

WILLISTON

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL BULLETIN

30+
ALUMNI
STORIES

BROTHERS IN BUSINESS

Howard Wang '99 and Ben Wang '01 are bringing their distinctive eye to the world of design and architecture

SPRING 2022



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HOCKEY

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sions, scholarships, and loans, and
its educational, athletic, and other
policies and programs.

Head's Letter



Head of School Robert W. Hill III (center)
at one of the school's monthly formal
Residential Life Dinners

As the Head of School, one of my favorite things is hearing from alumni about pivotal moments from their time at Williston Northampton School—the challenging class that ultimately sparked a lifelong passion, the standing ovation after the musical, the come-from-behind victory to win the tournament. These kinds of memories—often recounted vividly decades after they happened—always remind me of the lasting importance of the environment and opportunities we are creating for students here and now.

Helping students gain the confidence and mastery to pursue their passions and ultimately have their own peak experiences requires caring teachers, coaches, and advisors, great facilities and programs, and a vibrant, inclusive community—all top priorities of our \$70 million *Williston Builds* campaign, which launched in December. Already hundreds of you have donated to the campaign, the largest in the school's 181-year history, and your participation is having an immediate impact on students here today. You can read about some of these developments on page 20 and at Williston.com/campaign. I also invite you to be a part of another important initiative: the school's upcoming strategic planning process. This summer, all alumni, parents, and friends will receive a survey via email, and we are eager to hear your ideas, suggestions, and feedback as we plan Williston's future together.

Speaking of the future, I feel certain the members of our girls varsity hockey team, and anyone who was in the packed crowd at Lossone Rink on March 6, will absolutely remember their NEPSAC win (see page 97) as one of those peak life moments. Watching Chuck Vernon '62 award the team the championship trophy in the tournament that bears his name is certainly a moment I'll never forget.

FOLLOW ROBERT HILL ON TWITTER AT @HILL3WILLISTON

WHERE TO FIND MORE WILLISTON

Register for an alumni event or submit a class note at Williston.com/alumni

See new school videos at youtube.com/willistonnorthampton

Network with other alumni through WillistonConnects.com

Watch a livestream of your favorite team at willston.com/athletics

Read the latest campus news at Willistonian.org

Order new Willy Wear at willistoncampusstore.com

Follow game scores on @WillistonTeams on Twitter

Enjoy campus photos at Instagram.com/willistonns

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

1.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

After an epic 24–1 season, the girls varsity ice hockey team won the NEPSAC playoffs in a thrilling 2–0 game against Noble and Greenough. Not to be outdone, boys swimming and diving prevailed for the second year in a row in the NEPSAC DII championship! Both boys and girls set NEPSAC and school records in the pool.



2.

MRS. GARRETT IS BACK!

Emmy award winner Ann Dowd '74 donned a bouffant wig to play Mrs. Garrett in ABC's live production of "Diff'rent Strokes" and "The Facts of Life" this year. The iconic dorm mom bridged both shows in the 1970s and '80s, and Dowd's portrayal—alongside John Lithgow, Jennifer Aniston, and others—earned rave reviews.



5 Things We're Talking About!

3.

RING THE BELL

Latin teacher Beatrice Cody revived the tradition of ringing the Angelus, a "joyful bell"—and a bell of remembrance. Dedicated in 1952, the bell was tolled daily at the former Northampton School for Girls to carve out a quiet moment of contemplation. Renewing the tradition this year, on the 50th anniversary of coeducation, seems particularly apt.



4.

LUNCH AND LEARN

This new initiative from Dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Nikki Chambers invites faculty and staff to come together biweekly at noon for honest and productive conversations about race and racism. Learn more and follow progress on our DEIB Strategic Plan at williston.com/diversity.



5.

50 FOR THE NEXT 50

In honor of a half century of coeducation, Williston Northampton School will be recognizing and celebrating 50 alumnae—both women of demonstrated achievement, and those of promise. Nominate an alumna at williston.com/50-for-the-next-50.



A GREAT DAY!

Founders Day was an AMAZING day for the Williston Northampton School community—we have so much to celebrate! It was wonderful to see Wildcats near and far come together to support our students and faculty on this special day.



THANK YOU!

FROM THE WILLISTON NORTHAMPTON
SCHOOL COMMUNITY



1,449
GIFTS

THANKS TO YOU,
FOUNDERS DAY 2022
WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

By the Numbers

155 first-time donors

273 donors from the
15 youngest classes

More than \$420K
raised

TOP THREE DESIGNATIONS

- DEIB
- Athletics
- Financial Aid



TOP ALUMNI CLASSES

1982 50 gifts

1983 42 gifts

1998 31 gifts

TOP PARENT CLASSES

2027 58%

2024 57%

2025 51%



SENIOR CLASS
80 gifts

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY AND MATTHEW CAVANAUGH

AROUND THE QUAD



“Unmute” was the theme of our sixth Why Not Speak Day, an event filled with workshops and discussions, all in the service of building communication and belonging. For the Unity Project, pictured here, students wound yarn between posts labeled with different identifiers, ultimately creating a web. “It’s important,” said Dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Nikki Chambers, “that DEIB work be joyful.”

6 QUESTIONS FOR COLSON WHITEHEAD

Writers’ Workshop presenter Colson Whitehead visited campus in December, following a school-wide read of his Pulitzer Prize–winning book *The Nickel Boys*.—BY KATE LAWLESS



What books influenced you when you were in high school?

Reading Gabriel García Márquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude* as a senior in high school and making that link between science fiction and fantasy and so-called high-brow literature was important for me. I was a big Steinbeck fan: *Of Mice and Men*, *The Grapes of Wrath*. Ellison’s *Invisible Man*, and Pynchon.

Is there something special about speaking to high school students?

I just try to roll with whoever I’m talking to. I do hope-fully reach that one weirdo kid [laughs] who’s like, Oh, maybe I want to write, or maybe I want to paint, or I don’t have to conform to some conventional idea of what I should be doing with my life. I can be a weirdo like him. So hopefully I’m reaching some of those folks.

When you think about that “weirdo kid,” what would you want them to know?

This is going to be terrible, but if you really want it, you’ve got to stick with it. And it is possible.

In your novel *The Underground Railroad*, the written word plays such a pivotal role in the lives of the characters. Can you reflect a bit on the power of literature?

There’s the reason why it was illegal to teach slaves, because if they get a taste of that knowledge, it’s power. Those almanacs Cora reads transport her far beyond the confines of the attic and North Carolina. The books are important to her, and if you read slave narratives, there’s always that moment where the main character, the person whose story you’re reading, learns to read, and suddenly they’re a person, not an object anymore.

Have you been reading a lot of fiction lately?

Not so much during this lockdown. I’m just working hard and I can only read crime novels and New York histories or biographies of New York politicians. My discovery this year has been Patrick Radden Keefe. He wrote a book of nonfiction about the Sackler family—oh, wow. It’s called *Empire of Pain*. It’s about their drug empire and how they brought Oxycontin and opioids to the masses and got people addicted as a business plan. So, I guess I’m getting more juice out of nonfiction lately than fiction.

What else have you been up to?

Video games in between projects. I’ll happily, when I finish a novel, spend two months playing video games. It’s always a nice way to unwind.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY AND KELSEY HALEY MEDIA



THEY’VE GOT GAME

The class of 2022 has the largest percentage of students in Williston history (a whopping 37 percent!) going on to play athletics in college. Keep your eyes peeled for Wildcats competing in baseball, basketball, football, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, track, and water polo at schools including Amherst, Bowdoin, Colby, Columbia, Harvard, Northeastern, Penn, Trinity, Villanova, and West Point.

Class of 2022

133

Total students

17

Students going on to play at the Division I level

32

Students going on to play at the Division II and III level

BEST IN CLASSES

In addition to the classics, here are a few recently added electives from the 2022-23 course catalog:

Playwriting and Screenwriting

In this intro to dramatic composition, students learn to write dialogue for the stage and screen, imagine new characters, and develop stories for performance. By course’s end, students write a monologue and a 10-minute play or short film script.

Social Movements in the United States

This course examines the political, economic, historical, and ideological origins of selected movements, from the late 19th century to the present. Students explore the rhetoric and tactics employed to achieve the movements’ goals, and the responses to these movements.

3D Printing & Computer Aided Design

Students learn how to use 3D modeling software and prepare those designs for real-world creation and assembly with 3D printers, CNC machines, and laser cutters. By using a combination of 3D modeling software and the printers/cutters in the new Maker Space (more on page 26), students get to research, design, build, and iterate their designs.



At the Night Market

A new tradition brings Asian culture and cuisine to the Quad

On a perfect Monday evening in April, Williston's Main Quad was transformed. More than a dozen food stations were set up, grill smoke wafted through the air, and Asian hip-hop music transported hungry students and faculty to the open-air markets of East and Southeast Asia. It was the school's first-ever Asian Night Market, an event months in the making that served as a kickoff to the following day's Why Not Speak Day events.

The idea began to take shape last fall, when Williston faculty member and Asian Alliance Club advisor Ken Choo periodically took groups of Asian students to nearby Asian grocery stores, collecting specialty goods that reminded students of their favorite dishes from home. They would return to Choo's home to cook and share stories, and it was on one of these occasions that the idea for the Asian Night Market was born—a school-wide cookout on the Main Quad featuring foods from China, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Everyone was excited about the idea, Choo says, "but the bridge between novel idea and

fruition came about because Owen Fu '22 took the reins and lent his effort, leadership, passion, and commitment."

Owen and other Asian Alliance Club members gained the necessary support from faculty, Physical Plant, and SAGE dining services, whose "encouragement and accompanying astute questions were crucial," Choo says. Using ingredients sourced from the same stores Choo and his students had visited, the crew of passionate student cooks worked in conjunction with SAGE staff to prepare authentic dishes from their home countries, including chicken tikka masala; skewers of beef, lamb, and vegetables; tempura; bulgogi; bánh mì; and grass jelly topped with boba. The Asian Night Market was a huge—and delicious—success, and the club is already planning for next year. "In the end, it was a wonderful chance for Asian students to spend time together and to share their cultures with the rest of the community," says Choo.

—Dennis Crommett

15

Students who earned Working Artist Awards this year in performing, directing, stage managing, technical theater, pottery, visual art, instrumental music, and choral music



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DENNIS CROMMETT AND CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



55M

Monthly visitors to *Newsweek's* online platform, which, in a recent story on Celsius energy drinks, mentioned a *Willistonian* article by Rosie Crooker '22 and quoted Williston Health and Wellness Services nurse Lindsay Hanford (spouse of Williston English teacher Kyle Hanford '97)

"This will be a bittersweet transition. I feel well prepared for this role because of the many years of close mentorship that Greg Tuleja has provided. I will miss his infinitude of intelligence, earnest respect for our students, positivity, humor, and steadfast leadership intensely."

—Kim Evelti Polin, who will become Academic Dean upon Greg Tuleja's retirement in July (more on page 16)

49

Students who engaged in Williston Scholars independent study classes in seven subjects this year. Topics of final presentations included *Hippolyta and the "Hero": A Modern Retelling of Hercules's Ninth Labor*, *Pond Health: Pursuing Restoration and Sustenance of the Williston Pond Through Studies of Its Connected Aquatic Ecosystem*, and *Revealing America's Influence on Nazi Germany's Race Criminalizing Laws*.



ATHLETICS BY THE NUMBERS

1

Number of years that NEPSAC squash champion Praghya Athavan Raja '22 has been playing squash

7

Games in a row that boys varsity basketball has defeated rival Suffield (but who's counting?)

2,590

Dollars raised for the Cancer Connection from Williston's annual Pink in the Rink girls ice hockey game against Andover, which the 'Cats won, 4-1

1,587

Viewers of the livestream of the girls varsity hockey 2-1 win over Nobles in the NEPSAC final (a record!)

6

New weightlifting racks, for a total of 12, in the strength training area of the Sabina Cain Family Athletic Center after a refresh this spring

175+

Students who use the weight room every day



SETTING THE STAGE

New Theater Director Jorge Rodríguez aims for transformation, for both the audience and student actors

This fall, after longtime Theater Director Emily Ditkovski left to pursue graduate school full time, Williston was excited to announce Jorge Rodríguez as its new Theater Director. Rodríguez, who formerly led

the theater program at Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA), came in prepared to carry on the long tradition of theater at Williston and to shepherd a program where students feel safe to take risks on stage, and work hard to master the elements of performance, all the while collaborating with their peers. It's a vision that was born through his early exposure to the dramatic arts.

Rodríguez grew up in Puerto Rico and, as a child, loved movies and television shows, leading his parents to enroll him in a local theater camp. After a rocky first few weeks, Rodríguez became hooked on acting. That camp experience set him on the path—college at Haverford, M.F.A and D.F.A. from Yale School of Drama, and seven years at PVPA—that led him to Williston. Despite his being “incredibly, painfully shy” as a child, playing roles on stage allowed him a means of expression that he grew to love. “Transforming myself into someone else and being able to express myself in a new way—that for me was really liberating,” he said.

As Rodríguez works with Williston students, he sees them likewise wrestling with how much of themselves to share. With this vulnerable age group in mind, he is determined to create an experience that emphasizes collaboration over competition. Within that community, he hopes to impart the many skills of performance and to motivate students to work as a team. For this year's seventh graders, who wrote monologues based on their identities and then performed them for a small audience, the approach took hold.

“It was really great to see how, when we were rehearsing, they were trying to make sure that not only had they memorized their own lines, but that everyone had memorized their lines—so that the show would have that sense of flow. They were taking pride in the collective work.”

Each year, eighth graders stage an entire Shakespeare play, and this year it was *The Tempest*. The group spent time understanding and analyzing char-

acter, story, and theme, and wrapped up the year looking at elements of design. Rodríguez also introduced a project in which eighth graders step into the role of directors, creating concepts for different productions that they then have to pitch to each other. Then they mock up ground plans and thumbnails for the set and costumes, and for their final project, present their visions to fellow students. “They have to take ownership of their ideas and answer questions to defend what they're doing,” Rodríguez added.

All these exercises are expanded on in the Upper School. One recent example: fight choreography. “We studied safe stage combat practices and then built fight combos so that they could integrate those into the performance. Perhaps not surprisingly, they loved beating the heck out of each other—or pretending to on stage,” he said, laughing.

As Rodríguez finishes out his first year at Williston, he's introducing into next year's curriculum a new class on playwriting and screenwriting that helps writers distinguish between scripts for the stage and screenplays for movies or television. In this class, he hopes to help students understand that the mechanics of character development, storytelling, and conflict development are essentially the same for each medium, even if they present different limitations and opportunities.

He's also helping advanced students conceive, develop, and present work in his trimester-long Williston Scholars theater class, with an emphasis on producing a polished finished product—or a well-conceived idea that could be a seed for a future endeavor. “We want to make sure that the students take away that process of refinement, understanding how long it really takes to create something, whether you're writing a play or a song, or choreographing a dance.”

As his first year comes to a close, and with two well-received plays—dramatic *Metamorphoses* and full-of-fun musical *Mamma Mia!*—under his belt, Rodríguez offers an encouraging summary of what theater brings to our lives.

“The theater is a place for us to enjoy the beauty of performance, to be able to have a moment of escape and be liberated by the world that exists on stage—this little cosmos that we're creating as artists. If we're doing our job, we can also help the audience come in and transport themselves to another realm.”

—Kate Lawless

DEEP ROOTS

Rodríguez takes the reins from a storied group of theater directors

CURTAIN UP

While student actors at Williston Academy had put on plays for years, Williston Theater made its official debut as the Dramatic Club in December 1919 with an evening of three one-act plays. Full of youthful energy and longing to shake up the status quo, **Lawrence Smith** led the new department for three years.

ENTER BOARDY

Howard Boardman, affectionately known as “Boardy,” took over in 1921. For 38 years, he ran the show, moving away from pirate adventures and melodramas and endeavoring serious drama. The Williston Theater in newly built Scott Hall was dedicated as the Howard G. Boardman Auditorium when he retired in 1959.

ENSEMBLE CAST

In 1942, Northampton School for Girls players began annual joint productions with Williston Academy boys. With few exceptions, the two schools performed together each year until they merged in 1971.

SCENE CHANGE

Ellis Baker '51 ushered the theater through a second golden age after Boardy. He mentored many future stage professionals and was much beloved, as was **Emily Ditkovski**, who joined the cast in 2009. She led the department through the pandemic, when productions turned virtual.

SNAPSHOTS

These are the moments that defined life at Williston this winter and spring. We took pictures to make them last a little longer.

Mamma Mia! brightened up our February, bringing Grecian sunshine—plus a gold lamé pantsuit, a psychedelic dream sequence, and big, punchy dance numbers. Some 900 audience members soaked it all up.



In addition to cozy study spaces, Clapp Memorial Library is also home to Williston's writing, math, and science resource centers



Cookies, cocoa, and community at a sophomore assembly



Performers sang in the season during the holiday concert in Phillips Stevens Chapel



Girls lacrosse players get pumped for a game against Westminster (they won 10-5!)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY, MATTHEW CAVANAUGH, KELSEY HALEY MEDIA, AND DENNIS CROM-

After the holiday banquet, students moved over to Reed for cider and singing carols around the piano



Dramatic skies and happy smiles at our Residential Life Dinner in April

AROUND THE QUAD

Wildcats in their natural habitat, bouncing off steam and feeling the joy!



TWO EDUCATORS, FOUR DECADES

Assistant Head of School Ann Pickrell and
Academic Dean Greg Tuleja retire after a combined
79 years of exceptional service to Williston

BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

When Assistant Head of School Ann Pickrell and Academic Dean Greg Tuleja began their careers at Williston, Ronald Reagan was in his first term as president, Michael Jackson's new album *Thriller* was filling the airwaves, and IBM had just introduced what it was calling a PC. Over the next four decades, the world would change considerably, but the guiding presence of Pickrell and Tuleja at Williston would remain a reassuring constant. As teachers, administrators, coaches, dorm parents, and advisors, they would demonstrate the empathetic professionalism that distinguishes the school today. With their double retirement at the end of this academic year, a remarkable era comes to a close, even as their example continues to shape the institution.

The heartfelt words of their former students suggest just how consequential their impact has been. "What Williston, and specifically Ms. Pickrell, taught outside the classroom are the lessons I carry with me every day," noted Olivia Moses Clough '09, one of dozens who recently posted tributes to the pair on the Williston

website. "I am forever grateful for the privilege of her counsel." Added Abbie Coscia '19, "I promise without Mr. T, I would not have made it through my years at Williston. The most amazing mentor, advisor, coach, and person all in one."

For all of their achievements as educators and coaches, these interpersonal connections are what Pickrell and Tuleja say they most cherish about their time at Williston, relationships forged in the unique environment of boarding school. "Williston is a student's home away from home," Pickrell explains. "We don't take the place of their parents, but we're an additional parent. I'm still in touch with people that went here 40 years ago." Tuleja agrees: "When these alums come back, and they're running up to you because they haven't seen you in years and want to say hello—there's something really warm and valuable and authentic about the relationship that's established here." How did these two educators become so beloved by the Williston community? To understand that, we have to start at the beginning...



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Ann Pickrell grew up surrounded by educators.

When she was a child in southern Vermont, her grandmother, parents, and several aunts and uncles were all teachers. She too was interested in the profession, but as a three-sport high school athlete, she had a passion for coaching. At Springfield College, she majored in physical education and history. On a lark after graduation, she interviewed for a position teaching history at Cushing Academy. She got the job and stayed for four years, coaching field hockey, skiing, and track and field, and starting a girls lacrosse team. By the time she left in 1982, she had risen to Associate Director of Admissions.

At Williston, Pickrell began her career teaching science and physical education at the Middle School, but soon was hired as Associate Director of Admissions, a post she held for 10 years. She then spent 20 years as Director of Admissions, and has served as Assistant Head of School for the last 10.

Over those four decades she also was head of John Wright dormitory (at the time, the school's newest girls' residence), traveled extensively around the world as a school

representative, compiled impressive records as the head coach of varsity field hockey for 30 years, and launched the girls golf program in 2003. But it is her work as a student advisor that she found most rewarding, "helping students, getting to know their families," she explains. "I've been here long enough that for some of the students that are now at Williston, I was their parent's dorm parent, or advisor, or coach."

She also proved a helpful advisor to a young Greg Tuleja, who had arrived on campus a year after her. "She was crucially important to me in trying to figure out how to navigate the boarding side of things," he recalls. "Ann always professed finding the balance between being authoritative and being approachable. You can't be friends with the teenagers, but you can be friendly with them. They should feel they can talk to you. We have that balance as coaches and as teachers, but in the dorm, it's crucial to find that. I'll always be grateful to her for that."

The benefits of time have given Pickrell a rare perspective on the foundational forces that continue to shape the education profession: the introduction of computers and technology into the classroom, the expansion of arts programs and other extracurriculars, and the focus on issues of equity and diversity, particularly within independent schools. And in the wake of these developments, as the world has become more divided and distrustful, she sees independent schools like Williston playing a key role in building bridges.

"Williston has students from 30 different countries this year and from all over the U.S.," she points out. "Developing those connections—that trust, that respect, that sense of purpose—is important. Access is another issue. Independent schools have been traditionally the places for the elite. That's changing at the college level, and at the independent school level." Leaving Williston is bittersweet for Pickrell, but she notes

she is 66 and her husband is 73, and "I just don't want to regret that we didn't have the time to spend together. The pandemic has shown that you can't take anything for granted." She plans to travel, play golf, and put some time into her Chesterfield home. "I'm someone who likes to be active," she says, as if her 40 years of achievements at Williston had not demonstrated that already. "I'll keep busy."



Greg Tuleja could cite any number of highlights to of his 39-year career at Williston:

his legendary run as girls cross-country coach, his accomplishments as a teacher of music and English, his success as an administrator culminating in his work as Academic Dean. But what stands out for him is something more personal. "When I'm in my office and students come by just to say hello, that to me is everything that Williston has meant to me," he says. "Those moments happen all the time, and those are the biggest ones for me."

That he would today be held in such high regard by generations of runners and students may not have been imaginable to the 32-year-old musician, fresh out of a master's program in flute, who arrived at Williston in 1983. Born and raised in New Jersey, he had earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Rutgers, then taught himself enough piano to play in rock bands around New York City for a decade. He also played flute (handy for his band's Jethro Tull covers) and gave flute lessons, and he soon realized just how much he enjoyed teaching. He started at Williston half-time, teach-

ing two classes and coaching two sports, and living in a dorm with 75 sophomore boys.

By the next year he was a full-time teacher, then served as a college counselor, Director of Studies, and eventually Academic Dean. When he began to miss the classroom mid-career, he returned to teach English 9 and AP Music Theory.

Tuleja's appointment as Head Coach of girls cross-country by Athletic Director Rick Francis may be his most serendipitous moment at Williston. "The team had only been in existence for about three or four years with different coaches," recalls Tuleja, who had been a recreational runner and coached youth baseball in New Jersey. "When Rick gave it to me, I certainly didn't think that I was going to stick with it for 40 years. But it turned out to be absolutely perfect for me."

And, as the record books show, for Williston. His teams would have 25 consecutive winning seasons (including three undefeated) and two NEPSAC championships, and compile an astounding record of 274–95. As great coaches do, Tuleja sees his job as being about more than sports. "My first rule every year is to make sure that the kids know that I appreciate what they're doing, and that I know how hard it is," he explains. "To run 3.1 miles as fast as we ask them to run is emotionally, mentally, and physically challenging. And to see these girls come through the finish line, having given it everything, every single Saturday, they need to hear from the coaches that we see that."

As an administrator in a constant-



ly evolving profession, Tuleja has had to confront challenges of his own, notably responding to the changing role of technology in the classrooms, developing academic support services for students, and working to make Williston socioeconomically diverse as well as financially healthy. What keeps him encouraged is the passion of Williston students, a quality that today remains as strong as ever, he says.

"I've always felt that the kids here want to be here," he explains. "That struck me my very first year. They were eager not only in cross-country, but in the music classroom, and in the dorms. They were excited about

being at the school and they wanted a connection with the adults. Nearly 40 years later, that's still the same."

Looking ahead to his retirement, Tuleja is planning trips to Europe and the United Kingdom with his wife, Frances, who has dual citizenship with Ireland. "That's always been a big dream of ours, to spend part of our retirement in Ireland," he says. (His son, Owen '05, now lives in Poland.) He'll also have more time to devote to his poetry writing. And in a drawer in his desk, he's kept the many notes of appreciation that alums have sent him over the years. "I'm going to go through them very, very slowly," he says. "One by one."

CAMPAIGN UPDATES



Head of School Robert W. Hill III (center) with Trustees and Campaign Co-chairs Ellen Livingston '86, P'18 and John Booth '83, at our New York City launch celebration. See more launch pics on page 65.

Since its launch, the *Williston Builds* campaign has inspired donors to come together in support of our students, faculty, campus, and community

In December, Williston entered the public phase of our \$70 million comprehensive campaign, the most significant fundraising initiative in Williston's 181-year history. Deeply rooted in the progress the school has made during the last decade, *Williston Builds: The Campaign for Our Community* is focused on transforming student life, strengthening academic excellence and faculty development, and investing in the many types of diversity that add depth and vitality to our community. On these pages you'll meet a few of the alumni, parents, and friends who have already gotten involved—and the ways their generosity is immediately making a difference at the school. Find out more at williston.com/campaign.

Our Campaign Priorities

COMMUNITY

Building a shared sense of connection

In addition to Williston's new \$20 million Residential Quad—now home to more than half of our boarding students—the campaign is funding programs and student support that build connection and community.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Supporting students and exceptional teaching

To ready students for college and beyond, we are developing new programming and courses, expanding academic support, investing in new and renovated academic spaces, and creating faculty development opportunities that let us retain and support the best teachers.

ACCESS & BELONGING

Increasing support of need-based financial aid

Support for financial aid helps us attract talented students across the socioeconomic spectrum, which increases the quality and value of a Williston education for all students. Since the true cost of a Williston education exceeds tuition, we're investing in supplemental aid to ensure a sense of belonging for all.

MOMENTUM

Building a strong Williston Northampton Fund

The Williston Northampton Fund is the cornerstone of *Williston Builds* and supports the most critical year-to-year needs of students and faculty. Annual giving is the lifeblood of a strong school, allowing us to fund emerging opportunities while sustaining our people and programs.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY AND JAMI SAUNDERS

CAPPING OFF THE NEW QUAD

The dedication of Wold House recognizes the Wold family's longtime support of the Williston community

Peter Wold '67 likes to tell the story of his arrival at Williston in the fall of 1964, having made the three-day drive with his parents from their home in Casper, Wyoming. As the family dropped off their son in a place he had seen before only in photos, his father, John, a prominent figure in the oil industry, offered advice that Peter has not forgotten. "He said, 'This school will provide you with many opportunities. Work hard. Take advantage of them,'" recalls Peter. "I didn't know a soul, but within 10 minutes there were people helping me into my dormitory. My love affair with Williston started that day."

Over the next half century, Peter would demonstrate how resilient a long-distance relationship can be. After graduation, he returned west to attend Colorado State University and to build his own career, beginning with a venture in trout farming, then working for various energy companies before joining his father and brother at Wold Oil Properties, where he is now Senior Partner. He too became a leader in his community and the oil industry, and yet he never lost his connection to Williston. A Trustee from 1999 to 2008, he has been a consistent volunteer for the Annual Fund and Reunion gift committees, with an unbroken four-decade record of giving. His devotion to the school was recognized in 2009 with Williston's Distinguished Service Award, and in 2012 with the Daniel and Jane Carpenter Award, in honor of his impact as a volunteer. He passed along his love of the school to his son Joe Wold '06, who followed his father to

Williston and there met his future wife, Chelsey Cutting Wold '07. And now, students arriving on campus are welcomed into a dormitory that bears the Wold family name. The former 194 Main Street dormitory, a cornerstone of the recently completed Residential Quad, was rededicated in October as Wold House.

The Wolds' generosity to Williston underscores the family's deep commitment to education. "The importance of education has always been a part of our family," says Peter, noting that his grandfather was the longtime head of the physics department at Union College. "Whether it's our own education or providing an opportunity for somebody else, we have always tried to be at the forefront." Peter's father, John, also instilled in his sons the value of civic participation. "Whether you're giving of your time or your resources, it's important that you be a contributor," Peter says. "Because of the impact that Williston had on me, I have felt strongly that I wanted to do as much as I possibly can for Williston." In 2019, the family established the Wold Family Financial Aid Fund, given to qualifying scholar-athletes, preferably those who play hockey, as Joe Wold did as co-captain of the 2006 varsity team. For Peter, supporting a student who is active in extracurriculars builds on his father's advice, which he believes still holds true. "There are so many opportunities that Williston provides, in addition to academics," he says to students today. "So work hard, do well, but take time to take advantage of those opportunities."

To read the full version of this abridged story, visit williston.com.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Brandon Diaz '12 wants to help other students follow his path to success

It's just a few miles from where Brandon Diaz '12 grew up to where he now works, at the Madison Avenue headquarters of the global financial services firm Jefferies Group. But Diaz says he could not have made the journey without passing through Williston. "It was probably one of the biggest opportunities of my life," he says of the school and the financial aid package that allowed him to attend. "I like to think of it as a launchpad for me as a person, finding my identity, but also pointing me to my career and getting me to where I am today."

Raised in Battery Park City, Diaz was a versatile athlete and active community member at Nativity Mission Center, a small Jesuit-run middle school for low-income families on the Lower East Side. One day a boarding school representative gave a talk to the students, and Diaz was intrigued. Fortunately, Diaz was also active with The Boys Club of New York, which offered programs that introduce inner-city students to independent schools around New England and assist with the financial aid process. Diaz was one of just a handful from his middle school to be accepted at a school—and the only one from his class to graduate.

After attending Hunter College, where he majored in economics, Diaz was hired to a back-office position at Jefferies. Five years and several promotions later, he now holds what he considers his dream job, trading and selling bonds to hedge funds, investment banks, asset managers, and others. "It's a lot of work," he acknowledges, "but it's very fulfilling."

Along the way, he has kept his connection to Williston, serving on the Head's Visiting Council, taking part in alumni networking groups, and, since 2018, being a member of the Wildcat Club, Williston's young alumni leadership level of the 1841 Society. Diaz makes a recurring monthly gift—earmarked specifically for financial aid—because he sees the financial aid program as a vital link in broadening access to the school and helping other low-income students follow his path of success. "I don't believe talent or ability discriminates by socio-economic class," he explains. "So allowing people who have ability or talent to gain these prestigious transformational opportunities, it's really just an investment—in the student, and the school, and the community itself. It can be a big investment, but I think it pays off. People who might not have had certain opportunities are now able to reach them, because of a wonderful launchpad like Williston."

To read the full version of this abridged story, visit williston.com.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMI SAUNDERS (LEFT) AND DENNIS CROMMETT (RIGHT)



SUPPORTING STUDENT INNOVATION

A generous gift from Robert H. Sammis '51 is helping to fund scientific exploration and a new campus maker space

A recent gift from the late Robert Sammis '51 is already at work on campus, helping support one of the key *Williston Builds* campaign priorities—Academic Excellence. Thanks to Sammis' generosity, students in AP Computer Science, Biology, and Genetics classes now have cutting-edge new equipment, ranging from specialty computers to a thermocycler and gel electrophoresis chambers, shown above and at left. "In all levels of biology, students can now run high-level genetic and molecular experiments, which is pretty amazing," says science teacher Chris Pelliccia. In addition, Sammis' gift helped outfit Williston's new Maker Space in Reed Campus Center with 3D printers, laser cutters, and other tools for innovation. (See story on page 26.)



\$56.3M

Total raised to date toward our campaign goal of \$70 million

THE BIG QUESTION

Q. What is your favorite tradition or special weekend activity at Williston—and why?



I love how the annual **football homecoming game** brings together our whole community. Whether you're playing or cheering for your friends, there's a great atmosphere. Because it takes place early in the fall, the homecoming game is a time when new students and older students can get to know one another and enjoy the school spirit and positive environment. —Will Sawyer '22



My favorite weekend activity is definitely **broomball**. During the pandemic, Williston had to be creative when coming up with weekend activities, and broomball was such a fun and successful activity. Hitting balls with brooms while stumbling around the ice was new, competitive, and funny to watch. Having a league and tournament made it even better as people really got into it. It was a creative and happy activity that people loved! —Anna Jofre '22



My favorite tradition is **outdoor movies**. During the pandemic, these were a great way to get everyone together and maintain social distancing. I will never forget walking up to the Residential Quad after a long day of athletics and seeing the ice cream truck, burger grills, and a giant movie screen. Everyone would bring out blankets and bundle up as the sun went down and the movie started playing. The ingenuity of this event shows that Williston will always come together, even when the going is tough. —Annika Jensen '23



My favorite Williston tradition is **ringing the bell** after winning a game. On the water polo team, we run up right after home games, still in our swimsuits and crocs. It's amazing to celebrate our individual accomplishments together with the whole team, and we clap as each person rings the bell. Every time I hear the bell from the dining hall or Reed, I know the Wildcats had a good day. —Pippa Berry '23



My favorite tradition is **Grandparents and Special Friends Day**. I love seeing my family and showing them what I have been learning on campus. It always makes campus seem livelier to have them around. I think it's a great tradition that helps us show our grandparents we are thankful for everything they have done for us. —Sophie Edmunds '23



I love the **canoe race** across the pond during Willy Gras, our annual spring festival. Two students per grade don life jackets and paddle their hearts out while the rest of the school lines the bridge and cheers. I love the competitive school spirit, and I have a good feeling the class of '22 can clean up this spring. —Sarah Markey '22



One of my favorite traditions at Williston, prepandemic, was **Willy Gras**. All the students gather on the Main Quad and there are so many fun activities to enjoy! There's a bounce house, an obstacle course, a bubble pit, a water slide, food, drinks, and warm weather. Not to mention the tasty ice cream and treats! I look forward to it every spring at Williston, and am so glad it's back again this spring. —Kennedy Dawson '22



My favorite weekend activity at Williston has been the **volleyball tournament**. This event really brought the whole campus together and allowed for some stress-free time with friends after a long week! —Praghya Athavan Raja '22



My favorite tradition during my time at Williston has been **Willympics**. It's a great festival at the beginning of the year to get everyone excited for the year ahead. With events such as the banner decorating competition, lip sync battle, and mini game competition, it's an event that draws in the whole school. It is a fun way to welcome new community members each fall and set a fun tone for the year. —Rosie Crooker '22



My favorite way to get to know people has been through **Spikeball**. Playing in competitive tournaments under the lights on Sawyer Field is an activity I will never forget. Even when you lose, the fun isn't over because in the championship game, the losers stand in a circle rooting for their friends to win. The laughs I had and memories I made are things I am so happy I got to experience at Williston. —Isabelle Ireland '23

ILLUSTRATION BY LAURÉNE BOGLIO



MAKER'S PLACE

In Reed's sunny art studio, students are using technology to find new ways to create
—BY KATE LAWLESS

Williston students have a new array of state-of-the-art tools to make almost any object they can dream up. A second-floor art studio in the Reed Campus Center has been transformed into a Maker Space, housing a laser cutter/engraver, a CNC carving machine, four 3D printers, and the computers and software that interface with them all. (See below for more on these tools.)

Outfitted by a generous gift from the late Robert Sammis '51, the space gives students opportunities to create in new ways. More importantly, perhaps, it also provides pathways to a wide variety of careers, such as art and design, architecture, entertainment, engineering, aerospace, robotics, manufacturing, and health care.

The maker behind the

Maker Space is Charles Raffetto. Williston's longtime Theater Production and Facilities Manager, Raffetto also started teaching visual arts in the Middle School four years ago. "I knew that I wanted to provide a curriculum that allowed the students to approach art from a different perspective than they might have been used to," he said. "I wanted to incorporate technology into the design and assembly processes."

In thinking about the tools

and space needed for this kind of exploration, Raffetto originally envisioned using part of the theater shop in Scott Hall, but soon started sketching out plans for a dedicated and fully equipped room. His renderings fortunately lined up perfectly with the alumni gift, and the Maker Space came to life.

"So many people feel that they aren't artistic because they don't have the skills to paint photo-realistically, or they haven't had the chance to

spend hours and hours in an art classroom," he says. "These machines don't replace artistic skill, but they open the doors and make room for more types of artists." Using the computer stations, students can design almost anything—laser-etched artwork, a topographically accurate landscape for a model house, elaborate stencil patterns, or props for a play. Right now the space and the tools are so new that they are primarily being used in

art classes, but ultimately, the tools can work for any subject. "Is a student learning about the brain?" asks Raffetto. "Great, now they can 3D print a model of one instead of only looking at images online."

"My hope is that we will get to a point where Williston community members come into the space and make either practical or whimsical things for themselves," Raffetto said. Once word gets out, no doubt they will.

WHICH MAKER MACHINE IS WHICH?

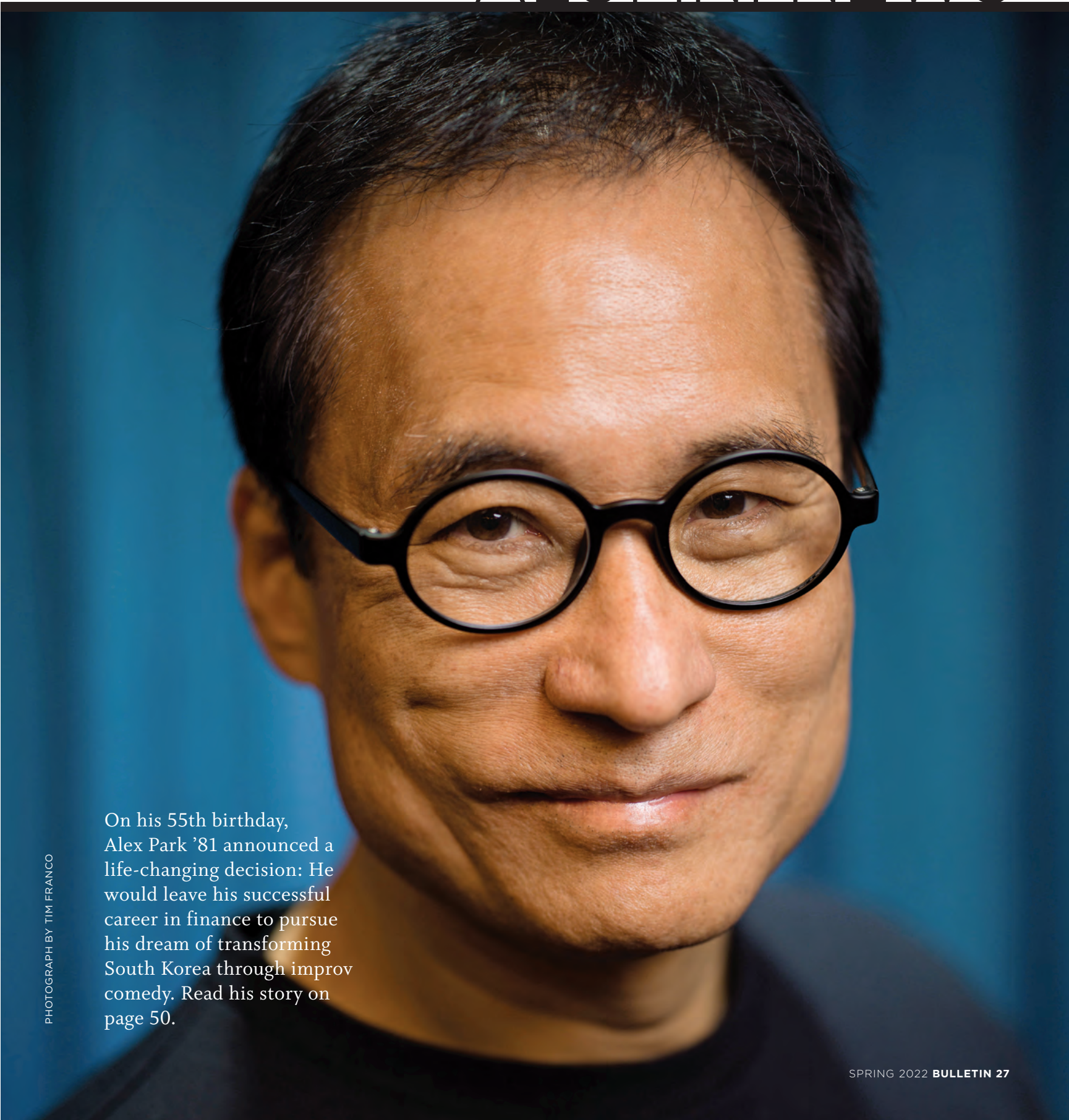
3D Printer 3D printers create objects layer by layer using materials such as plastic filaments, resins, or plastic or metal powders. Using a source of energy such as a laser or heated extruder, layers of these materials are solidified to form the finished part.

CNC Machine A CNC (computer numerical control) machine starts with a block of material (often wood) called a blank and cuts away at it to create the finished product. To do this, cutters and spinning tools are used to shape the piece.

Laser Cutter/Engraver Laser cutting is a fabrication process that uses a thin, focused laser beam to cut and etch materials into custom designs, patterns, and shapes.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

ALUMNI NEWS



PHOTOGRAPH BY TIM FRANCO

On his 55th birthday, Alex Park '81 announced a life-changing decision: He would leave his successful career in finance to pursue his dream of transforming South Korea through improv comedy. Read his story on page 50.

WILDCAT ROUNDUP

Alumni are achieving great things: Here’s a roundup of just a few of the latest and greatest.—BY KATE LAWLESS



Boys varsity hockey players who volunteered at a summit convened by the Carnegie Initiative for Inclusion and Acceptance in Hockey. The January event was hosted by Trustee and Carnegie Initiative Co-founder Bryant McBride '84. It culminated in the retirement of the Boston Bruins jersey of Willie O'Ree, the National Hockey League's first Black player.



2

Awards for Boston Celtics executive Brittany Glenn '07. In March, the Senior Director of VIP Experience, Retention, and Operations earned the 2022 Endicott College Graduate Women in Sport Leadership Award. She serves as an Advisory Board Member for the program. In December 2021, the Boston chapter of Women in Sports + Events (WISE) conferred its first-ever Rising Star Award to Glenn. Slam dunk!



“Be kind. Life is not a competition. At best, it’s a group project. And kindness will take you farther than anything else. People have long memories, and the ones who stand out are those who are friendly, the people who don’t make work seem like a chore, and who recognize that everyone is just trying to make it through the day.”

—Tolu Onafowokan '05, in her Cum Laude Induction Ceremony address (read the full speech on williston.com)



FOOD IS LOVE

As she adapts to COVID-19, entrepreneur Michelle Parrish '01 stays true to her mission

Michelle Parrish's grab-and-go brick-and-mortar food prep company has been marinating for a long time. Food has always been front and center for the class of 2001 Williston graduate. In 2017, after she took a business class offered by the city of Richmond, Virginia, she started Soul N' Vinegar as a catering company, the name a nod to her African-American and Korean heritage. The following June, with the help from two federal SEED grants, she converted a brick 500-square-foot former beauty salon in the Church Hill neighborhood of Richmond—a designated food desert—with the goal of selling affordable, healthy food to residents. “I grew up poor,” she said from her sunny apartment in Richmond where her two COVID-19 cats, Tamari and Mirin, gazed out the windows. “I don’t think I realized how poor I was until I was an adult.” But poverty didn’t take away from what was on the table growing up in



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Chicopee, Massachusetts. “We always had good food. So, in my mind, I’m definitely one of those people that feels like if you have good food, you’re living. What more can you ask for?” Her food has been a hit. Eaters delight in healthy meals, often vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free, such as her gochujang glazed fried chicken sandwich and vegetable spring rolls with chili oil. “It’s part of my responsibility as a citizen of the planet to use my skills for good. And so, I’m the cook!” Building on her success, in October of 2019, she opened a satellite in the Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University. It was only five months later that the museum—and the world—shut down because of the coronavirus. Parrish adapted. She turned her tiny eatery in Church Hill back to a catering outpost, bringing the COVID-safe party to events around the city, and sold grab-and-go meals out the back door. “I don’t know if my business would have survived if it wasn’t in Richmond,” she said. “Richmond is a very welcoming city. It’s a very collaborative place.” The restaurant community there has organized pop-ups and special events, such as Vegan Week and Black Restaurant Week. She also is in the process of moving to a new location, with more than twice the square footage, down the block in Church



Vegetable spring rolls with chili oil (left) and blackened shrimp with Asian-dressed veggies are big hits at Parrish's Soul N' Vinegar eatery

Hill. COVID-19 woes and world events have not made the transition easy. “We are not able to get the equipment we need because it’s stuck on a ship somewhere. And if we can get something it’s three times more than what we have the budget for.” She’s hoping to open sometime in 2022. Meanwhile, she’s staying focused on her mission to bring nutritious food to a broad swath of people, a goal that has significant barriers. “A lot of people, when they hear healthy food, they think, it’s not going to taste good. It’s going to be expensive. And the shop is in a neighborhood that is rapidly undergoing gentrification.” She wanted to make sure that people “can walk in and they won’t be put off because I’ve put words on a menu that they don’t know,” she said. “Nobody should be intimidated by food, ever. There are so many other barriers already. So that’s our main thing: making sure that we are approachable.”

“It’s part of my responsibility as a citizen of the planet to use my skills for good.”

WILDCAT WRITERS

New books by alumni on cannabis policy and small-craft fishing

Cannabis Questions In *Can Legal Weed Win?*, authors and economists Robin Goldstein '94 and Daniel Sumner take readers on a tour of the economics of legal and illegal cannabis, showing where regulation has gone wrong and how it could be done better. Drawing upon reams of data and their own experience working with California cannabis regulators since 2016, they explain why many cannabis businesses and some legalization policies fail to measure up, while others occasionally get it right.

Guide to Kayak Fishing Alan Battista '07 published *Light Tackle Fishing Patterns of the Chesapeake Bay*, the third in his Chesapeake Trilogy: The Ultimate Light Tackle Angler. Kayak fishing has been the fastest-growing segment of overall angling in recent years. For those who want to join the floating-plastic party, Battista's series walks you through everything you need to know to land striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay every season of the year.



FASHION DISRUPTION

The fashion press loved Imitation of Christ’s Spring 2022 collection—pieces created with vintage elements and upcycled fabric by Tara Subkoff ’91, the label’s creative director, and her army of collaborators. Subkoff debuted the line at a circus-like performance piece at New York’s Saint Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery this fall. Founded by Subkoff in 2000, Imitation of Christ has been a perennial disruptor to the excesses of the fashion industry.



Nationwide outposts of Brewbike, a student-run franchise of coffee shop carts on two wheels. As a Brewbike CPO (Chief People Officer) at the University of Miami, Ana Weed ’18 is literally balancing school and work.

2

Grammy nominations in the Freelon family, a first for the awards. Pierce Freelon ’02 was nominated for his children’s album *Black to the Future* and his mother Nnenna Freelon for her jazz vocals on *Time Traveler*. Actor LeVar Burton introduced the two on Grammy night, calling out Pierce’s song—you guessed it—“LeVar Burton.”



The Hidden Universe

As a physics doctoral candidate, Matt Carney ’14 is helping shed light on the dark energy of the cosmos—BY KEVIN MARKEY

For astronomers working to unravel the secrets of the universe, the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope on December 25 came as last year’s ultimate Christmas present. Decades in the making, JWST is the most powerful observational tool ever sent into space. As it orbits the sun at a distance of nearly a million miles from earth, it will enable scientists to see objects far older and fainter than anything we’ve previously known. To put it all in perspective, we talked to Matt Carney ’14, a Ph.D. student in physics at Washington University in St. Louis who specializes in theoretical cosmology.

What is theoretical cosmology?

That’s the big question. Hopefully by the end of my Ph.D., I’ll know! Cosmology, roughly speaking, is the study of the origins of the universe. A big part of it is looking at what’s known as the expansion history of the universe. Our universe is expanding, and expansion means the universe is a dynamic entity. It’s evolving, which in turn affects the dynamics of galaxies and planets and stars and clusters of galaxies. I work on something called large-scale structure in the universe. And when I say large scale, I mean bigger than galaxies, bigger than clusters of galaxies,

bigger than superclusters of galaxies. How do we get stuff in the universe?

What makes the James Webb Space Telescope so exciting?

In cosmology there’s this principle that the farther you look out into the universe, the farther back in time you’re seeing. You’re looking at a snapshot of the far distant past, simply because light can’t reach you instantaneously. It takes time to travel. We measure this in terms of something called redshift. The wavelength of a photon gets redder the more it is stretched, and it gets bluer the more it is squeezed. So, you can actually tell if something is moving toward you or away from you based on if it’s shifted red or shifted blue. It looks blue coming toward you and red going away. The James Webb Space Telescope can see out to about redshift 10, which is insanely far. We will get to see potentially the birth of some of the first galaxies in the universe.

Are there particular issues in cosmology this radical new sensitivity can help resolve?

For me, the dream would be dark matter. The origin and nature of dark matter is, in my opinion, the

most pressing unanswered question in physics. The constituents of the universe are somewhat shocking if you haven’t heard them before. About 67 percent of the universe’s content is in something called dark energy. Then another 25 percent is dark matter. And the little bit that remains is all the things that we think of as the universe, the stuff that makes up your desk, flesh and blood, puppies.

We know that dark energy exists primarily from a cosmological standpoint. For the expansion history of the universe to match up with

“To me exploring the universe and our place within it is one of the most important things we can do.”

what we observe, there needs to be a very large constant force that is causing the expansion. This is what we call dark energy. Similarly, there has to be matter that we’re not accounting for. You can tally up all the missing matter in the universe based on galaxy measurements and try to match it to the missing matter in expansion

history, and you get fairly good agreement. We know dark matter exists and we know it is responsible for the vast majority of matter in the universe, but beyond that we have frighteningly little knowledge of it. Part of what’s hopeful with the James Webb is that the farther out you can get, the closer you can bridge the gap between early, early universe measurements and local ones.

What are the practical applications to life as we live it here on earth?

A fair question! I think there are two answers, and some people will find one more satisfying than the other. The most direct answer is that theoretical investigations have a way of leading to valuable technological breakthroughs that no one ever anticipated. Research in nuclear physics, for instance, is responsible for MRI machines. And we didn’t start out by saying, “let’s look for some way we can image things using magnetic resonance.” The other answer is more philosophical. To me, exploring the universe and our place within it is one of the most important things we can do. Thinking about things bigger than ourselves is entirely self-justifying.

Record numbers of Wildcats are going on to compete at the college level (see page 7 to read about this year’s crop). Below are seven recent grads who continue to shine.

SWIMMING

Macalester first year **Sian Lewandowski** ’21 anchored a team that won the 800-yard freestyle relay at the Roger Ahlman Invitational. Meanwhile, at the Total Performance Invitational, Kenyon senior **David Fitch** ’17 beat his own NCAA record time for the 100-yard butterfly set in 2019 at the NCAA Division III Championships.

BASKETBALL

Guard **Sam Stevens** ’21 was awarded NESCAC’s Rookie of the Year. The 6-foot-5-inch Middlebury first year, who started all 23 games he played, led rookies in the NESCAC in scoring, averaging 18 points per game to tie for third overall. In the Midwest, **Filip Rebraca** ’18 and his Iowa Hawkeyes were Big 10 tournament champions: Rebraca averaged 5.8 points and 5.6 rebounds per game.

ICE HOCKEY

Middlebury’s **Alexis Ryan** ’17 helped her team skate to the national title this March, as the Panthers became the first Division III women’s ice hockey team to post an undefeated season. In professional play, forward **Delaney Belinskas** ’16 helped her Boston Pride take the Isobel Cup for the second year in a row. The trophy is awarded annually to the Premier Hockey Federation playoff winner.

SOCCER

Class of 2020 graduate **Marco Cerezo**’s Connecticut College Camels emerged victorious in the men’s soccer NCAA Division III tournament. The team earned a 4–1 win over Amherst College at the University of North Carolina Greensboro Soccer Stadium.

BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

BACK ON THE AIR

After a 15-year career pivot, Glenn Jones '95 returns to anchor Boston television news

When Glenn Jones '95 decided to return to Boston television news after a 15-year career pivot into communications and marketing, his old friends from Williston gave him plenty of good-natured grief. Not because he was returning to the grind of the journalism profession, but because to do it he would be trading the warmth of his native Bermuda for the winters of New England. "They had visited me in Bermuda and know what I was leaving behind," says Jones, who started as evening anchor for NBC-10 Boston in November 2021. "So they enjoy sharing clips and making comments that I can only tolerate from people who have known me that long."

As a teenager, Jones himself had doubts about leaving his home island, arriving at Williston for a postgraduate year to encounter a new school culture and the cold of Easthampton. Returning to Bermuda for Christmas break, "I wasn't sure that I wanted to go back," he acknowledges. But he did, and he soon thrived, making lifelong friends with students from around the world, playing baseball for (and discussing cricket with) Matt Sawyer, acting in theater, and experiencing the benefits of "coexisting in close quarters, in a place where racially, spiritually, ethnically, nationally, people are just so different, but in common we share this desire to reach a higher level of education to hopefully have a successful life."

Jones served as press secretary for the Premier of Bermuda. "It was incredibly stressful," he says, "but it expanded me professionally in a profound way."

SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPH

MODERN MEN



Through their Shanghai-based DESFA Group, the Wang brothers bring a distinctive aesthetic to architecture and design—BY CATHERINE NEWMAN

Did Howard Wang '99 and Ben Wang '01 always know they were going to end up in business together, even back in their Williston days? Um, no. The brothers, who were born in Taiwan, moved to Los Angeles for middle school before, ultimately, coming to Williston. “We played basketball and tennis together,” Ben concedes, but that was about the extent of their collaboration. Now they’re the collective genius behind DESFA Group Inc., an international architecture design firm based in Shanghai. Howard, who took an architectural drawing class at Williston before studying

architecture at Syracuse University, co-founded the company with fellow architect Michael Dungca in 2010. Ben, who graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in general management and economics, joined as general manager in 2012. The firm is thriving and they love everything about Shanghai, which they describe as “the New York City of Asia.” Thanks to the city’s happening and diverse frontier vibe, they find inspiration everywhere for their work. They offered us a little tour through some of their favorite projects.



Howard Wang '99
(top left) and his
brother Ben '01
(bottom left)

1. ANCIENT CHAIR, NEW MATERIALS

DESFA's furniture brand is called SEdA, Spanish for silk, for the Silk Road that historically connected the East and the West—a cultural fusion that combines Confucianism and Buddhism with modern architectural theories, and that is everywhere evident in their design choices. The inspiration for this chair's shape came from an ancient drinking cup, but it's made from a contemporary rubberlike material—the same material that the client, a Xi'an shoe manufacturer, uses in its products.

2. FLOATING WALLS OF SHOELACES

Over 30,000 of the client's own shoelaces are used to create a floating room where the shoes themselves are displayed. The DESFA designers combine everyday traditional objects, like concrete blocks and bricks, with contemporary and recycled materials—a mix that characterizes their design aesthetic. Howard's attraction to traditional forms was influenced by his study of calligraphy, which he began learning at the age of 4, from monks at a nearby temple.

The designers combine everyday traditional objects, like concrete blocks and bricks, with contemporary and recycled materials—a mix that characterizes their design aesthetic



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DESFA GROUP



3. LIGHTING THAT TELLS TIME

For a tech client in Taiwan, DESFA designed a clean, minimal interior that includes lots of metal and state-of-the-art lighting that changes color over the course of the day to cue workers to different moments. Howard's sensibility was hugely influenced by the "Glass House" architect, Philip Johnson, with whom he worked in New York before starting his own company.

4. PLEASE HAVE A SEAT—ANYWHERE

DESFA designed the workspace around the repetition of flexible seating—the kind you might expect to find in a library. Nobody's space is assigned, and staff choose their day's spot each morning. In lieu of a designated desk or office, lockers give each employee a place to keep their belongings. Black, white, and gray are Howard's favorite colors to work with, since they create a basic canvas for other colors to pop against. Asked what other colors are in his own home, Howard hesitates before saying, "Green. I've got plants."



5. ELEVATOR TO INFINITY

The darkness of the elevator creates intimacy among the workers, while tinted mirrors create a feeling of expansiveness—what Howard Wang describes as "an infinity effect." The light, which changes color, echoes the shape of the company logo. DESFA does everything from urban planning and corporate architecture to private residences, interior design, and custom furnishings, and prides itself on choosing environmentally friendly building materials.

6. TRANSPARENT ARMY OF XI'AN

In a window display designed for the same company, transparent mannequins are reflected in multiple mirrors to create a kind of futuristic echo of the famous terracotta army of Xi'an, a 210 BCE collection of more than 8,000 clay statues. This interactive space is open to customers, thereby blurring the line between display and experience.



DESFA does everything from urban planning and corporate architecture to private residences, interior design, and custom furnishings

BY JONATHAN ADOLPH



A LIFE OF CHARACTER

Businessman and philanthropist Natan Peisach '57 often tells the story of his first day at Williston. It was the fall of 1954, and the 14-year-old from Bogotá, Colombia, was trying to understand a place where even the seasons were new. At an orientation meeting in the basement of Memorial Hall, dorm master David Thomas presented the school's daily schedule to the assembled boys, then asked if anyone had questions. Peisach raised his hand: "Is the water in the bathrooms drinkable?"

"Half of the kids laughed," recalls Peisach, who had previously attended the American School in Bogotá. "And Dave Thomas had the intelligence to, right away, stop the whole thing and tell them, 'Listen, this boy comes from a country where they are not sure of the purity of the water. And he's been taught since he was a little kid that everywhere he goes, he has to make sure the water is not contaminated.' The boys' reaction made a tremendous impact on me, because I realized then the difference in my environmental upbringing."

The incident would be just the first of many formative experiences for Peisach at Williston, where few students were from another country and even fewer were Jewish. Adding to the culture shock, his father's import and textile business back in Bogotá had provided Peisach's family with a comfortable home looked after by a maid. Now, Peisach was expected to make his own bed "like a marine," keep his room clean, and work the campus jobs required of all the students, sweeping hallways and waiting on his classmates in the dining hall. And when he returned to Bogotá at the end of the school year, he had to make the 2,500-mile journey on his own, lugging his trunk on the train from Easthampton to New York and to the airport. It was all new to Peisach, and looking back, he sees these experiences as invaluable.

"I give it the maximum importance," says Peisach, whose family businesses today have grown to include rose farms in Colombia; Passion Growers, which supplies cut roses to U.S. grocery stores; and Grupo Phoenix, a multinational packaging company that manufactures Keurig cups and Yo-plait tubs, among other containers. "It taught me to be organized. It taught me to be responsible and independent. I've always said that my experience at Williston was much more formative of my character and my discipline than my experience in college. The learning process in those years taught me the discipline one needs for life and the responsibility that it requires."

Despite the great distance from home, Peisach's connection to his family remained strong. Telephone calls to Colombia were unreliable, so the

family relied on the mail. "My communication with home was a letter I would get from my mother every day, and a letter I would get from my father once a week," he recalls. "I would write home three times a week. There was nothing like looking forward to going to the P.O. box in the school cafeteria and every day getting a letter from mom to see what's going on. She wanted to try to keep me very close and keep me informed, and for me to feel the warmth of home."

If his situation ever did weigh on him, Peisach found inspiration in his father's own story of ado-

Williston, says Peisach, "taught me to be organized. It taught me to be responsible and independent... The learning process in those years taught me the discipline one needs for life."

lescent perseverance. Born in Russia, Chaim Peisach also left home at 14, fleeing the persecution of Jews by the Cossacks in 1917. He told his parents he'd someday come back for them, then traveled alone to Romania, to Palestine, and eventually to Colombia, where he set about educating himself, learning to speak and write Spanish, then English. By 1938, he had established the spinning mill that would eventually become the textile company Hilandería Fontibón.

"He was totally self-made," says Peisach. "He

learned how to interact with people, and he was hardworking, successful, and generous. My father used to tell me, 'You have to learn, be disciplined, and true to your word.' Because he was coming from a place where they could take everything away from him, he always said, 'The one thing they will never take away from you is what you have in your head.' And because he had struggled so much getting to Colombia and establishing himself there, he always tried to help the immigrants that arrived from Europe escaping persecution like he did."

Understanding the importance of a good education, Peisach graduated a year early from Williston (he took a Spanish exam that gave him three years of foreign-language credit) then went on to earn his degree in economics at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. His three children, one of his daughters-in-law, and seven grandchildren also attended Penn, and he and his wife, Lidia, have been generous supporters of the university, donating a new wing for the English language building in 2006.

Today, Peisach divides his time between Miami and Bogotá, as his sons have taken over the management of the family's various enterprises. In life and in business, family ties remain central to the Peisachs, what Peisach refers to as passing the baton. "I call it a relay. My father to me, me to my children, and, in the future, from them down to my grandchildren."

In their support for Williston, the Peisachs have demonstrated a similar desire to pass along opportunity. The school recently recognized the couple's generosity to the *Williston Builds* campaign by naming the front porch of the new Emily McFadon Vincent House in their honor. (It is now known as the Peisach Porch.) "I feel thankful to Williston and to Penn, because I feel I owe them," Peisach explains. "I owe them who I am today, to a great degree. Besides my parents, they formed me. They formed my character. And it's important to help a school that did that for me, and I hope will continue doing that for kids in the future. It's wanting to give back, but it's gratefulness more than anything. And I can't just think that, I feel I have to show it."

SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPH

Good GOAL!

Hockey official Kendall Hanley '04 takes the ice at the Beijing Olympics

BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

Hockey fans eagerly tuned in to the Olympics last February to see the much-anticipated gold medal match-up between the top-ranked women's teams from the United States and Canada. But no one was paying closer attention than Kendall Hanley '04. As a linesperson for the international four-woman officiating crew, Hanley was on the ice with whistle in hand for the thrilling (some might say heart-breaking) 3–2 Canadian victory.

As with other Olympians, Hanley's rise to the pinnacle of international sport was a multiyear journey that demanded perseverance, hard work, and personal sacrifice. Having reached the top of her profession with a cohort of other women who now officiate hockey at every level

short of the National Hockey League, she continues to break barriers in her new position as manager of officiating for the North American Hockey League, a top junior league. Still, working the Olympics was a particular thrill.

"It's just such an honor and a privilege to be able to do what you love, and do it at the highest level," explains Hanley, who was one of 22 women officials selected for Beijing. "It's amazing what you get out of it: camaraderie, working together as a team, and serving the game. Those are all the things that as a player, you think, *This is why I do this.*"

And Hanley knows well the joys of being a player, having transferred her junior year from North Carolina to skate with the Wildcats (she also played volleyball, soccer, and softball at Williston). Determined to compete at the



HARRY HOW GETTY IMAGES

On the ice in Beijing, Hanley (in rear) works the preliminary round game between Team USA and Team Canada



Left: Hanley (left) and fellow lineswoman Jackie Spresser display their Olympic jerseys honoring their friend and fellow official Jamie Huntley-Park, a police officer who was killed in a car accident in 2021. Huntley-Park's badge number was 6930.

Above: A four-woman officiating crew, with its two referees (middle, with red armbands) and two lineswomen, including Hanley at right

collegiate level, she stayed through a postgraduate year and soon established herself as a team leader both on and off the ice, recalls Christa Talbot Syfu '98, then just beginning her Williston hockey coaching career. "She was a phenomenal player," Talbot Syfu says. "Very skilled, and more mature than many of her teammates. She was probably head and shoulders better than anybody else on the team."

That talent would lead Hanley to women's hockey powerhouse Elmira College, then to SUNY Oswego, where she transferred to pursue a degree in zoology. But it was her experience off the ice at Williston that she says provided the strongest foundation for her success in hockey today. Officiating demands "a lot of time management," explains Hanley, who when not traveling to games and tournaments lives in Minneapolis with her partner, her partner's mother, and her golden

Labrador. "I learned at Williston how to balance my schedule, how to manage my time, attention to detail, and being able to operate independently. These are all invaluable life skills. I grew as a person at Williston, and that allowed me to be successful in my role."

Officiating wasn't something she even considered as a player, though she certainly was familiar with the refs. "I had a lot of penalty minutes," she says with a laugh. "There's a fun photo of me as a kid sitting in the penalty box with my dad, who was the penalty bench attendant. I'm like, 'Yup, this is how we spend family time.'"

Her perspective shifted when she happened to meet another skilled skater at a pick-up hockey game in Texas, where she had moved the summer after college to be near her father and work at the Dallas Zoo. The woman was a hockey official working her way up the de-

velopment ladder, earning the various credentials required by USA Hockey, the sport's governing body in the U.S., and the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). "It was this whole new world I had no idea existed," she recalls. "It sounded kind of fun."

Officiating would become her new focus, along with stints coaching and directing youth hockey programs. Balancing the demands of her hockey work and other jobs was not always easy, but by 2016 she had earned her top-level IIHF license as a linesperson, as well as a license to referee at lower levels. (The linesperson's primary task is watching for offsides, when a player crosses the blue line ahead of the puck. They also drop the puck for face-offs, separate belligerent players, and, depending on the league and its rules, call certain penalties.)

Those who question whether women can officiate at the NHL

level often cite the physical requirements of the job, but Hanley quickly dismisses that argument. "I've broken up a lot of fights over my days," she points out. "We're just as agile, physical, and physically fit. I think the sky's the limit for everybody at this point." As for other physical risks, Hanley shrugs them off with a hockey player's characteristic stoicism. "Oh, I had a puck to the face a couple years ago," she points out. "But, I mean, you're going to get hurt doing anything in life." And as if to demonstrate that point, during the preliminary U.S.-Canada women's game in Beijing, referee Cianna Liefers was cut on the face by an errant stick. Canada's trainer stitched her up, and Liefers soon returned to the ice.

The determination and closeness of the officiating community were on display throughout the Olympics in the jersey numbers worn by Hanley and her fellow linesperson Jackie

Spreser. In June 2021, their good friend, referee Jamie Huntley-Park, and her husband—both San Diego police detectives—were tragically killed by a wrong-way driver. The loss was particularly painful for Hanley, who had been teammates with Huntley-Park at Elmira. To honor her memory, Hanley and Spreser decided to wear numbers 69 and 30 during the games, representing Huntley-Park's police badge number, 6930. "She was on track to be a part of this group," says Hanley. "Obviously our hearts were hurting that she was missing, but she was with us there the whole time."

And as a further tribute to Huntley-Park's life and work, Hanley and others this spring will be taking on the management of a development program for women officials found-

ed and run by their friend. "The goal is to keep it going and continue to provide those opportunities for female officials," she says. "We're incredibly grateful and honored to be able to continue Jamie's camp and her legacy."

That resilience in the face of adversity is another character trait Hanley says Williston helped her develop. "Williston allowed me to be comfortable with who I am. I learned that it's OK to take different paths, try different things, and it's not necessarily a failure if you don't make your goals," she explains. "It's that growth mindset. You learn and say, 'Well, how am I going to do this differently next time? How can I spin this into a positive?'"

A gold-medal game plan, in sports and in life.



Hanley huddles with her crew

SO, YOU THINK YOU CAN BE A HOCKEY REF?

For the purposes of this quiz, assume the Wildcats are playing by the rules of the International Ice Hockey Federation rulebook (Version 1.1, September 2021)

1. A Wildcat player shoots the puck at the opponent's net from behind the center red line. The opposing goalkeeper freezes the puck, causing a stoppage of play. What happens next?

- A. Both teams can change players. The face-off is in the opposing team's defensive end.
- B. The opposing team cannot change players. The face-off is in the opposing team's end, on the same side of the ice as where the shot originated.
- C. The opposing team cannot change players. The Wildcats get to choose which of the two face-off circles to use for the puck drop in the opposing team's end.
- D. The officials assess a minor penalty to the goalie for delay of game.

2. The Wildcat's center wins the face-off by kicking the puck to her teammate. What happens next?

- A. Play on! This is a legal play!
- B. The officials stop play and assess a minor penalty to the Wildcats for delay of game.
- C. Officials stop play and assess a warning for a face-off violation to the Wildcats. The clock is reset, and the center can retake the face-off.
- D. Officials stop play and require another player to take the face-off.

(Correct answer for both is C.)

SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS

FINDING *Connections*

By turning once-overlooked health information into data sets, Michael Waskom '05 is helping researchers create targeted treatments for cancer—BY KEVIN MARKEY

AS A SENIOR DATA SCIENTIST AT THE PIONEERING HEALTH TECHNOLOGY COMPANY FLATIRON HEALTH, Michael Waskom '05 works at the leading edge of cancer research. He builds machine-learning tools that draw on real-world data to expand treatments and improve patient care. Waskom comes to oncology from a background in computational cognitive neuroscience. Before joining Flatiron, he was a research scientist and Simons Fellow at New York University's Center for Neural Science, where his work focused on the neural basis of higher-level cognitive processes, such as learning and decision-making. He earned his bachelor's degree at Amherst College and his doctorate at Stanford, where in his spare time as a first-year graduate student he created Seaborn, a popular data-visualization library for the programming language Python. We caught up with Waskom via Zoom from his home in New York City, where he'd just returned from a run in Central Park with his border collie, Darwin.

How are you using data science in the fight against cancer?

There's lots of information that is captured in the routine course of care of cancer patients. In the past, that information might have been scrawled on a piece of paper and put in a filing cabinet. Nothing

about an individual patient's experience led to any changes in how cancer is treated. Flatiron takes the raw, unstructured information from oncology clinics and academic medical centers across the country that is now captured in the electronic health records system—doctors' notes, lab results, test results—and we turn it into data sets that can be analyzed to improve treatment and develop therapeutics.

Your academic background is in computational cognitive neuroscience. What made you decide to move from research science to health tech?

Academic research is incredibly important and exciting. I don't have any doubt that the kinds of things I was working on are relevant for understanding, for example, the neural basis of disorders like depression or autism. I have a lot of confidence in that. But one thing that can be frustrating is that outside of a few narrow domains, such as building brain-machine interfaces for quadriplegics or other people of limited mobility, it can feel like we're a long way from amelioration. Maybe within the next few decades we'll have a really good model of what's going on in the neural networks of people with autism, and then we'll be able to create technology for shaping brain network activity that will improve people's lives. Cancer is much farther along in the process.

Where is cancer research headed?

It's an exciting time. The other day I was looking at a plot of approval of new targeted therapeutics that are designed to attack a particular protein expressed by a particular tumor in some patients. Advances like these are leading to significant improvements, step changes in median survival times. In some cases the targeted treatments are also much more tolerable than standard chemotherapy. It's not just taking a huge hammer and whacking your system, and hoping it kills the cancer cells first. The slice of the population that a particular cancer drug is going to treat is increasingly targeted. Three percent of patients have this mutation and it can be targeted with this drug, a different three percent of patients have this other mutation. So, step by step, the data tools we're building can find each of those three percent and determine what is the right drug for each.

It's fascinating how many disciplines converge in your work—neuroscience, molecular biology, computer science, oncology, clinical practice. How do you prepare for a career like that?

I think where we've been successful in using technology to improve things in the world is not just from having people who are incredibly focused on one esoteric topic. You need that, but there also have

It's an exciting time...Advances are leading to significant improvements, step changes in median survival times."

to be people who can take those esoteric insights and connect them in the world. I think a liberal arts mindset helps to produce that second group of people. One thing I remember about Williston is that my senior year I did a spring project on the mathematics of music with Greg Tuleja. It was an opportunity to pursue a line of inquiry that was more independent than a formal course, and I think it has echoed through other things I have done, an interest in seeing connections between disparate fields. At Amherst I started out as a philosophy major and became interested in philosophy of mind questions, which pushed me toward psychology and neuroscience. I ended up creating an interdisciplinary major, and then after graduating I went to work in a neuroscience lab at MIT. I'm glad I studied philosophy, because it trains you to think rigorously about abstract concepts, which is so much of math and machine learning and data science.

What do you do in your free time?

Right now I'm training Darwin to recognize shapes. I picked up one of those little wooden shape sets for kids, and he's building up the idea that each of the blocks has a name. I say a name, he goes to it, he gets a treat. He's pretty good about triangle and oval. He's still learning pentagon. It's fun. Also, it's instrumental in keeping his brain occupied so he doesn't eat the furniture.



Michael Waskom with his border collie, Darwin

“I don’t love the long winters, but the fact that I love my job makes it easy to stay here.”

BY CATHERINE NEWMAN

WATER WARRIOR

In the Native villages of rural Alaska, Charissa Williar ’93 helps engineer sanitation systems that keep the faucets flowing and the toilets flushing

YOU PROBABLY DON’T KNOW ANYONE WHO LOVES THEIR JOB MORE than Charissa Williar ’93 does. She’s the Sanitation Facilities Program Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), which means that she’s in charge of ensuring that the 130 Alaska Native villages she works with have access to running water and flushing toilets. She refers to her job as her favorite thing about living in Alaska. (The “unbelievable beauty” is a close second.) “I don’t love the long winters,” she says, “but the fact that I love my job really makes it so easy to stay here.”

Sanitation in the far-flung, rural villages of Alaska is a unique problem that Williar—with an engineering degree, a master’s in public health, and a love of adventure—seems uniquely suited to solving. “There are 229 federally recognized tribes,” she explains, “and most of them are off the

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHANIEL WILDER



Williar helped provide first-time running water and sewage services to the 105 homes of Eek, Alaska, a community in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, some 400 miles west of Anchorage. Prior to the improvements, residents hauled water and sewage in buckets from their homes to the water treatment plant. Thickly insulated water and sewer mains (shown above) now connect residences to the system. The town also received a new wastewater lagoon (bottom left corner in photo at right) and an upgraded treatment plant (blue roofed building).



road system, very remote and rural.” The villages are small and difficult to access, making it very tough to build a piped water system—especially given the Arctic environment, which all but guarantees frozen pipes. Plus, as Williar explains, there’s the impact of climate change, which means that things start shifting as the frozen

ground thaws. “My job is to work with the community leadership to find adequate technical solutions,” Williar explains. One solution is the innovative PASS (Portable Alternative Sanitation System), a gravity-fed 20-gallon all-in-one handwashing station and toilet. Williar must also, as she puts it, “puzzle out all the

funding,” which comes from the state of Alaska, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Asked how she ended up with this job, Williar says, “I’ve always kind of worked in water my whole career.” She graduated from the University

of Massachusetts with a degree in civil and environmental engineering, and then moved to the Bay Area, where she spent one year as a lifeguard at the YMCA (which she credits to getting her lifeguarding certification during intersession at Williston). She then worked with a water resources consulting firm in

“Here we have 229 federally recognized tribes,” says Williar of Alaska, “and most of them are off the road system, very remote and rural...My job is to work with the community leadership to find adequate technical solutions.”

SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS



Completing the project in Eek took more than five years and required installing about 20,000 feet of water and sewer pipe, and bathrooms and kitchens in the homes. The impact for Eek residents is enormous—taking a hot shower or washing dishes without hauling heavy buckets. An article by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium quotes Eek Elder Elias Keyes: “My grandfather used to say a time would come when we could push a button and everything would happen. Now I see that it is. When I’m gone, I won’t have to worry about my grandchildren having safe water.”

San Rafael. “Just by chance,” Williar explains, “the clients for that firm were American Indian tribes. We worked on water rights cases for the West, where the tribes are legally entitled to whatever water they need to sustain their lifestyle.” From there she went to a public works department, where she spent two years building water and sewer systems. And then she joined the Peace Corps

and lived in Honduras for three years, continuing her work in water and sanitation there. “I grew up in a small town,” she explains, “but at Williston, I had friends from all over: Chicago, Houston, New York, Tokyo, Mexico City. It’s the place where my curiosity about other cultures was definitely fostered.” As her time in Honduras was winding up, Williar happened to

spot an IHS job in the Peace Corps newsletter and went to work in rural Utah. “And I just loved it. The technical work, but also working closely with the community. Once I found the IHS, I just felt like this is exactly what I was meant to do. I just thrived.” From Utah, the IHS sent Williar to Johns Hopkins for her MPH degree, and then, in December

of 2014, she applied for the job in Alaska. “I moved here, and I couldn’t believe how lucky I was to have this job.” Williar lives in Anchorage with her two rescue dogs, Suugi and Buck. “They’re what’s called village dogs. They’re mutts, but they’ve got husky, sled-dog mix in them.” She pauses, laughs. “They make sure I’m never sedentary.”



FROM FINANCE TO FUN

Alex Park '81 is finding a way to make a difference in his life's second act

—BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

Alex Park '81 knew he needed a change. It was 2015, and he had worked in the financial industry for 30 years, building a successful career as a foreign exchange trader for banks around the world. But he sensed he had more to accomplish. "I remember telling my wife for many years, I think I'm done. I've paid my dues. I want to leave," says Park, a former Williston Trustee who has a degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from the Stern School at New York University. "I mean, I'd been fairly successful with what I was doing, but I knew I couldn't do this for the rest of my life."

It was not the first time that Park realized his life needed a new direction. Arriving at Williston in 1978 as a quiet and introverted sophomore whose family had only recently emigrated from South Korea, he was encouraged to sing and act by Dick Gregory, who

happened to live just across from him in Ford Hall, and Ellis Baker '51. Park joined the Caterwaulers, performed in plays, even arranged an a cappella version of a Beatles song—experiences that persuaded him to pursue music as a major in college. But after his sophomore year at Penn, he says, "I realized that what you like is not the same as what you are good at." He changed his major and began his career in finance, working on Wall Street, in Zurich, and in London, and eventually rising to Executive Vice President for Standard Chartered Bank in South Korea, where he now lives.

His opportunity for a change finally arrived in October 2015, when Park's bank went through a restructuring and he was offered a retirement package. He gave a farewell speech to his team on his last day, which happened to be his 55th birthday. "I told them, this will be my best birthday present," he recalls. "I wanted to do something that I enjoy doing, something that I'd be good at, and that has meaning not just for me, but for society," he says. His plan: He would become a trainer for executives and others looking to develop skills in communication, empathy, team-building, and creativity. And he would hold workshops in his own theater, employing the exercises and techniques of the improv comedy he had come to love.

At Williston and after, Park had personally experienced how improvisational comedy and other acting games can teach interpersonal awareness and creativity. His business colleagues, however, were often incredulous when they heard his idea. "Friends would call me and say, 'Hey, are you going to set up a hedge fund?' Or, 'Which asset management company are you going to join?' And I said, 'Improv.' People who knew about it said, 'You mean the comedy, standup? Oh, my God, you're going to be a comedy guy? Oh, that's funny!'"

Undeterred, Park set about launching his Fantastic Theater, leasing space and offering trainings. The first few years were so successful, he expanded the business's offerings, leasing a larger theater in the center of Seoul that also hosted comedy shows and other entertainment. And his team had dreams of opening dozens of other similar venues. "We had

a very ambitious goal," he explains. "We believed that we can change society. We can change how we teach people. We can change the corporate culture so that instead of competing, we can make it more team driven. Our ambition was going big—and changing Korea."

And then came COVID-19. The pandemic brought the in-person workshops and entertainment to a halt, forcing Park to offer his trainings and workshops virtually. He has since returned to offering in-person workshops (while continuing to present them virtually), and to hosting stand-up comedians and other acts to smaller audiences. To make up for the loss of business, he also rents out the theater's facilities to businesses that emerged during the pandemic—video producers, online streaming companies, podcasters, and the like.

As consequential as the pandemic was, it would not be the last time Park had to reconsider his life's work. In October 2020, he was working alone in his theater, repairing stage lights on a stepladder. He experienced an episode of vertigo, fell from the ladder, and woke up bloodied on the floor, barely able to call for help on his cell phone. He had badly cut his cheek and fractured bones in his face and wrist, injuries that required extensive stitches and surgery.

"After that, my whole attitude toward my remaining life changed," Park acknowledges. "I'm not ambitious. I don't need to change society. What's really important is just me having something to do every day, and to enjoy."

Park plans to continue his self-development trainings and entertainment offerings at the Fantastic Theater, but he is "taking it slow." In the meantime, he and his wife have been spending time with their son, Justin '17, a recent graduate of New York University, and daughters, Claire and Kristine, both Penn graduates, who live in New York and Hawaii. "If there's a chance to help other people, I do that," he says. "I don't have to make a hundred theaters. I don't have to become famous. I just enjoy doing what I do every day."



"I wanted to do something that I enjoy doing, something that I'd be good at, and that has meaning not just for me, but for society."



To connect with other Williston alumni, join the community at willistonconnects.com.

ROB JACKLER TAKES ON BIG TOBACCO



Stanford physician Robert Jackler '72 works to expose the dangers of nicotine marketing

—BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

Robert Jackler '72 knows all too well how readily teens can succumb to the influence of their peers. He experienced it himself at Williston, where, as his yearbook portrait shows, he wore his hair to his shoulders and dressed in the biggest bell bottoms he could find, just like his friends. “That’s how teens rebel,” he explains. “You rebel by conforming.”

And so today, as a renowned professor at Stanford University School of Medicine and a leading scholar of tobacco marketing, he wants us all to understand how the nicotine industry is leveraging that same dynamic, amplified by social media and the novel technology of e-cigarettes, to hook a new generation of young people on its products—with consequences in later life far more dire than an out-of-fashion hairstyle.

Jackler, a specialist in complex diseases of the ear, broadened his medical career 15 years ago to launch Stanford Research Into the Impact of Tobacco Advertising (SRITA), an interdisciplinary research group that catalogs and analyzes the promotional tactics of the tobacco industry. The organization, which he founded with his artist wife, Laurie, curates an extensive online archive of tobacco advertisements for use by researchers, develops educational exhibits for museums,



“If you can make a difference in the leading cause of preventable death and serious disease, you can make a real public health impact.”



Robert Jackler as a Williston senior (above) demonstrating the power of peer values, and today, as a Stanford physician

issues reports and white papers, and advocates with legislators and federal agencies for more stringent nicotine regulation. Jackler’s work, particularly his research on the recent surge in adolescent use of e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping devices such as Juul and Puff Bar, has been featured extensively in the press, and Jackler has appeared frequently before Congress as an authority on the topic.

What led a successful ear doctor to take on what he calls “the tobacco apocalypse”? “It’s an interesting transition,” he acknowledges. “Mid-career, I continue to be a surgeon, continue to care for patients, teach residents and students, and to support research in hearing science, but I developed an entirely different interest that I saw as impactful,” he says. “If you can make a difference

in the leading cause of preventable death and serious disease, you can make a real public health impact.”

Inspiration also came from the legacies of both his parents. His father, a cardiologist in Waterville, Maine, would let Robert accompany him on his weekend rounds at the town’s Catholic hospital, where as a young Jewish boy he was intrigued by the nuns in their formal habits.

His father’s sudden death from leukemia, when Jackler was just nine, upended his life, forcing his mother to eventually move the family to her parents’ hometown of Holyoke. But it was there that his aunts decided to send young Robert to Williston, a decision that would prove transformative.

“It was wonderful to find a home at Williston,” says Jackler, who competed on the chess club, played goalie for the hockey team, learned to write persuasively, and was deeply inspired by science teacher Jack “Doc” Gow, who was then just beginning his career. “Williston gave me stability and purpose. It helped to mature me. I didn’t know how to study when I arrived at Williston, but I learned there.” While he did not consider a career in medicine until college, he says, “as I look back, there’s an element in my career of me wanting to finish what my dad never could do.”

Later in life, after he earned his undergraduate degree at Brandeis, graduated from Boston University Medical School, and established himself as a physician and researcher at the University of California San Francisco, his mother’s death from lung cancer would again shift his life’s work. “Before she passed away, I remember asking, ‘Why was it that everybody smoked when you were young?’ And she said, ‘It was the sophisticated thing to do. Everybody did it,’” he recalls. “I started thinking about that, and it occurred to me that this was not a cultural spontaneity. It was engineered, designed, absolute genius. How do you take shredded leaf, wrapped in paper, and make it an essential part of daily life?”

Now, after 15 years with SRITA, Jackler has a scholar’s understanding

of how the industry accomplished that, and how it continues to manipulate behavior today. The death toll from tobacco in the United States, while declining, still amounts to the equivalent of four 747s crashing every day, he notes. Globally, tobacco use kills 8 million people annually, and its associated illnesses diminish the lives of millions more. The rise of e-cigarettes and other alternative delivery systems for nicotine, while often marketed as a healthier alternative to cigarettes, has not stopped the carnage, and in many ways, says Jackler, they have abetted it.

While cigarette alternatives may be an off-ramp for a small number of smokers, Jackler argues they more often serve to deepen a smoker’s habit, allowing nicotine users to vape or use a nicotine pouch in places where conventional smoking is prohibited. And far more pernicious is the appeal they have to those who have never smoked before, he says: Their ease of use, greater nicotine potency, and appealing flavors are engaging a new generation of teenagers, the prized demographic of the tobacco industry. “They’re making this cool again,” Jackler argues. “It’s the renormalization of smoking behavior.”

The case of Juul was particularly troubling to Jackler, and not merely because the company’s two founders happen to be Stanford graduates. Launched in 2015, Juul set off what Jackler describes as a nicotine arms race, building on the company’s chemical innovation that allowed their devices to deliver high doses of nicotine along with sweet and fruity flavors. Savvily promoted through social-media marketing and online influencers, the fashionably sleek devices soon became the rage among teenagers and made the

founders rich. Jackler and his SRITA colleagues responded with a white paper in 2019 that eventually led to new government restrictions, a dramatic loss in Juul’s market share, and numerous ongoing state lawsuits against the company, for which Jackler often serves as an expert witness.

The new laws, however, had a loophole: They did not outlaw disposable nicotine devices that use an unregulated synthetic form of nicotine. “So suddenly, you have disposables in every flavor you can imagine,” Jackler notes, citing Puff Bar as one example. “It just shows you that the industry can manipulate the lawmakers. They have the best people money can buy.”

Which has only made Jackler more determined to present his research and to educate the public and lawmakers about the industry’s long and unflattering history. “I am not a radical saying all of these things should be outlawed,” he says, noting that taxing nicotine heavily would be a better approach. “I spend a lot of time thinking about a practical, implementable, and sensible set of regulations that protects young people from getting hooked on nicotine, but helps adult smokers transition to something less consequential to their health.”

And even half a century later, lessons from Williston are informing that work. “What I took from Williston was a passion and a love for science, and I give Doc Gow and other teachers credit for that,” he says. “But even more important was to learn how to write and speak in public. You can have brilliant ideas, but if you can’t articulate them and write, you will not influence and persuade people.”

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN TUTTLE

JOIN THE FUN!

We’ve got lots of events and networking opportunities!

WATCH FOR ALUMNI EVENTS IN A CITY NEAR YOU!

- Providence: September 2022
- Young Alumni Event in Boston: October 2022
- Los Angeles: November 2022
- Holiday Parties
 - Western Mass: December 1, 2022
 - Boston: December 6, 2022
 - NYC: December 13, 2022

Check your email and the alumni events page (williston.com/alumni/events) for news and event updates

DON’T MISS A THING! UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

- williston.com/update-your-information

NETWORK WITH FELLOW WILDCATS

Connect on social media:

- Williston Alumni LinkedIn Group
- Williston Alumni of Color LinkedIn Group
- WillistonConnects.com

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

- Email: alumni@williston.com
- Call: (413) 529-3300



if these walls COULD TALK

Architectural
conservator Andrea
Madsen Gilmore
'70 preserves old
buildings

—BY JONATHAN
ADOLPH

Early in her acclaimed career, architectural conservator Andrea Madsen Gilmore '70 was tasked with documenting the architectural history of Lindenwald, the Kinderhook, New York, home of Martin Van Buren, which recently had been acquired by her employer, the National Park Service. As luck would have it, the eighth president was a bit of a remodeler, which had the unintended result of preserving evidence of decorative finishes that could be positively dated to Van Buren's residence. "All we had to do was pop off door casings, for example, and we could identify, and then reproduce, the wallpapers that were in the house when he lived there," she recalls.

The thrill of making such discoveries—and uncovering the often-forgotten stories behind them—has inspired Gilmore over her 30 years as an architectural conservator. Retired since 2015 from Building Conservation Associates, the national consulting firm she joined in 1994 and helped direct, she continues to offer her expertise as a volunteer, most recently on the restoration of a landmark church in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and as a member of the Historic Districts Commission in her hometown of Dedham. Her list of restorations now runs into the hundreds, and includes dozens of projects that have won

awards from preservation organizations. "Part of the joy of doing this is we had so much fun looking at these things and figuring them out," Gilmore notes. "It's kind of a puzzle, it's kind of a game. The physical evidence is sometimes a little bit hidden, but it's there nonetheless, if you know how to look at it."

Gilmore's fascination with historic buildings dates back to her college days. During her junior year abroad from Carleton College, she and her future husband explored the architectural treasures of England and Europe. Having been a standout student at Northampton School for Girls, the recipient of the prestigious White Blazer (which she preserved for 42 years and donated to Williston Northampton's archives in 2012), Gilmore would later earn her master's in historic preservation from Columbia University and serve as an adjunct professor in Boston University's Historic Preservation Program.

After her retirement, Gilmore was honored with several lifetime-achievement awards from state and local preservation organizations, including the Boston Preservation Alliance's 2019 Codman Award. "As a leader in the preservation community and an inspiration for women in preservation trades," the group said, "Andrea's contributions throughout her career leave a legacy through the places she's preserved, the students she's mentored, and the colleagues she's inspired."

We asked Gilmore to tell us more about some of her favorite projects and discoveries over the years.

hidden history

Old buildings can hold intriguing clues to the past, as Andrea Madsen Gilmore '70 has frequently discovered in her 30-year career as an architectural conservator. Here's -what a few venerable Massachusetts buildings revealed to her.



OLD SHIP MEETING HOUSE, HINGHAM

Gilmore and her team made a number of discoveries at this National Historic Landmark, most notably uncovering the original 1681 exterior doors, hidden within a wall. “They’re really one of the most remarkable discoveries of my career,” she says. “Honestly, they’re one of the most remarkable discoveries architecturally for anyone, because I think it’s safe to say they are the oldest surviving exterior doors hanging in their original opening that have been found in America. That’s the kind of stuff that just makes me wildly interested and enthusiastic about preserving old buildings.” The team also found the cutouts for the building’s original casement windows.



THE DREAMLAND THEATER, NANTUCKET

This structure, which began as a Quaker meetinghouse in 1832, “had so many different lives,” says Gilmore, who researched its unusual history. After being moved down Main Street to a new location, the building was later floated across Nantucket Harbor to Brant Point, where it became part of a hotel. When the hotel was later enlarged, the core of the building was disassembled and floated back across the harbor in 1906 to become the Dreamland Theater. “Moving houses in the 19th century was tremendously popular,” Gilmore explains. “It was largely out of necessity, but it was a little bit easier because there were no telephone wires.” Plus, she notes, labor was cheap, “and there’s not much to do in the winter on Nantucket.”



FIRST CHURCH, ROXBURY

Working with the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, a local social justice organization, Gilmore has been helping adapt this old meetinghouse into a community gathering space, a project that reflects Gilmore’s interest in working on preservation projects in underserved communities. Among the noteworthy discoveries: determining why half the wall sconces were not working. “Someone asked me early on, Andrea, why don’t all those lights come on? I said, ‘because they’re gas.’” When the fixtures were installed in the 1880s, neither electricity nor gas was considered reliable, so the builders hedged their bet. “Going down the walls, one fixture is gas, one is electric. And they all survived. No one had ever taken these light fixtures out, and now they will all be electrified and restored.”



MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE, GOVERNOR’S OFFICE, BOSTON

Working with colleague Brian Powell, Gilmore was able to identify the paint colors chosen by architect Charles Bulfinch in the original design for the governor’s office—a vibrant green with a cream-colored trim. In this project, those original colors were painted over the more traditional blue and white that had long been in place. Charlie Baker, the current Governor of Massachusetts, has enjoyed this restored paint scheme and its complementary furnishings—and recognizes the importance of the accurate restoration of this landmark interior space.

SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHS

A Crossing of Their Own

Colorado civil engineer John Kronholm '93 helps all manner of animals get to the other side of dangerous highways

—BY KATE LAWLESS

As a child growing up in rural Blandford, Massachusetts, John Kronholm '93 loved the outdoors. He built dams in the driveway when it rained, he loved camping with his scout troop, and he pored longingly over the pages of *Ski Magazine*. After two years at Williston, he attended Union College, double majoring in civil engineering and geology. “To me, that path between engineering and connection to the land was civil engineering,” he said from his office in Eagle, Colorado, where he’s a Design Team Manager at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). For the past

10 years, among other projects, he’s been working to create overpasses and underpasses for wildlife crossing state highways.

Kronholm began his career in Virginia, but it wasn’t long before he took off to Colorado in 1999, bound for big mountains covered in powder. Around that time, Coloradans were seeing more animals hit by vehicles on highways. Two endangered

Canada lynx were killed following the reintroduction of the species there.

State agencies and conservation groups were realizing that major roads were making it difficult for wildlife to complete their migrations, and that the reduction of their habitat, so fragmented by human development and infrastructure, was impacting biodiversity. Road ecology became a movement to create highway crossings for wildlife.

Kronholm saw that he could be part of the solution in 2016 as the Project Manager of an environmental assessment of Vail Pass. He’s currently working on crossings under that stretch of Interstate 70, which passes through the Eagle Valley amid the Rocky Mountains. There, he set up trail cameras, trying to find the areas where iconic Western fauna cross the road—animals such as Canada lynx, mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn

PHOTOGRAPH BY RYAN DEARTH

sheep, elk, and smaller mammals like marten, bobcat, coyote, red-tailed fox, short-tailed weasel, snowshoe hare, and yellow-bellied marmot.

“I’ve documented herds of elk coming down to the highway, hanging out by the road, and then going right back up and not even trying to cross it.” In fact, locally the elk herd has declined by about 50 to 60 percent in the past 10 years, as documented by Colorado Parks and

Wildlife. Wildlife-vehicle collisions and habitat loss and fragmentation contribute to this decline.

CDOT’s \$170 million I-70 West Vail Pass Auxiliary Lanes Project will construct six new wildlife underpasses, two large and four small, adding to the already 63 in place throughout the state. Kronholm, working with CDOT’s Applied Research and Innovation Branch, also has put together a literature analysis and study to

determine wildlife crossing structure size. The hypothesis that Kronholm derived was that an optimum size of wildlife crossing structure could be determined though a statistical analysis of published and unpublished data. Kronholm’s fieldwork and literature study helped to influence the sizes and locations of the crossings on Vail Pass.

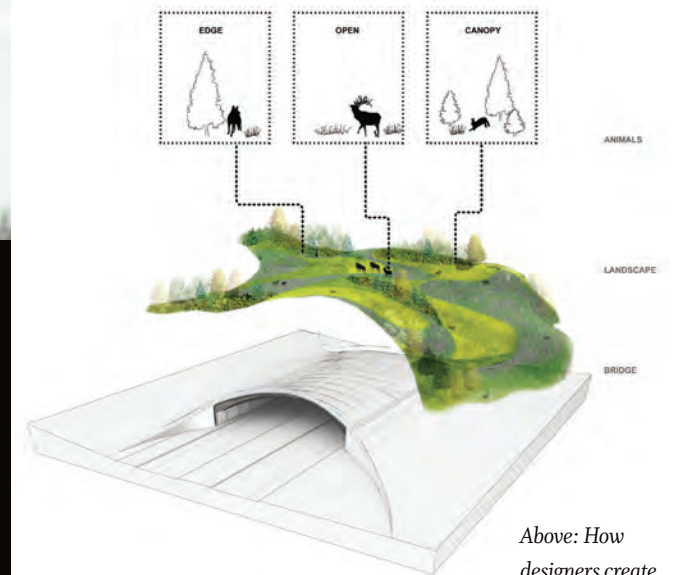
While crossings are expensive—between \$2 million and \$3 million

per structure—they save lives and money. Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association noted that 3,300 animal-vehicle collisions happen each year in Colorado and, nationwide, insurers pay out \$1.1 billion worth of claims for these accidents, some of which have caused deaths and injuries to drivers.

Once crossings are in place, it could take three to four years for animals to develop the trust to use them regularly. For Kronholm, when that happens, it means his work is making a difference.

He still loves the outdoors and frequently goes camping and backpacking in the Rocky Mountain wilderness, now sharing those adventures with his 14-year-old son, Ben. “In Colorado,” he says, “seeing a herd of elk or seeing deer when you’re out camping—it is amazing.”

He views his work as helping preserve those experiences, while improving driver safety. “What we’re trying to do,” he says, “is strike a balance.”



Above: How designers create corridors for various animals on the move

“3,300 animal-vehicle collisions happen each year in Colorado and, nationwide, insurers pay out \$1.1 billion worth of claims for these accidents.”



A DELFT TOUCH

Katherine Verdickt '05 hand paints custom tiles inspired by traditional delftware—BY KEVIN MARKEY

While renovating her Dutch Colonial home in Amherst, Massachusetts, fine artist Katherine Verdickt '05 decided to give the new kitchen a delft backsplash. Along with color, the distinctive blue-and-white tiles, named for the Dutch city where they were first manufactured in the 17th century, would add a dash of historic congruence. Delftware has been used in New England homes since colonial times.

This is the point where most people pick up the phone and talk to their contractor. Not Verdickt. She decided to make her own tiles.

"I went to art school, so I can probably do this myself," she remembers thinking. She adds, "I always think that, and sometimes it goes well and sometimes it doesn't."

In this case, the project went very well.

Two years after inspiration struck, Verdickt's kitchen looks great and her personal tile project has become a business. As work on the kitchen progressed, she began posting pictures to social media. More than simple likes, her images generated inquiries from people eager to install custom tile work in their own homes. Now Verdickt's delftware studio attracts clients from across the United States and around the

world. Recently, she received a request from the Netherlands.

"I was a little surprised by that one," she says. "I'm one of the only serious manufacturers in the United States, but there are companies in Holland that still produce these tiles."

Unlike any factory version, Verdickt's tiles are handmade to complement specific settings. She collaborates with clients on a motif, then paints every piece by hand. For a house on Martha's Vineyard, she did an extensive series of sea monster tiles. The owner of an estate in Georgia commissioned a large floral mural with a magnolia flower as its centerpiece.

"My favorite project right now is for a professor of interior architecture at RISD," Verdickt says. "It's a historic reproduction of intricate bible scenes. Jonah and the whale, Noah's ark with animals and people at sea under a stormy sky. Each scene is painted inside a four-inch circle, really detailed."

Painting was Verdickt's original medium. When she was a child, her family frequently visited her father's native Belgium, and she cites early exposure to Dutch art as a lasting influence. By the time she got to Williston, she



PHOTOGRAPH BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

was practically ready to live in the art studios. Her very first week of school, she remembers finishing a painting and taking it for a walk around campus.

“After that, it was like, ‘She’s the one who makes the paintings.’ I felt like my identity was as an artist. I’ve been painting pretty much nonstop ever since,” she says. Her work appears in individual and corporate collections, including those of JPMorgan Chase and Goldman Sachs.

From Williston, Verdickt went on to the Rhode Island School of Design, where she earned her B.F.A. in 2009 while picking up a concentration in art history from Brown. She completed an M.F.A. at the School of Visual Arts in New York, and recently finished a second master’s degree, in art education, at the University of Massachusetts.

Between graduate degrees, Verdickt returned to Williston for a couple years as a teaching intern in the art department. Coming back, she realized how much she liked the Valley. “I’ve always felt at home here, ever since I was a student,” she says. Her homecoming eventually led to her Dutch Colonial house in Amherst and the serendipitous choice to remodel with delft.

“I feel like I’ve found a new artistic stride with these tiles,” Verdickt says. “I love making them, each its own little work of art unlike any other.”

When renovating her Dutch Colonial home, artist Katherine Verdickt '05 decided to create her own delft backspash (at right); two years later, her delftware studio business is booming with custom commissions for tiles featuring everything from flowers to sea monsters



CLASS NOTES



In December, alumni, parents, and friends gathered at the New York City Yacht Club to celebrate the holiday season and the launch of the Williston Builds campaign. On the following pages, you’ll find more event photos, and hear from the many Wildcats who sent in photos and updates.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMI SAUNDERS

Events



DECEMBER 2: 2021 WESTERN MA HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

(All photos L to R) **A:** Karen McAmis P'22, Wendy Foster P'23, Kristin Dardano P'19, '22, Lilibeth Denham P'19, '22; **B:** Tori Gates '10, Adam Chagnon '10, Reece Liang '10; **C:** Khadija Hussain P'25, Yasser Hussain P'25, Cindy Archer '73; **D:** Flavie Gordon and Dorrick Gordon P'00; **E:** Al and Sally Griggs P'93, '95



DECEMBER 7: 2021 NYC HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

(All photos L to R) **A:** Aaron and Heather Blair P'25; **B:** Suzanne Snyder Johnson '80 and Rogelio Ramos '78; **C:** Simon Wool '12, Maria Strycharz '12, Mikayla Strycharz '09; **D:** Faculty members: Sarah Klumpp, Matt Sawyer, Tommy Beaton, Sarah Sawyer; **E:** Zoya-Jade Lewin '16, Kena Chavva, Destiny Nwafor '17, Toula Sierras '16, Suzy Abreu '16; **F:** Norma Jean and Herb Graff GP'23, '26; **G:** Thomas Thibault '19 and Maria Pagane; **H:** Head's Visiting Council Members Michael George '98, PJ Kuyper '85, Brandon Diaz '12, Betsy Collins '08, Corie Fogg '99, Terry Martin '85



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY AND JAMI SAUNDERS





DECEMBER 14: 2021 BOSTON HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

(All photos L to R) **A:** Noah DeVos '17 and Mikey Lloyd '16; **B:** Emily O'Brien '21 and Ruby McElhone Yates '21; **C:** Brad Conlin and Julia Carpenter-Conlin P'23; **D:** Caroline Borden '16, Maggie White '16, Alyssa Stevens '16, Haley McCreary '16, Gabbie Foderaro '16, Dani Anastasovites '16; **E:** John Kay '15, Ryan King '15, Terry O'Brien '15, Sarah Fiore



JANUARY: FINANCE WEBINAR SERIES

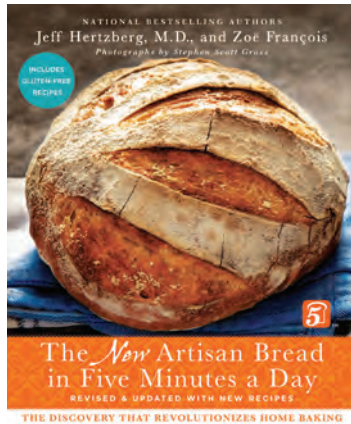
In January, three Williston Northampton School Trustees hosted webinars as part of a series called *Managing Your Money in 2022: Finance and Philanthropy*. Topics ranged from navigating tax code changes to the future of charitable giving.



Trustees Jai Chanda '88, Mijanou Malise Spurdle '86, and Rich Wagman P'14

FEBRUARY 2: BAKE WITH ZOË WEBINAR

Baker extraordinaire Zoë Neal François '85 guided participants through making no-knead bread. Watch the video via the link on our alumni events web page.



FEBRUARY 23: PALM BEACH RECEPTION

Trustee Kevin Hoben '65 and Trustee Chair John Hazen White Jr. '76 welcomed guests for an evening of cocktails and conversation with Head of School Robert W. Hill III and alumni, parents, and friends in February at the The Colony Hotel in Palm Beach, FL.



(All photos L to R) **A:** Lynn Goddess and Bob Stone '56; **B:** Williston Builds Campaign Co-chair Kevin Hoben '65; **C:** Anne Ekstrom and Rachel Goldberg P'23; **D:** Gordon Cadwgan '63, Head of School Robert W. Hill III, Ruth Cadwgan; **E:** Tracy Carman '78, Steve Chesley, Paul Carman '76; **F:** Joani Montgomery Mihalakos '61, Janet LeBeau Hill '67



APRIL 3: LA BRUNCH

Alumni, parents, and friends caught up over brunch at Shutters on the Beach in Santa Monica, CA.

APRIL 7: DC RECEPTION

Alumni, parents, and friends gathered at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., to converse and connect.



(All photos L to R) **A:** Rita Ross and Julie Zentmeyer Kim '87; **B:** Hannah DelSordo, Ellie Scott '18, Danielle Strasburger, Maddy Stern '14; **C:** Lindsay McDonough '10, Katelyn Kennedy Garvey '02, Gregory Garvey; **D:** Susan Midgley Komosa '83, Samantha Healy Vardaman '89, Christopher Komosa; **E:** Jeff DeCaro '73, Paul Haaland '89, P'20, '23, Betty Haaland P'20, '23



PHOTOGRAPHS BY HANNAH OSOFSKY

If you do not see your class year listed below, then your class does not have an assigned class representative. To send in your news, please contact Jill Stern in the alumni office at classnotes@williston.com or (413) 529-3965. We look forward to hearing from you!

1946 WA

C. Kenneth Burke
(413) 783-3301

1947 WA

75TH REUNION
Kenneth Barratt



John Hazen White Jr. '76 (left) and Earl Kramer '49

sibken3@gmail.com

1947 NSFG

75TH REUNION
Caroline Gavin Arnold
(413) 727-8772

1949 WA

Class of 1949 needs a class rep. Please call Jill Stern at (413) 529-3965 to volunteer.

Earl Kramer and his wife, Janet, were back on campus in October

to celebrate the completion of the Residential Quad and the dedication of Wold House.

1950 WA

Robert Couch
gmanthelab@gmail.com
(413) 527-2964

1951 WA

R. Bardwell “Tex” Heavens
bard.heavens@gmail.com

Wes Durant has moved to Baltimore to be closer to his daughter and is currently in a nursing facility

getting some much-needed rehab. The alumni office and Tex Heavens both have his new address if you'd like to write him to say hello. He goes to his daughter's house every Sunday for dinner and is enjoying these outings.

Erik Nicolaysen is looking forward to another Williston Academy class of 1951 Zoom. In the meantime, he tells us, “Getting older is just one body part after another saying

‘Ha-ha, you think that is bad, watch this.’”

1951 NSFG

Sally Poole Farnham-Jaferian
sfarnha@earthlink.net
Susan Cross Hunter
Shunter2@comcast.net

1952 WA

70TH REUNION
Robert Thomas
Ticinc104@gmail.com

1952 NSFG

70TH REUNION

Class of 1952 needs a class rep. Please call Jill Stern at (413) 529-3965 to volunteer.

Katharine Cole Esty wrote a piece in *The New York Times*, “I’m 87, Triple Vaxxed and Living My Life Again.”

Eleanor Young Gamarsh sends, “I am happy to announce that another piece of my writing has been accepted for publication in the *Faith On Every Corner* digital magazine. As some of you know, the first time I was published was in the September issue. My memoir story, “Abundant Grace,” is in the December issue. I wrote about my husband’s and my experience at a very memorable Christmas Sunday service. Here’s the link: faithoneverycorner.com/magazine.”

1954 WA

Alan Lazarus
active.asp@gmail.com

1955 WA

Class of 1955 needs a class rep. Please call Jill Stern at (413) 529-3965 to volunteer.

Richard Lockshin remembers his friend and classmate Prasert “Pete”

Kulvanit: “I am sorry to share the news that Pete passed away on October 19, 2021. We stayed in touch for more than 60 years. Those of you who were in his math classes will remember the nickname ‘hunded’ (from his scores). As his son said, ‘For all his time in the U.S., Pete enjoyed his time and many great friends at Williston the most.’ Pete came back for a few Reunions, and I was lucky enough to visit him once in Thailand. He was a good friend, and a wonderful person. We will all miss Pete’s open smile and enthusiasm for all things.”

Editor’s note: The school learned of the passing of Dong Kingman (pictured on page 71 with Pete and Michael Lockshin) following this Class Notes submission. The alumni office extends heartfelt condolences to both families and the Williston Academy class of 1955. Remember Dong, Pete, and other alumni who are no longer with us in the In Memory section of the *Bulletin* or online at willistonblogs.com/obituaries.

1957 WA

65TH REUNION
William Harmon
wharmon509@aol.com

1958 WA

Peter Hewes
prhewes@gmail.com

1959 WA

Andrew Solomon
andy@houstonjewelry.com

1959 NSFG

Mary Beth Adams Dorsey
marybethdorsey@yahoo.com

1960 WA

Jim Aldrich

mjaldrich@olypen.com

Class rep Jim Aldrich is glad to still be vertical along with his wife, Linda, who apparently deserves an award for having to “put up with him” for 59 years. Jim writes, “In the late spring, just a few months before he died, Steve Hatch called to tell me how he was doing with his medical issues. Steve described how he was continuing to suffer from an old injury, and still dealing with the lingering effects of significant mold in his home. It was good talking with him. He just needed someone to listen to him and offer him encouragement. From the communications from the rest of us, we’re all trying to cope with bodies that are a far cry from what they used to be. When I put on one of those ‘designer’ robes you get in the doctor’s examination room, I apologize to the female nurses and say, ‘I’m sorry that I don’t look like a Chippendale.’ In early August, Linda and I moved into El Castillo, a retirement facility in downtown Santa Fe, one block from the city’s plaza. We are delighted with the move. The facility, with its four buildings, has independent living apartments,

an assisted living section, nursing care section, and dementia facility. We tell people this is our last stop. We are within walking distance of good restaurants, places where cultural events are presented, several excellent museums, a small grocery store, the precinct where we vote, etc. Nearly all the residents we’ve met thus far have had interesting professions. One woman was a violinist with the Metropolitan Opera, and another man designed rockets! Linda stays busy for the Los Alamos History Museum and their archives, preparing the resource materials she and her co-author had for writing a book on the history of the Los Alamos Ranch School that was taken over by the Army in 1943 for the Manhattan Project. It was very gratifying for me at age 80 to have 12 years (2007–2019) of geologic research in the Olympic Mountains of Washington State published in December in a peer-reviewed geological journal. Our older daughter, Melinda, who lives with her wife, Alvina, in Nashville, is an epidemiologist and associate professor at Vanderbilt University. She was recently offered a position at the National Institutes of Health in

Maryland but decided to remain at Vanderbilt. Our younger daughter, Gwendolyn, lives in Helena, Montana, with her medical doctor husband, Jim, daughter, Melinda (15), and son, Jeremy (10). Gwendolyn works remotely on environmental and resource economics topics for a think tank in Boise, Idaho. I’ll close by saying ‘thank you’ to those who replied to my emails and ask those of you who didn’t reply (and you know who you are) to please acknowledge that you’ve received a message from me and let me know you’re OK. Anyone coming to Santa Fe, please let me know. Linda and I would enjoy seeing you!”

Jim Andrews, another one of our retired M.D.s, admits to Jim Aldrich, “Advancing years can be very unkind to immediate memory function. I’ll get back to you in the next day or two...if I remember. If you don’t hear from me by Tuesday, I have been kidnapped for ransom. Send Charley, Duke (remember the money now), and the spirit of Doug Thompson with his Ka-Bar. They’ll figure it out.” Jim regretfully shares, “I assume Jim was kidnapped since he didn’t get back to me.”

Charlie Benoit didn’t have anything to submit for this issue but has promised to put on his thinking cap for the next *Bulletin*. We will all look forward to an update from him.

Ed Bertozzi writes, “Thankfully, Judith and I, and our kids and grandkids, are OK. I would like to report on an experience which, for a change, might be helpful to some of our classmates. Last year I bought a new boiler that, like most things today, has a computer chip in it. Late in the fall, we had a big storm in eastern Massachusetts and lost power for a couple of days. I hooked up and started my trusty Generac generator. All’s well, I thought, but no. The boiler would not start and showed an error message ‘power frequency deviation,’ meaning the generator wasn’t producing a steady 60Hz AC. It was a major problem because without

At left (L to R): Pete Kulvanit ’55, Dong Kingman ’55, and Michael Lockshin ’55 together in 2005, en route to their 50th Reunion. At right (L to R): Pete’s wife, Sujira, Pete Kulvanit ’55, and their son, Pasan



heat, the house water lines would freeze and burst. I learned that new expensive refrigerators (which I don't have) also won't run on nonsteady 60Hz AC. Bottom line, after much research, I had to buy a new 'inverter generator.' My public service announcement is: Be careful what appliances and equipment you buy if you have a generator which is not an inverter generator. You could waste thousands of dollars that could be better used as gifts to Williston."

Dick Cadwgan said, "All is well here in Rockport, Maine, though most activity is indoors. I have recently retired from the WindowDressers, the insulating window insert nonprofit I founded. I am now involved in helping a new neighbor with creating a serious CSA farm that includes five greenhouses and about 14,000 feet of row crop fields. He calls the place Full Moon Farm. At present, I am building the first of 22 heavy-duty tables to hold sprouts in one of the greenhouses. My next job is to build a germination box. It is a large, insulated box holding about 30 potting trays in a temperature- and humidity-controlled atmosphere: warm, dark, and damp—just what seeds need to sprout. It's been fun to volunteer my skills and to learn about serious high-value farm crops and how to produce them consistently for sale to restaurants and stores. I sure hope he does not ask me to do any weeding!" **Jim Aldrich** adds, "If you need quality carpentry work, you could try seeing if Dick will come and do the job if his travel and lodging expenses are covered along with a stipend."

Charlie Callahan reports there's nothing new on his front. He's still

working and tolerating the winter weather and trying to avoid the virus as best he can. Charlie hopes everyone and their families are well and stay that way.

Merritt Carlton shares, "Chris and I have been partners for over 55 years, raised two fine children, and have four grandchildren. Other than a few minor aches and pains, we are doing well. I have given up hunting and fishing for bird watching in the woods of Maine and the coast of Florida. I still sail and head up an adult sailing program. COVID caused us to cancel our trip to France twice. We are hopeful to travel there this June. I get to see both **Carlton Winslow** and **Bud Woodworth** often while in Maine. If any of you are passing through Camden, Maine, or Amelia Island, Fla., we would love to see you!"

With his automobile business continuing to expand, **Bob Cartelli** feels fortunate that his son has taken over most of the daily challenges. His "last daughter," who was married this past May after a pandemic delay, is now in an orthopedics residency with her husband. Bob sold the house in Florida and is taking time to decide where to travel next. Bob commented that he's "loving life, which never has a dull moment!"

A few years ago, **Pete Ewing** and his wife, M.J., moved from Boulder, Colo. (where they lived for 51 years), to Port Townsend, on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, to be close to their two children and grandkids. Their daughter, Rachel, an M.D., and her son, Devin (18), who is in his junior high school

year, live in the same community as Pete. Their son, Christopher, and his wife and grandkids Kieran (17) and Finnian (15), live in Seattle. Pete was involved with Rotary (including various leadership positions) for decades when he lived in Colorado. Now, he and M.J. are active members of the local Rotary organization in Port Townsend. Through the Rotary Club, they take care of two public parks and its Imagination Library initiative, a program founded by Dolly Parton to promote literacy by mailing a free age-pertinent book to children each month from birth to age 5. Pete enjoys working in the house and yard. M.J. stays busy with reading, participating in two book groups, and a walking group.

Tom Gordon reports things are good with the Gordon family. Last August, he and Jane were fortunate to be able to take a Viking River Cruise from Paris to Normandy. They enjoyed the trip so much that they signed up this August to take another cruise on the Danube. Last summer, **Bob Varnum** arranged for them to get together with **Ed Bertozzi** for lunch, and they had fun reminiscing about their times at Williston. Tom plans to get together with Bob this year for a round of golf during their stay at Siesta Key. He and Jane are very grateful for continued good health.

Skip Gwiazda and Suzanne had a brief period during the summer when their retirement community let them resume group activities, instead of just having three meals a day delivered while they stayed in their units. After their restrictions were lifted, Suzanne's play, *Murder at the Forum*, was the first activity

allowed in their community room. Skip shares, "It was a great success. The dialogue combined both accurate history and a full serving of in-house humor. For example, at the banquet at Caesar's the night before the Ides of March, the butler served each of the guests a paper bag of kale. One of our residents had written a humorous song about kale, which we had been getting (perhaps too often for some) as a healthy green. We had a brief reprieve, but with the new COVID variant after Thanksgiving, the first of our 400 residents in independent living caught the virus. Hence another phase of restricted activity and delivered meals." **Jim Aldrich** adds, "The frequent servings of kale Skip and Suzanne had during their COVID confinement reminds me of the *New Yorker* cartoon that showed a tombstone in a cemetery that read, 'I can't believe I ate all that kale for nothing!'" Taking advantage of the absence of activities outside of his apartment, Skip is reading and writing. He has a draft of 150 pages that focuses on whether there's any scientific basis for claims of inherent (biological) racial superiority and if it's valid to claim that Western civilization is superior because Western Europeans between 1500 and 1900 conquered all the other social groups and high civilizations in the world. Contrary to the way he learned history at Williston, rote memory, Skip now sees history as past human experience that can enlighten us on contemporary conflicts and problems, and has been having a good time working on applying this approach to the two questions. As a social science/humanities guy, he finds new science, such as DNA analysis of neolithic human fossils, and the

new histories that are being written, really exciting."

Phil Haskell and Rosine went to Florida early in 2021 for two and a half months, spending time in Pompano and Manasota Key, which, Phil says, "may be the greatest place in Florida." They spent the spring and summer at their home in Newburyport, which made social distancing easy for them. After getting a booster shot, they went to Europe for a 10-day vacation, spending three nights in Prague followed by an eight-day "Romantic Danube" cruise from Germany to Budapest, with two nights in Vienna. Phil asks, "Who'd have guessed I'd appreciate the arts with a performance of Strauss and Mozart?" In early January this year, they were looking forward to getting away from 6-degree temperatures and leaving for Pompano and Manasota Key until Mother's Day. Phil's boys and their families are well. His son Steve is with Dore & Whittier Architects in Burlington, Vt., and his family continues enjoying all outdoor life in Waitsfield in the Mad River Valley. Steve's daughter, Tela, a high school junior and in her third year as a starter, was on the Vermont Division II state soccer championship team. Phil's son Craig accepted a position as director of engineering at defense contractor Galvion Corp. Craig's daughter, Charlie, is a junior biochem/pre-med major at Clemson, and his son, Sam, is a high school senior loving playing basketball and looking at his college options for next year. According to Phil, "All in all, life is really great!"

Dave Hawley would like any classmates who make it to the Palm Springs area to give him a call to

arrange a visit. Dave spent his 80th birthday on Maui and met up with his college roommate and his wife. Dave is a member of a country club near his home and has managed to play a lot of golf. Dave and his wife, Diana, have a trip planned to the

internet hackers. Getting back was a study in planned voyages between stations with gas. Lee supposes it was a good exercise should they ever decide to get an electric vehicle. Other than that, it was golf, golf, and more golf. He still makes violins



British Open at St. Andrews in July.

Lee Hawkes and Gale are both well, and cautiously optimistic about this year. They are still hunkered down in hopes of avoiding COVID. Last spring, they drove down to golf school in Myrtle Beach, and then got caught in the gasoline shortage caused by the

and is still studying a daily dose of Italian should their trip to Cremona ever happen. Lee says, "It doesn't look like it will happen this year (as it hasn't for the last two) thanks to COVID."

Hall Healy has been presented with lots of opportunities for reflection while being constrained to many

fewer in-person gatherings. He said, "Group yoga and working out at the local gym have been off the list, so swimming has increased to keep some semblance of fitness (at now 81!). My primary activities have, for years, revolved around conservation, whether with the International Crane Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, the National Audubon Society's Midwest region, or a village-based sustainability task force. These have continued, though primarily on Zoom. As probably with all of us, I am about Zoomed-out, though Zoom has opened up new avenues. One other activity, which I am thoroughly enjoying, is French conversation and book group, now also via the internet. We mostly read recent novels and classics by Sartre, Molière, and de Maupassant. These sessions remind me of Williston and our inimitable teacher, Howard Boardman. Another activity I enjoy these days is writing poetry, some in English, some in French. While my French is nowhere near perfect, it is a wonderful chance to think differently, to keep the gray matter stimulated, and to reflect on the significance of Williston and Mr. Boardman in my life. I credit both for allowing me to attend Colgate University, for which I will always be very grateful. The rest, as they say, is history!"

Lans Hays shares that he and Monica have been traveling only to Santa Fe. They've avoided overseas travel and delayed going to the Caribbean because each island nation has its own testing and vaccine protocol. Monica will be traveling to Santa Fe in March to "do something incomprehensible" to the garden at their Santa Fe summer residence,

while Lans remains in Pennsylvania, reading and planning his next boat. Their daughter was skiing for a week after Christmas at their house in Santa Fe, where friends report a mild winter. Otherwise, Lans says he only tracks goings-on on Facebook.

Steve Herbits writes, “These last several years have shaken an usually unshakable person. My experience in government, from the inside, corporate, and not-for-profit sides, has led to a recent change in perspective. I am completing a several-year engagement with policy and politics, mostly research and analysis, designed to address specific federal problems. Age is finally beginning to remind me that I should be enjoying my remaining years instead. That said, my full-time move to western North Carolina has proved to be my best decision in my retirement years, since leaving corporate America in 1997. The location is beautiful as I look out from my house (which can’t be seen from the road) at quiet farms, hills, mountains, and sky. The sunrises are inspiring and the sunsets gently usher in my evenings.”

Larry Hyman is slowly exiting from his psychiatry practice and is now using video conferencing for all work. Aside from some consulting as a medical director for an outpatient clinic, he expects to be done with routine patient work by this fall. Larry and Lois have enjoyed spending more time at their beach-front condo in Sarasota and usually make the trip from Maryland to Florida with their goldendoodle. Larry continues to play tennis three or four times per week and spends

time in the gym focusing on free weights. Larry and Lois have also recently visited their son and his family in Pittsburgh. Having completed the work of tour property development on their farm, Larry and Lois are now looking at what to do and where to go for the next chapter in life.

Richie Kagan confesses he has “nothing good to report. We have been in a lockdown for many, many months. I’m getting tired of doing nothing.”

Gary Kleinerman reports, “Not a whole lot has happened here over the last year. I have not had COVID, and I am in good health. I still go out in the woods to cut down trees for firewood. Splitting wood is better than going to the gym. I have a new dog who takes up a lot of time with training and going on walks. My summers are spent on the lake here in the Berkshires where I am the harbormaster. That gives me something to do with my summer days to keep out of trouble. I’m looking forward to hearing from other classmates.”

Jim Aldrich tells us that **Tom LaSalle** was apparently at a loss for words as his update was “Nothing shaking here but the leaves in the trees. Maybe next time.” Jim is holding Tom to that, saying, “You’re on for the next issue of the *Bulletin*!”

Jim Aldrich has awarded **Dave McCoid** the award for the “Shortest Class Notes” submittal contest with “I am fine. Nothing to report.”

Lee MacVaugh is still teaching at Woodrow Wilson High School and at Georgetown University, although



Pete Madden '60 with his daughter, Laura



Chip Mead '60, right, and Reggie



Nils Mikkelsen '60 with his dance partner, Mimi

retirement beckons him. We send Lee our well wishes as he shares, “I have a very bad left hip which obviously hampers me. I had surgery six years ago on the other hip. My wife, Christy, is sick and has been hospitalized. It was a miracle that we got a non-COVID bed.”

Your class rep texted **Pete Madden**’s daughter, Laura, to get the latest on him. “You may know that almost two years ago, Pete went into a new (for him) rehabilitation and health center in Austin, Texas. He doesn’t have a phone, so if you want to talk with him you must go through the center. I ended up writing to him after a couple of unsuccessful tries by phone. Laura says he is doing well and enjoys watching ‘Jeopardy!’ If you write to him, address the letter to Joseph P. Madden, not Pete, because that is how he is registered.”

Michael Marcus sends, “I am still working as a mediator/arbitrator/discovery referee, although I’ve reduced my days from five to three a week. All my work has been on Zoom since March 2020. I’m looking forward to the end of the pandemic so I can, without any concern, be a social animal again.”

We’re told that in May, **Chip Mead** and his wife, Reggie, headed north from Apollo Beach, Fla., to their “Love Shack” in Barre, Mass., to check on the restoration of the log cabin in Fitzwilliam, N.H., that they purchased in 2020. Before heading to New Hampshire, they took time to visit their son, Len, and his wife, Amanda, at their new Easton, Conn., home where their grandson, Max, is playing keyboard as the youngest in a progressive rock band.

A major stressful event for Chip last summer was the continuing renovation of their log cabin, as prices skyrocketed 200 percent to 400 percent. Thinking it would take many weeks to sell the Love Shack, they put it on the market in June, but it sold in just one day. So on July 1 they had to move into the 10-by-10-foot “Bath House” next to the cabin, where they stayed for six weeks while the cabin was being finished. So they were without a kitchen, stove, chairs, or washer/dryer, and with virtually no room to move around in. Chip, unsurprisingly, said it wasn’t “fun.” On a more positive note, Reggie continued her patient advocacy work at the Moffitt Cancer Center, as part of several committees including their Ethics Committee, where she is the first patient advocate. The committee makes decisions on such matters as what to do after a life-saving treatment when a patient does not have an outside support system.

Frank Merrick says not much has changed in his and Susi’s lives. They still shelter from COVID in Vermont as much as they can, but return to Summit, N.J., for operas and chamber music concerts in Lincoln Center. The family’s primary newsmaker is their eldest granddaughter, Francesca, who graduated two years ago from Columbia and is now in her second year at NYU Law School. She’s an editor of the law review, and will join a major New York law firm, Davis Polk, as a summer associate in June.

Nils Mikkelsen reports that 2021 was not a lucky one for him, with pipes freezing and water flooding his house. It took seven months to get it back together again, mostly

due to the logistics and COVID-related labor issues facing the nation. Nils was lucky to spend those months with his youngest daughter and family, who live nearby. Unfortunately, his dear dog died of old age and illness. Nils is fortunate to still be able to dance, but he had to stop playing tennis (he remains an avid pro tennis fan though!). Nils walks for exercise and even hits the gym on occasion. He’s stayed home except to visit his eldest daughter in Las Vegas. To keep his brain active and to refresh his language skills, he’s studying French. Nils is happy to share that he spent New Year’s Eve “with a lady friend, with whom I have been spending some time.” And he hopes that “those of us who are still breathing are doing well.”

Adjusting to the pandemic, **David Milne** and Joyce have found that they are not too old to adapt and change. They continue to enjoy many of the activities that filled their lives prior to COVID, just doing so in different ways. Webex and Zoom have become daily fixtures for them. David comments, “We will never learn to love these online tools, but they have kept us active and our minds alert.” He anticipates that many post-pandemic activities will continue to be offered online as well as in person. Living in Vermont, he’s glad to be able to participate in committee meetings online during snowy winter nights with negative-degree temperatures. He has the sense that our generation is, once again, acting as a positive role model for younger generations.

Richard Stewart and Janet lived in Winston-Salem, N.C., from 2003 to 2012 and then moved to New

Bern, N.C., where they stayed for nine years. They moved back to Winston-Salem in 2021 because they found it’s more interesting to them and has more opportunities. Since arriving in September, they have volunteered with Meals on Wheels each Monday, which they find very gratifying. Richard says, “I have resumed training (something I started in 2009) to be a docent at Reynolda House Museum of American Art. We are attending a Moravian Church where Janet is a substitute organist. There are several theater venues offering a variety of plays and musicals that we have attended. As I mentioned several years ago, five of our children live in New England (Maine and Massachusetts); one was recently married and is a surgical nurse in Tucson. From there, we drove to see family in Palm Desert, Calif. It was a wonderful trip. I reminisced about time at Williston and noted the passing of **John Spare**. We used to sing not only in the Glee Club under Henry Teller, but first tenor in the double quartet. One memory of life at Williston was the time Dale Cleveland '51 tossed me out of math class for talking and I went to see Phil Stevens. He told me, ‘Good for you!’ and sent me back to class. I guess I was too quiet. I send greetings to our class and wish all a healthy 2022.”

On January 29, as a heavy snowstorm was getting closer to Easthampton, **Kingsley Sullivan** wrote, “I returned from Turkey in mid-November alone. Zeynep is still having some problems with USCIS because she, with permission, left a month later than her visa allowed during her last trip. The reason for returning late was again

a COVID problem. I will return in about a month, and come back in June for a grandniece’s wedding. Both she and her fiancé were Williston Northampton grads. So, what do I do to keep busy? I use What’s App, Facebook, and Messenger every day to talk with Zeynep and other Turkish friends, for one thing. I try to keep up correspondence here in the States, too. Besides that, I have been busy with all things wooden in my house, refinishing where needed and using a Feed-N-Wax product on all things wood. It is generally too cold and icy to go outside much these days, and I try to follow doctor’s orders not to shovel. That will be a tough order to follow tomorrow, I guess, as we are expecting a heavy snowfall.”

In March 2020, when the pandemic threw a wrench into things, **Paul Tamburello** canceled plans to attend dance festivals from Rhode Island to Lafayette, La., to Gator by the Bay in San Diego—festivals he’s enjoyed for decades. Recent cancellations at his favorite dive bars in Somerville and Cambridge have limited his *joie de vivre* in neighboring turf, and he hasn’t been posting on his blog (<https://ptat-large.typepad.com>) due to local and state mandates that curtail visits to diners, restaurants, art galleries, and dance halls. Paul wishes every fellow classmate good health and good cheer.

Dave Torrey wrote, “My friend, Barbara, and I both lost our spouses in 2017 and 2016 respectively, and did a lot of traveling in 2021. We used Barbara’s timeshares to go to Williamsburg, Va., for a week; Edisto Beach, S.C.; Myrtle Beach; and then in October to Newport,



Dave Torrey '60 at Nashawannuck Pond



Zack Gould '64 and his wife, Carol



Nick Holmes '61 and Susan in front of the Homestead

R.I. It was good to be back traveling again. In early October, we went to Easthampton to stay at my cousin's vacant apartment, which is walking distance to the school and to Union, Main, and Cottage Street stores and shops. We toured the campus with Jill Stern and Corinne Briggs, which brought back good memories. Easthampton has certainly changed since our days. There are three coffee shops within a few blocks of campus, plus the Mt. Tom's Homemade Ice Cream shop. My favorite place is Tandem Bagel at the old railroad station. Students, plus local residents, frequent the place. We also went up on the Mt. Tom State Reservation, where those of us in the Williston Junior School can remember Mountain Days, when classes were canceled once we arrived at school. After changing out of sport coats and ties, we headed up to the Reservation for

lunch. It was a good walk with our classmates as we all headed there in small groups. I'm looking forward to a reunion in the near future."

Woody Woodward continues to live on 12 acres in Wyoming with a panoramic view of the Bighorns, overlooking a large cattle ranch, with antelope on his front lawn and mule deer on the large hill behind the house. He has written about 50 articles since his retirement from the Air Force. The pieces cover everything from the effect of gentrification on the West to hunting dangerous game in the Zambezi River valley. He is planning a sunset safari in June for buffalo along the Limpopo River in Zimbabwe. Woody is a strong advocate for hunting and its effect on preserving wildlife in Africa. "In southern Africa where there is no hunting, there is little game," he says. "The biggest threat



Don Hudson '64

to wildlife is poaching. At the Buby Valley Conservancy, where I have hunted, there are roughly 4,500 buffalo on about 800,000 acres. Perhaps 200 old bulls are harvested each year. Much of that meat goes to the tribes. They say 4,300 calves and younger bulls that are not hunted are protected from poaching and live in an enhanced habitat, preserved by the roughly \$5 million those buffalo hunts produce. In Africa, there is no financial engine comparable to safari hunting that is providing that level of funding for antipoaching patrols and habitat preservation. Those 200 buffalo hunts (and some plains game hunts) preserve a pristine bit of the low veld that is home to protected animals, like elephants, and one of the largest herds of endangered rhinos in Africa." Woody has been to Africa 12 times and follows the path set by his dad, who built roads in India for the British in the 1920s, traveling across the subcontinent with shotgun and rifle via bullock cart, railroad, and elephant. He has lived in Wyoming for 35 years, having been adopted by a group of rodeo cowboys who managed a driven pheasant shoot. He realized he would never catch up with the cowboys in riding and roping skills. So he opted for showing up at his first branding in a Brooks Brothers

shirt and school tie. Drawing on his experience with driven shoots in Europe during his military years, he ended up running the shoot for 23 years. He tells us he is "deeply in love" with both his wife, Paula, who he refers to as the "Junior Colonel," and the state of Wyoming.

Bud Woodworth comments, "Things have changed for me this last year in that I have found a new companion. Her name is Kat Stuart. She is the art director at Owls Head Transportation Museum, where I serve on the board. I oversee raising \$11.75 million for expansion of the facilities. We have raised \$3.5 million, and I have just contracted to build the aircraft hangar expansion. If anyone comes to Maine, you should try to visit the museum. We have about 90 vintage cars and 16 vintage airplanes, all still operational. Learn more at owlshead.org. I also couldn't stay away from owning a boat for very long, so I acquired an Eastbay 38 and spent the summer cruising Penobscot Bay and Down East Maine. Maine has such a wealth of cruising ground, it would take a lifetime to see it all. I am also planning on building another garage in Maine to accommodate the vintage car collection. Look me up if you are in Lincolnville, Maine. I will guarantee some fun!"

1961 WA
Ed Foster
talismaned@aol.com

Nick Holmes and his wife, Susan, stopped by campus for a visit.

1961 NSFG
Heidi Ewing Kapsokavathis
hikeannie@gmail.com

1962 WA
Class of 1962 needs a class rep. Please call Jill Stern at (413) 529-3965 to volunteer.

In March, Lossone Rink was packed with alumni, classmates, family, and friends of the Williston girls varsity hockey team as they placed first in the 2022 NEPSAC **Chuck Vernon** Elite Girls' Hockey Tournament. See page 97 and read more in *The Willistonian*: willistonian.org/chuck-vernons-victory.

1962 NSFG
60TH REUNION
Linda Stanton Maynard
Maynard.linda1944@gmail.com

1963 WA
David Tatlock
Davidtatlock45@gmail.com

1964 WA
Paul "Duck" Doty
pauldoty26@yahoo.com.au

Zack Gould says hello from Santa Fe, N.M.

Larry Hamilton is back stateside in upstate New York after a number of years in Ecuador.

Jack Heflin is spending the winter months in Naples, Fla., and he says he can still do a front one-and-a-half flip! **Duck Doty** writes, "We'll have to see that to believe it."

Don Hudson checked in from California.

John Lisle is looking forward to the class of '64's 60th Reunion in two years.

Dick North had wanted to go to the Williston Northampton holiday par-

ty in New York, but COVID stopped him—here's to next year!

William Northway reports, "I have led a lucky life. As it turned out, Williston Academy was great for me. Best coach I ever had, Ray Brown '55, encouraged me to look at Kenyon, which was a perfect fit. I found my way into Michigan's dental school and interned at their Center for Human Growth and Development, where I met Robert Moyers, who pointed me to the orthodontic program at the Université de Montréal. I opened a practice in St. Bruno, Québec, and was a clinical instructor at McGill for six years. After the separatists won in Québec, it became time to move back to Michigan, where I opened a practice in incredible northern Michigan. I found my way into the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontics and have delighted in publishing 19 articles, and I have been asked to lecture all over the world. After 45 years of having the best job on the face of the earth, I sold my practice in September of 2019, three months before the first case of COVID-19 was identified. For nearly 50 years, I had the pleasure of working with people, many of whom would cover their mouths when smiling or laughing but ended up flaunting their smiles. Finally, I am married to the girl of my dreams. I consider myself lucky!"

Spencer Rogers has had a long career in education, helping the less advantaged. He is now retired in Davidson, N.C.

Walter Schlech made a journey from Nova Scotia to Palm Springs, seeing family all along the way.



Duck Doty '64 and his wife, Juliet



Jim Hustace '69 and his wife, Mollie, say 'Aloha' from Hawaii

Duck Doty tells us that he celebrated 17 years with his “Aussie wife.” He also writes, “Thanks to all who responded with their recent news; let’s hope for a great turnout at our 60th in 2024. We can be those old guys having a ball!”

1964 NSFG

Lydia Allen Kitfield
lydiakitfield@gmail.com

1965 WA

Thomas “Teak” Kelley Jr.
tjbost@gmail.com



Kevin Hoben '65 (left) and Jeff Bastable '65



Teak Kelley '65 (left) and David Werner at a Florida golf outing



Farnsy by Bill Anthony '66 sneak peek

In November, **Jeff Bastable** enjoyed a surprise visit from **Kevin Hoben**, who was in New York visiting his sister and family. “We had a great visit and catch-up.”

Teak Kelley hosted David Werner from the Williston

alumni office at his home course in Bonita Springs, Fla.

Charles Sullivan writes, “For the second time in the last three and one-half years, I walked the entire 491-mile Camino Francés from St.-Jean-Pied-de-Port, France, to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. I did it with 33 days of walking, with an additional two rest days. Exhausting—but very satisfying. If you ever want to see a lot of happy people, stand in front of the cathedral in Santiago and watch the reactions from those who have been walking hundreds of miles (for weeks!) as they reach their destination.”

The class of '65 recently received news of the passing of Alice Childs, **Robert Childs'** mother and a friend to many in the class. At 103, she is remembered as “a tower of strength.”

1966 WA

Peter Miceli
petertmiceli@hotmail.com
Louis “Dee” Pellissier
dee.pellissier@icloud.com

Hot off the presses: **Bill Anthony's** novel *Farnsy*. A mystery set in Maine, it promises a “...quirky and heart-warming read for anyone who loves Maine, has been to Maine, plans to visit Maine, or who just likes their Maine humor dry.” Find out more and pick one up for your summer read at wanthonywriter.com.

1966 NSFG

Virginia Hopf West
vinnymwest@gmail.com

1967 WA

John Newton
jmn333@aol.com

1967 NSFG

55TH REUNION

Pamela Mitchell Andros
Pandros1949@gmail.com

Gail Reddin is living in Hamden, Conn., with her dog, Jackie O. She admits, “It’s nice to be back in the city!”

1968 WA

Rockwell “Chip” Keeney
carkeeney@charter.net

While attending a virtual baking event lead by Zoë Neal François '85, **Paul Wainwright** reflected, “One of my fondest memories of the food at Williston in the 1960s was the baker, Herbie Bergman, who baked the most wonderful doughnuts, white bread, and apple pie, and on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, baked the most wonderful hot cross buns. Herbie provided a bright light in what was otherwise very ordinary cooking by Alfonce, the cook, whose professional qualification was limited to being a cook in the Brazilian Navy.”

1968 NSFG

Louisa Miller Hoar
Lousia214@aol.com

1969 WA

David Reichenbacher
augustskypilot@yahoo.com

Mark deShong shares, “Last summer we visited Sarah’s close friends in Seattle, and my former Williston hockey linemate **Sam Greeley** and his wife, Cathy, in his Washington country retreat. Sam and I committed to building another sheet of ice at Williston, if we won a very large and substantial lottery. We’d love it to have Carps’ name on one of the

new doors. His memory and influence remain very strong for both of us. My wife and I are now in Vieques, a little island off the coast of Puerto Rico, where we’re building a little warm-weather sustainable vacation home with a rental unit, all with local materials and labor, powered by photovoltaics, capturing roof water, etc. We’re calling ourselves EcoCasa, ecocasavieques.com. Vieques is a beautiful Caribbean island, easy to visit as it’s a U.S. territory, with the most impressive Vieques National Wildlife Refuge (East and West tract 18,000 acres) and an incredible bioluminescent bay!”

Jim Fisher is working with a team (five from the U.S. and about five from Togo) that will conduct clinical trials in Togo for a COVID treatment regimen. “We’ve received the necessary approvals from various ministries and will be starting the trials in February. We hope to have the results by mid-March and publish our findings in April. If we can show statistically significant favorable results, we’ll expand the breadth of the research later this year. I’m also assisting a friend, Jose Hernandez (who was briefly featured in the first episode of the Netflix series ‘Surviving Death’), explore using his near-death-experience-inspired art to facilitate the work of mental health professionals. Initial indications are that his Inner Immersion program can rapidly bring emotional traumas to the surface. This has the potential to make psychotherapy much more efficient and reduce costs.”

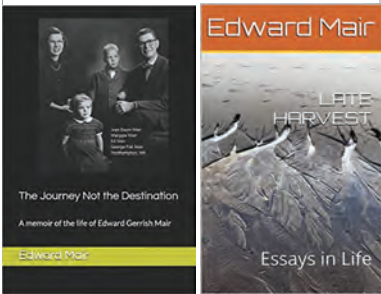
Ed Mair sends this note: “I have written and published two books. The first is a memoir which includes my time at Williston, *The Journey Not the Destination*. The

Michael Freisenbruch has no news this round, as a self-proclaimed “boring insurance guy!”

As part of The Lonka Project earlier this year, award-winning photographer **Jim Hollander** hosted a webinar discussion about the Holocaust, showing photographic portraits of survivors.

Jim Hustace checked in from Hawaii. “After experiencing no tourists, they’re back in force! We wish they’d stay away. I’m still Hawaii’s certified fine art appraiser and have been quite busy since clients have been worried about their treasures due to the pandemic. There has been time for some golf, but it’s a struggle to keep my handicap below 5 with so many joints starting to ache. Mollie continues teaching AP Art History at HPA and is the director of the famous heritage art gallery here in Kamuela known as the Isaacs Art Center. My son James is the president of the huge Waimea Community Association and the chair of the island’s Democratic Party. My son Kip is a constitutional law professor at the Arizona State University Law School. After his M.A. and J.D. from Stanford, he obtained his L.L.M. at the University of Washington.”

Ed Mair sends this note: “I have written and published two books. The first is a memoir which includes my time at Williston, *The Journey Not the Destination*. The



Two recent publications by Ed Mair '69

other is a compilation of various writing I have done for magazines and newspapers, *Late Harvest*. Both are available on Amazon by searching ‘Edward Gerrish Mair.’ I am currently single, retired, and living contentedly on a barrier beach in Massachusetts called Plum Island.”

William Morrison admits, “I don’t have a great deal of news to share. We’ve basically kept a very low profile since the beginning of the pandemic. Instead of doing international travel, we take road trips to places like Savannah, Charleston, and Kiawah Island. **Jim Fisher** and I chat, and we’ve visited each other a few times. It’s always fun to exchange Williston stories. I have nine grandchildren now and I’m sure more will come in the next few years. Y’all stay safe, and give us a call if you are in the Asheville, N.C., area. Asheville is the ‘Northampton of the South.’”

Matt Peck welcomed a new grandson! His daughter, Rosie Peck Xia '04, was also a Willy, but he admits, “I don’t know about Nevin yet.... Rosie lives in Pittsburgh, Pa., where her husband, Zongqi, is a doctor working at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center researching MS and looking for solutions to end or treat that disease. They are currently exploring how MS research might be related to COVID and how the science of MS might lead to a better understanding of each disease. As for me, I just retired from driving tractor trailers, eight years after a 35-year career selling multiple-part continuous business forms. I’m looking forward to visiting friends, getting things back to normal, and our next Reunion!”



Matt Peck '69 with his four-month-old grandson

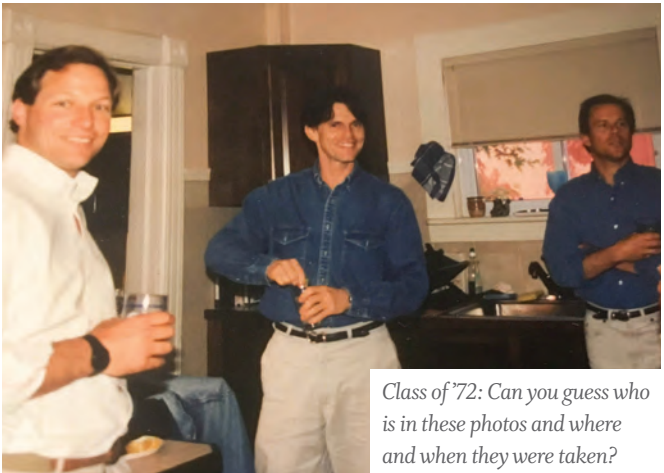
A new book of poems by Brad Davis '71 is out



Charles Ross '72 and his granddaughters



From left: Cindy Strait Regal '71, Linda La Shier-Underhill '71, Marcia Booth Drinkard '70, Marie Schneller Palmer '71



Class of '72: Can you guess who is in these photos and where and when they were taken?



Todd Stall '73 and his daughter, Morgan Stall Ahearn '05

David Reichenbacher sends, “I hope you all are finding ways to survive this pandemic. Music has been my salvation. I have been performing solo and with our band, 2X4, these past two years at a few gigs, but for the most part, performance venues have cut back on offering live entertainment. Things are beginning to loosen up, however, and St. Patrick’s Day will be busy as we also play Irish music. Stay healthy, and I hope to see you all at our 55th Reunion in 2024.”

1969 NSFG

Elizabeth Odgers
xoxobo@tds.net

1970 WA

Rick Teller
RLTeller@crocker.com

1970 NSFG

Sara Cornwall
ctsails@outlook.com

1971 WA

Edward Pytka Jr.
epytka@aol.com
Edward “Ned” Mulligan
(401) 835-6899

Brad Davis writes, “I’ve just had a new book published, *Trespassing on the Mount of Olives: Poems in Conversation With the Gospels*. Like my *Opening King David: Poems in Conversation With the Psalms*, the sequence represents my interaction with the sacred texts of my boyhood, which I then reengaged before, during, and since my quarter century as an Episcopal priest. The new book is in the Poiema Poetry Series of Cascade Books and can be purchased from the publisher at wipfandstock.com.”

1971 NSFG

Sally Myser Wadhams
Sallyw@aol.com

Marie Schneller Palmer visited the Cape Fear Vineyard and Winery in March with some NSFG classmates. This outing in North Carolina was filled with many smiles and laughs!

1972

50TH REUNION

Otha Michael Wills
omwills@gmail.com

While attending a virtual baking event lead by Zoë Neal François ’85, Chuck Tauck shared, “I toured Williston in ’68 as a 13-year-old. The smell of fresh-baked bread was overwhelming when visiting the dining hall. It was a major factor in my choice of Williston.”

Can you believe it’s been 50 years since graduation? Richard Eyre shared some photos of days past; see them on page 80.

Robert Jackler was featured in a *New York Times* article in March, “The Loophole That’s Fueling a Return to Teenage Vaping.” Read more about Rob on page 52.

Charles Ross keeps his days busy and his heart and arms full with visits by his three granddaughters.

1973

Betty Chase Hyde
ehyde55555@aol.com

Betty Chase Hyde sends, “Hello from Jeffersonville, Vt., the home of Smuggler’s Notch Resort. I am here for the winter again this year. Unfortunately for this year, the deep

snow never found us in northern Vermont. I still have managed to ski about 40 days to date—and have a blast! The class of 1973 is still having COVID Zooms. It is wonderful to be in touch with classmates! We are gearing up for our 50th Reunion next year. I hope everyone reaches out to their best friend from our Williston class and arranges to meet in Easthampton next June. We are in the process of planning a fun-filled week for our class. I was recently in touch with Alicia Divoll. She is married and living in Venice, Fla. It was fun reconnecting with Alicia, and she is planning on coming to Reunion! Alicia and I were sorority sisters at UMass and moved to Atlanta, Ga., together after college. I was supposed to ski with Todd Stall at Mad River Glen again this year, but had to renege as the temps were predicted to be minus 25 degrees that day. Todd and his daughter, Morgan Stall Ahearn ’05, are tougher than me. Although I hear they spent the day in the lodge because it was too cold to ski. This is an annual event in memory of Todd’s son, Alec Stall ’00.

Jeff DeCaro sent news that he’s “recovering from my hernia surgery and looking forward to getting my left shoulder fixed this coming week. In another few weeks, I should be ready for the slopes (just in time for the spring thaw!). All kidding aside, if I can swing a tennis racket in April, and get back out on the basketball court and the softball diamond in May or June, life will be good. Now for the real news: Dru will be playing a show at the Kerouac Centennial Celebration at the Luna Theater in Lowell, Mass., in March. This past year, he and another musical artist by the name

of Fences co-wrote, produced, and acted in a documentary of Kerouac’s life. It looks like it may be released this year if all the lawyers involved are able to come to agreement on the terms of the release. We’ll see. Although I always knew that Kerouac was celebrated as a ‘favorite son’ in the town of Lowell, I never realized that he had such a huge following, and that the Centennial Celebration of his life would span over two months!”

Linda Shlosser Woods writes, “I’m looking forward to seeing some of our classmates in person at the 2022 Reunion, but especially any and all NSFGers who can make it! I’m still working full time in sunny Arizona, but plan to be back east for an extended period this summer as I am trying out retirement for a few months. Stay well and healthy everyone!”

Liz Wells McIlvain sent a picture of her three daughters with her three granddaughters.

Ken Womack reports, “I am still working way too much, but do have fun occasionally. Racing sailboats is again a thing, now that COVID is settling down. I am participating in the Etchells Class winter series held in Miami each winter season. We race every few weekends from early December until late March or early April. I love being on the water and participating in competitive racing with some of the best international competition in the sport. Being a Corinthian sailor and not a pro with hired guns as crew, I am not likely to end up on the podium, but the fun, competition, camaraderie, and continual learning keep me coming back. My businesses always seem



Liz Wells McIlvain '73 shares a family photo. From left: Erin is holding Virginia, Maggie is holding Martha, and Katie is holding Claire.

to be difficult and time consuming. The two restaurants and bars I have seem to have unending fire drills. Currently, I am looking for a general manager for my waterfront place in Seabrook, Texas. It is a bar and restaurant by day, but a rocking party on the weekend nights. The big partiers on the weekends are the 21- to 35-year-olds. It is tough to find a person to run a several-million-dollar business who also has the ability to know how to keep the younger customers happy and returning. Oil business is improving, and I am starting to accomplish an unending amount of deferred maintenance work on wells. My son and daughter, who sometimes seem a bit lost, are both happy campers these days and seem like they are making their way in the world. Both remain single, so I do not have any grandchildren to dote on. At least not yet. I am looking forward to returning to campus when our 50th Reunion rolls around!”

Michael Hirsch sends, “My wife and I continue to live in Southern California, though our three kids have left the area for Portland, Ore., and Ghent, Belgium. Although I

retired in 2013, six months after COVID struck I was offered a consulting opportunity that I found interesting. Not only was it associated with building optical systems, about half of my time last year was spent in Massachusetts. It was nice to get back so often while having the intellectual challenges to distract me from the relative isolation we have been practicing. Unfortunately, after signing up for three-quarters-time work, I quickly found myself regularly working 50- to 60-hour weeks. I guess bad habits are hard to break. That role ended last October, so I had a few months of breathing time before I accepted a much less demanding role supporting another company building space-bound hardware to monitor carbon discharges. Other than traveling to Massachusetts, my other travels have been curtailed to day trips to wine country or to hiking spots in the Southern California environs. Margaret and I are looking forward to visiting our son in Belgium, hopefully around April, and then getting up to Portland in the following months to see our other two children and our only grandchild. I continue to participate in Williston's Head's Visiting Council. This has provided a bird's-eye view into the school's plans and accomplishments. From where I sit, it appears the school is getting many things right from the perspectives of academics, social engagement, sports, and inclusion. The strides made in the last 10 to 15 years are nothing short of exhilarating. As we are approaching our 50th Reunion, I would like to offer my help in planning our activities. In the meantime, I will be looking forward to seeing friends."

Congratulations to **Kristina Madsen**, elected to the 2022 College of Fellows of the American Crafts Council in recognition of "those who have made an outstanding contribution to the crafts in America." Learn more about Kristina's fine woodworking at kristinamadsen.com.

1974

Penny Dods Molyneux
pmolyneu@smith.edu
Steven Simpkin Sr.
Steve.simpkin@gmail.com

Ann Dowd transported ABC viewers back to the beloved 1980s when she reprised the role of the incomparable Mrs. Garrett on "The Facts of Life" in December. Jennifer Aniston, Kathryn Hahn, Gabrielle Union, Allison Tolman, and others joined in live with a studio audience.

1975

Kathleen Krohn
Krohnk757@gmail.com

Kathy Krohn, Beth Hotoph DeLaurentis, and Penny (Beth's fabulous mother) enjoyed a meal together last November just as they did while at school when Penny would surprise them with dinners at the Log Cabin.

1976

Dana Richdale
drichdale@sbcglobal.net
832-451-5298

Dana Richdale writes, "Hello, fellow classmates. Not too many updates. Reach out to me when you can, curious minds want to know what you are up to these days. I did see that **Dara Blendermann Casey**



On left: Kathy Krohn '75, Beth Hotoph DeLaurentis '75, and Beth's mother, Penny; on right: Kathy Krohn '75 and Beth Hotoph DeLaurentis '75 outside Whitaker Bement in 1974



Rogelio Ramos '78 (left) and Matt Cahillane '76 at Citi Field

was in Arizona visiting her grandchildren. I'm marveling at the fact that Dara is a grandmother. However, I'm sure there are many other classmates at this stage of our lives that are also grandparents. I also saw that **Steve Bischoff** completed a mini triathlon, though at our age nothing is 'mini' when it comes to physical conditioning. I'm sure he felt a few aches and pains the next day! Regarding WNS, make note, the new Residential Quad has been completed. It is quite a transformation! The quad is located behind the chapel, where, during our time, one could find tennis courts. It's a big change, and **John Hazen White** played a big role in this transformation. Stay safe and reach out anytime."

1977

45TH REUNION

Jennifer Carpenter Reid
jcarpe1458@aol.com

1978

John Intorcio
John@intorcio.org
Jennifer McLeod Sleeper
jennifersleeper@comcast.net

Rogelio Ramos and **Matt Cahillane** '76 caught up at a New York Mets game.

1979

Sean Kardon
sean@kardon.net
Owen Mael
owen_mael@yahoo.com

1981

Joseph Scott
jscott@intellisound.net
Kathy Mattison Moeker
kmoeco@yahoo.com

1982

40TH REUNION

Thomas Rouillard
tom@tomrouillard.com

1983

Mark Berman
mberman@mediashareconsulting.com

USA Today Sports Golfweek made mention of **Mark Berman**: "When [he] organized the inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship in November with the simple mission of shining a light on women's developmental golf, he had no idea it would lead to buying an entire tour. But that's exactly what happened as Berman closed on purchasing the Florida-based NWGA, a 16-year-old women's tour.

His plan is to rebrand it as The East Coast Women's Professional Golf Tour and rebuild it from the ground up, providing more playing and earning opportunities for professional female golfers."

1984

Catherine Bardagy Winchild
catherine.winchild@gmail.com
Rex Solomon
Rex@rexsolomon.com

Former Boston Bruins player **Willie O'Ree** tipped his signature hat to **Bryant McBride** the night his number was retired at the TD Garden in January. Bryant produced the documentary *Willie*, which tells the story of Willie O'Ree overcoming racial barriers and providing a pathway for future athletes of color to thrive in their respective sports. Bryant notes, "He will have a generational impact."

1985

Angele Hebert Myers
angeleh@comcast.net

Felipe Barreda sends, "For the holidays this year, I went to St. Marks, Fla., to spend Christmas with my cousin and was happy to find out that **Will Glenn** was living in Shell Point, Fla., which was just down the road from where I was staying. I had the pleasure of being invited to his home for grilled oysters and beer, and we had a great time remembering all our classmates and friends from Williston."

Zoë Neal François held a virtual event for the alumni community in February where participants learned how to bake with no-knead artisan dough. Watch the recording on the alumni events page: wil-



Dave VanCott '87, Shannon Sakaske '87, and Jon Dann '87 all hit the links in Florida



Felipe Barreda '85 (left) and Will Glenn '85

liston.com/alumni/events.

1986

Geordie Dunnington
George_Dunnington@milton.edu
Ellen Rosenberg Livingston
ellenrlivingston@gmail.com

As part of the alumni office's January (virtual) Finance Series, **Mijanou Malise Spurdle** offered financial planning tips and effective money management tools through her webinar, "Plan for Your Future. Make It Happen." Mijanou was also recently named a 2021 Top Wealth Advisor Mom by *Working Mother*

magazine and SHOOK Research.

1987

35TH REUNION

Stephanie Naess Kennedy
thekennedy5@mac.com
Matthew Roberts
matthewjroberts22@msn.com

Dave VanCott, Shannon Sakaske, and **Jon Dann** all recently met up in Florida for a 24-hour mini-reunion at Walt Disney World, where Shannon has worked the past 20+ years. There's a rumor floating around this will become an annual Willy tradition!

1988

Erica Levine Faulkner
elfaulkner98@gmail.com

In January, **Jai Chanda** led a virtual event on "Maximizing Your Charitable Gifts: The Future of Philanthropy" with Eileen Heisman, CEO and President of National Philanthropic Trust and an expert

in philanthropy. As part of a January (virtual) Finance Series hosted by the alumni office, participants on the call discussed emerging charitable giving strategies, including how to effectively integrate philanthropy into your financial planning process.

Rachael Miller writes, "In April we went to the South Island of New Zealand to explore its more remote places, primarily by stand-up paddleboard. It was incredible. I wrote about the experience for the *Standup Journal* magazine. The piece was my first expedition/adventure article!"



1989

Jeffrey Lovelace
jfrlylove@yahoo.com

1990

Dana Caruso
carusodanaL@gmail.com
John Bailey
John.M.Bailey.ii@gmail.com
Francis Purcell
frankjpurcell@comcast.net

Dana Caruso sends, "I had an amazing day in Easthampton at the New England XC championships. I was so happy to get to see Mr. T and be part of celebrating his incredible 39 years of coaching. A million thanks to him for his role in introducing me to what has become my one true love—trail running. I am a forever runner because of Mr. T, and so proud to be part of his coaching legacy."



Dana Caruso '90
and Greg Tuleja

Deirdre Griffin had a great night seeing Abby Washburn Tattersall '91 and Julia Jennison Washburn '66 while on Sanibel Island in Florida.

1991
Fiona Proctor Purcell
fpurcell2873@yahoo.com

1992
30TH REUNION
Kerry Kurian
kkurian@gmail.com

Danielle Maloney Golas
danimaloney@mac.com
Hope Nawada
hope_nawada@yahoo.com

1993
Sarah Griggs
sarahgriggs@gmail.com
Kathryn Hicks Gulick
kategulick@gmail.com

1994
Jade Brennan
Jadestone18@hotmail.com
LaShandra Smith-Rayfield
LSRayfield@gmail.com

Check out **Amber Hamilton's** TEDx talk, "A Poker Game and the Quest for Liberation" from October:

youtu.be/ezTYeuCrYlk. Amber is a member of Williston Northampton's Head's Visiting Council while concurrently serving as the Executive Director for the Memphis Music Initiative and is on the board of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center.

1995
Stephen Hoyt Jr.
shoyt1@gmail.com
Martha Lewis
mj20lewis@gmail.com

Glenn Jones has moved from Bermuda to become a news anchor and reporter for NBC-10 Boston and NECN. Being a Celtics and Red Sox fan, a past Boston/New England Emmy Award winner, and gifted journalist, we know Glenn will settle right in! Before moving to the Northeast, Glenn hosted a mini-reunion in Bermuda: "We were supposed to do it last October to mark 20 years since Williston, but COVID ruined that. Nonetheless, it was worth the wait." (Read more on page 32.)

1996
Danielle Saint Louis
saintlouis@gmail.com

Matt Cauchon, who works in the ER at Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., developed a community outreach program two years ago that allows for "on-scene support for Mercy-affiliated emergency medical, fire, and police services in western Massachusetts." The program is successfully improving communication between emergency services and the docs providing care in the ER, making for a "team" approach in patient care.

1997
25TH REUNION

Seth Kassels
s_kassels@hotmail.com
Elizabeth-Anne Zieminski
lizzieminski@gmail.com

Amy Beresky checked in with a new (and adorable!) photo of baby Aurora (see page 87).

Liz Zieminski sends, "Hello from Brooklyn! Hoping everyone is well and excited for Reunion! **Jessica Asrican Gentilli**, **Maura Corbeil Beaudreault**, and **Sheree Shu '98** started a little early last August and had a mini-Williston reunion of our own! I took some much-needed time off to finally see friends in person. It was so lovely to gather together, reminisce, and catch each other up after the past year and a half. We explored Northampton and the additions to the campus. Of course, no visit to the Willy campus is complete without some library benching! Hope to see many Willy alumni this June!"

1998
Shaun Chapman
Chapman.shاون@gmail.com

Jeremy Fisher welcomed his son, Noah Jacob Scott McClellan, to the world in October. Congratulations to Jeremy and Charles!

Christa Talbot Syfu led Williston's girls varsity hockey team to victory in the 2022 NEPSAC Chuck Vernon (Williston Academy graduate of the class of '62) Elite Girls' Hockey Tournament. Go Wildcats!

1999
Corinne Fogg
corinne.fogg@gmail.com

Gregory Morrison
gregory.morrison14@yahoo.com

Corie Fogg, Jenna Borowski Pelech, and **Kira Canon Goodman '00** got together with their littles at a farm in Natick, Mass.

Jen Kroleski Gifford shares this baby news: "My wife, Jess, and I welcomed our daughter, Callie, on September 29, 2021."

2000
Katelyn Webber Schubmehl
katelynewebber@gmail.com

Kinsey Robb is Art Center Sarasota's newly appointed Executive Director after having relocated from NYC to Florida. ACS offers curated and juried exhibitions, workshops, and more. As Kinsey noted, it's an exciting time for this move with the return of in-person gallery spaces and also The Bay Project, where 53 acres in Sarasota are being transformed into a waterfront park retreat for the community.

2001
Adam Branch
adam.c.branch@gmail.com
Katherine Ciejek Shea
katiecshea@gmail.com

Congrats to **Adam Branch** on the birth of his second child, Payton!

Jesse Libby and his wife, Libbie, welcomed Beau William to the world on January 3, 2022. Beau joins sisters Serena and Violet.

2002
20TH REUNION

Devon Ducharme
deducharme@gmail.com
Thomas Lucey



From left: Daughters and mother Deirdre Griffin '90, Abby Washburn Tattersall '91, Julia Jennison Washburn '66, and Jane Dumais



From left: Cris Amanti '95, TJ Leenders '95, Carrie Schuller Callahan '96, Ryan Callahan '95, and Glenn Jones '95



From left: Liz Zieminski '97, Jessica Asrican Gentilli '97, Maura Corbeil Beaudreault '97, and Sheree Shu '98



From left: Jenna Borowski Pelech '99, Corie Fogg '99, and Kira Canon Goodman '00



Laura Wilson Shaw '02 with her toes in the sand on her wedding day

tom.lucey@gmail.com
Oluwatosin Onafowokan
toast4321@gmail.com
Evelyn Sylvester Miller
evysylvester@gmail.com

Pierce Freelon’s album *Black to the Future* was nominated at the 64th Grammy Awards for Best Children’s Music Album.

Laura Wilson Shaw and Robert married on a beautiful October day on the Cape.

2003

Jason Chandler
jason.chandler@rocketmail.com
Elizabeth Kulik Watson
elizabeth.kulik@gmail.com

2004

Ted Cain
tedcaine@gmail.com
Alex Teece
alex.teece@gmail.com
Danielle Wieneke McCarty
daniellewmccarty@gmail.com

Bryan Bolte stopped by campus to say hello! Mark Conroy shares, “Seeing him was an early Christmas gift!” Bryan currently lives in Stratham, N.H.

Ted Caine recently began a new chapter in his career, taking the position of Chief of Staff at The Door, a comprehensive youth services nonprofit in NYC. He is excited to use his skills in administration, communications, and development to support youth in the city.

Kate Vasicek Challis shares, “I will complete my M.A. in TESOL/ applied linguistics at Iowa State University this semester. My thesis was to create a corpus-based Czech



Bryan Bolte '04 and Mark Conroy



Tina Kenia '04 with her family

general service list designed for Czech learners.”

Kendall Hanley had already made her mark in history by officiating in the AHL, but then she traveled to Beijing to officiate at the 2022 Winter Olympics as one of 48 ice hockey referees and linespersons! (More on page 40.)

Tina Kenia is a new mom: “We welcomed our baby boy, Kabir Dilan Manocha. His big sister, Alia Rose, is thrilled to have a partner in crime. My husband, Amol, and I are excited to continue this adventure

with another little one.”

Chris Maller reports, “I was cast on the HBO Max show “Swiped: Hooking Up in the Digital Age,” which is being shot in Boulder, Colo., the first week of April. I’m very excited to be included, and I believe Williston was a huge contributor to the person I’ve become. The show will start in Boulder and culminate in Honolulu. Depending on my chemistry with the person I’m matched with, I’d be flown to Hawaii for further shoots and marketing. At minimum, I’ll appear for two episodes with the potential for more!”

Cate Wright was promoted to Vice President of A&R, overseeing Hitco’s full artist roster. As Dixie D’Amelio’s A&R, Cate is featured

in the Hulu series “The D’Amelio Show.”

2005

Eleanor Etheredge Frame
nell.e.frame@gmail.com
Peter Higgins Jr.
HigPeter@gmail.com

Tolu Onafowokan was Williston’s Cum Laude induction speaker in January. Cum Laude students, their parents, and members of the Cum Laude board celebrated the ceremony in the chapel, and it was also livestreamed. We encourage you to read more on page 28 and listen

to her speech at: <https://youtu.be/OjCVl2Zrl04>. Tolu went to Columbia after Williston and later earned her M.P.A. in public policy at the London School of Economics. She is now a Strategic Communications Officer at the Ford Foundation.

2006

Lauren Noonan
lmnoonan10@gmail.com
John Scannell
(508) 697-1865

Congrats to **David Fontaine**, who welcomed another girl last fall. Lillian Elaine Fontaine was born September 16, 2021.

Joe Wold recently shared that Life-Handle was trademarked. “We’re focused on making families’ everyday adventures a little bit easier and a lot more comfortable.” Check it out: mylifehandle.com.

2007

15TH REUNION
Christian D’Amour
damourcp@gmail.com
Kelsey Lindsey
kelsey.lindsey@gmail.com

Brittany Glenn was honored by WISE Boston (Women in Sports + Events) with a Women of Inspiration/Rising Star Award for her leadership. Brittany is the Senior Director of VIP Experience, retention and operations with the Boston Celtics. Read more on page 28.

Emma Ram was part of the first all-female officiating crew for the 2022 NEPSAC Chuck Vernon (Williston Academy graduate of the class of ’62) Elite Girls’ Hockey Tournament. Emma worked both the semi and final games.



'97

Amy Beresky '97 has a future Wildcat, Aurora!



'98

Already 5 months old! Jeremy Fisher '98 shares a photo of his son Noah.



'99

Jen Kroleski Gifford '99 and wife Jess welcomed Callie this fall



'01

Beau is a bundle of joy for Jesse Libby '01, with sisters Serena and Violet.



'04

Meet Kabir, born to Tina Kenia '04 and husband Amol



'09

Nolin is all smiles for Kate Kellar Billings '09 and dad Derek



'09

A smile from Millie Fran, daughter of Liv Moses Clough '09, can brighten anyone’s day!



'10

Meet Bennett! Born to Kristyna Bronner Frantz '10 and Zach.

Did you tie the knot? Do you have a new bundle of joy? Send us your high-resolution wedding or baby photograph at classnotes@williston.com and we’ll send you some fun Wildcat swag!

Chelsey Wold and Joe Wold '06 shared a photo of their children following the residential quad celebration last fall. See page 89.

2008

Evan Davis
davis_ev@icloud.com
Amadi Slaughter
madi.slaughter@gmail.com

Proud parents Ryan Collins and Brittany welcomed Lucille Ann. Lucy joins big brother Oliver.

2009

Matthew Thompson
matt.thompson@isquaredcapital.com
Olivia Moses Clough
livcarrollclough@gmail.com

Kate Kellar Billings and her husband, Derek, welcomed Nolin on August 25, 2021.

Liv Moses Clough shares, “My family and I welcomed our daughter, Amelia Frances (Millie Fran), this December just in time for New Year’s! Big brother Jack is thrilled to have a new friend, and Mom and Dad are still unclear how they have two under 2!”

In January, Taylor Scyocurka traveled to the Duro-Last National Sales Seminar in Nashville to receive the National Sustainability Award highlighting three of her company’s projects.

2010

Kristyna Bronner Frantz
kristyna.frantz@gmail.com
Reece Liang
reeceliang@gmail.com
Julia Midland
juliacmidland@gmail.com

Christina Djossa is a reporter at The New York Times developing a weekly podcast called “First Person,” hosted by former NPR reporter Lulu Garcia-Navarro. Each episode follows one person’s journey and how a moment in their life fundamentally shaped how they see the world. The show comes out this year. Stay tuned!

Laura Fontaine Casey had a baby boy, Jonah Lester, in July 2021.

Kristyna Bronner Frantz and her husband, Zach, welcomed their first child, Bennett, in October.

After living internationally for many years in Chile, Spain, and Scotland, Jenn Garvin has moved back to the U.S. and is living in the Central Valley of California working as a Sustainability and Energy Manager for a school district, while running a high school internship program on the green economy.

Wedding bells were ringing for Danielle Glenn at the Hotel Northampton in February (and several Willies were by her side for her special day!)

Jarrad Green writes, “I’m currently working as a vocal performer on Celebrity Cruises’ newest ship, the Apex, in the Caribbean, following a stint in the Mediterranean. My wife, Ellie Green (née Monkley), is also working on the ship as a vocal performer. We got married in the English countryside outside Liverpool, followed by a honeymoon trip. Next up: moving to London and pursuing musical theater roles in West End theaters.”

Tommy Haverty separated from

the Marine Corps as a captain to attend UVA Darden School of Business and was recently offered a job to work at McKinsey & Co. in Boston.

Kevin Kelly and his wife, Vicky, recently moved to Annapolis, Md., from Dallas, Texas, where they received their first guest, Tommy Reed. “Tommy is located nearby in Washington, D.C., and we are looking forward to being neighbors!”

Joyce Li reports, “The alumni community in Shanghai is small, but active. At the end of February, Kevin Li ’16, Percy Chen ’14, and I met up for brunch and reconnected after a very long time! There are currently about 10 alumni in the vibrant city of Shanghai who are actively sharing ideas on career and lifestyle via WeChat.”

Nadine Muñiz received her master’s degree and dual certification in bilingual early childhood and special education from Bank Street School in 2021.

Chris Zombik continues to work part time as an independent education consultant serving the China market. He is also working on a novel, which is now in the rewrite phase. In July of 2021, Chris moved to Somerville, Mass., to find new challenges and opportunities in the Boston area. He encourages anyone who’s also in town to reach out and say hello!

Reece Liang has started a new job as a Product Manager at Jones Lang LaSalle in NYC but was working remotely between western Mass. and NYC at the time of this writing. Reece visited Annie Sullivan in

Mexico City with some friends in January and had an absolute blast. We’re told that they ate lots of tacos!

Jamie Thomson recently had a small book of poems selected and published by a poetry press, Factory Hollow Press, in Massachusetts. The title of the book is Possibilityism. Jamie lives in Easthampton and teaches writing classes at UMass Amherst.



Jamie Thomson '10's newly published book of poems, Possibilityism

2011

Isaac Sterman
Isterman13@gmail.com

2012

10TH REUNION

Connor Sheehan
connors543@aol.com
Alex Nunnelly
alexjnunnelly@gmail.com

2013

Patrick DeNuccio
pdenuccio@yahoo.com
Kelly O'Donnell
odonnellkelly07@gmail.com

Mairead Poulin Doery shares, “On August 16, 2021, I married Aviva Doery in a small ceremony in Chicago, Ill. Our bridal party was full of Williston alums. Aviva and I both



Chelsey Wold '07 and Joe Wold '06's children are looking like Wildcats!



From left: Ashley Glenn Tamke '03, Danielle Glenn '10, and Brittany Glenn '07



From left: Ashley Glenn Tamke '03, Reece Liang '10, Annie Sullivan '10, Stevie Lustofin '10, Kristina Conroy '10, Gabriela Garcia '10, Henry Wheeler '11, Jenna Spooner '10, Jake Green '11, and Brittany Glenn '07 joined in celebrating Danielle Glenn '10 and Patrick (at center)



Tom Haverty '10



Kevin Kelly '10 (left) and Tommy Reed '10



From left: Joyce Li '10, Kevin Li '16, and Percy Chen '14 in Shanghai

Liv Moses Clough '09 has two under 2!





From left: Best man Brian Hendery '13, bridesmaid Keely Quirk '13, officiant Callum Poulin '15, and bridesman, DJ Poulin '19 with Mairead Poulin Doery '13 and new spouse Aviva (at center)



At top, Gabby Thomas '15 (left) and Sebastian Rivera '13; above, Gabby and Anthony Aquadro '15

Clockwise from top left: Jake Wisniewski '16, Kyle Doucette '16, Chris Espinal '17, Jake Prossner '17, Matt Channell '17, Makenna Hambley '17, Leah Pezanowski '17, Caitlin Keefe '17, and Natalie Aquadro '17 gathered around the wedding of Mairead Poulin Doery '13'



Emily Yeager '17



Lizzie Cuevas '18 at the United States National Dance Championships

work at the University of Arizona and are building our first home in Tucson.

2014

Nick Pattison
nickpattycake@gmail.com
Maddy Stern
maddystern95@gmail.com

Congrats to **Esther Kim**, who was recently promoted to Financial Analyst at Saks Fifth Avenue.

2015

Class of 2015 needs a class rep. Please email Corinne Briggs at cbriggs@williston.com to volunteer.

The blue and green was well represented at the Millrose Games at the Armory in NYC with former Williston track stars **Gabby Thomas** (competing) and **Anthony Aquadro** and Sebastian Rivera '13 (cheering her on!).

Gabby Thomas is now on Cameo—check it out!

2016

Maddy Scott
Maddyscott129@gmail.com

Henry Broeksmit graduated from

Sewanee: The University of the South, majoring in economics and minoring in business and Spanish. He is currently working for a financial services startup called MAXEX in Atlanta, Ga.

2017

5TH REUNION

Natalie Aquadro
naquadro3@gmail.com
Will Fokas
fokasw@comcast.net
Leah Pezanowski
l.pez1339@gmail.com

Keeping the good times rolling, nine Wildcats from the classes of 2016 and 2017 met up at the end of 2021. See page 90.

Julien Nicolas is in the U.K. working toward a master's in international business at Durham.

Emily Yeager writes, “I am thrilled to announce that I have officially accepted an offer to transfer into the Ph.D. program at the University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. I will be transitioning into the third year of my Ph.D. as a Maytag Fellow in August! I came down to Miami in the fall of 2020 to start

my master's after graduating from Wellesley College with a degree in biology and environmental studies. Now, two years into this degree, I will be transferring as a third-year Ph.D. student. My Ph.D. will be in the marine biology and ecology department and my research will focus on coral-algal symbiosis, categorizing the rate in which symbionts leave their coral host, how those rates vary by species in the Caribbean, the distribution of symbionts throughout the coral host, how corals uptake symbionts, the microenvironments that exist within the coral, and if the mechanism of symbiont expulsion can be used as a noninvasive method to supplement traditionally invasive and lethal sampling techniques. I am also interested in exploring the perceptions of the public regarding the threats facing coral reefs and the efforts to restore and protect them. As Miami's backyard is filled with abundant field sites, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct research both in the field and in the lab. While I am incredibly excited about this degree and about everything that comes next, I also want to acknowledge that I would certainly not be where I am today if it were not for the opportunities Williston offered me. I have this distinct memory of sitting in Liz Kay's biology class my sophomore year and having a moment of pure clarity and the realization that science was something that I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I am forever grateful for the opportunities Williston gave me to explore and grapple with topics in the sciences. That experience shaped my learning, my interests, and most certainly my career.”

2018

Ellie Scott
elliescott1015@gmail.com
Natalie Romain
ner2135@barnard.edu

Lizzie Cuevas and her professional ballroom dance partner, former “Dancing With the Stars” pro Mayo Alanen, placed fourth at the United States National Dance Championships in Orlando, Fla.

2019

Kassandra Orcutt
korcutt0102@gmail.com
Maddie Elsea
elseas@comcast.net

Emily Cho flew cross-country for a campus visit in March before graduating from UCLA this semester.

In January, **Dora Gordon** was one of six alumni on a panel who spoke to Williston juniors and seniors about life post-high school. Students heard from Dora, who took a gap year post-Commencement, spending six months in Israel as a research assistant at the Shalom Hartman Institute, and six months



Emily Cho '19



Former lax teammates Noah Brooks ’20 (left) and Kevin Talbot ’20 after battling it out in the NESACAC

working the night shift at McDonald’s. She’s now a sophomore majoring in political science at the University of Chicago, while participating in club hockey, moot court, and Hillel.

2020

Nat Markey
nat.markey@yale.edu

Hey, class of 2020! Be sure to check the school’s Flickr gallery to see photos from the class of 2020 on-campus celebration held in June! flickr.com/photos/williston-northampton/albums.

Guillermo Castaneda Chang shared his post-grad experiences with Williston juniors and seniors as part of a January college counseling virtual panel. Students learned that Guillermo is a sophomore goalie on the Hobart and William Smith Colleges soccer team while balancing work in the HWS admission office and a teaching fellowship in the economics department. Other guest speakers were George Spence ’21, a first-year at the University of Virginia; Badou Ba ’21, a first-year at Macalester College; Erin Chai ’21, a first-year at the University of Michigan; and Ruby McElhone Yates ’21, a first-year at Tufts University.

The January issue of *The Willistonian* featured three notable Williston alumni pursuing their athletic dreams at the collegiate level: **Caroline O’Connor**, **Maddy Cardaci**, and **Shane Regan** ’21. Caroline is competing as a Cardinal for the Wesleyan University women’s basketball team, Maddy is a member of the Division I Boston University women’s ice hockey team, and Shane is a shooting guard for the Wesleyan men’s basketball team. Find the full story at willistonian.org.

Noah Brooks and **Kevin Talbot** battled it out on opposing lax teams in the NESACAC. Noah had a goal for Colby while Kevin won 11 of 16 face-offs for Wesleyan.

2021

Adam Thistlethwaite
adamthistlethwaite@hotmail.com

Hey, class of 2021! We know you’re moving around, getting new cell-phone numbers, and setting up new email addresses. Keep your contact info current with the alumni office so you don’t miss info on fun events in your area: williston.com/alumni/connect/update-your-information.

IN MEMORY

This listing contains the names of alumni whose deaths were reported to the school between October 1, 2021, and March 30, 2022, although their passing may have occurred outside those dates. To read the full text of an obituary, visit willistonblogs.com/obituaries.

1940

Samuel T. Ansell of Waltham, Mass., died August 1, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Na’ama; his daughter, Aliza; his sons, Seth and Gideon; and three grandchildren.

Christian Murray-Allen Gerhard of Bethesda, Md., died October 10, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Hans; her daughters, Lynn and Suzanne; her son, John; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

1941

Natalie “Nonnie” Brown Denton of Elmira, N.Y., died February 12, 2021.

Philip D. Holmes of East Falmouth, Mass., died October 18, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Jean; his daughters, Martha, Nancy, Susan, and Judith; his son, James; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Donald R. Tench of Hinsdale, Mass., died March 5, 2022. He is survived by his daughter, Kathleen; his son, Newton; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. A ninth great-granddaughter predeceased him.

1942

Robert R. Jay of Cambridge, Mass., died in 2021.

1943

Joan Van Raalte Hellinger of Beverly Hills, Calif., died May 26, 2019. She is survived by her sons, Douglas and James; her brother, John; and two grandchildren.

1944

David G. Waite of Grandville, Mich., died May 5, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Eileen; his sons, John and Steven; his daughter, Sally; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Alan W. Warshow of Sands Point, N.Y., died May 23, 2018. He is survived by his daughters, Leslie and Susan. A son, John, predeceased him. He is also survived by three grandchildren.

1945

Winifred Schnacke Cahn of White Salmon, Wash., died January 11, 2019.

William B. Grant of Lyme, N.H., died November 19, 2021. He is survived by his daughters, Jennifer and Ellen; his sons, Jefferson and Nicholas; his brother, James; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

1946

Frances Abbott Reynolds of Leicester, Mass., died December 28, 2021. She is survived by her sons, William and Thomas; her daughters, Anne, Frances, and Susan; 13

grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Joan “Joanie” Shaw Propst of Alturas, Calif., died September 7, 2021. She is survived by her daughters, Susi, Barbie, and Robin; her brother, Ken Shaw ’51; her sister, Margery Shaw ’58; and three grandchildren; a fourth granddaughter predeceased her. She is also survived by three great-grandchildren.

Jane Kremers Thompson of Norwell, Mass., died December 14, 2021. She is survived by her sons, Andrew, Christopher, and James; her daughter, Mary; her stepson, John; her stepdaughters, Carol and Tricia; and 13 grandchildren.

1947

John E. MacElwee of Essex, Conn., died February 20, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Carol; and his son, John; a second son, Douglas, predeceased him. He is also survived by his daughter, Elizabeth; his brother, Thomas; and one grandson.

James “Jim” D. Ross of Middlebury, Vt., died September 19, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Ann; his son, Peter; his daughters, Lauren and Patty; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

1948

June Ramsey Atwood of West Falmouth, Mass., died February 7, 2022. She is survived by her son, Steven; her daughter, Carol; her sister, Carol; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

James “Marvin” Gangemi of Williamstown, Mass., died November 23, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Mary; his sons, Daniel, John, and Anthony; his daughters, Sarah, Johanna, and Mary Kate; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Frances “Frannie” Hazlehurst Taylor of Denver, Colo., died December 6, 2021. She is survived by her son, Erik; her daughters, Ann and Jennifer; her brother, John; and four grandchildren.

1949

Rebecca Williams Abraham of Ithaca, N.Y., died March 29, 2022. She is survived by her daughters, Elisabeth, and Sarah; her son, John; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Chester D. “Chet” Andrews of Mystic, Conn., died Feb. 25, 2022. He is survived by his sons, Jeff and Mark; his daughters, Kim and Susan; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Carl R. Eaby of Fishersville, Va., died May 25, 2021.

1950

Gregory B. Anderson of San Diego, Calif., died March 17, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Eve; his sons, Paul and Jay; his stepson, Steve; his stepdaughter, Sally; and three grandchildren.

Clayton T. Hardon of Fox Chapel, Penn., died January 11, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Sally; his sons, Clay Hardon Jr. ’78, Chris Hardon ’81, and Tony; his daughters, Meg,

Kelly, and Sara; his daughter-in-law, Claire Kelley Hardon ’79; and eight grandchildren.

John A. Harvey of Topsfield, Mass., died October 7, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Linda; and his daughters, Julie, Sally, and Elizabeth. A son, John Jr., predeceased him. He is also survived by two grandchildren.

Elinor “Ellie” Frey Schaeffer of Plano, Texas, died November 5, 2021. She is survived by her sons, Jeff and Greg; her daughter, Cindy; her sisters, Sandy and Judy; and six grandchildren.

1951

Paul W. Brown Jr. of Westborough, Mass., died January 27, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Betty; his sons, Paul III and Douglas; his daughters, Susan and Kristin; his brother, Raymond Brown ’55; his nieces, Karen Brown Golding ’81 and Amy Brown ’84; and four grandchildren.

Robert H. Sammis of Lansdale, Penn., died November 30, 2021. He is survived by his daughter, Nancy; his son, Jeffrey; his sister, Martha; and four grandchildren.

Barbara Mitchell Scilipoti of Hopedale, Mass., died December 27, 2021. She is survived by her sons, William and Robert; and her daughters, Nancy and Renata. A third daughter, Barbara, predeceased her.

1952

Edward “Ted” Bosworth of Ithaca, N.Y., died February 15, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte; his

daughters, Monica and Jenifer; his sister, Peggy; and five grandchildren.

Donald J. Scott of Naples, Fla., died November 15, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Gale; his daughters, Alicia and Andrea; his brother, Gordon; and four grandchildren.

1953

Jack S. M. Erickson of Hillsborough, N.C., died December 1, 2019.

1954

Arthur B. Locke of West Granby, Conn., died January 30, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Aurelle; his daughters, Alison, Amanda, and Katharine; and one granddaughter.

1955

Gary T. Gilbert of Boca Raton, Fla., formerly of Revere and Natick, Mass., died November 7, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Enid; his sons, Myles, Adam, and Scott; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Dong Kingman Jr. of New York, N.Y., died February 4, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; his daughter, Melissa; and his son, Jonathan.

Prasert “Pete” Kulvanit of Bangkok, Thailand, died October 19, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Sujira; his sons, Joe and Pasan; and two grandchildren.

Samuel W. Morey of Cottonwood, Ariz., died November 17, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Connie; and his daughters, Debra and Diana. A

third daughter, Donna, predeceased him. He is also survived by four grandchildren. A granddaughter predeceased him. He is also survived by one great-granddaughter and one stepgrandson.

Prudence Sandifer Scott of Spartanburg, S.C., died July 26, 2021. She is survived by her sons, Garrett, Carleton, and Peter; a fourth son, Henry, predeceased her. She is also survived by her sister, Jennifer; and six grandchildren.

Andrew J. Sullivan of The Villages, Fla., died November 16, 2021. He is survived by his daughters, Catherine, Jane, Elizabeth, and Molly; his son, Andrew; and his brother, Thomas Sullivan ’56.

Kent K. Vandewater of Jamaica Plain, Mass., died in May 2021. He is survived by his wife, Susan.

1956

Francis “Eric” Britton Jr. of Paris, France, died October 31, 2021.

Stephen K. Oberbeck of Sanibel, Fla., died January, 26, 2022.

1957

Robert S. Birch of Lake Wales, Fla., died February 7, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Eugenie; his son, Foster; his daughters, Rebecca and Victoria; and seven grandchildren.

Aldo O. Cipriano of Waterbury, Conn., died October 31, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Brenda; his daughters, Heather, Brenda, Jill, and Milly; and five grandchildren.

1958

Stephanie Brown Fehm of Davis, Calif., died January 26, 2022. She is survived by her daughter, Gretchen; her sister, Susan; and three granddaughters.

1959

Charles Pinnell of Monroe, Wash., died February 24, 2022.

1960

Donna Loughran Bordes-Barrera of Juno Beach, Fla., died July 11, 2021.

David V. DeLuca of Rochester, N.Y., died January 26, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Susan; his sons, Michael, Benton, and James DeLuca ’95; his sister, Deanna; his brother-in-law, David Secrest ’74; and five grandchildren.

1961

Victor H. Fazio of Arlington, Va., died March 16, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; and his daughter, Dana; a second daughter, Anne, predeceased him. He is also survived by his stepson, Kevin; his stepdaughter, Kristie; and four granddaughters.

Emily Gilman Hayden of Wilbraham, Mass., died January 7, 2022. She is survived by her husband, John Hayden ’62; her sons, Peter Hayden ’88 and Daniel Hayden ’93; and four grandchildren.

1962

Richard A. De Angelis of Marseille, France, died July 30, 2021. He is survived by his daughters, Cybèle

and Christina; his sisters, Nancy and Anita; his brother, Paul; and two grandchildren.

1964

Alan R. Epstein of West Springfield, Mass., died December 6, 2021. He is survived by his partner, Carole; his children, David, Audra, Mischa, and Max; and three grandchildren.

John K. Koerner of Grand Haven, Mich., died August 20, 2021. He is survived by his brother, Jim; and his sister, Martha.

David B. Sharpe of Amherst, Mass., died May 27, 2019. He is survived by his sisters, Ruth and Esther.

1966

Robert A. Zentler-Gordon of Louisville, Ky., died October 2, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Levitia; and his sister, Karen.

Susan “Susie” McAllister Warner of Marion, Mass., died July 27, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Lawrence; her two children; and four grandchildren.

1967

Richard Rosiene of Baltic, Conn., died March 17, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Patricia.

Jeffrey B. Thomas of Richmond, Va., died November 17, 2021. He is survived by his daughter, Catherine; his son, Burke; his brother, George; and one grandchild.

1969

Duncan R. McMartin of Hamilton Parish, Bermuda, died in January 2022. He is survived by his wife, Gwen; and his sister, Marcia.

1971

Lynda Elliot Swenson of Center Harbor, N.H., died February 1, 2022. She is survived by her husband, Lenny.

1972

Robert W. Leibold Jr. of San Antonio, Texas, died June 4, 2021. He is survived by his son, Nathaniel; his daughter, Hannah; and his brothers, David, Stephen, and Richard.

1973

Francis “Bud” A. Gnatek of Hadley, Mass., died March 2, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Gail; his sons, Andrew and Daniel; his daughter, Katrina; his brothers, Edward and James; and two grandchildren.

1975

Sheryl Pharmer of Hobe Sound, Fla., died August 10, 2020.

1977

Brian S. Maher of Broomfield, Colo., died March 14, 2022.

1983

Geoffrey A. Lewis of Bronx, N.Y., died January 8, 2022.

Robert G. Toye of Pinecrest, Fla., died March 22, 2020.

REMEMBERING PAUL LUIKART

Students and colleagues reflect on the kindness and mentorship of “the Hagrid of Williston”

PAUL LUIKART BUILT A CAREER AT WILLISTON THAT BEGAN IN 1997, teaching science in both the Upper and Middle schools and coaching judo for many years. In his subject area, chemistry, Paul was encyclopedic, but his interests and life experience revealed a Renaissance scholar’s breadth of knowledge, and he was an absolutely devoted mentor to his students and advisees. For most of the past decade, Paul taught exclusively in Whitaker-Bement. In a recent tribute, Middle School director Jen Fulcher reflected on Paul’s legacy: “Paul’s passion for science and teaching are what got him out of bed every morning. No matter what the day before threw at him, he would make his way across campus to the Middle School. He had to be there to show those kids how amazing and fun life and science are.”

A Vermonter to the core, Paul’s presence on campus was unmistakable and it did not take much to elicit his broad smile by asking him about a canoe trip or fishing expedition or his daughter, Bella ’16. Paul retired from Williston at the end of the 2021 academic year, following remote work during the heart of the pandemic, and passed away in January 2022 after a long battle with cancer. Here, we share a selection of memories about Mr. Luikart from the students and colleagues whose lives he impacted.

“I’ve never felt as supported by a teacher, coach, or mentor as I did with Paul. I thought of Paul sometimes as the ‘Hagrid of Williston’ because of his many fantastic pets in and outside of the classroom and his deep appreciation of the forest, but looking back I think it was Paul’s warm nature, unflagging devotion to his advisees (and students), and easy-going demeanor that truly sparked that connection.”
—Bryan Perley ’10

“A great mentor and kind person, he shaped me for the better. I am very lucky to have had him in my life.”
—Jason Albanese ’20

“He was my sensei. I remember many stories he told about his experience in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone. He taught me many, many lessons about dealing with anger and conflict through judo. He sent me a fishing lure with a really nice letter when I was studying abroad in France my junior year, and I tried to wear the lure as a necklace but it almost gouged a hole my neck! His solid, positive kindness helped me with my own personal struggles. He changed my life permanently, for the better. I also thought of him as the Hagrid of Williston!” —Kate Vasicek Challis ’04



“Mr. Luikart cared deeply for his students. He was not only an amazing science teacher, but also taught his students about more than just the class or practice they were in. He was one of the reasons the Middle School was such an amazing place.” —Andrea and Keith Adams, P’12, ’17

“Mr. Luikart was an absolute gem, kind and approachable in such a distinctive way. I can’t for the life of me imagine the patience this man had in teaching chemistry to this stubborn, distracted teen, but he did it with grace and humor.”
—Andres Sweet ’00

“I was a student of Mr. Luikart’s from 1999 to 2002, when he was my dorm parent in Logan House, as well as my judo instructor, chemistry teacher, and mentor. Suffice it to say that for those of us who lived in his dorm, the term ‘dorm parent’ was no metaphor. Thank you for everything.”
—Chris Hammel ’02

“It was a privilege to know Paul and always inspiring to watch him teach.”
—Peter Valine, former Dean of Faculty

“Mr. Luikart was a warm, kind, encouraging teacher who went above and beyond to make sure I understood a difficult concept.”
—Ilana Panich-Linsman ’02

“He was a very kind and humorous person, and always had a smile to keep things light. He made me comfortable being away from home halfway around the world. I still remember going up to him asking for advice on anything and he’d happily discuss and share his thoughts. He was not just a teacher but also a great mentor and a friend whom I’ll miss.”
—Jason Leung ’00

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE CAMPAIGN FOR OUR COMMUNITY BEGINS WITH **YOU**

As the top priority of the *Williston Builds* campaign, the Williston Northampton Fund is the financial foundation that ensures the school's continued growth. Make your gift before June 30 to help propel Williston Northampton School forward.

Make your gift online at williston.com/give or by Venmo to the Williston Northampton Fund by **June 30** and be a part of building a stronger Williston together. [WILLISTON.COM/CAMPAIGN](https://williston.com/campaign)

A Magical Season

Some things are just meant to be—like the wonderful convergence of a NEPSAC win with a deep alumni connection—BY ELLIE WOLFE '19

“YOU COULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN A BETTER SCRIPT for Hollywood,” Athletic Director Mark Conroy said while reflecting on the success of this year's girls varsity hockey team. Not only did they take home the NEPSAC title, but they did so in a tournament with ties to Williston's Victory Bell and its namesake, Chuck Vernon '62.

Heading into the postseason with the best record in program history (24–1), Williston clinched the number one seed, which allowed them to host the NEPSAC Chuck Vernon Elite Girls' Hockey Tournament at Lossone Rink. The tournament is named after Vernon, a longtime Loomis Chaffee coach, for his contributions to NEPSAC girls hockey. So, too, is Williston's Victory Bell (at right), which was donated by an anonymous parent in 1962 in honor of Vernon's sportsmanship and leadership as team captain in his senior year. Sixty years after the bell's dedication, the girls were determined to ring it after the tournament, with wins over Kent (5–0), then Andover (3–2), and finally a 2–0 victory over Nobles, a team that had not lost a game in four years. After time elapsed and the crowd went wild, Vernon stepped onto the ice to present the award to the team.

Head Coach Christa Talbot Syfu '98 said the accomplishment was something her program has been working toward for the last 10 years and credited the seniors on the team for demonstrating “tremendous leadership on and off the ice all year....In the final game, the team showed they were ready by getting a goal in the first shift,” she said. “From there, the team shut down Noble and Greenough's offense and played smart, hard, and together for the remainder of the game. It was truly impressive!” She added, “Having Chuck Vernon there to present the award, and go with the girls to ring his bell made it even more special.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHATTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Chuck Vernon '62 awards the girls varsity hockey team the trophy for the championship in his name



WILLISTON
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

19 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA 01027
williston.com

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TOGETHER WE CAN **BUILD** WILLISTON'S FUTURE

After a decade of momentum, Williston Northampton School is launching a bold \$70 million campaign. Focused on our community and grounded in our values, *Williston Builds* doubles down in support of our remarkable people. Join us.

To learn more, visit williston.com/campaign