class of 1975 at dinner: Seated: Randy Lyon Mayes, Michelle Lally, Cynthia Adams Lum; Standing: Kathleen Brady Blaydes, Susan Brownlee, Patricia Packer Suhody, Anne Scheuermann, Elizabeth McKenna, and Lisa Labriola Sasinoski**



worked as the stage manager on that production. Please email me to say hello at [elizabeth.champagne@cbre.com](mailto:elizabeth.champagne@cbre.com)."

1968

**Margie Balter** writes, "I was honored at the 2010 LA Music Awards in November for Motion Picture Song Placement of the Year. In addition, I had the thrill of being a presenter at this star-studded event."

1966

**M.J. Nims Valent** writes, "On a recent visit to Pittsburgh I spent a relaxing evening with **Ann Haber Schelbe** and **Marsie Berg**. We never run out of conversation! In early December I will be visiting with **Anne Eaton Woolley** in NJ. In addition to our high school bond, we also share a love of college basketball and will be going to the Duke/Butler game together. Go Blue Devils!"



**Juliet Schor '72** recently published *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth*, her latest book examining concurrent crises in economics and ecology, and offering us a way out. Clearly on the cutting edge of current thought, Schor warns us that an economy based on continuous growth and expansion at the expense of ecological degradation will lead us to further damage our planet, limit our resources, and simply be unsustainable, ecologically and economically.

This oft-published author and Professor of Sociology at Boston College proposes a new view of sustainability and prosperity based on an alternative economy and culture. Al Gore has already shown us where our current use of resources will lead. Schor not only prophesizes the trouble with our current path, she presents us with the beginnings of a solution. Previous to Boston College, she spent 17 years at Harvard University in the Department of Economics and the Committee on Degrees in Women's Studies. Her efforts to examine the gap between scientists and economists and avoid dual cultural train wrecks make for groundbreaking work.

- Abby Morrison '82



**Melissa Crump Cook '68** published a new book, *Feng Shui Fabulous: Transformational Tips for Everyday Living*. It's available at [www.fengshuifabulousbook.com](http://www.fengshuifabulousbook.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). *Feng Shui Fabulous* is a guide that anyone—with or without knowledge of feng shui—can easily understand and benefit from in their daily lives.

1965

**Carolyn Slease Frahm** writes, "We had a very small turnout for our 45th reunion, but it was great to be with Cookie, Mary, Marsha, and Louise. Hope to see more of you at the 50th!"

1961

**Nan Sachs Solow** writes, "Hi everyone from '61; hope you are all well. Donnie and I are still happily living in Pittsburgh, right down the street from dear old WT. Our daughters live in CA (Jennifer) and RI (Jordan) and we have four wonderful, rapidly growing grandchildren. We see them several times a year and love getting together.

"Here's a strange retirement story! I had taught at Fox Chapel Country Day School for 32 years and retired in the spring of 2009. For the following year, I worked part-time as a faculty mentor and provided support for the teachers. As my final year at FCCDS was coming

to a close, I was approached by the Board of Trustees to become Head of School. So here I am—68 years old and in a new job! Country Day is in my heart, so I'm so proud to be at the helm... even if it's not exactly how I envisioned my golden years!"

1960

**Beverly Diebold Green** writes, "Our reunion was awesome, and everyone was delightful. **Susan Santa-Cruz's** party Saturday evening was the highlight of the weekend, followed closely by the tour **Sue Hopkins Martin** arranged of the old school. Our alma mater is now a retirement home for Catholic priests. Currently I'm in NC visiting my son after turning my house over to ten friends from the Netherlands for their family holiday. Loved seeing everyone and missed those who could not come."

# class notes



**Class of 1960 dinner: Seated: Bebe Dorrance Marchal, Bobbie Gott Martha Smith, Susan Crip Santa-Cruz**  
**Standing: Alison Pedicord Schleifer, Sue Hopkins Martin, Beverly Diebold Green, Donne Erving Holden, Betsy Hackett Huffine, Karen Harmeier Berner**

## 1958

**Barbara Work Strohm** writes, "My husband and I have been blessed in our marriage and will celebrate our 50th in June. Wayne hopes to have a kidney transplant if he qualifies. How blessed we are to be in Pittsburgh, near great medical help. Our two children are nearby. Our daughter lives in Gibsonia with her husband and two sons. Rob lives next door to us with his wife and son who is a sophomore at Shady Side Academy. Except for Wayne's health issues, we are happy and grateful for all we have. My best to all my classmates from '58."

## 1954

**Dana Spicer McCown** writes, "This has been a year for family since my older daughter moved back to Queensland. Her oldest son went to work in Beijing, so of course we all traipsed off to visit him in July. Yes I do love

any excuse to travel! His older brother took a job in Tokyo so now nine of us are booked to fly to Tokyo in January. I have been selected as travel agent and am enjoying the challenge. In addition, I have finally found time to start weaving projects for an upcoming exhibition and now have a bathtub full of silk yarn dyeing in magical indigo."

## 1953

**Peggy Jackman Metzger** visits her family's 200-year-old home, The Old Stone House, in Fredericktown, OH, each summer. She and Gaylen Westfall toured the town, its historic sites, and had a wonderful dinner. Before returning to her home in Arizona, she toured WT and met Gary Niels.



**Peggy Jackman Metzger '53 and family members after a tour of WT**

## 1952

**Jean MacIntyre**, Professor of English emerita, University of Alberta, writes, "I was surprised and delighted to be invited to contribute to the forthcoming edition of the *Cambridge Shakespeare Encyclopedia*. This print and online edition is edited by an international team from England, United States, and Japan, and will include my entry on the court masque.

"I'm also Scholarships Convener for the Canadian Federation of University Women, Edmonton, responsible for soliciting applications and chairing the selection committee for the four graduate scholarships at the University of Alberta, which CFUW Edmonton funds and awards."

**Marion Montgomery Colbourne** writes, "I have finally gone back to a gym. It feels good and I'm already starting to see some results—more muscle definition and a somewhat flatter abdomen. I'm afraid some of it is simply age related!"



**Class of 1960 at original location of Winchester Thurston School: Beverly Diebold Green, Margaret Ingham Black, Alison Pedicord Schleifer, Sue Hopkins Martin, Betsy Hackett Huffine, and Donne Erving Holden**

## 1950

**Nena Moses Spencer** writes, "I am living in exciting Santa Barbara and still writing books and enjoying friends who drop in. I recently saw my classmate, **Gloria McCaslin Jalichandra**, who lives in Alhambra. My daughter lives in Hawaii, with whom I have a close computer connection, and I travel to Pittsburgh from time to time to see my son and friends."

**Bonnie Baird Hurwitz** writes, "I was remarried a year ago to a fine man in West Hartford, CT, so I would be delighted to hear from alums in the area. All five children are fine and I now have two stepsons. My daughter, Hannah, who lives in



San Francisco, had twins (a boy and girl) almost two years ago. My son, Kevin, had another son, so I do lots of traveling to visit grandchildren!"

## 1946

**Ellen Falk Hirsch** writes, "After 10 very nice years living in Oxford, England, I moved back to Pittsburgh to be near my youngest daughter and her family. I am now living in a purpose-built apartment within the home of my older daughter and her family, which provides a good mix of privacy and togetherness. My son also lives close by.

"While in England, I renewed a close friendship with **Carol Booth Fox '46** who made an annual visit to London to see her daughter. We traveled to France in order to keep up her French language skills. Sadly, I recently learned that Carol died on March 17, 2010, at age 82, after a courageous battle with cancer. For the last 30 years, Carol lived in Steamboat Springs, CO, where she worked as a travel agent and received the Steamboat City Council's first award for her years of volunteer service in the community."

**Jean Ayars Pohli** writes, "In early October I flew to Kentucky to see my two great-granddaughters at a special family reunion. My son's two daughters had given birth six months apart and were meeting in Kentucky for the first time. It was a three-day love fest!

"My activities include a monthly poetry group, bimonthly philosophy group, seminars, dances at Unity Church, and talks each morning with my daughter. My life is busy, fun, and interesting—not too shabby for 82! Warm regards to my classmates."

## 1943

**Winnie Schultz Carr** mourns the loss of her husband Jim, who died peacefully on November 16, after 57 years of marriage. Dr. Carr, a noted scientist and author, was an electrical engineer and research physicist at Westinghouse Electric Corp. for 44 years.

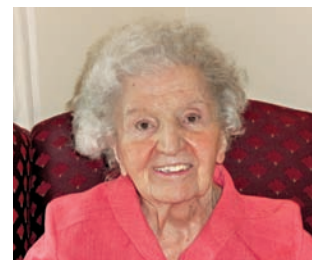
## 1941

**Britta Ericson Chambers** writes, "I had a lovely visit from **Mary Lou Richardson Brock '41** over Easter and again in May in Washington, DC. We see each other a lot considering how far apart we live."

**Ruth Weimer Tillar** writes, "I had a wonderful trip with my son Tom to Tuscany in June and will visit Amsterdam in June, 2011. I enjoyed trips to Virginia Tech and William & Mary for football games and other events this fall, in addition to DAR and hospital meetings in several VA cities. I am looking forward to a cruise to the Bahamas this January. **Marion Thompson Kerwin '42** and I have frequent telephone visits. I am always pleased to keep up with Winchester Thurston news."

## Honorary Alumnae/i

**Elizabeth Cookson** writes, "We moved in November to Texas to be near our son Simon and grandchildren. Simon was in several WT plays in the 1980s. Greetings to alumnae and staff."



**Elizabeth Bradley '33** enjoys living at the Masonic Village in Sewickley.



## Class Notes

### The Pillared Portal is now online!

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

**Carol Booth Fox '46**, March 17, 2010.

**Irene Thomas**, Honorary Alumna, May 16, 2010

**Carol Cushing Chaplin**, former Trustee, June 12, 2010

**Elizabeth Runnette Weil '41**, July 11, 2010

**Mary (Mimi) Mitchell Smith '43**, July 26, 2010

**Mary Meyer Johns '46**, July 31, 2010

**Nancy Stimmel Herpin '55**, August 17, 2010

**Lydia Miller Lutz '62**, August 23, 2010

**Jane Marcy Pritchard '46**, August 29, 2010

**Christy Armstrong McKenize '45**, September 28, 2010

**Lucy Millard**, former teacher, October 13, 2010

**Sally Guy Stone-Worsing '57**, November 26, 2010

**Jean Curran Donley '46**, December 14, 2010



## Condolences

**Anastasia (Stacey) Stanczak Smith '97** and **Ashleigh Stanczak** on the death of their father Donald Stanczak, October 12, 2009

**Elizabeth Mullaugh A '86** on the death of her mother Carol Cushing Chaplin, June 12, 2010

**Joan Frank Apt '44** on the death of her husband Jerome (Jerry) Apt, June 20, 2010. Jerry was the father of **Judy Apt Nathenson '69\***, and grandfather of **David Nathenson '97**, **Steven Nathenson '01**, **Robert Nathenson '01**, **Michael Nathenson '01**, **Sara Apt A '06**, and **Rachel Apt A '10**.

**Patricia Peters Austin '72** on the death of her father Robert N. Peters, July 5, 2010

**Alexandra Kress '89** and **Leja Kress '89** on the death of their mother Dee Kress, July 20, 2010

**Helen Clark Walker '52** on the death of her husband Hay Walker IV, July 21, 2010

**Murray Armstrong James '44** on the death of her sister **Nancy Stimmel Herpin '55**, August 17, 2010

**Beatrice Epstine Morrison '56**, **Lesla Morrison '80**, and **Abby Morrison '82** on the death of husband and father Perry E. Morrison, August 24, 2010

**Elizabeth Miller Buchanan '89** on the death of her aunt **Lydia Miller Lutz '62**, August 25, 2010

**Lois Silverblatt Crone '56**, **Linda Crone Metlay '80**, and **Susan Crone Norflus '83** on the death of husband and father Richard S. Crone, September 7, 2010.

**Gerda Rice Whitman '47** on the death of her mother Elizabeth Rice Gellman. September 12, 2010

**Marion Gibbon '82** on the death of her father Donald L. Gibbon, October 13, 2010

**Melissa Leapman '80** on the death of her mother Barbara Leapman Goldberg, October 28, 2010

**Randi Coffey '78** and **Rogan Grant '11** on the death of father and grandfather Milton Coffey, November 8, 2010

**Winifred Schultz Carr '43** on the death of her husband James W. Carr Jr. Ph.D., November 16, 2010

**Tade Stone Allen '80** on the death of her mother **Sally Guy Stone-Worsing '57**, November 26, 2010

**Pamela Donley Buongiorno '76**, **Peter Held Buongiorno '07**, and **Anne Curran Philipps '48**, on the death of mother, grandmother, and sister **Jean Curran Donley '46**, December 14, 2010

\* Deceased



# Artificial Glow

by Brendan Agnew  
Class of 2011

I'm up at the awful hours given just numbers  
No real names  
I'd feel ungrateful, looking like this, in the light  
My scraped-open eyes, flickering in artificial glow  
Each off-colored sign reading CLOSED, NO VACANCY

By 2 am the TV  
Burned out on its usual late night debauchery  
Is now, so obviously, so pathetically, struggling  
To keep my wandering attention  
Obnoxiously yelling, pitching two-bit bargain cleaning products  
Embarrassing me with shock value, sex and cheap-shot cinema  
It's no time for politeness  
I give the screen one blank stare  
Before clumsy, tired fingers  
Punch impatiently at the power button, rudely  
Stepping out of my conversation with late night  
Funny, how both of us will wake up to Saturday morning cartoons  
And make up

Even CDs just don't have the patience  
Constant spinning, spinning, spinning  
Self-inflicting dents, nicks, scratches  
So, they only hope, they can roll over  
And get the rest we both dream about  
Maybe it's the irritating racket  
Or the lack of the one I'm used to  
Of a pencil, busily not scratching at a sheet of scratch paper  
Maybe the occasional, distant rumbling  
Of a cell phone, not vibrating from an incoming call on my desk  
Hours spent, drafting letters I could be writing  
To people I could be affecting  
Basking in the praise  
Of the great work I won't be doing  
I sit, at the edge of my bed, read my Hughes  
And wonder  
What's happening to all the nightmares I defer?

*excerpted from*

Plaid Fie  
2010 Volume LIII



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The Plaid 1986

**Ode To Buffy (From Her Dear Sister Muffy)**

It was Buffy's birthday party  
a radical sight to see  
but on that fateful evening  
Dear Buffy ceased to be.  
She was munching on her caviar  
and gazing at the moon  
when, like oh my god-bart me out  
she gagged herself with a spoon.  
he tried to save her  
Biff, he was so brave and strong,  
but to late came he to the rescue-  
he was playing ping pong.  
she finally stopped her choking  
gagging and spitting up  
She flopped across the table  
her face landing in a cup.  
So totally tubular did she look  
on the platform lying dead  
she had a lovely funeral  
-but here color definitely isn't red.

Ermo Roisman '89



**WT Looks Back on 55 Years of *Plaid***

Over the years, many talented aspiring young writers', poets', and artists' works have graced the pages of WT's literary magazine, *Plaid*. The *Plaids* pictured here are from the 1980s, and the pen-and-ink drawing seen above is by Mary Martin '88, a proud WT alum and parent, accomplished artist, and Middle School visual arts teacher.