

WILLISTON

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL BULLETIN



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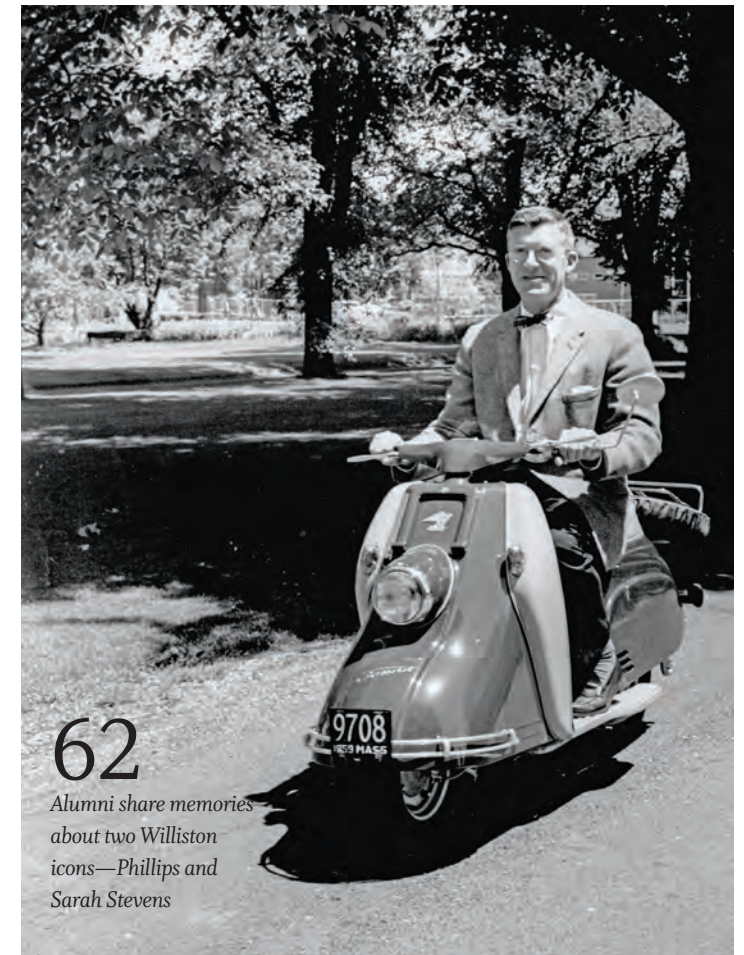
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COVER PHOTO BY JAMI SAUNDERS; PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHELLE MISHINA (LEFT) AND RYAN DEARTH (RIGHT)

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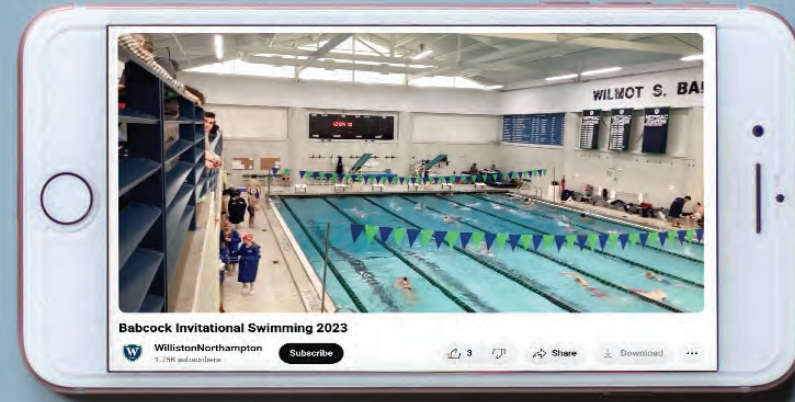
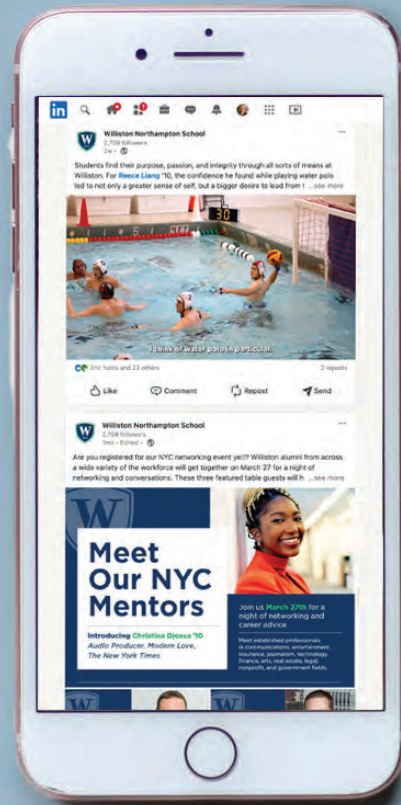
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WHERE'S WILLISTON?

Everywhere! Follow us online for more ways to connect with your Wildcat pride.

LINKEDIN

Your Williston network continues after graduation. Follow our LinkedIn page to connect with Wildcats in all industries. Then join one of our affinity groups, which include Williston Alumni, Alumni of Color, and Women of Williston.



WATCH THE WILDCATS LIVE

Did you know that we live stream almost all of our home varsity athletic contests? Watch our Wildcats take down the competition by going to williston.com/livestream

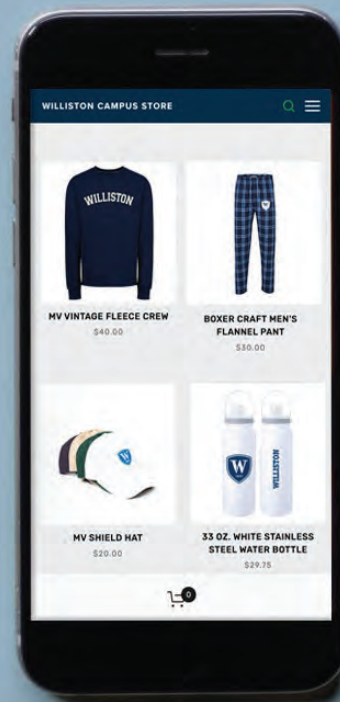


ATHLETIC INSTA

Stay up to date with the latest schedules and scores, plus take a look at behind-the-scenes images of all our athletic programs by following [@willistonteam](https://www.instagram.com/willistonteam) on Instagram

CAMPUS STORE

The Campus Store is online! Check out the latest and greatest in Wildcat gear and add some sweet swag to your collection. What's been in people's shopping baskets this year? The four items at right. willistoncampusstore.com



AROUND THE QUAD



A favorite all-school tradition—the Lip Sync—was back this year, and as you can see, the chapel was rocking! Logan House took the big prize, but all performers were dazzling. See more photos of campus fun starting on page 12.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LINDSEY TOPHAM



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[YOUTUBE.COM/WILLISTONNORTHAMPTON](https://www.youtube.com/willistonnorthampton)



Bringing the Fun

Caroline Channell '18 is back on campus—and curating the events that make Williston, well, Williston

BY GEOFF SMITH '07

Picture this: It's a Saturday night on campus, and 50 students are on the turf at Sawyer Field playing wiffle ball. There are cheers and laughter, but most of all, there's community in action. In the background, Caroline Channell '18 can't help but grin—after all, this game was her idea. After graduating from Haverford College, Channell joined Williston last September, first as a history intern, and now as the Student Activities Director. And as an alumna herself, she's more than ready to tackle the job of planning enriching student activities. We caught up with Channell to talk about crossing the student-faculty divide, her unique perspective on student activities, and what comes next.

What is it like being on the other side of the student-faculty divide?

It has given me a lot of perspective on how much work goes into things that once seemed so effortless. I now have a greater appreciation for the events I fondly remember because I know how much work they took and how much teachers and staff really care about students.

How about being colleagues with people that were your teachers just a few years ago?

It's really funny. I still call Dean of Students David Koritkoski "Coach K" sometimes, but mostly Dave. No—he's fully Dave now. My oldest brother [John Channell '09] is 10 years older than I am and went to Williston, so there are people like Matt Sawyer and Nat Simpson who have known me since I was little. In my family, he's known as 'Señor Simpson,' so to call him Nat feels funny. But those teachers get really mad at me when I don't call them by their first names! I'm over that hump now, I would say.

What unique perspectives do you think you're able to bring to this role?

Understanding how busy the kids are is huge. I was a stu-

dent that was involved in just about anything that you could be involved with. We have a lot of students like that, so knowing that is crucial for even small things like the timing of events. I know that if students get back at 7 p.m. on game day, they can't really get to an event until 8 p.m. Also, I am familiar with the different casts of characters that come to Williston and the fact that not everyone is the same. So being able to have more diversity in what we offer on the weekends I think is helpful, as is just understanding the importance of the small things—like making sure that we have canoes for Willy Gras.

What's one favorite thing you've been able to do so far?

One of the things that I'm really pumped about is the theme of Willy Gras. Earlier this year, I hid Mario Kart figurines all around campus—and I went all out on the project. I went on ladders and taped figures to the sides of elevators, and the kids really liked it. But that's just a precursor to Willy Gras, where the Super Mario Brothers theme will continue. There will be a map of campus based on Mario Kart, so I'm getting an inflatable water slide that has a rainbow—that'll be Rainbow Road. It's those small things that go a long way and make it extra fun.

You'll also be teaching C.O.R.E classes in your role—are you looking forward to that?

One of the things that I enjoyed the most [as a history intern teacher] this year was the mentorship that comes through with teaching—for example, working with students on how to study for a test, how to manage stress, and how to build resiliency. The primary goal of Williston's C.O.R.E. classes is teaching life skills that are outside of the classroom, but are essential to classroom success. So I'm really excited to teach those classes—and also, it will allow me to be in contact with every student on the campus except the juniors. That will make it easier, hopefully, for them to come into my office, and say, 'Hey Ms. Channell, I have this great idea—can we do this on the weekend?'

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DENNIS CROMMETT (LEFT) AND RISLEY SPORTS (RIGHT)

SPORTS SHORTS

Wildcat competition was fierce this year at Williston. Here are just a few recent highlights.



A highlight of the girls varsity basketball schedule is the Ray Brown Holiday Tournament, held at the start of Winter Break every year. This year was especially sweet as the Wildcats defeated all three of their opponents in the tournament to claim the trophy for the first time since 2017. Skyler Walker '26 was named tournament MVP, and teammate Margaret Edwards '25 was named to the All-Tournament team.

It was a record-breaking season on the ice for Monique Lyons '24. Lyons became the girls varsity ice hockey team's all-time leading points scorer midway through her senior season—topping the long-standing 123-point record of Sis Johnson '93—en route to helping the Wildcats reach the NEPSAC Chuck Vernon "Elite" Division championship game for the third year in a row. Lyons also earned three prestigious postseason awards: NEPSAC declared her the confer-



Monique Lyons '24 is interviewed by NESN on the night she received the John Carlton Memorial Trophy from the Boston Bruins

ence's Co-Player of the Year; *New England Hockey Journal* dubbed her the player of the year; and the Boston Bruins recognized her as a John Carlton Memorial Trophy winner, an award given to the best female and male high school hockey players in the state of Massachusetts.

James Elliot '24 was honored with the Dr. Frank L. Boyden Award by the Western Massachusetts chapter of the National Football Foundation. Named in honor of the longtime Deerfield Academy Head of School, the award is given for outstanding achievement both on the field and in the classroom by a preparatory school player. Elliot holds the school record for passes caught during a season (65), as well as the single-season (14) and career (20) touchdown receptions records. A high honors student each trimester at Williston, Elliot will head to Dartmouth College next year.



ADVISORY DINNERS

At the heart of Williston's tightly knit community are student advisories. Meeting weekly, these small groups gather to connect and talk with faculty advisors about everything from course selection to current events. Twice a year, advisors host special dinners—sometimes at a restaurant, sometimes home-cooked, and always deeply fun. Below, the advisory of Kyle Hanford '97 gathered at his home for conversation—and a big pasta dinner—on a November evening.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MELANIE ZACEK



THEN & NOW

Baseball's rules, equipment, and uniforms (especially the uniforms!) may have evolved since 1842, but the love of the game at Williston remains the same

BY GEOFF SMITH '07

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOANNA CHATTMAN



The history of baseball at Williston Northampton stretches back to its earliest days as Williston Seminary. While there are no records of games from the school's founding in 1841, the first snippets of America's pastime crept into the record just a year later, when students began playing wicket, "a game somewhat on the order of baseball, but far in arrears of it when finesse was called for," according to a later edition of *The Log*. As the school continued to grow, so did its sports offerings. In the early 1850s, Williston students played a baseball-like game called "round ball," which was "composed of as many fellows as wished to participate, with few rules and no 'arbitrators,'" and over the next 20 years, the game continued to evolve "both in the finer points of the game, and in the ever-changing interests of the students." By the mid-1880s, baseball was the most popular and "honorable" sport at the school, and it became the main

spring sport for young Williston athletes.

School records show that from 1881 onward, Williston has fielded a baseball nine every year. The current Wildcat ballplayers compete in the Western New England Prep Baseball League, which expanded to 10 teams in 2007. Williston has made the playoffs the past two seasons, and the spring 2024 team features players that have committed to play Division I baseball at programs like St. John's and Boston College. The team is led by Head Coach Matt Sawyer, who has been in charge since 1995. Among current Williston coaches, Sawyer holds the longest streak of consecutive seasons coaching a varsity sport. To honor baseball's rich history at Williston, we asked Williston's current starting nine to recreate a picture from the 1879 *Log* yearbook. The evolution of team photos throughout the years is just as apparent as the changes in the rules of the game, but whether looking at players from 1879 or 2024, one thing is clear: These Wildcats come to play.

SNAPSHOTS

LIP SYNC

The annual Lip Sync contest is the culmination of Willympics, a year-long competition that pits dorms versus dorms versus day students. Students go all out on their costumes and dance moves to wow the crowd and faculty judges. At right, the winning Logan House team.



WHY NOT SPEAK DAY

Why Not Speak Day 2024 focused on issues of identity—aka. “The Me You Can’t See”—and featured keynote speaker Kimberlee Yolanda Williams (left), plus more than 40 original workshops led by students and faculty members. In the afternoon, we had lunch on the Main Quad, followed by our Community Connections Fair, where students were able to highlight and share their cultures’ unique characteristics.



HOLIDAY BANQUET

Before winter break, students and faculty don their festive apparel (especially Dean of Enrollment Management Chris Dietrich, above!) for a feast in Birch Dining Commons, followed by desserts and songs around the piano at the Hills’ house.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LINDSEY TOPHAM AND MELANIE ZACEK

ARTS APLENTY

Performing arts students have been busy this year, honing their dance, instrumental, and theatrical chops. The winter musical, "Something Rotten!," was an outrageous farce, set in the 1590's and featuring amazing costumes, scenery, and song. Bravissimo to all!



THE ASIAN NIGHT MARKET

In April, students and faculty gathered for the third annual feast of student-cooked foods from China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and India. Led by the Asian Student Alliance, the dinner had two special guests: Owen Fu '22 and Vasu Jain '22, founders of the first Asian Night Market in 2022.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELANIE ZACEK, PAULETTE GRISWOLD, AND DENNIS CROMMETT



MIDDLE SCHOOL MOMENTS

At left, Middle Schoolers got in touch with their creative sides when visiting artist and playwright Sarah Kraning spent two (very fun!) days on campus. Above, a proud Middle School scientist explains her Science Fair project.



“Joy, Not Fear”

English Teacher Sarah Sawyer discusses writing, motherhood, and her debut novel
BY MEGAN TADY



As an English teacher for 24 years and the founder and director of Williston's Writing Center, Sarah Sawyer has taught thousands of students to express themselves through writing. At the same time, she's been busy writing novels herself, including *The Undercurrent*, forthcoming this October via Zibby Books. Set in Texas, her novel follows a new mother, who is facing the boredom and exhaustion of early parenthood. She becomes obsessed with solving the mystery of a girl who went missing in her neighborhood when she was a kid, uncovering secrets from her own past along the way. Sawyer says that publishing a book is a long-held dream, although she didn't start penning long works of fiction until after she turned forty. Her advice for emerging writers: “The most fun part is writing the book. That excitement, hair-on-fire, typing-away feeling is the reason to do it.”

What inspired *The Undercurrent*?

A lot of it has to do with watching my own daughter grow up. It's so amazing to see the number of shifts that girls go through in their lives. This kind of radical reinvention happens over and over again. Your body changes so dramatically: You're a girl, and then you're something in between a girl and a woman, and then you're a woman, and then you're possibly a mother, and then you're perimenopausal. There are so many adjustments to your personhood.

Why did you examine the notion of boredom and motherhood?

I was so bored! I love my children, and I actually really love babies, but the hours of caring for a newborn were so long. And that, in combination with the sleeplessness—I just literally could not believe it. I thought, “Was this what my own mother did?” It feels like a form of insanity, because you're in this weird state of solitude, but you're actually with another person. And you have the world telling you it's a precious, wonderful time, and that if you're not enjoying every second, there's something wrong with you.

How has teaching students to write influenced your own writing?

I find it really satisfying to give my students feedback and give them the tools—logic and precision—to help them express themselves. I've noticed that as an adult, I'm not as open to feedback as they are. Putting myself in that spot has been really interesting. What does it mean to take somebody's suggestion, even if you don't totally understand it or see the end point? It makes me appreciate even more when my students say, “OK, I'll try the thing that you're asking me to do.”

What's your approach to writing and being an author?

I had a brief and lovely email correspondence with George Saunders about his book *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*, which I loved. I emailed him to tell him how much I loved it, and he wrote me back, which was so kind. I was talking about writing books, editing books, and not selling books, at the time. And he said, “You have to proceed with joy, not fear.” I wrote that down on a Post-it note that's now on my desk. I'm trying to proceed with joy, as opposed to resistance and fear and all those things that are not productive. In terms of inspiring myself as a writer, it comes from reading and thinking, “What are the places that wake my heart up a little bit? And how could I frame them?”

What are you reading?

The latest by Tana French: *The Hunter*. I love me some Tana French.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIN DAVEY, MELANIE ZACEK, AND OLIVER SCOTT

Greetings With Character

Campus takes on a festive look for Lunar New Year—thanks to Zoe Zhang '25 and her grandmother

One of the biggest holidays in Asia, Lunar New Year has become a big part of Williston seasonal celebrations, too. In February, students kicked off the Year of the Dragon with an all-campus Lunar New Year dinner, speeches from students about their family traditions, and a colorful new campus decoration from junior Zoe Zhang. Zhang, who is from Beijing, has always had a passion for calligraphy; in fact, her recent Williston Scholars project (above) focused on the evolution of written Chinese. Zhang asked her grandmother, an experienced calligrapher, to create spring couplets—a traditional Lunar New Year decoration—for Williston. The long red banners were hung on either side of the entrances to almost all campus buildings and dorms. The messages, which express well-wishes for the upcoming year, varied slightly depending on location. Zhang's favorite was the couplet on The Schoolhouse, which wished for students to achieve their goals. Seeing the banners around campus was special for Zhang. “I felt so happy and proud of myself and also my family and my country,” she said. “They are so pretty, and it shows a different side of Williston. I'm glad Williston gave us the chance to really show a different culture on campus.” —By Geoff Smith '07

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

Just days before we finished this issue, we received exciting news of a \$6.7 million gift to Williston—the largest in our school’s history.

Made possible by the estate of Henry '42 & Amy Liss—two longtime Williston champions—this generous gift to Williston’s endowment will be added to two funds they established during their lifetimes. These endowed funds provide support for faculty professional development and financial aid for students of color.

You’ll be hearing more about Henry and Amy Liss in the coming months, but for now, let me say how grateful we are for their extraordinary generosity and commitment. As we approach the closing weeks of the Williston Builds campaign on June 30, 2024, I’m reminded of the many ways the collective contributions of alumni, parents, and friends continue to impact our students, faculty, and programs. Thanks to your generous philanthropic support, Williston has never been stronger.

—Eric Yates, Chief Advancement Officer



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The number of alumni, parents, and friends who gave to endowed funds during the *Williston Builds* campaign, totaling \$16.6 million

4,630

The number of donors who gave on Founders Day since the beginning of the *Williston Builds* campaign, totaling over \$3.5 million

21,116

The number of \$100 (or less) gifts to the Williston Northampton Fund, totaling \$928,335 since the beginning of the campaign



Remembering Daniel Barratt '06

A new financial aid fund keeps a beloved son’s memory alive BY JON ADOLPH

Curt and Dee Barratt were living in North Carolina when it came time to consider where their son, Daniel, might go to high school. Though Williston was more than 600 miles away, it had a family connection whose draw would prove hard to resist.

Curt was a Williston class of 1973 alumnus, arriving as a sophomore from Dover, Delaware; his late father, Ken, was in the class of 1947. “We could have sent him somewhere around North Carolina,” recalls Curt, who, after earning his degree in chemistry at the University of Massachusetts, worked for various companies in the semiconductor and photonics industries. “But we had such history with the school. I took him up to see Williston, and he loved it.”

Like his father and grandfather, Daniel thrived in Easthampton. He played football and was captain of the lacrosse team, but he also reveled in the school’s varied educational and cultural offerings. “He was a self-described nerd,” Curt explains. “He had wide interests. He was very interested in history, very interested in things that a captain of a lacrosse team would seem unlikely to be interested in. That made him a bit of a paradox.”

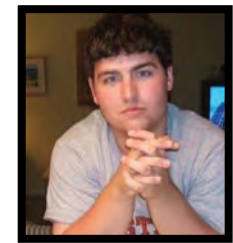
His life after Williston continued to reflect that expansive curiosity. At North Carolina State, he

earned his bachelor’s in chemical engineering, but also developed a passion for cooking, treating his housemates to gourmet dishes. After graduation, he got a job in a restaurant and was quickly promoted to manager. By 2018 he was managing the kitchen at a restaurant in Rockville, Maryland, earning the praise of his supervisors and colleagues. All of which made his unexpected death, on his birthday that year, that much more difficult for his family.

“Taken from us at 30 years old, he left behind two sisters who loved him dearly and parents feeling his loss for the remainder of our lives,” wrote the Barratts, who this year established the Daniel C. Barratt '06 Financial Aid Fund in his memory. “He was deprived of the full life he more than deserved, and equally tragically, we were all deprived of having him in ours.”

The new fund, which will provide a scholarship to a qualified student-athlete who plays lacrosse, is the family’s way of keeping Daniel’s memory alive. “They say you don’t really die until the last person says your name,” Curt explains. “We were obviously going to leave him money. Well, we can’t do that because he’s gone. So we said, let’s do something that he would be proud to be part of, and keep him alive long after we’re gone.”

Creating a financial aid fund at Williston had a



For the Barratts, starting a fund in their son Daniel’s name “will help keep him alive long after we are gone”

particular appeal, he says, because the school is small enough that a scholarship can have an outsize impact. “Williston feels more like a family,” says Curt, who now lives with Dee in Hampton, New Hampshire. “You know pretty much everybody in your class. So it just felt right. It felt like the right place to memorialize Dan.”

At the same time, the family can’t help but reflect on Daniel’s Williston days in a new light. “If we knew we were going to have such a limited amount of time with Dan, we probably wouldn’t have sent him,” says Curt, noting that he and Dee traveled from North Carolina for every Family Weekend, as well as for Dan’s graduation, which Daniel’s grandfather also attended. “But Dee said she’s glad he had the opportunity to have the diverse experiences that he otherwise wouldn’t have in a public-school setting. And he loved it.”

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEIGH CHODOS AND JOANNA CHATTMAN

There in Spirit

For Sara Cornwall '70, an estate gift ensures she'll be a part of the school's bright future

BY MEGAN TADY

Making eye contact. Saying hello in passing. Having respect for others. Sara Cornwall '70 has always been impressed by the way Williston Northampton students conduct themselves and how the school imparts these important virtues. A recent experience on campus drove this point home for her. "I was visiting campus one Saturday, and three young women were chatting away, walking toward me, and they stopped and said, 'Do you need help finding something?'" Cornwall says. "I was shocked. They could've just ignored me. It was a really nice gesture."

When Cornwall herself was a young woman, she was a day student at the Northampton School for Girls (NSFG), graduating just before the campus merged with Williston. The 2024-25 year will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of NSFG. "I grew up in a family where education was the top priority," she says. "It's amazing that the founders had the foresight and the resources to start the school, back when resources were really limited. They were educating the future female leaders of communities,

and knew that the female perspective is important."

Her favorite thing about NSFG, besides the education: the grounds. "It was a beautiful campus," she recalls. "The historic buildings, the landscaping—it was just a beautiful place to be. And that's important. When I go back to Williston, I see how much they pay attention to the grounds. It looks like people really care."

Cornwall went on to earn an MBA from Boston College, bumping up against the limited professional opportunities for women. "My choices were very limited and none had any appeal to me." She carved her own path, working in marketing for Fortune 50 companies before switching fields, establishing a successful career as a mortgage advisor. "I flourished," she says.

Along the way, she has consistently donated her time and treasure to Williston, serving as a member of the inaugural group of the Head's Visiting Council and on the Alumni Council, as well as naming Williston in her estate. "People usually give to their college, but do they remember their high school?" she says. "Yet high school is really the place that launches



you. Even if it's just sending in a \$25 check, it says to the school, 'Hey, you were important.'"

About 10 years ago, Cornwall had the opportunity to sit in on a history class at Williston, and she was again impressed with the way the students handled themselves, as well as the caliber of the discussion. The classroom was bristling with energy and excitement, and the faculty member brought the history lesson to life. "It wasn't just reading from a textbook," she recalls. "My estate gift ensures that I'll be there in spirit to help the school continue its amazing progress. It's very exciting for me." Naming Williston in her estate was a simple, streamlined process. "It's not complicated at all," she says. "I just list Williston as a primary beneficiary—couldn't be easier."

Now retired, Cornwall lives in the small city of Wilmington in coastal North Carolina, spending many an evening reading a Ben Macintyre true-life page-turner about spies, sharing the sofa with her three standard poodles—Finn McCool, Louis, and Tristan. She supports Poodle Rescue Connecticut. "They're smart, perceptive, loving dogs," she says. "Let's face it, there are an awful lot of dogs out there that need homes, even if they're not puppies."

And she looks forward to visiting the Williston campus again to interact with the students and enjoy the grounds. "Schools are under a lot of pressure," she says. "I take tremendous pride in Williston, and in helping the school continue its vision."

Sara Cornwall '70 takes a break at her home in Wilmington, North Carolina, with Tristan, one of her three standard poodles. "They're smart, perceptive, loving dogs," she says. (Tristan was in agreement!)

PHOTOGRAPH BY TERAH WILSON

THANK YOU

for your support on Founders Day!



AND THE TROPHY GOES TO...



FACULTY PERSPECTIVES

Like every industry, teaching is affected by new and changing technology. We asked a group of current teachers to share their thoughts on the many ways they keep students engaged and thinking deeply in today's classrooms.

1 CHRIS PELLICCIA, SCIENCE CHAIR

I try to keep students engaged by having them tackle meaningful, real-world problems. More than just writing a scenario around some calculations, my goal is to expose students to demos and lab experiences that generate real phenomena and real data that we can grapple with. Seeing a reaction or event gives context to the calculations. I've found that context draws students in and keeps them invested in working towards an answer.

2 JESSICA ROHAN, ENGLISH TEACHER

Amid the whirlwind of distractions and dazzling technological gadgets, teachers today truly have to be like wizards conjuring spells to keep our students engaged and their minds soaring to new heights!

As a teacher, I find that experiential education and the ability to allow students to take chances creates strong student/teacher relationships. It is in these relationships that students begin to navigate the peaks and valleys of their strengths and weaknesses, developing a sense of self that will continue throughout their middle and high school years. I like to mix things up, using Shakespearean skits, "gamifying" lessons, assigning literary analysis essays, and sometimes simply allow-

ing students to read in class. My goal is to create process-oriented thinkers who challenge boundaries, take part in healthy forms of competition, and learn what their role can and will be in this vast world.

The power of collaborating with one another creates an experience for students that helps them accomplish an academic task while learning how to effectively communicate along the way. On the best days of this, my classroom is transformed into a bustling hive of teamwork, where ideas collide and creativity flourishes. By fostering collaboration, a sense of community and teamwork is nurtured that will serve students now and in the future.

3 JUSTIN BROOKS, HISTORY TEACHER

History affords students a unique opportunity to discover exciting new connections between the past and the world that they live in today—and technology is often how students connect and engage with that larger world. I encourage my students to analyze these new technologies (and the conversations they spark) as recent contributions to a much larger conversation that's been taking place across human history. By integrating clips from movies, television series, news, popular music, TikTok videos, and other popular media into student-

centered discussions, I try to build my students' curiosity while empowering them to see where history shows up in their lives as 21st-century teenagers.

4 ALLISON TUCKER, SCIENCE TEACHER

In environmental science, we utilize the natural spaces on and around campus as an extension of our science classroom. Students are able to observe and collect data as environmental scientists would in the field. I try to focus on connecting students to the natural world as much as possible. That's something that you just can't get from AI.

5 KEN CHOO, SCIENCE TEACHER

I often don't distinguish between modern distractions (including technology) and historical ones. I mean, when I was young and in school, the students who I think of as being engaged and thoughtful about academic pursuits were genuinely interested, and they seemed to engage in an effortless way (I'd like to think that I was sometimes like this). Those that were distracted didn't have cell phones or the internet to turn to, but easily found other substitutes (paper airplanes, spit-balls, note-passing, doodling, just plain daydreaming, to name a few). I was defi-

nitely sometimes like this.

Today, when I reflect back on those students or experience the ones in my class, the ones that pursue learning in a consistent, day in, day out sort of way just... do so. They started that way on the first day of class, and I had little to do with how they are. On the best days, I match their excellence with insightful and clear lessons.

For those students who don't reach this unwavering level of academic nirvana, what I keep in mind is that they *could*, one day. Instead of showing my disapproval, I try to know them, show them that I care. Instead of seeking their interest, I allow myself to be excited about the material in front of them. Instead of focusing on their behavior, I try to understand why they behave like they do—and then stand ready to sing their praises when they show the smallest glimmer of interest or ask an interesting question or do a bit more work.

6 KYLE HANFORD '97, ENGLISH TEACHER

I like to break the kids up into group work so they are engaging with one another. When they talk and grapple with the text with one another, they are forced to interact and cannot wander into the web! To be honest, it makes me work harder to make what we're doing in class better than the



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MELANIE ZACEK, LINDSEY TOPHAM, AND DENNIS CROMMETT

internet. Kids get bored when they are not engaged, and I feel that if they wander, part of that is on me. I've got to make the work we do in class more appealing than shopping for a prom dress or playing a game.

7 MATT LIEBOWITZ, ENGLISH CHAIR

The prevalence of digital distractions has made me pivot in the other direction, to focus on close readings of the text, on in-class writing (with a pencil!), on annotation, on connecting themes and motifs that have personal resonance to students. We may not be able to compete with AI, but AI also can't connect the way an English teacher can.

8 KURT WHIPPLE, MATH TEACHER

When I originally started teaching math roughly 175 years ago, we were still writing on chalk boards. At that time, we would write a problem on the board, the students would copy it into their notebooks, and then work on the problem. That became quite time-consuming, especially when we worked on word problems. Now, with Williston's one-to-one computing and the use of Microsoft OneNote [a shared note-taking program that all students and teachers use], I can share my "skeleton" notes with each student. Instead of students needing to first write the problem down, they can get right into solving the problems, which is a huge time-saver. Also, back when I was writing on a chalk board, once I erased the work, it was gone. Now, we can use the technology to go back in our notes and see all the work that we put down on the "board" earlier.

9 BEATRICE CODY, LANGUAGE TEACHER

Over the course of my 24-year career, the digital resources for Classics have burgeoned. There are so many ways technology has enriched the Latin classroom: vocabulary game favorites Gimkit and Quizlet, video tours of virtually reconstructed Roman villas, historically accurate Minecraft worlds, online Latin dictionaries, any Latin text or translation available instantly. For me, even the novelty of Microsoft OneNote [a shared note-taking program that all students and teachers use] hasn't worn off yet! It is such an effective tool for collecting and distributing class materials, as well as viewing and evaluating student work in real time.

On the other hand, while I have embraced many new technologies, I also continue to value tried-and-true classroom practices. I remain a devoted fan of good old printed books that can be held in your hand, easily navigated with a table of contents or index, and that often contain well-researched, properly edited and nuanced information lacking on most websites. For example, Honors Latin IV still reads Horace's *Odes* from a printed student text and still researches Sulla, Caesar, Cicero, and the whole cast of first-century-BCE characters using books from the classroom and our wonderful Clapp Library.

Whether we're using digital or print resources, I am always aiming to create a sense of community in my classroom. Collaborative small-group work, teamed competitions, individual reflection, big-group sharing, and engaging cultural investigations can be based in digital or print resources; either way, all these activities help us to get to know one another as well as to learn about Latin and the ancient world.

JOIN THE FUN!

Aug. 7 | Portland, Maine Sea Dogs Game and Picnic

Dec. 3 | Western Mass. Holiday Celebration

Dec. 5 | New York City Holiday Celebration

Dec. 10 | Boston Holiday Celebration

Network on LinkedIn

Follow our LinkedIn page and update your education to include Williston Northampton School. Show the shield!

Request to join our affinity group pages:

- Williston Northampton Alumni
- Alumni of Color
- Women of Williston



For the latest updates, scan the QR code to visit the alumni events page and see our 2024 in person events.

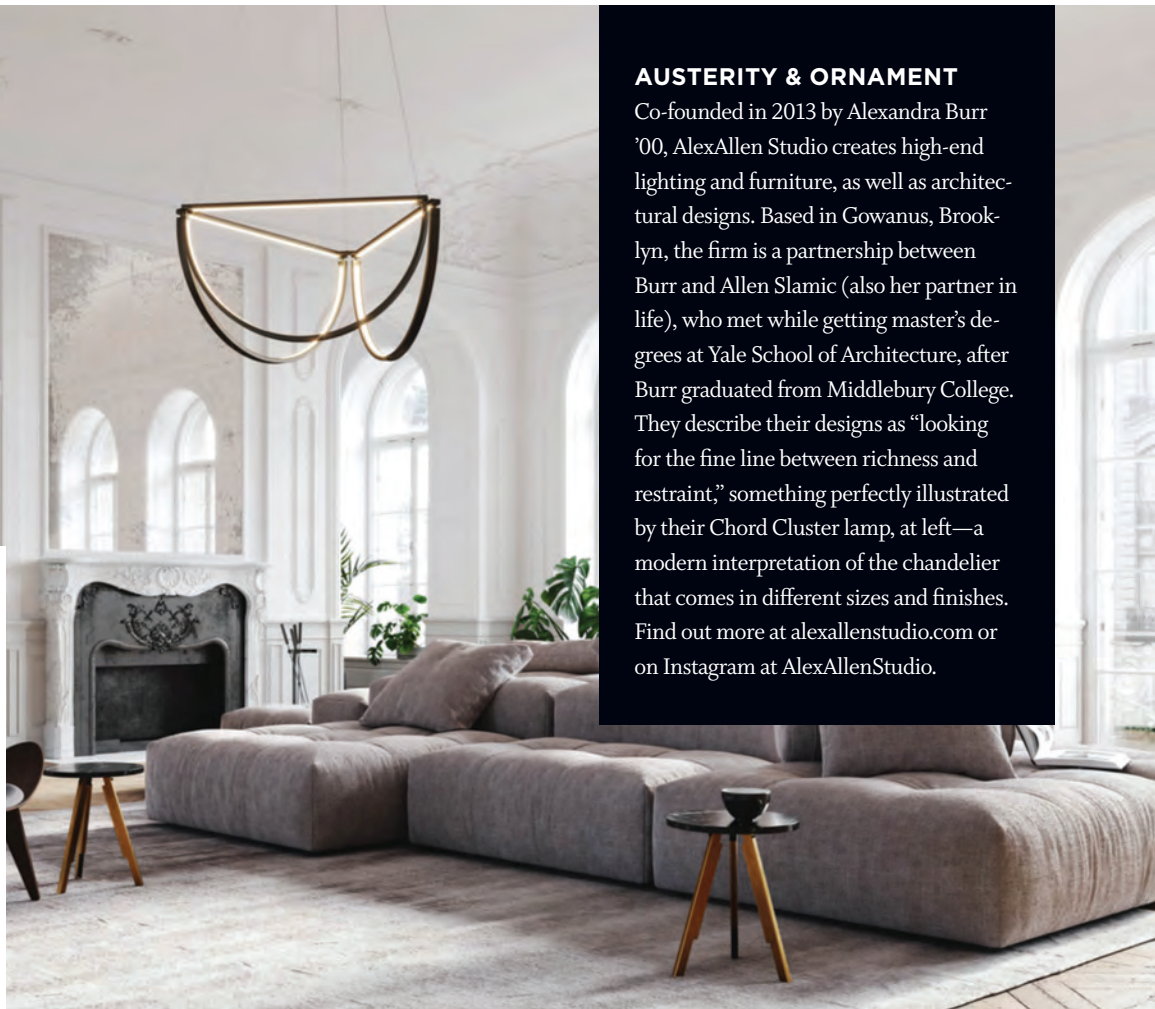
ALUMNI NEWS



PHOTOGRAPH BY LINDSAY TOPHAM

"Our goats are workers and companions," says Pause & Pivot Farm owner Miana Hoyt Dawson '98, pictured above with her step-daughter Kennedy Dawson '22, now at St. Lawrence University. "They clear invasive plants and brush, and their droppings become great compost and fertilizer." Read more about Pause & Pivot on page 42.

WILDCAT ROUNDUP



AUSTERITY & ORNAMENT

Co-founded in 2013 by Alexandra Burr '00, AlexAllen Studio creates high-end lighting and furniture, as well as architectural designs. Based in Gowanus, Brooklyn, the firm is a partnership between Burr and Allen Slamic (also her partner in life), who met while getting master's degrees at Yale School of Architecture, after Burr graduated from Middlebury College. They describe their designs as "looking for the fine line between richness and restraint," something perfectly illustrated by their Chord Cluster lamp, at left—a modern interpretation of the chandelier that comes in different sizes and finishes. Find out more at alexallenstudio.com or on Instagram at AlexAllenStudio.



"Some people might hear my story and believe I got lucky, but someone once told me, 'Luck doesn't just happen to people—we all have the power to create our own luck.' I hope that my story inspires everyone in this room to genuinely work towards their goals, even if they may seem a little crazy."

—Justin Frometa '16, during his keynote speech at the 2024 Cum Laude Society induction ceremony. Hear his full remarks at youtube.com/@willistonnorthampton.



Sports Shorts

Six Wildcats making their mark in athletics BY GEOFF SMITH '07



1 PATRICK RISSMILLER '97

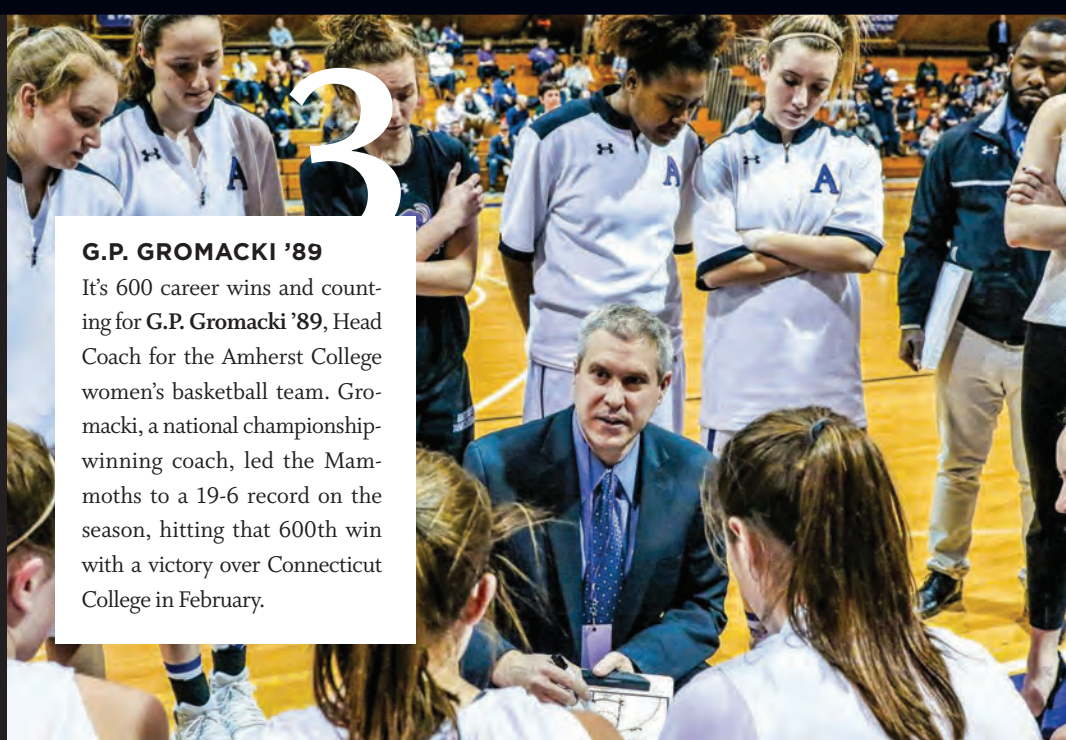
The No. 12 jersey of Patrick Rissmiller '97 now hangs in the rafters of the rink at the College of the Holy Cross. In February, Rissmiller, already a Williston Athletics Hall of Fame inductee, became the first-ever Holy Cross player to have his jersey retired. A former player for the New York Rangers, among other teams, Rissmiller is now retired from the NHL.

2 TYLER THOMAS '19

Tyler Thomas '19 proved he was one of the best basketball players in the country this season, taking home the Coastal Athletic Association men's basketball Player of the Year honors. In addition, Thomas was an All-CAA First Team selection and set a conference single-season record with 123 3-pointers. Thomas even had a game-winning shot against Hofstra's archival Stony Brook University featured on SportsCenter's Top 10 Plays.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAULETTE GRISWOLD AND COURTESY OF ALEXALLEN STUDIO



3 G.P. GROMACKI '89

It's 600 career wins and counting for G.P. Gromacki '89, Head Coach for the Amherst College women's basketball team. Gromacki, a national championship-winning coach, led the Mammoths to a 19-6 record on the season, hitting that 600th win with a victory over Connecticut College in February.



4 NATALIE STOTT '22

Natalie Stott '22 continues racking up honors and awards. For the second year in a row, the Amherst College sophomore was named a First Team All-American by the American Hockey Coaches' Association after another stellar campaign for the Mammoths.



5 MARIELLE MCHALE '18

Marielle McHale '18 capped off her final game for the Syracuse women's hockey program with a new record. McHale now holds the mark for most games played in program history, setting the mark in her 165th—and final—game on February 17 against Mercyhurst.



6 MARK SIMEONE '83

After 28 years as the Head Coach for the Springfield College baseball team, Mark Simeone '83 passed a coaching milestone as he notched his 500th career victory. At the conclusion of the season he was inducted to the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Mark!

The Soul of an Island

Preservationist Mary Bergman '05 navigates the tides of change on Nantucket
BY KEVIN MARKEY

When *The New York Times* recently ran a story about the age-old dance between development and preservation on Nantucket Island, one of the first people it turned to was Mary Bergman '05. A writer, historian, and photographer, Bergman serves as Executive Director of the Nantucket Preservation Trust, a nonprofit whose mission is to protect the island's unique architectural heritage and its sense of place as a capital of the 19th century whaling and fishing industries.

"There is a lot we can learn from the past to help us understand the present moment and plan for the future," says Bergman, who went on to Smith College from Williston and later earned a master's in public history at American University. She sees preservation as a dynamic field through which communities can explore contemporary issues, such as affordable housing and sustainability.

Growing up in Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod, 90 miles as the tern flies from Nantucket, Mary used to visit her grandparents on the island as a child. She moved there 10 years



"There is a lot we can learn from the past to help us understand the present moment and plan for the future."

ago from Washington, D.C., where she worked in the education department of the Architect of the Capitol, the federal agency responsible for maintaining and preserving the buildings and grounds of the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the House and Senate Office Buildings. Nantucket's rich history was a strong draw, as were its 80 miles of coastline, which have inspired a love for wild swimming.

"I figure I live on an island," she says. "I better get in the water as much as I can."

Famous for its cobbled lanes, elegant sea captains' mansions, and sky-high real estate prices—the average home sale topped \$4 million last year—Nantucket has long been a popular summer resort. And for just as long, local leaders have sought to safeguard the island's salty heritage. They established one of the country's very first local historic districts some 70 years ago, and today all of Nantucket is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Ironically, Nantucket's intact character contributes to the pressure to change, attracting wealthy second-home buyers who tend to want a big serving of contemporary luxury with all that old-fashioned charm.

Case in point: a cozy two-bedroom cottage that not too long ago came up for sale on Old North Wharf. "Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own a piece of Nantucket history," promised the listing, touting a connection to Herman Melville. But after extensive renovation, it was hard to say exactly how much remained of the original shanty, aside of course from its glorious harbor views. A buyer quickly snapped it up for more than \$6 million. "Eventually, the old house, with its integrity and authenticity, will be the rarer thing," Bergman told the *Times* in context of similar developments. "And maybe the more desirable thing"

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT COSBY

PUMP IT UP

Dwight Leeper '71 is helping bring drinking water to Senegal
BY JONATHAN ADOLPH



Even children can operate a LifePump.



Drilling water wells in Senegal.

The breezy Maine town of Rockport is a world away from the sun-scorched hills of sub-Saharan Senegal, but it was there, on a friend's porch back in 2019, that Dwight Leeper '71 first heard of a new type of hand pump that might be able to bring badly needed drinking water to Africa. Rather than rely on pistons and suction, explained Leeper's host, Sam Lowry, an engineer who specializes in pump design, the appropriately named LifePump employs a screw to push water up from the bottom of a well, allowing it to tap supplies three times deeper than conventional pumps.

That gave Leeper, a retired Merrill Lynch financial advisor from nearby Camden and a longtime Rotary Club member, an idea. "I said, 'Why don't we go get a global grant from the Rotary Foundation to do this?'" he recalls. "And so, we wound up in West Africa."

Today, four years and three trips to Senegal later, that porch discussion has resulted in the installation of three LifePumps in the country's Kédougou Region, providing safe and reliable water to villagers who previously had to haul their daily supply from open watering holes several kilometers away. By

simple turns of a crank, which even a child can do, the pumps produce hundreds of gallons a day (a figure the team can track thanks to each pump's satellite feed), while being far more durable than those with piston designs.

Leeper and Lowry, funded with \$130,000 from the Rotary Foundation and matching donations, are now exploring locations for two other pumps, with the hope that local officials and contractors—having learned from the Rotary team—will be able to install pumps on their own. The two men are also developing a proposal for bringing water to a higher elevation village where drilling was unsuccessful.

"I was so touched by the people up in the hills, the Bidek people, that I said, 'Sam, we've got to figure a way to get water up there,'" says Leeper, who has also traveled to Pakistan, Nepal, and Haiti for public health and humanitarian projects. "So that's what our next step is. The government wants to do a feasibility study. Then we'll take it from there."

Learn more about Dwight Leeper's project on the group's Facebook page, *LifePumps Deep Water Pumps for Senegal*.

WHERE THE WILDCATS ARE

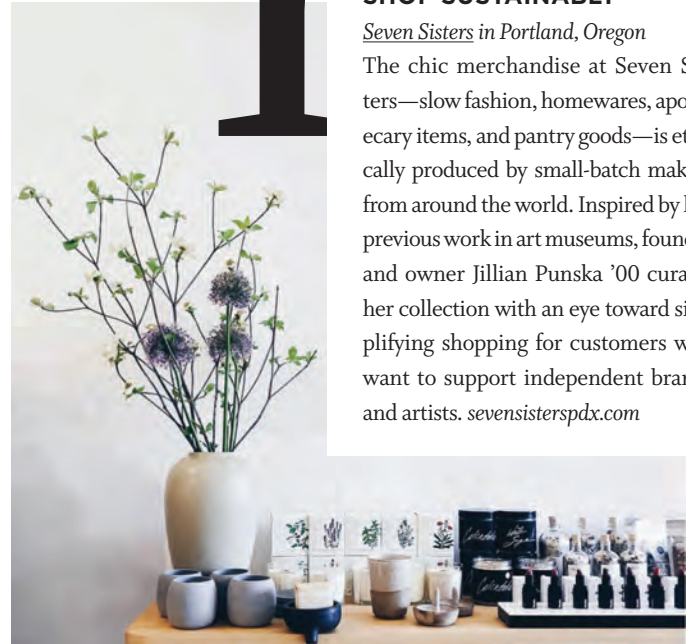
Next time you're on the road, make a stop at an alumni-owned business BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

1

SHOP SUSTAINABLY

Seven Sisters in Portland, Oregon

The chic merchandise at Seven Sisters—slow fashion, homewares, apothecary items, and pantry goods—is ethically produced by small-batch makers from around the world. Inspired by her previous work in art museums, founder and owner Jillian Punska '00 curates her collection with an eye toward simplifying shopping for customers who want to support independent brands and artists. sevensisterspdx.com



GET FIT

Downdog Flow Yoga & Pilates in Bedford, New Hampshire

Founded by Melissa (Manseau) Martin '00, a multi-credentialed instructor and former two-time All-American field hockey player at Bryant University, Downdog studio offers beginner through advanced classes in yoga, Pilates, and barre, as well as personal coaching and fitness training, all guided by a mission “to spread the love and passion of yoga and fitness, and serve the community.” downdogflow.com



2

RAISE A GLASS

Bohemian Village in East Chattanooga, Tennessee

Bohemian Village, owned by Silas Luster '07, is more than just a cozy cafe offering cold-pressed juices, smoothies, hand-crafted teas, and other healthy vegan fare. It presents itself as an “experience space,” helping confront long-standing dietary health issues within the African American community. Toward that goal, the book-and-artwork-lined eatery also hosts wellness discussions and events. thebohemianvillage.com



TREAT YOURSELF

Sweet Cravings in South Florida

When Hurricane Sandy destroyed her home and bakery equipment in 2013, Jana (Kotowski) D'Agostino '00 and her husband, Russ, decided it was time to follow their dream of creating a dessert business on wheels. Today, the Sweet Cravings food truck brings its spectacular cupcakes, milkshakes, sundaes, cannoli, and other treats to private and community events from Miami to Port St. Lucie. sweetcravingsny.com

FINDING A BETTER PATH FORWARD

With their new start-up, GB Osuntogun '18 and Destiny Nwafor '17 are using AI to help students and job-seekers find success BY ELLIE WOLFE '19

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin in 2023 with a degree in economics, Gboyega “GB” Osuntogun '18 was unsure of his next step. “I felt like the odd one out for not immediately wanting a job in banking,” he said. In talking with other friends, he realized he wasn't alone. Many of them weren't satisfied with their jobs or had misgivings about the best paths to take.

“If we have the clear advantage of the education we did, and we're still not 100 percent satisfied, how can we change that?” Osuntogun remembers asking himself. That's when he ran into fellow alum Destiny Nwafor '17 at the Lagos, Nigeria, home of their mutual friend and class of 2018 alum Atah Okaisabor. The two instantly reconnected, bonding over the daunting career process for those in their 20s. Nwafor, who had been working as a software engineer at Microsoft since her 2021 graduation from Cornell, started thinking about Osuntogun's question from a coding and engineering point of view. They decided to tackle the problem by starting an online career network for recent college graduates in his home country of Nigeria. Launched in March of 2023, HireMe's network grew quickly to about 15,000 active users, but also introduced them to a new problem: people were applying for jobs that didn't really match up with their background. What if, they wondered, people knew earlier on which jobs best fit their personalities and skill sets?

After launching HireMe, the two continued roughing out ideas, and creating a proprietary algorithm for a new business that would use AI to give people of all ages the tools to chart a successful path, whether in finding a college, choosing a major, finding a career, or changing career paths later in life. The result is their company, Pathfinder, which launched in beta in early 2024 (check it out at pathfinderai.net).

Pathfinder uses AI-powered quizzes to give the user

more clarity about their skills, personality, and aptitudes, and it suggests possible college degrees and programs, career paths, and more. The tools provided by Pathfinder go deeper than many online quiz tools. For example, they don't just match a high school student to a college based on grade point average or standardized test scores. The questions go deeper into what the student wants to study, how far away from home they want to be, and what extracurriculars are most important to them. “Our goals are to give students higher application success rates because they're applying to schools that are perfectly aligned with them,” Osuntogun said. Another bonus: By using AI to guide students toward potential college majors and career paths that might be a good fit for them, Nwafor said the post-college transition into the job market will be “less confusing and scary,” because they'll have been properly matched with the right career.

Thinking back to their own college process ultimately led Nwafor and Osuntogun to reconnect with Emily McDowell, Williston's Director of College Advising, as they launched Pathfinder. “Destiny was actually my advisee at Williston, so it was really exciting to hear of this new venture,” says McDowell. “I think there are a lot of applications for these kinds of tools alongside the one-on-one support we provide in Williston's college process.” She notes that Williston is hoping to try a pilot version of Pathfinder next year, to help students consider the range of majors and careers available to them. “We have been trying to find a search tool or quiz for this, but haven't been satisfied with the existing options. It's exciting to see this product being created to match our needs.” In the meantime, Osuntogun and Nwafor are building out a waitlist for high schools interested in using AI to help students plan their careers “Thinking about Williston guided me back to the things that really lit me up,” Nwafor reflected. “I hope that this program can keep those things at the forefront for those seeking college and career paths.”



GB OSUNTOGUN '18

“Our goals are to give students higher application success rates because they're applying to schools that are perfectly aligned with them.”



DESTINY NWAFOR '17

“Thinking back to Williston guided me back to the things that really lit me up. I hope this program can keep those things at the forefront for those seeking college and career paths.”

A DIFFERENT LENS

Photographer Jesse McClary '05 lifts America's overlooked voices from the shadows
BY DENNIS CROMMETT

Jesse McClary '05 has stories to tell. Along with Allie Leepson, Jesse makes up half of the queer/trans married photography team team Allie + Jesse. Currently based in Austin, Texas, McClary and Leepson have worked for brands that are quintessentially American: Levi's, Wrangler, and Stetson, to name a few. But when not engaged in their commercial work, they seek to highlight often-overlooked voices through a series of meaningful—and equally American—photography projects.

One such ongoing project is "Cowboy by Choice," in which the duo documents the lives of individuals in the LGBTQ+ community who live as ranchers, wranglers, rodeo athletes, and the like. At right are three photos from that series, which provides a new perspective on the traditional narrative of the American West. The duo's choice of using analog rather than digital formats lends a nostalgic air to the images visually. The tactile, painstaking process of shooting and developing film also serves as proof of their commitment to shining a light on the people and places they photograph. See more at allie-jesse.com.



CECILIA FORD, "THE BEARDED QUEEN OF ABILENE"

We met Cecilia for the first time at her home in West Texas. This portrait was made almost immediately (and spontaneously) after we walked out of her house to start. I loved the anonymity of it. If this was the first photograph of Cecilia someone saw, they would come into the experience of viewing her with the presumption that she is your classic all-American country music performer or entertainer.



JACLYNN AND VEGA

Jaclynn invited us to her ranch on a cold and windy day in January. The love between Jaclynn and her horses was palpable. As soon as she walked into view they came running. I, of course, wanted to photograph them together, but in a way that showed that affection. I like her natural protective and strong pose here.

MACKENZIE

Mackenzie is a professional horse trainer and rodeo athlete from Montana, but we happened to cross paths in Arizona on a road trip. She takes her horses south in the winter to keep them active. This pose reminds me of historical portraits of cowboys, where the photographic process would have been much slower.



Linguistics Meets Love

NOVELIST JENNIFER DUBOIS '02 ON HER FOURTH NOVEL, *THE LAST LANGUAGE*

BY MEGAN TADY

After graduating with a degree in political science and philosophy from Tufts University, Jennifer duBois '02 found herself at a crossroads. She had always loved writing, so she applied to the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop—and at the same time, she applied to the Central Intelligence Agency. (“I was throwing things at the wall to see what would stick.”) Accepted into both programs, she faced a massive choice, but ultimately writing beckoned. “I figured that writing could be something I could put at the center of my life, or at least try to,” she says.

That path has proved very successful. After Iowa, she received a Stanford University Stegner Fellowship, and she has since written four novels, including *The Last Language*, published in October 2023 from Milkweed Editions. Her other novels have earned her numerous awards, including the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, the Housatonic Book Award, and a National Endowment

for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship—among many others. Justin Torres, winner of the 2023 National Book Award, calls duBois “a writer of thrilling psychological precision.”

Indeed, her latest novel mines complex, ethical questions, as it follows Angela, a linguist hired to help a nonspeaking, motor-impaired patient named Sam communicate via an experimental therapy that resembles an Ouija-board-esque typewriter. Angela becomes infatuated with Sam, and the reader is left to wonder whether she's moving his hand, creating the person she wants

him to be, or if she's helping him extract long-buried words. “And, depending on how you read what's happening, they're either really tragic lovers or this man's been terribly exploited,” duBois says.

Told in a first-person, linear narration, *The Last Language* was inspired, in part, by a controversial 1990s-era technology that has been widely debunked. “There were questions about whether the practitioner could unconsciously guide the patient's hands,” she says. “In most cases, it was pretty well established that that's what was happening.”

Underneath the love story between Angela and Sam is a question about language itself. “I've been interested in the linguistics debate that my character has about whether language predates thought or thought predates language,” duBois says. “I was also interested in writing a book like Lily King's *Euphoria*, which is this beautiful love story that's atop a robust intellectual plot.”

And while duBois's novel is certainly intellectual, it's also humorous. “I'm not really interested in writing characters that aren't funny,” she says. This humor—shining through as dramatic irony or the main character's “strangely anthropological approach to life” and self-deprecation—“leaves the reader a little wrong-footed about exactly who this person is and to what degree you should trust her.”

Along with writing novels, duBois teaches in the MFA creative writing program at Texas State University. Working with graduate students keeps her energized. “It's not as much that I think teaching creative writing sharpens my acuity as a creative writer,” she says. “It's more that being in proximity to that energy re-excites me about writing.”

It was a Writers' Workshop class at Williston, led by Lisa Levchuk, that helped to stir duBois' own early excitement about writing. “We were inventive and had so much fun,” she says. “Lisa Levchuk was particularly encouraging to me as a creative writer, and she brought in local writers or writers who were passing through. And then later I got to participate in it as an author myself. It was probably one of my very favorite experiences at Williston.”

As for advice to aspiring writers, duBois says, “Writing, like any art, is this beautiful, intrinsically meaningful activity, and if that's how you feel about writing, then you should write. The more you read and experience the world, the more you'll have to say when you try to become a professional writer.”

These days, duBois is working on her fifth novel in the midst of the chaos and persistent colds that can accompany the raising of two small children. She says she's often “writing on our terrible couch in our tiny house” in Austin. How does she know this novel has legs? “Usually when I find myself obsessing over a question that I can't get to the bottom of, that's usually when I know I have a novel,” she says.



ILLUSTRATION BY NAJEEBAH AL-GHADBAN

RECOMMENDED READS

“Read widely,” Jennifer duBois '02 tells her MFA students. She takes her own advice, reading across genres, always with a towering pile of books on her nightstand. Here are five books that grabbed her attention.



Luster, Raven Leilani

A devastating and devastatingly funny coming-of-age story following a young, broke, Black New Yorker and her relationship with an older, married white man. None of it goes where you think it will, and the sentences are as surprising as the story.



Vladimir, Julia May Jonas

One of the slickest and smartest books I've ever read, exploring ambition, desire, obsession, and lunacy—both sexual and academic—from the point of view of a narrator who is perhaps most frightening when she sounds the most reasonable.



Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?, Kathleen Collins

This posthumous story collection is written by the filmmaker and playwright Kathleen Collins, who died in 1988. These stories are so clear-eyed, funny, and formally inventive you won't believe you haven't read them already.



Lincoln in the Bardo, George Saunders

A hilarious, heartbreaking polyphonic novel imagining the ambiguous afterlives of the ghosts of the Georgetown cemetery, where Abraham Lincoln's young son Willie has recently been buried and where his soul still lingers. This is one of the weirdest and truest books I have ever encountered: a searching, joyful, yet fundamentally un-reassuring meditation on the transience of mortals and our meanings.



Great Circle, Maggie Shipstead

A globe-spanning modern masterpiece, *Great Circle* includes stops in wartime London, modern Hollywood, and prehistoric Montana, and features appearances by corrupt shipping merchants, jealous bootleggers, a set of shipwrecked twins, and the first female aviator to circumnavigate the globe north to south. Shipstead as a writer is dauntless, imaginative, and a great deal of fun: the perfect guide for an unforgettable adventure.

Oxford Calling

ROBBY HILL '19 IS SELECTED AS
A MARSHALL SCHOLAR

BY ANN HALLOCK

ONE FRIDAY EVENING THIS PAST FALL, Robby Hill '19 was cleaning up his Yale dorm room in anticipation of hosting former Williston classmates Aidan Burke '19 and Sally Alrutz '19 for the next day's big Harvard-Yale football game. Suddenly, his phone buzzed with news that would change the next few years of his life: He'd been named a Marshall Scholar. "I was shocked," he says. "I called my dad [Head of School Robert W. Hill III] back at Williston, and we both started screaming." The prestigious and highly selective scholarship program—created in 1953 as a memorial to former U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall in honor of his Marshall Plan work—funds one to two years of graduate study in the United Kingdom for some 50 accomplished U.S. undergraduates. Before Hill heads off to Oxford next fall, we caught up with him to learn more.

Can you tell us about your academic work since Williston?

At Yale, I've majored in ethics, politics, and economics with a focus on quantitative methods in the social sciences. A lot of my independent research and my senior thesis involves using statistical methods to evaluate urban policy.

What is the focus of your senior thesis?

The short answer is I need to do a lot of work before graduating! The longer answer is that I'm looking at how the creation of the Interstate Highway System and other urban renewal projects contributed to patterns of racial segregation in the New Haven area. I'm doing economic modeling to try and explain how white and Black households make decisions about where to live in response to existing demographic trends, commuting time, and neighborhood amenities. "Urban renewal" sounds like an investment in a city—and it is, in a way—but in the end, it often has the greatest

benefit for suburban dwellers. New highways decrease commute time and increase job access to people living in the suburbs. Under those terms, you can see it as almost a racial wealth transfer because you're taking property that was owned by a mix of working-class white and Black families—but disproportionately Black families—and basically giving that investment to mostly white suburbanites.

What led you to pursue urban policy work?

My real introduction came during COVID, when I took a gap year from Yale to work for Desegregate Connecticut. Founded in the wake of the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests, Desegregate Connecticut is a land-reform organization that takes its name from the position that low-density, suburban-style zoning is the main driver of increased housing costs—and also has historically been a tool to entrench segregation based on race and income. Prior to that, I knew almost nothing about zoning and land use, but it piqued my interest and ultimately led me to do eviction-defense work with Brooklyn Legal Services this past summer.

What did you do in that role?

I was an intern on a housing staff with about 30 attorneys. Our work was to process dozens of new eviction cases every week and see which ones we could defend. It gave me a new window into housing work. Up until then, I'd been abstractly thinking about how municipalities are planning for new housing growth. This was much more one-on-one human work, basically sitting with someone and saying, "OK, this is how you can proceed with this application for social services, and this is how we can maintain your housing." Zoning and housing policy can seem boring on the surface, but I get very fired up about this work.

What do you plan to study at Oxford?

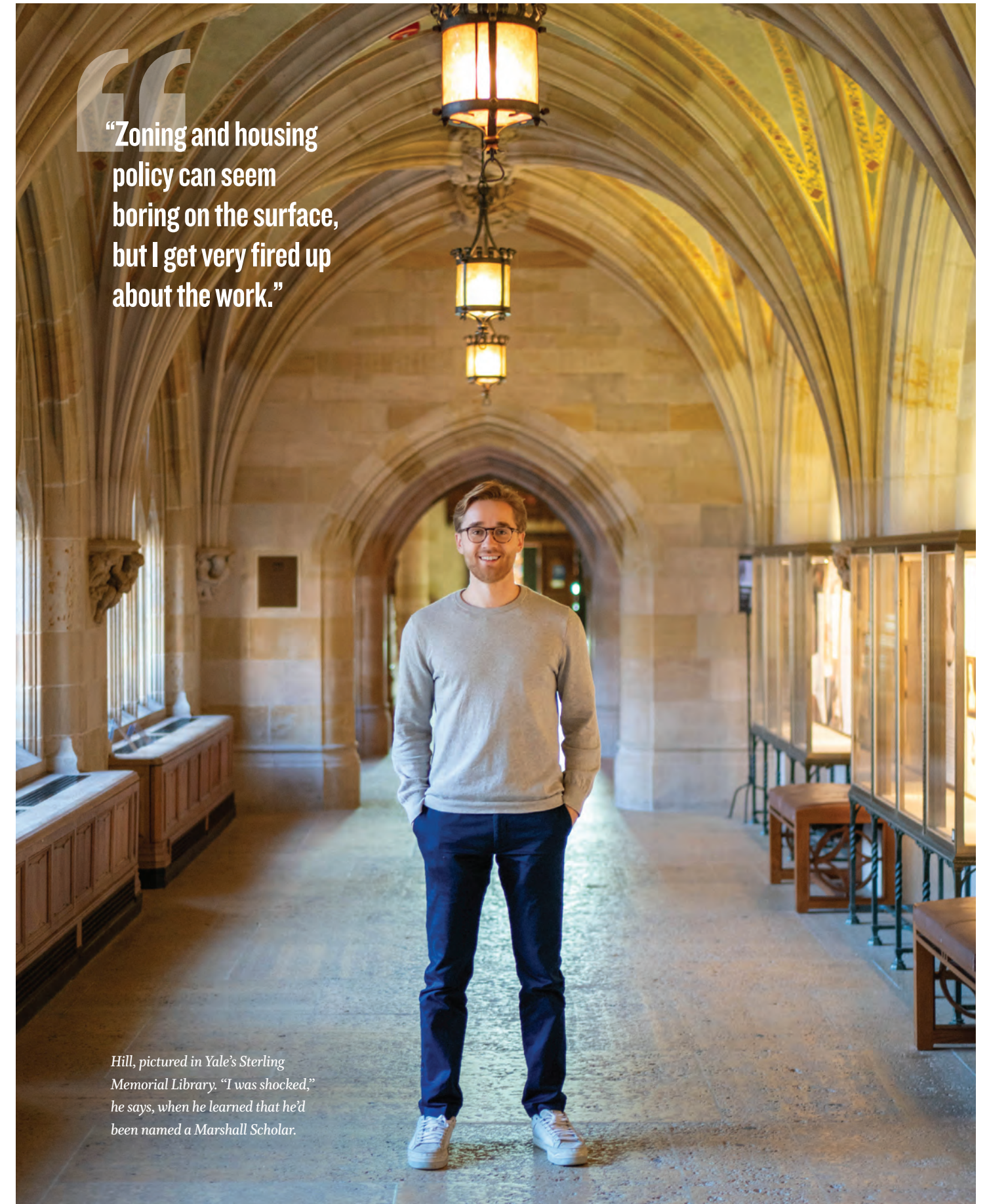
I'll be working on a Master of Philosophy in evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation. That's a mouthful, so I usually just say it's urban policy evaluation, focusing on spatial inequality across neighborhoods, towns, and regions. I'm not sure yet if I'll try and parlay that into a full-on Ph.D., but right now, I'm excited for the ability to produce a more robust piece of research.

If you had a general goal of what you hope to do one day, what would it be?

It would probably be the same mission that Desegregate Connecticut had, which is to increase understanding about how housing policy affects wealth inequality. If you ask most people, they don't see the relationship between new housing supply and housing prices—and in fact, they usually think that new housing supply increases housing prices. The main reason we have these persistently high housing costs is because we're not building enough housing, so we need to do whatever we can to ramp up that production. Unfortunately, some of the biggest impediments are car-related: concerns about parking and traffic. If we care about equity issues, we should use policy levers to discourage driving—either by taxing parking or by using congestion pricing like New York is doing—then reinvesting it into public transit that has a mass benefit.

Is there anything in your current studies that was sparked at Williston?

Definitely! My history classes at Williston taught me to think more critically and analyze the reasons behind different social outcomes. My final AP U.S. History paper, for example, was about racial gerrymandering, and writing it introduced me to some of the ways policy affects racial outcomes in this country. And my Williston Scholars project focused on felony disenfranchisement—basically, laws that prevent or impede anyone convicted of a felony from voting, and which have deeply racist origins. So I came into college wanting to do something about racial inequality. Williston also gave me an appreciation for learning and for not treating school just as a stepping stone to what's next. Coming out of Williston, I think I felt much more comfortable charting my own academic trajectory, which has ultimately led me to more rewarding work, and certainly to the Marshall.



“Zoning and housing policy can seem boring on the surface, but I get very fired up about the work.”

Hill, pictured in Yale's Sterling Memorial Library. "I was shocked," he says, when he learned that he'd been named a Marshall Scholar.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DENNIS CROMMETT



SWEET SUCCESS

Brooke (Behringer) Joyner '95 continues a delicious family tradition BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

It could be the macabre opening of a psychological thriller: A cargo van pulls up to the office of a Florida prosthetic limb company. The van's doors open to reveal hundreds of neatly stacked gift boxes that each contain... a human leg. Only when the camera zooms in do we see that the perfectly formed limbs are made of chocolate!

The woman behind the legs—as well as countless other delicious chocolate creations—is Brooke (Behringer) Joyner '95, proprietor of Peterbrooke Chocolatier in Atlantic Beach, Florida. She is, in fact, the Brooke of Peterbrooke. Her mother, Phyllis (Lockwood) Geiger '65, founded the company in 1983, naming it for Brooke and her brother, Peter. After licensing dozens of Peterbrooke Chocolatier franchises throughout Florida and the Southeast, Geiger sold the company in 2009.

That same year, Joyner purchased the Atlantic Beach store. Today, in addition to offering the tempting assortment of dipped and filled confections you'd expect in a high-end chocolate shop, she specializes in sculpting custom chocolate creations for local businesses. A number of her clients—including Orthotic Prosthetic Centers, in Fort Lauderdale, which each year orders a truckload of chocolate legs as holiday gifts—are in the medical field.

"If you can think of it, I can make it in chocolate," Joyner explains with a laugh. "Legs, hearts, brains... it's like I'm putting a body together."

For each creation, Joyner starts by casting melted chocolate in a mold. The hollow legs are then filled with the store's best-selling chocolate-dipped popcorn. A brain (which she made for a neuroscience facil-

ity) and a heart (for a cardiac practice) were filled with solid chocolate.

If such skills interest you, Joyner offers chocolate-making classes where customers can try their own hand at techniques such as tempering (evenly cooling melted chocolate so it retains its shine) and dipping. Get good enough and you might be able to make the company's signature Freezer Truffle, a decadent confection developed by Joyner's mother, assembled from a chilled cube of ganache, coated in chocolate and then dusted in cocoa powder to resemble a truffle mushroom. "They take a couple days to make," says Joyner, who insists she will never get tired of eating chocolate. "It's like silk on your tongue."

Joyner left Florida for Williston for her junior year, continuing a remarkable family tradition. In addition to her mother, her aunts—Nancy Whitcomb '71 and Laurel Bradshaw '72—are also Williston alums, as is her grandfather, Howard A. Lockwood '33. Another aunt, Isabelle Bourrie, is an honorary member of the class of 1965. Joyner says she loved her time in Easthampton—except for the cold weather. "I just couldn't get used to it," she says.

Now back in sunny Florida, she is married to Seth Joyner, whose family also owns Peterbrooke franchises. Her return to the chocolate business after forays in real estate was not something she expected. "I wanted nothing to do with the business," she says of her earlier years. "I respected all the work that went into it, but I wanted to create something that was mine, that I could put my signature on." Fortunately, chocolate has now given her that leg to stand on.

—Follow her on Instagram @peterbrookeab

CHOCOLATE 101

Given her expertise, we asked Joyner to give us a crash course in chocolate. Below are her tried-and-true tips.

What should we look for when selecting chocolate?

Look at the ingredients. Real chocolate has cocoa butter, cocoa, and chocolate liquor. A lot of companies extract the expensive cocoa butter to use for other things, and then introduce vegetable oil. The FDA says if you remove all the cocoa butter, you cannot call it chocolate. So look at a package. It may say "chocolatey." The vegetable oil allows chocolate to have a longer shelf life in a grocery store, and prevents it from going out of temper so that it will always look shiny. But it creates a waxy taste.

What are those white streaks you sometimes see in chocolate? Does that mean the chocolate is old?

That's called blooming. When chocolate solidifies at the wrong temperature and it hasn't been tempered, you'll see these white streaks in it. It looks bad. A lot of people think it's old. But it isn't bad. You just melt it down and then you temper it by cooling the chocolate at an even temperature. You pour it on marble and you take two spatulas and you spread the chocolate around. And then when it dries, it's shiny in the way it should look.

How should we store chocolate?

Solid chocolate lasts for a long time, two years if it's in the right environment—not near garlic, say, or perfumes. We can't wear perfume at work because the chocolate will absorb it. One of the big mistakes is people put it in the freezer or the fridge. That actually causes condensation on the chocolate, and if it's real chocolate, the cocoa butter will absorb surrounding flavors. The best way to store chocolate is at room temperature, out of heat and direct sunlight, which can make the chocolate come out of temper.

What's the proper way to melt chocolate for making dipped treats?

Chocolate burns really easily. If someone wants to learn how to melt it on their own, I always recommend a double boiler. When I do it, I use the microwave, but I know how. I know the temperatures. You have to watch it closely—do like maybe 25 seconds at a time, and check it after each.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINA BLOCK

PAUSE



For Miana Hoyt Dawson '98, the pandemic planted the seeds for career change

AND

BY KATE LAWLESS

PIVOT



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LINDSEY OPHAM



When the pandemic hit, Miana Hoyt Dawson '98

and her husband, Terry Dawson, had been working in engaging but consuming careers—she in marketing, he in engineering. The sudden change to being home with three children during lockdown gave them the time and space to reflect on what they were doing. Was there a way for them to spend more time together as a family? Could they apply their professional skills to a simpler and more meaningful existence?

For Dawson, the answer was yes. In 2021, she and her husband started a business called—appropriately enough—Pause & Pivot Farm, set on four open acres amid 40 acres of wooded mountainous land in Williamsburg, Massachusetts. “We wanted to create—or re-create—a traditional farm that addresses modern challenges,” Dawson says.

Their business reflects that mix of old and new. Next to the family’s 1774 farmhouse and 1830s barn sits an insulated 40-foot shipping container full of hydroponically grown greens, herbs, and lettuce plants, which they grow year-round. “You walk in and it’s like a forest of lettuce,” she enthuses. Wall-mounted LED lights provide the full-spectrum lighting that the plants need to grow.

The indoor, climate-controlled space protects the harvest from the whims of a changing climate. In 2023, as an early spring freeze and multiple flooding incidents threw the growing season into chaos across the Northeast, the container provided a measure of financial stability. The greens and herbs are sold via their online farm store; people can order bags or a seasonal subscription and then pick up at the farm (if they’re local) or opt for home delivery. Dawson also sells at farmers markets spring through fall and has a few farm-to-table restaurant customers.

When the Dawsons began growing hydroponically in the winter of 2017, it was originally for the family’s personal consumption, “What I affectionately call ‘basement lettuce,’” Dawson jokes, explaining that she had set up trays and lights under their home. “From there, it kind of stuck in my mind that this made a lot of sense for our area since we don’t have many options for salad greens and other tender greens in the winter, but there is a strong desire to buy locally when the option is there.” The initial



Pause and Pivot’s 1774 farmhouse and 1830s barn are set on 40 acres of wooded land in Williamsburg, Massachusetts



experiment yielded the basic understanding of what indoor-grown leafy greens need to succeed: water, correct pH, nutrients, and light.

In addition to selling hydroponic greens, Pause & Pivot Farm hosts “experiences,” such as small-batch maple-syrup-making events in late winter or sharing a summertime cold beverage while visiting with the farm’s herd of miniature goats. The on-site farm store stocks farm-fresh eggs, sweet and savory baked goods made in their own farm kitchen, and home goods that Terry fashions from salvaged wood. A self-taught furniture maker, Terry’s pre-pivot job was at L-3, the former Kollmorgen, leading a team that built the internal components of periscopes. “He’s done research on traditional methods of working with wood and different finishes and techniques that he has really evolved into creating his own style of furniture,” Miana says. “We call it rustic refined.” Terry also makes custom wood engravings, signs,

and cabinetry, and crafts a limited run of made-to-order Adirondack chairs each year.

Before the pause and the pivot, Dawson had been seeing her career accelerate. A native of Western Massachusetts, she met Terry while she was a student at Scripps College in Claremont, California, and he was serving in the Marines at Camp Pendleton in San Diego. After college, she got a job in marketing and fundraising at a nonprofit in the Pacific Northwest. Then in 2008, she returned home to Massachusetts to work in marketing at her family’s business, A.W. Hastings, then the sole distributor of Marvin windows for all of New England and part of New York state. Working in window distribution wasn’t necessarily a childhood dream of hers—she adds with a chuckle—but the work turned out to be surprisingly satisfying. Over the years, her responsibilities grew.

Then, in 2018, Marvin bought A.W. Hastings. “I



“It’s like a forest of lettuce,” says Dawson of the 40-foot shipping container where she grows hydroponic greens year-round

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LINDSEY TOPHAM

went from leading a marketing team of 20 people to helping with integration into a 7,000-person company.” She relished the challenge and loved the work—until she didn’t. When her job became less about serving customers and more about the bottom line, “it became really challenging to continue to feel passionate about it.” It was time to pump the brakes.

Starting a farm had been a topic of family discussions for some time. Now they decided to make it happen, banking on the fact that what they were giving up—financial security—would be replaced by something more important. “It’s probably obvious, but worth noting, that stepping away from a corporate role and starting a small business comes with a major salary cut in the short term,” Dawson says. “I made this pivot as a way to design a life and career that was more aligned with my values.”

Miana and Terry’s three children were in favor. Kennedy ’22 is at St. Lawrence University; Milo ’27 is a first year at Williston; and 9-year-old Harrison is a likely future Wildcat. (Dawson’s siblings Josh Hoyt ’96 and Laurel Hoyt ’94 are also alums.) Miana’s Williston experience helped her navigate this crossroads. As she tells it, Williston taught her that life is not necessarily a straight line. “To find your path, you have to try a lot of different things,” she says.

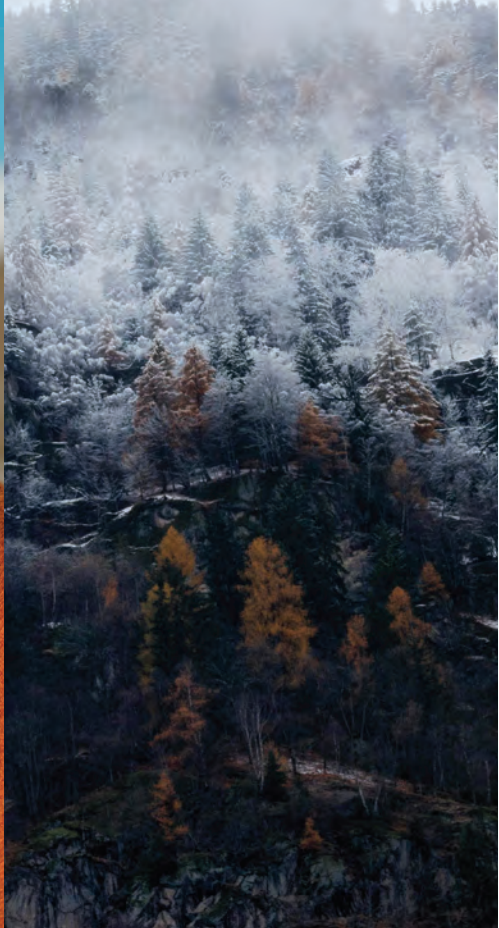
“It was completely normal at Williston that you would take a photography class at the same time as you’re learning about Hitler and Nazi Germany. All these fundamental but dynamic topics were offered and you could explore the things that really spurred your curiosity.”

Making the decision to shift directions was also something she wanted her children to see—to set an example that pivoting can be the right move. “I think that that message is not shared with kids enough—that you might do something for a long time and you might grow out of it, and that’s OK.”

Post-pivot, Dawson feels the satisfaction of more ownership of her time. “One of the benefits I reflect on with gratitude almost weekly is that now I don’t have to choose which family activities I miss,” she says. “I design my schedule so I can be at almost every game, performance, dinner, etc. I don’t know many people in high-level roles that have this amount of ownership over their time. That’s a unique and priceless benefit of my new path.”



"I have that pinch-me moment, and I realize that this is my job. I'm getting paid to be out here skiing."



PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN DEARTH

Carving Her Path

A long-ago hike on Mt. Tom led Hanna Whirty '13 to a career in the Rockies

By Geoff Smith '07

For generations, Williston Northampton students have discovered their sense of purpose in the classroom, on the playing fields, or in the art studios. For Hanna Whirty '13, though, her moment of insight came on a walk on Mt. Tom. "I was hiking when I decided that I needed to do this for the rest of my life," says Whirty, now the Marketing Director for Icelantic Skis in Denver, Colorado. "Being outside, being outdoors, doing things like this—it was a really big epiphany."

Whirty's experience on Mt. Tom inspired the Massachusetts-born girl to head west to the Rockies and the University of Colorado Boulder. Her introduction to the skiing world in Colorado came quickly—first as one of the leaders of the school's ski club (which had roughly 3,000 members), then at a marketing agency once she graduated.

One of her clients was Icelantic Skis. After building up a rapport with the company, Whirty took a huge chance and asked the co-founder and CEO, Ben Anderson, for a job at Icelantic.

"I was pretty keen on getting out of the agency world," Whirty says. "I went up to Ben during a trade show and said, 'You should hire me'—despite there being probably a million and one people ahead of me for the Marketing Director role," she laughs. Whirty's determination prevailed, though, and she got the job. Since then, she and Icelantic have fit like a ski boot in a fresh Icelantic binding.

Icelantic's appeal is broad, but the company has carved out unique niches. First, the skis are manufactured in Colorado, only about 20 minutes away from Whirty's office; second, the skis feature artwork created each year by co-founder Travis Parr. They also offer a three-year, "bomb-proof" warranty on the skis—"one of the best in the industry," per Whirty—and

the company is a Certified B Corp., meeting the highest standards of social and environmental performance. "Ask anybody out here, our quality is pretty unmatched," Whirty says. "You see people all the time in lift lines or on the mountain who have been skiing the same pair for 10-plus years, which is really cool." The company's careful attention to detail has earned loyal customers and cool crossover opportunities, such as partnerships with the National Parks Service and bands like Pink Floyd and Phish.

In an ever-changing marketplace, Whirty brings a valuable young point of view to everything from the brand's website design to its photography. If you see a cool picture of a skier blasting through powder or wearing Icelantic clothing—Whirty probably took it. "There are days when we're skiing, and I'm carrying a big camera pack and trying to keep up with these professional athletes. I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I'm dying out here—this is so much work!' Then I have that pinch-me moment, and I realize that this is my job. I'm getting paid to be out here skiing."

While skiing is central to her job, Whirty isn't just shredding the day away. Over the next year, Icelantic is gearing up to launch revamped styles of its most classic skis, and Whirty has some other exciting side projects. One she beams about is an all-women backcountry skiing expedition that Icelantic sponsors, which recently brought together women, ranging from age 21 to almost 70, for an epic getaway.

The sum of all this progress leaves Whirty in a state of reflection. That monumental walk on Mt. Tom sent Whirty down a run she couldn't see the bottom of—but that felt right anyway. How far this trail will continue she doesn't know—but she's relishing every inch along the way. "I'm very grateful every day," Whirty said. "I feel extremely grateful to be where I am and to be doing something that I love so dearly."



AN EXPANSIVE VISION

Former professional mascot Mike Walsh '96 now cheers on his own nonprofit, Flight for Sight, and advocates for those who are blind or have low vision BY JONATHAN ADOLPH

Mike Walsh '96 was 20 years old when he learned he had Usher syndrome Type 2C, a rare genetic disorder marked by childhood deafness and progressive vision loss in later life. But his condition did not stop him from becoming a sports legend in Colorado; for 10 years after his diagnosis, he endeared himself to stadium crowds as RapidMan, the first mascot for Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids. Hobnobbing with players, goofing with fans, the bulging-biceped water-blue man with pearly teeth and white-capped hair was beloved as a community ambassador for the growing league. As one sportswriter recalled in a retrospective: "RapidMan popped up on the morning news, at public events, greeting fans, noshing with the tailgaters and, in general, being the must-have on everyone's guest list."

For Walsh it was a high point of a mascot journey that dates back to his time at Williston, when as a postgraduate he became the school's first Willy the Wildcat, tracking down a costume company in New York City and helping place the order. After Williston, at the University of Richmond, he entertained as Spidey the Spider, then transferred to the University of Colorado Boulder, where he ran triathlons, studied communications and dance, and won national recognition as Chip the Buffalo. His fame as RapidMan and a stint as Miles, the horse-headed mascot of the NFL's Denver Broncos, would follow.

Editor's note: The portraits for this story were taken at Summit One Vanderbilt in New York City, an inspiring spot that's open to the public. Check it out at summitov.com.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMI SAUNDERS



“Everybody is unique in this world, so take your peculiarities, your disabilities, whatever your challenges are, and put them out there.”

But by 2012, Walsh’s peripheral vision had deteriorated to the point where he could no longer drive. (Though his hearing had been impaired since childhood, developments in assistive technology have allowed his hearing to actually improve over the years.) Forced to hang up his mascot costumes, he turned to the considerable social media marketing skills those roles had required, taking on a series of consulting positions back in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin. He also began dating a flight attendant, which gave him an opportunity to travel. One day, he recalls, he put out a seemingly innocuous question on Facebook. “Hey, I’m losing my sight,” he posted. “Where should I go? And it blew up.”

Inundated with travel suggestions, with invitations from blind organizations, and with introductions to other people and organizations in the blind and low-vision world, he decided to start a blog and to use his social media platform to share his experiences with others. For the next year he traveled around the world to raise awareness of vision issues, using social media to help choose his destinations and activities and interviewing prominent figures and advocates in the low-vision and blind community. Eventually Walsh moved to New York City, where he worked in the schools as a substitute teacher and discovered the sport of blind baseball (and won a bronze medal with his U.S. team at an international tournament). Travel had opened up the world for him, and that in turn got him thinking. “What would happen if we could give other people this opportunity? What would they do with the money? What educational content could they create about blindness?”

In 2021, with the help of an experienced nonprofit development manager, Rosalie Chandler, Walsh launched Flight for Sight, a nonprofit that awards grants to blind and low-vision people for travel projects that let them engage with others and educate the public about vision loss. His younger brother, a lawyer and occasional comedian who also has Usher syndrome, joined him on the board (two younger sisters do not have the condition). The organization has been funded in part by professional sports team owner and blind philanthropist Gordon Gund, founder of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, whom Walsh had met and befriended in his travels.

Last year Flight for Sight distributed \$10,000 to each of its first three grantees: a baseball fan who

traveled to stadiums around the country blogging and podcasting; two Paralympic medalists in goalball (a sport played with blackout eyeshades), who traveled to Europe and documented their experience on Instagram and YouTube; and a DJ, born blind and now losing his hearing, who created a YouTube mini-documentary series about his recent tour of Europe and Asia. More than 100 applications for the second round of grants were submitted in February, with winners announced in April. Walsh has set this year’s fundraising goal at \$200,000, hoping the group can give away even more.

The outsize enthusiasm that served Walsh so well in costume continues to mark his work today, as he tirelessly promotes Flight for Sight through partnerships, social media, his website, and frequent speaking engagements. Appearing last February on “Between the Fur,” Kenn Solomon’s pro mascot podcast, Walsh explained his hard-won approach to life

and success. “Everybody is unique in this world,” he told Solomon, who for years was Rocky the Mountain Lion, mascot of the NBA’s Denver Nuggets. “So take your peculiarities, your disabilities, whatever your challenges are, and put them out there. Because some people are going to be very interested.”

Clearly, the Wisconsin kid, whose first foray outside of North America was a Williston class trip to the Galapagos Islands, has come a long way. Looking back, he notes that his time in Easthampton, meeting students from across the globe, helped broaden his perspective, allowing him “to realize there was another world out there.”

He acknowledges, however, that his fascination with mascots was something he brought with him. At his previous high school in Madison, on a lark during a homecoming football game, he had gone out on the field and led the crowd in a cheer. Thrilled by the response, he became the Edgewood

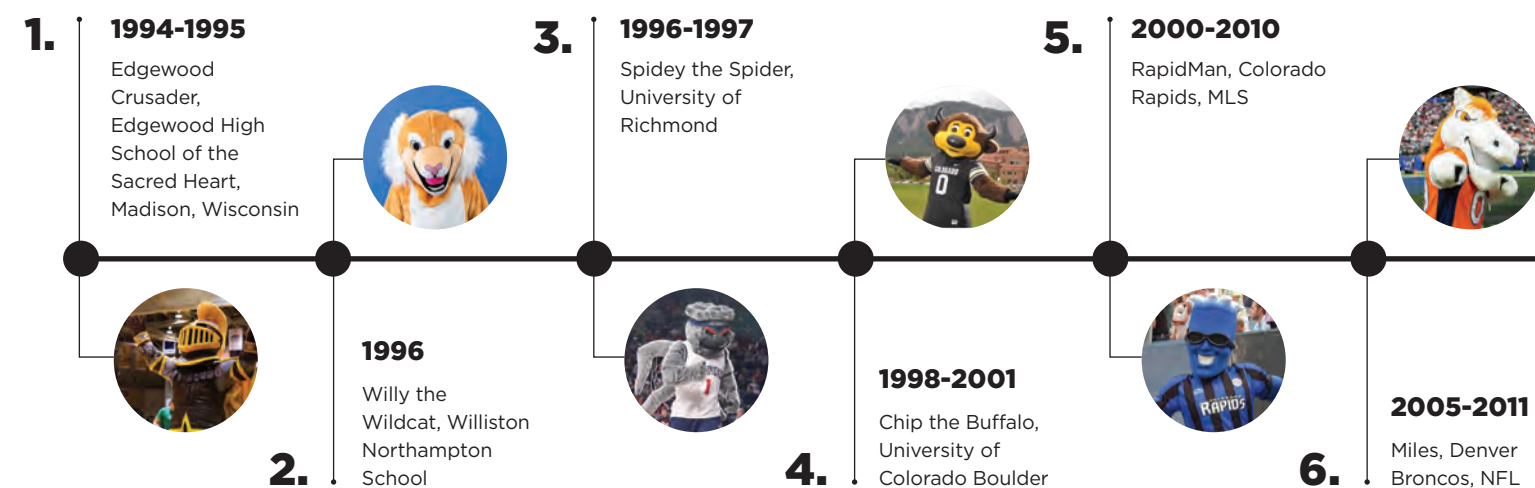
Crusader, donning a cape and helmet.

Creating Willy the Wildcat for Williston only made sense. When the ordered costume arrived from New York in the spring, Walsh debuted it at an assembly in chapel. “I remember I didn’t have gloves, so my hands were sticking out. That’s kind of a rule—you don’t want your body parts to be sticking out. But I put the outfit on, went into the chapel, and basically the whole school was clapping.”

Though he wears no costume today as an advocate for the blind and low-vision community, Walsh still recognizes the power of appearances. “I use a cane everywhere, but even the cane isn’t a detriment to my life,” he explains. “My cane is marketing, in some ways. I stand out, and hopefully people come up to me and ask questions. Because if they ask questions, then I can tell them about Flight for Sight.”

To learn more, go to FlightforSight.net or contact Mike at Mike@FlightforSight.net

MIKE’S MASCOT JOURNEY



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMI SAUNDERS

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

**TWO MEMBERS OF
THE CLASS OF 2004**

**RECONNECT BY CHANCE, AND
DISCOVER THEY ARE BOTH
WORKING TO REFORM THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

By Jonathan Adolph



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CATHALIN MCCULLOUGH AND MATT STANLEY



Last November, Emily Follansbee '04 attended a conference in New Orleans sponsored by the **Second Chances Working Group**, a collection of lawyers, policy experts, and other criminal justice advocates working to reform the nation's sentencing laws and incarceration practices. During the dinner break, Follansbee, the Legal Director of the Texas Defender Service, happened to join a table with two other women, one of whom, she suddenly realized, was her Williston classmate Margot Isman '04. The two had not seen each other since their days acting in school theater productions, two decades before.

"She was like, 'Margot?' recalls Isman, now Policy Director for the Philadelphia-based Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project. "And I was like, 'What the hell?' We recognized each other immediately."

That chance encounter may have reunited the two classmates, but in a sense Follansbee and Isman were already working together. Though their specific concerns differ, each has devoted her career to remedying troubling inequities in the criminal justice system, in particular opposing the policies and institutional biases that tend to disproportionately punish those least able to defend themselves. "The system, in theory, should work," explains Follansbee. "But in practice it does not, due to the disparity in advantages. Do you come from an underrepresented population? Are you a person of color? Criminal justice reform is so important."

Follansbee's focus at the Texas Defender Service is eliminating the state's death penalty and other excessive

sentences, along with representing death row inmates and assisting local attorneys in capital cases. Isman's work at the Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project focuses on Pennsylvania's large population of children who are being charged as if they were adults, and therefore facing extreme sentences. Both women describe their work as being about humanizing people too often reduced to stereotypes by the legal bureaucracy.

At that unexpected dinner in New Orleans, Follansbee and Isman soon discovered that their lives also have a personal connective thread. Follansbee had recently had a baby girl, and Isman had just had twins. All were born on the same day in December 2022. "What are the chances?" says Follansbee. "It was wild."

Here's a closer look at what has led each woman to her current career in criminal justice reform, and how their time at Williston helped prepare them for the particular challenges of their work.

FIGHTING THE DEATH PENALTY IN TEXAS

Emily Follansbee began her law career as a public defender in Colorado, having been inspired by a criminal defense clinic at the University of Oregon School of Law. "Giving a voice to people who society wants to ignore, standing up for them, making sure their rights are protected and they aren't dehumanized in the sterile setting of a courtroom," she recalls. "I started to feel like that aligned with my values." But she acknowledges that another factor may also have nudged her along: her time on the Williston Theater stage. "They say that lawyers are just people who failed at acting," she says with a laugh. "It's a performance. You have to want to be in front of people, making your arguments."

In her role today as Legal Director of the Texas Defender Service (TDS), Follansbee is again in the spotlight. Founded in 1995, the Austin-based organization has been a nationwide leader in the fight to end the death penalty, helping reduce executions and death sentences in the Lone Star State from a peak of 40 in 2000 to just a handful today. That success allowed the group in 2022 to expand its focus to the broader issue of disproportionate punishment. Texas, notes TDS, is "Ground Zero for mass incarceration on the planet," imprisoning a quarter of a million people with sentences "that outlast any public-safety purpose."

Follansbee joined TDS in 2021 and now lives in Austin with her one-year-old daughter and husband, Joey Cantu, a criminal defense lawyer whom she met when both were Colorado public defenders. Her organization's attorneys and mitigation specialists assist with trials and

legal proceedings, provide consulting services, and advocate for changes to criminal justice laws and policy. What appealed to her was the

"For too many people, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, the criminal legal system is not fair and it is not just."

group's mission, the idea that "everyone, no matter who they are, deserves empathy and dignity, whether or not they've been accused or convicted of a crime," she says. "Those values," she adds, "were instilled in me in my upbringing and at my time at Williston."

Follansbee was a six-year day student, preceded by her siblings Marcia (Ward) Murray '95 and Andrew Ward '98. In addition to being active in theater, she was editor of *The Log* yearbook and a Gold Key Guide. "It was a really positive experience," says Follansbee, who after Williston earned her B.A. in environmental studies at Union College. "Looking back at Williston through the lens of doing the work that I do, I feel very fortunate to have been able to have such an opportunity, knowing that so many others aren't able to have that."

Indeed, Follansbee's work today has given her a firsthand understanding of a criminal



PHOTOGRAPH BY CATHLIN MCCULLOUGH

justice system that she sees as dangerously broken. “For too many people, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, the criminal legal system is not fair and it is not just,” she maintains. “To try to make change from the inside sometimes feels like a very large mountain to move. But trying to get your client through that system—and getting wins—is uplifting for sure.”

And there are signs of progress. Through the work of TDS and other groups over the years, new laws and procedures have been put in place for death penalty cases in Texas. Nationwide, 26 states have ended the practice or put a moratorium on executions. All of that is encouraging, notes Follansbee, but work remains. “In Texas, there aren’t as many mechanisms for ‘second chance’ or ‘second look’ work,” she notes, referring to the post-conviction review process. “From our policy side, we’re trying to get involved and see what avenues we are able to create.”

“As someone working for an organization dealing with the death penalty, I’d ideally want a world where our services are no longer needed,” she continues. “But we also know that there are people whose disproportionate punishment amounts to another kind of death sentence—they will die in prison. We are trying to use our knowledge base, our history, our experience, to expand and assist that population as well.”

DEFENDING YOUNG PRISONERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

To understand the work of Margot Isman ’04 and Philadelphia’s Youth Sentencing & Reentry Project (YSRP), you first need to understand the term “juvenile lifer”—people under age 18 sentenced to prison for life without the chance of parole—and know that Pennsylvania has more than any other state. Prior to the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2016 *Montgomery* decision that guaranteed a new hearing to juvenile lifers, Pennsylvania had sentenced more than 500 young people—the vast majority Black and Brown males—to die in prison. YSRP’s team of lawyers, mitigation specialists, and reentry coordinators worked to get these prisoners their day in court, and then offered support as they adjusted to life back in society.

But even as the juvenile lifers have successfully returned home, the Pennsylvania laws that led to their sentences are still sweeping many children into the adult legal system, which is where Isman—the group’s policy director since 2021—comes in. “In Pennsylvania, kids as young as 10 years old are automatically tried as if they were adults for certain crimes,” she explains. “That should make your heart sink.” Adding to the possibility of extended prison time for children are the state’s often-severe mandatory minimum sentencing laws.

Most other states allow prosecutors discretion in deciding whether to try children as adults; Pennsylvania has what’s called “direct file,” where young people charged with certain serious crimes are by default treated as adults. They are, however, allowed a hearing to present their case for staying in the juvenile system, with its separate prisons and rules requiring release at age 21. YSRP provides

assistance there, as well.

In her role as policy director, Isman lobbies to change these laws, most recently helping introduce a juvenile-justice reform bill in the state legislature, where it is now awaiting action.

She acknowledges that, despite statistics that show declines in numerous categories of crime, changing the public’s perception of young offenders can be a struggle. “Criminal justice reform was on the menu for a long time,” she explains. “And then in the backlash to the uprisings that happened after George Floyd was murdered, there’s been a swing back to tough-on-crime rhetoric, back to the ‘super-predator’ era of the mid-90s, and really deeply racist rhetoric about children and crime.”

As an advocate for those she sees being treated unjustly, Isman does not pull punches, citing, for example, how certain politicians have used youth crime to stoke white fear and resentment. That freedom to say exactly what she thinks is a facet of her job that she has come to appreciate. “It’s very satisfying and deeply important, particularly given my identity as a white member of society and a mother of white children, to be able to name explicitly what we see happening here,” she says. “To say: This is a racist policy that was designed to target and incarcerate Black kids.”

Isman developed some of her rhetorical skills at Williston, where she says she was taught to write by English teacher Lisa Levchuk and developed confidence in the spotlight through the theater program. A four-year day student from Hadley, she received numerous school awards and honors for her academic work



“In Pennsylvania, kids as young as 10 years old are automatically tried as if they were adults for certain crimes. That should make your heart sink.”

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATT STANLEY

and writing, including induction in the Cum Laude Society. After earning her B.A. in history at Stanford, she served as a legislative aid in the Massachusetts State House, then received her M.A. in international negotiation and conflict resolution at Tufts University’s Fletcher School. There, she met her husband, Sebastian Anti, now a professor at Bryn Mawr.

After graduate school, Isman and Anti lived in Nairobi, where for three years Isman worked with a start-up that helped nonprofits use data to evaluate their impact. The couple returned to the U.S., where Isman joined the nonprofit Crime and Justice Institute, eventually rising to Deputy Director. As a consultant to state governments on criminal justice reform, she was introduced to YSRP, which was looking to hire a policy

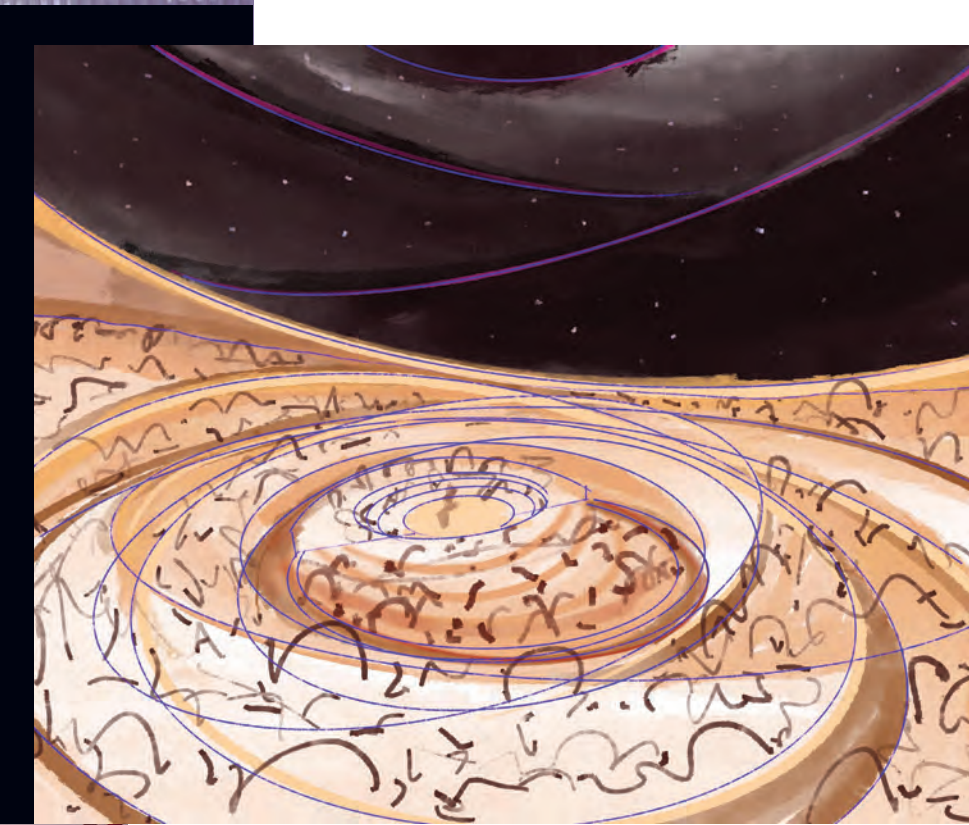
director. She joined the group in 2021, and now lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, 3-year-old, and 1-year-old twins.

Fittingly, the value of family figures prominently in Isman’s work at YSRP. She notes that most of the group’s clients have a history of serious childhood trauma and come from environments marked by poverty and easy access to guns. It’s a combustible combination. “Teenagers do dumb things,” Isman says. “Everybody at Williston knows that! If you give them access to deadly weapons and very little support or structured ways to spend their time, when they make mistakes, the results are going to be violent. YSRP, in many ways, is trying to disrupt that cycle by taking young people under our wing and into our family. We are trying to treat kids in the system like the kids they really are.”



Left, the look of the new People's Performing Arts Center in Shenzhen, China, was inspired by a deep appreciation for the arts as a city's "cultural treasures or gems," says architect Nick Jeffway '10, who worked as part of the project's design team

Below, is an initial sketch of the concert hall which lives within one of the performing arts center's golden orbs



EACH DESIGN TELLS A STORY

At the crossroads of architecture with Nick Jeffway '10

BY DANIELLA VOLINGER

When the new People's Performing Arts Center in Shenzhen, China, is completed in 2026, it will resemble two enormous golden orbs—a design that reflects the duality of the city's past and future. "The per-

forming arts are one of the greatest treasures a culture can possess. The project is a celebration of the city's immense cultural heritage and will usher in a new era for the performing arts at the intersection of art and

technology," says Architectural Designer Nick Jeffway '10, who worked as part of the Ennead Architects team that created the design.

Thinking outside of the box comes naturally to Jeffway, who

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ENNEAD ARCHITECTS

grew up in a household that was bubbling with creativity. His father—a self-employed toy inventor, electronic engineer, and endless tinkerer—retrofitted the basement of their home into a creative space, complete with a woodshop and lab in which all five children had free rein. "I've always been a curious person, and I love learning," says Jeffway. "Williston gave me a perfect mix of

rich academics, an arts community, and a great opportunity to explore." As a Williston student, Jeffway recalls countless hours spent in the painting studio where he learned how to visually represent an idea, something that he practices daily in his profession through the process of discursive imagery (abstract drawings and collages used to create the first ideations for a project).

After starting as a graphic design major at Boston University, Jeffway realized he wanted to switch course to architecture, so he transferred into the architecture program at UMass Amherst, where he completed both his bachelor's and master's degrees. "I love to draw. I use photography and model-making making as tools for exploration. Architecture is this great common space where disparate skills and interests all have a place in the creative process.," says Jeffway.

On a typical day, you'll find Jeffway in his office engaged in focused research or sketching by hand or with digital tools, working through ideas and collaborating with colleagues.

"We're always chatting, we're always playing, we're always looking for inspiration in any shape and form we can find," says Jeffway.

As part of an emerging cohort of younger architects and planners who are thinking deeply about how their work will impact future generations, Jeffway focuses on memory through his work, exploring the role that architecture will play in forming future memories. "It's a pivotal moment to be an architect," says Jeffway. "My generation of architects is looking inward and asking how the profession and the spaces we create will contribute to a more resilient, just and equitable future."



FEEDING THE SOUL

By founding the Akahiao Nature Institute, Julie Rogers '98 is helping young people live in harmony with nature

BY GEOFF SMITH '07

Julie Rogers '98 was on a clear career path: a biomedical engineering degree from Tufts University hung on her wall, and she was in her third year working at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. But a career and a calling are two very different things, and when Rogers heard the voice of her adopted home, Hawaii, echoing in her ear back in 2005—she started listening.

Rogers is now the Founder and Executive Director of the Akahiao Nature Institute, which she started in 2018, on the big island of Hawaii. Her goal? To help remind young people of the natural world and our place in it. She and her five-person team try to accomplish this in two primary ways: through overnight programs targeted toward adolescents and teenagers, and a new full-time preschool program.

“We’re trying to create a future where humans

live together with nature in a harmonious way,” Rogers says from her front porch on the Huehue Ranch, her family’s 140-plus-acre property that she is transforming into an educational campus. Her team of teachers sets out to make that connection by trying to live life in tune with the way Indigenous people of Hawaii once lived. “The Indigenous people lived with nature in a way that didn’t destroy it, or put us in the situation we are in right now,” she says. “I created this school so we can educate [students] about how to live with the Earth in a way that’s good for us and good for it.”

Visitors to Akahiao come from all over. Rogers serves the local population and other Americans, but also has developed a relationship with a Japanese high school that sends kids twice a year to Akahiao programs (Rogers was born in Japan and attended school there). But no matter where kids come from, Rogers aims to help them reconnect with the planet by spending time outside. On the ranch farm, students can harvest fresh fruits and veggies, then sit down for a multicourse meal sourced from local ingredients. They hike, explore, practice archery, and participate in hands-on service projects. In the preschool, kids learn

from being outside and seeing the world unfold—such as watching a caterpillar go from cocoon to butterfly—and many other hands-on activities.

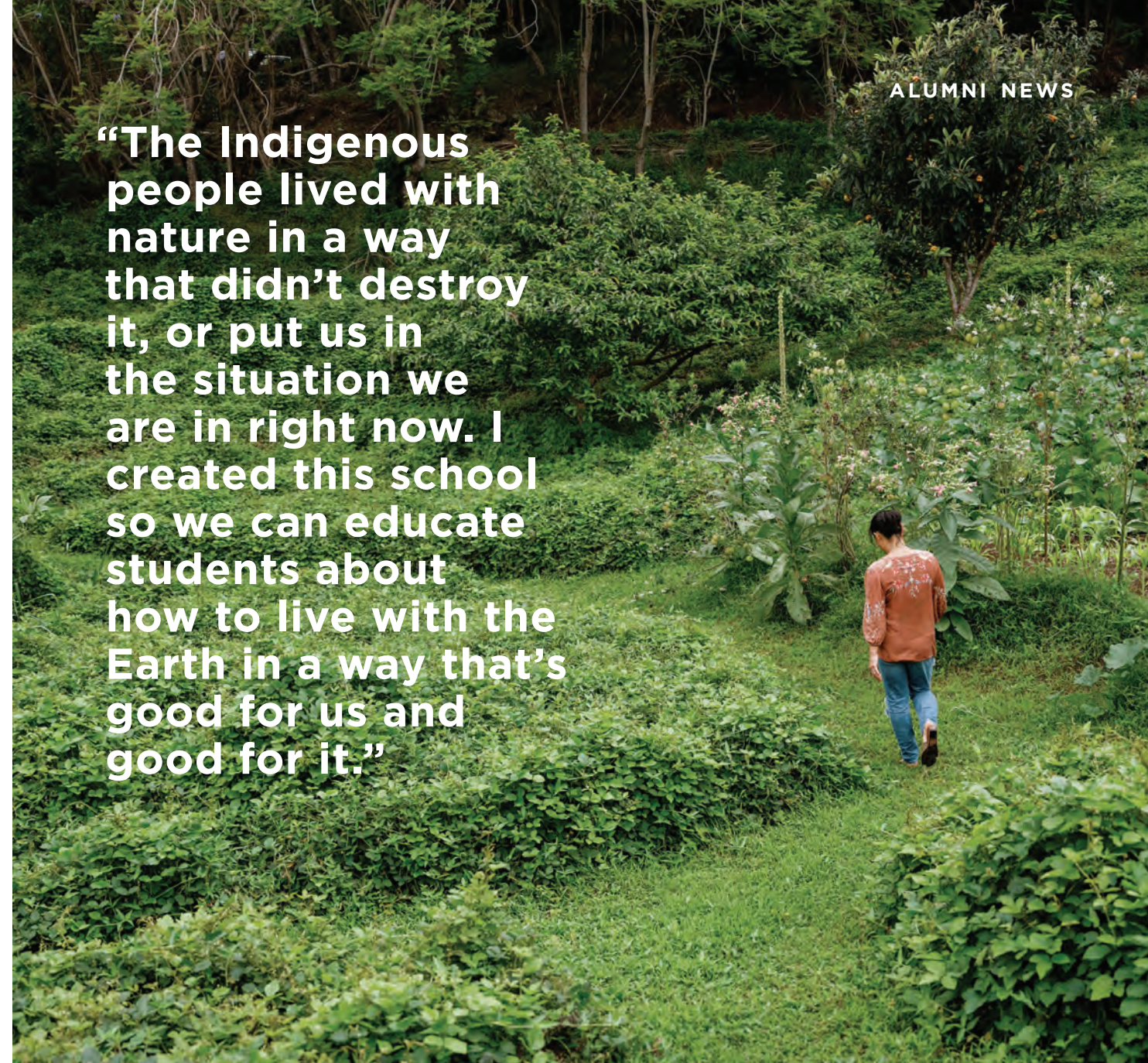
Rogers’ desire to help foster these connections has existed for a long time. As a kid, she split time between Japan and the U.S., and had a varied educational experience to show for it. When she arrived at Williston in 11th grade, it was Rogers’ first experience living away from her family. “Being exposed to people from all different walks of life helped keep my worldview really wide,” she says. It also showed

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHELLE MISHINA

her that, despite how different everyone is, “we’re all humans,” she says.

Rogers’ decision to leave the scientific research world was spurred in part by her dad’s health scare, which brought her home to Hawaii in 2004. Leaving her lab job, Rogers returned to Hawaii, started doing nonprofit work, and eventually entered a mentorship program called The Tracking Project, which works with traditional Native elders and community educators from numerous cultures to promote natural and cultural awareness of the world. Invigorated by what she was doing, Rogers and her husband, Jeff Fuchs, took the leap and

“The Indigenous people lived with nature in a way that didn’t destroy it, or put us in the situation we are in right now. I created this school so we can educate students about how to live with the Earth in a way that’s good for us and good for it.”



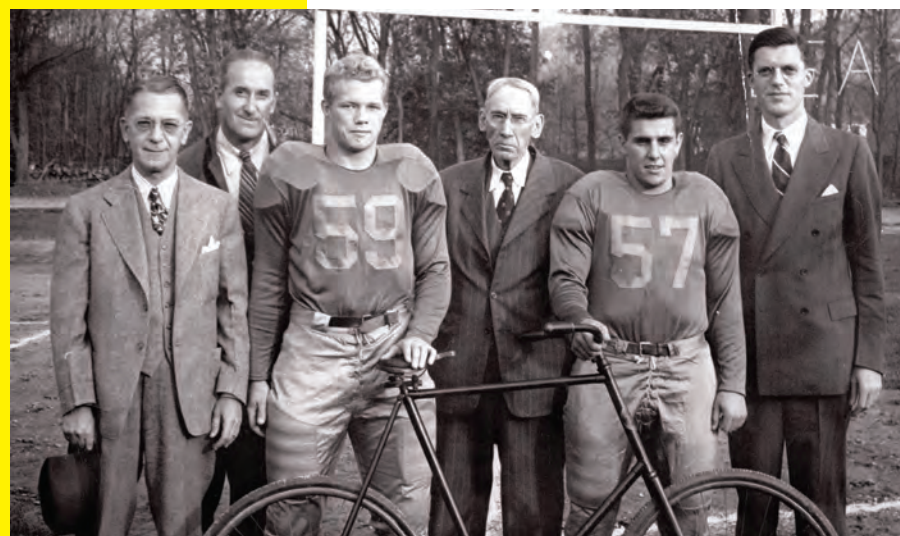
founded Akahiao.

Like most business owners, Rogers found her plans affected by the pandemic. While her original business plan called for expanding into longer, semester-based programs for teens, the pandemic—and the birth of their child, Sebastian—prompted them to aim younger and launch a preschool program. “Our approach is like a scientific inquiry model, where kids are the ones who are asking the questions and creating the programs and projects they want to do.” Looking ahead, Rogers plans to expand the school program to elementary school-aged kids and also dreams of building a camping

site further up on the ranch land, to allow for longer stays for older students.

While her vision for Akahiao is clear, Rogers still has moments where she wonders “What if?” about her prior career. The validation comes in seeing the responses—however small they might be in the moment—coming from the visitors. “It makes it worth it,” Rogers says. “Once in a while I go back and think, ‘Did I make the right choice?’ But then I remember I like this way better—because it really feeds my soul in a different way. It’s so rewarding to feel that you’ve done something that can have an exponential difference later.”

CELEBRATING PHILLIPS AND SARAH STEVENS



For a generation of Williston Northampton School students, the Stevens family is synonymous with campus life. From 1949-72, Phillips Stevens served as Head of School, overseeing Williston Academy and, later, its merger with the Northampton School for Girls. During his tenure, he oversaw major construction projects to modernize the campus, while increasing the number of students and faculty, raising admission standards, increasing endowment—ultimately setting the stage for coeducation. Sarah Wallis Stevens, described as a woman of “extraordinary warmth and empathy,” served for two decades as “First Lady” of Williston Academy. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of a fund established in the Stevens’ honor, we asked alumni to share memories, which you’ll find on the following pages.

GENUINE HUMAN BEINGS

Phil was an imposing figure, towering over everyone—a Hollywood casting success as a New England private school headmaster. It is a great compliment for me to refer to someone as a genuine human being—not someone with a hidden agenda—and both Phil and Sarah were very real, genuine people. Their personal warmth, particularly Sarah’s, made Williston just a little more bearable. As a measure of my affection for them: I traveled over 1,500 miles back and forth to Easthampton for Sarah’s memorial service because she was one of those few people in life whom one shows up for. —Doug Jones ’67

“THE PRESIDENT’S BEEN SHOT!”

I grew up at 17 Payson Avenue, in the brick house now called Gilbert House. Our family and the Stevens family were completely intertwined in thousands of ways with so many priceless memories. One event that stands out was when I was in eighth grade and home after lunch with my mom (Barbara Gilbert). Phil came running up the driveway and barging into our house—no need to knock—and yelled out, “the president’s been shot!” He had no TV in the administration building and knew the nearest TV was in our living room. Phil, my mom, and I stood in front of the TV and watched the news from Dallas in horror. My mom was sobbing; there were tears running down Phil’s face. I was 13 and had no idea of the import or of the impact. He used our phone in the kitchen to to cancel scheduled events and open up counseling, talking, and sharing for the entire Williston community. We were all of us in immediate shock and pain and grief, and Phil, being who he was, took charge and looked out for his school and all within it. —Tom Gilbert ’68

WHAT A U.S. PRESIDENT SHOULD LOOK LIKE

The first time I met Phil Stevens, with his horn-rimmed glasses and three-piece suit, I thought, “This is what the U.S. president should look like.” With his basso profundo voice and stern look, I regarded him with both fear and admiration. In my senior year, I was invited twice to tea with Phil and Sarah at the Homestead, and from these brief encounters, I learned so much more of their warmth and humanity. —Reeve Chudd ’69



KINDNESS AND HUMANITY

I look back upon my four years at Williston Academy as the most impactful period of my life's trajectory, although I didn't fully appreciate it at the time. The experience gave me an incredible and lasting foundation for the years that followed. Headmaster Stevens was always a larger-than-life figure to me during my time there, but one experience, in particular, showed his humanity and genuine concern for us as students. At the start of my junior year, my father passed away from a sudden heart attack. Mr. Stevens came to my dorm room to tell me the news after my mother called him. I was devastated and lost, but he sat with me for a great deal of time, not only to console me but also to help guide me through what was to come on that dreadful day. His concern and interest in my well-being didn't stop with that one incident. Throughout the rest of my time at the school, he checked in with me regularly, particularly during my first months back at school following my father's funeral when I would meet with him on a weekly basis for an "emotional check-in," as he liked to call it. During my senior year, I had made the decision not to go to college immediately after graduation due to a decline in health for my mother. I can't count the number of times that Mr. Stevens and I talked about this situation. Thanks to him and his support, I eventually changed my

decision, and with his guidance, chose a college, Clark University, that was close to my mother. Being with my mother in her last few years (she died three years after my father), while obtaining a wonderful college education, are experiences that have indelibly shaped my life going forward. Headmaster Stevens was an incredible person, and I got to experience his kindness and humanity firsthand. It was an experience for which I will be forever grateful.—*Wesley Harrington '67*

THE GREAT POTATO EXPLOSION

I was a faculty brat at Williston. My mom was the nurse. And the Homestead was a magnet for a bunch of us kids. My best buddy was David Stevens '62—number three in the Stevens line of six. On rainy Saturday mornings, we would often meet at the Homestead and use the ancient basement to play squirt guns, or go to the "game closet" and play some all-day game like Monopoly. I would usually go a little early and meet Sarah in the big colonial kitchen where she might be prepping meals. One day I knocked on the door of the kitchen. Sarah let me in—and what a mess! She had been cooking potatoes in a new pressure cooker, and it had exploded! There were potatoes everywhere. I ended up standing on the counters scraping potatoes off the ceiling, and was Sarah's favorite as I peeled potatoes while her family

rustled up their breakfast. One time I peeled onions for her. And she told me the secret to not crying while peeling onions was to hold a fork in your mouth. I can recall explaining the trick to Phil Stevens when he showed up for breakfast. This would have been when I was in fourth or fifth grade.—*Chuck Vernon '62*

"YESTERDAY, I WAS PROUD OF YOU BOYS."

My most vivid memory of Phillips Stevens is from May 1970, just after the Kent State shootings. The deaths of four students protesting the Vietnam War shocked the nation. Several Williston students gathered to discuss whether we would join the anticipated demonstrations across the country the following day. We hatched a plan to march to Smith College in Northampton to demonstrate outside the campus house where President Nixon's daughter, Julie, was living. We thought that was the best way to get the message to the president that the war in Vietnam needed to end.

Our dorm masters (as they were known then) warned us that if we moved forward with our plan, we would be expelled. The next morning, I joined a few dozen other students outside the Homestead. Phillips Stevens repeated the powerful and stern warning that if we missed classes and left campus for Northampton, we would be expelled.

Not to be deterred, we marched on to Northampton. As we did, Mr. Stevens announced loudly to everyone else, "We all have a job to do. Let's go to class." The faculty and other students headed to the classrooms.

But Mr. Stevens, being concerned about our welfare, trailed us. Someone had created a banner that read "Give peace a chance," and those holding it led the way. We chanted "All we are saying is give peace a chance" over and over. As the march went on, Mr. Stevens got closer and eventually was walking alongside us.

We entered Northampton and headed onto the Smith College campus where we were met by TV news cameras. Smith students welcomed us and invited us into their houses where they fed us as we made plans to participate in demonstrations with them. It was an incredible day for a teenage boy to experience. We all returned to campus in time for dinner and went to our dorms. To our relief, we had not been expelled.

The lead news story that night on the Springfield TV stations was "The chapel bells at Williston Academy rang in a day of antiwar demonstrations in the Pioneer Valley." Phillips Stevens came across in the coverage as an enlightened, progressive headmaster who led his students into Smith College to demonstrate and protest the war. The next morning at assembly we all gathered as usual in the auditorium. Mr. Stevens went to the podium and stared into the distance for the longest, tensest pause I can ever recall. Finally, he said "Yesterday, I was proud of you boys." And that was it.—*Ed Michael Reggie '71*

"I'M ACTUALLY THE JANITOR"

I remember the story of when my brother, Dan '64, and my mom met Phil for the first time. My mom was very proud of her son and she wanted to be sure Dan would be welcomed at this private school. When Phil walked into his office, my mom and Dan were already seated. My mom asked Phil if he was the football coach. Phil, dressed impeccably in his classic tweed jacket, gray slacks, and bow tie, responded, "No, I'm actually the janitor," and proceeded to pick up a wastebasket and head for the exit. Mom and Phil hit it off from the start. He always treated my mom with the utmost respect. When Dan was about to graduate, my mom told Phil that Dan had a younger brother that could also play football. Phil said, "We can work something out for Jimmy, too."—*Jim Cain '68*



The Phillips and Sarah Stevens Scholarship Fund was established in 1973 by a small group of alumni to honor the legacy of the Stevens at Williston. Every year, a student with financial need is awarded this scholarship—a fitting tribute to this important couple who played such a pivotal role for generations of Williston Academy alumni. Over time, alumni have added to the fund—when Mr. Stevens passed away in 1994 and again, upon Mrs. Stevens' death in 2016. Recently, as the fund celebrated its 50th anniversary, the Stevens family has made another generous contribution in hopes that other Williston Academy alumni will join them and provide more financial aid to Williston students. If you'd like to add to the fund, contact Eric Yates, Chief Advancement Officer, at eyates@williston.com.



THINK YOUR GIFT DOESN'T MATTER?

Think again!
Every gift counts,
every student
benefits.

Make your gift to the Williston Northampton Fund to support our students and choose an area of impact that's meaningful to you: **academic life, arts, athletics, DEIB, financial aid, or greatest need.** Give before June 30 and be counted!

\$25
Advisory
dinner
for 1 student

\$50
10 pairs of
safety glasses for
science classes

\$100
Paint, brushes,
and canvases for
art classes



Your gift to the Williston Northampton Fund is also a gift to *Williston Builds: The Campaign for Our Community.*
williston.com/give | Venmo @WillistonNorthamptonSchool

EVENTS



From lively college meetups and networking events to cozy dinners and festive gatherings, Williston alumni came together from all corners to reconnect and celebrate! On the following pages, you'll find photos of alumni events that happened between September 2023 and March 2024. Huge thanks to everyone who joined us; your energy and presence keep our network buzzing with life. Want to find out which events are coming up next? Be sure to visit williston.com/alumni/events.

From left: Amelia DeFrancis '16 and Haley McCreary '16 at the Boston holiday celebration

September 2023

South Shore Reception

More than 20 alumni and parents got together at Tosca, in Hingham, Massachusetts, for a special night. Trustee Ellen (Rosenberg) Livingston '86 welcomed alums (in classes from 1960 to the 2010s) to the event.

Clockwise, from top left: Ellen (Rosenberg) Livingston '86, Katie (Coffey) Pasciucco '04, Liz (McLeod) Bienfang '88, Becky McLeod P'15, Alexandra (Neilson) Haverty '08 and future Wildcat Teddy '41, Leah Lefebvre, Tara Colby P'26, Pat Haverty '07, Darthea Collins, Bill Collins '67, Curt McLeod '80, P'15, Thomas Meade, Alison (Branch) Meade '98, David Carpenter '98



Photo above, from left: Brooke (Behringer) Joyner '95, Isabelle (Lockwood) Bourrie '65, Phyllis (Lockwood) Geiger '65, and Mark Berman '83. Photo at right, from left: Daniel Nicoli '83, PJ Kuyper '85, Sally (Smith) Nicoli '84



Small Dinner Gatherings

Sometimes, smaller is better! This fall, we held a number of intimate dinner parties in spots around the country, including these two in Jacksonville, Florida, and Charleston, South Carolina. If you're interested in one of these gatherings near you, contact our Alumni Office.

October 2023



White-Out Football Game

We called all 'Cats back to campus to join us for the White-Out football game against Deerfield. Alumni and parents gathered on the observation deck overlooking Sawyer Field and were treated to snacks and refreshments.



Wildcat Luncheon in Mystic

Williston Academy alumni gathered at the Fisherman Restaurant at Long Point for their annual Mystic, Connecticut, get-together. In addition to a breathtaking view and good food, the event featured a visit from Williston Northampton alumna Serra Aladag '00.

Seated, from left: John Curtiss '59, Phil Fisher '59; Standing, from left: John Harper '59, Susan Fisher, Bill Harmon '57, Serra Aladag '00, Bill Haynor '59, Cece Haynor



Denver Reception

After a brief hiatus, we made our resounding return to the Mile High City! It was a wonderful evening at Culinary Dropout, and we can't wait to return next year!

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIN LONG



From left: Tom Lawry '19, Joey Robbins '19, Campbell Nyarady '19, Nancy Harrington '19

From left: Matt Pimental '20, Walter Kissane '19, Chris Denham '19

From left: Reece Liang '10, Nick Herring, Esther Ayuk '09, Jacob Roscoe '10

Boston Young Alumni Reception

Young alums met for a night of fun at the Cheeky Monkey Brewing Company.

From left: Jeremie Ng '22, I Hang U '22

From left: Elsa Frankel '23, Tianyu Mai '23

From left: Roya Mostafavi '18, Ellie Scott '18, Tim Fay '18

From left: Sally Alrutz '19, Emily Whipple '19, Rachel Burke '19

From left: Terry O'Brien '15, Nick Kioussis '13, Caleb Parker '15, Connor Adams '12, Sam Goldsmith '12

November 2023



Syracuse University Alumni Dinner

The Alumni Office stopped at Syracuse to say hello to three Wildcats! Current college students: Be sure to email alumni@williston.com, and we may come visit you, too, as part of our college tour events.

From left: Pippa Berry '23, Lily Dardano '22, Eve Seidman '21



From left: Rony Pineda, Rosanny Gonzalez '08, Sebastian Rivera '13, Derrick Green '10, Cameron Williams '09, Savannah Hanoum

From left: Lyra Sior '14, Alex Kozikowski '14, Henry Lombino '14

From left: Mary Alcock '84, Ray Check, Kristi Prigmore '88

NYC Holiday Celebration

The New York Yacht Club was the perfect, glittering backdrop for our holiday party. More than 125 alumni and parents were there to ring in the season.

From left: Shaun Chapman '98, Ellen (Rosenberg) Livingston '86, Diana Chaplin '85, Terry Martin '85, Michelle Jacobs P'24, Andrew Jacobs P'24

From left: Pam Roque, Elis Shin '09

From left: Anita Hua '22, Jayden Marshall '22, Shez Zangmo '20

From left: Michael Grossman Rimbaut '82, Brandon Diaz '12

From left: Steven Mackiewicz, Meaghan Koch '09, Ashley (Carrasquillo) Harris '09, Dominique Rowe '10, George Boston, Nadine Muniz '10, Christina Djossa '10

From left: George Livanos '04, Samir Ahuja, Deepa Kenia '07, Alex Strzempko '07

December 2023



From left: Justin Alejandro '09 and Pauly Accorsi '14

Western Mass. Celebration

The Look Park Garden House was packed with close to 200 parents and alums. Amazing hors d'oeuvres from chef Laura Bowman '13 (Blue Door Gatherings) made the night extra special.



From left: Katelyn (Kennedy) Garvey '02, Caroline Dubinsky, Loren Feinstein '01, Mitch Lopes '01, Cat (Dziok) Cleland '01, Kelli Punska '01



From left: Roya Mostafavi '18 and Caroline Channell '18



From left: Tori Gates '10, David Meiler, Nick Brady '12



From left: Jack Haddad '22, Maxwell Edwards '22, Jackson Frechette '22, Dallas Elliott '22, Zach Walker '22

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAULETTE GRISWOLD AND MELANIE ZACEK



From left: Bina Sweet '17, Nick Hill '17, Noah Devos '17

Boston Holiday Celebration

More than 125 alumni and parents converged at Hampshire House on Beacon Hill. Walter McLaughlin '12 gave the opening remarks to a festive audience.



From left: Rich Wagman P'14, Matt Wagman '14, Meaghan Moses



From left: Steve Hoyt '95, Walter McLaughlin '12, Gia Parker '14, Matt Wagman '14, Glenn Jones '95, Sarah Griggs '93, Arvin Fieldman '17, Sarah Wilkie '12, Reece Liang '10



From left: Suzanne Glazer P'25, Larry Glazer P'25



Back row, from left: Nick Barber '19, Aidan McCreary '19, Chris Denham '19, Aidan Burke '19, James White '19; Front row, from left: Sabrina Shao '19, Emily Whipple '19



From left: Patti Martin and Joe Conroy '74



From left: Josh Calianos '18, Bryan Soder '18, Caroline Channell '18, Ellie Scott '18, Roya Mostafavi '18, Tim Fay '18

February 2024

Calling All 'Cats Theater Event: Something Rotten!

Theater aficionados joined us for a pre-show reception before attending *Something Rotten!* Dr. Jorge Rodriguez, Theater Director, joined alumni to discuss the production and today's Williston theater scene.

From left: Steve Hoyt '95, Rob Murray '96, Dr. Jorge Rodriguez, Greg Creedon '70, Liz Riggins, Steve Porter '97, Walter Solzak '22; Below, right: Steve Porter '97



Red Sox Spring Training

We had an incredible day in Fort Meyers, Florida, watching the Boston Red Sox begin spring training. Justin Frometa '16, a Development Coach for the Sox, joined us for a visit!



From left: Teak Kelley '65, Carol Clapp, Roger Lockwood '56, Dick Clapp, Sheila Lockwood

Northeastern University Young Alumni Dinner

Williston alums attending Northeastern University met up at Back Bay Social. Interested in a meetup at your college/university? Email alumni@williston.com!



From left: Matthew Shields '21, Daniel Ciejek '23, Amelia Carlan '21, Sonia Whitman '21, Anaya Akpahu '21, Sumner Kissane '21, and Dominic Liu '21

March 2024

Networking in New York

Dozens of Wildcats in an array of professional fields gathered for a lively evening of networking and career advice

There's something unique about the connections formed when like-minded professionals get in a room to talk shop, especially when they all have a common tie to Williston. This March, more than 50 alumni were on hand for our professional networking event at the New York Athletic Club. Sarah Levine Meyer '00, Managing Director for Account Services at One North Interactive, kicked things off with a keynote address about interviewing tips and tricks. After that, alums met by industry at small breakout tables to swap stories and make new introductions. "Having access to folks in a network that you are properly a part of is a golden ticket in many instances," Meyer said about the importance of networking. "It helps you find doorways that otherwise are hidden."

Whether the topic was entertainment, finance, government work, or architecture, there was a roundtable for everyone to join in on. For Christina Djossa '10, producer for the *New York Times*' "Modern Love" podcast, the night served as a great reminder of how important face-to-face meetings can be. "Especially in this weird, post-pandemic world, you want to have a place to meet people and get to know other people—because it's harder to do that nowadays, especially when you can meet someone virtually."

Dan Phakos '06, a freelance filmmaker and director of photography who has attended several of our NYC-area events over the years, said that he enjoyed the networking event because of the exposure to new people. "There are a lot of Williston alumni down here in New York," he said. "But you rarely meet other people outside your industry. So it's just nice to have an in-person connection with other folks and get a chance to meet alumni that are much younger or much older than me."

Steve Hoyt '95 P'25, '25, our Director of Alumni Engagement, echoed these sentiments: "The night was amazing, it was great to see so many of our alumni make new connections," he said. "These events help highlight the power of alumni networking, and we want to make sure everyone knows the incredible network that's already out there."

Want to continue building on your professional network ahead of our next event? Make sure to connect with us on LinkedIn! Our main page is where we share information about campus and alumni activity, but we also have three affinity groups to join: Williston Alumni, Alumni of Color, and Women of Williston. Hope to see you there! —By Geoff Smith '07

From top, and left to right in each photo: Marquis Francois '14, Rafael Cortina '09, Dan Phakos '06, Christina Djossa '10, Natalie Hippolyte '13, Tolu Onafowokan '05 | Addison Morse '12, Pierre Deliso '13, Hannah Brooks '13, Jon Morgan '96, Hansen Yang '12 | Joanna O'Kelley '97 | Keynote speaker Sarah Levine Meyer '00 | Henry Lombino '14, Esther Kim '14, Vikram Dalmiya '18, Sebastian Rivera '13 | Hank Baer '83, Ariane (Austin) Qureshi '78



CLASS NOTES



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GEOFF SMITH

There's something happening here—and what it is, IS exactly clear: The great class of 1974 is about to celebrate their 50th Reunion! To get in the spirit, we opened up the 1974 *Log* yearbook and found iconic scenes from back in the day: a white-blazered senior running to make the Commencement line; friends lounging in the woods or hanging out in the dining hall; and a whole lot of Buffalo Springfield, Seals and Crofts, and Joni Mitchell quotes. (To see your yearbook, go to williston.com/yearbooks.)



1954

70TH REUNION

Alan Lazarus shares: “One of the very closest friendships that I made at Williston was with **Carter Marshall**. I know that if he were alive, he would want to preside over the forthcoming alumni of color event. Check out, if you will, his record at the Academy, especially that of his junior and senior years—in many ways leading the class of 1954, when I got to know him. I spent several weekends visiting him while I was at Yale and he was at Harvard. Even before that, one of my favorite memories was staying in his parents’ home in New Haven, Connecticut, the weekend of my own Yale in-person interview. I visited him in Tucson, Arizona, a week or two before he passed. I went there for that sole purpose. His war with pancreatic cancer had taken its toll, but not on his mind. I had to drive back to Phoenix and then fly home, like a two-, three-hour drive. As I left, I went over to his recliner and touched the top of his head and felt his silvery hair. Hugged as much as possible. Here’s my greatest memory, in terms of his wordsmith ability: ‘Laz, I am not at all scared, but I am very curious. Thank you for being here. Safe flight.’ Norma can attest to that. I loved the man. He taught me so much. We shared so much. His memory is so blessed.”

1959

65TH REUNION

Andy Solomon writes: “The ‘Best of Show’ award was given to my wife, Dana’s, younger sister, Gayle, and Kurt Norton, the director of her film *The Broken Promise*, received from the Impact DOCS Awards. Her movie is

being promoted to NPR stations around the country. We are so very proud of her many accomplishments in the discovery of, research into, and production of this very important piece. To paraphrase: Now is the time to come to Reunion 65. I hope all will make every effort to come. It will be an important event in our life. Singular in so many ways.”

Syd Williams shares: “God willing, and my body and mind able, I plan to attend our 65th Reunion, June 7–9, 2024. In thinking of our upcoming reunion, I am reminded of the opening scene in *The Chariots of Fire*, where Lord Andrew Lindsay is seen attending the funeral of Harold Abrahams. The date is 1978, 54 years after the 1924 Olympics in which they both participated. The movie then takes us back to when he, Harold, Aubrey Montague, and Eric Liddell were in the prime of their youth, preparing for and participating in the Paris Olympics. The movie ends back in the church, where one of the surviving Olympians remembers ‘those few young men, with hope in our hearts, and wings on our heels.’ The final shot is of the same young men running barefoot along a beach. None of us, to my knowledge, were Olympians, but we all left Williston in 1959 with hope in our hearts and, if we did not have ‘wings on our heels,’ we left prepared for life’s next stepping stone. And, while I would guess that none of us now run along the beach, we still have memories of when we were young, with a future ahead that none could foretell. Now, in June, we have the chance to look back—not to wonder what might have been, but to give thanks for what was. Newly married in 1964,



From left: Joanne (Mutti) Axelrod '61, Lindy (Burr) Bouffard '61, Pat (Zavorski) Coon '61, Faith Barrington '61, Margi (Griggs) Anderson '61

my wife, Caroline, and I attended our fifth Reunion that June. But then 45 years would go by before I attended the next—our 50th. We then went to our 55th. We both enjoyed it, even as time had changed the way we looked and walked. Now in our early 80s, this may be the last chance we have to gather as a group—each of us so different, yet with so much in common. Schools, along with families, colleges, and first jobs, are one of the crucibles in which we are formed. That is especially so in a boarding school that embraces, chastises and encourages, and helps turn us into responsible, productive members of society. From Williston, we all went separate ways: to college, graduate school, work, marriage, and children. We traveled and vacationed. We witnessed life and death. We are what we have experienced. And Williston, as an early experience, was instrumental in who we became. While some lasting friendships were formed at Williston, it is the shared memories that bind us—dorm rooms and classrooms, study halls and dining halls, athletic fields and clubs, teachers and coaches. Almost 350 years ago, Andrew Marvell wrote the poem, “To His Coy Mistress.” Two lines are memorable:

“But at my back I always hear
Time’s wingèd chariot hurrying near.”

It is perhaps why I love leaving through the 1959 *Williston Log*. The

faces that peer out are forever young. The wingèd chariot, like Clint Eastwood’s old man, can keep its distance. I hope to see you next June.”

1961

Faith Barrington shared the photo above from an NSFG reunion that took place at the Hotel Northampton.

Heidi (Ewing) Kapsokavathis writes: “These past several years I’ve reconnected with **Stephanie (Woodberry) Clayton** and her spouse, Ned Clayton '59, also a Williston grad. We had lunch together two or three years ago (time flies by so fast!) when we both found ourselves in Washington state, in the town of Port Townsend, where my brother, Peter Ewing '60, has settled with his wife, Mary Jean. It’s been great exchanging emails and photos with Steph. This past summer, my husband, Nick, my sister, Peggy (Ewing) Stern '57, and I did a tour in Switzerland, always a special place for me. My classmates may remember that I spent a year studying in the French-speaking town of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, right after graduating from 'Hamp. Besides having my sister in New York City with a country house in Wilmington, Vermont, I have another reason to travel to Massachusetts: One of my granddaughters is a freshman at Stoneleigh Burnham School in Greenfield. She is enrolled in their



From left: Jeff Bastable '65 and his wife, Susan



From left: Teak Kelley '65 and Bob Varnum '60 at the alumni Red Sox spring training game and picnic

equestrian program so her horse, Chrome, is also with her. She loves the school.”

Barbara (Lesnow) Singer shares: “Still married. Still working full time as vice president of a government consulting firm. I have three grandchildren—all in college.”

1964

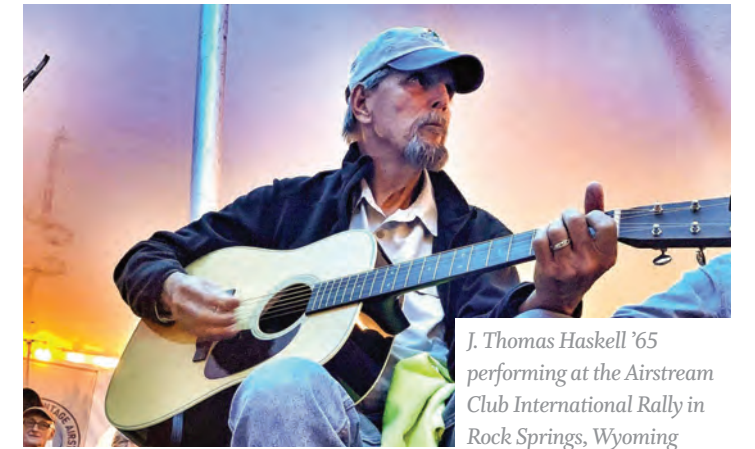
60TH REUNION

1965

Jeff Bastable and his wife, Susan, sent an “Aloha from the shores of Oahu,” where they spent two months this winter. Jeff also visited the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, which honors the lives and service of military personnel who were killed in the Pacific theater. Jeff

looked grand in his flowered shirt, beads, headband, and mai tai in hand.

Bill Burkhardt and **Teak Kelley** had plans to go to the Williston Northampton reception at the end of February at JetBlue Park and watch a Red Sox game. Plans changed for Bill, but Teak went and had a great time (the Sox beat the Minnesota Twins, 8-6). Bill and Teak will continue their annual tradition of playing golf together again this season in Florida. **Skip Jarocki** was hoping to join us at the Sox game, but he didn’t get to Florida as planned. Skip and Teak have played golf in the past, and hopefully will soon. Bob Varnum '60 and his wife, Mary, attended the Red Sox reception, and Teak and Bob enjoyed memories of their golf experiences, both when Bob was the coach of Teak’s golf team and of the ten-day Spring Break trip they took



J. Thomas Haskell '65 performing at the Airstream Club International Rally in Rock Springs, Wyoming

together to play golf down South in 1965.

Alex Chen emailed from the West Coast that everything is fine with him and his family, “aside from going through a few atmospheric winter storms hitting California.”

J. Thomas Haskell Jr. shares: “So where have I been post-Williston and where am I now? I attended Northwestern University. I spent two years on active duty in the U.S. Navy on a guided missile destroyer. During my years at Williston and NU, I worked during semester breaks as an apprentice recording engineer in New York City recording studios and as a performing musician. Upon discharge from the Navy, I accepted a studio management position at Capitol Records/EMI in NYC, with the goal of becoming an A&R representative. Sensing my frustration with a floundering career in the recording industry, my cousin, Edward, an IBM scientist, encouraged me to return to school. Upon completion of my studies, I accepted a position with General Electric Credit Corp. (later GE Capital), designing and programming financial computer systems. This led to my being recruited by Honeywell Information Systems, where I initially worked in software development for their Large Systems Division in Phoenix, Arizona. Later, I worked on ARPANET development projects

in the Boston area, and on global systems integration for Citibank in NYC. I spent a summer in Cambridge working with the MULTICS project—a cooperative effort of Bell Labs, MIT, and GE/Honeywell. Evenings there were spent sailing Cape Cod Mercury sailboats out of the community boat basin on the Charles River. After Honeywell, I joined a number of Honeywell expats who had founded Prime Computer, a supermini computer company based in Natick, Massachusetts. Eventually, this brought me back to Manhattan, where I managed their marketing efforts within the Financial District. This led to a stint with the nationalized French computer company, Groupe Bull, as part of their cooperative enterprise with Honeywell, and Nippon Electric. With an eye on retirement, I formed an internet-based consulting business that allowed me to move from Darien, Connecticut, to Sarasota, Florida. My wife, Lisa, retired after 49 years in nuclear medicine, which took her from Dartmouth to Memorial Sloan Kettering to a Yale-affiliated hospital in Connecticut to the Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System. We have a daughter who is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Salve Regina University and a nonprofit development director. Our granddaughter is a student and an aspiring actress. With retirement has come travel—initially sailing the eastern coastal waters from New

England to Key West, Florida, and, most recently, trading our sailboat for an Airstream, traveling to national parks, attending club rallies and joining caravans, while making many new friends along the way. Among my fondest memories of Williston is a surreptitious late-night visit to a darkened chapel to hear my favorite teacher, Alan Shaler, rapturously performing Bach's 'Toccatina and Fugue in D Minor' on Williston's wonderful, newly installed pipe organ. RIP Mr. Shaler."

Charlie Hayes is always first in responding to the never-ending request for *Bulletin* news. He has moved to Maryland and is enjoying the weather there; this time of year, he is anxiously awaiting the day he can "put the top down" on his classic Mustang. When Charlie moved, he uncovered some Williston memorabilia: a schoolbook entitled *Maria* by Jorge Issacs, inscribed by "Bill Hayes, Williston Sem. #32 Ford Hall, April 4, 1923, 2nd year Spanish." This book belonged to Charlie's father, who was then a student at Williston Seminary, a 1923 grad—just over 100 years ago!

Bill Hough is back from his trek to Colombia and is living in the Miami, Florida, area with his wife, Elise. He continues his love and skills in photography, and they are doing well. Bill alerted Teak to an email he received from classmate **Ron Varney**. Ron is the Principal of R. Varney Fine Art Advisors of New York, a firm that works with estate lawyers, trust companies, investment firms, business advisors, museums, foundations, and private clients in advising on all aspects of the art

market. The firm information says that Ron specializes in providing impartial, confidential advice on buying and selling art in virtually any collecting field. Ron's firm just celebrated its sixth consecutive Finalist Nomination at the 2024 Family Wealth Report Awards in the category of Art and Private Collections.

Harvey Kaltsas continues living his dream of finding substantial sunken treasure off the coast of Tampa and Sarasota, Florida, where he lives and enjoys the good life. He is finding more and more targets with the magnetometer and side scan sonar. He will start diving on and excavating these anomalies in late March and April as the water warms up. Now it's only in the low 50s down below. Dr. Harv still practices as an acupuncture physician, but just not at the frantic pace that he had in the past. He invited **Teak Kelley** to come visit and take a trip out treasure-hunting. Every year there are fewer and fewer of us. Here's a gift to our fellow classmates: If anyone has an intractable illness and would like some insight about other avenues of care, I'd be happy to provide a free one-hour consultation. I just may know of an effective treatment, or know someone to whom to refer you. For the past couple of years, I have been a member of the Harvard Medical School/Mass General Hospital's monthly Zoom call study group on brain health and the use of photobiomodulation therapies. These are some of the smartest doctors from around the planet, and it is amazing to learn of their



Hats off—or rather, hardhats on—for Teak Kelley '65! In September 2023, his college alma mater, St. Michael's College, held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Kelley Alpine and Nordic Ski Center, named for Kelley in honor of his College Division Combined Alpine Championship win in 1969 and six-decade connection to skiing at St. Mike's. Kelley now winters in Florida, but for many years he spent nearly every winter weekend assisting the teams at their weekly carnival races as a volunteer, mentor, and coaching assistant. The updated ski center, slated to open in September 2024, will give the highly competitive team more space for all aspects of their program. At the ceremony, Kelley said, "I love that the Kelley Ski Center will be located here, overlooking the hillside and woodland meadows where it all began for this program 70 years ago...this is a milestone moment for St. Michael's Alpine and Nordic skiing."

cutting-edge research that won't become mainstream for decades. The Beatles sang, "Sunday's on the phone to Monday. Tuesday's on the phone to me. Oh yeah." They were talking about how most people are aware of the past and the present, whereas John, Paul, George, and Ringo were living ahead of the curve of societal awareness. So it is with this Harvard group, and I'm glad to share any insights I've learned on medical breakthroughs.

Teak Kelley reports in from sunny southwest Florida for The Guys of '65 and confirms that his classmates are committed to maintaining their excellent record of keeping in touch with each other and their school, especially with arguably the best-represented class, with the most offerings for the *Bulletin*. For the last several winters, Teak, captain of both his Williston and St. Michael's College ski teams and an inductee in the SMC Athletic Hall of Fame (skiing and soccer), has left his skis up north and enjoyed golf several times a week at his club, Palmira, in Bonita Springs where his wife,

Denise, and he have a winter home. Teak also shares: "My 'job' as class agent for the class of '65 and our alma mater—started when I was substitute teaching English at Williston in the Fall of 1969, teaching in the summer school in 1970, and with a short hiatus while at Boston College Law School—has continued off and on (mostly 'on') to the present. This has afforded me a wonderful opportunity to stay connected to my classmates, and has been satisfying to help share the stories of the Guys of '65 with the Williston Northampton community for decades. All are encouraged to share their lives with others by way of the Class Notes in the *Bulletin* and earn some 'extra credit' (in the words of Dean Archibald Hepworth!). Looking forward to our 60th Reunion this summer."

Ned Lynch, always a loyal contributor to our school with *Bulletin* news, checked in from the east coast of Florida, where the weather is grand. Ned had nothing "exciting, controversial or even ribald" to share. Both Ned and **Kevin Hoben** are in the same general area of Florida, and



Charles Sullivan '65 in Spain

they have connected this winter.

Jesse "Jack" Robinson also reported some travel news. He and his wife visited their seventh continent in January 2024, a two-week trip to Antarctica, followed by a beach and winery week in Uruguay. Jack wants to remind all The Guys of '65 that "we need to keep moving (as Satchel Paige counseled) until we can't."

More trekking news in a note from classmate **George Volanakis**, who was pleased to report that he and wife Ruth are healthy, active, and traveling extensively; they celebrated their 55th anniversary with a 15-day cruise to five European countries in fall 2023. In the plans are a river cruise in Northern Ireland in the fall of 2024. At Christmas time, George and Ruth traveled to New England from their home in Hilton Head, South Carolina, to visit their son in New Canaan, Connecticut. While in the area, George drove through the Williston campus to see all the changes over the years, and he noted impressive and extensive updates. Without [Teak's] prompting, George hoped The Guys of '65 are all able to get back to school in June 2025 for our 60th Reunion and get a first-hand look at "good ol' Williston."



From left: Charlotte (Beadel) Brooks '66 and husband Dick last summer in Copenhagen, Denmark

Charles Sullivan writes: "For the third time in the last five years, I walked the Camino Trail to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. This time I walked the el norte route from Irun, Spain, to Santiago. I walked 770 of the 830 kilometers in 32 days with two rest days. A great weight-loss program!"

1966

Charlotte (Beadel) Brooks shares: "After 30 years in the special events industry, I have retired in Sarasota, Florida, with my wonderful husband of 16 years. I had two beautiful sons and lost both. One died in an accident as a teen. My other son died at age 42 after a short illness. My wonderful supportive family and many close friends have given me strength. I play tennis daily and bike weekly with a hysterical group of women. I would love to reconnect with Louise Wellborn and Leslie Black, roommates at NSFG. My sister, Louise 'Sissy' Danforth '58, died in 2006. Contact info: 315-322-1873 and riverbrooks@aol.com."

Suzanne (Permesly) Gernandt now lives in the Madison, Wisconsin, area, having moved there from Asheville, North Carolina. She is now an abstract fiber artist after a

career in finance.

Elizabeth (Miller) Grasty writes: "Greetings, and I am pleased to be back home in Southampton, Massachusetts, where I grew up. You may remember the Senior Picnic at our home while I was upstairs in bed with mono. I sold my home in Virginia after 25 years, and two years after my husband's death. He died in 2021 from bladder cancer. His illness, chemo, and operations were all during COVID days and no friends could visit him. Very sad. I now share the homestead with Judith (Miller) Conlin '73, and sister Kate (Miller) Carl '64 lives close by, as do their children and grandchildren. I continue to quilt, participate in church activities, and am looking up friends from NSFG and grade school. We are a scattered bunch. I volunteered to be the class agent, giving **Vinny (Hopf) West** a break. Please send me updates and I will search Facebook and LinkedIn for you all: emgrasty2@gmail.com, 703-963-4770."

Pru (Dickson) Hoffman shares: "I graduated from Briarcliff College in 1968 with a bachelor's and moved to Santa Monica, California, in 1969, Aspen, Colorado, in 1971, and Cripple Creek, Colorado, in

1974, where I met my first husband. I moved to Cheney, Washington, where my brother taught at EWU. There, I started a travel agency with my partner in 1978. I bought her out in 1980. I met my current husband in 1984. We moved to Vieques, Puerto Rico, in 1999 with three cats and a parrot after selling our businesses. We bought a home there. I worked in a real estate office and Dave rented six scooters to tourists. We were lucky to get out of that without losing all our savings and chose Grants Pass, Oregon, where we remain. I spent another seven years at AAA enjoying traveling with Dave. He survived stage four kidney cancer in 2009, so we retired and are now aging as gracefully as possible."

Kirsty (Pollard) Lieberman writes: "I'm a mother of three, dog lover, animal lover, living in Colorado. I am still working full time. I need to figure out what the next steps are. I need to move to lower altitude—probably Maine. I am looking into senior independent living."

Nancy (Canterbury) Miller shares: "I'm so glad to hear from someone from my year, even though I left my junior year to go to a coed school. I was so sorry to see the names of those who had passed away. I am living in Wilmington, North Carolina, with my husband, Tony. I am also going to visit my sister, who also went to NSFG and lives in Vero Beach, in April. I would love to catch up with **Virginia Hopf West, Liz (Miller) Grasty, Christine 'Bean' (Driscoll) Eastwood**, and the other day students in our class."

Eva Paloheimo writes: "Not much to report here in New Mexico. I retired

from the Santa Fe Animal Shelter in 2021. I ran their mobile spay/neuter program for five and a half years, traveling all over the state and holding three-day clinics. After that I became their purchaser. I've lived in Bernal, New Mexico, since 2003. It's a small village between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Las Vegas, Nevada. I'm off the grid and live in a wonderful straw bale house that was built in 1997. I no longer have my two horses, but I still have four dogs to keep me company and usually one foster waiting to be adopted. I was sorry to hear about the death of **Sue (McAllister) Warner** in 2021. I spent several weeks with her and her family right after graduation. That's when I learned the evil ways of cigarettes. It took me 25 years before I was finally able to quit. I was also glad to hear about **Dorothy (Greene) LeBlevec**. I had a feeling she was in France. Would love to hear from her. Another good friend from NSFG. Any information on **Pam Knowles** or **Janet Weber**?"

Dolly Perkins shares: "After graduating from Wellesley, I joined the Peace Corps and spent three years in The Gambia in West Africa. When I returned, I worked for a contractor for NASA and then joined NASA in 1981. I worked at the Goddard Space Center, well known for many scientific missions including the Hubble Space Telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope, and many



Parker Emerson '67 and his wife, Sandra

other space- and Earth-observing satellites. I held various management positions throughout my career and ended as Deputy Center Director-Technical, the position from which I retired. Since then, I've done some consulting work for NASA. I've also done quite a bit of traveling. The bulk of my interest now is in the fiber arts—tapestry weaving, embroidery, knitting, and crochet. Yarns and threads bring me joy."

Vinny (Hopf) West writes: "Greetings from Vero Beach, Florida! I moved here in 2020 when my husband, Howard, started to fail. Before then we were snowbirds from Pennsylvania. I don't miss the Northeast at all. I am lucky that my children are frequent visitors. I still play golf and, even a surprise to me, am a pretty good bridge player. Retirement is the best!"

1967

Now retired and traveling with his wife of 52 years, **Parker Emerson** has released his first book of travelogues: *Travels With Spot: Paris to Zürich* (ISBN 979-8-88960-815-8), narrating his trip in 2019 just before



Lou Kissling '67



Standing, from left: Robert Nicolson '71, Paul Jacobson '71, Andy Harvey '71, Bruce Holstein '71. Sitting, from left: William "Eagle" Mackinnon '71, Bobby Keill '71

Notre Dame in Paris burned. He didn't do it, he claims!

In November, **Lou Kissling** put on safety gear to take Jill Stern from the alumni office on a tour of the newly built Arizona Humane Society building. Lou's passion for the good work of the Humane Society equals his passion for Williston and he can often be found socializing the cats and kittens in one of the open and airy "cat-ios."

Janet (LeBeau) Hill reports that lightning can strike twice and that she notched her second lifetime hole-in-one on her home course in Vero Beach. Ironically, she had been so frustrated with her game that she swore off playing until **Rob Hill** coaxed her back out on the links. She and Rob are still traveling between Westport, Massachusetts; Vero Beach Florida; and points elsewhere to visit children and grandchildren.



From left: Linda La Shier-Underhill '71, Marcia (Booth) Drinkard '70, Marie (Schneller) Palmer '71



Diane Jahn writes: "Hi guys! Here's some news! My daughter, Laura Jaye, a graduate of the Bryn Mawr College of Social Work, uses her education mainly to psychoanalyze me! My son, Geoffrey Jahn, is a graduate of Tulane (business), Villanova (lawyer), and Drexel (computer science). He and his wife, Claire, have three children: Ayla Jean Geftman, born August 22, 2022; and twins Alexander Frantz Geftman and Calvin Barry Geftman, born August 28, 2023. I am still missing **Nina (Hart) Griffiths**, **Carol (Phillips) Ailes**, **Gail (Greenberg) Beatty**, and **Jean Felton**. We had so much to be thankful for, in our safe little bubble. I am living in an assisted living home that was once a hotel that catered to the likes of the "The Rat Pack" when they performed at the Latin casino! We even have an indoor pool, two 50-foot working fireplaces in the lobby—every imaginable amenity! If you are in the neighborhood you can drop by, but please call first at 609-676-0827—I may be out shopping! Also, I'm wondering if anybody no longer wants their Northampton School for



From left: Michael Romano '72, Jim Gaffey '72, Gil Timm '72, and Korty Church '72



From left: Korty Church '72, Jim Ferguson '72, Tony Spagnola '72, and Rick Lucchesi '72

Girls 1967 yearbook (a.k.a. *L'Ormeau*) or might have an extra. Having lost mine, I'd be willing to pay for one and cover shipping cost. If interested, please email classnotes@williston.com so the alumni office can help us connect."

1969

55TH REUNION

Mark deShong writes: "My wife, Sarah Carter (Smith College), and I have created an environmentally oriented retirement Airbnb winter guest home in the Spanish Caribbean, Vieques. ecocasavieques.com. Welcome gentle folks."

David Reichenbacher shares: "Our band 2 x 4 has been very busy bringing music to the residents of retirement villages and nursing homes in the Corpus Christi, Texas, area. We enjoy seeing how music is so entertaining, as well as healing. I also offer poetry workshops for the

residents and they share their poetry at open mics, which I host. It is a very rich experience."

1971

Linda La Shier-Underhill, **Marcia (Booth) Drinkard '70**, and **Marie (Schneller) Palmer** got together to start the planning for the anniversary of 100 years of NSFG. They met for lunch in Wilmington, North Carolina. Stay tuned for details!

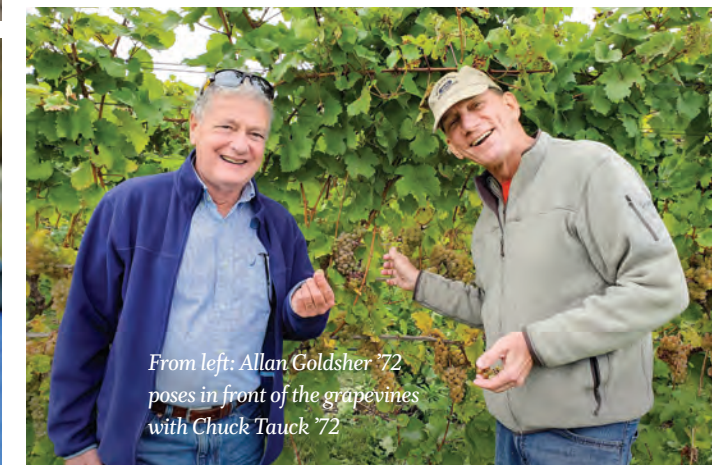
Bob Keill shares a photo from a WA mini-reunion this past fall at his North Carolina home.

1972

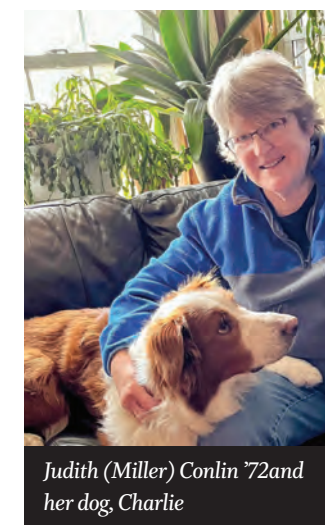
Korty Church writes: "Here are a couple of class of '72 photos from various mini-reunion lunches in Concord, New Hampshire, when out-of-towners show up. **Susan Sperry** said that they all got together for lunch when she was in New



From left: Gil Timm '72, Korty Church '72, Jim Gaffey '72, Trili (Goodrich) Timm '72, Susan Sperry '72, and Addie (Murphy) Tyrol '72



From left: Allan Goldsher '72 poses in front of the grapevines with Chuck Tauck '72



Judith (Miller) Conlin '72 and her dog, Charlie

Hampshire visiting family back in October and it was great to see everyone. I've also attached a picture of four Willys that get together once, sometimes twice, a year to play outdoor bocce at **Rick Lucchesi's** house in Rhode Island. We always have a great time, even though it was a little cold on this date in early November. Always a good time, lots of stories and lots of laughs!"



Steve Gorman '72

Judith (Miller) Conlin writes: "My sister, Liz, and I went to the latest production of the Williston Theater with two of my grandchildren. *Something Rotten!* was a rollicking good musical comedy set loosely in Shakespearean times, and we all enjoyed it immensely. It was satisfying to see that the theater at Williston has continued and blossomed under the direction of Dr.



Center: Tom Marantz '72 poses with his family after being awarded the Community Bankers Association of Illinois Outstanding Member award



Michael Wills '72 poses with his grandchildren



From left: Vinny LoBello '73, Gary McKenna, Lou Arp '73



From left: Lou Arp '73 and Vinny LoBello '73



From left: Rick Dec '73, Craig Silber '73, Barry Searle '73, and Buddy Gnatek '73

Jorge Rodriguez. The student actors showed talent and expertise, and clearly reveled in being part of such a solid production. It brought back wonderful memories of productions past. (I don't miss the crazy late-night rehearsals, though...) After two dogless years (very strange for me) I rescued Charlie, a 4-year-old English Shepherd, on New Year's Day, driving to northern New Hampshire to pick him up from his foster home. It is a wonderful match, and though Charlie is definitely my soulmate, he fits right into the extended family circle. Speaking of dogs, I still put in time at the kennel, arriving well before 6 every morning to feed the pups and to keep my hand in on the desk. You can't beat the commute! 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Wintergreen Kennels. We have a very busy day care and grooming shop, as well as the boarding business, and a wonderful, capable staff. Except for being away for the first three years of marriage, I have been here the whole time, for many years sharing the helm with Michael. I am still actively singing, mostly in a women's cappella group and in the Voices of the Valley Community Chorus. But I am game for coffee houses and open mics, too. Just wind me up and off I go. My calendar age floats away when I sing, and it is hard to imagine not having the creative outlet of music. Turning the clock on another decade has not had any real impact—staying

too busy to let it catch up with me. Isn't it strange how old 70 used to seem?"

Allan Goldsher recently visited **Chuck Tauck** at his winery.

Steve Gorman writes: "Shortly after college, I traveled west and founded and operated a real estate sales and management business in Pacific Grove, California. I sold it and retired two years ago. My wife and I now spend most of our time in our northwest Montana home to be with our oldest son's family. I started skating again after a 25-year lapse, even playing a little hockey, and have been helping teach our grandkids how to skate. When the temperatures dip below zero, though, we head back to our home in California to spend time with our other son and his wife. I visited **Larry Hendy** on Cape Cod a couple of years ago but haven't had any contact with other Willy alums. I'm grateful to still be alive and healthy after all my crazy adventures over the years, including a recent eight-year stint as a reserve police officer. I wish all of you continued happiness and blessings in your lives."

Tom Marantz, Chairman and CEO of the Bank of Springfield, was recently presented with the Community Bankers Association of Illinois Outstanding Member award. Tom was selected by the CBAI board

in recognition of his service and commitment to the organization. He has served on the CBAI board since 2007, in every role, including CBAI Chairman and Community BancService Corporation (CBSC) Chairman. He is CBAI's only second-generation board Chairman, following in the footsteps of his father, Jack Marantz. "This award speaks volumes to the dedication and excellence of our staff," says Marantz. "Our employees have put Bank of Springfield in a position of growth that allows us to continue the spirit of community banking. That's an accomplishment in itself." Following his high school years at Williston Academy, Tom earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in '76 and his master's from St. Louis University in '78. He was a competitive swimmer and earned individual and team championships in New England and in the Big 8 during his time as a Cyclone. Tom will be celebrating his 44th year with the Bank of Springfield this December.

Michael Wills shares: "As for me, not long ago my three grandchildren invited me to participate in their Veterans Day assembly at their elementary school. What an honor! It was a wonderful experience. At the end of the ceremony, all of the children were asked to go up to the stage and stand with their guests."

1973

Pam Belsky writes: "I am moving to Meridian, Idaho, and can't wait. I have three adorable miniature schnauzers that keep me very busy. I'm retired from a second career working with special needs students in the school system and totally enjoying my free time."

Dave Griswold writes: "Despite my great loss last fall, I am blessed with comforting family and friends; you all are especially included. But time moves on in strange ways; the future is ahead of me. I've been busy and went to Florida twice. Once to see **Jack Tatelman**, and the other to see my brother. Great times. I got to see my son, Matthew, at Thanksgiving and some family I haven't seen in four years. They live in Mexico City. As a bonus, I got to meet my two youngest grandkids for the first time. I traveled to Costa Rica in January to visit friends who moved from Austin. It's a beautiful country, and was nice to have built-in tour guides. I just got back from two weeks ago from Washington, D.C., for my aunt's 100th birthday gala. A five-day celebration. She's still sharp as a tack. It was great to see family members that I haven't seen in a long time. I even managed to get **John Tyree** an invite. I got a private tour of the Naval observatory. My great-grandfather, Aseph, was a major player there in the late 1800s. The

telescope is amazing. It's the oldest one still operational in the world. Oh, and he did discover and name the two moons of Mars. We also went to the Goddard Space Flight Center—my cousin works there. I'm looking for my next travel options. A lot of friends are coming down for the eclipse next month. I live in the bull's-eye. Best, Griz."

Betty (Chase) Hyde writes: "The winter of 2024 has flown by. The Northeast has had very little snow this winter. I was able to ski on February 14 with **Todd Stall** in honor of his son, Alec Stall '00. Alec was a classmate with my son, Christopher Hyde '00, at Williston. The ski day was great and we did find powder, which has been hard this winter! My next trip is to Sedona, Arizona, and the Grand Canyon in April."

Vinny LoBello writes: Last fall I visited **Lou Arp** and his dear wife, Lori, down at their home in Raleigh, North Carolina. The first night we went to the Carolina Hurricanes hockey game. The next day we played golf at his country club. A day later we headed up to his lake house with his best furry four-legged friend, Halifax. We took a boat ride to the nearby port bar and at night we grilled steaks overlooking the beautiful Lake Gaston. We took a quick drive from there over to his farm, where Lou has worked extremely hard to properly

conserve the 100 acres of pine trees and duck ponds on his property. The final day was another round at his club, with Lori hitting the golf ball much better than me. There was a surprise on the last hole when we stopped our carts and Louie called over his four ducks that he had raised on his farm and transported them to their peaceful and protected home on the 18th fairway pond. I am so grateful for our 50 years of friendship. Speaking about best friends, **Curt Barratt** and his sweet wife, Dee, moved up to New Hampshire, only about 30 minutes from my home in Maine. With my wife, Susie, we have gotten together for dinner and some shows. The stories flow easily with laughter and fond memories of all our good times together with our Willy prep friends. Marshall Tucker Band is our next date."

Charlie Moore writes: "With my last remaining client notified, I am finally headed toward retirement. It will be official on May 1, two months before I hit 70. I started playing again at 53, composing again at 63; glad I didn't wait 'til now. My son, Andrew, married in our backyard last fall, October 7, with more than 100 guests in attendance. It was also my 34th wedding anniversary. I'm frequently in touch with Greg Noble '74 and reconnected with **Pete Jacob** in the past few years. We both planned to attend our 50th Reunion

but circumstances intervened. **Andy Wheeler** has just resurfaced on Facebook, but he's been tough to crack! Be well, y'all.—Chas."

Judy (Roseman) Parnes writes: "I was so sorry to miss our 50th class Reunion, but happily able to spend some time with my two close WNS chums, **Ann (Futter) Lomeli** and **Abby Zanger**, while back in Massachusetts over the past year. I continue in my psychotherapy practice in Columbus, Ohio, and still love this work, though I have cut back to three days per week. I'm enjoying lots of reading; my book club of 20 years is a highlight of each month, sharing friendship, food, and stimulating discussion with a smart and wonderful group of people. Whatever the weather, I'm hiking several days a week with Marc, my sidekick of 45 years, and staying closely connected with our two extraordinary thirty-something kids. Best of everything to all my classmates!"

Barry Searle shares a photo from his past. He writes: "Look what I just stumbled across! The 'Beatles' here are **Rick Dec**, **Craig Silber**, me, and **Buddy Gnatek**, I am pretty sure **Charlie Moore** took this picture, which we were considering for the class yearbook. I am not sure why it didn't make the cut for that. Sometime around 2013 I reconnected with Rick

doing some Title 5 work for him (he was a builder, as you may recall), and he gave a hard-copy photo of this, which I then had scanned. Sadly, now we've lost both Rick and Buddy."

Brad Smith writes: "Greetings, classmates. After watching *The Holdovers*, **Tina Strasberg** came up with the idea that we could put together a playlist of our experience at Williston on Spotify. I added that it might make sense to have different playlists based on the dorms we were in. I have such great memories of listening to tunes with **Andrew Wooden** and **Todd Stall** at Ford Hall, that it will be easy for me to start that Ford soundtrack. If you are interested, email me your recommendations, and Tina, Andre, and I will figure out the rest. Look forward to listening to your tunes. Aloha, Brad."

John Tyree plugs a book about Williston's former faculty member Mr. Kendall B. McClure. "I was at our local library last week and picked up a book in new nonfiction titled *The Last Hill: The Epic Story of a Ranger Battalion and the Battle That Defined WWII*. It's about the Rangers who climbed the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on D-Day, conquered the Brittany Peninsula, then were sent east to Germany to capture a hill in the Hurtgen Forest that had stymied numerous, much bigger units. McClure was thrown into a vicious, bloody battle for virtually the first time and done good! The entire book is full of desperate battle scenes, but one of the participants said later that Pointe du Hoc was essentially a breeze compare with 'Hill 400.' McClure is mentioned many times, and as he's recuperating in eastern Belgium the Battle of the



Ann Dowd '74 in her new movie role in "The Friend"



Flyer for CD release event of "Someday, Somewhere..." by Johnny Anz



From left: Dave Segal '75, TJ O'Brien '75, Bob Meara '75, Jim Collard '75, Tom Downey '76



From left: Sean Kardon '79, wife Shelley, and Liz Bloch '79



Remick French '78 poses with his family



Springfield College baseball Coach Mark Simeone '83 (far left) talks to his team during a game against Central College in Auburndale, Florida (Photo via Springfield College)

Bulge is unleashed and he leads 53 replacement troops into the fight, some just out of basic training, and many who never made it back. This is a great, if sobering, book. But whether you read it or not, we're all the better for the Greatest Generation and people like Ken McClure. Wow."



"The Last Hill: The Epic Story of a Ranger Battalion and the Battle That Defined WWII"—which features stories about former faculty member Mr. Kendall B. McClure

Linda (Shlosser) Wood writes: "Can anyone else believe how fast the time is going by since our epic 50th Reunion? My husband and I just returned from a whale watching trip in Baja, Mexico, where we swam with whale sharks and sea lions, and followed gray and blue whales in small boats, plus watched hundreds of dolphins from our boat. It was a trip to remember, and if you go, bring warm clothes—you'll need them after the cold-water temps. I would love to see any and all of you this June for a repeat of last year. We need to support our honorary classmate, Penny Molyneux '74, for her 50th Reunion!

Andrew Wooden writes: "I am grateful to Jeff DeCaro, Lou Arp, and Betty Hyde for keeping class of '73 conversations flowing post our 50th. My life is richer for being back in dialogue with classmates whom I hadn't connected with for some time. Thank you. My work as a search

consultant and my role on several nonprofit boards have my calendar filled with trips to Germany, Serbia, Poland, Korea, and Thailand. I thank Williston for inspiring me to devote my career to helping independent schools. When not engaged with schoolwork, Molly and I (and our springer spaniels) reside in Santa Fe and Block Island. Guest rooms wait for classmates in both New Mexico and Rhode Island."

1974 50TH REUNION

Ann Dowd has recently landed her next film role in *The Friend*, which has started filming in New York.

1975

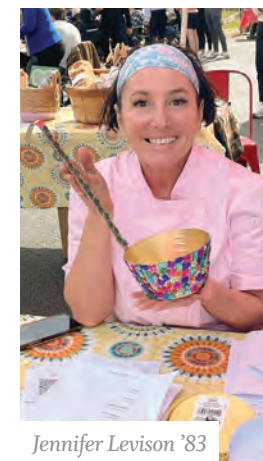
Bob Meara recently got together with a few Williston alums to celebrate the memory of Coach Rick Francis.

1976

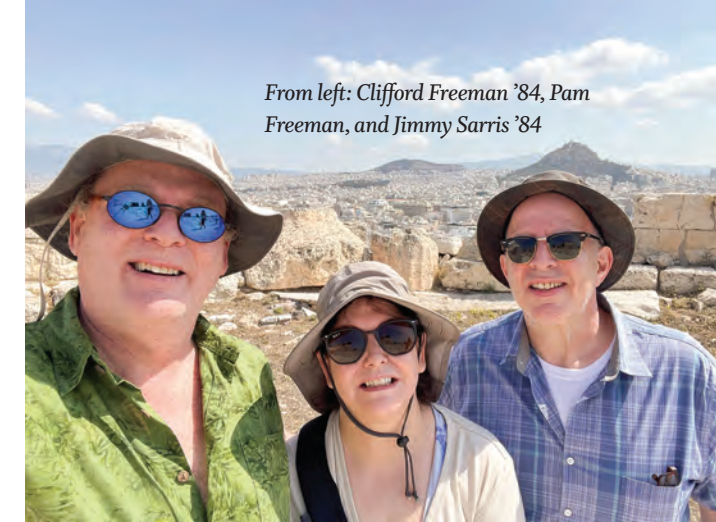
Dana Richdale writes in with a group update on his classmates. He shares: "Rachel Mack was a talented athlete during her years at Williston and I have no doubt that she plays a good game of golf. Rachel resides on the west coast of Florida, and she keeps in touch with a few Willy prepsters: Tina (Calderwood) Ruberry, Beth (Hotoph) DeLaurentis '75, and Kathy Krohn '75 to name a few. She enjoys cooking, swimming, biking, fishing, golfing, and camping in the Keys and elsewhere. She made mention that she always wondered what happened



From left: Jennifer Levison '83, Susan (Midgley) Komosa '83, Mary Ellen Bull '83, Hank Baer '83, Mark Berman, Alison Reder '83, Tory (Falconer) Crane '83, David Connolly '83



Jennifer Levison '83



From left: Clifford Freeman '84, Pam Freeman, and Jimmy Sarris '84

to her freshman housemate who lives in Gilbert House, named Betsy Jonas, who was from Miami. To quote Rachel: 'Life is good.' Remarkable to think that we all share this common thread called Williston Northampton and even after almost 50 years it is still fresh in our minds. Many I have not heard from in years, and I wonder where your paths have taken you and how you have fared in this thing we call life. I see Walter Nirenberg posting on Facebook on a fairly regular basis. His wit and sharp intellect remain well intact and, from what I can see, he enjoys California life. As does Vince Cohee, too, whose daughter was married last year and is now residing in Florida with her husband, who is an officer in the Air Force. Vince has retired from his long banking and finance career. On another note, it appears that Tiela Chalmers may be the newest inductee into the 'retirement' club. She packed up her belongings (another California alum) as she prepared for a trek across the pond for an extended stay in Europe! Nice. Very nice."

1978

Tom Duffus shares: "I am looking forward to spring fly-fishing in northern Maine, more sailing this summer here on the Maine coast, and a possible (nonsailing) trip to Newfoundland. My work in land

conservation at The Conservation Fund still thrills."

Remick French celebrated 35 years of marriage last October and has two children: John, 31, and Meredith, 28. John lives in New York City and works for Leerink Partners, an investment bank that specializes in health care startups, and Meredith works for the Shepherd Center as a speech therapist on the traumatic brain injury team. After raising their family outside of Atlanta, Georgia, Marianne and Remick recently moved to Higgins Beach in Scarborough, Maine. Remick and Marianne welcome any Williston alumni to Higgins Beach anytime!

1979 45TH REUNION

Maggie Hodges met up with Shawn (Benoliel) Lawrence '78 and Tina Buehler '78. They had a fun day skiing at Okemo Mountain and dinner afterward!

Sean Kardon and his wife, Shelley, caught up with Liz Bloch '79 in Naples, Florida (see photo at left).

1982

John Anz shares: "First, a great big shout-out to the entire class and all those who participated and contributed so generously to

Founders Day back in February. We're still making a real and lasting impact thanks to our combined philanthropic efforts. Here's hoping that many others still join with a gift to the campaign before June 30, as well! In other news, one of my life's pursuits and passion projects finally comes to fruition this spring: On June 15 I will be producing and presenting "Someday, Somewhere...", a CD release concert at Center Church in South Hadley, Massachusetts, featuring the music of my father, Johnny Anz. It should be a wonderful evening, and a great night of music thanks to some of the very best jazz musicians New York City has to offer. I hope to see many friendly faces there. Tickets can be secured on Eventbrite or through me directly. Additional information will also be available on Facebook. Be well '82!"

1983

Mary Ellen Bull had a snowy reunion with other '83s (see photo, above).

Jennifer Levison, a.k.a. "Souper Jenny," raised money for the Zadie Project at a sold-out event in Atlanta this past March. Guests sampled soups, bread, beer, and brownies at 24 soup stations, with the benefit proceeds totaling approximately \$10,000! (See more on page 31.)

Mark Simeone was recently among



From left: PJ Kuyper '85, Dan Nicoli '83, Sally (Smith) Nicoli '84, Jeanne Kuyper (PJ's wife)

the newest inductees in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame. (See more on page 27.)

1984 40TH REUNION

Clifford Freeman writes: "Thirty-five years after traveling throughout Europe with classmate Jimmy Sarris during the summer of 1988, we both returned to spend an action-packed week in Barcelona, a couple frenetic days in Athens, and then a necessary full week of rest, relaxation, and recovery on the island of Crete. This time we were joined by my very wonderful and patient wife, Pam, who put up with our Williston high jinks. I am happy to report that, this



From left: Dave VanCott '87, Steve Weiner '87, Jon Dann '87, Shannon Sakaske '87, Matt Roberts '87



From left: David Mederrick '91, bride Jennifer Long, Anna Sterrett '27, Rollie Sterrett '61, Mike Jackson '90, Molly Ryan '92, groom Reid Sterrett '91



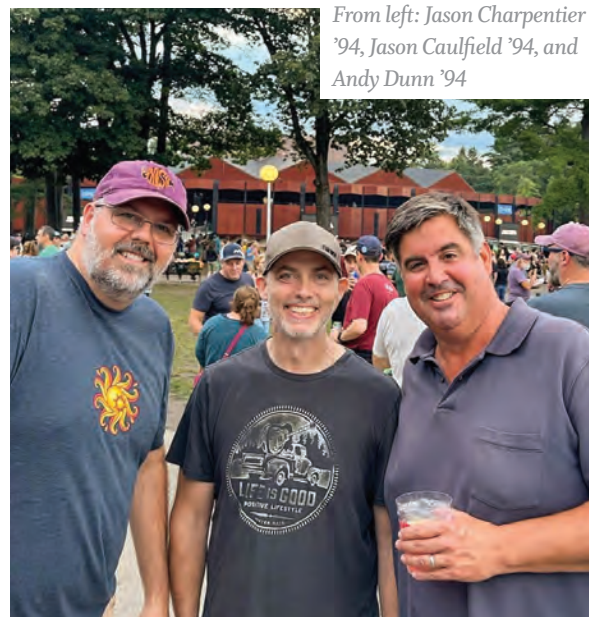
From top: Rio Villalobos Stephens (child of Phoebe Stephens '93) sleeps snugly in her Williston blanket; Rio and big sister Indigo Villalobos Stephens share a moment



From left: Lance Vachon '90, Jennifer (Gaitenby) Vachon '88, John Bailey '90, Josh Farrell '90, PJ Winkelman '90, Janet Winkelman '88, Harry Goetzmann '88



From left: Heather (Carlton) Hearst '90, Melissa (Anderson) Duffy '91, and Alexas Kelly '92



From left: Jason Charpentier '94, Jason Caulfield '94, and Andy Dunn '94

time, we were not required to sleep in train stations, beaches, rooftops or other questionable locations.”

Brem Hyde shares: “Yes Fortieth! Strongest memories of seventh through eleventh grade: Mr. Shaler, Mrs. Teller, Mr. St. George, Mr. Couch, and Mr. Brown (150th win—I got the goal)—amazingly generous and stalwart, even when some of us weren’t quite, let’s say, holding up our end. Cherished, lifelong friends were made, and bridges crossed along the way. Made it through with a big assist from sobriety—adulting in Boston with a good, married life, lots of travel ,and enough adventure. Love to all!”

Michael Newman recently added another self-published factual-fictional travel novel to his repertoire. *My Contessa*, *My Hemingway*, *My Paris*, based on the 2000–2001 wedding year in Paris, France, with his fiancée, the contessa Betzabe Pinedo-Bobadilla (de Trujillo, Peru). It can be found on Amazon.com.



This follows his last gonzo-journalism novel, *Florida Sunburn*, which took place during the summer of 2014.

Tamsin Smith shares: “My flights for Reunion are booked! I can’t wait to be back on campus and catch up on four decades of news with everyone.”

1985

PJ Kuyper entertained a group of Williston alums for a lovely day of sailing on his boat in Charleston, South Carolina.



From left: Bill Griggs '95 and Ryan Callahan '95; The Griggs and Callahan clans.



From left: Bill Griggs '95 fishing with his son, Sean.



From left: Scott Wilson '93 and Steve Hoyt '95.



From left: Steve Hoyt '95 and Andrew Sheftel '95



From left: Scott Wilson '93 and Steve Hoyt '95.

1986

Marc Belanger writes: “Greetings from Cheshire, Connecticut! I am beginning my third year of fundraising at Choate Rosemary Hall—Mr. Gregory’s alma mater—and loving being back in New England after a brief four-year southern sojourn pre-COVID. Our oldest son, Forrester (20), is on semester abroad in Berlin, Germany, and our youngest, Julian (17), is starting his college search as a junior. I love staying up with fellow Willys via Facebook. Already counting down to our 40th Reunion in 2026...”

1987

Steve Weiner and other class of '87s got together in Orlando (see photo, opposite page, top left).

1989

35TH REUNION

G.P. Gromacki recorded his 600th career win as the Head Coach for the Amherst College women’s basketball team, bringing their win streak to five with a 58–48 win over Connecticut College in early February. (Read more on page 27.)

1990

Lance Vachon hosted a summer 2023 Williston get-together at his house in Rhode Island (see photo, opposite page, center).

1991

Melissa (Anderson) Duffy caught up with Alexas Kelly '92 and Heather (Carlton) Hearst '90 for dinner this past January. She writes: “Heather, Alexas, and I keep in touch regularly as we all live about an hour away from each other. Alexas was my roommate in Conant House when I was a senior and we played varsity lacrosse together for two years. Heather and I were on the varsity ski team together for two years.”

Williston alums were well represented at the wedding of **Reid Sterrett** and Jen Long Sterrett, including **Dave Mederrick**, **Rollie Sterrett '61**, **Mike Jackson '90**, **Molly Ryan Strehorn '92**, and **Anna Sterrett '27** (see photo, opposite page.)

1993

Phoebe Stephens shared the news of the newest addition to the family—baby Rio Villalobos Stephens.

1994

30TH REUNION

Jason Charpentier, **Jason Caulfield**, and **Andy Dunn** caught up at Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga, New York, to enjoy Vermont’s “Phinest.”

1995

Ryan Callahan, **Carrie (Schuller) Callahan '96**, **Amy (Schuller) Hitchcock '98**, and **Bill Griggs** held a West Coast Williston reunion with their families this past February.

Bill Griggs helped his son, Sean, land this blacktip shark over the holidays in Mexico. The catch ended up at 7 feet!

Steve Hoyt visited with Scott Wilson '93 in Naples. He shares: “It was great to connect with Scott and meet his awesome family! On our visit we even got a FaceTime call from Jean Pierre-Crevier '93! Great to connect those two after all these years.”

Andrew Sheftel is alive and thriving in San Diego, California! He’s loving life on the West Coast with his wife, Jessica, and his son, Theo!

Adam Zedonis popped by the Homestead to check in with his all-

time favorite teammate of his career, **Steve Hoyt**. While that may not be entirely true, it was still great to visit and catch up. Zed is doing great in Davis, California, with his wife, Katherine, and two kids, Amelia and Austin. He’s still very tall.

1996

Robin Bagley shares some exciting news: “In May 2023, I graduated from Salem State University with my master’s in early childhood education.”



From left: Jonathan Woodward '99, wife, Marcella Mora, and new baby, Emilio posing at a recent themed wedding in Austin.



Camden John Morrison, new baby of Greg Morrison '99



Quinn Patrick Reed, son of Tommy Reed '10



Sarah McCullagh '10 and husband, Erick Dowell at their wedding

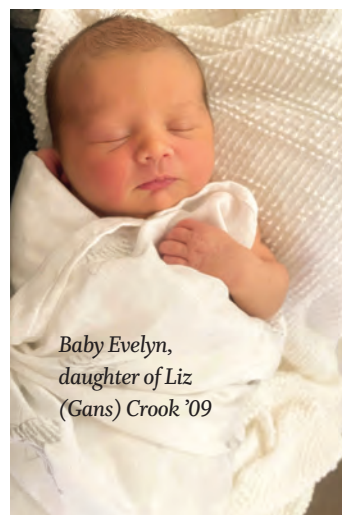


Magnus Middleton Fogel cozies up with some Williston baby swag

Zach Robbins '07, right, and Scott Ehlen with daughter Meryl Ruth Robbins



Adam Berger '08 with new puppy, Paloma



Baby Evelyn, daughter of Liz (Gans) Crook '09



From left: Elena (Höckmann) Winkler '02 and Merideth Morgan '03



From left: Sean Lowney '11, Adrienne Singer '10, Ross Ewing '11, Vinny LoBello '73, Ian Spooner '06, Kyle Spooner '03, Jenna Spooner '10, Henry Wheeler '11, Tom DeNuccio '11, Kristina Conroy '10, Gabriela Garcia '10, Annie Sullivan '10, Julia Midland '10, and Stevie Lustafin Sbarro '10 pose during Jenna and Henry's wedding.

1999 25TH REUNION

Greg Morrison and wife Jen are happy to share the birth of Camden John Morrison on December 1, 2023.

Jonathan Woodward and his wife, Marcella Mora, share their excitement over the birth of their son, Emilio, who was born June 21, 2023.

2001

Kate Nocera writes: "A belated hello. After more than a decade in Washington, D.C., my family and I moved to Sunderland, Massachusetts, in 2020 and have loved being back in the Valley. I am still working in D.C. journalism and traveling there frequently. My spouse, Mike, and I welcomed our daughter, Mari in 2022. She just turned one in September and is a total delight."

2002

Pierce Freelon and his mother, Nnenna, were nominated for a

Grammy for Best Children's Music album. This spring marks the release of *AnceStars*, a family-focused album by the Grammy-nominated mother-and-son duo. *AnceStars* is a distinctive recording that delves into the wonder and mystery of the ancestral spirit world. It comprises 13 original songs, each thoughtfully crafted to appeal to all ages. These songs foster a healthy curiosity about life, the afterlife, transformation, healing, and legacy.



2003

Merideth Morgan shares: "Elena (Höckmann) Winkler '02 and I met up in Athens, Greece, after not having seen each other in 10 years! We didn't skip a beat and made a pact to see each other at least once every three years. She's doing super well. She's married

to her lovely husband and they have two beautiful children. She's working for her family business, doing project development, in Münster, Germany. It was very special to reconnect with each other!"

2004 20TH REUNION

2005

Mary Bergman was recently featured in a *New York Times* article about the historic work her organization is doing on Nantucket Island. (Read more on page 28.)

2007

Cency (Middleton) Fogel gave birth to Magnus Middleton Fogel in October 2023. Cency shared back in December: "He is the happiest baby! He just rolled over this morning, so it already feels like he's growing up way too fast!"

Zach Robbins and Scott Ehlen welcomed Meryl Ruth Robbins

on September 24, 2023. Meryl has captured her dads' hearts in a big way in just a short period of time. She is named after her great-grandparents.

2008

Adam Berger shares: "Brought home the lovely Paloma to join our family and have started a new job at CAA as a Brand Consulting Executive in the Sports Media Entertainment division."

2009 15TH REUNION

Liz (Gans) Crook shares, "My husband, Mike, and I welcomed our daughter, Evelyn, on March 1, 2024."

2010

After a five-year journey at the Alibaba Group in China, Joyce Li started a growth-stage, Asia-focused private equity firm (01fintech.com), together with former colleagues who have experience investing in emerging



Tony Alvarez '11 poses with new wife Lissette Rodriguez on their wedding day. Right; Group photo from the wedding of Tony Alvarez '11



From left: Mairread (and Nella) Doery '13, Brian Hendery '13, and Hilary Loudon.=



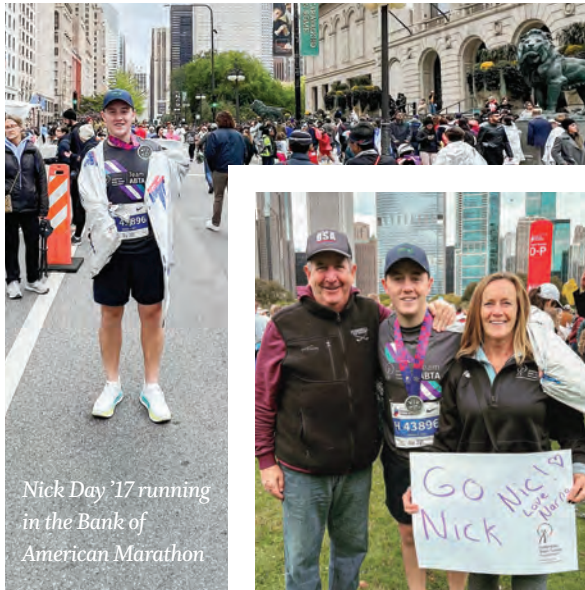
Top: JF Boucher '13 and Derek Cunha, WNS Head Boys Ice Hockey Coach From left: Best man, Jean-Gabriel Lacombe '13 and JF Boucher '13



From left: JF Boucher '13 and wife, Erica Newman



From left: Maria Rello, Denison Marsland-Rello '13, Miriam De La Riva Ovalle, Allison Marsland



Nick Day '17 running in the Bank of American Marathon



Victoria Zingarelli '18



From left: Steve Hoyt '95 and Caleb Holmberg '16

markets. She is now based in Hong Kong and empowers entrepreneurs to scale their visions. Seeing the tremendous progress of financial inclusion being made in China, she also believes technology can play a crucial role in improving lives by providing financial services to underbanked and underserved communities in the other regions in Asia.

Julia Midland now manages The Inn at Castle Hill on the Crane Estate, a boutique inn on a historic estate/wildlife refuge on the coast in Ipswich, Massachusetts. In the past year she's enjoyed lots of Willy love, from celebrating the wedding of Jenna Spooner and Henry Wheeler '11, to spending time with Annie Sullivan in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and visiting Sydney Sainte in London.

Sarah McCullagh shares: "I got married last September! Erick Dowell and I met driving boats and watching whales in the San Juan Islands. I am currently working as the Oceanographic Research Cruise Coordinator for the School of Oceanography at the University of Washington. If you're in the Seattle area let me know—it would be great to catch up!"

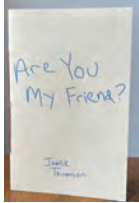
Tommy Reed recently welcomed



Mark Conroy, catching up with Julien Nicolas '17, now an Associate Director of Admissions at Westminster

Quinn Patrick Reed to the family! Tommy, his wife, Megan, and their dog, Biscuit, are doing great.

Jenna Spooner and Henry Wheeler '11 were married this past August with plenty of Williston alums in attendance!



A new chapbook of poems by Jamie Thomson was selected and published this past fall by Copenhagen Lit, a poetry press based in Brooklyn. The title of the book is Are You My Friend? Jamie currently lives in Chicago and teaches writing classes.

Chris Zombik lives in Somerville, Massachusetts. He has been keeping busy working as a freelance education consultant serving the China market as well as co-authoring a memoir about the life of a Shanghai business lawyer during the last half century. He is also in the editing phase for a novel.

2011

Tony Alvarez was recently married to Lissette Rodriguez on September 9, 2023, at a small wedding where fellow Williston alum Ross Ewing attended.

2013

JF Boucher was married to Erica Newman at the Royal Ottawa Golf Club on September 3, 2023, in Ottawa, Canada. He also appeared on campus this past fall on his way to Boston for the Eastern Exposure event with his '09 Eastern Ontario Wild team.

Mairread (Poulin) Doery and daughter Nella had a surprise visit from Brian Hendery and his wife, Hilary, who traveled from their home on an island in British Columbia to enjoy some Tucson sun.

Denison Marsland-Rello married Miriam De La Riva Ovalle at Amherst College on November 4, 2023. In attendance were two Williston faculty members—his mom, Allison Marsland, as well as family friend Jen Fulcher.

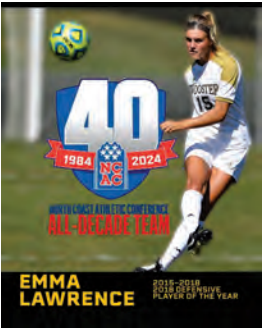
2014

10TH REUNION

2015

Shawn (Benoliel) Lawrence '78 and Bill Lawrence '77 wrote in about their daughter, Emma Lawrence, and shared: "Student-athletes that competed in soccer in the NCAC between the 2013-14 and the 2022-23 seasons who earned Player of the Year honors or who earned a minimum of three all-NCAC first-team nods during this time were named to the All-Decade Team. Emma Lawrence and Erica White shared Player of the Year honors in 2018, with Lawrence being named the Defensive Player of the Year and White the Offensive Player of the

Year. The duo led Wooster to its first NCAC Tournament Championship and first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1996. Lawrence also was a first-team selection in 2016. She was a central defender for the club in her four years, but more so in 2018 as the Scots gave up just 12 goals in 19 regular season games for a .60 goals against average."



2016

Caleb Holmberg and Steve Hoyt '95 faced off in a charity hockey game this January. Steve saw Caleb's Williston hockey bag and the two made the connection. No video footage is available, but good times were had!

2017

Nick Day ran in the Bank of America Marathon this past October in Chicago for the American Brain Tumor Association team.

2018

Victoria Zingarelli, who performs under the mononym "Toria," has taken another step in her budding musical career with the release of her first single, "Simple Life," a soul-infused ballad about missing the honeymoon phase of a relationship.

TEAMMATES FOREVER

The girls hockey program at Williston Northampton has blossomed under the leadership of Head Coach Christa Talbot Syfu '98—including winning back-to-back NEPSAC championships in 2022 and 2023. With that level of success also comes a tightly knit team on and off the ice, which continues well into players' alumni years, even when they find themselves on opposing teams. In between coaching the varsity team and doing her other duties at Williston, Talbot Syfu also gets out to see past players compete at the collegiate level, and almost always gets a picture to capture their connections. This selection of photos comes from her stops during the 2023-24 winter, along with a few sent in by former players.



From left: Maeve Reynolds '22, Katherine Kang '23, and Natalie Stott '22 caught up during a Williams-Amherst rivalry game at Amherst College's Orr Rink.



Maddy Cardaci '20, left, and Christina Vote '21 are enjoying their extended time as teammates. The duo both play for the Boston University program.



From left: Natalie Stott '22, Katherine Kang '23, and Emily Crovo '23 showed up to support their alma mater at Nobles while the Wildcats were playing in a holiday tournament.



Former players Kate Holmes '19, Maddy Cardaci '20, Natalie Stott '22, Emily Crovo '23, Jules Constantinople '22, and Christina Vote '21 showed up at Losone Rink during the season to help the Wildcats practice. Iron sharpens iron!



From left: Natalie Stott '22, Maeve Reynolds '22, Emma Merrill '22, and Jules Constantinople '22 stopped to take a picture during the UMass Boston Holiday Tournament.



Marielle McHale '19 and Kate Holmes '19 repped the Williston flag during a meeting at Syracuse University.



Violet Carroll '25, left, and Nora Curtis '25, right, stopped to get a picture with Jules Constantinople '22 after her game at Holy Cross.



Teaghan Hall '22 and her Endicott team played Katherine Kang '23's Williams at Endicott.



From left: Bryn Saarela '20, Emily Crovo '23, and Jules Constantinople '22 represent Williston after a game at Holy Cross.



From left: Maeve Reynolds '22 and Natalie Stott '22



Simon Kim '19 on the Stanford campus



From left: Louisa Coughlin '23 and Max Graff '23 on campus at Haverford College.

a U.K. institution in any field of study. As a Marshall Scholar, Robby will pursue a taught MPhil in evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation at the University of Oxford. (Read more on page 38).

In November, **Simon Kim** took a quick break from mid-terms at Stanford to share this update: "After spending the COVID years in Korea, I'm back in sunny California and wrapping up my junior year studying computer science with a focus in AI."

2022

Maeve Reynolds and **Natalie Stott** are not just teammates on the women's hockey team at Amherst College (go, Mammoths!), but roommates, too. Above, they are pictured on move-in day in 2023.

2023

Max Graff and **Louisa Coughlin** caught up on campus at Haverford College during their Fall Family Weekend on campus. Louisa had just finished the last field hockey game of the season.

2019

5TH REUNION

Robby Hill was recently named a Marshall Scholar for 2024, being one of 51 recipients, five of whom came from Yale University, where Robby currently attends college. Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. Up to 50 Scholars are selected each year to study at the graduate level at

IN MEMORY

This listing contains the names of alumni whose deaths were reported to the school between September 20, 2023, and March 26, 2024, although their passing may have occurred outside those dates.

1941

Francis W. Lovett Jr. of Longmont, Colorado, died November 4, 2023.

predeceased her. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

1950

Nancy (Smith) Atwood of Cambridge, Massachusetts, died April 29, 2023. She is survived by her daughters, Emily and Gwendolyn; her sons, Roger and Christopher; her brother, Monty; and six grandchildren.

1944

Patricia (Cox) Wedlake of Pebble Beach, California, died February 26, 2022.

1945

Victor H. Keiser Jr. of Palm Coast, Florida, died March 12, 2023.

Marguerite (Velte) Hasbrouck of Newton, Massachusetts, died June 4, 2023. She is survived by her partner, Jim; her daughter, Dorothy; her sons, Edward and Robert; her sister Lois; and one grandchild.

1946

Herbert Beenhouwer of Santa Fe, New Mexico, died October 28, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Susan; his sons, Evan and Kyle; his daughters, Cora and Maud; his brother Owen '47; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

1952

Robert F. Thomas of West End, North Carolina, died September 30, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; his daughter, Heather; and his sons, Robert and Blaise. A daughter, Valerie Ann, predeceased him. He is also survived by five grandchildren.

1947

Kenneth H. Barratt of Green Valley, Arizona, died December 25, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Sabina; his sons, Stephen, Curtis '73, and David; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1954

Robert W. Owen of Guilford, Connecticut, died February 8, 2021.

1949

Barbara (Hawes) Terpos of Vero Beach, Florida, died June 15, 2023.

Sally (Davis) Wright of Wilmington, Connecticut, died May 29, 2023. She is survived by her sons, Charles, James, Thomas, and David; a fifth son, William,

Michael R. Polczwartek of Williamsburg, Massachusetts, died March 6, 2023. He is survived by his daughters, Lynn and Lori; his brother, Stephen; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Who's in this issue?

Your classmates are up to cool things!
Find out more by flipping to the pages below.

1955

A. Dwight De la Ossa of Tequesta, Florida, died September 20, 2023.

1958

Jamie T. Irvine of Vero Beach, Florida, died September 27, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Cici; his daughters, Kathryn, Alicia, Katie, and Victoria; and five grandchildren.

Richard J. Sandulli of Juno Beach, Florida, died July 23, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Betsey; his sons, Walter and Richard; his brother, Joel; and two grandchildren.

1959

Martin (Bo) B. Burke of Hartford, Connecticut, died January 29, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Ellen; his sons, Matthew, Jonathan, Andrew, and Benjamin; his sister, Susan; and two grandchildren.

Victoria (MacNair) Todd of Devon, Pennsylvania, died November 22, 2020. She is survived by her daughter, Sarah; her son, John; her sisters, Caroline and Eudora; her brother, Andrew; and three grandchildren.

1960

Gerald G. Naylor of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died November 3, 2023. He is survived by his partner, Bill; his brother, James '57; and his sister, Susan.

1961

Denis K. Berube of Kiawah Island, South Carolina, died January 2, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Joanna; his daughters, Caitlin '13 and Blythe '92; his brother Charles; and two grandchildren.

1962

Arthur M. "Mike" McGlauffin Jr. of Carrboro, North Carolina, died April 17, 2023.

1964

Brian C. Clarke of Johnson City, Tennessee, died January 5, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Judith; his daughter, Nicole; his brothers James '68 and David; and one grandchild.

Gregory W. DiMartino of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, died November 27, 2023. He is survived by his sons, Brian and Jay; his sister, Mia; and three grandchildren.

Anne (Evans) Gibson of Boynton Beach, Florida, died August 23, 2020.

Louise Schofield of New Milford, Connecticut, died August 24, 2021.

1965

James Upshur Edwards III of Charlotte, North Carolina, died December 19, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; his son, John; his daughter, Andrea; and one grandchild.

Lynn Bryan Sobocinski of Halesite, New York, died October 15, 2023. She is survived by her husband, David; her daughter, Amy; her son, Mitchell; and four grandchildren.

1969

Nancy Bonomo of Sarasota, Florida, died February 3, 2023.

Jennifer P. Rowan of San Clemente, California, died June 25, 2023.

1974

James "Jim" Arthur Hardy of Florence, Massachusetts, died January 31, 2024. He is survived by his wife, June; his son, Wesley '04; his mother, Joan; and his brother, Jack '71.

1977

Raymond O. Bernard of South Hadley, Massachusetts, died October 5, 2023. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; and his son, Nicholas; a daughter, Elizabeth, predeceased him.

1978

Varick M. Warren of Warwick, New York, died February 1, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Neide; his daughters, Mckenzie and Molly; his mother, Marjory; his sisters, Shaun and Andrea; his step-daughters, Amanda, Kimberly, Maria, and Anna; and three step-grandchildren.

1980

Meg (Ciak) Papalegis of Weld, Maine, died October 15, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Todd; and her brother, David '79.

1988

Matthew J. McKeon of Glastonbury, Connecticut, died May 9, 2023. He is survived by his daughter, Jondle; his mother, June; his step-father, Charles; and his brother, Sean.

1995

Morgan J. Hoye of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, died January 12, 2024. He is survived by his father, Robert; his mother, Jacqueline; and his brother, Alex.

2002

Adam P. McKeever of Lynnfield, Massachusetts, died September 24, 2022. He is survived by his father, Philip; his mother, Paula; and his brother, Sean.



Mary Bergman '05
See page 28



Alexandra Burr '00
See page 26



Caroline Channell '18
See page 6



Sara Cornwall '70
See page 20



Jana (Kotowski) D'Agostino '00
See page 32



Jennifer duBois '02
See page 36



Emily Follansbee '04
See page 52



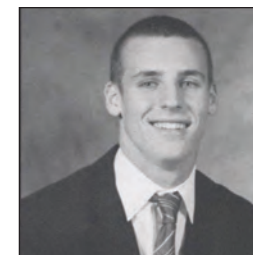
Robby Hill '19
See page 38



Miana Hoyt Dawson '98
See page 42



Margot Isman '04
See page 52



Nick Jeffway '10
See page 58



Brooke (Behringer) Joyner '95
See page 40



Silas Luster '07
See page 32



Melissa (Manseau) Martin '00
See page 32



Destiny Nwafor '17
See page 33



GB Osuntogun '18
See page 33



Jillian Punska '00
See page 32



Julie Rogers '98
See page 60



Mike Walsh '96
See page 48



Hanna Whirty '13
See page 46



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