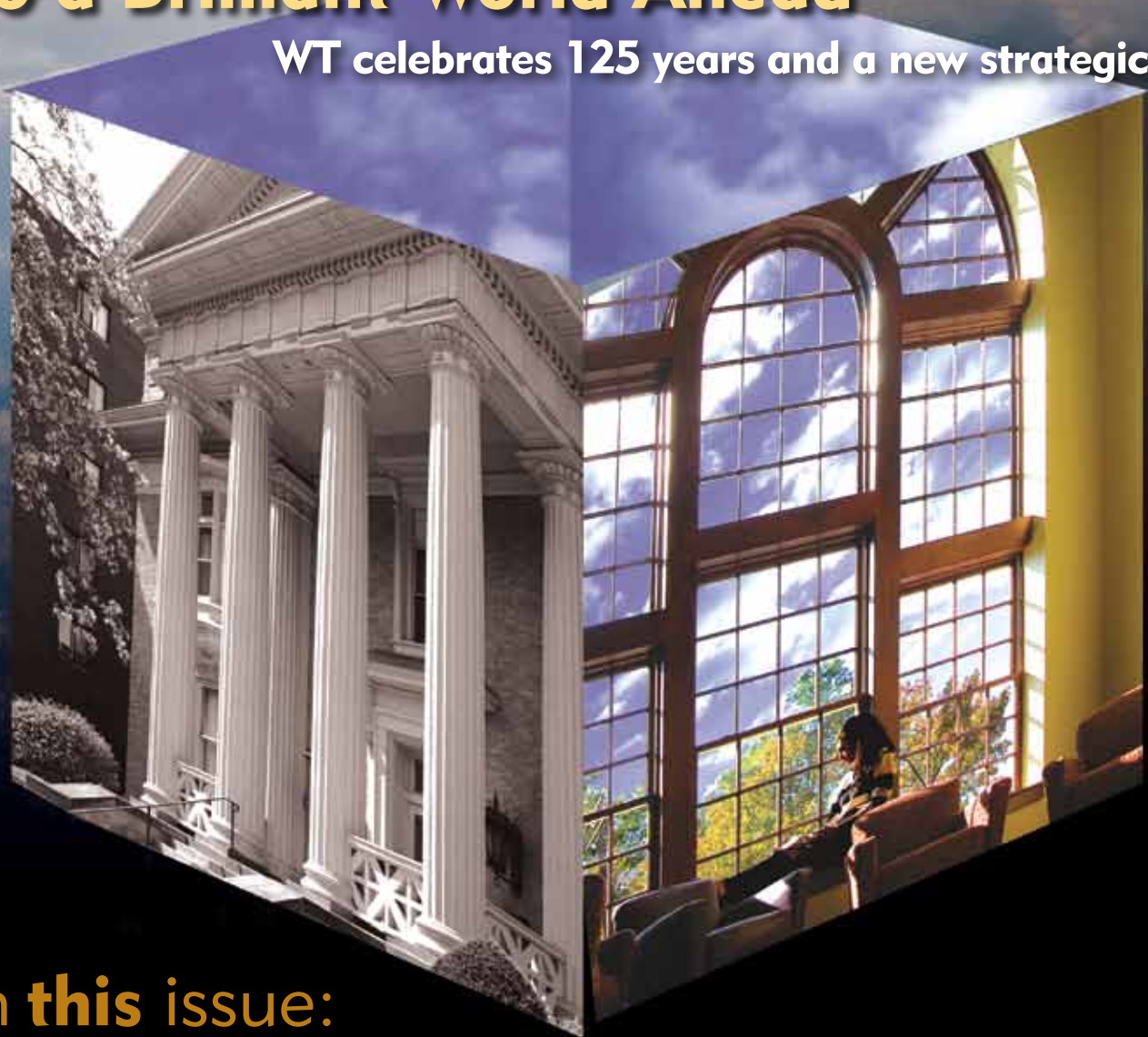




Thistle TALK

From the Pillared Portals to a Brilliant World Ahead

WT celebrates 125 years and a new strategic plan



in **this** issue:

Commencement 2011

Putnam B. McDowell Named Honorary Alumnus

Anniversary Events All Year



125th Anniversary Planning Committee

A 125th Anniversary Planning Committee of alumnae/i, trustees, parents, faculty, students, and staff, led by proud alumna trustee Deborah Acklin '80, has worked behind the scenes to prepare for this year's extra-special celebration of WT's 125th anniversary. A peek inside *ThistleTalk* (pages 18 and 19) will show you what they have in store for the WT community this year. Please join us in thanking these dedicated and creative leaders.



125th Anniversary Planning Committee:

Deborah Acklin '80, trustee and committee chair; Patrice Alexander '06, faculty; Loretta Lobes Benec '88, parent; Barbara Abney Bolger '52, trustee; Ben Chait '12; Abby Robinson Foster '03; Rosanne Isay Harrison '56, emeritus trustee; Marguerite Jarrett Marks, parent; Gary Niels; Susan Crip Santa-Cruz '60, trustee; Nancy Scott, trustee; Jason Shavers '00; Jane Arensberg Thompson '57, emeritus trustee; Maura Farrell; Sarah McMullen; Jennifer Scanlon; Gaylen Westfall.

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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

It's been some years since I've had a "big birthday" with a meaningful number (that is, ending in 0 or 5). In those years, I recall feeling a need to do something special to mark a special turning point. I also felt a sense of gratitude and the desire to reflect on what I had thus far accomplished with my life and what I wanted to do or be in my remaining years.

Winchester Thurston celebrates a "big birthday" this year. It's our 125th anniversary! This is an important moment by any school's standard, and WT's history and longevity are points of pride for me as Head of School. (Although, while attending a school heads program this summer I met a gentleman who heads a school in England that was founded in 1584. I did not brag about 1887 to him!)

In its 125-year history WT has survived some significant transitions: the merger of the Winchester School and the Thurston School prompted by the enrollment impact of the Great Depression, the transition from a proprietary school owned by Miss Mitchell, who died while still heading the school, to a non-profit, board-governed institution, and the transition to coeducation due to enrollment losses brought on by the dramatic population decline in Pittsburgh at the collapse of the steel industry.

A Special Birthday for WT

WT thrives today in large measure because of the commitment, ingenuity, and adaptability of those who came before us. We have much to celebrate in the coming year and special plans are underway to commemorate the profound contributions that WT has made in the lives of thousands of alums, parents, teachers, and trustees. (You'll find an overview of these plans on pages 18 and 19.)

Our 125th Anniversary is also a time to think ahead. As I mentioned above,

teaching excellence—in every grade, every subject, every class, and every lesson. We have begun the process of engaging our faculty in a collaborative professional development program that will take our already outstanding educational program to new heights of excellence.

It's become an overused cliché, but indeed a reality, that the world is rapidly changing and we are preparing our students for jobs that do not currently exist in an unscripted future. So, thinking beyond

"WT thrives today in large measure because of the commitment, ingenuity, and adaptability of those who came before us. We have much to celebrate in the coming year..."

throughout its history, WT has embraced the timeless qualities of ingenuity and adaptability. We ask our students to embody such qualities, so WT must manifest them as well. We've entered the most dramatic educational revolution of my lifetime. Vast new vistas of learning have opened up to students through technology. This summer I attended an education forum at Harvard's Graduate School of Education, and heard some of the most distinguished thinkers and scholars on learning challenge schools with such admonitions as, "The forms of engagement that students have outside the classroom are rich. Schools are in a race against time to meet the new young learner in their world."

As part of the strategic plan WT is launching now (see pages 8 and 9), last year, with our Board's support, I introduced the Talent Initiative (see the story on pages 10 and 11). Our goal is universal

the next three years is not only visionary, but necessary. As part of our strategic plan, the Board of Trustees is leading a process which will engage a wide cross-section of Pittsburgh leaders as well as our Advisory Board and other WT "insiders" in generative conversations. Through these conversations, WT will imaginatively consider its future beyond the three-year frame of the strategic plan.

In summary, this 125th year, WT is engaged in "big birthday" celebrations and reflections similar to those that you or I might pursue in a special year: recognizing and honoring this important year, grateful and proud to be thriving, and planning for its immediate and longer term future. I look forward to celebrating with you in 2011-2012, and to sharing the reflections and directions for WT as they continue to unfold in exciting ways.



On June 30, 2011, Henry Posner III completed four years of service as WT Board President, and 13 years as a trustee. As he transitions to a new role as emeritus trustee, he offers some reflections on the Winchester Thurston Board.

The WT Board—or, Who Are These People, Anyway?

by Henry Posner III

Having just completed four years of service as WT Board President, the timing is good for me to share some reflections with the WT community about the Board of Trustees and its role in the life of the school.

Behind the list of names that appears in each issue of this magazine and on the WT website is a cohesive and engaged team of individuals who for various reasons find education to be sufficiently important that they dedicate time and money to support the school. But make no mistake: we are a diverse Board, and Board service is not contingent on being wealthy; each trustee contributes to the WT Fund and capital campaigns based on their personal circumstances.

The role of the Board is to hire the Head of School and to make sure that the Head has the support necessary to lead and manage as effectively as possible, within the internal constraints of the school's mission, physical capacity, and financial capacity—and within the external reality of the increasingly complex and competitive landscape that is education in western Pennsylvania. We don't run the school, and we're not the complaint

department. Rather, we're a governing body with strategic and fiduciary responsibility for the future vitality of WT.

In my time on the Board, which began in 1998, I have seen WT evolve in a manner that can best be described as "continuous improvement under challenging circumstances." We hired a strong and capable leader in Gary Niels as Head of School and through the solid working relationship we established together, completed the first capital campaign the school had undertaken in more than 20 years, which built a new Upper School at the City Campus and completed the master plan for the North Hills Campus. We established an Advisory Board of regional leaders, saw the City as Our Campus initiative achieve national recognition from the Edward E. Ford Foundation, and were named a Malone Scholars school in recognition of our faculty's excellence in educating talented students and our institution's commitment to socioeconomic diversity. We completed a strategic plan—unveiled in this issue of *ThistleTalk*—that confirms excellence in teaching and support for faculty as our highest priority, and we have seen a steady increase in community recognition of the value of a WT education despite a challenging economy and the fragmentation and politics surrounding education in our community.

The Board's role in these accomplishments has not always been visible, but it has been critical. With a healthy mix of new trustees, each selected for the individual skills he or she brings to the Board, an ongoing process of strategic planning and financial discipline, and a commitment to continuous improvement, the Board has in some cases led and in other cases supported the school in its evolution. The phrase "WT Smart" is reflective of the Board—we try to work smart instead of hard, but of course wind up doing both.

Let me finish with some historical perspective as WT embarks on its 125th anniversary celebration and I turn over the helm to my successor, Doug Campbell. The most audacious and visionary event in WT's history was in 1947, when a group of alumnae arranged for purchase of the school from Miss Mitchell's estate shortly after her death. At the time, because WT was a school for girls and the charge was led by women, this

move was considered revolutionary. These women were following in the footsteps of their inspirational leader, Mary A. Graham Mitchell, to ensure that her school would carry on its mission; in so doing, they established WT's first governing board, which has overseen WT's evolution ever since. We stand on the shoulders of those who preceded us.

It can be easy to forget who Miss Mitchell was as living memory fades. For this reason, one of my personal priorities as Board President was to make sure that her portrait, which of course hangs in the Mitchell Room, is unobstructed from view.

The idea is as much that she keeps an eye on us as that we are reminded of her.

Winchester Thurston School

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commencement 2011



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Jeffrey Adam Steiner *
Maxwell Hunter Stofman
Ken S. Syme
Blake Ryder Uretsky *
Samantha Jane Wanko
Lorabelle Woolhandler
Alexandra Caron Yu
Jing Daisy Zhu

**WT Lifers, who have attended WT since Kindergarten or Pre-Kindergarten*

Faculty, parents, trustees, and friends gathered at the Twentieth Century Club on Sunday, June 5, to honor and congratulate the Class of 2011 at Winchester Thurston's 124th Commencement exercises. Joining the student speakers at the podium was Linda Lear '58, one of WT's most distinguished alumnae/i.

Seeker, Risk-Taker, Passionate Achiever: Linda Lear '58 Addresses the Class of 2011

"What Winchester Thurston taught me most was to be a seeker," says writer, biographer, and environmental historian Linda Lear, Ph.D. '58, who addressed graduates of the Class of 2011 at the 124th Commencement exercises. "[Girls] weren't expected to achieve much after high school or college in the '50s. We were expected to marry and have babies, but WT taught me that it was all right to be a little different, to find something that you loved and wanted to be passionate about."

Lear's passions took her from her hometown of Glenshaw to England's historic Lake District—and many points in between—with remarkable success, most notably as the author of two acclaimed biographies, the prize-winning *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature* and *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature*. Lear herself has been lauded as a "grand storyteller" and an "impeccable historian," and praised for her "elegant writing and exceptional scholarship."

And to think that, save for a pivotal twist of fate, she might have missed it all.

"At 16, I had decided on a life career in cheerleading," she laughs. "My parents had wanted me to go to Winchester Thurston from sixth grade, but I would have none of it. So the deal was that as long as I kept my grades up, I could remain in my small regional high school, and if things changed, we would have a discussion."

Things did change...and the outcome was a 180-degree turn in the direction of Lear's life.

Lear spent a summer at the American School in Switzerland, an experience which proved transforming. "At the end



of the summer, I wrote to my parents and said A) I want to stay for more school, and B) get me into Winchester!"

Lear entered WT as a junior; to this day she regards headmistress Mary Frances Philput with gratitude and admiration for opening the doors of WT—and a world of possibilities—to her.

"Mrs. Philput took an absolute risk on me. I could easily have flunked out [but] she saw potential. The academic load was huge, and I was way behind in language, math, and in something I never heard of except in Europe—art history. WT was a huge intellectual challenge, but I rose to it. I could never have gotten into Connecticut College (where she earned her B.A. with honors) or any of the other schools otherwise.

"I loved the teachers," she continues. "They were tough but nurturing. Martha Hubbell was an exacting, demanding teacher in French, inquisitive about history and what the life of the mind might be

about. Hazel Shupp was an extraordinary teacher of history and literature. Ruth Washburn was very intellectual, very erudite, and very glamorous. She knew the names [of paintings] in French, Italian, and German. That was mind-boggling. In the early '50s kids didn't get exposed to these kinds of things. I still have the textbook from this class, Janson's *History of Art*. It's a tome! I keep it because it's such a monument to my intellectual beginnings."

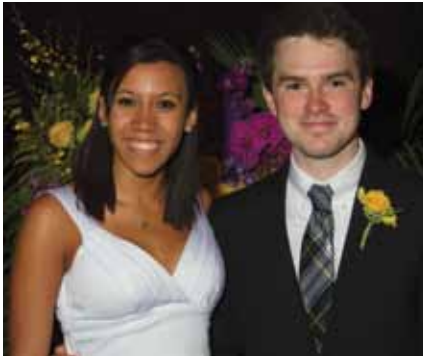
After earning her M.A. at Columbia University and her Ph.D. at The George Washington University, Lear distinguished herself in academia, serving as the first female tenure-track history professor at New Mexico State University; Assistant Director (Dean) of Experimental Programs and Adjunct Associate Professor of History at GW, where she also developed the university's first course in Environmental History and later served as Research Professor of Environmental History; and as Senior Research Scholar in history at the University of Maryland,

Baltimore County. Fellowships at Yale's Beinecke Rare Books Library and the Smithsonian Institution enabled Lear to "redefine [herself] as a full time writer" and developing a short Carson biography she'd begun writing for her students into the prize-winning *Witness for Nature*—an experience vividly illustrating the value of being true to one's passion and taking chances, things she believes are important, if not imperative.

"I'm a great advocate of finding what you love," declares Lear, "also about being open to taking a risk. When you take a risk, you're going to fail—so you have to go with the idea that failure is not the worst thing in the world."

Linda Lear knows about passion... and she knows the necessity of being equipped to pursue it.

"WT gave me a vision of what academic excellence was, and it gave me an idea of what the life of the mind might be about."



Dayna Scott and Frederick Egler, two of the 2011 Commencement student speakers.



Legacy alumnus Andrew Pearlman and his family, including parents Richard Pearlman and Mary Pearlman.



David Curtis receives his WT diploma from his mother, trustee Simin Yazgerdi Curtis.

Excerpts from Dr. Lear's Commencement Address

...“As students you are constantly being asked to choose a path which then means choosing a college, a major, a career; deciding what you want to ‘be.’ It’s all so early to even consider those choices. As a society we are in a great and terrible rush to the brink...Dare to be ‘late bloomers.’ Try different things, savor different ways of thinking and different ways of living—enrich your lives by being open to blooming in your own time and in your own way.”

...“Choose a mentor in each segment of your lives. Rely on them, and give that gift of encouragement to someone else who might be on the cusp of faltering. Be a Mentor—Give Back.”

...“But even thoughtful risk-taking carries with it the absolute certainty of failure. The only way to avoid failure is to live so cautiously—so shallowly—that you might as well not live at all: in which case you fail by default. If you are lucky, failure teaches you that life goes on. And sometimes you’ll look back on what you believed was a terrible failure only to discover it was really a turning point in your life—a fabulous opportunity to make different and even better choices.”

...“Because of WT’s caring ethic, because of the quality and the support of its superb faculty, I went on to college and several



Jonathan Holder with his mother, trustee Diane Holder.



Themba Searles (center) with his family. (Front row, l to r): Zandile Matchaba, sister Laura Jean Searles, stepmother Jennifer Christie-Searles, great aunt Shirley Jean Cutwright. (Second row, l to r): grandmother Arthur Jean Searles, mother Sharon Mohale, father and WT trustee John Christie-Searles, John White. (Rear): brother Gabe Searles A’09.

graduate schools open to the possibility of discovering what I loved; prepared to risk failure and to try again.”

...“Seeds and blooming require tending and a guiding sun. We do not walk our paths in isolation, but finding wise companions at each stage to share that walk is vital. Most successful people—be they doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs and even biographers—can point to at least one mentor who changed the course of their journey.”



Gary Niels and trustee Woody Ostrow congratulate Ostrow's daughter Molly.



Sally Loevner with her parents, India and trustee Steve.



Zoe Silberblatt with her grandparents, Al and Gloria Bodek (right), and her parents, Lori Sisson and Jay Silberblatt (left).

Student Speakers Address Their Classmates



Frederick Egler, front and center, flanked by his parents, WT trustee Kathy Buechel and Frederick Egler, Jr. Also pictured, front row far left, grandmother and honorary alumna Ruth Donnelly Egler, and second row, far left to right, grandfather Frederick Egler, Sr., aunt Rachel Egler '88, and sister Moira Egler '07.

Fred Egler... "What we'll carry forward from Winchester are the informal, often unanticipated insights that came from the open doors and minds of the people we found in this smaller community. These were our most memorable teachers—our good friendships, faculty mentors, supportive family, the people who coached and cheered us into becoming this remarkable and appreciative class of 2011."

Rogan Grant... "The true measure of success is one's ability to pursue lofty goals while enjoying all the pleasures that life has to offer—within limits, of course. It's not at all easy to pull off, but I would argue that the ability to do just that is what sets our class apart from others."



Legacy alumnus Rogan Grant (front and center) with his grandmother, Geri Coffey (front left), mother and WT faculty member Randi Coffey '78 (front right), aunt Ronnalee Rosenthal, and uncle Scott Coffey.



Gary Niels congratulates Dayna Scott.

Dayna Scott... "What no one understands is WT has done more than just give its students a brighter future with education, but it gives lifelong friendships, family, connections to succeed, and gives the true understanding of what diversity means. At Winchester Thurston School, we have learned what it takes to make our goals possible, the value of taking on challenges, and how to not take things for granted."

Class of 2011 College List

Members of the Class of 2011 will attend the following colleges and universities:

Allegheny College
American University
Berklee College of Music
Boston University
California University of Pennsylvania
Capital University
Carnegie Mellon University
Colby College
Columbia University
Cornell University
Davidson College
Dickinson College
Emory University
Franklin and Marshall College
Goucher College
Haverford College
High Point University
Hofstra University
Indiana University at Bloomington
John Carroll University
Kenyon College
Lehigh University
Marietta College
New York University
Northeastern University
Ohio University
Pomona College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Skidmore College
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
The George Washington University
The University of Arizona
The University of Iowa
University of Chicago
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of North Carolina School of the Arts
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
University of Southern California
Washington and Jefferson College

Students Honored at Commencement 2011

Emily E. Dorrance Award
Margaret Elizabeth Rogers

Mary A. Campbell Award
Katrin Kahler Bovbjerg

Mary A. Graham Mitchell Award
Jing Daisy Zhu

Alice M. Thurston Award
Nathan Francis Siegel

Ruth S. Gamsby Award
Earl Vaughn Hord

Nina Wadhwa Student Council Award
Blake Ryder Uretsky



As WT begins its 125th anniversary year, the Board of Trustees has approved a three-year strategic plan that establishes faculty and programmatic innovation as the highest priorities. “These two aspects of our school have the greatest impact on the education and the future of our students,” says Gary Niels. “While our strategic plan has five major domains, all of our initiatives and efforts come back to ensuring we are preparing our students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.”

WT AT 125: UNVEILING A STRATEGIC PLAN

**Road Map for the Next Three Years.
Compass for the Longer Term Horizon.**

Strategic Plan Framework: 2011-2014



Great Teaching: *Hire, retain, develop, and reward a uniformly talented and dynamic faculty.*

As a college preparatory school, Winchester Thurston's core purpose is to prepare its students to excel in post-secondary education, and to contribute to the world in meaningful ways. A dynamic, rigorous, innovative learning environment is essential to the development of the next generation of scholars and entrepreneurs. And it depends on a uniformly excellent faculty—passionate teachers who are continually growing and who demonstrate devotion to their own learning and development; smart teachers who hone their practice and bring their ideas to the classroom, challenging their students to achieve; entrepreneurial teachers who take the initiative to engage their students in learning beyond school walls. WT's highest strategic priority is to strengthen its ability to attract, retain, develop, and reward a uniformly excellent faculty.

Programmatic Innovation: *Develop in WT students vital 21st century knowledge and skills, such as the ability to collaborate, solve complex problems, think imaginatively and critically, thrive in a global society, and innovate.*

The world grows more environmentally, economically, and socially interdependent each day and its problems more complex. Students must embrace a sense of global responsibility and garner the knowledge and cultural competence to live, work, compete, and achieve in a global society. WT's teachers and its rigorous college preparatory curriculum have prepared graduates to achieve and excel in college and in life because WT has evolved with the times through the intentional and strategic leadership of faculty and administration, while remaining true to its timeless ethos, "Think also of the comfort and the rights of others." By devoting resources to STEM, global citizenship, diversity, City as Our Campus, technology integration, and the arts, WT has shown itself to be a leader and will continue to enhance its areas of considerable strength while developing new strengths in areas that are more and more critical to our students' futures.

Reputation and Resources: *Position WT competitively in the Pittsburgh market and maintain positive enrollment growth and diversity; diversify and grow the school's alternative revenue streams; and provide resources through Development to support the strategic plan and assure a thriving future.*

Winchester Thurston School stands at a critical turning point, the start of the next phase of its history. The last decade has seen dramatic increases in engagement, enrollment, and philanthropy, and the school will engage in strategies that build upon this success. As an enduring institution with deep roots in the city of Pittsburgh, WT will continue to sustain its important mission to educate future leaders. To continue meeting ambitious enrollment, giving, and financial goals,

the school will be a good steward of the resources with which it has been entrusted, remain visible and respected in the community, maintain deep connections to its alumnae/i, and ensure it is fiscally sound and well-endowed. Through a number of strategies and initiatives designed to continue increases in enrollment, exciting education-based alternative revenue projects, and development initiatives, WT will ensure it remains vital and vibrant for generations to come.

Competitive Facilities: *Enhance, differentiate, and showcase programs while meeting the needs of the student population at the City Campus, through facility renovation.*

When they built the Winchester School on Fifth Avenue, our founders made a commitment to providing a state-of-the-art environment that would support and enhance an excellent program. Winchester Thurston is proud of the recent strides it has made in expanding facilities, and we continue to aspire to developing and improving upon facilities to sustain our excellent program. The school will undertake a series of renovation projects at the City Campus to align with and support strategic priorities.

Generative Thinking: *Envision long-term educational, programmatic, and fiscal opportunities that ensure an ongoing commitment to innovation and sustainability.*

Excellence in strategic planning, and as a result excellence in strategic outcomes, depends upon successful efforts to maintain a vision for the future, continuously improve, and innovate. This three-year strategic plan is a living document that will evolve as the institution evolves. It will also extend beyond the three-year time frame through the effort of Generative Thinking, a key responsibility of the Board of Trustees. In 2011-2012, WT will form a Generative Thinking Task Force, a subcommittee of the Board Strategic Planning Committee, to engage leading and collaborative thinkers in conversation about long term educational, programmatic, and fiscal opportunities to successfully position WT for the decades ahead and for the next 125 years.



Strategic Initiatives in Focus:

GREAT TEACHING

The Talent Initiative

What makes teachers great? How can a school ensure the faculty thrives? How can it best recognize and reward innovative and excellent teaching, and attract the best and brightest teachers?

For the past three years, two committees, led and staffed by WT faculty, have worked with Head of School Gary Niels and the Board of Trustees to discuss and grapple with the issues embedded in these questions. They sought input from and visited peer schools, and researched best practices and successful approaches in other areas of the country with a goal of tailoring a solution specifically for Winchester Thurston.

The result: “The Talent Initiative,” an approach that “integrates all of the important elements of teaching excellence: competitive compensation, professional development, recognition and reward, and meaningful evaluation. It is the result of true consensus building and thoughtful work on the part of the faculty, administration, and Board,” says Niels, whose May 2011 essay on The Talent Initiative will appear in *Independent School* magazine next year (it can be read in its entirety at www.winchesterthurston.org/headlines).

The committees had two charges: craft a strategy to reward teaching excellence, and develop a meaningful faculty evaluation program. Their work dovetailed with the national debate on public school performance and teacher quality. In his essay, Niels discusses recent research uncovering a direct correlation between teacher quality and student outcomes in public schools, which has led to merit pay initiatives in districts around the country. He reflects on what this trend means for independent schools, writing: “Independent schools are keenly interested in promoting student achievement by attracting, retaining, and developing the best and the brightest teachers. Yet the cultural and operational differences between

public schools and independent schools call for...different methods and solutions. Most importantly, independent schools do not measure student achievement, shape their curricula, or evaluate teacher performance according to actual or desired student performance on standardized tests.” Rather, in independent schools, quality is measured by more qualitative evidence, such as meaningful student-teacher relationships, differentiated pedagogy, and teacher-centered development.

The committees’ research revealed that most independent schools have a “stepped” scale that determines a teacher’s salary based on years of experience—essentially separating compensation from evaluation. A few are moving toward linking salaries directly to performance, and the committees explored the possibility of a similar system at WT.

Niels writes: “As a Head I had been interested in correlating faculty salaries with performance. Nonetheless, I also had a profound reservation! Independent schools do not have a single metric to quantify student achievement. [W]ithout a quantitative measure, compensation systems that seek to reward teacher excellence...[must] rely on...a system of ‘summative evaluation.’”

Summative evaluation, the traditional method in independent schools, is a top-down approach, in which supervisors assess individual teacher performance. Through his own experience, Niels had found that summative evaluation limited the opportunity for open, authentic dialogue between teacher and supervisor. The committees, too, believed there could be a more collaborative, effective approach. Amanda



Greenwald, chair of the evaluation committee, says, “Input from faculty was clear: teachers want feedback; they want to grow professionally and to improve their practice. But they want to be part of an interactive process in which they can express their own aspirations and receive input on their own particular skills, strengths, and areas for growth.”

Niels writes, “[Teachers] attracted to independent schools often are motivated by different factors than their public school counterparts. They may be drawn to the opportunity to shape their own curricula, teach smaller size classes, or work with more universally motivated students and families in a more rigorous academic climate. They may be motivated



by opportunities to grow and learn in a community that values professional development and lifelong learning. These elements speak to a culture that is intrinsically different from public schools, and these differences have impact on effective incentives to pedagogical excellence.”

Because of these factors, it was clear to Niels and the committees that they should shift their focus away from pay-for-performance. They began to explore the concept of formative development, a collaborative, goal-setting process that puts the teacher in charge of his or her own path to excellence. To support each teacher’s ability to meet her or his goals, the school provides opportunities for feedback from peers and supervisors, as well as professional development aligned with faculty and institutional goals.

“Not only does formative development align well with the intrinsic motivators that draw teachers to independent schools, but it institutionalizes a process that both draws on and supports the faculty’s desire to improve,” says Greenwald, who observed the formative development program in action at Lawrenceville School in New Jersey last spring.

Greenwald recently stepped into a new role at WT, as Dean of Faculty (see inset). She is currently working with Niels, the WT Division Directors, and a faculty committee to develop the formative development program and to establish a Master Teacher program that recognizes and rewards outstanding WT faculty.

Last spring, as Niels and the committees completed their work, the Board of Trustees voted not only to endorse the formative development program, but also to increase faculty compensation significantly this year, establishing a new salary scale. Board President Douglas Campbell says, “Independent schools have many assets, but there is only one that in the end makes a true difference in the lives of our students—the faculty. The Board recognized that its highest strategic priority should be to recognize and reward WT’s incredibly dedicated and talented faculty, and ensure the resources are in place to continue to attract excellent teachers. It’s the most important investment a school can make.”

AMANDA GREENWALD Named Dean of Faculty



Amanda Greenwald has been appointed Dean of Faculty. In this role, she will oversee all faculty initiatives, including professional development, formative development, and hiring.

A Middle School social studies teacher at WT since 1996,

Greenwald has been admired by peers, students, parents, and administrators for her teaching excellence and her innovative pedagogy. In addition, she has served in school-wide leadership roles, most recently chairing the strategic planning committee on evaluation.

“Amanda has all the qualities we need for this new and very important Dean of Faculty role,” says Gary Niels. “She is an outstanding teacher and will bring that depth of experience and expertise to her work with individual faculty members. In addition, she has proven herself to be a leader across the institution; her leadership with the evaluation committee was stellar, and she has hit the ground running, taking the work of that committee and bringing it to life thoughtfully and effectively.”

Greenwald sees a great opportunity to focus in a different way on her passion for quality teaching; she will serve as a leader and supporter of all WT faculty members, creating an open forum through which to discuss and improve teaching and curricular techniques. She plans to expand and align the professional development program with both school priorities and faculty interests.

Greenwald is excited to begin her new role and is most enthusiastic about how her work will have an impact on students. “Our students learn best when teachers are working together and creating a collaborative culture and community.”



Strategic Initiatives in Focus: PROGRAMMATIC INNOVATION

**Global Society, Complex World,
Excitement for Learning**

Xu Xiaoxia, Mandarin teacher, grades 6-12

World Languages: Mandarin Expands

With great excitement, in 2009, one-third of the rising sixth grade class enrolled in the new Mandarin program. Since it was introduced in both the Middle and Upper Schools that year, the program has grown into a robust and vibrant addition to the curriculum; this fall, WT added Mandarin as an option for students in grades Pre-K through 5, in addition to Spanish. About half of all Lower School students have enrolled in Mandarin this year. "Foreign language proficiency is a key to global competence," says Gary Niels. "We're excited about the expansion of Mandarin into the Lower School, and extremely pleased with how well it has been received by parents and students alike."

The school introduced Mandarin through a partnership with the Confucius Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. Xu Xiaoxia, the current Confucius Institute teacher at WT,



Shaloma Smith, a Fulbright Scholar, joins the Lower School faculty.

has returned for a second year to continue teaching in the Middle and Upper Schools. Shaloma Smith, who recently spent six weeks at the Chinese Language Institute in Beijing, China, as one of only 10 U.S. teachers to receive a Fulbright scholarship, will teach Lower School Mandarin at both campuses. Prior to joining the WT faculty, Ms. Smith founded, developed, and implemented a district-wide

Chinese curriculum and program for the Gilbert Public Schools in Gilbert, Arizona.

Alicia Sewald, World Languages and Cultures Chair at WT, teaches Lower School Spanish at both the City and North

Hills Campuses and has worked to revise and enhance the Lower School Spanish curriculum over the last three years, aligning it with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) FLES approach (Foreign Language

"Spanish and Mandarin are two of the most widely spoken languages in the world....Knowing one of these languages may open up worlds of opportunity for students in the future."

in Elementary Schools). FLES programs focus on sequential language learning rather than mere exposure.

"Spanish and Mandarin are two of the most widely spoken languages in the world," Sewald says. "Knowing one of these languages may open up worlds of opportunity for students in the future. Both of these languages are connected to many areas of the world that are rich in cultural heritage, fascinating history, and artistic and literary traditions. Studying these cultures is part of educating global citizens for the future."



Third graders prepare for a Chinese play.



Stephen Miller, Mathematics Chair.

WT's Science and Math Chairs, Players on the National Stage, Revamp Curriculum

With STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) a particular focus of the WT strategic plan, science department chair Jared Rashford and math department chair Stephen Miller are unveiling new courses, new interdisciplinary approaches, and new thinking at WT.

When Rashford joined WT last fall, he began working with his department to enhance the Upper School's already rigorous science curriculum, by integrating authentic research experiences and offering accelerated programs for students with particular interest and talent in the sciences. In parallel, Miller has spent the last two years teaching highly sought after courses and developing similar approaches in his classroom and department.



Jared Rashford (c), Science Chair, with students.

This year will mark the launch of a City as Our Campus Science Research course designed and taught by chemistry teacher Graig Marx, emphasizing scientific research and the process of developing scientific knowledge. Students will design and conduct independent research projects and share their findings with the broader scientific community through local symposia, print media, or student-designed multimedia presentations. In addition, the science faculty is looking at ways to integrate the physical sciences more closely, allowing students to move more comprehensively and intentionally through introductory material, to provide more focused time for students to further explore the sciences more deeply in

the latter part of high school, through AP courses, post-AP advanced coursework, and independent research.

To respond to the needs of a growing population of advanced math students, the Upper School has added Advanced Topics in Mathematics for students who wish to further their studies beyond Calculus 2. A Mathematical Modeling course introduces students to mathematical topics necessary for complex problem solving and decision making in today's world. Students delve into election theory, fair division and game theory, modeling with matrices, graphs and their applications, counting and probability, economics, personal finance, and managing resources. Finally, the school is introducing a new integrated algebra and geometry course this year.

Ultimately, Rashford and Miller, along with Upper School Director Mick Gee, are working toward establishing a STEM center at WT, to provide physical facilities for students to engage in independent scientific, mathematical, and technology research.

Rashford and Miller are both recognized leaders in their fields. Rashford holds a Ph.D. from Georgia State University, where he was awarded the Hayden-Waltz Outstanding Dissertation Prize. This summer, he was one of only 20 teachers nationwide to be accepted as a 2011 Siemens Teachers as Researchers Fellow; in 2008, he received the Siemens Science Teacher Initiative Award. Miller, who presents regularly at national conferences, has edited several widely used statistics textbooks and serves as an editorial reviewer for *Mathematics Teacher*, a professional journal published by the National Council on Teaching Mathematics. He also serves on the American Statistics Association's Committee on Outreach Education.

City as Our Campus: Reflections on a Year of Accomplishments

Teresa DeFlicht, Director of City as Our Campus, reflects on her first year at WT with a recap of these highlights from 2011-2012, and a look ahead.

Upper School students applied and honed leadership skills by joining Sally Loevner '11 in service projects in Braddock. Students faced the economic, social, and political challenges

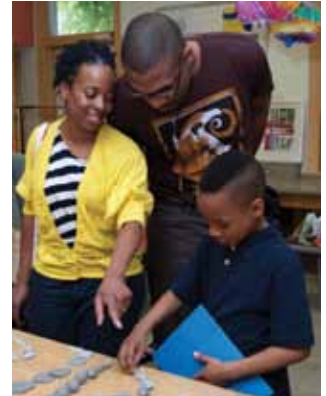


Urban Research and Design students at 4Kids Early Learning Center in Braddock.

in this depressed former steel town and actively engaged in learning about and assisting with revitalization. They painted a mural in the new community playground, planted trees, volunteered at the early learning center, and most importantly, created a legacy and model of community involvement designed to engage a team of WT students every year. In 2011-2012 a team of Upper School students will expand WT's relationship with Braddock's Heritage Community Initiatives and lead third graders in a service project.

In May, WT opened its doors to its partners, as well as parents and friends, for the first annual City as Our Campus Celebration, which showcased student and faculty work in all divisions. A highlight of the evening was a series of presentations by WT seniors on their Urban Research and Design projects.

Partnering with the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, and Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture, first grade teachers continue to enhance the architecture unit. Last year, first grade students learned about urban communities during a tour of Craig Street in Oakland, along with visits to the Museum. In addition, they created three-dimensional models for the first time.



First grader Aaron Hayes with parents Yona Harvey and Terrance Hayes at the 2011 Architects Convention.

In June, eight Middle and Lower School teachers participated in the first City as Our Campus Institute, a week-long workshop to develop new community-based learning projects. Faculty met with prospective external partners to develop meaningful relationships and curricula. These projects, which include the creation of a sixth grade neighborhood guidebook, an improved geocaching unit, and an urban garden, will be implemented during the 2011-2012 school year.

Impressed by their visit to the eighth grade forum on genocide in January, Michele Cahill and Tim Lessick of Global Solutions Pittsburgh are working closely with the faculty to expand and promote the project throughout the city. WT will work with Cahill and Lessick to assemble a team of community mentors to work with the students and create digital media projects. WT also plans to participate in the Darfur Dream Team through the organization Enough in Washington, D.C. As part of this expansion, students will develop virtual relationships with students in Darfuri refugee camps. The forum on genocide is a culminating project of the eighth grade class's study of the Holocaust.

Upper School computer science teacher David Nassar facilitated a month-long after-school program with students from his Advanced Computer Science course. Students served as mentors to 15 visiting students from South Fayette School District and helped teach them how to program applications for Android devices. The students visited the Google labs in Bakery Square to share what they learned with visiting Google engineers on the last day of the program. Nassar looks forward to continuing the after-school program this year.

Urban Research and Design: Compelling New Course for Seniors Finishes Its First Year

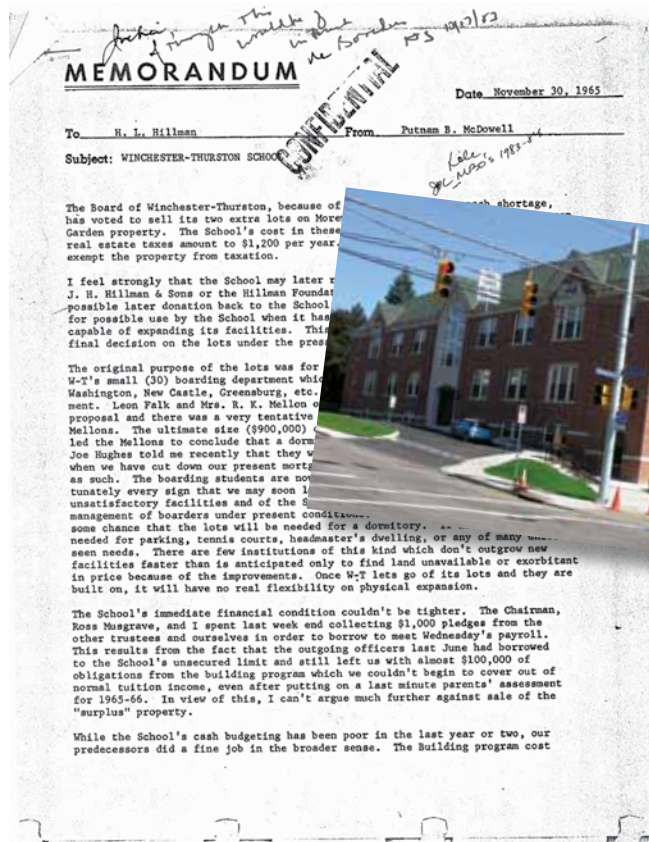
In Urban Research and Design, Michael Naragon challenged his 60 seniors to explore and develop research-based solutions to an array of economic, social, environmental, and other issues. Not only did they deliver on this rigorous year-long assignment, they also developed the intellectual skills and credible voices they will need for the demanding world ahead.

For Ari Schuman and Rogan Grant, collaborating on projects has been part of their learning process since the sixth grade. A shared interest in neuroscience, coupled with awareness of the growing rates of addiction in Pittsburgh, spurred their most impressive collaboration to date, culminating in a documentary film, *A Return to Normalcy: Addiction, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration in Pittsburgh*, along with their recommendations about models for treatment.

For Kat Bojvberg, an interview with the mayor of Braddock, Pennsylvania, inspired an abundance of research on urban renewal and the pitfalls of gentrification. Her project discussed the "creative class" and its usefulness in fueling economic renewal in this distressed town south of Pittsburgh.

Moved by murals throughout the city, Blake Uretsky investigated the process of engaging a community in the creation of public art. She turned that lesson on herself by creating a mural that would both reflect a sense of identity and the values of her community, while illustrating that "creative thought does matter."





"Nothing I did during my 40 years in business in Pittsburgh made a 'difference' in the way that saving the WT lots did. That the property made possible an entire new Upper School fills me with wonder."

Putnam B. McDowell Named Honorary Alumnus

In July, members of the WT community gathered for a luncheon hosted by Kathy Zilweger Putnam '71 and her husband, George Putnam, at the Somerset Club in Boston, to honor Putnam B. McDowell and name him an honorary alumnus of Winchester Thurston School. McDowell served as Board President from 1966 to 1971 and is also the father of four WT alumnae, Margaret (Mouse) McDowell Lofberg '67, Lucy McDowell Karys '68, Barbara McDowell '69, and Martha (Murph) McDowell '73.

The McDowell family gathered with WT trustees, alums, and Head of School Gary Niels for this special celebration, at which Niels presented McDowell with a special WT diploma. Guests included former Head of School Jane Scarborough, trustee Susan Crip Santa-Cruz '60, trustee Nancy Scott, and Susan Harris '67.

A special video presentation outlined the dramatic story that has placed McDowell in the WT history books as one of its most significant leaders.

Foresight can be difficult to maintain in the face of immediate and formidable challenges. It is a rare and gifted leader who has the ingenuity and tenacity to uncover solutions that resolve such problems while also preserving future possibilities. At a critical moment in McDowell's tenure, he was



WT Alums and Honorary Alums with their newest member.



Great granddaughter, Tigerlilly.



Gary Niels and the Putnams congratulate Put McDowell.



The McDowell sisters (l to r) Martha (Murph), Margaret (Mouse), and Barbara.



Jane Scarborough and Gary Niels, two WT Heads.



Gary Niels greets Put McDowell and his wife, Robin.



Kathy Zilweger Putnam '71 catching up with Put.



Gary Niels with Susan Criepp Santa-Cruz '60, Susan Harris '67, and Nancy Scott.

faced with such a challenge, and his response resonated with impact nearly 40 years later.

The story begins in 1967. WT had recently built a gorgeous, state-of-the-art school on Morewood Avenue, now known as the Main Building at the City Campus. Unfortunately, the school experienced financial difficulties associated with the costs, and in the fall of that year, the Board faced the possibility of being unable to meet its payroll. Several of McDowell's fellow trustees favored selling a parcel of land the school owned, across the street from the new building at the corner of Bayard Street and Morewood Avenue. It was an easy solution that would raise the money needed, but McDowell realized that parting with the land could have long term consequences. After exhausting borrowed funds from Union National Bank, which he had secured against pledges by individual trustees, he turned to his boss, Henry Hillman of the Hillman Company, and, in an impassioned personal memo, asked Hillman to make a loan to Winchester Thurston. "I feel strongly that the School may later regret such a sale," McDowell wrote. "There are few institutions of this kind which don't outgrow new facilities faster than is anticipated only to find land unavailable or exorbitant in price. Once WT lets go of its lots and they are built on, it will have no real flexibility on physical expansion." Hillman agreed to the loan, which set WT on the path to fiscal stability.

Decades went by. Under the direction of Jane Scarborough, WT built a playground on the land in the 1980s. In 2002, when the school prepared to build a new Upper School, the options for locating the new facility were limited; in the end, only one made sense: to build on the vacant land owned by the school at the corner of Bayard Street and Morewood Avenue—the same land McDowell had preserved with his actions.

Had McDowell lacked the foresight to preserve this land for the school, the new Upper School may well have remained an aspiration instead of the reality it has become: a beautiful, vibrant building that has enabled WT to increase Upper School enrollment and undertake program improvements and expansions. McDowell understood the impact of the new building from his own perspective as a parent as well as that of his daughters; he recalled his own daughter, Martha, whispering to him at her graduation, "Dad, 12 years in one building is a lot!" Recently, McDowell wrote in a letter to Niels: "Nothing I did during my 40 years in business in Pittsburgh made a 'difference' in the way that saving the WT lots did. That the property made possible an entire new Upper School fills me with wonder."

"It was so meaningful for Winchester Thurston, to honor Put's tenure and his contribution to WT as Chairman of the WT Board of Trustees and as a man who exercised wisdom and vision in his leadership of the Board," says Niels.

Join us for a *birthday celebration*

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

Let's Get It Started

All WT students and parents will be treated to special birthday surprises and a preview of the year-long celebration on WT's first day, August 25.

125th Birthday Kick-off & Kodak Moment

Join us for a morning of fun and celebration at the City Campus on September 2, including special surprise guests and a commemorative, all-school photo on Garland Field.

OCTOBER

A Weekend to Remember

On October 14-15, we welcome back all WT alums for Reunion Weekend. Always special, this year's Reunion promises to be extraordinary. In addition to the traditional Reunion events, not-to-be missed highlights include a special 125th Anniversary Lecture and Exhibition by alumna and world renowned artist Catherine Widgery '71, an alum art show, and an alum performing arts revue. All alums welcome!



And 125 to Grow On!



To celebrate our birthday, WT's gift to the city of Pittsburgh

will be 125 trees to local parks. Middle School students will band together to plant trees in partnership with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy which is celebrating its own 15th birthday this year.

History Meets History



WT is honored to participate as the Pittsburgh Middle East Institute (PMEI) welcomes former Secretary of State and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Henry A. Kissinger to Pittsburgh at PMEI's fourth annual conference on October 26, 2011, at the Carnegie Music Hall. WT students will unveil artworks inspired by Dr. Kissinger's distinguished career in international relations and diplomacy and serve as volunteer ushers at this extraordinary community event.

JANUARY

Welcome Back, Young Alums: Home from College Luncheon

Young alums home from college, along with other local young alums, are invited to visit with Upper School faculty and each other, at a festive WT birthday luncheon.

that will last all year long.

MARCH

Celebrate with Music

Enjoy WT's talented musicians for two concerts – Jazz Band and Orchestra –with special guest performances by WT alums.

APRIL

Smart Leadership

A panel of WT alums well-versed and experienced in all aspects of leadership will join WT's Advisory Board in a provocative and comprehensive discussion of leadership and how we prepare today's students to lead in an unscripted future.

JUNE

Our 125th Commencement

The WT community will close this special year of celebration by honoring and bidding farewell to the Class of 2012.

AND ALL YEAR LONG...

Name That Bear!

What do WT and the South Beaufort Sea have in common? Bears! WT and the World Wildlife Fund have partnered to name one of

their tracked bears for our anniversary year. A contest to name

the bear will begin the first day of school but you can see the bear anytime, from anywhere!

www.winchesterthurston.org/polarbear
(OUR BEAR'S NUMBER IS #32698)

Read All About It

WT will produce commemorative 125th Anniversary publications of its award-winning literary magazine, *Plaid*, and *ThistleTalk* magazine. Special stories and features will grace the pages of the student newspaper, *Voices*, as well as the 125th Anniversary website.

This Moment in History

It's a year-long WT history lesson as we learn about WT's storied past during school announcements and through postings to Twitter and Facebook...make sure you are a friend and a follower!

You're Invited!

Stay in touch and let us know you are coming. Mark your calendar and watch your inbox, mailbox, and newsfeed—and visit the Anniversary website for new additions:
winchesterthurston.org/125



1961-2011 CONSERVATION FOR GENERATIONS



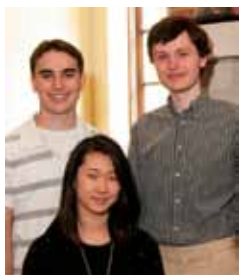
Winter&SpringHIGHLIGHTS

Going Global Lower School students at both the City and North Hills Campuses visited more than 12 countries on International Day as classrooms were transformed into countries and parents into tour guides. With passports and luggage in hand, students visited destinations such as China, Italy, and Germany. In addition

to enjoying traditional music, folktales, and indigenous foods, the students learned about the culture, geography, and history of various countries.



Writers Shine in MLK Contest Junior Connor Charney and senior Nathaniel Hubel won first place in the creative non-fiction category, and senior Juhye Kim earned first place in the fiction category in Carnegie Mellon University's annual Martin Luther King Day Writing Awards. The contest drew over 140 personal narratives on race through fiction, poetry, or creative non-fiction reflecting the legacy of Dr. King. WT students have won awards every year since 2004.



A Winning "Future City" WT seventh graders Gabe Brodsky, Wesley Fox, Joan Mukogosi, Jake Averch, Max Rogow, Trese Williams, and Ethan Mackowick won the Best City Layout prize for their design in the regional Future City Competition. Over 20 schools competed. Using materials ranging from foam to Legos to modeling clay, each team designed a "city for the future" that was judged on computer



programming, a scale model, and an essay on the role of engineering in their city. The competition was sponsored by the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania and the Carnegie Science Center.

Cum Laude In January, 13 seniors were inducted into the Cum Laude Society. Dating back to 1906, Cum Laude



membership is offered to students in the top 20% of their class. WT honored Nathan Siegel, Andrew Pearlman, Max Findley, Ari Schuman, George Price, Nathaniel Hubel, David Curtis, Rogan Grant, Kat Bovbjerg, Rina Petek, Blake Uretsky, Tori Hirata, and Daisy Zhu for academic and extracurricular excellence. Keynote speaker David Hallas spoke of the students' achievements and shared memories of their high school careers.

Victory for Girls of Steel Sophomore Kathryn Hendrickson and senior Hallie Goldstein competed in the World Robotics Championship in April as members of Pittsburgh's Girls of Steel Team, sponsored by Carnegie Mellon University. They had six weeks to design and build their robot. The first-year team won Rookie All-Star Awards at robotics competitions in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. At the Nationals in St. Louis, Girls of Steel finished the competition at the middle of the field.



Freshman's Monologue Triumph Freshman DeVaughn Robinson finished third in the national

August Wilson Monologue Contest at Broadway's August Wilson Theater in New York City. DeVaughn, the only freshman in the competition, competed against 18 finalists from across the country. He performed a monologue from *Radio Golf*; his delivery of the same monologue in the local competition earned him first place and a \$10,000 scholarship from the Point Park Conservatory of Performing Arts.



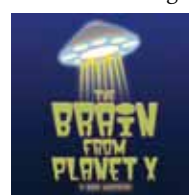
Bring It On! Sophomores Andrew Linzer and Avery Feingold and freshman Nathaniel Brodsky are the 2010-2011 KDKA Hometown High Q Champions. The team took the competition by storm, defeating opponents like Fox Chapel and Sewickley Academy in the academic quiz show. The trio beat Hampton in the final round in June. Go Bears!



Paper Cranes to Aid Japan The WT community at both campuses folded 1,757 paper cranes last spring, supporting a relief effort for victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The Students Rebuild Initiative of the Bezos Family Foundation donated two dollars for every crane. As part of the project, eighth graders folded cranes with their Kindergarten buddies. WT's contribution raised \$3,514. The crane is believed to bring a long life and good luck in Asian cultures.



The Brain from Planet X Last spring's Upper School musical was a zany satire of low-budget science-fiction movies.



Brain is the story of an alien invasion, circa 1958. Brain and its two alien cohorts, Zubrick and Yoni, arrive on Earth to take over the San Fernando Valley. Little do they anticipate resistance from the "stupid" earthlings! Featuring cast and crew under Director Barbara Holmes, the production had the WT community abuzz.

Parents Association NEWS

Crash the Bash

More than 300 WT community members gathered for a lively evening at the Parents Association's benefit, "Crash the Bash," on April 16 at PNC Park. Event chairs Nancy Beyer, Kelly Eckert, and Kate Stainton led a committee of parent volunteers who threw a lively party. The benefit featured fabulous food, dancing, and live music from the band No Bad Juju, and raised more than \$90,000 for WT. A highlight of the auction: Fund a Need, in which WT supporters made donations to fund specific needs at WT, including a Reptile Tank for the Middle School Science Program, Dance Studio technology, a Math Lab Package for Data Collection, iPads and iPod Touches, and playground equipment for the Kindergarten outdoor play area at the City Campus.



Trustees Deesha Philyaw and Henry Posner



Carole King and trustee Kathy Buechel



WT parents Julie Tarasevich Dever '85 and Michael Dever



Jen Staley '91, Kelly Hanna Riley '91, and Gary Niels

Benefit Chairs (l to r) Kelly Eckert, Kate Stainton, and Nancy Beyer with Dionne Brelsford, Director of Programs.

Asian Flair

Spring Fling! Rain did not dampen the spirits of more than 500 guests at WT's 33rd annual Spring Fling Carnival on May 13 at Garland Field. A fantastic volunteer team, led by Adam Leong and Noreen Tompkins, created an amazing afternoon celebration that featured traditional festivities such as slot car racing, inflatable attractions, live entertainment, karaoke, midway games, a flower sale (in support of the Class of 2014 prom), cake walk, grade-level themed booths, a bake sale, and raffle baskets. Asian-themed activities included a Chinese calligraphy station, an Asian-themed photo opportunity, and Peacock and Butterfly dance performances.



Faculty and Staff Appreciation Lunch

PA President Noreen Tompkins, along with Kate Stainton, Kelly Eckert, Nancy Beyer, and a committee of grateful parents, hosted the annual Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon in June. Titled "Lunch with Confucius," the luncheon had a Chinese theme, as the cafeteria was decorated with Asian touches and faculty and staff members dined on Eastern cuisine served by parent volunteers.



Thank You, Noreen!

After a successful year as President of the Parents Association, Noreen Tompkins, mom of three WT students, is stepping into



the role of Past-President. She'll continue her role as a leader, supporting incoming President Kelly Eckert and President-Elect Gretchen Busquets. WT thanks Noreen for her leadership throughout the year!

Winter&SpringSPORTS

Taking it to the Hoop

Boys Varsity Basketball team had a winning season with a record of 12-7. The team advanced to the final round of the Greater Pittsburgh Independent Basketball League playoffs, and after a hard-fought game against Career Connections, took second place. The team was led by returning Head Coach Bryan Brennaman and Assistant Coach Kevin Miller.

Young Squad, High Hopes

With a young squad, WT's Girls Varsity Basketball team had a rebuilding season.



The team defeated Frazier High School, Peabody High School, and Trinity Christian School. This marked Coach Monica Williams's fifth season, along with Assistant Coach Brandi Harris. The team is looking forward to next season and great talent from incoming freshmen.



Middle School Basketball Teams Nearly Undefeated

The Middle School Girls and Boys Basketball teams had winning seasons! Both teams competed in the annual Falk School Basketball Tournament with the girls team defeating Ellis and St. Edmunds to take home first place! The boys team beat Falk and fell to Sewickley in a tough loss, for a second place tournament finish.

The girls A team finished 16-2, beating out Ellis, Sewickley Academy, Shady Side Academy, and Community Day School. The boys also finished strong with a record of 14-2. The teams were led by returning coaches David Piemme and Lisa Allswede for the girls, and Chris Sledge and Bill Fitch for the boys.

Track Relay Team Runs Its Way to the Championships

Marking another first in school history for another rookie team, WT's relay team celebrated its first year in the WPIAL. The team earned a spot in the 4x800m race in the WPIAL Track Championships and medaled with eighth place. Congratulations to relay team members, seniors Earl Hord, Rogan Grant, Adam Eller, and freshman Bobby Lincoln. The team is led by veteran coach Bruce Frey and Travis Bui.



On Guard

Another great season for the Upper School Varsity Fencing Team! The boys team, coached by Iana Dakova, advanced to the Pennsylvania Inter-scholastic Fencing Association Men's Team Foil Championships. The team fought hard but lost in the first round.



Boys Tennis Team Makes School History

In its first year in the WPIAL (Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League), the Varsity Boys Tennis team made it to the Pennsylvania State Playoffs for

the first time in school history. The team was led by powerhouse senior DJ Goldblum, who won the WPIAL Championships and placed second in the state individually. With a regular season record of 14-4, the team proved to be a strong force in their rookie year. The team is coached by Leslie Leopold and Jeff Tuskin.





Varsity Boys Lacrosse Has Winning Season

It was a great season for the Boys Lacrosse team, who finished with a regular season record of 7-4. The following players were nominated to WPIAL's all-section teams. WPIAL all-section first team: seniors Brandon Canedy, Jeffrey Steiner, David Curtis, and junior Devin Kalanish. Nominated to the second team was sophomore Micah Monah. Congratulations to senior David Curtis, who was a finalist for player of the year. The team is coached by Chris Ortmann, Adam Brownold, and Connor Brown.



Varsity Girls Lacrosse on the Up and Up

The Varsity Girls Lacrosse team, led by returning coaches Elizabeth Patterson and Bill Fitch, is looking forward to continuing their pattern of improvement. Building off of last season, the team boasted wins against Greensburg Central Catholic, Greensburg Salem, and Yough this season. The team said farewell to eight seniors and looks forward to gaining talented freshmen.



Middle School Lacrosse Teams Have Strong Seasons

The Girls Lacrosse team had a winning season, beating out Shady Side Academy, Ellis, and Sewickley Academy; the team was led by coaches Ashley Lemmon '01 and Sierra Laventure-Volz '05.

The Boys Lacrosse team boasted record numbers in players and effort. The team beat Community Day School and Aquinas Academy and looks forward to a strong 2011 – 2012 season. The team is coached by Jeff Cronauer and Ryan Bopp '08.

Rowers on the Move

Congratulations to WT's rowers for a great spring season! Rowers traveled to Oak Ridge, TN for the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championship. Rising senior Allyson Bartlett was part of the girls varsity quad that came in fourth place. In the Ohio Governor's Cup race, rising juniors Langston MacDiarmid and Laing Wise and rising sophomore Bill Fox comprised the boys novice quad that took second place. The team is coached by Dori and Laci Tompa, and Lucy Tuttle-Smith.



Faculty NEWS



Brock Perkins and students.

Brock Perkins Wins Scarborough Award

North Hills Campus fifth grade teacher Brock Perkins was honored with the 2011 Jane L. Scarborough Award, Winchester Thurston's highest accolade for excellence in teaching.

Perkins was chosen by a committee of faculty, students, parents, and trustees for his dedication to teaching, for his passion for educating students both within and outside of the classroom, and for his kind spirit and work to enhance the experience of both his students and colleagues, a true commitment to his craft which is reflected in his connection with his students. During his career at WT, he has pursued excellence in mathematics education, attending national conferences and coaching his colleagues. He brought to life his belief in the importance of connecting students to nature when he partnered with colleague Lynne Raphael to establish the Natural Playground at the North Hills Campus and brought world renowned naturalist Joseph Cornell to WT.

Mary Martin '88, the 2010 Scarborough Award recipient, presented the award to Perkins at the 124th annual commencement exercises and praised Perkins's accomplishments and contributions to the WT community:

"In the words of a former student," she said, "He exemplifies what I love about WT: the connection between students and teachers, and the links that you maintain after you've moved on... Though it's been seven years since he taught me, I can still say that the best teacher I've had at Winchester was Mr. Brock Perkins."

Kristen Graham Klein Named Middle School Director

Kristen Graham Klein is assuming a new role at WT as Director of Middle School after seven years on the English faculty and one year as the Upper School Academic Dean. Klein was selected for the post after a national search, having impressed the committee with her leadership, vision, pedagogical practice, communication, and knowledge of WT.

Of Klein's appointment, Gary Niels says, "In her seven years at WT, Kristen has established herself as a capable leader in numerous ways. I have always been impressed with her knowledge of curriculum and pedagogy, her intelligence, and her competent leadership. But it is her dedication to her students and colleagues that is most remarkable. Parents, students, and faculty alike admire her for her ability to inspire. She is a forthright and full participant in our community, and I'm thrilled to have her now as a member of our senior leadership team."

Klein expresses great enthusiasm for her new role at WT. She is especially looking forward to "leading conversations with the faculty about approaches to teaching." In her new leadership position, Klein plans to continue the legacy of her predecessor, Holly Hatcher-Frazier, who has stepped into the



role of Lower School Director, to implement collaborative thinking and interdisciplinary programming in order to draw a bridge between faculty, administrators, and students.

Klein holds an M.A.T. degree from Brown University focusing on grades 6-12, and received her bachelor's degree from Trinity College. Prior to joining the WT faculty, she taught English at Bristol Eastern High School in Bristol, Connecticut.



Developing Student Leadership

Middle School social studies teacher Adam Brownold attended the Developing Student Leadership Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee. The annual event featured presentations from independent schools to help participants identify the qualities essential to school leadership programs and development. Brownold says the Symposium showed him that “in order for our program to be successful we need to be very clear about the teachers’ roles and responsibilities. We also

need to connect leadership pieces to the classroom, advisory (which we do), new student orientation, athletics, retreats/trips and Leadership and Service Learning Days.”

What’s New in Children’s Literature

Lower School City Campus librarian Jennifer Kraar attended a local conference titled “What’s New in Children’s Literature.”

The conference focused on developing collections of reading selections for elementary school libraries. According to Kraar, “This was a good survey of the new books of the year—suggestions for how to present/integrate books into the library and other curriculums,” and “it provided some inspiration and renewed energy for my classes.”



AP Physics Workshop

Faculty member David Nassar attended an AP Physics Summer Workshop in Morgantown, WV, sponsored by the College Board. The AP Workshops are a forum through which College Board resources, released exams, and student samples can be analyzed in order to provide a better



understanding of the curricular tools that can be implemented by AP instructors. Nassar says the workshop “really helped me understand what the AP Physics test focuses on...I also learned valuable lab experiments that I was able to use with my class this year... I had an excellent foundation for lab experiments that will aid students’ understanding of the material presented.”

NSTA Conference

Seventh grade Dean and Middle School science teacher Peter Frischmann attended the National Science Teacher Association Area Conference. The Conference provides an opportunity for science educational professionals in the area to meet, network, and discuss changes in the profession as well as broader topics related to the science community. “I gained a wealth of knowledge primarily about the nature of STEM education. I learned about many programs both with Siemens, Google, and Discovery Education (to mention a few) which I hope to take advantage of,” says Frischmann.



“American Revolution” in Los Angeles

Upper School history teacher Lindsay Phillips attended a seminar on the American Revolution in Los Angeles, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History. The week-long event for independent school teachers consists of sessions with historians and provides the



means for teachers to learn document-based classroom strategies and share best practices with colleagues. Phillips says “I have already used many of the primary documents we read in the seminar. I also came away with a clearer understanding of how to teach competing narratives in American history...Working closely with

REUNION 2011 PREVIEW

October 14-15, 2011

WT's annual Reunion will be held on October 14 - 15, 2011. A variety of activities and events designed just for alumnae/i will take place all weekend to celebrate WT's 125th anniversary, including a special lecture by distinguished artist and alumna **Catherine Widgery '71**. Since her graduation from Yale, Widgery has become a renowned artist with over 30 site-specific public art projects across the continent and several exhibitions featured in galleries, museums, and magazines.

Art All Night!

During the annual Friday night cocktail party, you'll be wowed by your fellow alums' artistic achievements, and catapulted back in time to those great Upper School musicals. A 125th Anniversary Alum Art Show, organized by Visual Arts Department Chair **Sally Allan**, will feature works by WT alums, and other alums will perform a festive 125th Anniversary Alum Revue produced by **Barbara Holmes**.

Celebrate 125 Years With Us!

Other highlights of the weekend include class visits and presentations from current students and faculty, a cocktail party, the all alum luncheon and Class of 1961 Celebration, alumnae/i and student field hockey and soccer matches, reunion class parties, and a family bar-b-que.



Register now! All events are complimentary and are held at the City Campus, 555 Morewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Register online: www.winchesterthurston.org/reunion.

For more information, or if you want to help contact your classmates, please contact Gaylen Westfall at westfallg@winchesterthurston.org.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 14

- 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Class Visits and Presentations
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
125th Anniversary Special Lecture:
Distinguished Artist Catherine Widgery '71
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
All Alum Luncheon and
Class of 1961 Celebration
- 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Reunion Cocktail Party
125th Anniversary Alum Art Show Opening
- 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
125th Anniversary Alum Revue

Saturday, October 15

- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Alum Field Hockey & Soccer Matches
- 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Family BBQ
- 7:00 p.m.
Reunion Class Parties

Pleased to Contribute to Intellectual Advancement of WT Students: Judith Rohrer Davis '57



*Margaret Singer Gracey,
Jane Gracey Rohrer,
Judy Davis*

"I was always aware that my family had a history tied to WT," says Judith Rohrer Davis '57, whose grandmother, Margaret Singer Gracey, graduated in 1911 from Winchester School, and mother, Jane Gracey Rohrer, was a member of Winchester's Class of 1934. "It wasn't talked about a lot, but I thought it was kind of neat." In fact, Davis is the very first third-generation student to graduate from WT.

Now, as the newest member of the Miss Mitchell Society, Davis is honored to give back to the school that gave her so much.

"Winchester Thurston is an exceptional place to learn. It gave me an excellent education. Even today I have reason to appreciate the very thorough education and foundation I received."

Davis, who earned her Bachelor's degree at Sweetbriar College and

her Master's degree at Duquesne University, forged a flair for foreign languages at WT, and now studies German. She says, "I couldn't learn German if I didn't have as solid a background in Latin and especially English grammar as I do."

One of Davis's earliest school memories involves her grandmother's friend, Miss Mitchell. "She visited our Kindergarten class for a special occasion. I remember thinking of her as someone to be revered. She had white fluffy hair and looked like a benevolent angel to me, always smiling, with little round spectacles. She seemed like the spirit of the school, the embodiment of WT."

Now living in Raleigh, NC, Davis still appreciates the value of a WT education.

"I was so impressed when I went to the reunion a few years ago. The different campuses, resources, facilities, the brainpower, the pond... incredible! The school is well managed, well equipped, and forward thinking. I am pleased to contribute to WT's progress, and to the education and intellectual advancement of its students."

Members of the Miss Mitchell Society

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.

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
Judith Rohrer Davis '57
Nancy Steigerwalt Dwyer '37*
Mary Campbell Eckhardt '38*
Virginia A. Elliott T'26*
Eleanor Lanz Ericson T'17*
Elizabeth Braun Ernst '23*
Harriet Adler Feldman '57
Margaret J. Garner T'18*
Mabel L. Gillespie T'04*
Robert I. Glimcher
Ethel C. Goodreds '22*
Edna Rieck Graham T'11*

Mary Houston Griffin W'21*
Jeanne Logan Hardie '34*
Rosanne Isay Harrison '56
Jean Murray Johnson '27*
Lida B. Johnston*
Eugene S. Kerber
James Craighead Kuhn, Jr.*
Lucille Showalter Leggett '11*
Louise Baldrige Lytle '51
Jocelyn Hulme MacConnell '43
Carole Oswald Markus '57
Gertrude Dally Massie '18*
Marga Matheny '64
Patricia Maykuth '69
Anne Forncrook McCloskey '45*
Beverlee Simboli McFadden '55
Edith Allerton Miller*
Frances P. Minno
Alexander M. Minno*
Frances Alter Mitchell '30*
Judy Apt Nathenson '69*
Jane Bortman Porter '42*

Henry Posner III
Jane Dunn Prejean '36*
Eleanor M. Reilly,
Honorary Alumna*
Alan D. Riester*
Susan Crip Santa-Cruz '60
Jennifer M. Scanlon
Dorothy Dodworth Scullin '47
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.

A Busy Spring for the YOUNG ALUM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



A Lacrosse Weekend in Pittsburgh!

The Young Alum Leadership Council sponsored a spring weekend on May 13

and 14 for young alums, kicking off with a Friday night happy hour at the Cornerstone Restaurant owned by Erin Stern '00. The Young Alum Leadership Council banner was unveiled and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie and excitement leading up to the big game.

On Saturday, a crowd gathered at Garland Field for the inaugural alumnae/i lacrosse game. With more than 30 alums in attendance and packed stands, the day was a huge success. The current varsity teams battled against the alums in both a women's game and a men's game. Guest goalie, former All-American lacrosse champion and Head of School Gary Niels, was in such high demand that he participated in both matches. In the women's game, the alumnae stomped the current varsity team by four goals. The men's alumni team fought hard but fell to the current varsity team. All enjoyed a BBQ lunch, at which Devin Kalanish '12 and Kate Eaborn '06 earned MVP honors.

Young Alum Scholars

In 2010, YALC was happy to name its first Young Alum Scholar, rising senior Michael Booker '12. Having raised \$10,000 last year, YALC established a goal of \$20,000 this year. Challenged by a fellow young alum who offered to match every dollar raised, WT's young alums came through and will fund two Young Alum Scholars in 2011-2012, Michael Booker '12 and Sophia Miller '14.

One Joyous Act

To raise funds for the Young Alum Scholarship Fund, in early June Alec Silberblatt '08 performed a one-man show titled *One Joyous Act* in WT's Hilda Willis Room, which could only be described as hysterical, entertaining, and interactive. Silberblatt drew an audience of more than 80 people and was thrilled to return to WT's stage. Currently a senior at the University of Cincinnati where he's studying dramatic performance, Silberblatt has appeared in *Orpheus Descending*, *Picnic*, and *The Matchmaker*. For the past two summers, he has studied at the Dell'Arte International School for Physical Theater. It was there that he got his first taste of and fell in love with clown training. Silberblatt played Jason in *Rabbit Hole* first at Pittsburgh Public Theater then at Hartford TheatreWorks. This

summer he took *One Joyous Act* on the road, performing at the Boulder International Fringe Festival in August.

Farewell...and Welcome!

YALC hosted a happy hour at The Elbow Room in Shadyside in mid-June. Two years after being established, the group is proud of its accomplishments and is excited to continue its efforts to engage young alums with WT. Head of School Gary Niels thanked the leaders who are rotating off of YALC and welcomed new members.



Sarah Hillman '09 and
Annie Alexander '09.



Michael Nordenberg '02,
Shelby Bacharah '01, and
Kerry Soso '01.



Ryan Kalanish '09 and
Kate Eaborn '06.



Jen Gabler '94 and
Nathaniel Doyno '01.

YALC welcomes new and returning members for 2011-2012:

Ann Stanton Adams '93
Erika March Cutler '97
Anne D'Applonia-Dickson A'99
Nathaniel Doyno '01
David Farkas '02
Abby Robinson Foster '03
Mark Frechione '04
Michael Larson-Edwards '04
Sierra Laventure-Volz '05
Ashley Lemmon Gottwald '01
Margaret McFalls '96
Kristen Maser Michaels '01
Abby Ross '01
Anjali Sachdeva '96
Christie Schroth '95
Peter Scott '01
Jason Shavers '00
Nikhil Singh '06
Erin Stern '00
Kerry Soso '01
Ian Sullivan '04
Adam Witt '97

YALC thanks the following members for their service to WT:

Eric Brown '94
Michael Della Vecchia '03
Molly Dorrance '01
Jennifer Gonzalez McComb '89
Jennifer Staley McCrady '91
Daniel Michelmore '97
Antoinette Oliver '98
Kelly Hanna Riley '91
Laura Stack '01

WT on the Road in Florida

A lumnae enjoying the winter in Florida met with Director of Alumnae/i Relations Gaylen Westfall in Orlando, Sarasota, Ft. Lauderdale, and Naples in February. Writing about the Valentine's Day luncheon in Naples, Polly Brandt Lechner '59 says: "Best of all was the time spent with fellow WT grads of all ages. We had at the table a microcosm of 20th century American women—from the stay-at-home moms to the young women who are doing it all—babies, careers, etc. It was a thoroughly enjoyable time."



Deborah Tenenouser Hochman '85, Wendy Marks Pine '90, Suzanne LeClere Barley '52, Denise Shapiro Stamm '73, Jacqueline Marks Ledo '88.



Mary Christner Mullins '54, Lori Wiechelt Schwegel '80, Joanne Johnston Bowser '58, Gay Knake Haines '59, Wendy Werner Leiti '78, Joan Lichtenstul Rich '51, Ruth Anne Smith Shepard '65, Alexandra Brittain Knox '59, Claire Guentner Cohen '86, Annie Guentner (Honorary Alum), Bobbie Moritz Friedlander '54, Susan Santa Cruz '60, Connie Smith Franklin '51, Polly Brandt Lechner '59, Jennifer Deklewa Gabler '94, Natalie Hulme Curry.



Thelma Levin Levine '46.

Welcome Back, Young Alums!

WT faculty and seniors welcomed more than 40 alums currently in college for a luncheon gathering in the Hilda Willis Room in January.



Jacob Rayzberg '11, Gaylen Westfall, Tom Charley '07, Ben Charley '08.



Peter Frischmann, Elspeth Powell '08, Peter Curtis '08, David Hallas.



Alyse Alexander '07, John Maione.



Isabel Zehner '10, Gabriel DeMarchi '09.



Zachary Miller '09, Hadley Armstrong '09.

class notes

2009

Hannah Strong writes, "Sophomore year was very challenging but very rewarding. Last semester I took a class at Princeton University. My class had about 200 students and one professor. I had greater personal and educational experiences at my small school, just as I'd had at Winchester Thurston. I have been working for the past year as an Ecology Representative on my campus. I work to reduce the carbon footprint of our university and to raise awareness on how to live sustainably."

Hannah worked over the summer in Pittsburgh, and took voice lessons at Princeton. She will spend her spring semester in Vienna, and then one month next summer in France.

2008

Yin Yin Ou studied in Madrid, Spain, last spring and worked in Washington, D.C., this summer for a human resources organization. She served as a Stanford tour guide, worked

as a Marketing Associate for Stanford Marketing Group, and was a member of Everyday People (Stanford's a cappella group) during her junior year. Yin Yin is an International Relations major with Honors and a Modern Languages minor in Spanish and Chinese.

2007

Sonya Narla writes, "I graduated *cum laude* from Case Western Reserve University in May, with a four year Bachelor's and Master's degree in English (B.A.) and Bioethics (M.A.). I'm currently applying to medical school, and in my gap year I am serving as Executive Director of MedPLUS Connect. MedPLUS Connect is a nonprofit that aims to connect underprivileged health systems in developing countries with recovered and donated medical supplies from U.S. hospitals. The current focus of MedPLUS Connect is northern Ghana, West Africa. I am kicking off my new position with a trip to Ghana this summer to meet with the

Ghanaian Minister of Health and spend time in our partner hospitals—and I could not be more excited."

2006

Don Michael Mendoza writes, "I am still working with American University Communications, and am actively involved in theatre in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. I just closed my first post-collegiate musical production of *42nd Street* with The Arlington Players in the role of men's ensemble featured dancer. My role as Theatre Coordinator for BloomBars arts center in Columbia Heights in D.C. has grown to include a flourishing cabaret series, frequent theatre workshop offerings, and administrative partnerships with equity theatre houses such as Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and Studio Theatre."

2002

Rachel Gross's boyfriend Bary Dunn, whom she started dating



on her graduation day, proposed to her at Winchester Thurston School on March 18, 2011. Performing Arts teacher Barbara Holmes meant a great deal to Rachel while she was at WT. When Bary was thinking about a special place for his proposal, he decided on WT's own Falk Auditorium. Rachel was lured to WT under the guise of doing a story for *ThistleTalk* on the Gene Kelly Awards and Mrs. Holmes. Bary worked with staff at WT to interview Rachel on stage while a strategically placed video camera was rolling. When the time was right, music began playing and Bary entered. Shocked, Rachel said yes.



Catching up with Former Faculty From Mount Olympus to 'Grammar Jail': Fond Memories of Mrs. Bebb's Fourth Grade

"I liked fourth grade so well that I stayed in it for 30 years. I had more fun than my students," laughs Janet Bebb, who joined WT in 1970 and retired in

1996. From writing and publishing their own books, and studying the stock market and Shakespeare, to "...the fourth grade disease known as 'Me-itis'" that landed violators in 'Grammar Jail,'" fond memories abound. Bebb's most enduring legacy is the Greek play, a hallowed fourth grade tradition at the North Hills Campus culminating the unit on Ancient Greece, now in its 25th year. Through the years, Bebb has stayed in touch with former colleagues, and looks forward to reconnecting at Reunion in October. "It was such

a pleasure working with the teachers. Everyone was on the same page. We asked, 'What are you doing in your class? How can we overlap?' ...There was such a sharing, and the students were the beneficiaries."

Bebb's passion for education – and heart for children – still beats strongly. The grandmother of 10 fundraises for her grandchildren's school, teaches Greek mythology on occasion, and recently co-wrote a play with her granddaughter's kindergarten class. Her energy, creativity, and high standards were so legendary that her final day at WT was proclaimed Janet Bebb Day. "I really cared about my students," says Bebb. "There wasn't one day I didn't want to go to work."

2001

On June 18, 2011 **Ashley Lemmon** married Justin Gottwald at St. Paul's Cathedral in Pittsburgh. **Kerry Soso '01** and **Sara Droz '00** were bridesmaids, and alumnae **Kristen Maser Michaels '01**, **Lisa Przyborski '01**, and **Lauren Morelli '01** were in attendance. "It was the happiest day of my life," says Lemmon. Lemmon and Gottwald met six years prior through Kristen Maser.

Barry Rabkin writes, "**John Turner '01** and I just released the *CypherStyles How to Street Dance* DVD series. Shot in HD, the videos demonstrate and teach a wide range of street dance styles step by step, including break dancing, hip hop, house, rave, club, and more. The complete series is appropriate for all ages and ability levels and is available from *CypherStyles.com* and *Amazon.com*."

Angela Ambroz writes, "Things here are going well. I've actually been in India for the last month, helping with one of our health projects. I work for a research organization, The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, dedicated to poverty alleviation; we conduct impact evaluations of social programs. Specifically, I am in Bihar, India, where we are hiring and training 100+ field staff for

an upcoming household survey. After that, I'll be heading to Orissa for some meetings. When I'm not in India, I usually work from our Cambridge office — I help to write grant proposals, I write policy documents based on completed projects, and I assist other health programs."

1999

Amy Hirschman writes, "I translated my first book from Japanese to English, which is



being published by Quirk Books and will be released this coming November. *Crafting with Cat Hair* was originally written by Kaori Tsutaya, and is a fun, quirky craft book for cat lovers. It gives instructions on how to create handicrafts out of the excess hair brushed off of your cat. It is currently available for pre-order on *Amazon.com*."



Matt Engelberg writes, "Here is a photo of some WT alums at my surprise 30th birthday party in Pittsburgh on May 7. Also present at the party, but missing from the photo was **Becky Utech Gaugler '99**."



can play the duplicitous Friar Jacomo in a new film adaptation of Christopher Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*. Cameras started rolling early May. The film will premiere in early 2012. After the film wraps, I'm off to the Lake Tahoe

Shakespeare Festival to play Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*. I still hold out hope that an acting gig will one day bring me back to Pittsburgh."

1998

Alex Feigel Binsse writes, "My husband John and I are living in Churchill. John is a civil engineer and I am still in pharmaceutical sales. Our son Christian is four, and we welcomed our daughter, Marlie, on September 8, 2010. We're expecting our third child in November. We are enjoying living in the Pittsburgh area and we are enjoying being able to spend lots of time with the friends and family we have here."

1995

Kristin Trabucco writes, "Hello to everyone at WT! I just finished filming a commercial in wild and wonderful West Virginia, and now I'm taking some time off in the 'Burgh while I search for my next project. Hope everyone is doing well."

1994

Ian Gould writes, "I currently have a large bald spot shaved into the back of my head so I

1993

Ann Stanton Adams writes, "My husband Eben and I are proud to announce the birth of our son, William Stanton Adams, on January 16, 2011. His brother Tatum "Tate" John Adams will soon celebrate his fourth birthday."



Debbie Leff Dutton '81, **Rohini Tarneja Jeet '81** and her husband, in New Delhi, India in March 2011 celebrating the holiday called "Holi" where colored powders and liquids are thrown on each other.

class notes

1980

Medri-Anne Ramsden Durr writes, "I have very fond memories of Winchester Thurston and the class of 1980. After many years of living in Britain, I live in Johannesburg with my husband Mark and our four daughters."



Marsia Gibel Seydoux '77 and her husband Jean in Rio.



Sculpture by Caprice Pierucci '78 featured at solo show at Gremillion Gallery in Dallas.



Lunching on July 5 are Jan Mermelstein Shaw '78 and Class of 1979: Ellen Krause Johnson, Linda Fine, Jodi Cohen Klein, Robin Kann Gordon, Carolyn Kapner, Helene Stone Prince, Ellen Silverman Garvin, Laura Dutch Dinkin.



Catching up with Former Faculty

Reaching Out with High Expectations: Gloria Acklin

"I was tough," says Gloria Acklin, recalling her years as Middle School English and Upper School speech teacher from 1970 – 1991. "I had high expectations and got very high quality work."

If Acklin's standards were exceptionally high, so was her ability to reach each student.

"I'm certainly not a counselor, but there was a certain amount of that that had to be done," she reflects as she tells the story of one student who was "a real 'I dare you to educate me' type." Recognizing the student's artistic gifts, Acklin invited her to design the sets for a production of *Winnie the Pooh*. "She designed the most delightful set...By the time we produced the show, she [had transformed]. She needed to feel important, and she was. We really depended on her!"

"We took the play to the Home for Crippled Children [now the Children's Institute]. Afterward the children in the audience asked if they could go up and pet the 'animals,' and it was the most moving experience. This was not something you could ever, ever get in the classroom."

Acklin adored watching students "...grow in their appreciation for literature, especially Shakespeare and writing, and actually enjoying it."

Years later, she still inspires students as they realize the impact she had on them. One former student told Acklin, "'I had no idea what value debate was going to be to me.' She's now an attorney. She told me I'm right there on her shoulder when she is in the courtroom."

In retirement, Acklin spends her time on Chinese brush painting and watercolor, and writing. A recent visit to the school reaffirmed that Winchester Thurston remains an extraordinary place to teach – and learn. "The classrooms are very active with the children participating, and I was very impressed with the teachers. It's still a special place."



1968

Margie Balter writes, "I was honored at the Los Angeles Music Awards where I won an award for Motion Picture Song Placement of the Year 2010 ("Bluesie" from my CD, *Music from My Heart*, featured in the movie *Date Night*). The movie was great. Receiving an award for the music in the film is icing on the cake."

1965

Susan MacMichael Zuntini writes, "**Ellen Halteman '65**, **Lucy Miller Stevens '65**, and I met in Portland Oregon this past Easter and had fun visiting the Japanese Garden, enjoying fantastic hospitality from Ellen's friends, and seeing the Columbia River Gorge. The most fun was just seeing each other again after maybe 40 years. We had fun looking at Reunion pictures, even though we weren't there. I still live in Switzerland and am becoming more Swiss. I retired in 2010, so I have more time for travel and to see my two grandchildren."



Bebe Dorrance Marchal's family portrait from Easter 2011.

1960

Bebe Dorrance Marchal writes, "Our family portrait taken at Easter includes myself and my husband, Billy, our sons, their wives, and our five grandchildren. The picture also includes my brother Roy Dorrance; his daughter, WT alumna **Molly Dorrance '01**; and our brother Will Dorrance."

1957

Judith Rohrer Davis writes, "Hi everyone. Life is good in Raleigh. I have seven beautiful grandchildren all under ten: Three boys and four girls, which includes my newest granddaughter born in July."

1955

Beverlee Simboli McFadden writes, "My husband, Nobel Laureate Daniel McFadden, was named Presidential Professor of Health Economics at the University of Southern California. We celebrated the 10th anniversary of Daniel's Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in Sweden in December. We

traveled this spring to Morocco at the invitation of the King. The artwork of Raymond Simboli, my father, is on exhibit this summer at The Westmoreland as part of the exhibition, *They Practice What They Teach: Artist Faculty of Carnegie Institute of Technology.*"

Mary Minor Evans writes, "Bob and I had a wonderful trip to England. We came home on The Queen Mary II. I am President-Elect for our University for Seniors."

1954

Sally Helsel Price writes, "My oldest grandson, Matthew Price, graduated *summa cum laude* from Miami University of Ohio this May with two degrees and university honors."

1953

Dorothy Jones Menges writes, "I still work as a criminalist/forensic serologist. I ride and show two horses."

1952

Denny Grubbs, former Head of School, writes, "Debby and I attended the 40th anniversary of Revels, Inc. at Sanders Theater in Cambridge. We found ourselves sitting next to a WT couple: Alumna **Nita Dressler Argyles '52** and her husband. The last time Nita had come to WT was for her fiftieth reunion in 2002. What a pleasant coincidence!"

1947

Dorothy Dodworth Scullin writes, "I'm doing some painting occasionally and exhibiting watercolors. I am also slowly building memoirs about Pittsburgh and Stoney Lake. I work on manuscript and drawings for children's books. I have been enjoying correspondence with **Gwen Chenoweth Swaney '47**. Keep up the good work. I hope I'll be able to visit Pittsburgh and WT, perhaps this fall."

1944

Anna-Stina Ericson writes, "Winchester Thurston is very fortunate to have Gary Niels, a stellar faculty, and Gaylen Westfall at the helm of development."

1941

Virginia A Sheppard, former history teacher at WT, has lived at Asbury Heights since 1996. She has been an active volunteer in the post office and residential council. "Jinny" Sheppard attends art history lectures and remains an avid reader, especially of mysteries. Miss Sheppard still talks about her visit to the City Campus in 2007

class notes

when she toured the new Upper School and met Gary Niels and some of the current faculty. She always enjoys hearing from former students and classmates. Her sense of humor continues to be a source of delight to her many friends and caregivers. She sends her very best to the WT community and reminds everyone to always "think also of the comfort and rights of others."

HONORARY ALUMNAE/I

Sue Clement Scarborough, former Lower School Director, has accepted the position of Head of Powhatan School in Boyce, VA. Established in 1948, Powhatan School is a Kindergarten through eighth grade day school that serves the educational needs of students from Frederick, Clarke, Loudoun, and Warren Counties and the city

of Winchester, Virginia. Sue will be the tenth Head of School and the first female Head of School when she assumes the position on July 1. Currently, she is finishing her ninth year as Lower School Director at Buckingham Browne and Nichols School in Boston, MA. Sue was a teacher and Lower School Director at WT for 23 years, from 1979-2002.

Class Notes

The Pillared Portal is online!

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

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

Betty Jarrett Reed '32, October 11, 2009

Catherine Graham Minderman '46, June 18, 2010

Helen Gardner Tuttle '50, December 28, 2010

Kathleen Hannan Ebli '75, January 2, 2010

Nancy Ann Reed Hummel '47, February 1, 2011

Nancy Reid Banks '39, February 2, 2011

Jean Hetzel '77, March 4, 2011

Barbara Keebler Linn '40, April 16, 2011

Nancy Robb Hendel '51, May 9, 2011

Mary M. Voigt '40, May 21, 2011

Edith Pennoyer Vassamillet '48, May 23, 2011

Ann Price Cannon '38, May 26, 2011

Josephine Garber Brittain '40, June 23, 2011



Catching up with Former Faculty

From Science Researcher to Science Teacher: Ina Spencer

"I just loved teaching there. This was a most professionally satisfying part of my life. I had some really lovely students, and that was the joy of it," recalls Dr. Janina (Ina) R. Spencer of

her 17 years as Upper School chemistry teacher.

Spencer conducted research at Cornell University and the University of Hawaii, and wrote chemical abstracts in French, Polish, English, and German, before Miss Tucker hired her in 1970.

"I didn't think of this as being a role model. I just wanted to get young people excited about doing things," she explains. Among her proudest memories: "The National Institutes of Health selected one student from each state to travel to Washington, D.C., for its 40th anniversary

celebration, and Yumi Ijiri was chosen to represent Pennsylvania." Spencer also recalls Sunday morning meetings to prepare students to win top awards at the American Chemical Society's annual contest. "They were excited about chemistry and wanted to learn more than what we could do in class."

The excitement clearly stayed with her students: "Occasionally I would meet former students...They would introduce me to their daughters, saying, 'She was my favorite teacher at Winchester Thurston. She taught chemistry, and I loved it!'"

Spencer and her husband, now 89 and 90, recently moved to Lawrenceville, GA, near their eldest daughter. Spencer walks and swims regularly, plays bridge, and reads widely. And she and her husband have continued with their years-long love of ballroom dancing. "We do the samba, rumba, swing, foxtrot, cha-cha, and my favorite, the waltz."

Condolences

Louise Geer Herman '65, Audrey Geer Masalehdan '67, and Azadeh Masalehdan Block '98 on the death of their mother and grandmother, Lillian Vivoda Geer, December 17, 2010

Carolyn Hockensmith Gerber '68 on the death of her mother, Janet Byers Hockensmith, January 5, 2011

Elizabeth Baker Keffer '80 on the death of her husband, Jeff Keffer, January 17, 2011

Christine Crawford '66 on the death of her mother, **Nancy Reid Banks '39**, February 2, 2011

Katherine Warman Kern '74 and Cynthia Warman Pelton '78 on the death of their father, Guy Lee Warman, January 24, 2011

Katherine Rich Sherman '68 on the death of her mother, Idamae Brody Rich, February 9

Megan Donnelly '85 on the death of her father, Thomas Donnelly, February 26, 2011

Jennifer Hetzel Gear '78 and Emily Hetzel '83 on the death of their sister, **Jean Hetzel '77**, March 4, 2011

Melissa Crump Cook '68 and Susan Crump Hammond '70 on the death of their father, Edward Crump III, January 27, 2011.

Enola Sargent Almany '46 on the death of her husband, Abraham Almany, March 12, 2011

Georgia McKee Holmberg '64 on the death of her husband, Dr. James C. Holmberg, March 16, 2011

Amy Hodgson Babcock '76 on the death of her mother, Virginia Hodgson, April 4, 2011

Laura Linn Stouffer '75 on the death of her mother, **Barbara Keebler Linn '40**, April 16, 2011

Jane Arensberg Thompson '57, Diana Thompson '88, Phoebe Thompson A'16, and Claire Thompson A'18 on the death of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Jane Throckmorton Meyer, May 2, 2011

Tamara Lave '86 on the death of her father, Lester B. Lave, May 9, 2011

Christin Zandin '88 on the death of her father Kjell Zandin, May 3, 2011

Anne Pennoyer Newcomb '46 on the death of her sister, **Edith Pennoyer Vassamillet '48**, May 23, 2011

Abigail Pekruhn Kozak '87, Sarah Pekruhn Fry '87, and Susan Pekruhn Glotfelty '58 on the death of their father and brother, John Pekruhn, May 27, 2011

Nancy Netzer '69, Julia Netzer '13, Henry Netzer A '09, and Evan Netzer A '07 on the death of their mother and grandmother, Edith Netzer, June 17, 2011

Helen (Ginny) Garber '45 on the death of her sister, **Josephine Garber Brittain '40**, June 23, 2011



Catching up with Former Faculty

Bringing New Sounds and Experiences to the WT Community: Ann Clement Paylor

Whether teaching Kindergarten, directing Upper School Glee Club, or developing a course on the history of American music, Ann Clement Paylor loved every minute of her 20 years at WT. "You might have a second grade class one period, and Glee Club the next, so you had to switch gears quickly. It kept [me] very much alive."

Well before City as Our Campus, Paylor made use of Pittsburgh's cultural resources to enrich her students. "I was invited to train the street chorus [for Pittsburgh Opera's production] of *La Boheme*. My seventh graders appeared in three performances and did splendidly. We also prepared a chorus to sing with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony for a Bach piece, and one year the Glee Club sang an anthem...for commencement... antiphonally and a *cappella*, and...it was superb."

Former students still approach Paylor. "Often young women will come up to me and say, 'Do you remember the song you taught us in the third grade about the Mexican cat?' They want to teach it to their children!"

Paylor swims regularly, belongs to a book club, and enjoys traveling with her husband to visit their children (Jennifer Clement Leinweber '78, Rachel Clement Paulson '81, Kathleen Paylor '79, and Carole Paylor McKibben '80) and six grandchildren.

Not surprisingly, she is still passionate about music. "One thing I'm doing now which I adore is playing piano duets twice a week with a young woman who has great technique. We study and learn the notes until we perfect it." Reflects Paylor, "The arts are what civilize us. I feel great about, and am proud of, what I did at WT."

Catch up with more of your favorite WT teachers at www.winchesterthurston.org/formerfaculty.

Students Say Thank You: Donor Appreciation Luncheon

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



Brian Schreiber, Noah Vito '13, and Lynn Schreiber.



Elena Falgione '13 and Jane Arensberg Thompson '57.



Michael Booker '12 and Lynda Stern Coslov '64.



Henry Posner, Manoli Epitropoulos '14 and Anne Molloy.



Gary Niels and Jean Davis '32.



Sherm McLaughlin and Gwen Chenoweth Swaney '47.



From 1973 to 1990, Lower School librarian Gloria Checkley was a bookworm's best friend. "I always tried to make coming to the library a pleasure," says Checkley, renowned for her storytelling. Her secret? "You do it through voice and emphasis, and you choose stories that you like yourself." A favorite: Ursula Nordstrom's *The Secret Language*, which she used to introduce third graders to novels. "It starts out, 'Sooner or later, everyone has to go away from home for the first time...it happened to Victoria North when she was eight.' It's a good beginning, isn't it?"

Checkley imbued countless students with a love of literature, both at City Campus and at North, where she created the first library. Her proudest accomplishment was receiving the Jane L.

Catching up with Former Faculty **Introducing a Generation to the Power of Storytelling: Gloria Checkley**

Scarborough Award for Excellence in Teaching, because it came from the faculty.

Not long ago, Checkley toured WT's City Campus, and dropped in to visit Houston Library, which she describes as "very inviting and engaging. Mrs. Kraar was conducting story hour when I came by; she stopped to introduce me, and that was fun."

Now in her 80s, Checkley still loves storytelling to her grandchildren and, with one granddaughter about to marry, looks forward to perhaps reading to a great-grandchild some day. "I do know how to read a book out loud!" she chuckles, continuing, "It gives you a feeling that you really did do something good in life."



CAN YOU SPOT WT'S POLAR BEAR?

Better yet, can you name her?

There's a polar bear in the South Beaufort Sea that needs our help. She goes by the name of Polar Bear **#32698**, but we think she deserves better. So, in honor of WT's 125th birthday, we can give her a brand new name. Any ideas?

NAME HER.

Put on your polar bear thinking cap and give our furry friend a cool new name. Submit your idea online: www.winchesterthurston.org/polarbear

TRACK HER.

Wonder about our polar bear? Is she swimming in the Arctic? Hunting down her next meal? How big is she? What does she eat? Check in with her online: www.winchesterthurston.org/polarbear

Join us in celebrating our 125th birthday and learn more about polar bear living! Go Bears!

Made possible by a partnership with the World Wildlife Fund, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2011.



WT'S POLAR BEAR.
NAME HER. TRACK HER.
FOLLOW HER ALL YEAR LONG.



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On Reading

Artist André Kertész's exhibit *On Reading* is a prolific collection of still photographs taken from 1915 to 1970 featuring people reading books, an act that has become less common today due to new reading technologies. To pay homage to this concept, students in Carl Jones's Photography I class set out to capture present-day images of people reading print media. Students also took the photos, such as these images captured by Chong Li '12, using traditional black and white film to "use one form of evolving art to document another form of evolving art."